

# May 2025 Graceful Greetings



## MAY 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

*Our Worship Services are at 8:15am (Traditional) and 10:30am (Non-Traditional)*

Sunday, May 4—3rd Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 11—4th Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 18—5th Sunday of Easter/Confirmation

*(one service at 9:30am)*

Sunday, May 26—6th Sunday of Easter \*  
*\* (Begin Summer Schedule - One Combined Service at 9:30am)  
(No Sunday School)*



If you are unable to worship with us in person, our worship services can also be found on our website under the "Worship" tab & on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

## YOUTH NEWS



**G.R.A.C.E. Place will only be on 5/4. Confirmation will be one service, at 9:30 on 5/18. The last day of G.R.A.C.E. Place will be June 1st, with an end of the year party in the Welcome Center.**

**Come join us for 2025 VBS on July 13th through July 17th**, on an Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers and glistening glaciers pointing you towards Jesus, learning he is a faithful friend and can always be trusted and is your True North.

**Summer Mission Trip 2025:** We're heading to Lutherridge in Aden, NC (near Asheville, NC) to help flood recovery from Hurricane Helene. This ELCA Lutheran Christian Camp sustained significant damages to their property & needs our help with cleanup and reconstruction. Trip dates" July 13-18, 2025. More information to come.

**Calling all volunteers!!!!** We are looking for volunteers for VBS this summer and would love for your help. If you are interested and want to learn more on how you can help please email: cey.graceluthrn@gmail.com



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Grace Lutheran Youth Group  
"Like" us to see recent news & events**

**Stay "connected" wherever you go! We're all over social media!!**

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranroyersford.com](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com)

**Email:** [gracelutrn@verizon.net](mailto:gracelutrn@verizon.net)

**YouTube Channel:** [gracelutheranroyersford](https://www.youtube.com/gracelutheranroyersford)

**Instagram search:** [grace.lutheran.royersford](https://www.instagram.com/grace.lutheran.royersford)

**Facebook search:** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Twitter search:** [@gracelutheran12](https://twitter.com/gracelutheran12)

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Dear Siblings in Christ,

One of the great and joyful discoveries for me when I arrived at Grace, was to encounter the art and handcrafted pieces that have already adorned Grace's spaces so beautifully and then to meet the artists and craftspeople who created them. As both professional artist and pastor, I have long been very interested in the intersection of art and theology, and along the way created a ministry called "Artful Sanctuary" as a way to bring the arts and handcrafted creations into the worship space in service to the Word—that is, to allow us to use all of our senses along with objects of beauty proclaiming God's story so that we might encounter God's presence and grace for us through these gifts.



You may have noticed some new visual elements appearing in our worship space over the past few weeks along with the more familiar ones...crosses adorned with the colors of the season, cascading water jugs draped with fabric in iridescent hues to give the impression of flowing water, grapevine wreathes, handcrafted nails fashioned into a cross, a beautifully crafted candleholder made of birch and bloodwood, and a spectacular, sculpted tomb for Good Friday and Easter morning. These elements are the work of a Grace's new Artful Sanctuary Team. We're seeking to add layers of ritual symbolism to our communal worship experience. Multisensory worship is meant to deepen our experience of God's Word through our 5 senses—our seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, and embodying our ritual practice as we move through our 4-part order of worship each week: Gathering together, hearing God's Word, partaking in the Meal, and then Sending us out to proclaim what God has done for us.



There are many rich multisensory elements already present each week at Grace. Most evident is the richness of our auditory experience—we hear God's Word proclaimed through Scripture readings, preaching, and children's messages. We listen for the Gospel through the gift of music in the form of singing communal hymns, sung liturgy, and in the offering of special music by our Chancel Choir and Spirit of Grace Praise Band. We use our voices to confess our sins and then our ears to hear God's words of forgiveness. In our speaking with our communal voice, we affirm our faith in the words of the Creeds, actively respond to the words of liturgy, and lift our prayers to God.

Our senses of taste and smell are engaged as we come to the Lord's Table and partake of the gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Our ritual practice becomes embodied in worship when we reach out and hold one another's hands to share the peace of Christ. We embody being the body of Christ when we turn our whole selves toward the baptism and surround our newly baptized members and their families while we speak God's words of promise, welcoming these beloved ones into the family of God.

We're experimenting with new ways to deepen our experience of God's story, especially through our visual senses, by adding to the beautiful paraments, stained glass, woodwork, and banners already present in the sanctuary. As the seasons change throughout the church year, new elements will be incorporated to emphasize the richness of our worship and Scriptural themes.

With every new venture comes risk, but this risk also brings opportunity to experience the ancient, sacred story of God's love in a new light. Perhaps you are feeling drawn to this creative venture and want to be part of Artful Sanctuary to offer your gifts of creativity. Please join us!

*Pastor Leah*

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### *From the Deacon's Desk: Your Favorite*

Some colleagues and I were discussing the best way to communicate with the people in our congregations. All of us use newsletters in some format or another. But we all weren't totally convinced that everyone reads them.

So, I want to find out. Who is it at Grace that is reading our newsletter? To that end, I am having a contest. The first person who gets back to me with an answer to these two questions will get a prize! (I'll make it a good one)

What is your favorite Bible story? And...Why is it your favorite?

To get the prize both questions will need to be answered fully via email (no one or two word answers about why it's your favorite). I will let the winner and those who replied know by May 30th and I'll follow up in a future newsletter article.

Hope to hear from many of you! Email me at [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com) with your answers!

+ *Peace! Deacon Allison*



Confirmation

### **CONFIRMATION 2025**

On May 18th, we will celebrate the joyous rite of confirmation for 5 young people, with one combined worship service at 9:30am! We give thanks to God for the parents who have raised these children in the promises made at baptism and we thank God for this year's faithful confirmation teachers, Julie Boyer & Zach Miller.

Congratulations & God's blessings to our 2025 Confirmands: Olivia Mae Asbert, Brady Edward Burgoon, Cylee Grace Campbell, Elliana Grace Nye & Tyler Howard Weaner.

**Save the Date for a Lorraine's Hearing Fund Fundraiser**--this fund provides financial assistance to individuals diagnosed with a hearing impairment.

**WHEN: Thursday, May 8th      HOURS: 10 am - 9 pm**

**WHERE: Giovanni's Pizza & Restaurant, 466 Main Street, Royersford, PA**

Why cook when you can have lunch, a date night, or a meal out with family and friends. Have someone else cook & clean up while helping to raise money for a great cause. A portion of the day's proceeds will be donated to LHF.



**Congratulations and God's blessings** to all who received their First Holy Communion on April 27th. Thank you to Sarah Nye & Carly Bauer, for faithfully teaching the joy & blessing of this sacrament. Please congratulate the class, as they receive God's grace through the body, and blood of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Julianne Eynon, Noah Feist & Branson Klick.

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## STRUNK FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH 5/31

Letters of application are being accepted now through the end of May for scholarships for 2 or 4 year colleges, or trade schools. You must be enrolled as a full-time student, in an undergraduate degree program. You may only be eligible for this scholarship for a maximum of four (4) years. Awards will be given in July/August. The committee will announce the recipients of the scholarships in June. All applicants must be a baptized/confirmed member of Grace Lutheran Church and new applicants are required to write a letter of application which includes the following information:

1. Your service and manner of attendance to Sunday School and church. If you are worshipping online at Grace, submit a selfie that shows you worshipping online OR a screen shot of the service.
2. List youth group activities, which must include service projects completed through Grace (i.e. work camps, work days, national youth gathering, etc.).
3. Your high school scholastic record if you are to start college, or past college records if you are in college presently. Copies of official transcripts must be included.
4. Name of school along with course selections and whether you will be a resident or commuter student.
5. Civic organizations and high school activities in which you participate.
6. If you previously received a grant from the Strunk Fund, the following information is required:
  - A. An official school transcript and list of your activities since your last application. College transcripts, must have a minimum 2.0 average to be eligible for consideration.
  - B. Participation in a service project either at college, in the community or the church and a letter from the organization, stating your involvement.
  - C. Regular worship attendance at a church or chapel, while at college. Worship may be:
    - 1- In-person (Submit bulletin or picture from worship service)
    - 2- Online (Submit selfie that shows you worshipping online OR screen shot of online service)
    - 3- Campus bible study group (Submit selfie that shows you with group)
  - D. Regular worship attendance at Grace, while home for breaks.

Applications are to be received by the church office by May 31st and be clearly marked as Strunk Fund Application. No applications will be accepted after May 31st. A submitted application does not guarantee a scholarship.

The Strunk Fund Committee—Debbie Armstrong, Joy Fraunfelter, Glenn Peak, & Pastor Leah

All requirements must be met (all carry equal value) to receive a scholarship.  
Content & Revisions approved by Church Council 10/13/2020

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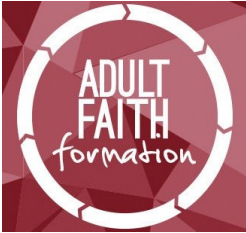
**It's time to "Play Ball", or at least watch it?** Join other Lutherans in supporting the Phillies, while providing funds for SEPA Synod Youth Programs, by buying tickets to Lutheran Night at the Phillies. Dates in May & August are still available. Ordering your tickets is simple: go to [www.mlb.com/phillies/tickets/special/lutheran](http://www.mlb.com/phillies/tickets/special/lutheran) Use the password: LUTHERAN; then select from available dates & tickets. Grab your crew & reserve your seats. Go Phils!





## Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

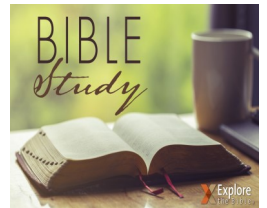
### *Adult Faith Formation Opportunities—Sunday Mornings at 9:15am*



**Weekly** - Richard Harshaw's group meets in the Choir Room (L04) at 9:15 am for topical conversations on faith and life, and for a time of fellowship.

Judy Stryker will be continuing a walk through the women of the Bible at 9:15 in the parlor. They will finish up on May 11th.

**Bible Study groups** finish up for the season this month. Our last meetings before the summer break will be Monday, May 19th and Thursday, May 22nd. We will begin again after Labor Day.



If you'd like to attend the Monday evening Zoom, or want more information, contact Deacon Allison at [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com).



**Faith First** – Join us for breakfast, devotions and fellowship at Main Street Café. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am. **Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**. Hope to see you there!

**Interested in joining Grace?** Contact Deacon Allison [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com), to learn more about membership at Grace. Our next information class will begin soon.

**Assisted Listening System Available for Services:** Have trouble hearing during services? Please reach out to an Usher when you arrive if you'd like to use an assisted listening device. We have 2 models: a loop around the neck that works directly with most hearing aids; and an over-the-ear speaker. Each has personal volume control.



## **MAY Worship Assistants**

*Thank you all for your service!*



**Please note:**

**On 5/18 we will have Confirmation, with one service at 9:30am  
Our Summer Worship Schedule with one service at 9:30am,  
begins 5/25.**

**Trustee**—Dan Feist

**Altar Guild Team**—Johnson, Klinger & Murphy

### **Counting Teams**

5/4	5/11	5/18	5/25 (begin summer)
Fritz/Shiley	Matzke/Harshaw	Fraunfelter	Meyers/Troiano

<b><u>Reader(s)</u></b>	5/4	5/11	5/18 (9:30 only)	5/25 (begin summer)
8:15	D. Kamertz	S. Matzke	D. Lewis	T. Weikel
10:30	M. Salamone	T. Jordan		

### **Children's Sermon (10:30 only)**

5/4	5/11	5/18 (9:30 only)	5/25 (begin summer)
Angela	Jack	Tina	Brenda

<b><u>Tech Table</u></b>	5/4	5/11	5/18 (9:30 only)	5/25 (begin summer)
8:15	Jackie	Dan	Dave	Jim
10:30	Dave	Austin		

### **Communion Assistants**

5/4 8:15	J. Perry	10:30	C. Ferguson, K. Petel, D. Feist & T. Meredith
5/11 8:15	K. Rease	10:30	K. Mills, W. Moyer, M. Rehrer & B. Johnson
5/18 (9:30 only)	M. Satryan, K. Thomson, G. & C. Peteritas		
5/25 (begin 9:30am)	S. Firering, R. Harshaw, M. Alloway & K. Brown		

### **Ushers**

5/4 8:15	S. Firering & J. & C. Campbell	10:30	M. Rehrer & C. Peteritas
5/11 8:15	R. Pennypacker & T. Weikel	10:30	B. & M. Johnson
5/18 (9:30 only)	M. & T. McGarry		
5/25 (begin 9:30am)	B. Meredith & M. Satryan		

<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>	5/4	5/11	5/18 (9:30 only)	5/25 (begin summer)
8:15	Drew Mazur		Olivia Asbert	Olivia Asbert
10:30	Brady Burgoon	Elliana Nye		

*(Changes to this schedule may occur after printing; assistants should be alert for updates.)*

