

August 2025 Graceful Greetings



August 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

(Summer Schedule - One Combined Service at 9:30am; No Sunday School)

Sunday, August 3—8th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 10—9th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 17—10th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 24—11th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 31—12th Sunday after Pentecost



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

Hello! My name is Kaitlyn Stebner and I am a member of the congregation at Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford. A space for outdoor prayer is one thing that many communities lack. Creating an outdoor prayer garden and labyrinth allows for people to be closest to whatever higher power they choose in a setting that invites peace. It will be a space that can be used for other community groups to have conversations that further the church's ministries outside of the church walls. My project would incorporate many different plants and pollinators that would have great benefits. A labyrinth is an ancient pattern with a single in-direct path to a clear destination and is intended to be a reflective experience.

In order to create this garden we plan to create a pathway using 8 inch by 8 inch paved belden bricks. The garden will have a paved center with a bench to create a space for anyone to use. To help bring this vision to life, we are offering the opportunity to purchase engraved bricks that will be used in the construction of the labyrinth and garden pathways. These personalized bricks are a meaningful way to honor a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, or leave a lasting mark of support within the community. The bricks are a 8x8 inch brick that features at max 6 lines and 18 characters with the option to add a logo as well. The sale will run until August 17th. The prices of the bricks range in personalization so the prices vary from \$45-\$65. A separate donation in any amount may be given as well. Kaitlyn will also be at church on 8/3, 10 & 17 to speak to anyone with questions or they can email if, anyone has questions or issues with an order.

Each contribution not only helps fund the project but also becomes a permanent part of this peaceful and sacred space. Thank you for considering being part of something special.



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

Email: gracelutr@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)

Highlights from the last six months from Pastor Leah



It has been a joy to get to know this congregation as I move through my first year of shared ministry here at Grace! Having the sacred privilege of walking alongside the people of Grace as your pastor is not a calling I take lightly—I'm thankful for the holy moments I've been invited to be present in meaningful ways which include both times of sorrow and joy—for end-of-life care/funerals, preparing for marriages, a wedding, first communion, confirmation, baptisms, and an installation. I've enjoyed visiting in-person with you in your homes, on your porches, by phone, email, and text messages. I had a wonderful time getting to know some of our youth at Tuscarora, and it was enriching to be in service with Grace members at Project Outreach's food pantry.

I have really appreciated the openness this congregation has to trying new elements in worship while also bringing back the Lutheran sung liturgy that can bring a sense of comfort and familiarity. Highlights include becoming a member of the Hand Bell Choir and establishing an "Artful Sanctuary" team at GLC to incorporate visual elements into the worship space (including a Lenten installation, a handcrafted wooden candle holder for Good Friday, a fabulous Easter tomb, and a beautiful Pentecost hoop banner with ribbons and white doves). We've walked through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter together, and even experienced fire dancing from Grace's baptismal font in remembrance of our baptism by water and Word with the promised gift of Holy Spirit fire.

Now, as we enter into this Time After Pentecost in the Church Year, we find ourselves in a season of growing in our faith. As we look toward a new program year and are planning for our fall ministries, there will be learning opportunities ahead for members of Grace to grow as disciples who follow in the way of Jesus. I will invite you to explore important aspects of our common life and the ways we are called to live and embody God's love as the body of Christ in the world. We will host conversation opportunities as we seek significant ways to live more deeply into our baptismal promises to strive for justice and peace and to stand in solidarity with the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed—through learning and faithful action.

Please know that I am always open to sitting down for conversation and look forward to all that is yet to come. I am so grateful for this congregation's consistent generosity, for Grace's faithful ministry leaders and excellent staff members, and for all the ways I see the Holy Spirit moving in this place and among the people of Grace!

Your sibling in Christ and partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Leah

From the Deacon's Desk: Six Month Highlights



It's hard to believe that Pastor Leah has been with us for less than a year. In that time, she has made a wonderful impact on our ministry here at Grace and has settled seamlessly. I'm grateful for the ways in which she has positively impacted my ministry in particular. Highlights for me in these months have been the creative worship experiences she's brought to us that I've been fortunate enough to collaborate on. I'm especially pleased that I was able to coordinate worship myself for our July 27th service.

Other areas of my ministry are keeping me jazzed as well! Our Bible Study groups have now finished studying the first five books of the New Testament (plus a few others) and are getting ready in the fall to study the Book of Revelation. I would love to see some new faces join us this fall!

I've also spent some time updating our New Member materials and am excited that we have some potential new members who may be joining our congregation soon.

Another highlight was leading an adult series on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. So much of his life and context is helpful for us to know as we consider the time and place (and divisions) we find ourselves facing currently in the US and even in the Church.

Finally, a big joy was our participation for the second year with the Chester County PrideFest in Phoenixville. We interacted with over a thousand people to help spread God's love. So grateful to Danielle Lau for arranging our involvement.

I am busy now preparing for a fall women's retreat - one of my very favorite things to do!

The Holy Spirit is busy and active here at Grace! I am always eager to talk to anyone about how they can connect with what we are doing, or to get new ideas about where we might go from here!

God's peace to you on this journey of faith!

Your partner in ministry, Deacon Allison

Save the Date! Women's Retreat

Women from Grace are once again invited to a day-long retreat, on Sat., October 4th to be held at the Farmhouse at Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester. Registration for the retreat will begin in August. So save the date and stay tuned. (keep in mind that registration will be limited to 20 attendees due to space constraints).



This is a great way to enjoy the company of other women in our congregation and have some fun and learning along the way. Temenos has a beautiful facility & we will have opportunity to enjoy the nature surrounding it. Coffee, snacks, and lunch will be provided.

The cost for the retreat this will be \$35 per person. Scholarships will be available. Please let Deacon Allison know if the cost is prohibitive.

If you have questions, contact Deacon Allison either in the church office or at deaconallison12@gmail.com.

MID YEAR COUNCIL REPORT

At the midpoint of 2025, it is a good time to share and highlight some activities and accomplishments of your Church Council.



The Technology Committee, headed by Jim Butler continues to upgrade equipment and train new volunteers for the Tech Desk to enhance your worship experience.

Our Property Committee, chaired by Mark Rehner and led by Property Manager, Steven Matzke, continues to handle numerous emergencies along with the day to day maintenance on our campus. Major repairs at the parsonage, A/C repair and replacements for Magic Memories in the Ed Building.....you name it, they take care of it.

Fellowship, chaired by Brenda Johnson, has hosted numerous functions, most notably the reception following Pastor Leah's installation. Details for an autumn picnic will be coming soon.

Social Ministry, led by Danielle Lau, continues to reach out into the community to help those in need.

Our Worship and Music Committee, under the leadership of Tammy Jordan coordinates with our rostered ministers to blend Grace traditions with new expressive forms of worship. The Artful Sanctuary Team was formed to bring the Gospel to life.....and new hymnals are on their way. Julie Boyer continues to manage Christian Education, currently leading VBS.

Angela Feist, returning to Council after a one year hiatus, leads Faith Engagement.

Gavin Staface and Audrey Ibach represent the youth and young adults in our congregation.

Carly Bauer heads up Stewardship. You will be hearing more from her in the near future.

Mutual Ministry, led by Jack Perry, continues to search for a new Property Manager along with a DCE to fit our needs.

Financially, even though we are slightly below budget in congregational giving, it should be noted that we are \$10,000 greater in giving than last year at this time. We have signed a 5 year lease extension with Magic Memories that includes an additional 5 year option as they are very happy tenants. This provides significant financial security for Grace going forward. We also have extended the lease for Blair in the office apartment. Generous legacy gifts continue to generate income for the church, thereby enabling us to meet our obligations.

My thanks to the staff and all members of Council for their leadership in bringing great ideas forward for growth and sharing the good news through our actions in the community and beyond.

Additional gratitude for all volunteers who help in so many ways with the multitude of tasks required to hold worship services and keep Grace running efficiently. Feel free to reach out to the people mentioned above if you desire to serve in any other ministries.

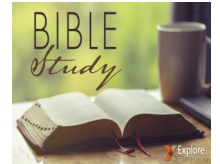
Kurt Meyers, Council President

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship—Richard Harshaw's group will continue to meet during the summer in the Choir Room for topical conversations on faith and life, and for a time of fellowship. Check with Richard for details regarding date & times.

Judy Stryker's group is on break for the summer.

Bible Study has finished for the summer. We will begin again after Labor Day.



Faith First – Last Wednesday of this Month. 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, August 27th.** Hope to see you there!

Morning Grace—Morning Grace is currently on hiatus.

Interested in joining Grace? Contact Deacon Allison deaconallison12@gmail.com, to learn more about membership at Grace. Our next information class will begin soon.



Dear Grace Members, Friends & Guests: In an effort to update pictures on our website, over the next few weeks & months, you may encounter someone taking pictures of the congregation, a group, class or area of the church. If you would prefer not to have your face or image published on our website and/or other forms of written communications & social media, please step away from the area & contact the church office at 610.948.3684 or email us, to let us know your preference to not be included in any publications or social media platforms. Thank you.

Do you have a digital camera? Do you like to take pictures? If you have pictures or have taken recent pictures of a church event, we would like to see them (if you are willing to share). We may be able to use some on our website or in other social media platforms for the church.

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.



AUGUST Worship Assistants

Thank you all for your service!



Please note: Our Summer Worship Schedule with one combined service at 9:30am, is in effect.

Trustee—Jim Campbell

Altar Guild Team—Deb Fritz, Celeste Peteritas & Kate Petel

Counting Teams

8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
Meyers/Troiano	Brown/Henson	Harshaw/Matzke	Shiley/D. Fritz	Matzke/Harshaw

Reader

8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
M. Satryan	T. Jordan	T. McGarry	T. Meredith	G. Pouchan

Children's Sermon

8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
Jack	Tina	Brenda	Darrell	Pastor Leah

<u>Tech Table</u>	8/3-Rick	8/10-Austin	8/17-Jim	8/24-Dave	8/31-Rick
--------------------------	----------	-------------	----------	-----------	-----------

Communion Assistants

8/3	Joe Kamertz, Kurt Meyers, Karen Brown, Kate Petel
8/10	Glenn Peak, Jackie Perry, Carol Furgeson, Will Moyer
8/17	Kathy Reese, Joe Curran, Debbie Fritz, Brenda Johnson
8/24	Susan Firering, Richard Harshaw, Darrell Lewis, Tina Meredith
8/31	Joe Kamertz, Kurt Meyers, Kathy Mills, Will Moyer

Ushers

8/3	Carol Ferguson & Gavin Straface
8/10	Trish & Mike McGarry
8/17	Jim/Cylee Campbell & Deb Fritz
8/24	Bud Meredith & Marcia Satryan
8/31	Karen Thompson & Greg Eynon

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

AUGUST Prayer Focus

1. Our sisters at Grace/National Girlfriend's Day
2. Grace's artists/American Artist Appreciation Month
3. Families/American Family Day
4. Clowns/National Clown Week
5. Hard work/Work Like A Dog Day
6. Our amazing bodies/Wiggle Our Toes Day
7. Forgiveness/ International Forgiveness Day
8. Our eyes and vision/ Eye Exam Month
9. A beautiful summer Sunday
10. Preventative medicine/Immunization Awareness Month
11. Sons and daughters /Sons and Daughters Day
12. Happiness/Smile Week
13. Left -handers / International Left Hander's Day
14. Peace/Japan surrendered 1945, end of WWII
15. Relaxing/National Relaxation Day
16. Friends/Friendship Week
17. Those who struggle with temptation
18. Care of creation/Homeless Animal Day
19. Vegetables/Potato Day
20. College students returning to school
21. Helping God/Be an Angel Day
22. That all may hear and follow God's word
23. Those who are traveling
24. Teachers preparing for a new school year
25. Those who argue/Kiss and Make-up Day
26. Women/Women's Equality Day
27. Hospitality to visitors
28. Visions and dreams/Dream Day
29. Our missionaries Steven and Marta
30. Inventors/Inventors' Month
31. The great outdoors/National Eat Outside Day



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Leah Woehr-Grande, Pastor
Deacon Allison Wilcox
Located at 6th Avenue & Main Street
594 Church Street - 1st Fl. (Office & Mailing)
Royersford, PA 19468

• • • • •
• **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2025** •
• **ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS** •
• **IS Friday, August 15th** •
• • • • •