

November 2025 Graceful Greetings



November 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

**Fall Schedule: Worship Services at 8:15 & 10:30am
with Sunday School & Faith Formation at 9:15am**

Sunday, November 2—All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 9—22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 16—23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 23—Christ the King Sunday
Sunday, November 30—1st Sunday of Advent



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.



Sunday, November 2, we will have one combined worship service at 9:30am, where we will remember members of our congregation who began their baptismal journey through the sacrament of baptism and those who have completed their baptismal journeys and now rest in God’s eternal care, as well as other loved ones. Please join us for worship, prayer & the naming of all saints, including those especially beloved to us.

Thank you to all for participating in a wonderful Blessed to be a Blessing Sunday! Our speakers & Stewardship Chair, Carly Bauer, were inspirational and brunch was delicious!! We have so much to be grateful for at Grace and your support of this faith community is a huge blessing! To date, we’ve received 47 Pledge cards totaling \$174,688 for 2026. **THANK YOU!** Please return your pledge card today, if you haven’t done so and help Grace be confident in pursuing the ministries God is calling us into! Your estimate is a huge blessing to us in our faithful planning.



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Important Notes:

Don’t be late for worship; remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, 11/1, before you go to bed.



The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 27th & 28th, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Feel free to email or leave a message and we’ll get back to you, as soon as we’re back in the office.

From Pastor Leah—Dear Siblings in Christ,

One of the lectionary texts appointed for Thanksgiving is from Matthew 6:25-34, in which Jesus says, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” Then Jesus asks his disciples to “consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.” Instead, Jesus urges his followers to “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be giving to you as well.”



At the heart of the matter, Jesus is inviting us to take the risk to trust that God has given the world enough, freeing us from our worries to focus on the things that matter most in the kingdom of God—like justice and peace and whether our neighbor has what they need to live well and with dignity.

So how do we learn to trust in God’s abundant provision in an anxious culture like ours that tries to motivate us—even manipulate us—by worry and fear to convince us that we are never enough, that we never have enough? Or in a political climate that tells us our neighbors among us are the problem? What Jesus is suggesting is so completely counter cultural to the voices telling us to acquire more stuff and stockpile it for ourselves to make us safer, more secure, and less afraid; to voices telling us to fear those with experiences different from our own. Sometimes we need divine intervention to see the heart of the matter.

Let us pray, “Come Holy Spirit!” May our eyes be opened to see and our hearts be ready to trust that God has got the whole world in God’s hands. Help us to believe that God holds each precious one in God’s very heart even in the midst of hard and painful things we cannot understand. God’s love for you and for me and for our neighbor is infinite. There is no end to this love...it doesn’t run out. It never gives up—not even at the point of death on a cross.

God’s love is for you, and it is extravagant. God’s love makes it possible to live an abundant life in communal solidarity with one another. God’s love makes it possible for our hearts to be filled with gratitude and thanksgiving in place of worry and fear that robs us of the abundant life God intends for us.

You may gather with loved ones and slice up some delicious pies this month. A piece of the pie for this plate here, and a slice for someone else over there. Maybe a piece or two to send home with your guests for the day after Thanksgiving. But pretty soon, the pie plate will become empty. No more pie. Thanks be to God that love doesn’t work that way! The more you slice up love and share it, the more there is. The pie dish never gets empty—it only overflows all the more. This is God’s economy.

I was an aunt long before I was a mom. And I fell in love hard and fast when my niece was born. Oh, the first time I saw her I thought my heart would just burst with love. Then 18 months later my nephew was about to be born. I suddenly panicked. I began to worry...I couldn’t imagine how I was going to split my love for my niece with this new baby. But, what a silly worry that was! The moment I laid eyes on my sweet newborn nephew and scooped him up in my arms, love didn’t divide...it just kept expanding. It expanded again when I was pregnant with my first. And again when our son was born.

Love is outrageously abundant. Love is what frees us and makes us as bold as the birds and as daring as the lilies to embrace our fragility and vulnerability and trust God to care for us, and in turn care for our neighbors, through all life’s joys and sorrows.

I think the practice of gratitude and thanksgiving work the same way. The more one gives thanks the more gratitude grows. The more that gratitude grows, the more praise and thanksgiving leaps from our lips. An attitude of gratitude opens our eyes to the abundance all around us to see God’s love that frees us for so much more—to live as the people of God who have been raised to new life who live for one another without stopping to second guess or worry if there is enough for everyone.

This love makes it possible for us to look beyond ourselves and seek the well-being of our neighbors, focusing on their needs and concerns. You are free to live abundantly without fear or worry. You are free for the important work of the kingdom so that your neighbor may live abundantly in the kingdom, too. Thanks be to God!

Peace + Grace,

Pastor Leah

From the Deacon's Desk: Gratitude Even When Life Hurts



Gratitude has been a timely theme for me in the past month. It was the theme of our Women's Retreat on October 4th, and also the theme for which I preached on Blessed to be a Blessing Sunday on October 19th. Given that it is also the month we celebrate Thanksgiving, it seemed to be a good topic to revisit.

I've talked before about the benefits to humans who make a practice out of gratitude: better mental and physical health; increased creativity; increased happiness, among others. But for many the reality of challenging circumstances in life make it difficult sometimes to focus on the being grateful. We discussed that at our Women's Retreat and I wanted to share with you one of the quotes that helped me in my planning for the retreat. It is from the Dutch Catholic priest and writer, Henri Nouwen:

"Gratitude is not a simple emotion or an obvious attitude. It is a difficult discipline in which I constantly reclaim my whole past as the concrete way God has led me to this moment and is sending me into the future. It is hard precisely because it challenges me to face my painful moments – experiences of rejection and abandonment, feelings of loss and failure – and gradually to discover in them the pruning hands of God purifying my heart for deeper love, stronger hope, and broader faith."

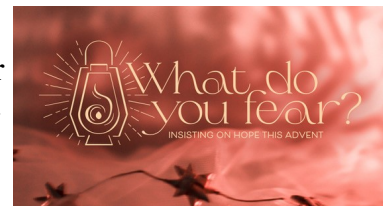
As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I pray that whatever your circumstances, you find God's presence in your life as a source of peace, and that the discipline of gratitude brings you a deep abiding trust that God is the God of hope and love.

God's peace be with you!

+ Deacon Allison

Join us for worship this Advent

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. We hope you will join us for this holy, hope-filled season. Our Advent theme this year is: "What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent."



Hope and fear are interwoven in our lives. Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

Sunday, Nov. 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent—One Combined Worship at 9:30am

Sunday, Dec. 7th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 14th - 3rd Sunday of Advent (1st Anniversary of Pastor Leah's first Sunday with us).

Sunday, Dec. 21st - Advent Pageant (one service at 9:30)

Christmas Eve Worship—7:00 pm - Contemporary Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
11:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

On December 28th - One service at 9:30 am for Lessons & Carols

YOUTH NEWS



G.R.A.C.E. Place programming will be every Sunday with 2 worship services and is for preschool through 6th grade! Confirmation will have class every Sunday. Details are still being worked out for our high school youth for Sunday mornings .

G.R.A.C.E. Place October Dates: November 9th, 16th & 23rd - 9:30am - 10:15am
2 year old – kindergarten meet in Lower Level 07; 1st– 6th grade class meets in Lower Level 08-09.

Please register your child for G.R.A.C.E. Place online at:
www.gracelutheranroyersford.com/registration.

Confirmation Class - November 19, 2025

Confirmands are required to attend the Lutheran Youth Retreat at Tuscarora, 3/20 – 3/22, 2026; cost is approximately \$150. This is an opportunity for the youth to enjoy some great activities & music, and deepen their spirituality among friends! If you would like to chaperone, the required background checks must be processed immediately. Please call the office for details. We LOVE (and need) plenty of adult help on our retreats. If you need financial help, please apply through the Paul Neff Scholarship BY January 1st, 2025. Scholarship applications can be found in the narthex on the toolbox table)

First & second year confirmation students are combined and will meet in room L01, lower level of the church. If your child has not received First Holy Communion, please contact Pastor. Your child will receive Communion instruction in this class & receive First Holy Communion.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Our Holiday Craft Fair is back! Always a fun day to start your holiday shopping early, support local makers and our youth group, and grab some tasty homemade treats!



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: gracelutrn@verizon.net

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

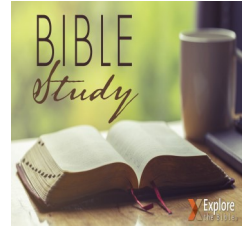
Instagram search: [grace.lutheran.royersford](https://www.instagram.com/grace.lutheran.royersford)

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

Bible Studies: Bible Studies have begun. We are studying the Revelation of John, and it is giving us all kinds of great fodder for conversation! We have two groups that cover the same topic: Monday's at 7pm via Zoom and Thursday mornings at 10am in the parlor. Contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com with questions or if you'd like a link to Monday's Zoom.



Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship:

Richard Harshaw's group continues to meet in the Choir Room at 9:15 am for topical conversations on faith and life and for a time of fellowship. Check with Richard for details.

Judy Stryker's book discussion group meets at 9:15 in the parlor (L05). They are reading the book *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories* by Debie Thomas.



Faith First – There will be a schedule change for both November and December due to the holiday season. In November, we will meet on the third Wednesday, Nov. 19th rather than the week of Thanksgiving. And in December we will also meet on the third Wednesday: Dec. 17th. We'd love to have you join us at Main Street Café on those dates at 8:30am.

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



Lorraine's Hearing Fund (created to provide financial assistance to members of Grace who have a hearing impairment), will take applications for those in need of equipment/devices, education, or technology. Awards up to \$2,500 each will be considered for applicants. To apply, email Roxanne Troiano (rmtroiano@verizon.net) and she will either email or mail you an application (whichever is best for the applicant). **All applications are due by October 31, 2025.** Applicants will be notified in November of eligibility and the amount of the award. Please direct questions to Roxanne Troiano.

Thank you to Grace's congregation!! Because of your financial generosity, Grace was able to purchase dinners and gift cards for St. Mary's Franciscan shelter, the week of October 6th. In the past, members of Grace cooked dinners in their homes and delivered the dinners to St. Mary's. Times have changed and now St. Mary's can only accept meals from a licensed kitchen. St. Mary's was overwhelmed with joy for the gift cards and meals to feed the 15 residents. We were able to do this because of YOU! Thank you, once again, for your kind and generous heart.



NOVEMBER Worship Assistants

Thank you all for your service!



Trustee—Bruce Leister

Altar Guild Team—L. Klinger, D. Murphy, B. & M. Johnson

Counting Teams—11/2 (One Service at 9:30am) Fritz/Petel 11/9 Matzke/Harshaw
11/16 Meyers/Troiano 11/23 Brown/Henson 11/30 (One Service at 9:30am) Fritz/Petel

Readers—11/2 (One Service at 9:30am) T. Jordan
11/9 8:15-D. Kametz; 10:45-D. Lewis 11/16 8:15-B. Fretz; 10:45-T. McGarry
11/23 8:15-M. James; 10:45-J. Claypotch 11/30 (One Service at 9:30am) M. Satryan

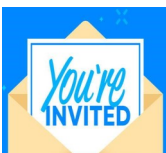
Children's Sermon—11/2 (One Service at 9:30am) Pastor Leah 11/9 Brenda
11/16 Darrell 11/23 Pastor Leah 11/30 (One Service at 9:30am) Jack

Tech Table—11/2 (One Service at 9:30am) Paul/Austin
11/9—8:15 Jackie; 10:30 Dave 11/16—8:15 Dan; 10:30 Jim
11/23—8:15 Jackie; 10:30 Rick 11/30 (One Service at 9:30am) Paul/Austin

Communion Assistants—
11/2 (One Service at 9:30am) G. Peak, K. Petel, M. Satryan & K. Thomson
11/9—8:15 J. Perry 10:30 M. Rehrer, M. Satryan, C. Ferguson & M. Alloway
11/16—8:15 K. Reese 10:30 K. Brown, C. Ferguson, D. Fritz & D. Lewis
11/23—8:15 J. Curran 10:30 T. Meredith, K. Mills, W. Moyer & K. Petel
11/30 (One Service at 9:30am) S. Firering, M. Satryan, K. Brown & M. Rehrer

Ushers—11/2 (One Service at 9:30am) M. Rehrer & K. Thomson
11/9—8:15 R. Pennypacker & J. Stoddard 10:30 D. Murphy & B. Meredith
11/16—8:15 G. Peak & J. Stryker 10:30 M. Satryan & D. Fritz
11/23—8:15 T. Weikel & S. Firering 10:30 K. & D. Lewis
11/30 (One Service at 9:30am) C. Ferguson & G. Straface

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



The congregation of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2941 Lutheran Rd. Gilbertsville, invites you to celebrate their 325th Anniversary at a Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion on **Sunday, Nov. 2, at 3pm.** An anniversary liturgy, mass choir, special music & a message by SEPA Bishop Bryan Penman will highlight the service. For more info, please call 610.326.1335 or email the office at info@newhanoverlutheran.org.

- 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
Church Office: 610.948.3684
Fax: 610.948.3304*

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2025
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Friday, November 14th**