

December 2025 Graceful Greetings



December 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Sunday, December 7—2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 14—3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 21—4th Sunday of Advent/Pageant
One service at 9:30am

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

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.

Join us for worship this Advent

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th, with one service at 9:30am. 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.



The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, December 25 & 26 and on January 1 & 2, for the Christmas & New Year Holidays. Feel free to email or leave a message and we’ll get back to you, as soon as we’re back in the office.

Poinsettia Order Forms are available at either information table, cost is the same as last year and **orders are due by Sunday, 11/30**. Orders can be taken over the phone by calling the church office during normal business hours (8:30a-2p, M-F).



From Pastor Leah—Dear Siblings in Christ,



On Christmas Eve we will hear once again the familiar story of the birth of the Christ child with the busy streets of Bethlehem, a shining star, night skies filled with angelic voices, awestruck shepherds, and the cries of the brand-new baby taking his first breath. We will bear witness as the babe is cradled in his mother's arms and as she wraps him in swaddling cloths. Then, as scripture pauses to tell us, we will find ourselves invited to sit with Mary for a moment as she ponders in her heart all these wonderful and amazing things that have been told to her by the shepherds.

It might be hard to imagine, let alone embrace, an invitation to make space for pausing & pondering, especially during such a busy season! Yet, Luke's Gospel is careful to tell us that pausing and pondering at the wonder, hope, and promise of these things taking place is exactly part of the story. Mary pauses to ponder what God is presently doing in the midst of her life and her world.

*What if, this Advent season, we gave ourselves
the gift of nurturing this spiritual discipline
to pause and ponder what God is up to in our own lives?
Even if only for a few minutes each day?*

I am very pleased to see that our Advent resources from A Sanctified Art company has provided a devotional resource with beautiful "Breath Prayers" to help us take a moment each day to pause, to breathe and to ponder. Breath prayers are simple prayers that invite us to meditate with intention while slowly breathing in and out.

Provided for each day is a "Word of the Day" which is related to the Advent season, including words like—*longing, hope, trust, magnify, awaken* and love. For example, on December 4th, the breath prayer is centered on the word "Possibility," and the prayer goes like this—as you inhale, pray "God, help me see..." and as you exhale, pray, "all that is possible." These prayers are easy to do and can be prayed throughout the day for as little or as long a time as you feel you need, and they provide a powerful space to seek and encounter God's loving presence. These prayers give us a space to pause and to ponder what God may be up to in our midst.

December 4th
WORD OF THE DAY
Possibility

BREATH PRAYER

INHALE:
God, help me see

EXHALE:
all that is possible.

I sincerely hope that you and your household will give yourselves the gift of experiencing these **Advent Breath Prayers** each day this season. I hope and pray that God will speak through these prayers to infuse hope, joy, peace, and love into your daily lives. And I'll be praying and breathing, pausing and pondering right alongside of you, my dear beloved siblings in Christ.

Peace + Grace,

Pastor Leah

From the Deacon's Desk:



This year there are many opportunities for Grace members to help brighten the Christmas season of those who are in most need. The cuts to SNAP last month have put food insecurity front and center in the news, as well as in our hearts and minds. If you are interested in helping families looking for some holiday cheer this season, there are things you can do: give to Project Outreach, Open Door, or any of the local food pantries in the area. Pastor Leah has put together a Google doc with contact information for many of them. See myself or Pastor for more information. Often food banks in the area need extra help at the holiday season, so consider volunteering at one as well.

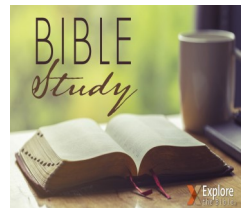
You can also take part in our yearly Advent giving. More information is in this newsletter, or you can talk to Diane Harshaw.

In addition, you can donate to Lutheran World Relief to help victims of Hurricane Melissa's destruction, as well as those globally who are suffering from hunger, disaster, war, and violence. From now through Christmas, donations to LWR to help refugees who have been forced from their homes will be doubled.

I pray that you and yours have a blessed holiday season. Please consider how you might help someone in need share in the blessings of Christmas well.

God's peace be with you!
+ Deacon Allison

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



Bible Studies: We continue studying the Revelation of John, with two groups that cover the same topic: Monday evenings at 7pm 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. **Please note that Bible Study will take a break during the weeks of December 22nd & 29th for the Christmas & New Year's holidays.**

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 December due to the holiday. In December we will 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.

Advent Devotions: This year the Spring-Ford Churches in action have put together an Advent devotion booklet as we did with Lent. See Deacon Allison if you are interested in receiving one.

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

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.

G.R.A.C.E. Place December Dates: December 7th & 14th - 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 - December 17, 2025

Youth: December 14th we will be working on two different community services projects -
Wrapping the gifts for the families Grace Adopted and making cookies for the GRACE shut-ins.
Time: 12noon - 3pm **Location: Social Hall** **RVSP to Julie by December 7, 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.



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)



Let's Celebrate! Sunday, Dec.14th between the services, stop by the Welcome Center to celebrate Pastor Leah's 1st Anniversary shepherding us! We'll have fellowship & refreshments!



Grace Lutheran Church ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Join us in spreading holiday joy to children in need!

WHAT IS THE ANGEL TREE?

The Angel Tree is Grace's 2025 Advent project. This project is designed to bring the spirit of giving to children within the Spring-ford School District community, whose families need some extra help this holiday season. Each tag on the tree represents a child and indicates one item on their holiday list.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Choose a tag: Visit the Angel Tree in the 6th Ave. Foyer & select a tag for a child. Remove the tag from the tree.
- Record tag information: For tracking purposes, record tag info on the Sign Out Sheet, on the table.
- Purchase a **new, unused** gift: Find a suitable gift based on the wants/needs of the child as listed on the tag.
- Return the gift: Please do not wrap the gift; attach the original tag to the gift & place the gift under the Angel Tree by December 14.

DETAILS:

- Return gift date: Return the gift to the Angel Tree by December 14 (early service).
- Contact information: For questions, please contact:

Diane Harshaw	dsharshaw@gmail.com	484-363-3814
Judy Lukens	JudyLukens@hotmail.com	610-329-3156
Church Office	gracelutrn@verizon.net	610-948-3684

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON A TIME OF JOY AND HOPE BY
ADOPTING A CHILD THIS HOLIDAY!

(We thank Project Outreach for their cooperation in providing names for this project.)

**NOTE: IF ALL THE GIFT TAGS ARE TAKEN & YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE,
PLEASE LET US KNOW RIGHT AWAY!**

ACCEPTING GIFTS NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 14 (early service)

DECEMBER Worship Assistants

Thank you all for your service!



Trustee—Eric Lau

Altar Guild Team—Joe & Deb Kamertz

Counting Teams—12/7 Shiley/Fritz 12/14 Matzke/Harshaw 12/21 Meyers/Troiano
12/28 Brown/Henson

Readers—12/7 8:15-The Lau Family 10:30-Will Moyer
12/14 8:15-Beth Matzke 10:30-Kate Petel
12/21 (One service at 9:30am) Anne Pennypacker
12/24 7pm- 11pm
12/28 (One service at 9:30am)

Children's Sermon—12/7 Angela 12/14 Tina 12/21 (One service at 9:30am) - Brenda
12/28 (One service at 9:30am) - Darrell

Tech Table—12/7 8:15-Jackie 10:30-Dave
12/14 8:15-Dan 10:30-Jim 12/21 (One service at 9:30am) Jackie/Jim
12/24 7pm TBD 11pm-Dave 12/28 (One service at 9:30am) Austin

Communion Assistants—

12/7 8:15-R. Harshaw 10:30-M. Rehrer, K. Thomson, M. Alloway & G. Peteritas
12/14 8:15-J. Kamertz 10:30-C. Ferguson, D. Fritz, D. Lewis & T. Meredith
12/21 (One service at 9:30am) K. Meyers, K. Mills, W. Moyer & K. Petel
12/24 7pm - K. Petel & D. Fritz 11pm - K. Reese & M. Satryan
12/28 (One service at 9:30am) G. Peak, M. Rehrer, Debbie Fritz & Karen Brown

Ushers—

12/7 8:15-J. & C. Campbell and R. Harshaw 10:30-K. Thomson & K. Brown
12/14 8:15-r. Pennypacker & J. Stoddard 10:30-B. & M. Johnson
12/21 (One service at 9:30am) T. & M. McGarry
12/24 7pm— M. Satryan & R. Harshaw 11pm
12/28 (One service at 9:30am) M. Rehrer & T. Jordan

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

- 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 JANUARY 2026
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Monday, December 14th**