

January 2026 Graceful Greetings



January 2026 WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Sunday, January 4—Epiphany Sunday - One service at 9:30am
Sunday, January 11—Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 18—2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 25—3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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.

The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, January 1 & 2, for the 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.



Notice for those Members Actively Attending Sunday worship, GRACE Place or Adult Faith Formation—Please be on the look out for a letter inviting you to upcoming meetings, to engage in conversations to consider our congregation's Sunday morning needs and offerings. There will be 2 in person and 2 online opportunities. For the online meetings, links will be sent out closer to those dates. Thank you.



Please join us for our Annual Meeting! It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026. We will have one service at 9:30am, with the meeting to follow worship. Your input is important as we discuss ministries, mission & vision, budgets and more. Reports will be sent via email by January 31st. If you do NOT have access to email and wish to receive a hard copy, you will need to notify the church office. Reserved copies may be picked up at the office after Jan. 31st.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for everyone who participated in Grace's Angel Tree project. Whether you shared your previous experience how you've seen this work, purchased gifts, purchased wrapping paper/ribbons or bows, wrapped gifts, wrote out tags, and delivered gifts, THANK YOU!! Once again, you went above & beyond...this time, for children in need. YOU ARE AMAZING!! Your commitment to serving others truly shows God's love in action. You are a blessing to this church.



From Pastor Leah—Dear Siblings in Christ,



During my sermon on the third Sunday of Advent, we pondered call stories—those times in our lives when we sense God inviting and calling us forward to live out our faith in some way. We recognized that our responses to God’s call are varied and that at times we may be resistant to what God is inviting us to do. We considered stories from scripture, including God’s call to Jeremiah to serve as a prophet for God’s people and when God called Mary to become the mother of God’s Son, Jesus. I also shared a bit of my own call story and the long journey I took in answering God’s call to serve as a pastor. (If you were unable to worship with us that day in Advent, you can still experience the service on Grace’s You Tube channel).

Certainly, God calls all the baptized into a life of faithful discipleship in all kinds of places and all kinds of ways. While many times these calls come to us individually, we also know that God actively calls and invites whole communities to collectively live out God’s vision in concrete ways for the sake of the world God loves. As I mentioned in my sermon, “Sometimes these moments of call are subtle and gentle, and sometimes they can be life-altering and move us into places and tasks we might not have been able to imagine ourselves doing.” So, how do we know if, when, and how God may be calling us?

Spiritual discernment is a practice of listening intentionally for what God may be speaking or revealing to us. We might practice spiritual discernment through the act of prayer, journaling, meditation, or reading scripture and pausing to reflect what God may be saying to us through the text. We might discern that God is speaking to us through another person or an experience, or that God is nudging us to act in some way. We might even work with a trained spiritual director to guide us through practices that support active listening as we watch for the movement and wonder at the prompting of the Holy Spirit. An important component to spiritual discernment is to remember that it is almost always both an internal and an external practice. That is, we listen for how God may be speaking to us and then we engage other trusted person(s) in conversation to test out what we think we may be hearing or sensing.

As I have completed my first year serving as your pastor here at Grace, and as we enter into this new calendar year, I sense that our congregation is quite ready to engage a formal visioning process. A visioning process is aspirational and helps a congregation to envision and name specific ministry goals toward which we will commit ourselves. It is my hope and intent that our visioning process would also actively engage the practice of communal spiritual discernment to intentionally invoke the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Such a process would guide our faith community to thoughtfully consider together: How might God be calling and inviting Grace Lutheran Church, as a whole congregation, to live out God’s intentions and hopes for this congregation and in our surrounding community? How might God be calling Grace to deepen our relationship among our membership and with our neighbors? What new ministries might God be calling us to consider? What lay leadership may need to be raised up and equipped to live out that sense of call? We might imagine that the possibilities are endless for how God may choose to speak or what God may reveal to us through such an intentional process.

Over this year and next, I look forward to working with our Council to engage in the leadership task of visioning while tapping into the benefits of doing this visioning work alongside the practice of communal spiritual discernment. There will be so much more to come as we develop our process for doing this important work within our congregation. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us at Grace Lutheran Church as we faithfully seek to discern and then live out God’s call here in this place!

Peace + Grace,

Pastor Leah

From the Deacon's Desk: Growing

Since it is the beginning of the New Year, I like to offer some ways in which we might keep any resolutions we made about leaning into our mission statement here at Grace: "Growing, Loving, Serving by Grace Through Faith." Growing is the first part of that. What are the ways in which we grow in our faith? We know that we aren't meant to be static or unchanging. Our faith is meant to be nurtured.



One way of course that is near & dear to my heart is Bible Study. Study of scripture is an important way in which to grow. While reading ourselves is certainly good to do, it is when we are with others to discuss and learn that scripture comes alive. Currently we are studying the Book of Revelation and more than one of the participants have commented that reading it alone would have been hard to digest! You are always welcome and encouraged to join us in one of our Bible Study times: Mondays at 7pm via Zoom or in person on Thursdays at 10:00 am. If you are interested in Bible Study, but neither of these times work for you, please let me know and I'll look into adding another time.

Another way to grow is in prayer and/or meditation. Prayer is more than simply telling God our hopes and wishes. Sitting with God in silence - listening - is equally important. During Advent we offered an Advent calendar of Breath Prayers. For those who find it difficult to meditate silently, breath prayers are a wonderful way to help focus in our time of meditation. If you didn't pick up a Advent calendar with some suggestions for this kind of prayer, let me know & I'll get you a copy.

Devotions are also a good way to help us grow in faith and spend time in prayer with God. In the past I've given you some suggestions for online devotions you can get via email. Below are a few more I've discovered. I hope you find some of these meaningful.

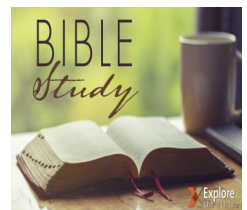
<https://unfoldinglight.net> - I've quoted from this site in some of my sermons. It is a favorite of mine!
<https://henrinouwen.org/meditations/recognizing-the-lord/> - Nouwen was a wonderful Catholic priest and writer who has inspired many.

And two ELCA Lutheran Devotions: <https://www.womenofthelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>
<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>

Over the next couple of months, I'll look at the next parts of our mission statement: loving and serving. 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, and have two groups that cover the same topic: Monday evenings at 7:00 pm and Thursday mornings at 10:00 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 – Join us for breakfast, devotions and fellowship at Main Street Café. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30am. **Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, January 28th.** Hope to see you there!

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 January Dates: January 11, 18 & 25 - 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.

Communion Class will start January 11th, check your email for more info or reach out to cey.graceluthrn@gmail.com

Confirmation Class - January 21, 2026, 6-8pm in the All Purpose room

Calling All Youth 6th to 12th Grade!!!! TUSCARORA 2026 Registration is here!
2-Day Weekend Retreat complete with praise, small groups, worship & free time—3/20-22, 2026.
If you are interested please reach out to cey.graceluthrn@gmail.com. Cost is approximately \$150.
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.

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: 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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*Thank
you!*

Thank You! To this remarkable Christian community, to the Leadership and to the individuals who have shared with us a variety of gifts (cards, goodies, etc.). We are most appreciative of your care and generosity. We pray you feel as blessed and loved by those who surround you.
The Staff of Grace Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2026 Worship Assistants

Thank you all for your service!



Trustee—Adam Asbert

Altar Guild Team—Fritz, Peteritas & Petel

Counting Teams—1/4 Moyer/Mahaney 1/11 Petel/Ibach
1/18 Shiley/Fritz 1/25 Matzke/Harshaw

Readers—1/4 Deb Kamertz (One Service at 9:30am)
1/11 8:15 Marie James 10:30 Margie Alloway
1/18 8:15 Becky Fretz 10:30 Tina Meredith
1/25 8:15 Marie James 10:30 Mike Satryan

Children's Sermon—1/4 Jack (One Service at 9:30am)
1/11 Pastor 1/18 Angela 1/25 Tina

Tech Table—1/4 Rick (One Service at 9:30am)
1/11 8:15 Dan 10:30 Dave
1/18 8:15 Jackie 10:30 Jim
1/25 8:15 Paul 10:30 Rick

Communion Assistants—1/4 (No Communion)
1/11 8:15 Jackie Perry 10:30 Mike Satryan
1/18 8:15 Joe Curran 10:30 Karen Thomson
1/25 8:15 Susan Firering 10:30 Margie Alloway

Ushers—1/4 B. Matzke & D. Fritz (One Service at 9:30am)
1/11 8:15 K. Meyers & M. Rehrer 10:30 D. Murphy & B. Meredith
1/18 8:15 G. Peak & S. Firering 10:30 K. & D. Lewis
1/25 8:15 T. Weikel & J. Stryker 10:30 K. Brown & G. Straface

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

JANUARY Prayer Focus



1. Peaceful, happy New Year
2. Commitment to adhering to our resolutions
3. Sleep (Festival of Sleep Day)
4. The Blind (Braille Day)
5. Our wonderful abundant lives (Celebration of Life Week)
6. Epiphany/Three Kings' Day
7. Health (Lose Weight and Feel Great Month)
8. All types of music (Rock and Roll Day)
9. Stepfathers (Stepfathers Day)
10. Our uniqueness (Peculiar People Day)
11. Aviators (Amelia Earhart Day)
12. Our friends (Secret Pal Day)
13. Patriotic Songs (Stephen Foster Memorial Day)
14. Clean homes! (Organize Your Home Day)
15. Cold winter warmth! (National Hat Day)
16. Nothing/Be Still and know That I Am God (National Nothing Day)
17. Inventive Kids (Kid Inventor Day)
18. Children's fantasy and creativity (Winnie the Pooh Day)
19. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20. Love all! (International Day of Acceptance)
21. Hugs (National Hugging Day)
22. Reading (National book Week)
23. God's abundance of food (Pie Day)
24. Compliments (National Compliment Day)
25. Modern medical miracles (First heart transplant 1964)
26. School nurses (School Nurse Day)
27. Light (Electric light patented 1880)
28. All astronauts (Christa McAuliffe Day/ Challenger exploded in 1986)
29. Flowers (National Carnation Day)
30. People with Glaucoma (Glaucoma Awareness Week)
31. The poor (Poverty in America Month)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Deacon Allison Wilcox
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• **DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2026** •
• **ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS** •
• **IS Thursday, January 15th** •
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