

August 2024
Graceful Greetings



August 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES
Our Combined Summer Worship Services are at 9:30am



Sunday, August 4—11th Sunday of Pentecost
 Sunday, August 11—12th Sunday of Pentecost
 Sunday, August 18—13th Sunday of Pentecost
 Sunday, August 25—14th Sunday of 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.

August 4th will be Pastor Wayne’s last day with us. Prayers and thanks to Pastor Wayne for his time at Grace during our time of transitions!



Upcoming Community Outreach Events -

Meals for St. Mary’s Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families: Each year Grace members pick 2 weeks & cook for the families at St. Mary’s. If you’re interested in cooking a whole meal or part of a meal please reach out to Danielle Lau.

Dlau751@gmail.com or 215-908-7446. **Our remaining week this year is Oct. 7 - 11.**

F4 (Fiorenza’s Food For Friends) picks up (2) homemade frozen casseroles the 2nd Saturday of every month. These meals are used to support the hungry & unhoused in Kensington. If you would like more info please reach out to Danielle Lau.

National Night Out is Aug. 6th, 5-8pm. Volunteers are needed, starting at 3:30pm. And...

Royersford Community Day is Sept. 7th; volunteers are needed. Contact Danielle Lau to help.

Miller Keystone has an urgent need for blood donations! Go to GiveaPint.org to find a location & date to donate!

The Royersford Fire Department is looking for volunteers for their Chicken BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, August 3rd.

CHICKEN BBQ



There are two shifts available:

10 am - 12noon(ish) - - shucking corn (outside), food prep & packing (inside)

3pm - until it is over - - set-up; further packing/bagging of food (including the chicken); passing out the food; clean-up, area break-down, etc.

The RFD does so much for this community & could use our support! To volunteer, please contact gwezel84@gmail.com.

My blessed Siblings in Christ,

As I have shared Sunday, August 4th will be my last day as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church. So, this will be my last newsletter article as your pastor. One more change.



You can handle change. You do it all the time. For sure, some change we really don't like, the relocation of a child or close friend, an accident, or a challenging medical report. But some change we treasure. Consider how fortunate we are that we have electricity, and that we do not live in a time before air conditioning. Personally, I don't want to go back. I believe change in and of itself is neither good nor bad. The strong feelings we have surrounding change are more about the effort required of us to adapt to the change which is thrust upon us.

While my departure is a change, it should not be a surprise to you. From my first day with you I have been reminding you that I am going to depart, that my time here at Grace was an interim time. In this interim time, I have endeavored to be your pastor, and to help you better know yourself as a congregation. All of this so you may welcome your next pastor with honest open eyes, and together with God's help begin a lengthy and fruitful time of ministry together.

Sure, there is sadness in our separation, but the Church is a remarkably "small" place. I suspect some of our paths will cross again. Additionally, this is a time of promise & joy, as Grace Lutheran Church looks forward to what's next, to seeing what God has in store for you. Knowing you as I do, I fully expect you will do remarkable things.

Peace in Christ <>< *Pastor Wayne*

YOUTH NEWS

Calling all parents & kids: You are invited to summer programming at Grace! August - on the 1st & 3rd Sunday's of the month, from 8:30-9:15am. Youth are invited to participate in service projects!

Parents, on the 1st Sunday of each month, you're invited to meet with Kelsey in the All-Purpose Room and sit with other parents to talk about the highs & lows of parenting, with a Christian foundation. Kids will be in the Welcome center doing service work! On the 3rd Sunday, we invite parents to serve alongside your kids!

We'll meet on the following dates: August 4th & 18th



Prek-6th graders are invited to attend SCUBA VBS at Grace, Sun., Aug. 4 - Thurs., Aug. 8, from 6-8pm! Note the new dates!! Register at this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/5e7978>

We also invite YOU, the congregation, to help with our Operation Kid-to-Kid project, alongside our VBS attendees! Help us raise \$2,500 to build a well for a community that needs access to water through ELCA World Hunger! You can put your donation in the welcome center gallon water jug and watch us reach our goal with the help of those who will attend (and donate) during our VBS! We want to reach our goal by August 11th!



From the Deacon's Desk: *Engaging with the Other - Again*

Last month I wrote about the difficulty we have in communicating with each other about difficult subjects. Some of the things we don't like to talk about are politics, religion, and sexuality. Sometimes we merge them all together and make them taboo. And sometimes when we do speak about those things it is with defensiveness and anger.

Conversations about difficult topics can lead to divisions among families and friends or create enemies out of strangers – sometimes with violent results. But in this very polarizing election year, it has never been more important for Christ followers to listen to each other with compassion & honesty and help others do the same. As Christians we are called to model conversation about difficult subjects without defensiveness. We are called to be compassionate listeners. When we don't talk about things, they fester, and when we don't listen to those who think and believe differently from us, we become part of the problem.

I ask you to consider the following questions as a way to begin thinking about how you engage with others who are different from you – whether it is in politics, religious beliefs, racial background, or sexuality. We will have an Adult forum again on August 11th at 8:30 in the parlor to unpack this. I hope you will join me!

What are the things that influence how I think and what I believe about the world? (ie: where do my political stances come from? What are my news sources? What are the parts of my faith that inform me? My gender? My ethnicity? Where I grew up? My family influence? My profession? Experiences or traumas? My social group? My income? etc.)

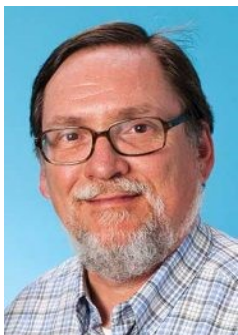
What are the deal breakers for me and why are they? (ie: opinions or beliefs I have that I don't think can ever be changed).

How does confirmation bias affect what I think about those who are different from me or see the world differently from me? (ie: What are my news sources? Do I vary them? How much time do I spend listening to them? What social media outlets do I use? How often do I spend on social media reading posts from people who agree with me? How do I interact on social media with those who don't)?

Who are the people I encounter that think or believe differently from me that I don't engage with? What is keeping me from doing that?

What are the ways I think I might be able to grow from engaging with people who are different from me? How open am I to doing so? Who is the person I might start with?

Peace on the journey, *Deacon Allison*



Postponed Indefinitely, Due to Illness. Please be in prayer for Stephen. Our special visit from our ELCA Missionary to Costa Rica, Stephen Deal has been postponed. He is experiencing some health issues that preclude him from international travel at this time. He is disappointed and assures us that as soon as he is cleared for travel, he will try to make other arrangements to visit with us. Please be in prayer for patience, healing and comfort for Stephen & his wife Marta.



Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Bible Studies: Bible Study groups are breaking for the summer. We'll begin again the week of September 9th.

Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship:

Richard Harshaw's group will continue to meet sporadically in the Choir Room (L04), at 9:15am over the summer.

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

Join us for the last Adult Forum this summer. We will meet from 8:30 am to 9:15 am in the Parlor (L05). The topic will be: Sun., Aug. 11 – Engaging with those who think differently from us.

Faith First – Last Wednesday of the Month: Join Deacon Allison this summer on the last Wednesday morning of the month at 8 am, at The Main Street Café for breakfast and devotions. All are welcome to come and be fed in body and spirit! Mark your calendars! Our remaining meeting date is: August 28th.



Morning Grace Devotions have been suspended for now. We hope to start them up again at a later date.



CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS THIS SUMMER

When: 1st Sunday of the Month (Aug. 4), around 10:30 (after worship)

Where: In the Welcome Center **What:** Refreshments & Conversation

Why: Fun to visit with each other

How: Bring yourself & if able, bring a snack to share

Sign up on the poster in the 6th Ave. entrance

See you there!

Questions: Contact Brenda Johnson 610-585-9824

Women's Retreat – October 12th: The women of Grace are invited again this year to our second annual Women's Retreat at Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester. Cost will be \$40 per person. Sign-ups will run from Sept. 3 - 26, on a first come first served basis (space is limited to 20). Check the announcements soon for registration information.



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)

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