

December 2024
Graceful Greetings



DECEMBER 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

If you prefer to worship online, our services can be found on our website under the “Worship” tab & on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

- Sun., December 1, 1st Sunday of Advent/2 Services-8:15 & 10:30am
- Sun., December 8, 2nd Sunday of Advent/2 Services-8:15&10:30
- Sun., December 15, 3rd Sunday of Advent/2 Services-8:15&10:30
- Sun., December 22nd, Christmas Pageant—1 Service at 9:30am
- Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve—2 Services at 7:00 & 11:00pm
- Sun., December 29th, Lessons & Carols—1 Service at 9:30am

Join us for worship this Advent

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. We hope you will join us for this holy, hope-filled season, which is also the advent of new beginnings here at Grace as we welcome Pastor Leah Woehr-Grande as our pastor.

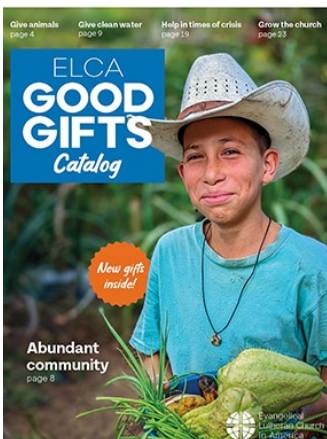
- Sunday, December 1st - 1st Sunday in Advent
- Sunday, December 8th - 2nd Sunday in Advent (Pastor Tina’s last day)
- Sunday, December 15th - 3rd Sunday in Advent (Pastor Leah’s first Sunday)
- Sunday, December 22nd - Christmas Pageant (one service at 9:30)



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

11:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

On December 29th - One service at 9:30 am for Lessons & Carols



Christmas Gifts that make a Difference—It's back!!

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 1, Grace will be selling ELCA Good Gifts. These gifts offer thoughtful ways to honor friends & loved ones with presents that make a difference around the world. Good Gift ornaments will be hanging on a Christmas tree in the 6th Avenue foyer, for the first Sunday in Advent and will be sold between church services on 12/1, 12/8, and 12/15, and before & after the service on 12/22. If you would like to help sell and collect the money from the purchases, please contact Deacon Allison or the church office for details.

To the good people of Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford,

Grace and Peace be with you all.

Well, my time here has passed quickly. December 8 will be my last Sunday worshipping with you. I was amazed how many of you I recognized. You all were a blessing to me when I started my call to ministry in 2001/2 and you have blessed me again as I retired (for real this time).

You are a strong and faithful congregation, and I believe that you and Pastor Leah and God will do good ministry in Royersford and beyond. It has been a joy to serve here again. Thank you for these few weeks we had together and God's blessings on you all.

Pastor Tina



From the Deacon's Desk: Bonhoeffer

Recently, a movie about the life and death of German theologian and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, hit the theaters. "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin" is based on a recent biography by Eric Metaxes. Unfortunately, according to most Bonhoeffer scholars and experts, as well as Bonhoeffer's own family members, the book and the film are a serious misrepresentation of Bonhoeffer's life and theology.

Bonhoeffer was an important religious figure in Germany during the Nazi regime. A Lutheran pastor, he and others stood up against Hitler and his fascism. He was killed by the Nazis in 1945, right before the German surrender. Today, many are invoking Bonhoeffer's memory with the rise in authoritarianism around the world.

Because we are in such a "Bonhoeffer" moment, I hope you will join me at the beginning of the new year for a six-week look at Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and works, as we discuss how he is relevant in today's political and religious climate.

More information in this newsletter under Adult Faith Formation opportunities.

+ *Peace! Deacon Allison*

New Keys Everywhere! We have finished re-keying the church, education building & church office, to provide better security of our buildings & assets. If you have keys from before November 2024, and were not contacted to exchange your keys, please note that your old keys will no longer work. The Council President & staff worked together to compile a list of people who need & are approved to receive a new key or keys for their area of work & ministry. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.



YOUTH NEWS



G.R.A.C.E. Place (Pre-K - 6 grade) come join us on Sunday, December 1 & 15, from 9:30 to 10:15 for Sunday School.

Calling all actors!!!! If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Pageant this year please reach out to Julie Boyer at jules1238@gmail.com. This year the Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 22nd at 9:30 am.

Next youth meeting is December 15th, 5-7pm. Details to follow.



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Grace Lutheran Youth Group
“Like” us to see recent news & events**

Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship Card Club—3rd Tues, Dec. 17th, from 1-3pm. Have fun with friends & learn a new card game - Rack-o



WELCOME PASTOR LEAH & CHRISTMAS LIGHT ACTIVITIES—Sun., Dec. 22, in the Social Hall, following the 9:30am Christmas Pageant.

Volunteers are needed to provide soup, chili & cookies.

Volunteers are needed to supervise a Christmas Light station where participants will create items (fill Luminary bags, make cards & crafts & package cookies for our homebound members). Participants can also play cards or a game while enjoying coffee, hot chocolate, cookies & Christmas music while getting to know Pastor Leah & her family!

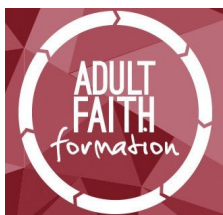
Sign up to volunteer with Brenda Johnson, 610-585-9824

Luminary Volunteers Needed—Volunteers are needed Tues., Dec. 24th at 3pm, to set out prepared luminaries & turn on candles. Meet in the Welcome Center.



Our Prayer List Coordinator is Becky Leonard. Becky helps keep our church family connected & growing, through her willingness to take your prayer requests. Please contact Becky or send any prayer requests to her at bellpn@aol.com or you can call the church office at 610-948-3684 and leave a message. Thanks for sharing your joys & concerns and praying for others.

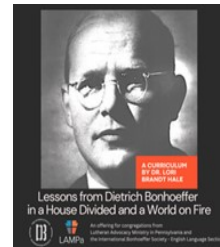
Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



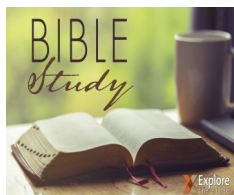
Adult Faith Formation Opportunities—Sunday Mornings at 9:15am

- Richard Harshaw's group meets in the Choir Room (L04) at 9:15 am for topical conversations on faith and life, and for a time of fellowship.
- Judy Stryker's group meets at 9:15 in the Parlor (L05). They are studying Women of the Bible through the end of this month.

In January, Judy's group will take a break while Deacon Allison leads a study called: *Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire*. This six-week study will look at the life & work of this important Lutheran theologian, martyr, and hero of faith, and how we can learn from him today. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 between services on the following dates: 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/16 & 2/23 (we will not meet on 2/9 due to the annual meeting).



Following this series, Judy Stryker's group will resume.



Bible Study Groups—Groups meet on Mondays at 7:00pm via Zoom & Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Parlor (L05). If you'd like to attend the Monday evening Zoom, contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com and she'll send you the link.

Faith First – ~~Last~~ Third Wednesday of this Month—Join us for breakfast devotions and fellowship at Main Street Café. We normally meet on the last Wednesday of the month. However, in December since the last Wednesday will be Christmas Day. **We'll meet instead on December 18th.** Please join us!



Interested in joining Grace? Please contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com, to learn more about membership at Grace.

Caring Crafters meet on Wednesdays in the All Purpose Room 10am-11:30am. Our group: Does simple crafts in service to our church community. We make & send cards to our homebound, Grace staff or Grace family members. Color to relax or bring any crafts you may be working on! We finish each session with prayers for our family, country & members at Grace. If you have some time, on a Wednesday morning, join us for fellowship & friendship. All ages welcome. Come when you can. We don't take attendance!! Join us for more socializing with lunch at a local diner afterwards! Any questions?? call Sue Perry 610-310-4915 or email srperry19@me.com



Stay "connected" wherever you go! We're all over social media!!

Website: www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

Email: gracelutrnrn@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)

December Worship Assistants—*Thank you all for your service!*



Trustee—Eric Lau

Altar Guild Team—Joe & Deb Kamertz

Counting Teams

| 12/1 | 12/8 | 12/15 | 12/22 (1 service @ 9:30am) |
|---|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Matzke/Harshaw | Meyers/Troiano | Brown/Henson | Fraunfelder/Epprecht |
| 12/24 (services @ 7 & 11pm) -Volunteers | | 12/29 (1 service @ 9:30am)-Shiley/Fritz | |

| <u>Reader(s)</u> | 12/1 | 12/8 | 12/15 | 12/22 | 12/29 |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| 8:15 | Lau Family | B. Matzke | A. Pennypacker | | |
| 10:30 | W. Moyer | K. Petel | MB. Salamone | | |
| 9:30 | | | | M. Satryan | J. Fraunfelder & D. Fritz |
| 12/24—7:00 & 11:00 | | (7) Trish McGarry & | (11) Jackie Perry | | |

Children's Sermon (10:30 only)

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 12/1—Tina | 12/8—Brenda | 12/15—Darrell | 12/22—Jack | 12/29—Darrell |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|

| <u>Tech Table</u> | 12/1 | 12/8 | 12/15 | 12/22 & 29 (9:30 service) |
|-------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| 8:15 | Jackie | Dan | Jackie | Rick Jim |
| 10:30 | Jim | Austin | Dave | |
| 12/24—7 & 11pm | | TBD & TBD | | |

Communion Assistants

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|------------------|--|--|
| 12/1—8:15 | G. Peak | 10:30 M. Alloway, K. Thomson, C. Ferguson & D. Fritz |
| 12/8 —8:15 | J. Perry | 10:30 G. Eynon, K. Brown, B. Johnson & D. Lewis |
| 12/15—8:15 | K. Reese | 10:30 K. Thomson, K. Brown, G. & C. Peteritas |
| 12/22—9:30 | G. Eynon, M. Alloway, C. Ferguson & J. Fraunfelder | |
| 12/24 (7 & 11pm) | —7pm: J. Fraunfelder, D. Fritz, | 11pm: K. Reese, |
| 12/29—9:30 | J. Fraunfelder, D. Fritz, B. Johnson & D. Lewis | |

Ushers

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12/1 — 8:15 | T. Weikel & J. Stryker | 10:30 | M. & T. McGarry |
| 12/8 — 8:15 | J. & C. Campbell & G. Peak | 10:30 | D. Fritz & M. Satryan |
| 12/15—8:15 | S. Firering & J. Stoddard | 10:30 | T. Jordan & K. Brown |
| 12/22—9:30 | K. & D. Lewis | 12/24 (7 & 11pm) —Volunteers | |
| 12/29—9:30 | G. Eynon & D. Murphy | | |

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|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>Acolytes</u> 12/1, 8:15—A. Ruiz | 12/8, 8:15—A. Ruiz & 10:30—A. Ruiz |
| 12/15, 8:15—A. Ruiz & 10:15—B. Burgoon | 12/22, 9:30—T. Weaner |
| 12/24, 7pm & 11pm | 12/29, 9:30am |

| <u>Advent Candle Lighters/Readers</u> | 12/1, 8:15-J. & D. Kamertz | 10:30-T. McGarry |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 12/8, 8:15-G. Pouchan | 10:30-J. Claypotch | |
| 12/15, 8:15-A. Pennypacker | 10:30-M. Alloway | |
| 12/22, One service at 9:30 | D. Fritz or J. Fraunfelder | |

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

