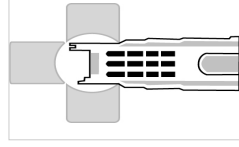


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Paul H. Neff &
The Reverend Janelle L. Kraus, Pastors
Located at 6th Avenue & Main Street
594 Church Street - 1st Fl. (Office & Mailing)
Royersford, PA 19468

Growing Together Through God's Grace



Graceful Greetings March 2017

DEADLINE FOR THE
APRIL 2017 ISSUE
OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Wed., March 15th

Church Office: 610.948.3684; Fax: 610.948.3304
Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 8:30am-noon & 12:30- 2:30pm

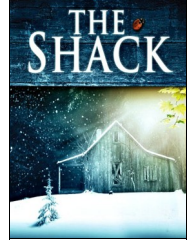
Visit us on the web at www.gracelutheranroyersford.com
Email: GraceLutrn@verizon.net



Ash Wednesday Outreach: If you have a heart for bringing prayer to others, please join Pastor Kraus on Ash Wednesday, (March 1), at Phoenixville Hospital.

We'll distribute ashes & offer prayer for staff and families on their lunch breaks, then visit patient rooms. We begin at 11:30 & finish about 3. Let Pastor Kraus know if you're interested in this powerful day.

Field Trip to see *The Shack*! Join Pastor Kraus on Sun., March 5 to the Oaks Regal Cinema to see *The Shack*. We will be going to the 12:35 show - everyone will purchase their own tickets and meet in the lobby prior to the movie. Join us afterwards for discussion! Please let Pastor Kraus know if you are planning on attending.

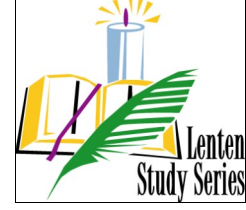


Ash Wednesday Worship, March 1:

Spoken liturgy at 9:30 am,
Soup & Sacrament at noon,
Full liturgy at 7:30 pm.

Join us Wednesday evenings, March 8 - April 5 for dinner at 6:30 and devotions at 7, followed immediately by a study on Luther & the Reformation, as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

- Mar 8: Who Was Martin Luther?
- Mar 15: What Did Luther Do?
- Mar 22: Reformation Roots: From Bondage to Freedom
- Mar 29: From Priest to Outlaw
- Apr 5: Reformation Roots: From Scholar to Father



Are you interested in becoming a member of Grace this spring? Gatherings for our new members will begin in late March on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30. If you would like more information, or would like to participate, please contact Pastor Kraiss at jkraiss.gracelutrn@verizon.net or 610-948-3684.



39th Annual Spring-Ford Rotary Breakfast Buffet
All You Can Eat!

Sun., March 5, 2017 - 8am-1pm, at Friendship Fire House,
3rd Ave. & Green St., Royersford.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for Project Outreach.
Cost is \$9 Adults; \$7 Seniors 62+; \$5 children 5-12 & free for under 4.

Fellowship on St. Patrick's Day: Join us Fri., 3/17, at Cutillos for dinner & some great music by Rougarou (with our own Kurt & Joyce Berner and C Plaugher) and get your Irish on! See Sandy Kulick or call 610-495-1993 to reserve your place by Sun., 3/5! Hope to see you there!



Reading Phillies Event: Football is over, so we begin to anticipate the baseball season & the Fightin' Phils. Gracers will try a new twist on the Fightin' Phils this year with a "Celebrate Your Faith" Night on Sun., 6/25. Fightin' Phils players will be available for a Faith Discussion. More info to come. Tickets are \$10/person (for yellow seats). See Sandy to reserve your spot! (610-495-1993 or ksandym@gmail.com).



CALLING ALL GARDENERS.....The Groundhog has indicated that there are 6 more weeks of winter which also means that spring is right around the corner. With that being said, God's Good Garden at Grace will be starting its 5th year shortly. We are looking for members who enjoy gardening and are willing to give a few hours each month to provide fresh vegetables to those less fortunate in our community. Please email me at kmeyers413@verizon.net to be part of the team. Thank You!

**MARCH 2017 WORSHIP SERVICES
& SPECIAL EVENTS**



Wed., March 1—Ash Wednesday: Services at 9:30, Noon & 7:30
Every Wed. Evening in March join us for Lenten Devotions
(see front page for details)

Sat., March 4—Prayer Vigil, 10AM-4PM: Sanctuary

Sun., March 5—1st Sunday in Lent
8:00am Traditional Worship/9:00 Faithful Families &
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tues., March 7—Church Council Reports Due

Thurs., March 9—GLC @ Project Outreach
6:00pm VBS Meeting: Welcome Center

Sun., March 12—2nd Sunday in Lent
8:00am Traditional Worship/9:00 Faithful Families &
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tues., March 14—Church Council Meeting, 7PM, Church Parlor

Sat., March 18—VBS Funshop Workshop

Sun., March 19—3rd Sunday in Lent
8:00am Traditional Worship/9:00 Faithful Families &
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Contemporary Worship

Sun., March 26—4th Sunday in Lent/Baptism Sunday
8:00am Traditional Worship/9:00 Faithful Families &
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Contemporary Worship

We will be taking orders for Easter flowers to beautify our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday. It's a beautiful time to remember or honor a loved one or your friends. We will also be taking Lily Cross orders. Please fill out the form in the Ledger and return it with payment by Sun., April 2 or call the Church Office to place your order.



Sunday AM Adult Faith Formation

Ready to stretch your faith? You have 3 great options to learn and grow. All groups begin at 9:30 am.



PRISM: Topics chosen by class members. Led by Mr. Richard Harshaw (choir room, lower level of church, rm. 4)

People of the Bible: Learn about our “old favorites” and some lesser known people! Led by Dr. Judy Stryker (rm. 6, lower level of church)

Spirit Café: Join Pastor Kraus in the Welcome Center to relax, listen, share & grow in faith! Upcoming topics: Mar. 5: Charged & Convicted, Mar. 12: The Devil Made Me Do It, Mar. 19: God, the Vending Machine, and Mar. 26: Me, Lord? Are You Sure?



Faith First: Wednesday morning breakfast & devotions at The Main St Café are on hold during Lent. Join us instead for Wednesday evening Lenten dinner & Reformation study in the social hall! Faith First will return on 4/19, at 7am at The Main St Café.

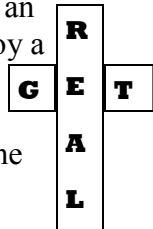
Holy Grounds: Our study of Genesis continues with some astonishing stories of family dynamics (that just might make your family sound normal) and even more astonishing stories of God’s never failing love for us! All are welcome Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the parlor (lower level of church – rm. 5). Questions? See Pastor Kraus.



Faithful Families (for families with young children) - Come join us at 9:00am in the social hall as we worship God with a revamped service!



Here’s a place to ask REAL questions about faith & have an honest discussion about our experiences with God. (and enjoy a great meal!) We meet at Giovanni’s on the first Monday of each month. Our topic for 3/6 is “Does the Church need to change?” If you have questions or would like to RSVP for the March dinner group, contact Pastor Kraus at 610-948-3684.



Pastor’s Points by Pastor Kraus

Change is coming to the Kraus family. I am eagerly awaiting the birth of my grandson (who is due any day now!!!) Yes, this will bring a ton of change especially for my daughter that will most likely include sleepless nights, more bills, stinky diapers, and the realization that time is no longer her own. But wait a minute... change will also include the miracle of precious new life, snuggles and cuddles and that delightful new baby smell, the thrill of “firsts”, the joy of caring for this gift from God, and so much more. Sometimes, we forget that change brings not just challenges, but amazing blessings to enjoy!

What about change in the church? Yes, it too will bring challenges, particularly as new things are tried without knowing for sure what the results will be. (Sounds like faith, to me.) It is also the source of so many blessings that will never be known if new things never happen. Change, if we’re honest, is scary. But change in the church (or anywhere else, for that matter) is much less scary if it is approached with prayerful discernment, ears and hearts that are listening for God, and a central focus on living the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Churches, including Grace, are constantly undergoing change. Our role is to be faithful in the midst of that change by intentionally listening and looking for God and encouraging each other to do our faithful best. What new thing is God doing at Grace? I see new faces, new ministry ideas, people volunteering for the first time, new ways of being engaged in the community, and more! Each of these is more than change- it is an incredible blessing!

Need Prayer? Stephen Ministers will be available during communion for prayer. If you have a prayer request, you may go to a prayer station (in the narthex and at the side doors) & wait for an available Stephen Minister, who will pray with you. Our Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They’ll listen, care, encourage & pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional & spiritual needs. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with our Stephen Leader: *[Judy Lukens]*. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



Prayer Chain Reminder - Please contact Jan Slack (prayer chain coordinator), 610-948-3539 or mjkk13539@comcast.net with your prayer concerns for the Prayer List. The weekly Ledger prayers will be kept to the new, more short term & immediate prayer needs of the church & community.



Prayer Lists are available on the back windowsill in the Narthex & in the pew racks. Please take a list home with you to enhance your daily devotions & prayer life; also use it to help you prepare your heart for worship with prayer. Prayer lists name our concerns & thanksgivings and are a way to stay connected to God & to the needs of others.

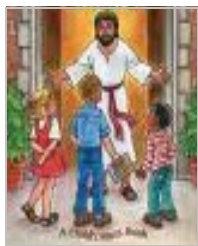


If you miss the opportunity to stop by one of the prayer stations, there is now a "prayer box" located in the narthex. Please complete the prayer request slip, place it in the box & the Stephen Ministers will pray for you. These can be anonymous or if you prefer you can include your name. Remember everything with & through the Stephen Ministry remains confidential. Always know we are here for you! In Christ's great love, your Stephen Ministry.

Children are welcome in all of our worship services at Grace!

The Tot Spot is lovingly & skillfully supervised by Mrs. Ellen Jones, where we provide childcare on Sunday mornings for both services, for parents who are worshipping with us. Children ages 5 and under may join us in room E09 of the Education Building.

Children's Church is for children in KG - 2nd grade, during the 10:45 worship service & is run by volunteers who do stories, games & crafts during the lessons and sermon time. Interested children go with the volunteer waiting in the narthex, after the children's sermon & return to parents in the sanctuary, during the prayers.



Parents – please make sure your child is in the age-appropriate place!

HS High School Youth Group meets every Sunday, from 9:30-10:30am in L07 with some amazing volunteer leaders, comfy couches, a TV, and Wii!



ES Elementary youth, join us for G.R.A.C.E. Place, Every Sunday at 9:30: 2 - 3 year olds will meet in E08, Pre-k & Kindergarten class will meet in E09. 1-2nd grade will meet in L08/9. 3-6th grade will in L02-3.



Rent – A – Kid Fundraising Program: You can rent at least 2 kids (we ask they be rented in pairs) to do work around your home. Maybe leaf raking, babysitting, painting, garage cleaning, help putting up Christmas decorations. You're invited to contact these youth OR Kelsey, to rent-a-kid (or 2) for a project! The youth need to do \$200 in rent-a-kid projects by June 1, 2017. The price for renting is ultimately up to you but we estimate about \$50 per kid for a 2 hour project.

Abby Coath & Lily Coath: 610-831-9215, Sydney Floyd: 610-213-2368
Kali Kratz: 610-409-0921, Gracyn Marchesani: 610-457-3573
Nathan McMullan: 610-983-9949

High School Mission Trip Fundraising: In the Narthex are numbered envelopes 1-30. We ask that you take an envelope & donate the amount of money that correlates with the number on the front; then put the envelope in the offering plate. Cash & checks accepted. For checks, we ask that you write it to Grace Lutheran Church and in the memo write High School Mission Trip. Thank you for your support!

Stay "in the know" wherever you go!

We're all over social media!! Here's how to find us at Grace:

Website: www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

Email: gracelutrn@verizon.net

Youth website: www.gracelutheranroyersforyouth.weebly.com

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Grace Lutheran Youth Group
"Like" us to see recent news & events

MARCH PRAYER FOCUS



1. Jesus/Ash Wednesday
2. Memories/Old Stuff Day
3. Our country/ National Anthem Day
4. GIs/Hug a GI Day
5. Meaningful Worship
6. Grace's Dentists/Dentist's Day
7. Work/Beginning of the work week
8. Federal employees / National Recognition Week
9. Farmers/Farmer Day
10. Those suffering with AIDS/HIV/Awareness Day
11. Apples/Johnny Appleseed Day
12. Girl Scouts / Founded 1912
13. Grace's musicians / Music in Our Schools Month
14. Good food/Popcorn Lover's Day
15. Butterflies/ Learn About Butterflies Day
16. Social workers. / Professional Social Work Month
17. The Irish. / St. Patrick's Day
18. Farming/National Agriculture Day
19. Scientists. / Science Month
20. The earth/International Earth Day
21. The Seasons/Spring Equinox
22. Singers/ National Sing Out Day
23. Workers/National Goof Off Day
24. Treats/National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day
25. Trees/ Pecan Day
26. Those with Rosacea /Awareness Month
27. Joes/National Joes' Day
28. People suffering from Hemophilia. / Hemophilia Month
29. Grace's Doctors / Doctor's Day
30. The Caring Crafters / Craft Month
31. Vietnam veterans. / The first combat troops ordered into Vietnam in 1965.

**The monthly newsletter & church info is always available, anytime,
on our website at www.gracelutheranroyersford.com.**

ABOUT PRAYER MARCH 2017

Here is an excerpt of a writing Martin Luther wrote in 1535 about how we should pray:

“A Simple Way To Pray” Martin Luther

A Letter to His Barber, Master Peter Beskendorf, Spring 1535

I will tell you as best I can what I do personally when I pray. May our dear Lord grant to you and to everybody to do it better than I! Amen.

First, when I feel that I have become cool and joyless in prayer because of other tasks or thoughts (for the flesh and the devil always impede and obstruct prayer), I take my little psalter, hurry to my room, or, if it be the day and hour for it, to the church where a congregation is assembled and, as time permits, I say quietly to myself and word-for-word the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and, if I have time, some words of Christ or of Paul, or some psalms, just as a child might do.

It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night. Guard yourself carefully against those false, deluding ideas which tell you, "Wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or that." Such thoughts get you away from prayer into other affairs which so hold your attention and involve you that nothing comes of prayer for that day. It may well be that you may have some tasks which are as good or better than prayer, especially in an emergency.

There is a saying ascribed to St. Jerome that everything a believer does is prayer and a proverb, "He who works faithfully prays twice." This can be said because a believer fears and honors God in his work and remembers the commandment not to wrong anyone, or to try to steal, defraud, or cheat. It is of such continual prayer that Christ says in Luke 11, "Pray without ceasing," because one must unceasingly guard against sin and wrong-doing, something one cannot do unless one fears God and keeps his commandment in mind, as Psalm 1 says, "Blessed is he who meditates upon his law day and night."

This is just the beginning, there are many more pages but you can get some understanding how important Martin Luther knew that prayer was. In this season of Lent take sometime with your Grace Lenten Devotional Booklet 2017 and spend sometime with God.

Prayer Vigil is Saturday at Grace's Sanctuary , between 10AM & 4PM on March 4, 2017. Come in the front door.

Sue Perry

March 2017 Worship Assistants **Trustee:** Bruce Leister

Communion Asst.:

- 3/5:** 8:00 Cindy Henson & Mike Bauer
10:45 Carol Marchesani, Kathy Mills, Carol Ferguson & Roxanne Troaiano
- 3/12:** 8:00 Terry Piersol & Karen Asbert
10:45 Mike & Trish McGarry, Phil & Mindy Coath
- 3/19:** 8:00 Carly Bauer & Joy Fraunfelter
10:45 Jean Mizas-Gloyd, Tina Meredith, Maggie Finnegan & Tracy Bracale
- 3/26:** 8:00 Cindy Henson & Mike Bauer
10:45 Janet Neff, Tom Sheehan, Amy & Barbara Barattucci

Acolytes, Crucifers and Torch Bearers

- 3/5:** 8:00 Ashley Reicher/Andrew Raser
10:45 Gavin Straface/Ryan Fretz
- 3/12:** 8:00 Gracyn Marchesani/Alaina Marchesani
10:45 Grace Butler/Kenny Butler
- 3/19:** 8:00 Natalie Peak/James Fretz
10:45 Aiden O'Neill/Ashley Della Guardia
- 3/26:** 8:00 Sydney Floyd/Sam Leonard
10:45 Abby Coath/Lily Coath

Tot Spot:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3/5: 8:00 Trish McGarry | 10:45 Kim Fretz |
| 3/12: 8:00 Mary Murphy | 10:45 Laurie Fodor |
| 3/19: 8:00 Becki Fretz | 10:45 Mandy Gonzalez |
| 3/26: 8:00 Judy Stryker | 10:45 Amy Barattucci |

Faith Full Families:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3/5: Danielle Lau | 3/12: Kelsey Hlavac |
| 3/19: Karen Thomson | 3/26: Brenda Johnson |



Altar Guild: Joy Fraunfelter

Greeters

- 3/5:** 8:00 Phil & Mindy Coath family/Debbie & Missy Moore
10:45 Team 9, Chris & Heather Tyrrell/Dan & Angela Feist
- 3/12:** 8:00 Phil & Julie Plotts/Tom Weikel
10:45 Team 10, Danny & Mandy Gonzalez/Steve & Laurie Fodor
- 3/19:** 8:00 George & Helen Schad/Wilma Ries
10:45 Team 1, Darrell & Karen Lewis/Skip & Bev Meitzler
- 3/26:** 8:00 Murray & Elaine O'Cain/Jason & Nikki Arnold family
10:45 Team 2, Sheila Smith/Tom & Jane Schroeder

Readers:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/5: 8:00 Jackie Perry | 10:45 Darrell Lewis |
| 3/12: 8:00 Joy Fraunfelter | 10:45 Trish McGarry |
| 3/19: 8:00 Kurt Meyers | 10:45 Amy Lacey |
| 3/26: 8:00 Gladys Pouchan | 10:45 Connie Tracewell |

Ushers:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3/5: Team 3, David Fritz | 3/12: Team 4, Jim Bauer |
| 3/19: Team 5, Kurt Meyers | 3/26: Team 6, John Groff |

Counting Teams:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3/5: Team C, Ken Slack | 3/12: Team D, Will Moyer |
| 3/19: Team E, Mindy Coath | 3/26: Team F, Patty Esslinger |

Children's Church:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 3/5: Roxanne Troiano | 3/12: Julie Reicher |
| 3/19: Carol & Gracyn Marchesani | 3/26: Amy Stebner |



Children's Sermons:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3/5: Kelsey Hlavac | 3/12: Brenda Johnson |
| 3/19: Stephanie McMullan | 3/26: Judy Lukens |

We have many sponsorships open for 2017!!
We have the window & lamp opened for the first week in March.
We also have coffee available the second week in March,
call the office (610-948-3684) to find out more.

Please remember to write the amount of your offering on your envelopes- it is a huge help to our counting teams! Thank you!

