



GRACE
Lutheran Church

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*Pastor Sadowy's Message
for
July & August 2023*

As a Christian, what does it really mean to celebrate our independence? We absolutely blessed, privileged even, to live in a country with so much liberty, freedom, and access to a vast array of resources. That is something to cherish and never to take for granted. But as our country celebrates all things independence, where is God in that? And how is our discipleship affected by celebrations of independence?

When I think about the theme of independence in scripture, of course Jesus himself comes to mind. He acted independently of the state and the government, especially when he made claims to have authority, to be the Son of Man, or to be associated with God. These were considered rule-breaking statements that he did independently of the law of the land. I am also reminded of Peter who is always so quick to speak up and independently inquire as to what Jesus is doing or meaning. This typically led to more insights and more teaching from Jesus, albeit in the form of hard lesson to learn for Peter. Then of course there is Judas, whose actions were so independent they were rogue. And, well, that did not end well for him or anyone.

In contrast, all the people who knew they needed Jesus come to mind. The woman who had been bleeding for 12 years thought, "If only I touch his cloak, I will be made well" (Matthew 9:21). The leader of the synagogue pleads with Jesus to heal his daughter when he said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live" (Matthew 9:18). There is also the numerous examples of Jesus needing us to go out and spread his good news, from Mary on Easter morning to the call of each of the disciples to the charge for us to go and make believers.

Discipleship then calls us into a life of interdependence – recognizing that at any and all times we are inexplicably linked and connected to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as well as to each other. We cannot do this life of faith on our own; it cannot be done independently. Consider our Lutheran theology around communion. The distribution of communion – the sharing that is dependent on the giving and receiving between two people – is just as vital to communion as the elements themselves, the body and blood of Jesus. Or consider how we pray for each other, support those in our community through donations and acts of service, receive support from our neighbors. Discipleship and our society's understanding of independence are not particularly good friends.

The impacts of our culture's value of independence has shaped our society to believe everything can be done independently, even our relationship with God. I meet folks in the community all the time who tell me they do not need to go to church. They have their own faith. They worship God on their own time, in their own ways, and in places they determine to be sacred. They are assured of their salvation. To them, their faith is *independent*. "What more do I need?" they ask me.

I compassionately remind them of Jesus' countless invitations to community, that his best work was done in the company of his friends, and his ministry was largely to people who longed for relationship with others. Faith and discipleship are not *independent* activities; they were meant to be experienced in community with others in worship, prayer, and service at very least. Faith is nourished and cultivated when shared with others. And discipleship, after all, is following Jesus with the express purpose to serve others. Both are dependent on being reliant with others.

So yes, we can absolutely celebrate the myriad privileges we have as citizens of such a wealthy, resourced, and powerful nation. May we be so humble as to not take this for granted and use this time to realize our responsibility in utilizing our resources to love our global neighbors. And, as disciples of Christ, we are invited to recognize we are never truly independent in this life. Thanks be to God that we are undoubtedly knit together by the abundant love of Christian community.

In Christ,

Pastor Kayla



Council Meeting

Our next Council Meeting will take place on Sunday, July 9, 2023 immediately following our worship service.



Bible Study

Women of the Bible: Sarah, mother of Isaac, wife of Abraham

Considered the matriarch of three global religions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Sarah is perhaps best known for laughing at God when told she would bear a child at 100 years old.

She is also the only woman to have been bestowed a name change, a Biblical signal of being a messenger of God. Sarah is inarguably considered a pillar of faith for so many. We will meet Wednesday, July 12 at 1 pm – Lower Level Meeting Room



Lydia of Thyatira, the first Christian convert in Europe.

Lydia's baptism is recorded in the book of Acts as a significant event for the mission of the disciples. Long known as a dealer of purple cloth, her social status remains a bit mysterious and curious is that she is the one to be baptized. Nevertheless, Lydia's reaction is to throw the disciples a party. We will look at Lydia's background and what makes her particularly important to the early church, as well as what she can teach us. We will meet Wednesday, August 9th at 1 pm – Lower Level Meeting Room



Pub Theology

JULY: Christian nationalism – what is it and what do we do about it? Nationalism has been sweeping our country, and Christianity has been mixed into many of the conversations. It has been cited as the motivation for many hate crimes

and acts of domestic terrorism. Our denomination, the ELCA, condemns the melding of nationalism and Christianity. How can we address this problem? What can we do? July 19th 6pm at The Ale House in Newtown Square

AUGUST: What does it mean to be a lifelong student of faith? We often talk about continuing to grow in God's word and promise through the sacraments and scripture. How do you nourish your mind, body, soul, and heart when it comes to growing and learning in faith? What are some approaches you use? What are some challenges? August 16th 6pm at The Ale House in Newtown Square



PRIDE Celebrations



We were blessed to be able to celebrate Pride twice in June. On June 1st, Grace hosted the SEPA Synod Pride kick off service. We welcomed guest speaker, the Rev. Carla Christopher, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice Ministries in the Lower Susquehanna Synod (south central PA) and the Delaware-Maryland Synod. Then we worshipped together with the Rev. Joey Klinger of Redemption, NE Philadelphia delivering a motivational sermon. With nearly 50 people in attendance, hearing the voices all sing of God's love and inclusive welcome was a treat!



On June 3rd, Grace had a table at the inaugural DelCo Pride Festival, held in Upper Darby. We gave away rainbow wristbands that declare "All are wonderfully made in God's image!" We offered glitter blessings and affirmations that all are loved by God, just the way they are. The response was overwhelming, as

many folks got choked up that a church would offer them such compassion.



**Backpack School Supply
Collection 2023
Collection Ends August 6, 2023
3 Ways to Contribute**

It's time for the Backpack School Supply Collection. We hope to again be able to supply stuffed backpacks to students in the Chester and Upper Darby Communities. Last year we filled just over 300 backpacks. Over the past two years this has become an Interfaith effort with several faith communities joining what was started with the Lutheran Churches in Delaware County. Here are 3 ways you can support the collection this year.

One way to make a contribution this year is to use the links below to an Amazon Wishlist – School Supplies. Place an order and it will be shipped directly to the crew that will assembly the backpacks.

Links to Wishlist:
<https://shorturl.at/ackDV>

or



You can also make a monetary contribution. Checks can be mailed to Grace Lutheran Church and mark School Supplies on the memo line then place it in the offering or mail it to the church office. Dave Ehret is again serving as Treasurer of this effort.

As in past years you can do the shopping and drop off the supplies in the box in the Narthex marked for School Supplies. See the suggested list of supplies on this page.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Plastic Pencil Box
- Pocket Tissue Packs
- Composition Books
- Crayons (24 count box)
- Washable Markers (8 count box)
- Glue (8-ounce bottle)
- Glue Sticks
- Large Pink Erasers
- No. 2 Pencils
- Pocket Folders
- Safety Scissors
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ruler

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

- Plastic Pencil Box
- Pocket Folders
- Scotch Tape
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- No. 2 Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Index Cards (ruled & unruled)
- Pens
- Ruler
- 3 Ring Binders
- Binder Dividers
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Post It Notes
- 1 Subject Notebooks
- 3 or 5 Subject Spiral Notebooks



The Welcome Church

We will be worshipping with our friends at The Welcome Church on August 27th. The Welcome Church is a “church without walls” that meets across the street from The Franklin Institute on the corner Benjamin Franklin Parkway and 20th Street in Center City. Worship starts at 3pm, but we will arrive by 2:30 pm to invite folks

in that vicinity to worship with us and to distribute snacks.

Mark your calendars for this meaningful day! We will meet at Grace at 1:45 to carpool to Center City. Snack bag packing details to be announced as we get closer to our hosting date.

That being said, we are asking for donations of individually wrapped snacks and other materials so we can be hospitable hosts of coffee hour. Please consider bringing in any of the following items:

- Fresh fruit that has a peel (natural wrapper) but is easy to eat such as bananas or oranges. (No apples please!)
- Individually packaged salty snacks, crackers, etc.
- Individually packaged sweet snacks or cookies (homemade are fine if they are put in sandwich bags)
- 1 package gallon plastic Ziploc bags
- Funds to purchase a Box o' Joe from Dunkin Donuts on our way



Congratulations to the Girl Scouts!

On June 5, the Girl Scouts celebrated the end of their year with a badging ceremony. Four of the girls bridged from Daisies to Brownies. One bridged from Brownies to Juniors, and two advanced from a Kindergarten Daisy to a 1st grade Daisy. Four advanced from a 2nd grade

Brownie to a 3rd grade Brownie. We are grateful for our own member, Kassandra Benson for leading and coordinating this group, and we look forward to working with them on service projects in the future!



Gratitude for the 45-year ministry of Deacon Denise Hegemann

On June 11, 1978, Denise Hegemann was consecrated as deacon in the Lutheran church at Grace. Denise connected with Grace again through social media, and she has been following and celebrating all that we are doing. Deacon Denise has expressed her gratitude for all that Grace did for her in lifting her up for ministry. In honor of her 45th anniversary of consecration, she sent a donation and a note with this message:

Dear Pastor Kayla,

Sunday June 11th marks the 45th anniversary of my consecration as a Deaconess at Grace. The enclosed check is in honor of that call and the role Grace played in my faith life. A friend was recently going through pictures and sent me this one from the reception following the service. I believe that is Sally Christensen with me. I thought you might enjoy it. Blessings to you and your ministry, Deacon Denise



Special Summer Music at Grace

Tenor Gabriel Feldt will be singing July 16.

Violinist Taisiya Losmakova will be playing August 20.



SUMMER VACATIONS

Our mission of outreach to the community continues during the summer months. Please remember Grace while you are away on vacation.



Birthdays in July

- 7/9 Bill Rockelmann
- 7/9 Betsy Cimbala



Birthdays in August

- 8/2 Jan Carrara



Anniversaries in August

- 8/11 Ann & David Ehret
- 8/14 Sue & Harry Gicking
- 8/19 Betsy & Steve Cimbala



Worship Assistants in July

ALTAR GUILD
Ruth Moyse

| <u>GREETERS</u> | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 7/2 | Jeannette Hunter |
| 7/9 | Mike Young |
| 7/16 | Christine Kertis |
| 7/23 | Keith Jones |
| 7/30 | Butch Wetzel |
| <u>LECTORS</u> | |
| 7/2 | Christine Kertis |
| 7/9 | Dave Ehret |
| 7/16 | Ruth Moyse |
| 7/23 | Butch Wetzel |
| 7/30 | Mike Young |
| <u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u> | |
| 7/2 | Dave Ehret |
| 7/9 | Keith Jones |
| 7/16 | Jeannette Hunter |
| 7/23 | Ruth Moyse |
| 7/30 | John Lyon |
| <u>USHERS</u> | |
| 7/2 | Butch Wetzel |
| 7/9 | John Lyon |
| 7/16 | Mike Young |
| 7/23 | Dave Ehret |
| 7/30 | Christine Kertis |





Worship Assistants in August

ALTAR GUILD
Jeannette Hunter

| <u>GREETERS</u> | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 8/6 | Jeannette Hunter |
| 8/13 | Mike Young |
| 8/20 | Christine Kertis |
| 8/27 | Dave Ehret |
| <u>LECTORS</u> | |
| 8/6 | Jean Dorschu |
| 8/13 | Christine Kertis |
| 8/20 | Keith Jones |
| 8/27 | Kevin Hartman |
| <u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u> | |
| 8/6 | Sue Gicking |
| 8/13 | Jeannette Hunter |
| 8/20 | Ruth Moyse |
| 8/27 | Butch Wetzel |
| <u>USHERS</u> | |
| 8/6 | John Lyon |
| 8/13 | Dave Ehret |
| 8/20 | Jeannette Hunter |
| 8/27 | Christine Kertis |



Planning Ahead

Monday, September 4, 2023 – Labor Day!

Saturday, September 9, 2023 – We will be having out Wellness Fair from 10 - 2. Please let Pastor Kayla know if you can help.



Newsletter Deadline

Ministry and event reports are due Friday, August 18th for the next issue of Grace Notes.



Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please contact the church office and we can add your request to the list. Should you have someone on the list that is now doing well please let us know so we can take them off the list.

| <u>Concerns</u> | <u>Requested by</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Donald Mc Duffie | Jan Carrara |
| Sara Ladd Newton | Anne Meibohm |
| Betsy Cimbala | Steve Cimbala |
| The Wetzel Family | Linda & Butch Wetzel |
| Karl Dinkelacker | homebound |
| Lily Walker | Trish Young |
| Jan Carrara | Fred Carrara |
| Brandon & Bobby Gill | Kevin Hartman |
| Vincent & Joann Kneizys | Marie Kneizys |
| Drew Kertis | Christine Kertis |
| Linda Wetzel | Jeannette Hunter |
| Jane & George Irvine | Trish Young |
| Louise Magliocco | Ruth Moyse |
| Austin Beltrante | Sue Gicking |
| Tina McGinley | Jeannette Hunter |
| Bob Schramm | Keith & Maureen Jones |
| Patty Frost | Trish Young |
| Ann Ehret | Dave Ehret |
| Ann Sommer | Marianna Hamilton |
| Romeo | Butch Wetzel |
| Bryan Johnson | Trish Young |
| Eric Greenspun | Trish Young |
| Joyce McNally | Friend of our Congregation |
| Ruth Zlupko | Ruth Moyse |





From Your Council President...

Happy Summer to each of you! While your Council will be working through the summer, we pray that all of you will make time to relax and recharge so that we can all hit the ground running in the fall.

Pastor Kayla has been working tirelessly to help Council plan for the coming year. We now have a Mission Team and, as you can guess, it is comprised of all the Council Members. *Would any of you be willing to participate?* Many opportunities are available for each of you to help! *Are you willing to use your time and talents to help Grace?*

We are asking that each of you prayerfully consider what activity excites you the most and ask you to each pick an activity to Chair. We need someone to handle Press Releases and print publicity. We will all support your efforts, but quite frankly, after three years of Council Members and Pastor Chairing and participating in every event, we are approaching burn-out. None of us is as young and energetic as we used to be!

Grace Broomall is your Church and we need YOU to help us!

GRACE ABOUND WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- July - Backpacks
- August – Visit to the Welcome Church in Philadelphia with snacks and drinks
- September – Wellness Fair (Postponed from April), God’s Work, Our Hands
- October – Heeding God’s Call, Animal Blessing, Bark in the Park, Marple Fall Festival
- November – Marple Newtown Clergy Association Thanksgiving Food Collection

- December – Christmas Gifts for Children, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day
- January – Regroup & Recharge after the Holiday Season
- February – Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday, Menus with Meaning
- March – Lent, Holy Week, Easter Breakfast & Easter Service
- April – Spring Clean Up and Planting
- May – Wellness Fair, Suicide Prevention Awareness 5K
- June – Pride Month Activities

You may notice that this list does not include special days on the church calendar (i.e., Reformation, Epiphany, the Baptism of Jesus Christ, All Saints Sunday) and all of our ongoing activities which are:

- Weekly Grief Support Group
- Monthly Bible Study
- Monthly Pub Theology
- Weekly Worship & Music
- Blood Drives
- Communications on Social Media
- Maintaining our Website
- Building up the Wellness Center by making Partners and Scheduling
- Altar Guild
- Visiting Sick and Homebound

Please give serious consideration to taking on one project. We will be glad to work with you in any way necessary.

May God Bless you and Keep you Safe,

Ruth



July 2023 Scripture Readings & Hymns



| Date | July 2 | July 9 | July 16 | July 23 | July 30 |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| First Lesson | Jeremiah 28:5-9 | Zechariah 9:9-12 | Isaiah 55:10-13 | Isaiah 44:6-8 | 1 Kings 3:5-12 |
| Psalm | 89:1-4,15-18 | 145:8-14 | 65:1-13 | 86:11-17 | 119:129-136 |
| Second Lesson | Romans 6:12-23 | Romans 7:14-25a | Romans 8:1-11 | Romans 8:12-25 | Romans 8:26-39 |
| Gospel | Matthew 10:40-42 | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 |
| Opening Hymn | ELW 802 – Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus | ELW 434 – Jesus Shall Reign | ELW 533 – Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty | ELW 842 Lift Every Voice and Sing | ELW 524 – What Is This Place |
| Hymn of the Day | ELW 676 – Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak | ELW 608 – Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling | WOV 760 – From the Fruit of All Creation | ELW 693 – Come, Ye Thankful People, Come | ELW 793 – Be Thou My Vision |
| Offering Hymn | ELW 685 -Take My Life, That I May Be | ELW 790 – Day by Day | ELW 779 – Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound | ELW 880 – O God beyond All Praising | ELW 705 – God of Grace and God of Glory |
| Communion Hymn | ELW 491 – Come Let Us Eat | ELW 491 – Come Let Us Eat | ELW 491 – Come Let Us Eat | ELW 491 – Come Let Us Eat | ELW 491 – Come Let Us Eat |
| Closing Hymn | ELW 551 – The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve | ELW 765 – Lord of All Hopefulness | ELW 547 – Sent Forth by God’s Blessing | ELW 631 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | ELW 545 – Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing |

August 2023 Scripture Readings & Hymns



| Date | August 6 | August 13 | August 20 | August 27 |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| First Lesson | Isaiah 55:1-5 | 1 Kings 19:9-18 | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 | Isaiah 51:1-6 |
| Psalm | 145:8-9, 14-21 | 85:8-13 | 67 | 138 |
| Second Lesson | Romans 9:1-5 | Romans 10:5-15 | Romans 11:1- 2a, 29-32 | Romans 12:1-8 |
| Gospel | Matthew 14:13-21 | Matthew 14:22-33 | Matthew 15:10-28 | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| Opening Hymn | ELW 461 – All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly | ELW 761 – Evening and Morning | ELW 641 – All Are Welcome | ELW 645 – Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation |
| Hymn of the Day | ELW 515 – Break Now the Bread of Life | ELW 756 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save | ELW 759 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee | ELW 654 – The Church’s One Foundation |
| Offering Hymn | ELW 469 – By Your Hand You Feed Your People | ELW 773 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand | Taisiya Losmakova | ELW 812 – Faith of Our Fathers |
| Communion Hymn | ELW 483 - Here Is Bread | ELW 483 - Here Is Bread | ELW 483 - Here Is Bread | ELW 483 - Here Is Bread |
| Closing Hymn | ELW 537 – On Our Way Rejoicing | ELW 763 – My Life Flows On in Endless Song | ELW 536 – God Be with You Till We Meet Again | ELW 820 – O Savior, Precious Savior |