

March/April
/May

Spring 2026

Grace Notes



Pastor's Message

I'm not going to lie - March is my least favorite month of the year. Yes, that's right. I dislike March even more than January or July. (July is my second least favorite, but that's another story). After the quick month of February, March feels so long. It can come in like a lion or lamb and go out the opposite way. The weather is volatile and unpredictable, but we can pretty much count on precipitation. We just don't know if it will be rain, snow, or ice. Wind and sun seem to fight for the spotlight, though the sun is never quite warm enough to feel like a true spring. Maybe some flowers find their way through the dirt, but they are running a big risk of being choked by the threat of a second winter. And don't even get me started on the mud! As someone who loves to hike, I know mud is just as risky as ice when it comes to falling.

But there is just no way around it. There is no possible way to skip March. Time travel is simply not an option. The only way out is through.

When I think about that in the context of Lent, I realize our lives in Christ are really no different. There is no way to skip Lent. There is no way to skip Palm Sunday or Maundy Thursday. Like it or not, we are called to stand there in the gore of Good Friday. Then and only then do we reach Easter. Unlike the months of the year though, this is not merely out of sequence. Rather, Easter happens *because* of the rest of the events of Holy Week. Easter feels more celebratory after the season of Lent. Jesus can only come back to life after having died. Easter's promise of new life means we must go through some kind of death.

We will go through incredible transformation in the next few weeks, due to the impending observances of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We will journey *through* these times, not around them. Such is the power of resurrection - we are given the courage and preparedness to face even death because we know there is no way around. Put another way, we may even be so bold as to put something to death -

our ego, pride, apathy, assumptions, you name it - so we can see what new life God brings from it.

If April showers bring May flowers, then March mud and rain points towards spring again. Ok, so maybe it won't stick. But you get my point. Even when it feels like we are going through the mud and the rain/snow/sleet and wind, we know God is doing something greater than we can imagine. For now, the only way out is through.

Christmas Eve

We celebrated God's incarnation with a beautiful worship service on Christmas Eve. Besides the sanctuary looking stunning per usual, we were blessed with special music which included strings and a vocalist before the service started. Many thanks to John Ervin for arranging



this! To top it all off, we had record attendance for Christmas Eve; 50 folks worshipped in person and we had 22 views online!

Making Ashes and Ashes To Go



Keeping with church tradition, we burned the palms from previous years to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. We then packaged some of the ashes with a prayer card to distribute on Ash Wednesday, while the rest were used in worship. We had at least 30 cars stop for Ashes To Go! And since many of these cars had more than one person, we estimate that we blessed around 50 people that day. Those who wanted to take ashes for loved ones at home received the pre-packaged ones in a chic Grace tote.



Pastor Kayla's Trip to the Holy Land

Pastor Kayla was blessed with the opportunity to travel to Israel and Palestine with an interfaith group of clergy - rabbis Mainline Protestant pastors. This was coordinated and financially supported by Pathways For Peace, a non-profit organization facilitating interfaith dialogue between pastors and rabbis, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Pastor Kayla was invited some time ago to be a participant of Pathways for Peace, which involves monthly dialogues among colleagues who then also traveled with her.

Besides the assumed sight-seeing, the group also met with folks in Israel and Palestine who are engaging in peace-seeking efforts, whether through medical technology and access, interfaith dialogue, journalism, or more academic approaches. A wide range of views were presented, and conversations among the group were often difficult and emotional. Nevertheless, the group remained committed to wanting abundant life for all of God's children and left able to name injustices previously unrecognized. Pastor Kayla traveled with her individual conversation partner in Pathways for Peace, Rabbi Michal Morris Kamil, of



Congregation Beth-El Ner Tamid in Broomall. They look forward to presenting their trip and its reflections together at an upcoming program in the spring. Stay tuned.

The whole group on the Mount of Olives, overlooking the Holy Basin of Jerusalem.

Pastor Kayla touches the spot where Jesus was believed to be born in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Palestine.

This the dome in the ceiling of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which covers this structure, which is believed to be the tomb from which Jesus rose.



We visited the site of the October 7th terrorist attacks. While in Israel proper, we were two miles from the Gaza border in this field dotted with memorials.



Other Exciting News!

In December of 2025, Grace was awarded a grant from the SEPA Synod Creation Care Team for over \$700! This was to reimburse our project that upgraded much of the lighting in the sanctuary and other places in the building to LED.

Also in December 2025, we were notified that we were being awarded \$10,000 from the SEPA Synod Forward Together in Faith grant. These funds allow us to continue doing outreach ministry, particularly community dinners. Forward Together in Faith grants aim to support ministry that is innovative and deliberately reaches the community, as if to turn the congregation inside out. We look forward to hosting more community dinners and exploring how we can move forward together, in faith!

Pastor Kayla wins an alumni award

The United Lutheran Seminary Alumni Association has named their award recipients for 2026, and Grace knows a couple of them.

Pastor Kayla was awarded the Faithful Servant – Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. She is one of two recipients.

Additionally, Pastor Karl Richard of St. Matthew, Springfield was awarded the Celebrated Lifetime Ministries.

Both Pastor Kayla and Pastor Karl will be accepting their awards at a happy hour reception on the Philadelphia campus of United Lutheran Seminary in September.

Grace Wellness Center Corner News (March, April, May 2026) From Sr Paula Estornell

Looking back on winter, to some of the happenings around the Wellness Center. New Wellness Center partners began their operations including

- Empowering the Youth enrichment services for students of all abilities, and
- Ukelele Club for people who love to make music.

Planned and hosted Family Cabaret and dinner to raise funds for Wellness Center and local Girl Scout Troop.

Explored new exterior and interior building signage to be installed this Spring or Summer (funded by an anonymous donor!)

Initiated a Reformation Lutheran Church Volunteer Corps to help spread the word about the Center across the Synod.

Entered into a partnership with Advent Lutheran in West Chester to help advertise the Wellness Center and fund a scholarship to subsidize therapy for folks with limited means.

Continued to reorganize and cleanout Wellness Center Rooms for better flow and storage and oversee a busy calendar of events at Grace.

Looking at Spring, and more exciting things to come.

We'll have more advertising, new signage, more users including youth, running around the rooms and hallways of Grace Lutheran Church.

We'll be exploring creating a Counselor Continuing Education program to better equip therapists across the region to meet the growing demand for mental health support.

We'll be advertising new Spiritual retreats to give people opportunities to explore their spiritual interests.

And we'll be hosting more community dinners to engage neighbors in thoughtful conversation over delicious meals as a means of connecting people and building community.

Thanks

Thanks to all our partners and community members who offer mind, body, spiritual healing and fun through the Wellness Center.



Partners Include

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts
Amalia Belly Dance
Heart Light Healing
Pound Fitness
Empowering the Youth

Trained Certified Therapists
Chef Dad's Table
Pinocle Club
Ukelele Club
Various Anonymous Groups

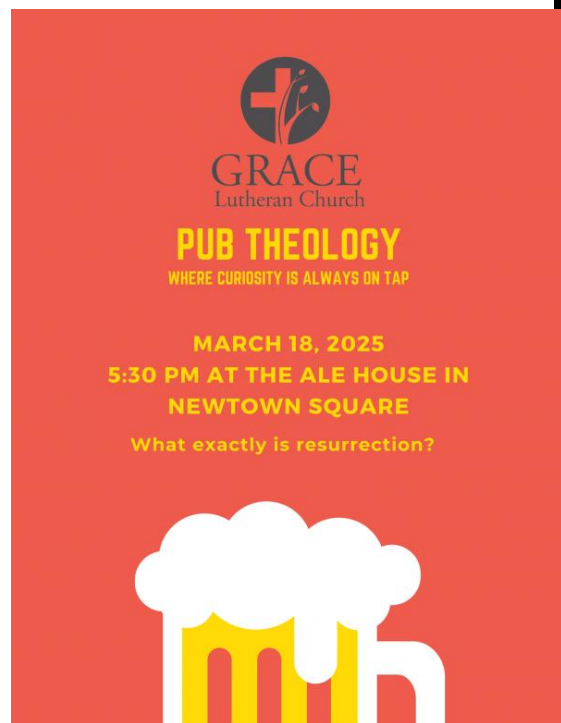
Mark Your Calendars!

Bible Study meets on the second Tuesday of each month online, accessible using the instructions on the flyer.

March 10 - the Exodus - Join us for Bible Study as we take a deeper look into the story of the Exodus, the moment at which Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt into the promised land.

April 14 - Matthew's resurrection story

May 12 - Pentecost



GRACE
Lutheran Church

PUB THEOLOGY
WHERE CURIOSITY IS ALWAYS ON TAP

MARCH 18, 2025
5:30 PM AT THE ALE HOUSE IN
NEWTOWN SQUARE

What exactly is resurrection?



WHAT SUNDAY SCHOOL LEFT OUT

BIBLE STUDY

Join us for the stories we know and love with new details.
See Zoom info below OR email Pastor Kayla for the link.

2ND TUESDAYS 6:30 PM ONLINE

zoom.us/join then enter 610 356 1824 as the meeting number

Pub theology gathers on the third Wednesday of each month at The Ale House in Newtown Square at 5:30 pm.

March 18 - What does resurrection really mean?

April 15 - Can God the father also be God the mother?

May 20 - Who are your favorite storytellers?

Lilies and Tulips – It is time to order Easter plants to help beautify the church for Easter. An order form is enclosed for you to fill out both sides and place in the



offering plate with you check made payable to Grace Lutheran Church or cash. Orders must be in by Sunday, March 22nd. Lilies and tulips will be \$11 per plant and the tulips will come in assorted colors. Plants can be picked up after worship Easter Sunday.

March

- 1 – Launched Reformation Lutheran Church Volunteer Corps to help promote the Grace Wellness Center. All Grace Lutheran Church congregants are welcome to join.
- 8 – guest musician Karlis Graufelds, viola
- 8 – Council Meeting, immediately following worship
- 10 – Bible Study, online at 6:30 pm
- 11 – Grief Group, 6:30 pm
- 15 – Family Cabaret Concert featuring Megnot Toggia, soprano, Gabriel Feldt, tenor & Sirapat Jittapirom, pianist and Spaghetti Dinner, 3:30 concert, 5 pm dinner
- 18 - Pub Theology at 5:30 pm at The Ale House in Newtown Square
- 22 – All Easter plant order due back to Grace
- 25 – Service at Fair Acres 2:30pm
- 25 – Grief Group, 6:30 pm
- 29 – Palm Sunday

April

- 2 – Maundy Thursday – Wine and cheese 6:30 pm; Worship at 7:30 pm at Grace
- 3 – Good Friday – Marple Newtown Community Service – 12 pm at Marple Presbyterian
Tenebrae – 7:30 pm at Reformation, Media
- 4 – Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil – Worship at 7:30 pm at Reformation, Media
- 5 – Easter Sunday – Breakfast at ???; Worship at 10 am at Grace
- 8 – Grief Group, 6:30 pm
- 14 – Bible Study, online at 6:30 pm
- 15 – Pub Theology at 5:30 pm at The Ale House in Newtown Square
- 19 - Council Meeting immediately following worship
- 22 - Grief Group, 6:30 pm

May

- 5 – Red Cross Blood Drive 8:00am till 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Come out and donate, spread the word by asking family and friends to help by donating.
- 12 – Bible Study, online at 6:30 pm

13 – Grief Group, 6:30 pm

14 – Save the Date - ELCA Delaware County Conference is hosting Ascension Day Worship Service with light dinner followed by worship, including guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Dean of United Lutheran Seminary. Location and time to be announced closer to date of event.

17 – Community Dinner

17 - Council meeting immediately following worship

20 – Pub Theology at 5:30 pm at The Ale House in Newtown Square

24 – Pentecost, remember to wear red.

27 – Service at Fair Acres 2:30pm

27 – Grief Group, 6:30 pm

28 – 30 – SEPA Synod Assembly at Trinity, Lansdale

Prayer Requests

Concerns	Requested by
Lily Walker	Trish Young
Brandon & Bobby Gill	Kevin Hartman
Drew Kertis	Christine Kertis
Tina McGinley	Jeannette Hunter
Bob Schramm	Keith & Maureen Jones
Bryan Johnson	Trish Young
Kyle Gantz	The Gantz Family
Bob Tschinkel	Keith & Maureen Jones
Jackie Light	
Jim	Butch & Linda Wetzel
Rev. Donald Schwarz	Kassandra Benson
Sue Gavigan	The Young Family
Jerry Kookan	Keith Jones
DB	Linda & Butch Wetzel
Ann Sommer	
Eric Peoples & Family	Ruth Moyse
Mary Ann Jordan	Sue Gicking
Frances Meehan	The Young Family
Sue	Butch & Linda Wetzel
Alina Quinn	Karen Kampmeyer-Manix
Bill Bowdren	Sister Paula Estronell
Monica	Butch & Linda Wetzel
Jennifer	Butch & Linda Wetzel

We welcome prayer requests for people, places, and concerns. Please be mindful to notify us at a time when that person, place, or concern could be removed from the prayer list. If a prayer concern is private, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Kayla. for confidential support.

Christ In Our Home is now available the next quarter. Pick up a free copy from the table near the West Chester Pike doors for your daily devotionals.

**Important
Dates**

Worship Assistants

		Communion Assistant	Greeter/Usher	Lector
March 1		<i>Sue Gicking</i>	<i>Kevin Hartman</i>	<i>Ruth Moyse</i>
March 8		<i>Trish Young</i>	<i>Steve Young</i>	<i>Kelsey Hess</i>
March 15		<i>Dave Ehret</i>	<i>John Lyon</i>	<i>Christine Kertis</i>
March 22		<i>Maddy Nardello</i>	<i>Frank Benson</i>	<i>Trish Young</i>
March 29	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>Jeannette Hunter</i>	<i>Dave Ehret</i>	<i>Kevin Hartman</i>
April 2	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Trish Young</i>	<i>Stee Young</i>	<i>Dave Ehret</i>
April 3	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>No Communion</i>	<i>Jeannette Hunter</i>	<i>Keith Jones</i>
April 5	<i>EASTER</i>	<i>Sue Gicking</i>	<i>Kevin Hartman</i>	<i>Mike Young</i>
April 12		<i>Maddy Nardello</i>	<i>Frank Benson</i>	<i>Christine Kertis</i>
April 19		<i>Dieter Degen</i>	<i>Butch Wetzel</i>	<i>Kelsey Hess</i>
April 26		<i>Jeannette Hunter</i>	<i>Steve Young</i>	<i>Trish Young</i>
May 3		<i>Keith Jones</i>	<i>John Lyon</i>	<i>Dave Ehret</i>
May 10		<i>Trish Young</i>	<i>Christine Kertis</i>	<i>Ruth Moyse</i>
May 17		<i>Sue Gicking</i>	<i>Dave Ehret</i>	<i>Kelsey Hess</i>
May 24	<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>Jeannette Hunter</i>	<i>Kevin Hartman</i>	<i>Christine Kertis</i>
May 31	<i>Holy Trinity</i>	<i>Ruth Moyse</i>	<i>Steve Young</i>	<i>Trish Young</i>

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

3/10 – Kathleen Kneizys
 3/10 – Claire Kneizys
 3/13 – George Marengo
 3/14 – Samantha Roesch
 3/20 – Frank & Cassandra Benson
 3/21 – Karen Standan
 3/23 – Steve Young
 3/28 – Fred Carrara
 3/31 – Jeannette Hunter
 3/31 – Ann Sommer

April

4/2 – Hedy Karbiner
 4/12 – Christine Kertis
 4/16 – Dieter Degen

May

5/3 – Beth Schreiber
 5/20 – Andrew & Christine Kertis
 5/26 – Samatha & TJ Roesch

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office so we can add you on our list.

Celebrate Spring! Family Cabaret Concert and Dinner

Dinner and a show by professional, renowned musicians to benefit The Wellness Center and Girl Scouts



Sunday, March 15, 2026

3:30 Concert followed by 5:00 Dinner

Grace Lutheran Church, 2191 West Chester Pike, Broomall



GIRL SCOUTS



GRACE

Lutheran Church

\$10 suggested donation for concert/\$15 for dinner only/\$20 for both! Kids under 5 are free.

HURRY AND RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY BY CLICKING THIS QR CODE!

Questions, email: sisterpaula@gracebroomall.org or call 610-356-1824



YOU'RE INVITED TO COMMUNITY DINNER!

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH
INTENTIONAL CONVERSATIONS. THE GOAL?
LET'S FIND SHARED HUMANITY IN A WORLD OF
DIVISION.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

DINNER IS FREE!

**5:30 - 7:00
PM**

MAY 17, 2026

HOSTED BY

2191 West

Chester Pike

Broomall




GRACE
Lutheran Church




For more info or to RSVP:

610-356-1824 or

pastorkayla@gracebroomall.org



 **GRACE**
Lutheran Church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2
6:30 pm Wine & Cheese
7:30 pm Worship

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3
12 pm Worship @
Marple Presbyterian
7:30 pm Worship @
Reformation

EASTER VIGIL

APRIL 4
7:30 pm Worship @
Reformation

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5
8:30 am Easter Breakfast
10:00 am Worship

*You are welcome to join us no matter
where you are on your faith journey.*

Mission

Worship God. Make Friends. Uplift People.

Worship God.

Worship with us Sundays at 10 am

All are welcome to worship with us every Sunday in person or online. There are no pre-requisites to participating. Check us out at youtube.com/@gracebroomall

Make Friends.

Join us to learn and live in community.

Bible Study, Pub Theology, and more – there's always something happening at Grace! Check out our social media or join our email list to stay in touch.

Uplift People.

Love and serve your neighbors.

We serve our neighbors through an ongoing food and supply collection for our local pantry. We do many other service projects through the year that serve our neighbors and God's creation.



and the Wellness Center
2191 West Chester Pike
Broomall, PA 19008