

March's Grace

Grace Hosting Bible Quizzing District Finals



On Saturday, March 11, Grace will host Bible quizzing district finals for youth from churches within the Nazarene Pittsburgh District.

“We invite you to come and see how God is working in the youth ... who have learned and studied His Word,” said **Brandon Baney**, CLC assistant director and coach. (Our quizzers did not make the finals, but **Brandon** says, “Next year!”)

The all-day event starts at 9 a.m. In addition to rounds of competition, the finals will include lunch provided by **Jackie Streb** and crew; music by **Grace Out Loud Praise Team**; and devotional time led by **Brandon**.

Teams will be quizzed in various rooms on the Grace Lutheran campus.

Get Ready With Spaghetti!

Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, March 25, 2017
4 to 7 p.m.

Community Life Center, Grace Lutheran Church
79 Mechanic St., Bradford



**Third annual summer church camp fundraiser put on by
youth and adults of Grace Lutheran Church.**

Free will offering
Children ages 6 and under eat free
No take-outs

Chefs
Mary & Jim
Paterniti

Dessert auction - - - 50-50 raffles - - - basket raffles

*“Keep an eye open for signup sheets to volunteer for this event to help get OUR youth to summer church camps this year! ... We are blessed to have our own **Jim and Mary Paterniti** cooking again this year!” – **Brandon Baney**, CLC Assistant Director*



Growing with Grace January 2017 Updates

Gift Cards

- The month of December was a record breaking month for gift cards. We sold 194 cards at the value of \$5,285. This means we profited \$306. This is the most we have ever made in a month!
- GWG students made and sent out personal thank you notes to every person that purchased a gift card in 2016.

Enrollment

- ☆ We have beat the 50 child enrollment mark! This month we enrolled 4 new students which increased the size of all of our classrooms. We now have 2 teachers in every classroom every day.
- ☆ Current enrollment total: 53 kids
 - Infant-Preschool: 37 kids
 - School-Age: 16 kids

Tuition Increase

- On January 1, 2017, we increased our tuition costs by \$5-10 a week to offset expenses to run the school.
- Since this increase all of our families have returned.

BASD Grant Funding

- KTO (Keystones To Opportunity Grant) Race to the Top Funding:
- GWG collaborated with BASD for the KTO grant. The main goal of the grant was to help improve quality in our program by purchasing items that we need to move to a STAR 4 facility.
- Currently we have received approximately \$17,000 worth of items for our facility at no expense.

“Gathered in His Name”

About 75 people took part in “Gathered in His Name” Congregational Prayer Service on the evening of January 25 with an abundance of prayer, singing and praise.

Pastor Patrick opened the service with a welcome and leading of the Lord’s Prayer. Interspersed with the music, **Shirley Evers, Al Dexter, Michele Evers, Jerry Craver, Jill Taylor** and **Kathie Holden** offered prayers. **Dave Arnett** led intercessory prayer for requests given by the congregation. Members of the Grace Choir and Grace Out Loud Praise Team shared songs of repentance, faith and assurance.

Music videos preceded the service; organist **Karen Rakieski** accompanied both groups and played the postlude while Pastor and others prayed with people at the altar after a benediction.

The service would not have happened without the effort and prayer of many people including not only the musicians and prayer leaders, but also those who phoned congregation members; the donor of the postage for the postcard invitations; AV and lighting workers; deacons and nursery worker. As always, thanks to secretary **Dianne Deloe** for skills with the bulletin, slides and more, and to janitor **Robb Evers** for his extra attention to the sanctuary.

"We thank all who took part and hope you were blessed in the presence of God as we offered up our souls and our best affections. We trust that our loving Father was well pleased as He continues to respond to His children with joy from His heart."

In Him,

Coordinators **Jill Taylor** and **Diane Arnett**



Pastor's Pause

Lent is a time of reflection and devotion to our Lord. It is a time to remember our sinfulness in order to greater appreciate the redemption that our Savior won for us on the cross. It is a time to strengthen our faith by which we receive this life-giving salvation. During Lent we add mid-week services to our schedule to help us focus on these goals. I encourage everyone to attend each service. Be sure to arrive by 6:00pm to share fellowship and a meal with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

The following is the worship schedule for Lent:

March 1 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
no meal to preserve the sanctity of the day.

March 8 - April 5 Lenten Services every Wednesday 7:00pm
with meals at 6:00pm

What a wonderful way to prepare for the Passion of our Lord and Easter!

The following is a reprint of an article from the *Lutheran Witness Magazine*:

What is the holiest season of the Church Year?



Perhaps that seems an inappropriate question. After all, each season in the annual cycle we observe has its distinct spiritual character. There is the anticipation of Advent, the glorious rejoicing of Christmas, the exuberant triumph of Easter, and the resounding power of Pentecost. But what season invites us more than any other to a repentant reflecting, to a changing of the patterns of our lives, to a new dimension of devotion? That season is Lent, the period of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

Each year on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the Church calls us to begin “a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection,” when “our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.”

Each of the seasons of the church year is observed and celebrated, but Lent, and only Lent, is “kept.” The holy season of Lent invites us to be “keepers”—the people of God who keep the devotion, keep the silence, and keep the focus throughout this singular season.

Blessings,
Pastor Patrick Cox

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30 NIV)*

Birthdays not published
on-line.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Carol Horne

Sent by
Wally & Vicki Sander

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting will be **Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00pm** in the Social Hall. All are welcome to attend!



Small collection of RADA knives for sale (see **Dianne** in the church office Monday-Friday 7:30am-1:30pm):

- (5) heavy duty paring knives \$3.25/each
- (6) granny paring knives \$3.25/each
- (1) ham slicer \$7.00/each
- (2) serrated slicers \$5.75/each
- (4) tomato slicers \$3.75/each.



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS AT 2:00AM
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE
RETIRING ON SATURDAY, MARCH
11TH**

Save the Date

The annual Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit is set for Monday, July 17th at the Brierwood Country Club in Hamburg. Please note the changes from last year—Monday instead of Friday; July instead of June—and a new golfing venue.

More information will be given as details become available. Early bird registration will end on June 1st.



**MARCH
ALTAR COMMITTEE**
Stacia Roggenbaum &
Michele Evers

FEB. ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar. 5 - No Flowers - Lent
Mar. 12 - No Flowers - Lent
Mar. 19 - No Flowers - Lent
Mar. 26 - No Flowers - Lent

Please Remember Our Shut-ins

Pastor and the deacons try to ensure that each person gets visitation and Communion at least once a month. BUT, a card, a phone call or a brief visit brightens the day for our brothers and sisters who can no longer attend services regularly. Cards and a list of our shut-ins are available in the Social Hall.

Mary Ann Kautz
Ecumenical Home
100 St. Francis Dr.

Debbie Kelly
The Pavilion at BRMC
200 Pleasant St.

Donna Lannen
24 Shep Run Road
331-9270

If Jesus Came to Your House

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two - if He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do!

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest - and all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best. And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there. That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming would you meet Him at the door with arms outstretched in welcome to your Heav'nly Visitor? Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in? Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard and wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud hasty word? Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out? Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you, would you go right on doing the things you always do? Would you keep right on saying the things you always say? Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace - and would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace? Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read - and let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you planned to go? Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so? Would you like for Him to meet all your friends? Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

FYI

For anyone wishing to rent the Social Hall or the Community Life Center for an event, your contact person is **Selene Machuga - 362-1236 or 598-0893.**

Deadlines for Weekly Slides, Bulletin Items

Just a reminder that the deadline to have items placed in the weekly bulletin is Wednesday morning and the deadline for slides is Thursday morning. Please write the information up in the manner you would like church secretary **Dianne Deloe** to print it.

Church Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday - 7:30am to 1:30pm





Lent / Easter Schedule



March 1

Ash Wednesday

7:00pm Worship Service with Ashes

March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5

6:00pm Pot Luck Dinner

7:00pm Worship Service

April 9

Palm Sunday

April 13

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

April 14

12:00 Noon Community Crosswalk Service

7:00pm Good Friday Service

April 15

NO 5:15pm Service

April 16

8:45 - 10:00am Easter Breakfast

10:00am Easter Service

Please note: There will not be a 5:15pm Service on April 15; we will be having **ONE Easter Service (with Communion)** at 10:00am on Sunday, April 16, following the Easter Breakfast at 8:45am.



Pitt Bradford Annual Empty Bowls & Baskets Dinner

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mukaiyama University Room

5:00 - 7:00 PM—Admission: \$10.00

We would like to invite you to be part of Pitt-Bradford's Empty Bowls & Baskets Dinner to support The Friendship Table.

Guests are served a simple meal of soup, bread, beverage and dessert and are invited to keep a ceramic bowl, basket or set of napkins as a reminder of the ongoing fight against hunger.

We are in need of crock pots of homemade soup and cookies. The cookie donations will be used for desserts. **If you are interested in donating please contact Carma Horner via phone (362-7609) or email at clh71@pitt.edu.**

Ministry Moments

Each month, the Board of Deacons is taking the opportunity to thank someone in the congregation for the way they offer up their time and talents to serve God and their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Some talents are readily apparent, and some are never seen or even noticed.

For the month of March, we would like to thank **Karen Rakieski** for her cheerful dedication to our church. **Karen** has been playing the piano and keyboard at Sunday services for the past 31 years. She also provides music for both funerals and special services held throughout the year. She has served as a shepherd to new members in the past, participates in the prayer chain and is always able to help with food for funeral dinners. Karen also serves on the Altar Guild preparing the sacrament for weekly communion. She also volunteers her time doing crafts and snacks with the children at the CLC.

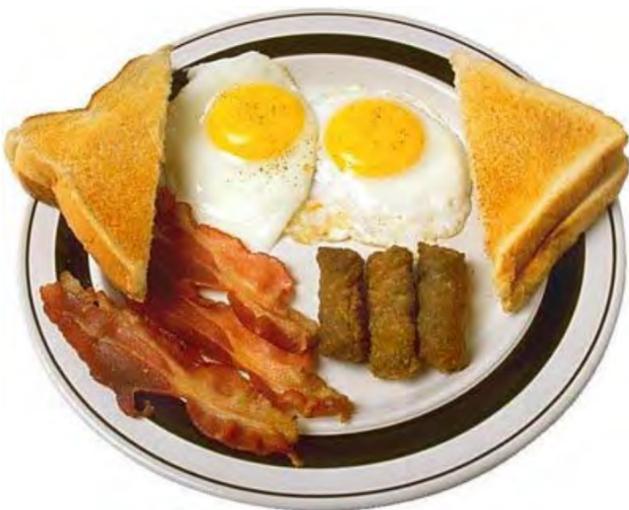


Thank you, Karen, for the joy you bring so many with your music, time and talent.

Board of Deacons

Grace Notes

Art and I thank ... your team for the praise-centered prayer service. It was an evening of "Thank you, Lord" for blessing our congregation with all of those who shared their love for Jesus! – **Hailie and Art Cox**



Friendship Breakfast

Sunday, March 19th
Between the 9:00am and
11:15am Services



**Grace
Lutheran
Church**

Rev. Patrick J. Cox, Pastor

331-0074

Lisa Cox

779-1783

(alternate phone number for Pastor)

79 Mechanic Street
Bradford, PA 16701

(814) 362-3244

Fax (814) 362-6085

Community Life Center

(814) 362-1236

Growing with Grace

Christian Preschool

814-362-(GROW) 4769

glmoffice@agraceplace.org

www.agraceplace.org

Join Us For Worship!

Friday

6:30pm Crosswalk

Youth Worship

Saturday

5:15pm Praise Team

Sunday

9:00am Praise Team

11:15am Blended

Family Education

10:15am

***We're On
The Web!***

www.agraceplace.org

Like us on Facebook:

***Grace Lutheran Ministries &
Growing with Grace
Christian Preschool***

**CURRENT AND
UPCOMING EVENTS
AT GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

March 1

Ash Wednesday

7:00pm Worship Service

with Ashes

March 8, 15, 22 & 29

6:00pm Pot Luck Dinner

7:00pm Worship Service

March 11

9:00am Bible Quizzing

Grace Campus

March 19

Friendship Breakfast

Between the 9:00am and

11:15am Services

March 25

Get Ready With Spaghetti

(Summer Camp Fundraiser)

Community Life Center

4:00-7:00pm

The Grace Lutheran Church Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions for newsletters can be left for the newsletter team in the church office. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please e-mail them to: newsletter@agraceplace.org or leave them in the church office.