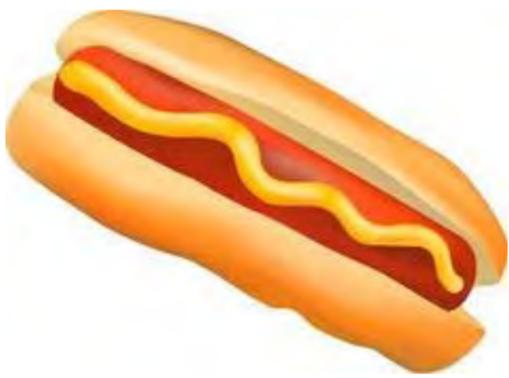


# September's Grace



*You are cordially invited to attend:*  
**Grace Lutheran Church & Community  
Summer's End Celebration**  
79 Mechanic St.  
**Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**11:30am - 1:30pm**  
(outside, weather permitting)  
**Bring your lawn chairs!**

**Music » Hotdogs » Chips » Ice Cream**

**Join us as we get together with our  
neighbors and our Grace family  
for some food, fellowship and fun!!**





**September 30, 2017  
12:00PM-5:00PM**

GwG is excited to announce that we will be participating in  
**Pumpkin Fest!**

Our booth will feature a game for kiddos to play and they will win a cool prize!  
We look forward to seeing you there!



## **Filling Shoeboxes for Children in Need**

For the first time, Grace Church will take part in “Operation Christmas Child” an outreach of the Samaritan’s Purse organization.

Deacon **Mary Paterniti** is coordinating the project and will provide details about filling shoeboxes for children around the world. Each shoebox, which Grace will furnish, will be given to a boy or girl in three age groups – 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.

Each box includes one “wow” item such as a deflated soccer ball with pump or a stuffed animal; school supplies (on sale now); hygiene items like a toothbrush or a wrapped bar of soap; and other fun toys. Items to be included in the boxes should be no larger than 11” long x 6” deep x 4” high.

**At Grace, we will have a dinner and packing party before National Collection Week, November 13-20.**

**Mary will bring more details, and can be reached by phone at 778-5627 or email at [marypaterniti@agraceplace.org](mailto:marypaterniti@agraceplace.org).**



**Jill Taylor with her Tuesday Bible Study group:  
front row: Alexis, Brie & Kilee  
back row: Jill & Kassie**

**This group of young women from middle school age and older meet every Tuesday at 4:00pm in Room 121; come anytime!**

## *Pastor's Pause*

“Welcome to our church.” That’s a phrase I would like to hear more often in the coming weeks and months. It’s time for us to give serious thought to growing our congregation. People have left the congregation by moving out of the area and for other reasons. It’s time for us to seriously consider Congregational Revitalization.

I’ve been reading books about Congregational Revitalization and am going to present a sermon series on the topic beginning August 26/27. Together we will explore principles of church growth and how we can become a healthier congregation.

We need to unite as a congregation and move forward. We also should remember that Christian growth and conversion comes from the Lord. We are instruments of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Let’s share that marvelous light with all of the people we know and love.

Acts 2:47

*“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

There are plenty people out there who need to know Him and His salvation! Let’s start thinking about who we should tell of the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessings!**  
**Pastor Patrick**

### **Guest Speaker**

At our August 19-20 weekend worship, **Julie Baker** testified about her month working at a Samaritan’s Purse field hospital in Iraq this year. Samaritan’s Purse is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan’s Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God’s love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For more information, including an update on the situation at the hospital which **Julie** talked about, see the website at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) or the Facebook page Samaritan’s Purse.

Thank you, **Julie**, and God bless.

*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

Birthdays not  
published on-line.

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of  
Gail Reid

Sent by  
Bruce & Chris Schuessler  
Ken & Karen Rakieski  
Wally & Vicki Sander

### How's That Again?

The Sunday School lesson was on the parable of the Prodigal Son.

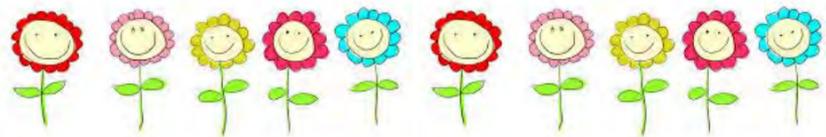
"And what happened when the Prodigal Son returned?" asked the teacher.

"His father went to meet him and hurt himself," replied one of the class.

"Hurt himself?" asked the teacher. "Wherever did you learn that?"

"From the Bible, sir. It says his father ran to meet him and fell on his neck."

★ **HAPPY** ★  
**BIRTHDAY!**



## ALTAR COMMITTEE

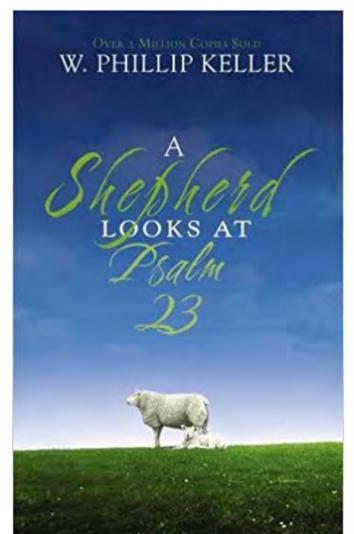
Laura Keesler &  
Karen Rakieski

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Sep. 3 -  
Sep. 10 -  
Sep. 17 -  
Sep. 24 -

## Women's Bible Study

Sisters in Christ, you are invited to join our Small Group as we delve into the book **A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23** by Phillip Keller. As a shepherd he shares his insights into the life and character of sheep – and of the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for them. This study will give new meaning to the ageless Shepherd Psalm, enriching your trust in and love for the Lord who watches closely over you.



This study begins Thursday, September 14. We meet in the Welcome Center of the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. (although most arrive by 10:15 to enjoy coffee and a snack.) This is a light-hearted, fun group and we would love to welcome you!

For more information contact Sharon Long at 368-6711 or Hailie Cox at 598-1205.

## Council Meeting

Church Council meeting is **TUESDAY, September 12th at 7:00pm** in the Social Hall. Please remember that the Congregation is always welcome to attend the monthly Council Meetings! There is also a suggestion box in the Welcome Center.



## 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.

**Marsha Denning**  
354 Interstate Pkwy.  
362-6429

**Edna Hibbard**  
The Pavilion at BRMC  
200 Pleasant St.

**Mary Ann Kautz**  
Ecumenical Home  
100 St. Francis Dr.

## Monday Women's Bible Study

People are asking, "Is This the End?" by David Jeremiah. We have almost become immune to the reality of today's headlines: terrorism, natural disasters, political upheavals, refugees, disease, nuclear threats, failing economies and the list goes on.

People are thinking and asking, "Is this the End?" Nobody can answer that question specifically, in fact, Jesus warned us about setting dates for the end of the age. These events bring to mind the Apostle Paul's words about "birth pangs" before the end of the age. We need to understand these events: what they are, what the Bible says about them and how we should respond as followers of Christ.

**This study starts Monday, September 11 at 4:00pm in the Social Hall at Grace. Contact Kathy Verbocy at 814-598-2417 or [kathyverbocy@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyverbocy@yahoo.com) if interested. This is a 10 week study and the book/workbook is \$20.00.**

## Thursday Night Bible Study

**Starting Thursday, September 7 at 6:30pm at the Verbocy's, 38 Bates Road: "Always True" by James MacDonald. Five promises from God: He is always; with me; in control; good and watching & victorious. Contact Kathy Verbocy if interested, 814-598-2417 or email [kathyverbocy@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyverbocy@yahoo.com). This is a 7 week study and books are \$9.00.**

## 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.

# *Growing with Grace*



## **Growing with Grace July 2017 Updates**

### **Staff News**

We are sad to share that **Megan Crooks McIntire** (newly married), our Acting Director and Lead Preschool Teacher, will be leaving our school. Her last day is September 1st.

**Nick McIntire** (her new husband), our Lead School Age Teacher for the summer, has now completed his assignment at GwG and is ready for the school year to begin. He did an amazing job leading the program and we welcome him back again next summer. **Nick** accepted a permanent teaching position at the Coudersport School District. We wish him lots of luck! The children, staff, and parents will greatly miss his warmth and smile.

### **Kindergarten Transitions**

The older preschoolers are ready to start at their new schools and are excited to use the knowledge they learned at GwG. Students that are starting at GGB attended a half day transition camp for two weeks at the end of July. This helped them learn about their new school and proper bus safety. We are thrilled that six of our preschoolers will still be attending GwG for before and after care once the school year begins.

### **Keystone STARS**

Due to changes with the Keystone STARS program, all permanent staff at GwG recently attended a full day of mandatory training. Information in regard to the latest revisions of the program was provided. This training counted as necessary credit hours needed towards professional development plans.

### **Renovations**

We are excited to get the last of our rooms completed to reach STAR 4 Standards. Updates have been made to both the infant room and toddler room. A HUGE thank you to **Arnold, Dave, and Jim** for helping us tackle these.

*“Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”*  
~Proverbs 22:4~

## Ministry Moments



For the month of September, the Board of Deacons would like to take a new path with the ministry moment and highlight a ministry group within the church instead of an individual. The first group we would like to focus on is the **Board of Deacons**.

The mission of this group is to be the spiritual leaders of the church according to Scripture, setting an example for worship through their attendance, their willingness to gain knowledge of the Lord and His Word and to deal lovingly with other members. The Deacons are to assist the Pastor who is called and ordained to lead the scriptural and spiritual affairs of the church, making sure that the Pastor is preaching the true Word of God in the Lutheran doctrine.

Deacons assist the Pastor in Congregational worship, altar duties, the format of the services, filling positions in services such as ushers, lay readers, and people to pray. The Deacons also assist the Pastor in providing visitation to shut-in members and others in the congregation in need. Along with assisting the Pastor, a Deacon should be listening to the needs of those within the church and willing to listen to both praise and complaints about issues that the congregation feel need to be attended to.

We are blessed here at Grace with a wonderful group of Deacons whom you have voted to serve both you and Pastor in the service of God. Anytime you have needs, questions concerning anything about your church or your spiritual well-being, please feel free to talk to **Pastor Patrick** or any of the following Deacons: **Laura Keelser, Dave Wright, Mary Paterniti, Michele Evers, Kathy Verbocy, Ken Rakieski, Wally Sander** or **Robb Evers**. May God continue to bless Grace Lutheran Church and its members.

## Council Seeks New Ministry Outreach

At the June meeting and at the request of **Chris Schuessler**, Council discussed replacing Grace's annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner with a new outreach event.

For the past 20 plus years, Grace has held a dinner open to the community at Thanksgiving. However, so many other groups are now offering Thanksgiving dinners too, that donors have remarked on this to our organizers. Last year, others offering free dinners included the Friendship Table, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, the YWCA, Open Arms Community Church and others who, like Grace, invite groups quietly.

Someone mentioned at last year's dinner that Grace's meal was the fourth one they were attending. And naturally, attendance at Grace's dinner has fallen off.

**Council approved a motion by Laura Keesler with a second from Lisa Miller, that Grace cancel the Thanksgiving dinner this year, but look for other ways to reach out to the community.** Some suggestions included a summer picnic or an Easter time meal.

If you have a thought, idea or inspiration about how to share God's love in our community, please mention it to a Deacon or Council member, or place a note in the green suggestion box in the Welcome Center.



**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday thru Friday - 7:30am to 1:30pm**



**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](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org)

[www.agraceplace.org](http://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](http://www.agraceplace.org)

**Like us on Facebook:  
Grace Lutheran Ministries &  
Growing with Grace  
Christian Preschool**

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

**September 2 & 3**

*Labor Day Weekend will be  
our LAST weekend with ONE  
Service on Sunday;  
Regular Services resume on  
September 9 & 10*

**September 3**

*Community Get-Together  
11:30am  
Music, Hot Dogs, Chips,  
Ice Cream & Fellowship*

**September 30**

*Growing with Grace  
is hosting a booth  
at Pumpkin Fest  
Noon 'til 5:00pm*



*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](mailto:newsletter@agraceplace.org) or leave them in the church office.*