

April's Grace



"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."
John 14:27

"In light of the recent Centers for Disease Control announcement advising against gatherings of 10 people or more for the next eight weeks, congregations across the Eastern District, LCMS are in the process of making adjustments, providing modifications, canceling services and/or events and making plans for the weeks ahead to help people stay healthy with concerns about COVID-19 on the rise."

"COVID-19 is real and it is evil. In its aggressive ways it does what it does to destroy life and inflict pain and misery. We know the virus is transmitted chiefly through human contact, and so the decisions our congregations and church workers make must respect this clear fact of physical life. I've said it before and I'll say it again, God speaks clearly through Word and Sacrament. God also speaks to us through government, science, and health officials. And so I would strongly advise everyone, during these extra-ordinary times, to avoid any unnecessary contact or worship or gatherings of more than ten individuals in the name of the church for a time, a decision that can be revisited periodically by each faith-community in the Eastern District."
(Dr. Chris Wicher, Eastern District President)

As of the Special Council/Deacon meeting held on Tuesday, March 24th, it was agreed that the **mid-week Lenten services will be cancelled, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services are cancelled and also the next two Sundays (March 29 and April 5)**. During this time the church office will remain open. Pastor Bill will be streaming his messages on Facebook for the mid-week Wednesday services, the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Sunday services. Brandon Baney will be assisting Pastor with this.

We are reminding all our people that the church still has bills to pay; if you are still receiving your income, please don't forget God. Giving can be done through the mail, online banking or through our website: agraceplace.org. Church wages and salaries were discussed and will be handled on a case by case basis.

Growing with Grace is closed and because we are a non-profit organization, the employees are not eligible to receive unemployment. Therefore, we are encouraging you to send gift cards (Tops, Walmart, etc.) that can be shared with the staff to help during this difficult time.

Council and the Deacons will be meeting again on April 7th to discuss where we go from here. Remain calm and read Psalm 91; we ask all of you for your continued prayers for Grace Lutheran, our city, our state, and the world.

GROWING WITH GRACE PRESCHOOL UPDATE

February 2020

- 🌸 We are starting to prepare for **graduation!**
 - We have 4 students graduating from our pre-k class this year
 - I will get an invitation slide to Dianne as the date approaches.
- 🌸 We have been collecting items for our “**40 Days of Giving**” challenge for our Lenten mission.
 - Items go to the YWCA and the SPCA
- 🌸 Our students did beautifully during the **Ash Wednesday** service led by Pastor Bill. Thank you for having us!
 - We had **25 two, three, and four-year old’s** in attendance- 23 of whom chose to get ashes
- 🌸 The staff and I are getting spring fever and beginning to **clean out** closets/do some **updating**.
 - We have taken down the **cubbies in Room 121**, in order to rejuvenate it for the youth.
 - * We will be replacing them with simple hooks for our school-age students to utilize while they are here. Hopefully they will be less obtrusive to the youth groups.
 - * Plans are still going ahead with our **Jr. Preschool flooring project**.
 - Shembeda flooring will be here working during our Easter Break.



Pastor's Pause

Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people perish ...”

Dear Friends in Christ,

March has come and now is on its way out; we are almost through the Lenten Season. I hope that our study through 2 Thessalonians has been helpful. It was fun for me. I hope that you have learned as much as I did. Normally we Lutherans don't cover much of 2 Thessalonians because of the content. As I have learned in the past, the difficult contents need to be studied as well.

Easter is here — Christ is Risen. That should be music to our ears. Without this special day in History we would have no hope, no joy in life. No matter how much people strive to do God's bidding or strive to be the best person in the world, we will never make it. It is like the best long jumper in all of history; how far will he make it trying to jump across the Atlantic Ocean? That is how far short we are into getting into heaven.

Like the sacrifices of the Old Testament, Jesus was a sacrifice for the world. While the sacrifices of the O.T. had to be done again and again and mainly in the Temple area, the Sacrifice of the New Testament only needed to be done once outside the Temple. The O.T. sacrifices were pointing to the **ultimate** Sacrifice that would take place.

Blood had to be present for a sacrifice to be “true.” We may ask, “When Jesus was nailed to the Cross where is the blood?” Nailing doesn't produce much blood. The blood that was needed was produced when the soldiers whipped Jesus with a cat-of-nine tails.

During the first century the tips of the whip of the cat-of-nine tails often had broken pottery and metal woven into it. This would cut into the skin and even rip into the muscle tissue, pulling out chunks of flesh. The actor who played Jesus in the movie, “The Passion” had thick padding on, but once in a while the tips of the whip went beyond the padding and hurt terribly. (So when you watch this movie, some of his reactions are true to the whip being used.) Imagine this happening to Jesus who had no padding and who was whipped at least 59 times.

This is where the blood for the sacrifice was shed. As Jesus was hanging on the Cross, His blood was dripping to the ground. And when He had died, His heart was pierced through by the spear and blood and water flowed from His side.

It is His blood that is shed to wash us clean from our sins. And notice this: 70 years after Jesus's Crucifixion the Jewish temple was destroyed and the animal sacrifices stopped. The sacrifices are no longer needed because the **ultimate One** has been made.

On Easter Sunday we will be putting flowers on the cross that is up front. Chicken wire will be put on it and long stem flowers will be provided — you could bring your own if you so desire. (You may want to bring your cameras.)

I would like everyone to put a flower in the cross and for those who can't make it to the cross, please have a family member or friend put it on the cross for you. I will give you further instructions on Easter Sunday. These flowers represent what Christ has done for us; He took our ugly sins and made us something beautiful in God's sight.

In the Grace of Christ,

Pastor Bill

*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

Marcia Holly
Dorothy Eidens
Joe Presher

Bill Presher

Clara Deloe

Essie Lee Talbot

Sent by

Barb & Art Steinhauer
Barb & Art Steinhauer
Barb & Art Steinhauer
Charlotte Reinhardt
Barb & Art Steinhauer
Charlotte Reinhardt
Jim & Sharon Long
Dave & Cheryl Sheneman
Jackie Streb
Barb & Art Steinhauer
Jim & Sharon Long



**Summer Camp Fundraiser
Postponed until May 2nd**



Easter Breakfast

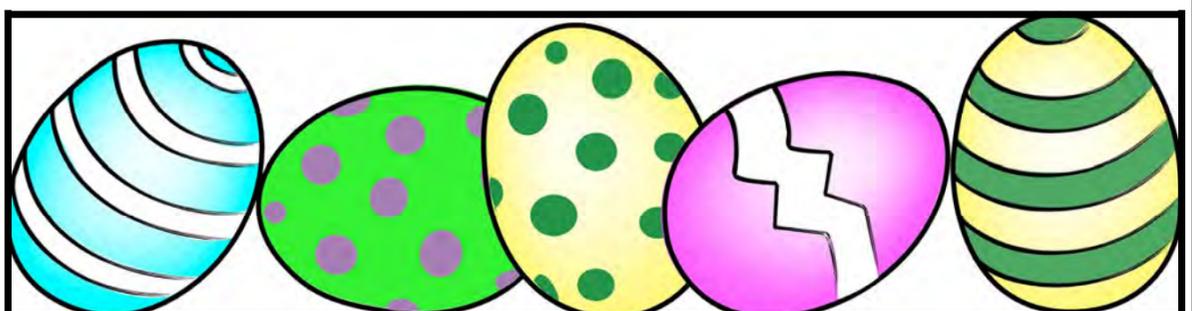
ALTAR COMMITTEE

Vicki Sander &
Wendy Wright

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 5 - Palms
April 12 - Easter Flowers
April 19 -
April 26 - Dave & Cheryl Sheneman

The Easter Breakfast has been Cancelled



Council Meeting

Church Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for **TUESDAY, April 14th at 6:30pm** 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

The 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.

Sara Christjohn

Windsor House
Snyder Memorial Health Care Ctr.
P.O. Box 680
156 Snyder Memorial Rd.
Marienville, PA 16239

Marsha Denning

354 Interstate Pkwy.
362-6429

Debbie Kelly

The Pavilion at BRMC
200 Pleasant St.

Donna Lannen

24 Shep Run Rd.
596-0286

Judy Signor

Sena-Kean Manor
17083 Route 6
Smethport, PA 16749

Special Prayer

The Pastor and the Deacons invite you to come to the altar to have your needs or the needs of a loved one addressed in individual prayer. Prayer will be offered immediately following each service on the **first weekend of every month**, but always feel free to ask for prayer at any time.



Love Letters

Do you know someone with a serious or terminal illness who may not have the support they need or a church family to support them? The Pastor and the Deacons would like to reach out to them with the love of Christ to help them with their spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Please contact one of the Deacons with the name and address of the person in need so a letter can be sent to them.



Deacons are: **Michele Evers, Robb Evers, Mary Paterniti, Jim Roggenbaum, Stacia Roggenbaum, Wally Sander, Barb Steinhauer, Kathy Verbocy and Kay Wheaton.**

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.



GIFTS OF GRACE GIFT CARD PROGRAM (to Benefit Growing with Grace Preschool)

Orders with payment must be submitted
by Noon on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month

**NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER:
SUNDAY, MAY 3RD**

(No Service on April 5, No Gift Card Order)

Questions?
See Jackie Streb

Grace Memorials / Altar Flowers

Prayerfully consider donating to the Grace Memorial fund when you wish to make a memorial donation. When you donate to the Memorial Fund, a card is sent to the family of the person that you are remembering.

Also, you may sign up for Altar Flowers on the chart posted in the Social Hall. This can be in memory of a loved one or friend or to commemorate a special event.

To make a donation you may use one of the envelopes in the Welcome Center and place in the collection plate, the safe or call **Sharon Long at 368-6711 or the Church Office at 362-3244.**



Church Office Hours:

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



**Grace
Lutheran
Church**

**Rev. Bill Waterman
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 at the CLC**

**Sunday
10:00am Blended**

**Adult Education
9:00am**

***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**

**April 12
10:00am *Easter Service*
(tentatively scheduled)**



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.