

April's Grace

Following is a letter that the church office received on Monday, March 22. Pastor would like us, as a congregation, to reach out to Jerrod in Godly love and to encourage him in his recovery and walk with Jesus.

I have included his address. If you feel a calling to correspond with Jerrod, you may use the church's address. I will forward any letters from him you may receive.

Grace Luther Church,

3/17/21

Hello, my name is Jerrod Lehman and I'm 37 years old. I'm currently incarcerated at Sci-Albion near Erie, PA. I was sentenced to 4-10 years back in 2016 for an incident involving a DUI and fleeing that I deeply regret.

When I went to the Mercer County Jail, I started to read the Bible and go to church. I asked Jesus into my heart and was baptized in 2017. I don't have very good memories of my past, made poor choices, and struggled heavily with alcohol addiction. I realized I needed to stop living in the past and using it as an excuse. Everybody comes from some type of a dysfunctional family because none of us are perfect. It was time to start looking for a future full of hope, no blaming others and more forward with God's grace by making better decisions.

When you have God and decide you do not want to hurt Him because you're in a relationship with Him, then your love for God is what will keep you from sin. Until we really know in our heart that we are loved, then we will try to fill up the emptiness with all sorts of things God doesn't want and we're just going through the motions.

Another big thing I learned is surrendering to the Holy Spirit daily and memorizing scripture and I won't be bound to living in the flesh...

I pray for people in here and show them love before I even tell them about Christ. I never try to preach but share with them what Christ has done for me. If we love them enough and speak the truth in love, then we will bring them to salvation. The first couple of years I went to church to avoid hell or an attempt to be a good person before I realized that it's love that will set us free.

Everything here is pretty much shut down because of Covid for the last year. I see parole again this October and I still have no misconducts and completed many programs so hopefully I'll be released. I don't have any outside contacts so I'm uncertain where I'll go. I don't receive mail and it would be a blessing to have correspondence with you all... Please keep me in your prayers and write back.

Isaiah 43:4 "You are precious in my eyes. You are honored, and I love you".

Zech 2:8 "You are the apple of my eye".

God Bless You,

Jerrod Lehman

Smart Communications/PADOC

Sci-Albion

Jerrod Lehman #MN8443

P.O. Box 33208

St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Grace Lutheran Church

79 Mechanic St.

Bradford, PA 16701

Growing with Grace News

We are excited to have some nice weather outside so that we can begin some spring play-space improvement projects. We plan to increase the PreK play-ground space by adding mulch, a new tire climber and by finally moving the play house inside the play yard.

Future outdoor plans also involve fencing the old “Community Garden” space. Last year, Jill Taylor and her work family leveled and re-seeded the area, which has grown into a beautiful field! We hope to be able to utilize the field for our older kids this summer! Pray for a smooth process ☐

We are already looking ahead to PreK Graduation on June 4th. This year we have a graduating class of 5 students.



Growing with Grace Scheduled Closing

Good Friday:

Friday, April 2, 2021

Monday-Wednesday after Easter:

Monday, April 5, 2021; Tuesday, April 6, 2021; Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Pastor's Pause

Dear Friends in Christ,

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in southern Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father working in the yard saw the 2 as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could.

Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his father. It was too late. Just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs.

That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the father was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard his screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And on his arms were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved.

The newspaper reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go."

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But some wounds are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you.

We struggle with the tug-of-war throughout our lives. Satan, the "world" and our sinful self are all trying to pull us in a direction away from God. But God loves you dearly and won't let go. He loves you so much that He was willing to have His own Son die so that we can live with Him forever. And another thing to think about: Look at the scars that Christ received on our behalf.

Isn't that worth celebrating? Shouldn't all those who claim to be Christian be in church on Easter rejoicing what God did for us? And shouldn't we all continue to gather together every week to express our gratitude for what God did for us some 2,000 years ago?

Coming to church every Sunday doesn't make you any more or less righteous than the next person. We are all in the same boat. But have you ever pictured yourself standing before God and trying to explain why worship is not a priority part of your life?

What a great joy it is to be able to gather as the Family of God on Resurrection Sunday. We celebrate that our God is NOT dead. Death had/has no power over Him. When you have the power of Life in you, nothing can kill you.

Jesus has Life; Jesus is Life; Jesus gave us Life for all who believe so that we can be with Him beyond always. We don't have to wait for our physical death to experience eternal Life with Christ, we can experience that Life Here and Now. As a follower of Christ, we have this Life Here and Now and we can live our life with the Boldness of Christ as we face the world.

We are living at a time that Christians should not be timid, but to "Level Up," to stand firm and make a difference to the people we encounter. Some may try to shame us, others will reject us, but we will not be rejected by the One who died on the cross to Save us.

LET US ALL GATHER TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE THE JOYS AND BLESSINGS OF EASTER AND CARRY IT ON VERY SUNDAY.

Servant of Christ

Rev. Bill W.

*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.



In Memory Of

Dan Palmer
Geraldine Cookson
Becky Billings
Christy Signor

MEMORIALS



Given By

Rick & Kay Wheaton

Jackie Streb



How can VBS and
Computer Games mix?
Volunteer this summer
and find out.

VBS Dates:
June 7th- 11th
6:00pm- 8:00pm

for more information
(Contact brandon baney @814-362-1236
Or Sheryl Waterman @814-362-3244)



No Family Education Classes
Easter Morning
Come to the Easter Roll instead.

No Children's Time
Easter Sunday

COUNTERS

Mary & Jim Paterniti

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Kathy Verbocy &
Wendy Wright

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 4 - Easter Flowers
April 12 -
April 19 -
April 26 -

HE IS RISEN' SERVICE SCHEDULE

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2, 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 4

EASTER ROLL BREAKFAST - 9am

EASTER SERVICE - 10am

Discerning the Times Bible Study looks at current
events through the Book of Revelations. Is there a cor-
relation? If so, then how now are we to live and serve?

Time: Every Thursday evening @ 6:45pm

Place: Grace's Social Hall

Contact: Jim Machuga @ 558-9895

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for **TUESDAY, April 13th 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.

Marsha Denning
354 Interstate Pkwy.
362-6429

Debbie Kelly
The Pavilion at BRMC24
200 Pleasant St.

Donna Lannen
Shep Run Rd.
596-0286

Judy Signor
24 Brookline Ct.
779-1066

Al Mohler: If the Equality Act Passes, Say Goodbye to Religious Freedom

The Equality Act or H.R. 5, which passed the U.S. house last month and now heads to the Senate, amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). President Biden supports the legislation, calling it “essential” to protecting LGBTQ+ rights. Under the Equality Act, organizations won’t be able to use the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to challenge or defend against claims of SOGI discrimination...

Mohler writes that the Equality Act will “totally transform the United States as we know it” because it “represents a direct subversion of religious liberty.” Calling SOGI protections “newly invented artificial rights,” he warns that they’re “pushing out” religious freedom, which is listed first in the Constitution not only because it’s “first in priority” but “the basic freedom from which all

other freedoms are eventually derived.”

Mohler writes, “If you eliminate religious freedom, if you redefine it, if you subvert it, you are subverting all authentic liberties and all authentic rights.”



“We Cannot Remain Silent”

The Equality Act is a dangerous threat to our nation.

People of faith need to **PRAY**.

Please contact your [congressmember](#) and [U.S. senators](#) and ask them to vote **NO**.

Let the White House know

1-202-224-3121

(2021 Samaritan’s Purse Franklin Graham, President)

Sunday School News

- K-8th Sunday School participated in handing out palm branches and led the congregation in celebration by waving the palms as they marched around the sanctuary on PALM SUNDAY.
- The Sunday following Easter (4-11-21), the K-8th class will hunt for Resurrection Eggs. There will be a total of 12 eggs for each participant to gather and take home. These eggs will review the Easter Story for inside each egg will be something that represents Jesus’s last week on earth, His death and resurrection.

(Please notify Sheryl if there will be any visitors that day to insure the appropriate amount of supplies)

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 to print it.

Stewardship Minute

Stewardship Minute by Jill Taylor

Hallowing God's Name

What does it mean to hallow God's name and what does it have to do with stewardship? To hallow God's name means to reverence, honor, esteem, admire, value and treasure. When we reverence, honor, esteem, admire, value and treasure God's name above all things it helps us to correctly manage all God has entrusted to us while on this earth. What He has gifted us, we are to use it for His purposes and His glory.

Recently, I read Pastor John Piper's comments on the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13. John first recognized his insights on the Lord's Prayer in 2010 after an especially difficult year for his family. After our very difficult year of 2020 and as those difficulties spill into 2021, I thought it would be beneficial to share what John learned through the understanding and heralding of God's Word.

Going into that difficult year, John had already made the discovery that "hallowed be your name" along with "your kingdom come" and "your will be done" were not acclamations, but petitions, requests, pleading in prayer. He states, "As I was growing up, I thought of these first three petitions as more of acclamations of praise. But in fact, they are petitions, 'O God, cause your name to be hallowed! Cause your kingdom to come! Cause your will to be done! Please make it happen, Lord.'" John Piper goes on to explain the Lord's Prayer has two sets of three petitions each.

First set of petitions:

Hallowed be your name:	"The hallowing of God's name is
Your kingdom come:	the end, the final goal,
Your will be done:	of all things."

Second set of petitions:

Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

John determined, as far as he could see, the second set of petitions served the first set.

I need daily bread for life, so I ask for it.
I need forgiveness for my sins because I am a sinner, so I ask for it.
I need guidance and protection from temptation and Satan, so I ask for it.

And then with (1) bread- sustained life, (2) forgiveness- a liberated conscience, and (3) a heart protected from the evil one, I can now throw myself into the glorious work of:

Hallowing God's name,
Seeking God's kingdom, and
Doing his will, the way the angels do in heaven.

Wow! I never understood the prayer that way, but Jesus of course did. When he gave us this prayer as an example of how to pray, Jesus knew exactly how we needed to pray to survive and thrive as children of God in a chaotic world. He knew exactly how we needed to pray in order to call down God's heavenly light and be that light in a dark world.

The hallowing of God's name is the end, the final goal, of all things. Hallowing His name, seeking His kingdom and doing His will on earth as it is in heaven, helps lead us in the right way of managing everything the Lord has loaned to us while on this earth – stewardship.



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

Orders with payment must be submitted
by 10AM on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month

NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER:
SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

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.**



OPEN HOMESTEAD DAYS

By appointment this year.
Learn all about gardening, orchards,
chickens and homesteading.
Contact Jim & Selene
(814)558-9895

Hang It On The Cross
If you have a secret sorrow,
a burden or a loss,
An aching need for healing...
Hang It On The Cross.
If worry steals your sleep
and makes you turn and toss,
If your heart is feeling heavy...
Hang It On The Cross.
Every obstacle to faith
or doubt you come across,
Every prayer unanswered...
Hang It On The Cross.
For Christ has borne
our brokenness
and dearly paid the cost
To turn our trials to triumph...
Hanging On The Cross.

—Lisa O. Engelhardt



Church Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday - 8:30AM — 3PM



**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 4

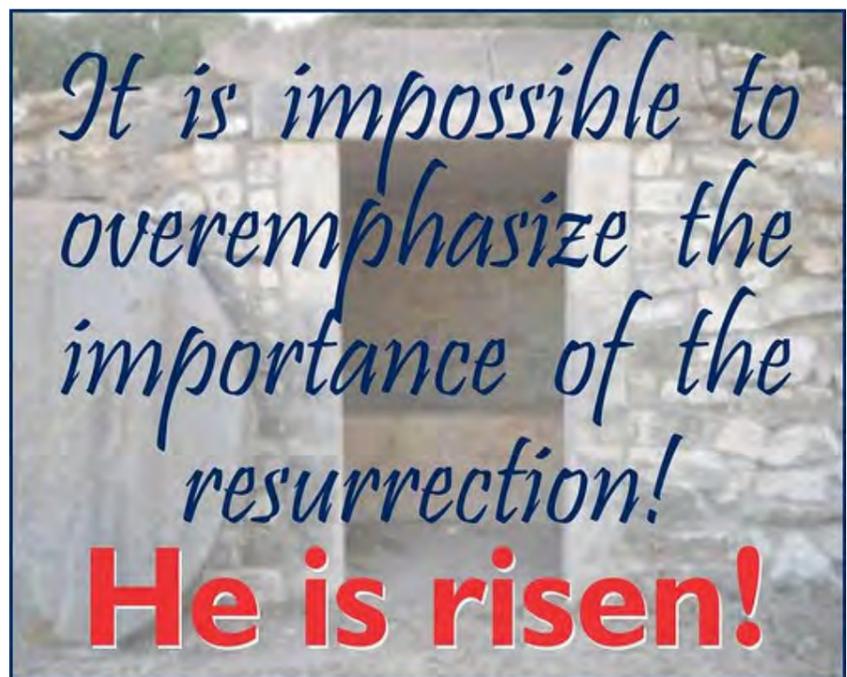
***9:00am Easter Roll
10:00am Easter Service***

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

***6:45pm Discerning the
Times***

April 13

***6:30pm Council
Meeting***



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.