



Thank you to everyone that donated to our Destinations Drive. It was a **HUGE** success!!



HUGE THANK YOU to this community, our families, friends and the Bruno family!!! We had an AMAZINGLY successful lemonade 🍋 stand for the United Way. Drum 🥁 roll please..... We raised \$782.63!!!! We can't wait to give them the money.





# PASTOR'S PAUSE

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

June and July have come and gone and August is here. I planted tomatoes, beans, cabbage, squash and potatoes before we left on vacation. After coming back, my garden doesn't look as good as I thought it should. It looks stunted. But I am still hopeful that I will get some vegetables from the garden.

Even though June and July can be hot and dry in the Midwest, it seems that the dog-days of August are always the hottest and driest. The new school year is near and there is change in the air. Even though it is not “Fall” yet, we begin to prepare; we are gathering more produce from the garden and beginning to make sure that our houses are ready for the wintery months ahead.

All and good, but are we preparing for our spiritual well-being also? August can be a dry month for us spiritually as well. There are activities and events that take our time away from church — we need church. Going to church is not for the pastor's benefit, it is to allow God to feed us with His flavor-able Word.

Have you ever tried going without eating or only eating junk food? You may not miss it at first, but your body begins to crave that nourishing food of life. Missing church and the Word of God spiritually functions the same way. We may not miss it for a bit, but then you begin to feel different as if something is amiss. We need to hear the Word and the Grace of our God often.

I like what was written in the Portals of Prayer years ago. Here's the quote, “Many people are looking for direction and fulfillment in life from all the wrong sources. They look to their horoscope “spiritual adviser” for wisdom and guidance instead of looking to Jesus and His Word. Others seek purpose and peace from religions that focus on what one must do to earn salvation or achieve serenity. Still others look only within themselves. But all of those pathways lead to a dead end.”

The paths that this world has to offer only lead to dead ends; suffering, pain and death. Look at the direction that our nation is headed. What does Scripture say about a nation that listens to lying lips, deceitfulness and twisted truths? That it will end in destruction.

You may ask, “What can I do, I am just one person, one family, one church, one community?” We can begin with ourselves; take an inventory of where your life is heading, what your priorities are and is God and church important in your life.

If we want to make a difference in this world, it has to begin with us on Sunday mornings. On Sunday mornings there are many children's activities that vie for the attention of God's people; their church's worship and educational hours. Likewise, influential voices in our nation, communities and workplaces are increasingly asking us to compromise God's truth for the sake of harmony and loyalty. Matthew 6:4 “No one can serve 2 masters.”

What really gets me is how insignificant God is or unimportant church is in the lives of so-called Christians. Some people like to think that if you show up a couple of times in church that gives them enough brownie points to get them into heaven.

If church or spending time with God in this life isn't important to you here on earth, why would it be any different in the afterlife? Church is where God promises to be and where we hear of His forgiveness and mercy. Church is where we gather as a family to praise our Lord who is worthy of our praise and worship. Church is where we hear the Truth and God speaking and ministering to our hearts. It's where we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Sincerely,

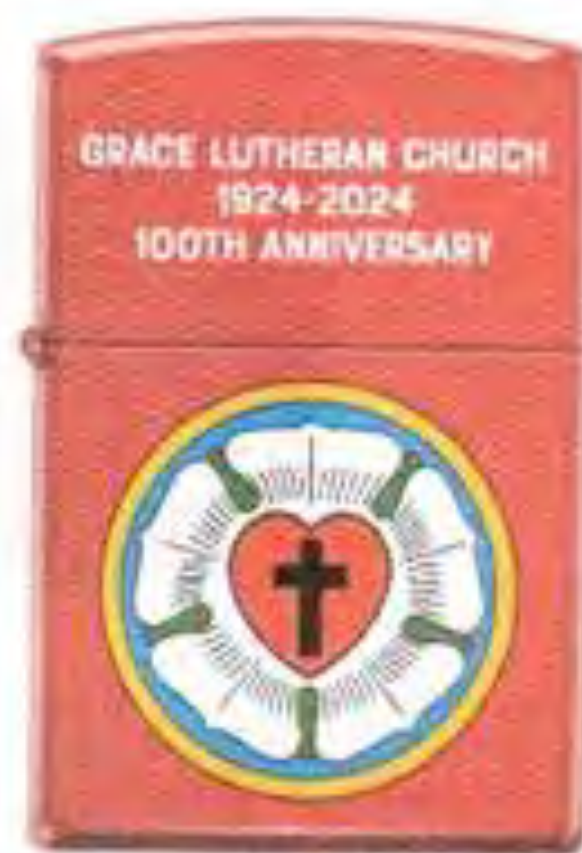
Pastor Bill  
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When people see something they like, their first comment is “I like that. How can I get one?” If you have viewed Kathie Holden’s handmade quilt for Grace’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, you may be thinking ‘I like that quilt.’ The only way to become owner of the quilt is to purchase a raffle ticket. Raffle tickets for the quilt are \$20.00 and includes a Grace 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Zippo lighter. Tickets are available now, drawing to be October 8<sup>th</sup>, 140 tickets remain. If you just desire a Grace Zippo, the cost is \$25.00. (There is no limit on the number of tickets or lighters one may obtain.) Tickets can be obtained at the Church office, Monday – Friday, 9AM – 3PM. Phone: 814-362-3244.

The quilt is beautifully displayed in the Welcome Center of the Church,  
79 Mechanic Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY QUILT RAFFLE  
+ ZIPPO 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LIGHTER**

Queen Size Quilt made and donated by Kathie Holden  
Only 150 Tickets at \$20 per ticket will be available.  
Drawing will be October 8, 2023.





*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)*

**AUGUST  
BIRTHDAYS**

**BIRTHDAYS NOT PUBLISHED ON-LINE**

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory Of**

**Sent By**

Mary Winner

Rick & Kay Wheaton

Mary Winner

Dave & Cheryl Sheneman

Mary Winner

Jackie Streb

Ruth Masciori

Rick & Kay Wheaton

Roseanne Giordano

Wally & Vicki Sander

Betty Wheaton

Jackie Streb



**WELCOME BACK  
TO SCHOOL!**

**AUGUST SERVICE  
SCHEDULE  
CHURCH COUNTERS**

Jim & Stacia  
Roggenbaum

**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Michele Evers  
Karen Rakieski

**READERS**

Andrew Dexter

**PRAYERS**

Dana DiBlasi

Can you feel it? There is excitement in the air. It is almost palpable. It's the time of year again when the children start back to school and that means it is time to start back to **Sunday School** (Yeah!).

Bradford Area Schools start August 23rd  
Grace Luther Sunday School will start Sunday  
September 10th.

Come join us on Sunday Mornings from 9:00am to 9:45am. We will continue our chronological study of Old Testament. Class is geared for K-6th but ANY AGE is welcomed. No preregistration is required, just show up and join the fun.

**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.  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-596-7250  
814-596-3439

**Judy Signor**  
28 Brookline Ct  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-779-1066

**Sandy Reese**  
Bradford Manor  
50 Langmaid Ln.  
Bradford, PA 16701

**Debbie Kelly**  
The Pavilion at BRMC  
200 Pleasant St.  
Bradford, PA

**Donna Lannen**  
24 Shep Run Road  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-598-7130

**Charlotte Reinhardt**  
Bradford Manor  
50 Langmaid Ln.  
Bradford, PA 16701

**Ray Eidson**  
100 St. Francis Dr.  
Apt. 107  
397-0165

**Betty Jean Austin**  
100 St. Francis Drive  
Bradford, PA 16701

**Rose Hager**  
144 Davis St., Apt 2  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-368-8456

**Gifts of Grace Gift Card Program**  
(to Benefit Growing with Grace Preschool)



Order with payment must be  
Submitted by noon on the  
FIRST Sunday of each month.

**NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER**

**August 6th, 2023**

**New participants: Tops Friendly  
Markets and Big Lots!**

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 the Church Office at 362-3244.



**Wednesday  
Chapel Time  
with GwG**





## **FYI**

For anyone wishing to rent the Social Hall or the Community Life Center for an event, your contact person is the **Church Secretary: 362-1236.**

## **Council Meeting**

Church Council meeting is at 6:30pm **AUGUST 8TH** in the Social Hall. Please remember that the Congregation is always welcome!

**RECYCLING**: Keep saving your nickel cans and nickel plastic bottles! Please leave them in the Social Hall for pick-up. Thank you!  
Remember: "With God all things are possible."



**Adult Bible Study**: Held every Sunday at 5pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are in need of a Bible please let us know!



## **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 in the manner you would like church secretary to print it.

### **Weekly and Monthly Giving**

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storeroom, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord

Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." God has asked us to bring our gifts and tithes to him. This is something that we must pray about and trust in God for guidance. Sometimes we feel we do not have the means to give boldly, but God promised to bless us boldly for this.

We at Grace are trying to make this convenient for you by using a simple way to give (weekly or monthly) to Grace.

Some of us have set up giving through our banks Bill Pay. This is easy to set up online and can be automatic or you can do it each time yourself.

You can also set up to have it taken out of your credit card. If there is interest in this, we can get you a form to do this. Call the office to get the form. (Keelan has them)

If you use PayPal your donation can be set up through that.

Remember with PayPal a small fee will be charged (taken off your donation).

We will continue passing the plate on Sundays, we are just trying to make things more convenient for you. May God bless you and watch over you in this matter and in all things. Remember, you can't out give God and with God all things are possible.

## 5 Spiritual Dangers of Skipping Church

By **Nathan Rose** - May 20, 2023

Considering the importance and necessity of corporate worship for the Christian, this is a very discouraging statistic. Not only is it disheartening, but it is also spiritually dangerous for those who profess Christ, but regularly end up missing church.

### **Dangers of Regularly Missing Church**

Below, I want to list some reasons and explain why missing church is a really bad idea. [*These reasons do not pertain to people who are providentially hindered. I believe there are circumstances in which it is appropriate and even necessary to miss corporate worship with your church family. Sickness, physical disablement, being out of town to take care of one's elderly parents are just a few examples.*

*This article about missing church originally appeared on [FTC.co.](#)]*

#### **1. You will miss out on God's primary design for your spiritual growth and well-being.**

The central aspect of **corporate worship** is the preaching of God's Word. The proclamation of Scriptures is God's primary means for a disciple of Jesus to grow in spiritual maturity. When a professing Christian misses church they are missing God's prescribed process for spiritual growth.

#### **2. You disobey God.**

Corporate worship is not optional for the Christian, according to the Bible. **Hebrews 10:24-25** makes this clear: "*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...*"

Author and pastor, **Greg Gilbert comments on this passage**, "At the very least, therefore, we have to say that, for every Christian, attendance at church gatherings is not optional. The author of Hebrews and therefore the Holy Spirit Himself — commands Christians to be present when the believers to whom he or she belongs gather."

At **my church**, we reflect this biblical command in our church covenant, which states: "*We commit, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to... continue meeting together regularly [and] work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines.*"

God's people ought to strive to keep God's commands. One of His commands is meeting together regularly for corporate worship.

#### **3. You make a statement to the world that God is not worthy of worship.**

What we spend our time on shows what we truly value. If you miss church in order to sleep in or to attend a sporting activity, what does this say about the worth you ascribe to God? Replacing your church's regularly scheduled **worship** time with some other activity demonstrates that God is not actually worthy of our worship; something else is. Unfortunately, this is the attitude and conduct of unbelievers, not God's people.

#### **4. You can't minister to anyone.**

Too often people think that corporate worship is only about getting their own spiritual needs met. And therefore, if they don't have any spiritual needs at that time then there is no reason for them to attend. The problem with this view of worship is that it's too individualistic and self-centered. As Christians, our lives are to be spent serving, helping and encouraging others.

Skipping church robs you of an opportunity to serve someone other than yourself. If you are gone on Sunday morning you can't offer a word of encouragement to someone who needs it; you can't welcome an unbeliever who doesn't usually come to church; you can't pray with a fellow member who is suffering; you can't encourage the other members with your voice during times of corporate singing; you can't encourage your pastor with your presence while he preaches the sermon he has labored over all week. These are just a few ways you can't serve if you are absent on Sunday morning.

#### **5. You skip out on a foretaste of heaven.**

God created us **to worship** Him. That's the primary reason you exist. This is why the church was redeemed and this is what God's people will do when Jesus returns and restores our fallen world. **Revelation 22:3** gives a picture of this: "*No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship Him.*"

In 1988, three whales became trapped under a sheet of ice near the city of Point Barrow, Alaska. In an attempt to save the whales, rescuers dug a series of breathing holes in the ice leading back to the ocean. Two of the three whales were rescued because they were able to get the oxygen they needed and were guided in the correct direction. Similarly, Sunday morning worship is a like string of breathing holes the Lord provides for His people guiding and sustaining them until they make it to their true home in heaven.



# 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!

Sunday

10:00am Blended

9:00am Family Education

4:00pm Adult Bible Study

*We're On  
The Web!*

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

*Like us on Facebook:*

*Grace Lutheran Ministries*

*(Live Streaming Sundays 10am)*

*Growing with Grace*

*Christian Preschool*

## CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2nd

Deacon's Meeting 6pm

August 6th

Gift Cards Deadline

August 8th

Council Meeting 6:30pm

August 23rd

BASD First Day of School

August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Deep Roots 5pm

Discerning the Times 6:45pm

August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Firm Foundations 3:30pm

August 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Bible Study 5pm



*The Grace Lutheran Church Newsletter is published monthly. 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: [glmoffice@agraceplace.org](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org) or leave them in the church*