

# SEPTEMBER Grace

## Remember

O God, our hope and refuge,  
in our distress we come quickly to you.  
Shock and horror of that tragic day have subsided,  
replaced now with an emptiness,  
a longing for an innocence lost.

We come remembering those who lost their lives  
in New York, Washington D. C., and Pennsylvania.

We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants  
who demonstrated the greatest love of all  
by laying down their lives for friends.  
We commit their souls to your eternal care  
and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering  
and we come in hope,  
not in ourselves, but in you.

As foundations we once thought secure have been  
shaken,  
we are reminded of the illusion of security.  
In commemorating this tragedy,  
we give you thanks for your presence  
in our time of need  
and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth,  
our guide and our guardian.

Amen.

- Rev. Jeremy Pridgen



# PASTOR'S PAUSE

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

School bells are ringing; whistles on the volleyball court and football fields are blowing; the cross-country team is pounding the roadways; band is tuning around and marching about; it is late summer and people's schedules are taking on a more orderly form. Well, where did the summer go? Spring just arrived just a couple of weeks ago, right?

When I went to college and seminary, I looked at education as a challenge, a puzzle that needed to be solved. Now I didn't see grade school and high school this way. I saw it as a nuisance. I want to encourage our young people to look at school differently, in a positive light, as a challenge that needs to be conquered. When we look at education in a more positive light, it makes school so much easier.

Through the struggles of school, we learn how to cope with life. Life is full of struggles; ups and downs, lefts and rights, U-turns and blind turns. Life is never easy and never goes as we plan. I think that this is one of the things that school is meant to teach us. Years ago, I enjoyed watching “Girl Meets World.” Cory, the dad/ teacher, instills these moral values and life situations in his classroom.

Life is a big classroom and God is our Teacher/ Savior. He takes us through those difficult times so we will mature, grow in our faith journey and rely on Him to make it through life.

Stop and look at the world around you. Notice that it is an open canvas with paint splattered here and there, all around. We are to paint our life journey. Don't fret; the Master Painter is there to help us.

I like the song, “I Never Promised You A Rose Garden.” As Christians, myself included, we think that if we “believe” in God, life should be easy, but God didn't promise us that. God did promise to walk with us through life.

Although we don't ponder this much, Jesus struggled through life as well. His mother didn't understand Him, His brothers and sisters and home town folks didn't understand Him. Actually, they said He was not in His right mind. Jesus was the only righteous and holy person who ever lived and the “church” leaders didn't understand Him.

I have to chuckle to myself; when I ask how much rain we received after a shower. Usually the person will shrug their shoulders and say, “I don't know... a lot.” Now in the Midwest farming and ranching communities, rain is measured by the 10<sup>ths</sup> and even 100<sup>ths</sup>. Go and ask a farmer in Nebraska how much rain they received and they will not hesitate to say, 30/100s or ¾ of an inch of rain. Rain is a very precious commodity in different parts of the country.

Depending on where you live, the different environmental stimuli says a lot about what you perceive as being important. There are things in our environment and social structure that people often take for granted. This realization should help us see that people are like different regions of the country; what is significant and vital for one, may not be for the other.

But there are things happening in our culture that should concern us: “Cancel Culture” and “Wokeness.” Cancel Culture is along the line of: If I don't like what you are saying, I will shout you down, trying to make you look like a fool in some way. I will plug my ears and say nay, nay, nay so I can't hear you. Wokeness or Woke Culture is that one has to accept a certain way of thinking and if that person doesn't then they are made to look foolish. All of this is against what we, as Christians, are to be about.

Along the same line they are trying to quiet pastors. When pastors are preaching and teaching about sins, this group of people (Cancel Culture and Wokeness) are calling it hate speech, wanting authorities to arrest pastors to shut them up. The Truth cannot be quieted. The Truth of God will go forth and convict people of their evil ways. God has won and will continue to win. Praise the Lord.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Bill

# NEWS



Grace Lutheran 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.

**Women's Bible Study**



The Women's Bible Study Group is beginning on September 14. We will be meeting at 10:30 AM in the church social hall. Meetings will continue on the second and fourth Thursdays. Members are not limited to members of Grace. We are focusing on the book of Daniel – Spiritual Living in a Secular World. If there are any questions, please call Vicki Sander 814-465-3137 or Laura Keesler 814-465-9388.

*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)*

**SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not published on-line

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory Of**

**Sent By**

*No one has been called home*



**AUGUST SERVICE  
SCHEDULE  
CHURCH  
COUNTERS**

Al & Amy Dexter

**ALTAR  
COMMITTEE**

Kathy Verbocy  
Wendy Wright

**READERS**

Amy Dexter

**PRAYERS**

Vicki Sander



Wednesday  
**Chapel Time**  
with GwG



**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**

**September 3rd, 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.

**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.



## **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 **SEPTEMBER 12th** 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.

# CLC NEWS

## CLC "Back to School" Update

Hey everyone! I hope you had a wonderful summer. We have some exciting things coming up!

### ***New Hours...***

Now that school is back in session, we will be back to our 4 day week! The kids are excited for it and have been begging me for 2 weeks to open for more days. Starting September 5th we will be open Monday to Thursday. (Follow the school schedule for holidays and breaks.)

### ***New Attendance...***

Our summer numbers fluctuated between 5 and 15 kids a night, and by the time August hit it was closer to 5 for several nights. But, on the first day of school, we IMMEDIATELY popped back up to 21 kids. Kids we haven't seen all summer are suddenly back every day. Our Deep Roots kids bible study has been around 20 kids for a few weeks. With some kids showing up just for the lesson!

### ***New Meals...***

Beginning in September we are also going to change our weekly dinner from pizza to a variety of home cooked options. We'll have a rotating meal schedule, so if anyone wants to be involved with cooking or preparing meals we would love the help. As an example, we will have breakfast for dinner once a month. We have done breakfast in the past and it was a huge hit.

### ***New Gift Cards....***

Donations towards food expenses are always welcome. We have participated in Growing with Grace's gift card fundraiser, and several of you have purchased Little Caesars gift cards for the CLC through GWG. Thank you so much for that! If you are planning to participate in that again, we encourage you to choose either Walmart or Tops for the gift cards now so we can purchase ingredients rather than pizza.

### ***New (Partial) Floor...***

The cross in the center of the gym floor has seen better days and is nearly completely faded. B&T Flooring will be coming soon to redo the cross for us and make it shiny and new!

### ***A NEW HIRE!***

Michaelah Colon will be starting with us on Friday, September 1st, as our Activities Assistant. We are so excited for her to join our team! She is an incredible mom who loves Jesus and has a ton of experience working with kids, teaching, and sharing her faith.

### ***Any New Volunteers?***

Finally, with the return of the bigger numbers of students, comes the need for more volunteer power. LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER! We always appreciate any time you have to give. Once a month, once a week, or even once a year.

As always, we covet your prayers and are so thankful for your spiritual involvement even if physical involvement isn't possible. God is graciously providing for us, and we will continue to praise Him for all he is doing in and through the CLC.

Love and Blessings,  
Alexandra Hood





# 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](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org)  
[www.agraceplace.org](http://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

**Bible Study 5pm**

*September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th*

**Labor Day**

*September 4th*

**Deacon's Meeting 6pm**

*September 6th*

**Deep Roots 5pm**

*September 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th*

**Discerning the Times 6:45pm**

*September 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th*

**Council Meeting 6:30pm**

*September 12th*

**Women's Bible Study 10:30am**

*September 14th, 28th*



*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*