



Pastor's Pause

Doubters Welcomed!

Over the years, I have sensed within myself, as well as others, that we view “doubt” as separate from faith. What do you think? Is there room in our faith for doubt?

Martin Luther once said “Faith is a free surrender and a joyous wager on the unseen, unknown, and untested goodness of God.”

Hmm! What an interesting phrase, “Faith is a free surrender and joyous wager...” We know of The Story of Thomas – Doubting Thomas!

Could it be that Thomas gets a bad rap? Thomas expressed his doubt, but he did so publicly and without shame. He reminds me of the father of a demon possessed boy in *Mark 9:24*. In his despair he said to Jesus, “I believe, help me to overcome my unbelief.”

I have been there, where this father was. How about you?

“I believe, help me to overcome my unbelief.” When I look at Thomas, I hear him echoing this plea. Thomas had his doubts, but he did not want to remain there. Thomas wanted to see Jesus in his woundedness.

Amazingly, Jesus did not hesitate or flinch to welcome him to examine his wounds. I love this about Jesus – whoever wants to approach Him, they will find the welcome mat out. “Doubters Welcomed!”

Thomas took his faith seriously. When the disciples were confused about Jesus’ teachings, it was Thomas who was bold enough to say, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, how can we know the way?” *John 14:5*.

Thomas is the one, that when Jesus was heading into a hostile situation, said to the other disciples, “Let us go also, that we may die with Him.” *John 11:16*. Does this sound like a man without faith to you?

Michael Novak once wrote “Doubt is not so much a dividing line that separates people into different camps as it is a rigorous edge that runs through every soul.”

The difference with Thomas is that his doubt was not a room that he wanted to remain in. How about with us? How about with those you love and care for? I believe that a church after God’s own heart is a place that has the welcome mat at its door, “Doubters Welcomed”.

Doubt can be the seed that leads to a deeper faith, such as with Thomas. It has been said “Faith is blind”. I don’t believe that. Could it be that just the opposite is true? Could it be that believing is seeing?

Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

1 Peter 1: 8-9 - “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

In Jesus,
Pastor Barry

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DIRECTORY

John and Mary Smith (Bart and Davy)

John Birthday Dec 2, 19XX

Mary Birthday Jun 1, 19XX

(don't have to include the year born - this is up to family)

Children:

Bart 8 years old Birthday Feb 11, 2016

Davy 5 years old Birthday October 20, 2018

(Don't have to include the year born - this is up to family)

(Can include current year of school, date of birth, baptism date, confirmation date.

Can include adult children)

**Family Information:**

John has been a member of Grace since he was baptized at Grace in 1970. John and Mary were married at Grace in November 1990. They are proud parents of 2 boys.

Occupation:

John – Retired in February 1997 from Dresser Rand.

Mary – Retired in August 2007 from Zippo.

(Can include past work history)

Other Family Information: John is Nancy Jones' brother. Nancy is also a member of Grace.

Hobbies: John enjoys history and has traveled extensively, visiting 32 countries. Mary enjoys computers and her dogs. Bart and Davy enjoy playing ball.

Other information: Anything you would like to include about your family. Where children are going to school/college, what they are studying, their families, grandchildren, etc.

Share a tidbit about Grace Lutheran Church: Share something about Grace in honor of Grace's 100th Anniversary. Areas you may be volunteering at Grace, past or present.

Provide phone number and email in case we need to contact you about your information. Phone # and email won't be included in directory... Email completed document to glcmail@agraceplace.org, drop off @ church office or drop off Sunday during worship.

Phone #:

Email:

Limit to front and back... If you don't have a picture, we can take a family picture at church on a Sunday. If Family doesn't have a computer, they can provide handwritten information and then can be applied to document. We can scan the picture if provided. Questions email glcmail@agraceplace.org or call church office 814-362-3244.

NAMES

First Name - _____ Birthday _____

First Name - _____ Birthday _____

CHILDREN

Name - _____ Birthday _____

Name - _____ Birthday _____

Name - _____ Birthday _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

OCCUPATION (Past or Present)

HOBBIES

OTHER INFORMATION

SHARE A TIDBIT ABOUT GRACE

Phone Number and/or email address if we need to contact you.

*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)*

**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not published
on-line.

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of

Sent By



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

April 7th, 2024

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

Questions? See Jackie Streb



**APRIL SERVICE
SCHEDULE**

**CHURCH
COUNTERS**

Jim & Stacia
Roggenbaum

ALTAR

COMMITTEE

Wendy Wright
Kathy Verbocy

READERS

Mary Paterniti

PRAYERS

Michele Evers

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
The Pavilion
200 Pleasant St.
Bradford, PA 16701

Charlotte Reinhardt
230 Rutherford Run
Bradford, PA 16701

Ray Eidson
100 St. Francis Dr.
Apt. 107

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

Rose Hager
144 Davis St., Apt 2
Bradford, PA 16701



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.

FYI

For anyone wishing to rent the Social Hall or the Community Life Center for an event, your contact person is the **Church Secretary: 362-3244.**

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting will be at 6:30pm **April 9th, 2024** in the Social Hall. Please remember that the Congregation is always welcome!

Deacon's Meeting

The next Deacon's meeting will be at 6:00pm **April 3rd, 2024** in the Social Hall.

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." The total raised for 2023 was **\$5,144.63.**



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.

The Women's Bible Study Group

We are doing a Bible Study on Daniel - "Daniel - Spiritual Living in a Secular World." We are confronted daily with a lifestyle that is radically different from what God tells us in the Bible. Daniel gives us practical and personal help in our struggles. We will be meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays April 11th and April 25th.

Please join us and bring a friend!

If there are any questions, please call Vicki Sander 814-465-3137 or Laura Keesler 814-465-9388.



We are the Church

Refrain:

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the World! Yes, we are the church together!

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. Refrain

We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. Refrain

Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning, sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning. Refrain

And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying, there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying: Refrain

At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit and told the good news through the world to all who would hear it. Refrain

Pass it on:

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in it's glowing. That's how it is with God's Love, once you've experienced it, you spread the love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it; you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend, that happiness that I've found; you can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountaintop; I want the world to know; the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.





Grace Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor
Barry J. Keurulainen

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

*We're On
The Web!*

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

April 3rd

Deacon's Meeting 6pm

April 9th

Council Meeting 6:30pm

April 11th & 25th

Women's Bible Study 10:30am

April 13th

BINGO - Lion's Club

April 20th

Food Auction



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 or leave them in the church