



Madison Coffman, daughter of David & Amy Coffman; granddaughter of Bruce & Chris Schuessler; graduated from University of Pittsburgh Bradford with a Degree in Early Level Education (PK-4). She has accepted a job with the Port Allegany School District as an assistant Pre-K Counts Teacher beginning in the fall.



Bjorn, upon his Graduation from kindergarten at the Billy And Rosemary Vassiliadis elementary school in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bjorn is the youngest grandson of Shirley Evers, and the last one to graduate kindergarten.





Anna and Zachary Schuessler, granddaughter and grandson of Bruce and Chris Schuessler, will graduate with honors from Otto-Eldred High School.

Anna has been accepted into the honors Physical Therapy Assistant program and will be a member of the Track and Field team.

Zachary has enlisted in the U.S. Army and will leave for Basic Combat Training in June. He will continue his Advanced Individualized Training as a Military Police and hopes to become a K9 handler.



Pondering Along The Way

So, do you miss winter yet? Ahh the days of summer. A time to be outside. A time to work in the yard. A time to wait for the first tomato to ripen. A time to watch God's creation blossom.

Summer will also be a time for us at Grace to dive into one of my favorite books - Colossians!

Colossians is a short letter. Just chapters containing a total of 95 verses. Short but power packed with the most beautiful portrait of Jesus. This letter is timely for the moment we live in. The world continues to diminish the importance and person of Jesus Christ. This letter lifts Him up as the center of all things in the universe! I hope you will join us for this summer sermon series. Better yet, invite a friend to join you and then go out for coffee afterwards and take some time to talk about it and enjoy a summer Sunday afternoon together.

I will keep this short as I would like to give all the space we can to two articles. The first by Keelan re: the blessing and history of our school. The second by Alexandra re: the amazing ministry of CLC and the youth and families it serves.

I will leave you with these three verses from Colossians;

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” (Colossian 1:15-17)

Pastor Barry

GROWING WITH GRACE

Growing with Grace was the passion and mission of a Grace Lutheran Church member and Masters level elementary school teacher, Leeanne Cuddy. Leeanne was pregnant with her second child, Anna when she decided that she no longer had a desire to continue teaching in the public school system and wanted a place to send her children with a faith based and student-based ideology. She began her mission in early 2013 with a group of dedicated church members who were a vital part of getting the project from idea to reality. These original GWG board members were Missy Cornelius, Roxy Vanderpoel, Lisa Boser-Miller, Lynda Krakat and numerous other church members who lent their expertise to the project.

After extensive research, monthly meetings, trial playgroups and eventually state licensing, the school was ready to open early in 2014. The school began with three employees (including Keelan Miller, the future Director of GWG), and two classrooms. Leeann began working in multiple capacities, balancing director duties and serving as the Lead Preschool and PreK teacher while Keelan served as the Lead Infant/Toddler teacher. In the early days of the program, we served a group of students largely comprised of GLC kids and teacher's kids. Within a year, we were serving students from 6 weeks old up to six years old. We grew in size and identity. Our program focused on teaching the "whole child" which included a mission to teach them to give back to the community. GWG was involved in a vast number of local missions and community efforts to make Bradford a better place to live and for our kids. We taught students to have a servant's heart, and be a positive change in the world. This mission went hand in hand with one of our community partners, the United Way.

In 2015, we grew to a size that required that we split infants from the toddlers and added a third classroom and new teachers.

We continued to grow, and again in 2016 created a space for Jr. Preschool students (2-3-year olds) as well as transforming the youth group room (room 121) for before and after school and summer care for School-Aged students (6-12 year olds). School-age students began and ended their school day at Grace, being bussed or walking to their destination with our dedicated staff. At this point in the school's history, we were fully operational with 5 classrooms and upwards of 20 employees at any given time. We utilized the CDA program at the Bradford Area High School, which trained students to be staff members and encouraged them to work for area facilities after school. Also, a vital part of our success in these days, was a vast network of college students who sought out flexible and meaningful work at GWG.

With continued efforts to grow and improve our facility, we joined the Early Learning Resource Center, Rising STARS Program. This program provided us with an Early Education coach, and a new goal using their "good, better, best" model for quality programs. We immediately strove for the "best" in each area and quickly became recognized as a quality program. We earned the KEYSTONE STAR BRIGHT STAR AWARD for the 2015/2016 school year. We grew from here, earning our Keystone Star Level 2 in 2015. Each progressive STAR level displayed our hard work and dedication to the program but also came with increased monetary rewards for staff who participated in professional development and continuing education. We received monthly tuition add-on bonuses and grant opportunities for the program through the Early Learning Resource Center program as well. This program was vital to our program's early success, but also came with a cost for employees expecting them to perform at a very high level with minimal personal gain. It was with all of the educational and professional expectations that the dedication of each staff member was tested and reflected daily in the quality of care that was provided to our students. Our STAR 3 level was earned in March 2016.

Leeann Cuddy suffered the loss of her mother and had a difficult time maintaining her commitment to the program. She eventually moved with her family to Ohio, and the church was without a school director. We were granted 6-month temporary license to operate with a college student standing in the position through the summer. The clock was ticking to find an appropriate replacement with the credentials to continue the mission of Growing with Grace Christian Preschool. The pastor at the time, Patrick Cox, persistently contacted Keelan Miller, to take on the responsibility always ending the conversation with “just pray on it”. After four or five of these such conversations, Keelan accepted the position in October of 2017. The Assistant Director, Laci Wyant, played a vital part in keeping the building running during those rocky months between Leeann and Keelan.

We were the first Early Education program in Bradford to earn the highest STAR level in 2019. Multiple full day site inspections and years of working to improve our program had paid off. The staff celebrated this momentous news during our yearly staff in-service day. The staff was broken into two groups to solve a word riddle that told them the good news. **“WE EARNED OUR 4th STAR”**. The realization hit when the first team to complete the riddle shouted it out, and screaming and celebration ensued throughout the room. We continued to be the only STAR 4 facility in Bradford until the public preschool with all of their resources met us at the top of the Lattice.

In March 2020 we were thrust into a worldwide Covid pandemic. We closed for six short weeks after being given an “essential worker” status by the state. We were allowed to return to Grace with very strict guidelines and regulations. Regulations such as social distancing our children (I don’t know if you have tried to keep 2-6-year-olds away from each other but it’s not easy), and masking ourselves and our students (also, not easy). This was a challenging time for many reasons, but our staff and families rose to the occasion and like many other trying times in our school’s history. The pandemic strengthened our resolve to continue the school as well as strengthening our bonds with the GWG families.

Managing the pandemic and keeping our doors opened afforded us multiple financial opportunities to update and upgrade our facility. We removed carpet throughout the school and replaced with tile and laminate flooring; added a bathroom; installed new sinks; added air purifiers and improved cleaning equipment. Updates were approved by the state if health/safety benefits were cited.

After a year of operating through the pandemic, Easter of 2021, the controversial masking guidance was lifted. A sense of normalcy returned to the classrooms, though staffing was an area that was never “normal” again for GWG. We struggled for years because we were unsuccessful at securing dependable and qualified staff to compliment our core group of teachers. Because we couldn’t hire competent staff, began turning perspective students/families away from our program. We were no longer growing, but shrinking. There was no lack of interest in our program, rather the appropriate number of staff to operate.

In August 2023, GWG was forced to make the difficult decision to stop care in a classroom. Administration determined that in October 2023 the School-Age classroom would close. Though devastating for families, at this time, there was a free after school program available for these students. The decision provided Grace with time to determine the next move. Without proper staffing, and no prospects for this to improve, Growing with Grace Christian Preschool Leadership Staff held an emergency meeting in December 2023. During this meeting, the future of Grace was discussed and changing the program as a whole was discussed. In the end, the team determined that instead of sacrificing on quality, or changing the program that we had worked so hard to build, we would go out with Grace. Grace’s last day of school was on May 31st, 2024.

We maintained that quality of education and care until our closure in 2024 vastly due to the fortitude and resilience of five core members who have been with the program for eight and nine years, Jean Keltz, Becky Papinchak, Liz Everetts, Gina Luzzi and Keelan Miller.

WE ARE PROUD OF THE SERVICE THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT WE HAVE HAD ON GWG’S STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS!

Sermon Series

Starting June 16th

Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen

- The Supreme Question for Life (Colossians 1:24-29)
- Stored up Hope (1:3-14)
- Magnifying Christ (1:15-23)
- The Labor of Love (1:24-27)
- Maturity Rightly Understood (1:28-2:7)
- The Thread of Gratitude 2:6-7
- Disarming Grace 2:8-15
- The Lure of Legalism 2:16-23
- The Death that Brings Growth This 3:1-10
- The Marks that Bring Community 3:9-14
- The Peace of Christ 3:15-16
- Go Joyfully to Your Work 3:17-4:1
- Devoted to Prayer 4:1-6
- Thank God for People 4:7-18

Upcoming Worship/Preaching Schedule

June 9th – Jim Roggenbaum

June 16th – Pastor Barry

June 23rd – **Seth Kunze, Pastor Barry Leading Worship**

June 30th – Pastor Barry

July 7th – Pastor Willson

July 14th – Pastor Barry

July 21st – Pastor Barry

July 28th – Pastor Barry

August 4th – Pastor Barry

August 11th – Pastor Barry

August 18th – Jim Roggenbaum

August 25th – Pastor Barry

September 1st – Pastor Willson

September 8th – Pastor Barry

September 15th – Pastor Barry

September 22nd – **Eddie Scheler, Pastor Barry Leading Worship**

September 29th – Jim Roggenbaum

October 6th – **John Schubert, Pastor Barry Leading Worship**

October 13th - ???

October 20th – Pastor Barry

October 27th – Pastor Barry

100 Years of Grace at Grace!

What an awesome and blessed celebration weekend it was, Grace Lutheran Church's 100th Anniversary, this past May 4th and 5th!! Without Pastor Emil Polzin and Paul Kautz's (Barb Kautz Steinhauer's grandfather) vision to bring a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church to Bradford, this celebration would not have happened.

The picture taken by Jordan Yaros went smoothly and will be posted in the Bradford Era with an article written by our historian, Mike Krakat. Kay Wheaton's table decorations were elegant and set the tone for the exceptional dinner Jason Campbell and his Model T team prepared; big props on the Peanut Butter Pie! Congratulations goes out to the 2 100th Anniversary Zippo lighter winners, Amy Coffman and Wendy Wright, that were drawn by 100th Team members Jim and Dana DiBlasi and Mike Krakat. The fitting Zippo lighter initiative was brought to the table by team member Dave Sheneman. The comradery that was led by Pastor Barry's 'table-talk questions' and everyone's conversation around the questions united all of us as family. We were so fortunate to have Rev. John Pingel, Eastern District LCMS President, Pastor William Willson, Grace's 12th minister from 1973-1974 and Pastor Gerry leFeber, previous interim pastor and fill-in pastor, present over the weekend as well as the beloved Hailie Cox, often referred to as the "Matriarch" of Grace Lutheran Church (Rev. Dr. J. Arthur Cox's wife). Pastor Pingel's message of the trials that Grace has overcome in the past 100 years is in turn the foundation of Grace's future endeavors to grow God's kingdom here on earth.

The overall spirit of the event was that of connection, to each other and to Christ and the Holy Spirit as our hope, strength, and front-runner into our unknown future. All of you, that were able to attend the event as well as those that were with us in spirit, are part of the Lord's plan-in-action. We cannot stop now...the Lord is holding each one of us accountable to carry this connection into the future to further strengthen not only our family here at Grace but to use the gifts He has graciously given us to reach as many of those that do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior and take them to Heaven with us! His Return is closer than ever!

*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)*

JUNE
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

JULY 7th, 2024

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

Questions? See Jackie Streb



JUNE SERVICE

SCHEDULE

CHURCH
COUNTERS

Al & Amy Dexter

ALTAR

COMMITTEE

Jackie Streb

Kristen Langianese

READERS

Laura Keesler

PRAYERS

Dana DiBlasi

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 **July 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 **July 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.

100th Anniversary Directory

Thank you to all who contributed to the Anniversary Directory. If you desire a copy, there are 3 options

- 1) email copy to you – FREE**
- 2) B&W copy for \$3.00**
- 3) Color copy for \$6.00.**

There will be a signup sheet if you desire a copy in the back of the sanctuary. You will need to pay for your copy before we print.

The Directory will not be posted on the web.

**If you have any questions, please ask:
Lynda Krakat or Tricia Coppersmith, our
secretary.**

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
100th Anniversary
Directory



1924-2024

Dear God,

In this season of vitality, we pray for the gift of good health and happiness. May our bodies be strong, our minds at peace, and our hearts filled with joy. Bless us with the energy to embrace every moment and the gratitude to cherish each day.

Amen.

Heavenly Father,

In the warmth of summer, families gather like the petals of a flower, forming a beautiful bouquet of love and togetherness. We offer our gratitude for these precious moments. May our family gatherings be filled with laughter, love, and shared memories that last a lifetime.

Amen.

Dear Lord,

In this season of growth, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the earth's bountiful blessings. We pray for abundant harvests, for fields ripe with golden grains and gardens lush with vibrant colors. May your generosity be reflected in the abundance that surrounds us.

Amen.

Heavenly Father,

Amidst the hustle and bustle of summer, we seek moments of rest and relaxation. Bless us with the ability to unwind, to find solace in the quiet moments, and to recharge our weary spirits. Grant us the gift of peaceful sleep and rejuvenation.

Amen.

CLC NEWS

“If you have free time in the summer, come on down to the CLC and hang out with cool people like Jacob Freeze” ~ Jacob Freeze, 12 years old

You heard it, come join us!

Among any updates I can give you, the strongest sentiment is always that **we wish you were here with us**

to experience the blessing that these kids are, and to build life-changing connections with them.

Backstory and reflection time:

I sat down in my office today and started to think about what I should tell you all about the CLC and our aspirations for the summer. Jacob came in, as he often does, and I asked him what he thought I should put in the newsletter about us. You read his very first thought above.

Sometimes it's hard to tell if the kids we spend time with appreciate our presence or if they appreciate what the CLC has to offer. It can be easy to get bogged down in the paperwork, and the attendance numbers. Or to focus too much on how often we have to scold, correct, suspend. Easy to get discouraged by the times when kids DON'T listen, or when they go off topic in our lessons.

But God.

God is working in the midst of everything. And my job is to keep on pressing on, be anxious for nothing, and let God move.

Finally, brothers and sisters.....think about these things.

Whatever is true. Behind the distracting comments and bunny trail conversations, you can find deep and meaningful questions during our bible lesson discussions. They're learning and growing!

Whatever is noble. Watch closely. Our older kids are so good at engaging with the younger kids and including them in games and activities.

Whatever is right. We have adults here who build intentional connections with our kids in order to disciple them in the Lord.

Whatever is pure. Our kids demonstrate fierce loyalty to their friends and family. They express a desire and expectation for things to always be fair and just.

Whatever is lovely. There is laughter and joy in our building.

Whatever is admirable. The kids receive a “blessing buck” whenever they make a stand-out decision, go out of their way to be helpful or kind, or go above and beyond in any way. We hand out SO many of these each week!

Whatever is excellent or praiseworthy. Volunteers and staff have built a culture that keeps kids coming back.

In the last 2 years we have seen attendance grow from an average of 64 kids in a month, to 197 kids in a month, to now in 2024 we have averaged **271 kids a month!**

Thank you God, for all of these beautiful facts.

CLC NEWS

**So what's next? How can we keep growing this mission?
*I'm glad you asked.***

Our Summer Vision
will be focusing on the questions **“Who am I?”** and
**“Who do I want to
become?”**

On **May** 29th we held our end of school / summer kick-off event. It was a Luau party with games, dinner, and a lesson. But the flowers and fruits were not just for fun. Our theme introduced the Galatians 5 passage on the Fruit of the Spirit, and the lesson covered an overview of what each of the aspects are.

Throughout the month of **June** we will take a deeper dive into some of the fruit characteristics mentioned in Galatians. Do we exhibit these characteristics in our lives? Are we bearing fruit? Why or why not? What do we need in order to successfully live those out? We need the Holy Spirit. A gift given to all of God's children.

And as we jump into **July** we will shift our focus to discussions about our identity in Christ, and what our lives should look like if we are truly living as children of God. Not sure if you're a child of God? We are all offered the gift of being adopted into God's family. All we have to do is accept that gift, called salvation.

All summer long we'll be working on something I like to call

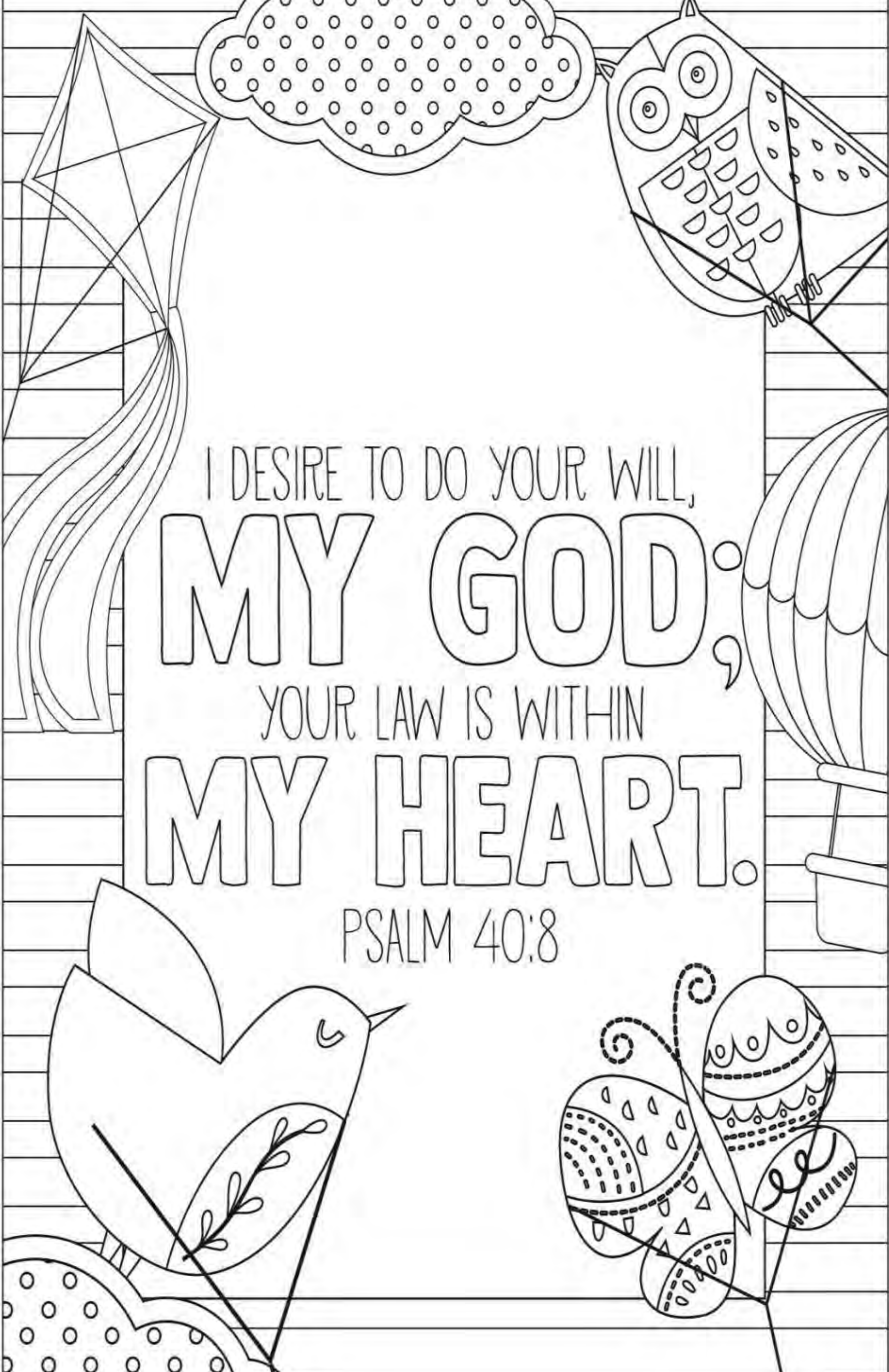
“The Mirror Project”

We will be collecting verses that point out clear truths about our identity and our goals for our behavior and character. Then in July, we'll turn these verses into physical reminders that can be posted next to the students' mirrors at home, and around all the mirrors that we have here at the CLC. So often we look at ourselves and find things that we don't like, but you will see a shift in your attitude when you shift your focus and constantly remind yourself that **YOU are a CHILD of GOD.**

If you come to the CLC in July, you will notice a new mirror mounted in the hallway. The kids and staff will have worked together to surround that mirror with positive prayerful reminders. We hope that if you take a moment to look in that mirror, you will **see yourself the way God sees you. You are a child of God, created in the image of God, designed with intentionality, known fully, and loved completely.**

We love you, and we are so grateful for your prayers and support!
“Like” us on FaceBook, to stay up to date on our events.

God Bless! ~ Alexandra and the CLC



I DESIRE TO DO YOUR WILL,
MY GOD;
YOUR LAW IS WITHIN
MY HEART.

PSALM 40:8



**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**

**glmoffice@agraceplace.org
www.agraceplace.org**

Join Us For Worship!

**Sunday
10:00am Blended**

9:00am Family Education

**CURRENT AND
UPCOMING EVENTS AT
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**July 3rd
*Deacon's Meeting 6pm***

**July 9th
*Council Meeting 6:30pm***

**June 14th
*Flag Day***

**June 16th
*Father's Day***

**June 19th
*Freedom Day***

**June 20th
*First Day of Summer***

**Summer Office Hours:
Monday: 10am-2pm
Wednesday: 10am-2pm
Friday: 10am-2pm**



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

***We're On
The Web!***
www.agraceplace.org
***Like us on Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Ministries
(Live Streaming Sundays 10am)***
***Growing with Grace
Christian Preschool***