

*Christ
the Savior
is born!*

*Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year*

Pondering Along The Way

Deep in The Flesh!

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.
(John 1:14)

As we journey through the season of Advent, on our way to the manger, I pray that we might ponder and treasure, like Mary, the mystery of Christ's birth. It is in His incarnation, that the Christ entered our world deep into the flesh.

Deep with the straw, lies the Son of God. Who can understand this? Yet even more amazing, prior to this, deep within the darkness of Mary's womb and carried by His own creation, is the Creator.

St. Augustine expressed it in this way:

Maker of the sun, He is made under the sun. . .

In the Father He remains,

From His mother He goes forth.

Creator of heaven and earth,

He was born on earth under heaven.

Unspeakably wise, He is wisely speechless;

filling the world, He lies in a manger;

Ruler of the stars, He nurses at His mother's bosom.

He is both great in the nature of God,

and small in the form of a servant,

but so that His greatness is not diminished by His smallness,

nor His smallness overwhelmed by His greatness.

Some imagine that Jesus became man so that He could visit and experience life as we know it. His birth was no visit! He entered deep into our lives, where sin had defiled the human race. Deep within, where pain and grief are the daily companions of sinners like you and me. He was well-acquainted with our sorrows and our grief. He not only witnessed them when He ate with sinners, He carried them Himself.

Deep within, Jesus lowered Himself into our flesh, entering the stronghold of Satan, binding Satan and taking us back as His own. Deep within, the lifeless body of Jesus was laid in the grave so that death would no longer hold power over us. Deep within our flesh, Jesus, "being in very nature, God" ...humbled Himself from the heights of glory so that He might be our Savior from sin and be deep with our hearts this coming glorious Christmas Day!

A blessed Advent to you and those you love,
Pastor Barry



Grace Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary Concluding Message

As the One Hundredth Anniversary year of Grace Lutheran Church approaches its conclusion, it was the oil discovery which began in 1859 and the bonanza of entrepreneurial activity which led to the riotous living in these newly established oil communities. Historically, women are the civilizers of society and because of their efforts, religion and churches became established in these communities, which included Bradford, Pennsylvania. May Grace Lutheran Church continue to grow fruitfully spreading the 'Good News,' bringing Christ to the unchurched as it enters its second one hundredth year. The 100th Anniversary Group wants to thank everyone who participated, assisted, supported, encouraged, prayed for our efforts and success, for our success is truly your success at Grace Lutheran Church, Bradford, Pennsylvania going forward. May God continue to bless Grace and its members. Lastly, each needs to examine themselves as to how they can honor their God, make their Church strong and better all humankind. To paraphrase President Kennedy, 'Ask not what your Church can do for you. Ask what you can do for the Church?'

Thank you to all who call Grace Lutheran their Church home.

CLC UPDATE

We have so much to catch up on from the last 2 months so I want to jump backwards in time to October and give a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who had a part in Trunk or Treat this year. This was by far the biggest and most successful Trunk or Treat that I have experienced since being the Director of the CLC, and from what I hear, it was also one of the best years we've had in the 15 years that we have been hosting such an event.

The CLC's TRICK for the community's TREAT was our theme for the year! The secret side to the Weird, Wacky, and Wild Animals theme was a Noah's Ark twist. Posted between every few trunks were signs guiding our trunk or treat walkers through the story of Noah's ark. The 14 signs led them to our ark photo booth, and ended with a rainbow reminding us of God's love and his promise to never destroy the whole earth by a flood again.



We had an AMAZING turnout for volunteers, trunk hosts, and attendees. As usual, we partnered with Open Arms church to put on this event. Almost all of our volunteers came from either Open Arms or Grace Lutheran, and we had twice as many volunteers as we did last year. That meant that we were able to have all of our indoor games and stations manned which was a great blessing. This year we reached out to some community organizations and churches in the area to give people a chance to participate and share Jesus in each of their own special ways. About a third of our trunk hosts came from those

organizations! Another third came on the day of without having signed up, so that at the last second we had to switch from 2 rows of vehicles to 3 rows. We are so blessed to have had the fire department and police force with us, and live animals such as Percy the Pony & Friends, 2 chickens, and a dog dressed as a seal. While we stopped counting part way through, we had already hit 1600 people by the time we were halfway through the event, and we continued to have a steady stream of people right up to the end. As always, God provided just what we needed and a little extra. He truly is the King and provider. We gave away our last of 500+ hotdogs in the last 10min of the event, and ended the night with hot chocolate to spare and 1 extra bag of candy. I always feel like God gives us extra candy just so that we can be really sure that we had what we needed for as many people as wanted to come. Thank you again to everyone who showed up to help in person, all of the people who donated candy and money, and especially for all of your prayers.

CLC UPDATE

November was just as exciting! We spent the month talking with the kids about gratitude and presented them with a gratitude journal challenge to help them focus on what things they can be thankful for in their daily lives. The winner of the challenge will be determined the first week of December, and will receive a grand prize!

During the month of November we also created a thankful tree, added cameras inside the building, painted a few walls, added new bulletin boards, revamped the blessing buck store, created CLC signs for the outside of the building, and changed up some of our weekly routines.



*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)*

**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not published
on-line.

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of

Dave Swanson

Sent By

Ted & Robyn Hardy
Jim & Sharon Long
Dave & Diane Arnett
Patricia & Phillip Soper
Ron & Boni Barker
Tom & Dianne DeLoe
Don & Shirley Keck
Donna Hathaway
David & Sara Nuzzo
Ron & Kathy Symington
Don & Kathy Hughes
Ken & Karen Rakieski
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Dave & Cheryl Sheneman
Jackie Streb
Wally & Vicki Sander
Jim & Mary Paterniti
Bruce & Chris Schuessler
BFD American Legion
Dave & Jan Swanson
Wally & Vicki Sander
Ted & Roby Hardy
Jim & Mary Paterniti
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Mike & Kathy Verbocy
Dave & Cheryl Sheneman
Jim & Dana DiBlasi
Jim & Mary Paterniti
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Wally & Vicki Sander

Sandy Reese

Sandra Scheler

Dick Patcher

Mickey Swackhamer

Jill Bennett

DECEMBER SERVICE

**SCHEDULE
CHURCH
COUNTERS**

Jim & Stacia
Roggenbaum

**ALTAR
COMMITTEE**

Dana DiBlasi
Amber Mays

READER

Amy Coffman

PRAYERS

Vicki Sander



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

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

Donna Lannen
BEH 100 St. Francis Dr.
Room #309
Bradford, PA 16701

Debbie Kelly
The Pavilion at BRMC
200 Pleasant St. RM #227
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-8624

Ray Eidson
100 St. Francis Dr.
Apt. 107
Bradford, PA 16701
814-397-0165

Betty Jean Austin
100 St. Francis Dr,
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-7715

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

January 5th, 2025

**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 814-362-3244.

FYI

For anyone wishing to rent the Social Hall or the Community Life Center for an event, your contact person is the **Brenda Alviti: 814-558-1829.**

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting will be at 6:30pm **December 10th, 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 **January 8th, 2025** 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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting on December 12th at 10:30am in the church social hall. This will be the only session in December due to Christmas. We will be back to the regular schedule of second and fourth Thursdays in January to May 2025.

Our topic is Christian Disciplines. They are individual lessons. So you can join in at any time. Feel free to invite a friend!

If you have any questions please contact:

Vicki Sander: 814-465-3137 or
Laura Keesler: 814-465-9388

Welcome our newest members to the Grace Family, Mark and Emily Miller! We are thrilled to have you both as a part of our church family!



CHRISTMAS Event

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27 Closed for Thanksgiving break	28 Closed for Thanksgiving break	29 Closed for Thanksgiving break	30
1	2 Closed for Thanksgiving break	3 Decorating for Christmas!	4 Journey to Bethlehem Part 1	5 Make it Snack with Mrs. Kathy	6	7
8	9 Popcorn stringing	10 Ornament Craft with Mrs. Karen	11 Journey to Bethlehem Part 2	12 Christmas Science Experiment	13	14
15	16 Minute to Win it Christmas Tournament	17 Cookie Decorating and Movie Night	18 Journey to Bethlehem Part 3	19 PJ day and Movie Night	20	21
22	23 Closed for Christmas break	24 Closed for Christmas break	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Closed for Christmas break	27 Closed for Christmas break	28
29	30 Closed for Christmas break	31 First Night				

CLC



Recipe Corner

Holiday Berry Meringue Wreath

Ingredients

Wreath:

8 large egg whites, at room temperature
1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 teaspoon fine salt
3 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar

Cranberry Sauce:

One 10-ounce bag fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed and drained if frozen
1/3 cup granulated sugar, plus more to taste
Juice of 1/2 lemon
4 cups fresh raspberries
1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
Leaves from 1 bunch fresh mint

Whipped Cream:

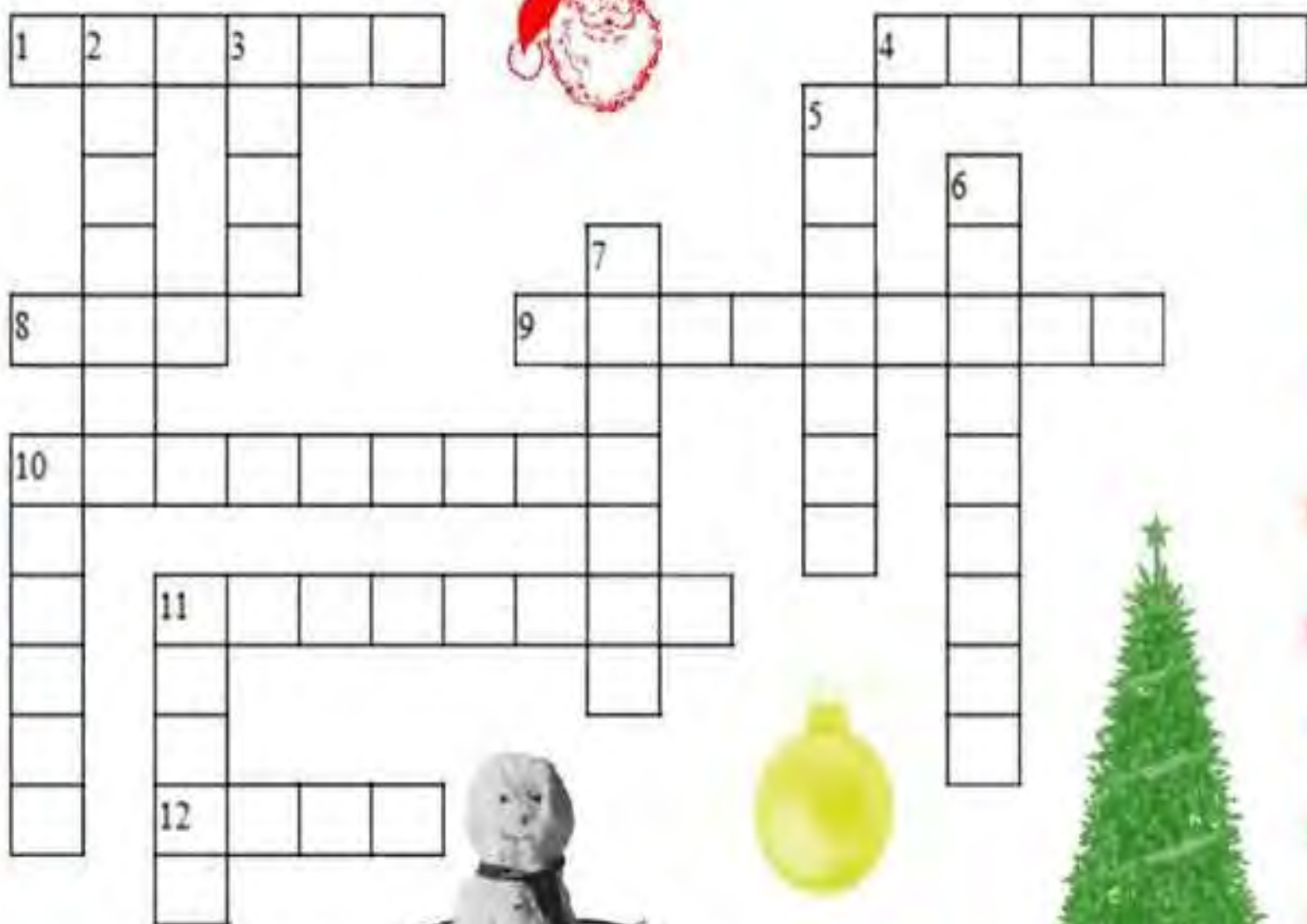
1 cup heavy cream

1. Position an oven rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat to 225 degrees F. Line the back of a baking sheet with parchment. Use a 12-inch bowl as a stencil: Flip it upside down and trace a 12-inch circle onto the parchment. Use a 9-inch bowl to trace a circle inside the 12-inch one. This is the outline of your wreath.
2. For the wreath: Combine the egg whites, cream of tartar and salt in the very clean bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment. Whisk on medium speed until foamy, about 1 minute. Increase the speed to medium-high and beat until thick and opaque, about 1 minute more. Gradually add the confectioners' sugar, 1/4 cup at a time, and beat until stiff, shiny peaks form, 13 to 15 minutes.
3. Build the wreath: Using the template on the parchment as your guide, drop dollops of meringue in a line along the inside of the 12-inch circle. Use a rubber spatula to help clean off your spoon between dollops. Following the 9-inch circle and slightly overlapping the outer ring of meringue, make an inner ring of meringue dollops to fill in the rest of the template. Flatten the meringue slightly with the back of the spoon, making sure to keep a lot of peaks. Bake the meringue until it is dry, crisp, and pearly white on the outside, about 2 hours. Remove from the oven and let it cool completely.
4. Meanwhile, make the cranberry sauce: Bring the cranberries, sugar and lemon juice to a simmer in medium saucepan and cook until the cranberries are soft and just begin to burst and the sugar is completely dissolved, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool completely. Gently fold in the raspberries and pomegranate seeds. Whip the heavy cream in a medium bowl until soft peaks form.
5. Before serving, spread the whipped cream on the meringue. Spoon over the cranberry sauce and sprinkle with mint leaves.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Santa's Crossword



ACROSS

1. Famous snowman
4. What Santa travels in
8. Makes toys for Santa
9. Used to decorate a Christmas tree
10. December 25
11. Hung by the chimney with care
12. What presents are left under

DOWN

2. Reindeer with a shiny red nose
3. Covers the ground on a white Christmas
5. Santa comes down this
6. Red and White hooked shaped candy
7. Left under the tree Christmas morning
10. Left out for Santa
11. Jolly toy maker



**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

***We're On
The Web!***

www.agraceplace.org

Like us on Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Ministries

(Live Streaming Sundays 10am)

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

December 10th

Council Meeting 5:30pm

December 12th

Women's Bible Study 10:30am

December 14th

Food Auction @ CLC

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service 7pm

December 25th

Christmas

December 31st

New Year's Eve



Office Hours:

Monday: 10am-2pm

Tuesday: 10am-2pm

Thursday: 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