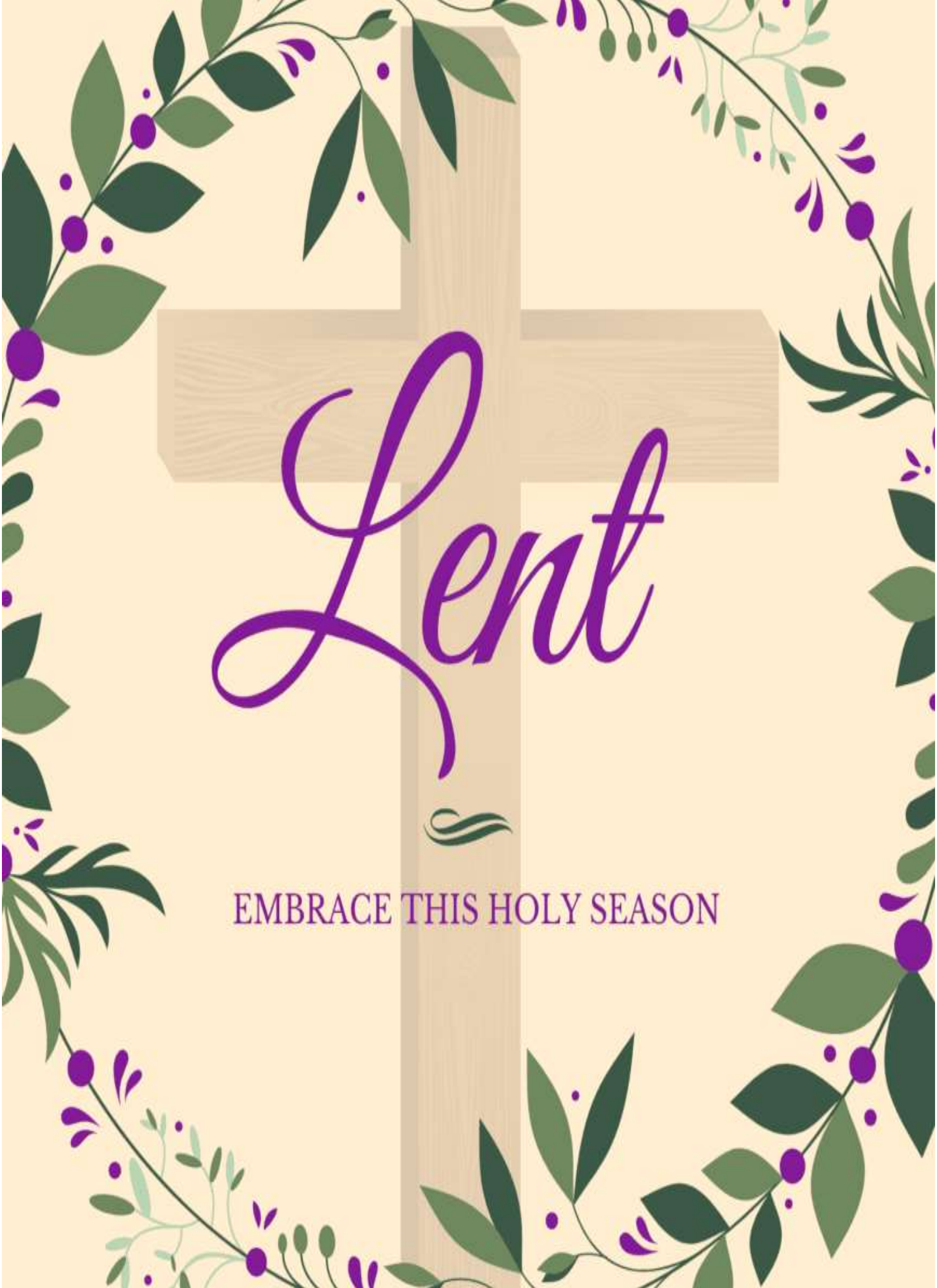


Grace Lutheran Church

# MARCH Grace

MARCH 2025  
VOL 26: ISSUE 2



Lent

EMBRACE THIS HOLY SEASON

# *Pondering Along The Way*

## The Devotion of a Disciple

“Devotion” If one were to look at your life - your calendar, your hobbies, your checkbook – all aspects of your life – what would someone believe you are devoted to in the course of a day? Now, take this to another level. What is the devotion of a disciple of Jesus? The answer to that, found in the early church, is pretty clear. Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

The Apostles Teaching – The Word  
The Fellowship – Worship with and in the Community of Faith  
The Breaking of Bread – Holy Communion  
The Prayers – A Life Rooted in Prayer

“Devotion” is a fitting word for the season of Lent. It is in these 40 days that our focus is on Jesus! His devotion to the will of the Father. His devotion to you and to me! His devotion that carries Him all the way to the Cross.

It is the practice of many to give something up during Lent as a practice of fasting. Some will give up chocolate, while others will give up social media, and the list goes on. These practices can be helpful, depending on their motive and purpose.

The point in giving something up is not punishment or pious showmanship. The point is devotion.

I would invite you to consider how we might place the whole self—body, mind, heart and soul—fully and exclusively before Jesus as his beloved. Let’s pull away from distractions and sharpen our focus on the Lord’s devotion for His Father and for you and me in His journey toward death and His victorious Resurrection for our sakes.

What might there be in these 40 days that you might not only give up, but in place of it, spend time in His Word and in prayer. What might there be, that instead of interacting with others on social media, you can seek to help a neighbor or a friend, in the name and in loving devotion to Jesus? May your journey in these 40 days deepen your devotion as His disciple.

***“Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day” 1 Kings 8:61***

I will close by leaving you with this prayer written by Matt Erickson;

*We admit to You, God, that we  
are wishy-washy in our commitment.  
As the old hymn says, “prone to wander”—  
Lord, we feel it.  
Change us from the inside out that we  
might persevere in our life of faith  
even when troubles surround and trials rise up  
may we continue to seek You and live for You.  
Unchanging God, You are our hope  
and we fix our faith-filled eyes on You,  
until the day when we see You face to face,  
we pray in Your name, Triune God,  
Amen.*

For centuries the church has observed Lent by means of the Psalms.

Seven particular Psalms, known as “The Penitential Psalms” help and guided to:

*-Recognize our Sin*

*-Offer up our Sorrow*

*-Seek God’s Forgiveness*

These Psalms not only invite us to bare our hearts, they also reveal God’s heart towards us. Beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th, I invite you to join as we consider and meditate upon the following Psalms:

*Psalm 51*

*Psalm 6*

*Psalm 32*

*Psalm 38*

*Psalm 102*

*Psalm 130*

*Psalm 143*

*In Jesus,  
Pastor Barry*

Ever wonder how to provide a memorial to Grace in memory of that special person. There’s two ways.

1. The old-fashioned way – providing donation in form of check or cash. There’s a memorial form (copies available by safe). Just fill out the form and put in an envelope (also available by safe) and write MEMORIAL on front of envelope. The envelope will be provided to the person doing memorials, currently Stacia Roggenbaum. A memorial card is sent to the family by Stacia and the funds are provided to the counters to be recorded. The counters record the memorial donation and funds are deposited.
2. Finally, if the person is a member of Grace the Financial Secretary will record it into the financial software for the donor’s annual giving statement. If you mail a memorial, indicate who the memorial is for and who you would like the memorial card sent to and of course who you are.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIALS**  
79 Mechanic Street, Bradford, PA 16701

*In Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_ *Amount:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Send memorial card to:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*From:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The modern technology way is using PayPal. On our website [agraceplace.org](http://agraceplace.org) under Give, you can make a donation/memorial. You can use PayPal or Debit or Credit Card. Under special instructions you would enter who the memorial is for and who you would like the memorial card to be sent. There are no real details under special instructions but if you fill the remainder of the data and accidentally leave this information off someone can reach out to the person making the memorial/donation. **Note: PayPal takes a small portion of the donation.** When the Treasurer/Bookkeeper receives the email that there was a donation they will print out the information from PayPal and the funds will be transferred to Grace’s bank account. The person doing memorials will be provided with information in the memorial donation and send out the memorial card to the family. If the person making the donation is a member of Grace, the donation will be recorded by the Financial Secretary into the financial software for the donor’s annual giving statement.





*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)*

**MARCH  
BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not  
published on-line

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory Of**

**Sent By**



**MARCH SERVICE**

**SCHEDULE**

**CHURCH  
COUNTERS**

Jim & Stacia  
Roggenbaum

**ALTAR  
COMMITTEE**

Karen Rakieski  
Dana DiBlasi

**READER**

Amy Dexter

**PRAYERS**

Jerry Craver



## 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  
814-598-7130

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

**Ray Eidson**  
200 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



Order with payment must be  
Submitted by 11AM on the  
FIRST Sunday of each month.

**NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER**

**April 6th, 2025**

Questions? See Jackie Streb



## Altar Flowers



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 **Brenda Alviti: 814-558-1829.**

## **Council Meeting**

Church Council meeting will be at 6:30pm **March 11th, 2025 & April 8th** in the church social hall. Please remember that the Congregation is always welcome!

## **Deacon's Meeting**

The next Deacon's meeting will be at 6:00pm **April 2nd, 2025** in the church social hall.

**RECYCLING**: Keep saving your nickel cans and nickel plastic bottles! Please leave them in the church social hall for pick-up. Thank you!



Remember: *“With God all things are possible.”*

## **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 the church secretary to print it.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet March 13th and March 27th at 10:30am in the church social hall. Our sessions are designed to strengthen our foundations in Christ, to deepen our relationship with Him and to reach out to others.

All women are welcome, so bring a friend. Individual lessons, so you can join us anytime.

Any Questions please contact:

Vicki Sander: 814-465-3137 or

Laura Keesler: 814-465-9388



***Celebrating***

***what***

***the LORD***

***hath DONE***

**UP-COMING SCHEDULE**

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>10AM SERVICE</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>5:30-5:50PM PRAYER SESSION IN CHURCH</b>	<b>6PM SERVICE</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>5:30-5:50PM PRAYER SESSION IN CHURCH</b>	<b>6PM SERVICE</b>
<b>CROSSWALK</b>	<b>April 18th</b>	<b>12pm</b>	
<b>EASTER MORNING</b>	<b>APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8:30AM EASTER BREAKFAST IN SOCIAL HALL</b>	<b>10AM SERVICE</b>



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

**Join Us For Worship!**

**Sunday  
10:00am Blended  
9:00am Family Education**

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

***[www.agraceplace.org](http://www.agraceplace.org)  
Like us on Facebook:  
Grace Lutheran Ministries  
(Live Streaming  
Sundays 10am)***

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

**March 5th  
Ash Wednesday Service 6pm**

**March 9th  
Daylight Savings Time**

**March 11th  
Council Meeting 6:30pm**

**March 13th & 27th  
Women's Bible Study 10:30am**

**March 17th  
St. Patrick's Day**

**March 20th  
First Day of Spring**

**March 22nd  
Lion's Club Food Auction @  
CLC**

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday: 10am-2pm  
Tuesday: 10am-2pm  
**Wednesday: CLOSED**  
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](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org) or leave them in the church office.***