



**Nathan Schuessler, grandson of Bruce and Chris Schuessler, graduated Summa Cum Laude from East Stroudsburg University's Honor Program with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. He has accepted a year-long teaching position in Japan.**

**Joshua Schuessler, grandson of Bruce and Chris Schuessler, graduated with Academic Honors - Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a B.S. in Elementary Education and is also certified to teach middle school English. After his December graduation, he accepted an English teaching assignment at Smethport Area School District.**



# *Pondering Along the Way*

## Shut Up!

*Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. -Romans 3:19*

It sounds so harsh. When my girls were growing up, we did not allow them to say it: *Shut up!* *It is so abrasive, so blunt!*

That is the way the Law of God is. To anyone who tries to offer excuses, to all who try to rationalize their sin before a holy God, the Law is abrupt. It's harsh, abrasive, and blunt. "Shut up!" it demands. "That every mouth may be silenced!"

In the face of the Law of God, every sinner's mouth must remain silent. Those who stand trial before God may offer no excuses. We can make no deals. Every argument is overruled before we even offer it. The Law shouts, "Shut up!"

Yet, so often we try to live as though it were the other way around, as if God owed us an explanation. When life seems to treat us unfairly, we scream out our whys. Remember God's servant, Job? He suffered much in life. As he did, he trotted out all kinds of questions, "why questions," many of them like our own. But, in the end,, he concluded, "I am unworthy – how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth" (Job 40:4). In other words, Job said, "I will shut up!"

The cross of Jesus shuts the mouth of anyone who has an excuse to offer. It shut even the mouth of Jesus. Many have puzzled over why Jesus stood silent before Pilate. He did not try to defend His innocence. In light of that sin, there was nothing to say, no deals to be cut. Just as Isaiah had said 700 years before:

*"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth."  
Isaiah 53:7*

Standing beneath the Law and the judgement of God, Jesus remained silent. There was no other way. The Word says to us "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. " 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus became sin. He became your sin. He became my sin.. He did not simply carry our sin to the cross, Jesus became that sin. This single truth is one that I find so hard to even begin to fathom. What manner of love is this? We may never understand this, but take to heart this day, how great a love, our Lord Jesus has for you and me.

Now you and I may open our mouths to declare his praise and tell of all his marvelous deeds!

A prayer to ponder in the coming days;

*Lord Jesus, you made yourself accountable for my sin. You stood under God's judgement and did not open your mouth! Your love leaves me speechless. How and where can I begin to open my mouth before others to express my thanks and love to you? Amen.*

# Sermon Series

## *Book of James Sermon Series Beginning June 1*

<b>Finding Purpose Through your Problems</b>	James 1:1-6
<b>How to be Blessed by the Bible</b>	James 1:19-27
<b>Standing in the Face of Testing and Temptation</b>	James 1:2-8
<b>Faith that Works</b>	James 2:14-27
<b>How to Tame My Tongue</b>	James 3:1-12
<b>Can we All Get Along</b>	James 4:1-10
<b>The Old Stone Church</b>	James 4:11-12
<b>How to Face Tomorrow</b>	James 4:13-17
<b>How to Be Wise with Your Wealth</b>	James 5:1-6
<b>Praying for Patience</b>	James 5:7-12

### **THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Our Bible Study is resuming on September 11th, 2025. Our topic will be "Women Of The Old Testament". Why women of the Old Testament? Each woman made a monumental choice in their lives. We also face challenging choices. These women can be examples for us. We will also learn about Biblical culture, geography and history.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays at 10:30 AM, September to May, in the church social hall. All women are invited. It is not limited to Grace church members.

These are individual lessons. This is a time of fellowship, learning and strengthening our relationship with God and our sisters in Christ. Contact Vicki Sander (814-465-3137) or Laura Keesler (814-465-9388) for further information.

We are looking forward to seeing you in September and bring a friend!

*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)*

**JULY**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not published on-line!

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory Of**

Jon Ransom  
Rose Hager

Selene Machuga

Gary Matto

**Sent By**

Jan Swanson  
Jan Swanson  
Val & Pat McDonald  
Vicki & Wally Sander  
Ted & Robyn Hardy  
Barb Steinhauer  
Jim & Mary Paterniti  
Vicki & Wally Sander  
Barb Steinhauer

**AUGUST**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not published on-line!



**JULY SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

**CHURCH COUNTERS:**

Laura Keesler & Barb Steinhauer

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:**

Mary Thompson & Amy Dexter

**READER:**

Amy Dexter

**PRAYERS:**

Jerry Craver

**AUGUST SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

**CHURCH COUNTERS:**

Jim & Mary Paterniti

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:**

Michele Evers & Gail Gallman

**READER:**

Wendy Wright

**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

**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

**Jim & Virginia Randolph**  
205 N. Onofrio Street  
Bradford, Pa 16701  
814-368-3444

## Gifts of Grace Gift Card Program



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

**NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER**

**July 6th & August 3rd, 2025 11:00AM**

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

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 **July 8th & August 12th, 2025** 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 **July 2nd & August 6th, 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.

## COMMUNITY *Life Center*

### FUN & FREE

1st -12th grade

#### Open Gym, Games & Activities Daily

- Basketball, soccer, volleyball, football, etc.
- Gaga pit and lawn space outside
- Board and card games
- Crafts
- Foosball, air hockey, ping pong

#### Free Food and Prizes

- Free Snacks
- Learn to make your own snacks and food
- Opportunities to earn prizes

#### Deep Roots Dinner

- Wednesday 5pm to 6:30pm
- 3rd through 12th grade
- Group game
- Bible lesson and discussion
- FREE dinner

#### HOURS

**Monday - Thursday**  
3:30-6:30  
Open All Year Long

📍 79 Mechanic St, Bradford, PA 16701

☎ 814-362-1236 🌱 clcbradford 📷 clcbradford 📘 CLC Grace

## SUMMER

Check our socials for weekly details and updates!

- ☀ Outdoor fun days (weather dependent)
- ☀ Theme Nights
- ☀ Family Days
- ☀ Free lemonade all summer

### MONDAY

Make-it Monday: Learn to make snacks and easy meals for yourself. We also bring in a new fruit every week for you to taste test

### TUESDAY

**\*\*NEW\*\* ARCHERY:** Limited to the first 40 applications! 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade only. Contact CLC for more information.

### WEDNESDAY

Deep Roots 5pm: Group game, free dinner, Bible, conversations, Jesus

### THURSDAY

Crafts with Karen: Supplies and guidance provided. Now during the summer!

# CLC NEWS

## CLC Summer Update

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the CLC's junk sale for the townwide yard sale day! We raised over \$1,000 to put towards everything that we do here at the CLC. \$700 of the money raised at the sale went towards purchasing new equipment, games, and projects. We replaced a lot of things that were falling apart, and added some fun new items like an arsenal of relay race and obstacle course props. The kids were most excited about the new dodgeballs, and I'm sure they and everything else will get a lot of use over the next few years.

The other big expense this year is something I have been looking forward to for the last few years. We finally have an official new CLC T-Shirt! The rest of the money from the sale went towards the purchase of these shirts, as well as some money that was donated specifically for the purpose of covering this cost. We are so close to having this project fully funded! Some of the shirts will be used for giveaways at our CLC Events, some of them will be for staff and volunteers, some will be used for kids who need a replacement shirt when they come to the CLC. We will also have the shirts available to purchase, which will act as an ongoing fundraiser. If you are interested in contributing towards this project, we are still \$179 short. You can donate one of our shirts for \$20.



As I'm writing this, I am still shocked at how much has happened over the last 2 months since I last update you about this end of the building.

- We had a Mother's Day Tea Party, with 5 kids who brought 3 adults with them. We decorated garden hats, made headbands, and used fancy dishes for our tea and cookies.
- Our End of School/Summer Kick-off party had about 8 kids, which is a small turnout, but we had a blast playing games, eating dinner, and learning about God.
- For Father's Day we had a root beer floats and mustache day, with 16 kids and 1 dad in attendance. You may think that 1 dad is a bad turnout, but this is probably the first time we have actually had a dad show up for an event like this (though we have had a couple uncles before), so we were pretty excited. Everyone had the chance to wear a fake mustache that day which was pretty hilarious. My favorite part of the day was hearing a little boy tell his dad "I am a man like you!" while proudly showing off his mustache and reaching for a hug.
- June 9th was the start of our summer program lineup. Check us out on social media or see our summer flyer for more information! We have lots happening every week, and starting the first week of July we will be working through our summer Sheep's and Shepherd Series every week for Deep Roots on Wednesdays.
- On June 17th we started our new ARCHERY PROGRAM! We are only 2 weeks in, and already our available slots are half full, and we have gotten to welcome 11 new kids to the CLC. If you know anyone 5th grade to 12th grade who would be interested in joining the archery group, have them reach out to the CLC or stop by during our regular hours to pick up an application. Like all our programs, this is a totally free opportunity!



**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**

**July 2nd & August 6th  
Deacon's Meeting 6pm**

**July 4th  
Independence Day**

**July 8th & August 12th  
Council Meeting 6:30pm**

**July 12th  
Social Hall Rented 12pm-5pm**

**August 9th  
Bradford Lion's Club  
Food Auction @ CLC**



**OFFICE SUMMER 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](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org) or leave them in the church office.***