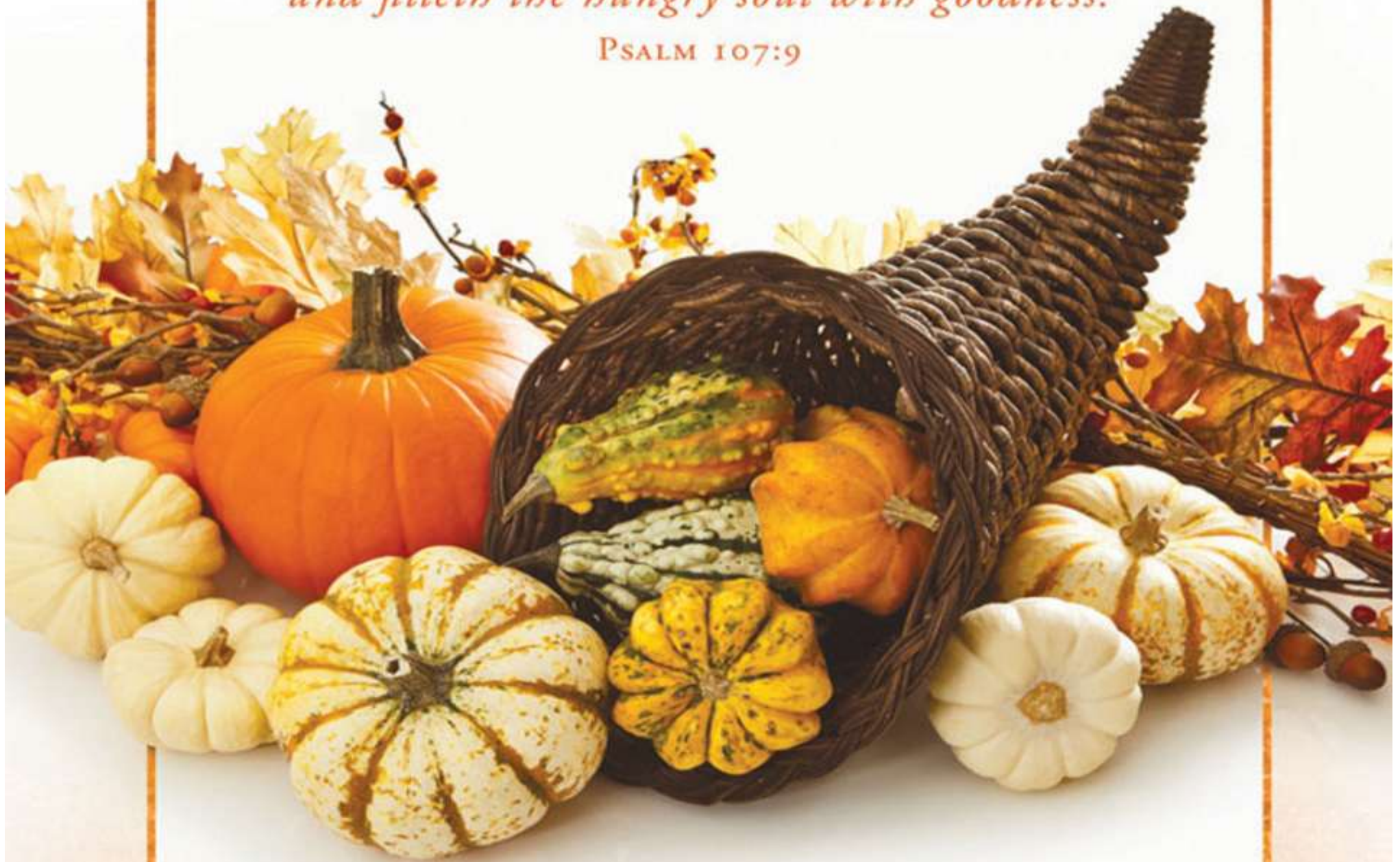


*For he satisfieth the longing soul,  
and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*

PSALM 107:9



*The harvest is in,  
the feast is prepared,  
and God calls to His children,*

*“Come Home.”*

## *Pondering Along the Way*

### **The Walls of our Prison**

As we enter October, my thoughts are drawn to Autumn and leaves and the pumpkins. Looking ahead to the end of the month, my heart is drawn to the Reformation.

Martin Luther knew all too well how sin kept him a slave. He tried everything to gain God's favor. He nearly froze himself to death as he slept, believing God would have mercy on him for his devotion. He carried out one religious act after another, only in the end to ask, "who knows whether it is so or not?" He spent hours and hours in the confessional booth to cleanse himself of his sin. Other priests would seek to avoid him because of this, with the exception of Father Staupitz. He became a trusted confessor. At one point he advised Luther that his problem would be resolved by loving God. Luther said in response;

"Is it not against all-natural reason that God out of his mere whim deserts men, hardens them, damns them, as if he is delighted in sins and in such torments of the wretched for eternity, he who is said to be of such mercy and goodness? This appears iniquitous, cruel and intolerable in God, by which very many have been offended in all ages. And who would not be? I was myself more than once driven to the very abyss of despair so that I wished I had never been created. Love God? I hated him! "(Bainton, 1978, p. 44).

Luther knew that like Adam, he was naked before God. His struggle was the same as Isaiah, "how can a man stand before a holy God?"

He found himself in a prison of four walls constructed of these questions.

**Can I be free from my sin?**

**Is there a Judgement Day?**

**Is God indifferent to my sin?**

**Must I then be damned?**

Luther felt lost and doomed. There was no way he could free himself from his sin. He knew deep in his soul, that God would not wink at his sinful life and so therefore he must be damned. He was a slave to his sin.

Then one day as Luther was preparing to teach Romans to his theological students, he came to verse 17 and read, ***“For in the Gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith....”***

*Luther said later, “I realized for the first time that my own justification depends, not on my own righteousness which will always fall short, but it rests solely and completely on the righteousness of Jesus Christ which I must hold on to by trusting faith....it was as if the gates of paradise had opened:*

Sin makes us its slave but the righteousness of Jesus himself, is yours. The door of your prison is open. The walls have been knocked down by the power of the Gospel. Can you be free from your sin? Yes, in Christ there is no condemnation. (Romans 8:1)

Is there a judgement day? Yes and in Christ you have been judged already. “Not Guilty” is the verdict through Jesus! (John 3:18) Is God indifferent to my sin? No. Sin matters to God and He shows that in punishing His Son for you. (Isaiah 53:10) Must I then be damned. No! In Jesus, you and I are forgiven and cleansed in His blood! (Romans 5:1)

You are free from sins control of you. Free from Satan’s lies. Free from the condemning voice of your past. Free is Free.

I leave you with this quote by Luther, when Satan was assaulting him; “When the devil throws our sins up to us and declares we deserve death and hell, we ought to speak thus; “I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it? Does this mean that I shall be sentenced to eternal damnation? By no means. For I know one who suffered and made a satisfaction in my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Where He is, there I shall be also.”

“Where He is, there I shall be also.” When Satan assaults you, may the truth and the confidence of this thought, fill your heart and soul with peace.

*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)*



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays not  
published on-line!

**OCTOBER SERVICE**

**SCHEDULE**

**CHURCH COUNTERS:**

Jackie Streb

Kathy Verbocy

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:**

Mary Thompson

Amy Dexter

**READER:**

Amy Dexter

**PRAYERS:**

Michele Evers

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory Of**

**Sent By**



**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. 108  
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 **11AM** on the  
**FIRST** Sunday of each month.

**NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER**

**OCTOBER 5th, 2025**

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

Questions? See Jackie Streb



### 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  
**October 14th & November 11th, 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  
**October 1st & November 5th, 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.



### 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.



## The Women's Bible Study Group

Our Bible Study will be meeting on October 9th & October 23rd, 2025 in the church social hall.

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 each month at 10:30 AM, September to May. 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) c

Laura Keesler (814-465-9388)

Come Join Our  
**BIBLE**  
STUDY



This is the *Day*  
that the Lord has made,  
let us *Rejoice*  
and be glad it in it.

Psalm 118:24





**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**

**October 14th & November 11th  
Council Meeting 6pm**

**October 5th & November 5th  
Deacon's Meeting 6pm**

**October 9th & 23rd  
Women's Bible Study 10:30am**

**October 13th  
Columbus Day**

**October 31st  
Halloween  
Trunk or Treat**



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