

Grace Lutheran Church

DECEMBER/JANUARY
Grace

DECEMBER/JANUARY
2025
Vol 26: Issue 10



W I S H I N G Y O U A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
A N D
A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

Pondering Along the Way

Good News of Great Joy!

What is your favorite Christmas Carol? The one that you love to sing out when you hear it played? One of mine would be “Joy to the World!” However, it may not always be easy to sing those songs with joyful voices. Christmas can sometimes be more messy than merry. There are some, while knowing the real reason for Christmas, are still apt to say, “I just don’t feel it this year” “I will be glad when it is over.” If you happen to be in that space, or know someone who is, consider and meditate on Luke 2:8-14.

What the Angel’s said to the Shepherds, we too need to take to heart. Their message reminds me that it is not what I bring to this season, but rather what God brings to me, wherever I am right now.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them, “Don’t be afraid!” He said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior, yes, the Messiah, the Lord, has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign, you will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger:

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others, the armies of heaven, praising God and saying;

***Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”
(Luke 2:8-14)***

Christmas is first, about Celebration! “I bring you good news of **great joy** to all people! Even if in this month, you find little reason to rejoice, take to heart the joy that is found in His birth; **God loves You** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes, would not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

God is With You - “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means God with us) (Matthew 1:23)

God is For You - God is not against you. “If God be for us, who can be against us...” (Romans 8:31)

The joy that is found in Jesus, is a joy that goes deeper when the days grow darker. Christmas is about Celebration and Christmas is about Salvation! “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, A **Savior** who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day, a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord! Christmas is about a Savior. Your Savior! When I am asked by someone, “Are you saved?” I want to respond with a question, “saved from what? Saved from whom?” Yes, by all means yes! I am saved from anxiety, my anger, my fears, my past, myself. I am saved from the assaults of the Devil. But above all else I am saved from the anger of my Father, my Father in heaven. How often have I lamented with Paul; “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” (Romans 7:24)

Do you recall what he writes next? “Thanks be to God who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (v. 25) Christmas is about Celebration that is rooted in your salvation and mine.

Celebration and Salvation are rooted in Reconciliation! The message of the Angels is “Glory to God in the highest and on earth **peace among those with whom He is pleased.**” (Luke 2:14)

Peace among those with whom He is pleased. Ahhh. Peace. He holds nothing against me.
“There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus! (Romans 8:1)

In Jesus there is peace!

We have Peace with God
(Romans 5:1)

We have the Peace of God Himself
Philippians 4:6-7

We have Peace among ourselves!
Luke 2:14

“For unto you is born this day, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!” Unto you and unto me! May the good news of Jesus who has saved us and reconciled us with His peace, fill you with joy in your journey ahead.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Barry



*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

Not published on-line.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Not published on-line.

**DECEMBER SERVICE
SCHEDULE**

CHURCH COUNTERS:

Stacia & Jim Roggenbaum

ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Wendy Wright
Karen Rakieski

READER:

Gayle Gallmann

PRAYERS:

Jerry Craver

**JANUARY SERVICE
SCHEDULE**

CHURCH COUNTERS:

ALTAR COMMITTEE:

READER:

Laura Keesler

PRAYERS:

Michele Evers

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

Dec.7th, 2025 & Jan. 4th, 2026

**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
December 9th, 2025 & January 13th, 2026
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
December 3rd, 2025 & January 7th, 2026 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

The Women's Bible Study Group will be meeting Dec 11 at 10:30 AM in the church social hall.

We will only meet once in Dec due to Christmas.

Our Old Testament woman for this session is Ruth.

What keeps us from being loyal to our family and friends and even God?

In January we will be meeting on Jan 8 and 22.

Open to all women. Bring a friend. A time to strengthen our relationship with God and our sisters in Christ.

For further information, call:

Vicki Sander (814-465-3137) or

Laura Keesler (814-465-9388)



**Looking for holiday cheer?
The Keynote Chorus would like to invite you
to our upcoming concert, Arise!**

There are 2 performances:

Saturday, December 6th, 2025 @ 3:00pm at the
Harriett Wick Chapel at UPB

Sunday, December 7th, 2025 @ 3:00pm at the
Allegany Baptist Church : 3236 Maple Ave., Allegany NY.
Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

Keynote Chorus donates a yearly scholarship
to a college student pursuing a degree in music.

Any questions please see:
Shirley Evers—814-598-7205



Grace Lutheran Church

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Barry J. Keurulainen

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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 11th
Women's Bible Study 10:30am

December 24th
Christmas Eve Service 5pm

December 25th
Christmas

December 31st
New Year's Eve

January 8th & 22nd
Women's Bible Study 10:30am

January 19th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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 office.