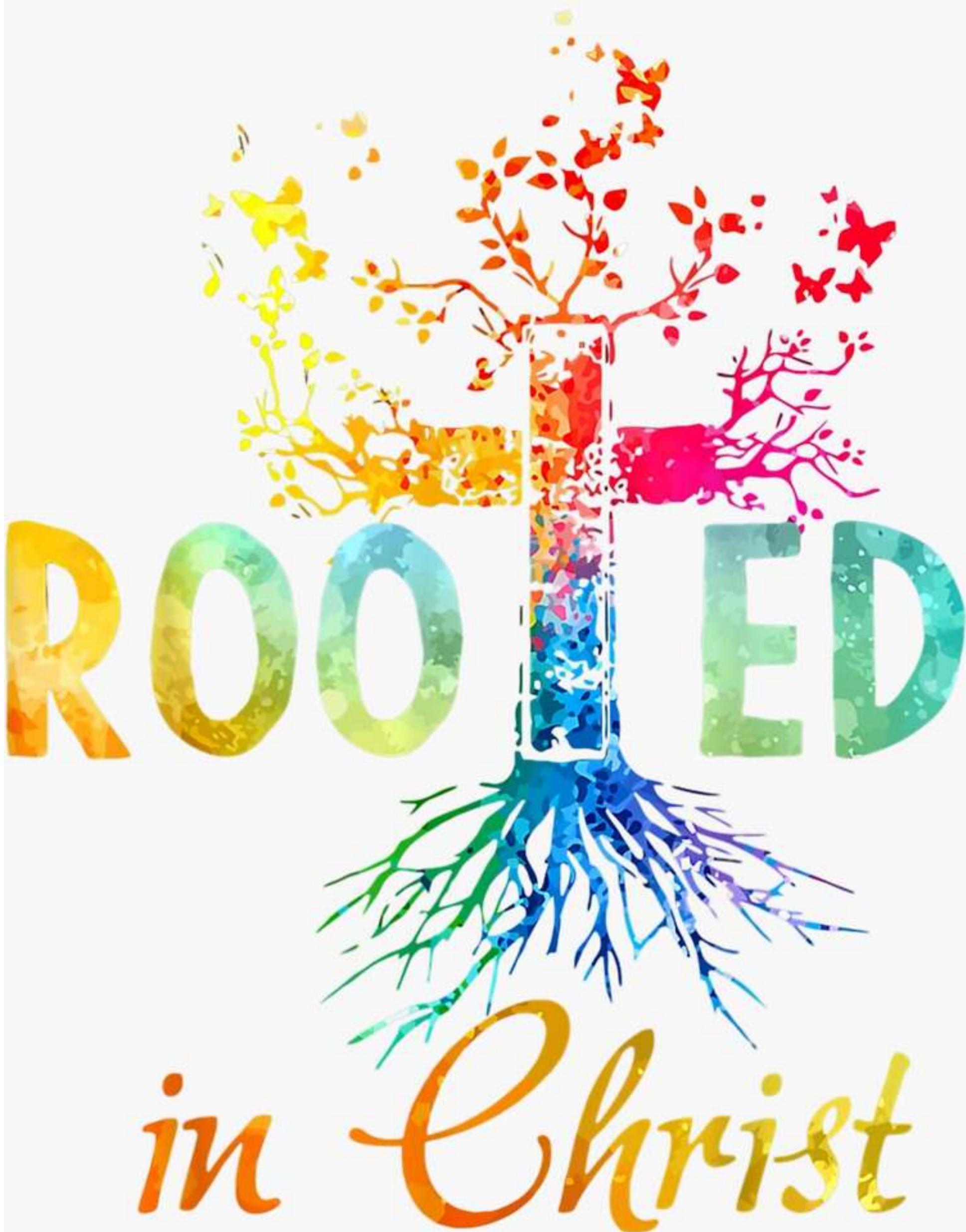


Grace Lutheran Church

MARCH Grace

MARCH 2026  
VOL 27: ISSUE 2



# *Pondering Along the Way*

## **The Joyful Sorrow of Lent**

Growing up, my family attended a Finnish American Lutheran church in New England. One of my memories of being in worship with them, was when my parents went up for communion (children remained in the pew) they came back with tears in their eyes. As a boy, I had trouble understanding what caused this. Now, years later, I have come to taste and see that the Lord's Supper is a living paradox. We shed tears as we confess our sins and ponder His suffering and torturous death. Yet, we know and believe that His death was out of deep love for His Father and for you and for me. We believe that in His dying there is the gift of forgiveness and the promise of life, eternal, everlasting life! In that moment when my mom and dad left my brother and me in the pew, only to return with tears, I was the witness of joyful sorrow.

Joyful sorrow is the essence in the season of Lent, in the hymns we sing, and the prayers we offer. Even if we choose to give up something for Lent, there is joyful sorrow!

Lent like Holy Communion is a living paradox. Lent invites us to meditate upon the Passion of our dear Jesus, whose life was a living paradox. His life embraced paradox;

We are made great by becoming small!

We triumph through defeat!

We are exalted when we humble ourselves!

We are free when we live as a servant to the will of the Father!

The season of Lent is rooted in the greatest sermon ever preached, Jesus' sermon on the Mount. A sermon about the Paradox of living in His Kingdom.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for  
they will be filled.” Matthew 5:3-6

I learned a valuable lesson sitting in that pew with my brother, as my parents returned with tears in their eyes. Life is better and richer when it is lived in Joyful Sorrow.

Pastor Barry Keurulainen

## NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD SERIES

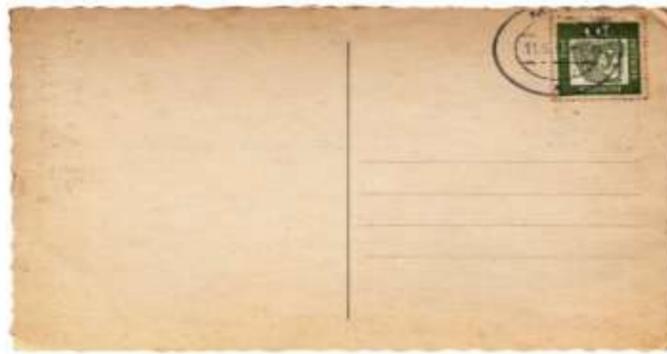
There are four books in the New Testament that are one chapter long. Short and to the point, like a Postcard!

They are often overlooked. Yet, they hold teachings that are vital to the Church and to our day to day lives. Come and study and grow with us as we explore these

### **“Postcards of the New Testament”**

beginning February 1st, 2026.

- **Philemon**
- **II John**
- **III John**
- **Jude**



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on **March 12th** and **March 26th** at 10:30am in the church social hall.

There are no insignificant people in the Bible. As we study women of the Old Testament, we are finding this out.

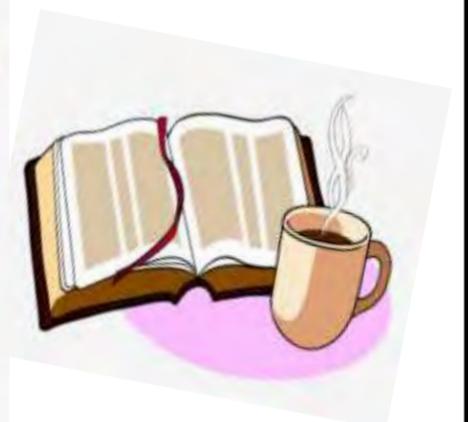
Their lives are examples to us. Remote as they may seem, their lives are amazingly relevant.

We discuss a different woman each session, so you can join us anytime!

For more information please contact:

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

Come Join Our  
**BIBLE**  
STUDY



*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)*

## MEMORIALS

### In Memory Of

Betty Gallmann

Luca Abrams

Ray Eidson

John Degolier

### Sent By

Julie Reuning-Scherer  
Wally & Vicki Sander  
Christine Belardia

Art & Barb Steinhauer  
Wally & Vicki Sander

Bruce & Chris Schuessler

Wally & Vicki Sander

### MARCH SERVICE

#### SCHEDULE

#### CHURCH COUNTERS:

Jim & Stacia Roggenbaum

#### ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Karen Rakieski

Dana DiBlasi

#### READER:

Amy Dexter

#### PRAYERS:

Jerry Craver

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays not  
published on-line



**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 #309A  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-598-7130

**Debbie Kelly**  
The Pavilion at BRMC  
200 Pleasant St. #224  
Bradford, PA 16701

**Betty Jean Austin**  
Chapel Ridge 414A  
100 St. Francis Dr.  
Bradford, PA 16701

**Marianne Feldhaus**  
2 Bushnell St., Apt. 105  
Bradford, PA 16701  
585-981-6344

**Jim & Virginia Randolph**  
Bradford Manor  
50 Langmaid Lane  
Bradford, Pa 16701  
814-368-3444

**Bob Kelly**  
138 Prospect Street  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-362-9884

**Glenn Bunce**  
2 South Ave., Apt. 307  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-363-3166

**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**

**March 1st, 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 6pm **March 10th, 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 **March 17th, 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.

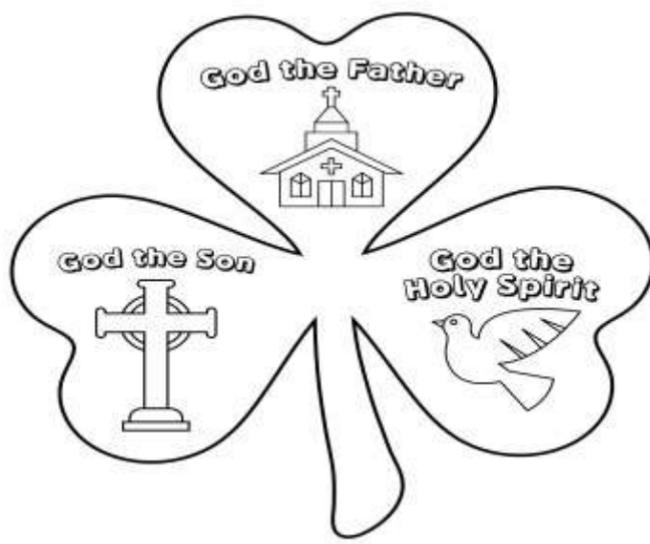


# CLC NEWS

Hello everyone!

I just wanted to give you a little update on what is going on at the CLC. Everything is running smoothly here. We have seen an influx of kids coming and joining the CLC this month. We are going to have a St. Patrick's Day party on the 17th of March. That day we are going to do a small lesson on St. Patrick and the Trinity. Also, we are going to make a snack. We have some fun lessons planned with crafts, games and snacks for each day of Holy Week. We are still looking for volunteers here at the CLC. If you are interested in volunteering, you can reach me by calling the CLC at 814-362-1236 or you can email me at [clcdirector@agraceplace.org](mailto:clcdirector@agraceplace.org).

Thank you for letting me serve,  
*Johnna Watters*  
CLC Director



## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday Service** - March 29th, 2026 at 10am

**Good Friday Service** - April 3rd, 2026 at 10am

**Crosswalk** - April 3rd, 2026 at 12pm

**Easter Sunday Breakfast** - April 5th, 2026 at 8:30am

**Easter Sunday Service** - April 5th, 2026 at 10am

HAPPY  
*Holy Week*





**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 8th  
Daylight Saving Time Begins**

**March 10th  
Council Meeting 6pm**

**March 12th & 26th  
Women's Bible Study 10:30am**

**March 17th  
Deacon's Meeting 6pm  
St. Patrick's Day**

**March 20th  
First Day of Spring**

**March 29th  
Palm Sunday**



**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***