



**Happy  
June**

**Throughout the month of June, may God lead you on the path of righteousness, helping you make choices that honor Him.**

# *Pondering Along the Way*

## **“Our Father Who Art in Heaven”**

*“Whom do I have in heaven but You! And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.”  
Psalm 73:25*

As we enter the month of June, Father’s Day is before us. It is a day that brings joy to many and for some, it is a day that is filled with mixed emotions and memories. For the child of God however, our greatest joy and privilege is found in two words that begin the prayer that Jesus gave us, “Our Father.”

The Lord’s prayer is made up of 66 words. It is a short prayer packed with great depth. Of those 66 words, only two are repeated – Heaven and Day. Why these two words? What importance do they have in this short but beautiful prayer? The Lord’s Prayer embraces in its span, the greatest things and the smallest of things. It beholds the Majesty of God and the mundane needs of humanity. It dwells on things eternal while wrestling with everyday challenges. The Lord’s Prayer can be prayed at weddings and by the bedside of one dying. Those who pray it have their heart in heaven and their feet in the day-to-day battles of life.

One of my favorite movies is “The Shawshank Redemption”. There is one scene where one of the prisoners plays a record album over a loudspeaker in the prison courtyard. The music is an opera with all of its arias. Another prisoner listens attentively and then says;  
*“I have no idea to this day what those two Italian ladies were singing about. Truth is, I don’t want to know. Some things are best left unsaid. I’d like to think they were singing about something so beautiful, it can’t be expressed in words, and makes your heart ache because of it. I tell you, those voices soared higher and farther than anybody in this gray place dares to dream. It was like some beautiful bird flapped into our drab little cage and made those walls dissolve away, and for the briefest of moments, every last man in Shawshank felt free.”*

Every last man in Shawshank felt free! They were in prison but that music lifted their hearts and souls above those prison walls.

In teaching us The Lord’s Prayer, Jesus is seeking to have us lift our eyes and hearts upward to our Father. Jesus would have us lift up our eyes and our soul beyond what we see and know here on earth. Say these words quietly to yourself in this moment. He dwells above all things. He is supreme. He is all powerful. He is our Father.

There is a quote in “The Little Prince” “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”

“Our Father” with these two words, Our Father who is in heaven invites us to see with the eyes of faith what is essential. We are too easily prone to see only what is before us and we are then filled with anxiety and despair. It is with these two words, “Our Father” that we see what is essential.

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossian 3:2-3) Our soul longs to be home with Him. Our soul echoes what was spoken in Psalm 73:25 “Whom do I have in heaven but You! And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.”

What gives us such confidence? Jesus! Only Jesus! Do you remember what Jesus said to Mary as she clung to Him on that quiet Resurrection morning?

“I am ascending to my Father and your Father!” (John 20:17) The Resurrection blesses us with Grace upon Grace, too numerous to count. But without a doubt, one of the greatest joys is that we can call Him, Our Father!

Our Father! Martin Luther says of these words, “God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father.”

Our Father! In these words there is reverence in who He is and where He dwells, but there is also refuge. The creator of the universe is our Father. The world is a perfectly safe place to be in His hands.

I will close by asking you to pause and pray. Quietly whisper, “Our Father” and then share with Him, whatever is upon your heart .....

*Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen*

## Home Prayers for Our Grace Family

This is a new and separate prayer ministry for our church. A way to strengthen our foundation in daily prayer for our Grace family and by the Grace family for others.

The focus for June is—"The Prodigals". Who are they? People we know that need God in their lives. They may be in our family, acquaintances, or the community.

Anyone who is looking for direction in their life. The prodigal son in the Bible thought he could leave his father and go on in life. It did not take him long to see how wrong he was.

Heavenly Father, I am so blessed to have You in my life. I know how much You love me. I need to reach out to others.

I am worried about \_\_\_\_\_.

I pray for awareness. That they would recognize how much You love them. To be connected to You in their struggles. Struggles I am not even aware of. They may be homeless. They may feel they are not worthy of any love. They don't see a path forward. They question their value in life.

Help me recognize their need. I pray for guidance in their life. May I be Your words and Your feet to share the Gospel to those who don't know You as the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

### The Ability To Witness (My Prayer Book CPH)

Lord, I thank you for the saving faith and for Your promise of eternal life. Make me ever grateful for these blessings and increase my willingness to serve You, especially to witness Your gracious love for all sinners. I pray You, support me with Your power as I witness to others. Too often I have missed opportunities to speak for You. Forgive me where I have failed. Help me to see opportunities for witnessing and give me the courage to speak up.

Increase my concern for lost souls and my desire to witness and strengthen me according to need. Lord, I often do not know what to say, but You know; I am often weak and afraid, but You are strong. Make Your love my love; Your words my words; and Your strength my strength. Help me to speak the right word at the right time, and with all Your children on earth help me to go forth to new victories for you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Any suggestions or questions can be directed to:  
Vicki Sander or Carolyn McCarthy.

**Keep those homebound in your prayers:**

Betty Jean Austin

Glenn Bunce

Donna Lannen

Bob Kelly

Jim Randolph

Paula Abrams

Janelle Dexter

Judy Signor

John Thompson

Marsha Denning

**PUSH-PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS OUR PRAYERS ARE BEING ANSWERED!  
GOD IS ALWAYS THERE TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS!**

**Prayer time at the church for the congregation on June 15th at 4pm.**

*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

Debbie Kelly

Dian Tancar

### Sent By

Wally & Vicki Sander  
Art & Barb Steinhauer

Art & Barb Steinhauer



### JUNE SERVICE SCHEDULE

#### CHURCH COUNTERS:

Al & Amy Dexter

#### ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Dana DiBlasi

Amber Mays

#### READER:

Laura Keesler

#### PRAYERS:

Dana DiBlasi

### JUNE 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.  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-598-7130

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

**Paula Abrams**  
85 Dorothy Lane  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-331-3241

**Janelle Dexter**  
1093 W. Washington St.  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-331-0632

**Jim Randolph**  
50 Langmaid Ln.  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-368-3444

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

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

**John Thompson**  
253 Jackson Ave.  
Bradford, PA 16701

## **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**

**June 7th , 2026**

**New participants: Tops Friendly  
Markets**



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  
**June 9th, 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  
**June 3rd, 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

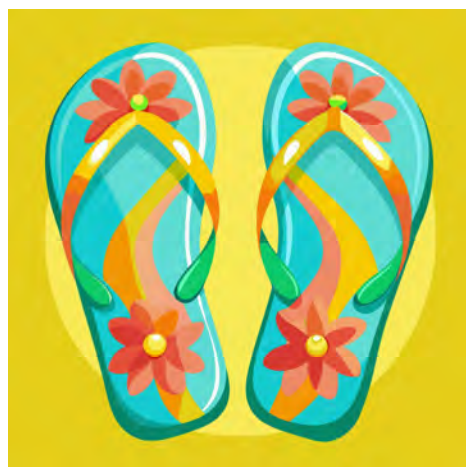
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CLC Director





**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**

**June 3rd  
Deacon's Meeting 6pm**

**June 4th  
Last Day of School**

**June 9th  
Council Meeting 6pm**

**June 15th  
Prayer at Church for  
Congregation 4pm**

**June 21st  
Father's 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](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org) or leave them in***