

Grace Lutheran Church

OCTOBER Grace

OCTOBER 2026
VOL 27: ISSUE 8



Pondering Along the Way

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

There has been a slight change here at Grace in the Interim Pastoral responsibilities. You are seeing one - I am writing this Newsletter, taking over for Pastor Barry Keurulainen. Mentioning Pastor Barry - he has done yeoman's work for the congregation at Grace. I really feel honored to be working with him. He is a true servant of God. He and I will continue to serve the people of Grace. I will be taking over the administrative duties and Pastor Barry will continue to lead the worship services on the first and third Sundays of the month, and I will lead the services for the second and fourth Sundays of the month and the fifth Sunday of the month when that occurs.

In addition to worship services, I will be attending the committee meetings - Church Council, Deacons and Call Committee. Pastor Barry and I will share hospital visitations. He will cover hospitals in Erie, Pa. and I will cover Olean General and hospitals in Buffalo.

Now let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am married to Carolynne who is a teacher's aide at Allegany-Limestone School. I have 4 children - two in Florida, one in Virginia and one in Montana and eleven grandchildren. Carolynne has three sons living in Western New York and she has six grandchildren. I was born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island. My schooling is what started me on the road to the ministry. I attended a Lutheran elementary school and continued my education at Long Island Lutheran High School.

My family moved to California in 1963. I went to Lutheran colleges and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1972. I went to graduate school in Richmond, Virginia before I entered the parish ministry. I served four congregations in Florida and Louisiana before I came to St. John's Lutheran Church in Allegany in 1997. I served St. John's for thirteen and a half years before I retired in 2011. Since I retired, I have served as Interim Pastor in five different congregations. Presently, this is my second time as serving Grace congregation.

I am still putting faces and names together and please forgive me if I forget your name. One of the reasons for switching roles here at Grace is that I live in Olean which is a lot closer to Bradford than the distance Pastor Barry has been traveling.

Under God's loving presence we will continue to work together during this interim time. Please feel free to contact me at 716-378-7877 if I can be of service to you or your family. Together we worship our Lord and Savior. Together we search for ways we can grow closer as a congregation and members of God's family. Together we search to spread the saving message of God's grace in the person of Jesus Christ. Together we pray and rely on God's Spirit as we search for a full-time pastor. And we trust God's promises as we work together here at Grace Lutheran Church.

Pastor Lafeber

Home Prayers for Our Grace Family - October

As a congregation, may we pray for peace in our body, mind and soul. How do we find peace in this world? Many things make us anxious – unrest in our country and world, the pull to move us away from You, the moral decay and the loss of the family unit, to name a few.

We long for peace in our hearts. It is more than the absence of conflict – it is the presence of God’s glorious work through Jesus Christ.

John 14:27 – “Peace I leave you; my peace I give to You. Not as the world gives do I give to you.”

Philippians 4:7 – “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understand, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Heavenly Father, true peace is only found in Jesus – a gift, freely given, received through faith and grounded in the cross, and nourished by the Word and Sacraments. It strengthens us and fills us with hope for what is to come. May it shape our lives. Amen.

Matthew 11:28 – “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Notice He doesn’t say, “Come to Me once you’ve figured it out” or “Come to Me after you’ve gotten everything under control.” He simply says, **Come**.

(LWML NOT THE WORLD’S PEACE – Sara Gifford)

Dear God, too often we lose sight of Your power, character and sovereignty.

Isaiah 55:8 – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways My way.”

We forget how big God truly is. We need to surrender. Surrender doesn’t mean we’re giving in to hopelessness or defeat. It is giving over what we can’t control to You, who not only knows more than we do, but is bigger than we are and actually has control. When we surrender, God will give us the gift of peace.

The Surrender Prayer

God, I can’t. But You can. So I will let You. Amen.

Surrender doesn’t guarantee that God will answer instantly. Nor does it mean that God will act as you want. It does mean we can trust You to be **faithful, loving and gracious, no matter the outcome.** *(DAYSPRING – Barb Roose)*

Our homebound need our prayers, note cards, phone calls or visits.

~Jackie Streb ~Judy Signor ~John Thompson ~Donna Lannen ~Glenn Bunce
~Jim Randolph ~Betty Jean Austin ~Janelle Dexter ~Bob Kelly ~Marsha Denning
~Charlotte Reinhardt

Please us this insert as a daily reminder to pray.

Coming together in prayer fosters a sense of shared mission and purpose.

We are all members of the Grace family. We can support each other with a strong foundation.

Prayer grows as a feeling of unity in these anxious times.

*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.

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of

Sent By



OCTOBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

CHURCH COUNTERS:

Kathy Verbocy

ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Mary Thompson

Amy Dexter

READER: Amy Dexter

PRAYERS: Michele Clark

PRAYER CHAIN

Praying for God's people is
A personal gift and means of
reaching out to those in our lives.

Grace is a praying
church which reaches out
to lift up God's children.

The Prayer Chain
provides reaching these needs.

If you would like to be part
of this mission at Grace,
please contact:

Jan Swanson: 814-362-3640

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

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

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

Judy Signor
28 Brookline Ct
Bradford, PA 16701
814-779-1066

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

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

Donna Lannen
BEH 100 St. Francis Dr.
Bradford, PA 16701
814-598-7130

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

Oct. 4th , 2026

**New participants: Tops Friendly
Markets**

Questions? See **Kathy Verbocy**



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
October 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
October 6th, 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 will meet October 8th & October 22nd at 10:30am in the church social hall.

Our study is "Evangelism - A Way of Life". The Bible shows us many examples of how Jesus related with people when telling them the good news of salvation. Do our lives show Christ living in us and how can we be a better communicator of the Gospel?

We welcome all women. Join us for a time of fellowship and learning how to evangelize to others.

Any questions call Vicki Sander: 814-465-3137 or
Laura Keesler: 814-465-9388





**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
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**

**OCTOBER 4TH
Pastor Appreciation Luncheon**

**OCTOBER 6TH
Deacon's Meeting 6pm**

**OCTOBER 8TH & 22ND
Women's Bible Study 10:30am**

**OCTOBER 13TH
Council Meeting 6pm**

**OCTOBER 16TH
Office Closed**

**OCTOBER 28TH
Congregation Prayer Time 4pm**

**OCTOBER 31ST
Halloween**

OFFICE 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 or leave them in