

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



736 CAYUGA DRIVE, NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-3498
(716) 283-1843

OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG

REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

December 2018 / January 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

'Tis the season, right? December is the month when we celebrate the birth of our Christ. On the one hand, this isn't a surprise. Christmas hasn't moved much in the last few hundred years. It's on December 25, where it always is.

But on the other hand, I confess that I often wonder where the last few months went! There were so many things I intended to do this spring. But then spring changed to summer, and there were things I intended to do this summer. And then summer became fall, and now that's just about done. I really need to get out and mow my lawn! Or perhaps at this point I should just leave it for the spring...

Life has a way of passing by more quickly than we expect. We have the best intentions, unfulfilled. Perhaps we intend to take the kids on a great vacation – but then the kids grow up, and we weren't ready. Or maybe we intend to visit a loved one more – but then we get the phone call that they've passed. Or could it be we intend to go to worship and Bible study more regularly – but the years go by and before we know it, we're being brought into church, all right – by six men.

The new year is a time to re-evaluate our lives and, hopefully, resolve to make better choices. Spend time with your kids/grandkids. Visit your family. And become faithful in worship and Bible study attendance.

Not next year. Not next week. Today.

Come and see Emmanuel, born for you.

Come and meet your Father, who loved you so much he gave up His only Son for you.

Come and experience the Holy Spirit, who brings a peace beyond understanding to your ever-chaotic life.

This year, as the one you've called to shepherd you, I want to lead you to green pastures and still waters. This way. Come. The gifts of God are given and infinite. Come. The Spirit of God abounds with grace and mercy. Come. Exchange your tattered clothes for a robe of Christ's righteousness. Come. Follow me to God's house, where the forgiveness flows freely and the song of the saints and angels blends with our own. Come.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price... He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:16-21)

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. See you at worship!

Pastor Bahr

IC/XC
NI/KA

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

"GOD'S PROMISES COME TRUE"



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us as we listen to what our students have to say as they discover that God always keeps His promises, including His best promise ever—to send us a Savior in His son, Jesus.

* ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL HAVE A PART IN OUR PROGRAM *

ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS, STAFF, AND CHOIR MEMBERS PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

OUR ONLY FULL REHEARSAL ON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

10 AM – NOON

(WITH A PIZZA LUNCH TO FOLLOW FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS)



Advent – Christmas Services



Wednesday, December 5th

5:30P Simple Supper

6:30P Advent Worship Service

Wednesday, December 12th

5:30P Simple Supper

6:30P Advent Worship Service

Sunday, December 16th

9:00A Devotional Service (HC)

10:30A Children's Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 19th

5:30P Simple Supper

6:30P Advent Worship Service

Monday, December 24th

5:00P Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00P Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25th

10:30A Christmas Day Service (HC)



FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

The following students have faithful attendance (3 Sundays) for the month of **October**:

Daniel Bahr, John Bahr, Michael Bahr, Ava May, Owen May, Sophia May, Stewart Smith and Zander Hoffman.

ELDER USHER ORIENTATION

Adult members (male and female) of our congregation are welcome to attend the orientation and refresher class on Saturday, December 1st at 8:00 AM. Breakfast included.

YOUTH FOR TRUTH

Acolyte training will take place on Sunday, December 9th following worship services.

CHOIR

There will be no choir practice from December 26th thru February 6th. Practice will resume on Wednesday, February 13th.

GLEANNINGS

The newsletter will now be published during even numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, etc.). If you require a mailing in-between please notify the office and we will prepare a separate mailing for you.





www.lcmsfoundation.org 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

December 2018: Gift Planning Newsletter Article

For Gift Planning Counselors and Associates

God's Invasion

Invasion is a word that recalls huge impact for all of us. The thought of 'invasion' stamps vivid images that etch experiences and memories into our lives.

My father experienced the fear and protection of a military invasion when he was not yet 20, as his US Army forces pushed across France toward the Eastern Block European countries in the second major wave against the Evil Axis that was formed to end Hitler's madness. His stories were of atrocities, suffering and grace that only a soldier knows.

If a home has ever been invaded, the owner knows how exposed and fear-filled vulnerability such emotions are that few other circumstances match. Personal invasion of sexual, physical or emotional boundaries leaves the victim violated in ways that are profoundly singular yet, sadly, far too common for many.

Financial language speaks of 'invasion' when referring to a reduction of principal assets such as with a trust or account. Invasion of corpus is typically an undesirable objective, unless it is a planned occurrence that is managed to handle unforeseen 'what if' scenarios. The LCMS Foundation was created to determine such decisions. The thing about invasions is that they can be initiated to protect and provide!

A surgeon invades the body to remedy a physical issue that requires the medical operation. When such invasion is needed, the risks are weighed against the benefits. It is determined that the benefits outweigh the risks toward the objective of healing.

Privacy and identity 'invasion' is another hot button issue for contemporary government, health management and digital worlds. Typically, these invasions present risk that creates unwanted vulnerability for all consumers and citizens.

Invasions usually are associated with circumstances that involve important and critical issues; often life or death. When God planned to invade a world that He created with His Goodness but had gone rogue. This plan of invasion required not only a sacrificial lamb without blemish, but it would fulfill the only spiritual promise of immortality ever given with an unbreakable seal.

God's invasion penetrated and conquered the thresholds of evil with good; darkness with light; death with life! Bitterness, envy, malice and hatred were covered up with compassion, love, peace and forgiveness. The Good News for all mankind is that God, in Christ, has invaded His Creation to reconcile it (and us) back to the God who made it.

God's invasion brought the Savior. His Holy Spirit continues to sustain faith daily in the Word and Sacraments of the Church. Having been so invaded by God, we also can direct and plan His love for the people and ministries we care about, that they might spread the news. For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.



Musical Happenings at Grace



Sunday, December 2nd
2:00 pm

Lewiston Choraleers

General Admission \$5.00

(Children 12 and under admitted free)



Thursday, December 6th
7:00 pm

Tim Zimmerman & The King's Brass

Donations Welcome





Grace Lutheran Church

December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Gary Krull Mark Binkley	Altar Care: Ursula Zimmerman					1 8:00A Elder Usher Orientation 2:00P Piano Recital
2 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Budget Voters Mtg 2:00P Lewiston Choraleers Concert	3 5:00P Youth Group – Christian Skate Night (Rainbow Roller Rink) 6:30P Survivors' Group	4	5 10:00A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Advent Service 7:15P Choir Practice	6 7:00P Tim Zimmerman & The King's Brass	7	8 
9 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship 11:30A Youth Group – Acolyte Training 11:30A Decorate Church	10 6:30P Survivors' Group	11 6:00P Grace Ladies Catered Christmas Party	12 FLOWER ORDERS DUE 10:00A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Advent Service 7:15P Choir Practice	13	14 6:00P Regional Youth Event (Pioneer Mayo)	15 10:00A Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
16 9:00A Devotional Service (HC) 9:00A Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:30A Christmas Pageant	17 6:30P Survivors' Group	18	19 10:00A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Advent Service 7:15P Choir Practice	20	21 5:00P Youth Group Christmas Party	22 9:00A American Red Cross Blood Drive
23 No SS/ABS 10:30A Worship	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:00P Service of Lessons & Carols 11:00P Candlelight Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas 10:30A Christmas Day Service (HC)	26 NO ABS	27	28	29

SS: Sunday School
 ABS: Adult Bible Study
 HC: Holy Communion



Rev. Benjamin G. Bahr

Office Phone: 716-283-1843

Office Administrator: Denise Konopka – office@gracenf.org
 Church Office Hours: Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; W-TH 8:30 AM-2:30 PM



Grace Lutheran Church

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12/30 9:00A ABS (No SS) 10:30A Worship (HC)	12/31 6:30P Survivors' Group	1 New Year's Day	2 10:00A ABS	3	4	5
6 9:00A Welcome Back Breakfast 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	7 6:30P Survivors Group	8 7:00P Diabetes Education Class	9 10:00A ABS	10	11	12
13 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship 11:30A Social Ministries Meeting	14 6:30P Survivors' Group	15 Submission for Feb/Mar Gleanings Due	16 10:00A ABS	17	18	19
20 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30P Survivors' Group	22	23 10:00A ABS	24	25	26
27 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship	28 6:30P Survivors' Group	29	30 10:00A ABS	31		Head Ushers: TBA Altar Care: Jane Brese Sherry Cassatt

SS: Sunday School
 ABS: Adult Bible Study
 HC: Holy Communion

Rev. Benjamin G. Bahr

Office Phone: 716-283-1843

Office Administrator: Denise Konopka – office@gracenf.org
 Church Office Hours: Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; W-TH 8:30 AM-2:30 PM



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR NEXT MEETING!

The next meeting of the Social Ministries committee will be held after worship on January 13. A light lunch will be provided. New members are always welcome! There are many in need in our world, and we have tough decisions to make—**your help would be appreciated!**

Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58

UPDATES

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE donations totaled \$899 to support St. John & Holy Ghost Lutheran Schools. The Social Ministries committee voted to add funds from their budget line to enable us to support Christian Education with a donation in the amount of \$1000 to each school. Thank you for your generous gifts. The choice of Christian education has always been an important option for parents to consider, and your donations will help more families make this choice.

OUR TRUNK OR TREAT was a great success again this year despite the rainy day for a second year in a row. But the weather didn't dampen anyone's spirits as we moved the activities indoors. Approximately 100 children as well as their parents enjoyed "trick or treating" in the chapel, donuts and drinks in the Ladies' Lounge, and games with prizes in the office hallway. The Niagara Falls Fire Department joined us with a truck in the parking lot, which was like a magnet to both kids and adults. Firefighter JP Stephenson and his assistant did a great job relating to the crowd as he handed out helmets, and fire safety information. The SPCA also joined us with an adoptable dog who loved the kids. Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful community outreach, to those who donated supplies and candy, and to Thrivent for their financial support of this mission. Thank you also to Karen Kumm for delivering the "extras" to the Magdalene Project on East Falls Street for use with their after-school program for under supervised children. Check out the Grace FACEBOOK page for pictures!

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous donations to our annual food collection and thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing seed money for this project. Your gifts will be distributed by the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry on Military Road to local families in need. Thank you to our volunteers who helped with the delivery.

TURKEYS & HAMS: We will continue to collect turkeys and hams **through December 9**. Thank you to John Loss for delivering two turkeys and two hams to the Lord's Day Dinner in Niagara Falls. Your remaining donations will be used by the Community Mission to help provide holiday meals for our neighbors who would otherwise be hungry and homeless. Thank you for your generosity!

ONGOING MINISTRIES

Card Ministry: If you are aware of someone who could be cheered with a greeting card for a special need or a special occasion, please let Trish Andrews know by speaking with her or dropping a note in her mailbox. We are glad to send a card to anyone who could benefit from this ministry.

Social Ministries

LOOKING FORWARD

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES FOR DECEMBER have been designated for Niagara Falls Meals on Wheels. This small, local organization functions with four employees being paid minimum wages, and a few dedicated volunteers. They are devoted to providing meals for homebound individuals in our city that are in need but would otherwise slip through the cracks for other meal assistance associated with government requirements. If you wish to support their work in our city, please place your special mission envelope in the offering plate before the end of December.

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES FOR JANUARY will go to the local support of Young Life. This is a national organization with local chapters that is run by Christian adult volunteers who are concerned enough about kids to listen to their stories and build friendships. They help youth see that their lives have worth, meaning, and purpose. We have member youth that participate in Young Life activities and camps. Please feel free to talk with Dick Crawford if you have questions about this organization. Their annual fundraising dinner will be held in March. Watch for future Gleanings and bulletin announcements if you are interested in attending.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: Our Giving Trees will be available in the chapel and narthex starting November 25 and continuing until the New Year. The trees will be decorated with tags listing items needed by four local agencies that will help our neighbors in need, including Heart, Love, & Soul, The Magdalene Project, Summit Life Outreach, and the Niagara Gospel Mission. If you would like to participate in this project, please take a tag from the tree, purchase the item listed, and return it unwrapped to the tree table. All donations will be delivered after Christmas to the appropriate agency.

HATS AND MITTENS: In addition to the items listed on our Giving Tree, hats, gloves, and mittens are always needed and welcomed as we head into the cold winter months ahead. Many children and homeless adults from our inner-city areas lack these items to help keep them warm.

DO YOU HAVE GENTLY USED STUFFED ANIMALS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME? Many agencies are unable to take these due to government health regulations. However, it has come to our attention that St. Pauly Textiles donation boxes are able to accept used stuffed animals. There are three donation boxes located close to Grace. One is at the First United Methodist Church at 8210 Buffalo Avenue, another is at St. James United Methodist Church at 4661 Porter Road near the high school and the third is at Niagara Falls First Assembly of God at 9750 Niagara Falls Boulevard. Consider donating at these locations the next time you are in a cleaning mood.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

Old Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids can be donated to the collection box located on the glass case. These are given to the Lion's Club, which refurbishes them and distributes them in the United States and around the world to individuals that would not otherwise be able to see or hear.

Toiletry Samples that you may receive in the mail or from hotel visits can be placed in the collection box on the glass case. These are distributed by the Magdalene Project in Niagara Falls as they work with women in our city who are living on the streets and often resort to prostitution as a means of support. The Magdalene Project works to reassure them of the love Jesus has for them and helps them to rebuild their self-esteem as they plan new paths for their lives.

BUDGET VOTER'S MEETING

Sunday,
December 2nd

(following
worship)



PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET

	Actual Jan - Oct 18	Actual Nov 17 - Oct 18	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
Church Council				
Church Office				
Copier Lease	2,029	2,435	2,435	2,435
Usage		1,463		1,500
Software	500	600	540	575
General Office Supplies	2,092	1,620	850	1,300
Postage	760	858	850	900
Secretary	7,704	9,564	10,790	12,695
Total Church Office	13,085	16,539	15,465	19,405
Missions				
Social Ministries	2,130	4,130	5,000	5,000
District & Synod (1.5%)	1,513	2,382	2,535	2,435
Total Missions	3,643	6,512	7,535	7,435
Other				
LCMS Convention Assessment	620	620	925	650
Social Security Taxes	2,119	2,531	2,577	2,763
Bank Service Charges	183	211		180
Total Other	2,922	3,362	3,502	3,413
Total Church Council	19,963	26,727	26,502	30,253

Elders				
Evangelism			200	
Evangelism Materials	291	372	375	375
Total Evangelism	291	372	575	375
Family Ministries				
Confirmation	59	59		
Adult Bible Class & Other	426	683	100	400
Cradle Roll	155	155	115	0
Spec Class Curr/Supplies	58	58	200	100
Sunday School Curriculum	681	909	750	400
Sunday school supplies	170	193	550	250
Vacation Bible School	812	812	800	1,320
Youth				800
Total Family Ministries	2,361	2,869	2,515	3,270
Pastoral Office				
Conferences		206	1,000	
Concordia Benefit Plan	5,350	6,766	6,265	6,800
Social Security Taxes	3,992	4,703	4,300	4,544
Health Care & Med Reimbursement	2,954	6,365	24,112	3,600
Housing Allowance	25,833	30,833	30,000	12,000
Mileage Reimbursement	971	1,503	1,500	1,700
Pastoral Materials	100	100	100	100
Salary	22,188	26,557	26,211	46,394
Substitute Pastors	300	300	450	600
Total Pastoral Office	61,689	77,334	93,938	75,738
Stewardship				
Contribution Envelopes	477	477	550	450
	0	0	100	0
Total Stewardship	477	0	650	450
Worship & Spiritual Growth				
Music Materials	181	343	200	200
Organist & Choir Director	9,270	10,904	10,616	10,860
Substitute organist			300	300
Worship Materials	1,126	1,469	1,600	1,600
Miscellaneous			200	200
Total Worship & Spiritual Growth	10,578	12,715	12,916	13,160
Total Elders	75,395	93,290	110,594	92,993

Trustees				
Custodian	10,729	12,618	12,286	12,569
Insurance				
Liability and Property	4,231	4,231	3,010	4,537
Workers Comp & DBL Insurance	921	1,393	1,444	1,365
Total Insurance	5,152	5,624	4,454	5,902
Maintenance				
Property & Building				
Snow Plowing	500	500	500	500
Equipment	191	191	240	240
Building	1,068	1,196	1,020	6,700
Grounds	609	609	13,500	500
Heating System	632	1,672	3,560	1,000
Total Property & Building	3,000	4,168	18,820	8,940
Total Maintenance	3,000	4,168	18,820	8,940
Utilities				
Electric	3,227	3,866	4,000	4,000
Gas	5,376	5,751	5,400	5,800
Telephone	1,103	1,324	1,332	1,332
Water & Sewer	406	535	520	525
Total Utilities	10,113	11,475	11,252	11,657
Total Trustees	28,994	33,886	46,812	39,068
Total Expense	124,352	153,903	183,908	162,314

Grace Ladies News

December:

Catered Christmas Party – Tuesday the 11th - 6pm

- Carols, Games & FUN!
- Bring a \$5 gift to exchange
- \$12/person
- Sign-up sheet on glass display case



When you're going through your holiday treasures if you find some gently used items that you no longer need, please feel free to bring them to church to store for our May 4th Flea Market. It all helps us continue our church assistance.

January:

No Meeting



Please feel free to utilize the below form to order your Christmas Flowers.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER FORM 2018

Grace Ladies has made arrangements to order Red and White Poinsettias for Christmas. Please give your order to Erika Tuscher or Ursula Zimmerman no later than December 12th. Plants may be picked up after the 10:30 Christmas Morning Service.

Red _____ @ \$8 ea: _____

White _____ @ \$8 ea: _____

All flowers will be to the glory of God and:

In memory of Loved ones ()

In gratitude for Blessings received ()

If you would like to write in a specific name:

In Memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Donor: _____

Phone #: _____



Grace Lutheran Church
736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Niagara Falls, NY
Permit No. 419



Upcoming Events

WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

EDUCATION

Sunday School:
Sundays @ 9:00A

Adult Bible Study:
Sundays @ 9:00A
Wednesdays @ 10:00A

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
December 11 @ 6:00P
Catered Christmas Party

January – No Meeting

February 26 @ 12:00P
LWML Topic by Erika
Tuscher

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
January 13 @ 11:30A

*New members are always welcome. We meet five times each year for about an hour, and a light lunch is included.

Issue
08

December
2018