

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



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

OFFICE@GRACNF.ORG

REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

December 2019/January 2020



OUR VISION

WELCOMING PEOPLE TO GROW IN HOPE, LOVE, AND CERTAINTY THROUGH GOD'S WORD OF GRACE.

At press time Pastor Bahr is still at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama finishing his Officer Training School. Pastor's article will return in our next edition of The Gleanings.

Join us for our . . .
Sunday School Christmas Pageant



December 22nd at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee fellowship to follow

They Said "Yes!"

Our Sunday School students will help us remember what happened on the first Christmas, as Mary, Joseph, the angels, shepherds, and wisemen all said "yes" to God's plan. What about you? How will you respond to the Baby Jesus this Christmas?

WORSHIP WITH US



ADVENT SERVICES CHRISTMAS SERVICES



1907

Grace Lutheran Church

2019

This year's Advent theme is *Thy Kingdom Come* and is based on the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we will pray this Advent that it may come to us also. Come join us and see how Jesus' own prayer prepares us for His arrival.

ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday Evenings

December

4th, 11th and 18th

5:30 PM – Simple Supper

bring a dish to pass

6:30 PM – Worship Service

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th

5:00 PM

Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00 PM

Candlelight Service

December 25th

10:30 AM

*Christmas Day Service
with Holy Communion*



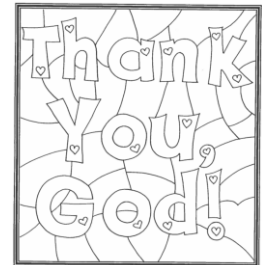
The following Sunday School students received faithful attendance during the months of October (O) and November (N). To be faithful, students may miss one Sunday per month.

Toddlin to Jesus:	Michael Bahr (O/N)	Zander Hoffman (O)	Thomas Majka (O/N)
	Tyler Markel (O/N)	Elias Parmer (O)	
Bible Diggers:	Daniel Bahr (O/N)	Mariah Majka (O/N)	Audrey Markel (O/N)
	Abram Smith (O)		
Youth for Truth:	John Bahr (O/N)	Dillon Deskovic (O/N)	Amber Hermanson (O)
	Alexis Majka (O/N)	Marissa Majka (N)	Autumn Norton (O/N)
	Stewart Smith (O/N)		



REFORMATION THANK YOU – Our Sunday School led worship this year on Reformation Sunday (10/27/19). We learned quite a bit about Martin Luther and the Reformation and were very happy to share with Grace congregation. Thank you Amy Folmsbee for writing and directing and all Sunday School staff and students for your participation.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING MAILING – Our Sunday School Students sent a special mailing to 20 of our “SPECIAL” members. Those 85 or older, or considered to be homebound due to health concerns, received a Thanksgiving card, Thanksgiving coloring sheet (as shown on this page) which was signed by students and staff, and a picture of our Sunday School taken on Reformation Sunday. We thank God for ALL members of our church family!!!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – Check cover page of Gleanings for full information.

*** CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL ***

Saturday, December 21st - 10 AM to 12 noon
(Students report at 10AM, Adult Choir report at 10:30 AM)

We really count on everyone to be at this practice.

Following practice there will be a free lunch for all participants.

Again, we thank **MRS. GLADYS BENINGO** (and her niece Kathy Majka) for providing this lunch thru her THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS.





NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Ministries committee will be held after worship on January 12th. Consider joining as we discuss the opportunities for 2020.

*** New members are always welcome. ***

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES . . .

TURKEYS & HAMS: We will continue to collect turkeys and hams until December 15. We will deliver your gifts to the Lord's Day Dinner and the Community Mission as they prepare to serve the homeless in Niagara Falls on Christmas Day. If you need help carrying to our downstairs freezer, please ask an usher for assistance.

ADVENT GIVING TREES: As we enter Advent and head toward the Christmas season, we will be accepting gifts to help several local agencies serving our community, including the Magdalene Project, the Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission, Summit Life Resources, and Heart, Love, and Soul. You will find tags attached to our trees in the narthex and chapel. If you wish to participate in this mission project, please remove a tag (or as many as you would like), purchase the item(s) requested, and return it to the table unwrapped. We will continue to accept donations until January 5. Thank you for your generosity toward our neighbors in need.

"Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." Luke 10: 36-37.

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. Many children and homeless adults from our inner city areas lack these items to help keep them warm.

GENTLY USED PURSES are still being accepted in our donation center. Robin Stephenson has been delivering them to the Magdalene Project along with toiletries to go in the purses. They are much appreciated gifts to the ladies that the Magdalene Project serves.

UPDATES . . .

RECENTLY RECEIVED THANK YOU: Alice Moll has been busy using your donations of 5 x 7 frames to make beautiful wall hangings from our leftover Sunday morning bulletins. We recently received a "thank you" from Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission which said in part, "They are so encouraging and the guys love them....Sometimes the walls in our building look pretty empty, so these pictures allow the guys to decorate their area. This helps to make it look much more like home." Thank you to Alice and to all who have given frames. You will find a box in the donation center off the chapel if you have 5 x 7 frames you wish to donate.

TRUNK OR TREAT UPDATE: Thank you to all who participated in Trunk or Treat this year, and to all who donated supplies and candy. We had approximately 120 children (and their families) participating on a beautiful fall day. They enjoyed trick or treating, games, prizes, give-aways, and snacks, all for free. We also gave away over 15 Bibles and answered several questions related to what the Bible is all about. Many "thank you's" were heard from children and parents alike. We also want to extend our thanks to the NFFD for joining us with a truck and free helmets for the kids—and a very "kid friendly" firefighter! A great time was had by all! Check out the Grace Facebook page and the parking lot entrance for pictures.

Social Ministries (continued)

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES . . .

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES were designated to support Lutheran School education at St. John and Holy Ghost Schools. We received \$1014 in donations from our members. With additional funds from the Social Ministries budget line, we were able to support their work with a \$1100 check to EACH school. Thank you for your generosity toward our September/October mission. Watch for November mission envelope totals, which will be reported in the next Gleanings.

DECEMBER SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES are designated for Samaritan Counseling, a local Christian counseling agency working with all ages and all types of needs. Your donations will help Samaritan provide free or reduced fee counseling to those who cannot afford to pay their full fee. If you have questions about Samaritan, please feel free to speak with Pastor Brese who has worked for many years as a counselor with them, or Trish Andrews who frequently refers clients to Samaritan through her work as a nurse practitioner. Both would be glad to tell you more about their experiences with Samaritan and the great work they do.

JANUARY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support Young Life, an international youth organization with local groups whose purpose is to bring teens to the knowledge of our loving Savior. Young Life's annual fundraising dinner is scheduled for March 26. Donations in January will allow us to submit our gifts early enough to be included in the list of supporters at the dinner. We will also reserve a table for the dinner in March, so if you are interested in attending, watch for further details as it gets closer



DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

There is a group of women at Grace who, for several years, have been faithfully knitting and crocheting lap robes and prayer shawls for patients at Hospice and St. Mary's Hospital. They have donated over 200 handmade robes and shawls so far, and they continue to work! If you would like to donate your talents, please contact Jane Hughes (731-4597) for details. These ladies would also love to receive your help in the form of GIFT CARDS from JoAnn Fabrics or Hobby Lobby so they can continue to purchase yarn. If you feel moved to help but don't have the time or this particular talent, a gift card would be a great way to become involved!



Grace Lutheran Church

December 2019

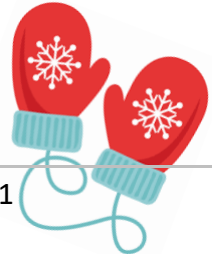

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ADVENT BEGINS 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	2 6:30P Survivors' Group	3 6:00P Confirmation Class	4 10:00A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Advent Service 7:15P Choir Practice	5 6:00P Elders Meeting	6	7 2:00P Piano Recital
8 FLOWER ORDERS DUE 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship 11:30A Voters' Budget Mtg 11:30A Decorate Church	9 6:30P Survivors' Group	10 No Confirmation Class 6:00P Grace Ladies Christmas Party	11 10:00A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Advent Service 7:15P Choir Practice	12	13 <u>CHRISTMAS PARTY</u> 6:00P Pre-Teen (till 10:00P) 6:00P Youth for Truth Lock-in (Begins)	14 REHEARSAL 9:00A Youth for Truth Lock-in (Ends) 9:00A American Red Cross Blood Drive (till 1:00P)
15 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC) Last Day to Donate Turkeys & Hams	16 6:30P Survivors' Group	17 6:00P Confirmation Class	18 10:00A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Advent Service 7:15P Choir Practice	19	20	21 10:00A Sunday School Practice 10:30A Adult Choir Practice Pizza Lunch for ALL
22 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship – Christmas Pageant 11:30A Christmas Caroling	23 6:30P Survivors' Group	24 ADVENT ENDS 5:00P Service of Lessons & Carols 11:00P Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS 10:30A Christmas Day Service (HC)	26	27	28
29 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	30 6:30P Survivors' Group	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE No Confirmation Class			Head Ushers: Mark Andrews Neil Stenzel	Altar Care: Ursula Zimmerman

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



Grace Lutheran Church

January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: TBA	Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt Jane Brese		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020	2	3	4 
5 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC) – First Communion	6 6:30P Survivors' Group	7 6:00P Confirmation Class	8 10:00A ABS	9	10	11
12 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship 11:30 A Social Ministries Mtg	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14 6:00P Confirmation Class	15 10:00A ABS	16	17 Submission for Feb/Mar Gleanings Due	18
19 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 6:30P Survivors' Group	21 6:00P Confirmation Class	22 10:00A ABS	23 	24	25
26 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28 6:00P Confirmation Class	29 10:00A ABS	30	31 *Choir practice resumes Wed., Feb. 19 th	*No Grace Ladies Mtg. this month 

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

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

YOUTH *Fellowship*



Pre-Teen Youth – Grades 4-6

"Our preteen group, called the Night Lights, have fun and learn about Jesus. Our Bible verse is John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." So, if you're a preteen, and want to learn more about Jesus and have fun, you should join the Night Lights."

By Autumn Norton

*The name *Night Lights*, and the verse were chosen by our preteens (grades 4-6) at their last meeting.



Youth for Truth – Grades 7-12

We had nine youth attend the *Jr. & Sr. High Fall Retreat* held at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. Our youth was accompanied by one Young Adult college student who served as Jr. Youth leader in training and four adult chaperones. The theme of the weekend came from Matthew 10:27: "Proclaim the Lord from the housetops."

The weather was cold but the fellowship and the weekend activities with peers and fellow Christian youth was heart-warming. Everyone had fun and we served the camp by picking up tree debris from the recent storm.



Upcoming Youth Events

Friday, December 13th

Secret Santa / Christmas Party

Grades 4-6 – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Grades 7-12 – 6:00 PM – 9:00 AM (12/14)

Sunday, December 15th

Youth for Truth meeting will not be held

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - 2020 BUDGET

The Church Council has developed and approved the 2020 budget presented here. It projects spending to be \$167,838 for the year, an increase of \$4,747 or 2.9% more than the 2019 budget.

Our actual receipts for 2019 through November 17th are \$126,497, up \$10,153 for 8.7% from 2018.

Our spending through November 17th is \$136,008 up \$2,220 or 1.7% from 2018.

Our deficit for 2019 stands at \$9,511, compared to \$17,385 for 2018.

Please prayerfully consider this budget and your stewardship for the rest of 2019 and into 2020. There will be a voters' meeting on December 8th after worship to discuss and approve a 2020 budget.

	Proposed 2020 Budget	Actual 2019 Budget		Proposed 2020 Budget	Actual 2019 Budget
Church Council			Elders		
Church Office			Evangelism		
Copier Lease	2,435	2,435	Evangelism Materials	400	375
Copier Usage	1,500	1,500	Total Evangelism	400	375
Software	600	575	Family Ministries		
General Office Supplies	1,300	1,300	Confirmation	300	
Postage	780	900	Adult Bible Class & Other	100	400
Secretary	12,692	12,695	Spec Class Curr/Supplies	100	100
Total Church Office	19,307	19,405	Sunday School Curriculum	500	400
Missions			Sunday school supplies	250	250
Social Ministries	5,200	5,000	Youth	300	
District & Synod	2,480	2,435	Vacation Bible School	1,320	1,320
Total Missions	7,680	7,435	Total Family Ministries	2,870	2,470
Other			Pastoral Office		
LCMS Convention Assessment	650	650	Conferences	200	
Social Security Taxes	2,853	2,822	Concordia Benefit Plan	6,900	6,588
Bank Service Charges	180	180	Social Security Taxes	4,527	4,544
Total Other	3,683	3,652	Health Care & Med Reimbursement	4,200	3,600
Total Church Council	30,670	30,492	Housing Allowance	12,000	12,000
Trustees			Mileage Reimbursement	1,500	1,700
Custodian	13,192	12,971	Pastoral Materials	200	100
Insurance & Security			Salary	47,183	46,394
Liability and Property	4,900	4,537	Substitute Pastors	600	600
Workers Comp & DBL Insurance	1,100	1,365	Total Pastoral Office	77,310	75,526
Total Insurance & Security	6,000	5,902	Stewardship		
Maintenance			Contribution Envelopes	450	450
Organ & Piano	150		Total Stewardship	450	450
Property & Building			Worship & Spiritual Growth		
Snow Plowing	700	500	Music Materials	200	200
Equipment	300	240	Organist & Choir Director	11,408	11,218
Building	8,640	6,700	Substitute Organist	300	300
Grounds		500	Worship Materials	1,600	1,600
Heating System	1,500	1,000	Miscellaneous	200	200
Total Property & Building	11,140	8,940	Total Worship & Spiritual Growth	13,708	13,518
Total Maintenance	11,290	8,940	Total Elders	94,738	93,139
Utilities					
Electric	3,756	4,000	Total Spending	167,838	163,101
Gas	6,096	5,800			
Telephone	1,560	1,332			
Water & Sewer	536	525			
Total Utilities	11,948	11,657			
Total Trustees	42,430	39,470			

VOTERS' BUDGET MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Grace's

BULLETIN BOARD



For the past few years, I have been collecting Box Tops for Education to support St. John's Lutheran School in North Tonawanda. This program allows schools to obtain Arts, Athletic and Academic supplies.

In the near future, the program is changing, whereas there will not be a need to clip the box tops from packaging, instead consumers can simply scan their receipts to gain credit for the schools they wish to support.

More information and instructions can be found at www.bboxtops4education.com.

In the meantime, I will collect your box tops, until the end of this year, they can be placed in my mailbox here at church.

Grace has several students that attend St. John's and this is a great way to support them.

Thank you, Kathy Majka



Grace Ladies Catered Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 10th 6:00 PM

\$15 per person

Bring a \$5 gift to exchange

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 the Grace Ladies May 16th Flea Market. Donated items can be placed in the Ladies Lounge.



Christmas Caroling to Shut Ins

Sunday, December 22nd 12:00 PM

Join us to help spread holiday cheer to those who are unable to attend church.



Following worship we will gather in the Ladies Lounge to collect our song books, break off into groups and get our list of destinations. We try to get to as many nursing homes and shut ins as we can.



Decorate the Church

Sunday, December 8th 11:30 AM

Following worship service, volunteers are needed to help decorate the church. Help is needed to put up and decorate Grace's trees, arrange the nativity figures and hang banners. With enough hands the transformation should take less than an hour to complete and the result is **BEATUFIUL!**



Women's Retreat

Friday, May 1st – Sunday, May 3rd

Reserve this weekend as a women's retreat is in the works at Camp Pioneer. Estimated cost per person will be \$80.

POINSETTIA SALE

thru December 8th

Grace Ladies has made arrangements to order Red Poinsettias for Christmas. Please give your order to Erika Tuscher or Ursula Zimmerman no later than December 8th. Plants may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Service.

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Red: _____ @\$8.00 each = \$ _____



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: _____



Please feel free to utilize the above form to order your Christmas flowers.



Grace Lutheran Church
736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-3498

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Upcoming Events

WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

*Holy Communion on the
first, third and fifth Sundays

*Advent/Christmas Services
see page 2 for details

EDUCATION

Sunday School:
Sundays @ 9:00A

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

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
December 10 @ 6:00P
Catered Christmas Party

January – No Meeting

February 25 @ 6:30P
Sort Thru Files
Mites Collected

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
January 12 @ 11:30A
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour, and a light lunch is
included.

**Issue
14**

**Dec 2019/
Jan 2020**

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