

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



736 CAYUGA DRIVE, NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-3498

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OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG

REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

June/July 2019



OUR VISION

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

Members, friends, and family of Grace,

In this issue of The Gleanings, I'd like to let you know about two events coming up for our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, the national church body of which Grace and I are members. The first event, held from July 11-15, is the LCMS Youth Gathering; and the second, from July 20-25, is the 67th Convention of the LCMS. Both are triennial events (occur every three years).

THE LCMS YOUTH GATHERING – www.lcmsgathering.com

In Minneapolis this July, about 25,000 youth age 14-19 – plus leaders, volunteers, and staff – will continue a tradition begun in 1980 of youth from around our entire church body gathering together for a week of fun, worship, fellowship, service, study, entertainment, exhibitors, growing in faith, and an all-around good time. These young people will hear and experience the love of Jesus in a personal way, while simultaneously being strengthened by the realization that they are not alone in their faith. For youth who are used to groups of perhaps less than ten, hearing 25,000 voices their age singing praises to God and celebrating Communion together is indescribably inspiring.

I've been selected as a "Community Life Builder" – 200 volunteer adults who staff the event, also known as the "Yellow Shirts" due to their distinctive T-shirts. I'm one of three CLBs from the Eastern District, and this will be the second Gathering I've attended (and the first as a staff member).

THE LCMS CONVENTION – www.lcms.org/convention

The 67th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, **JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN**, will be held in Tampa, FL July 20-25. The Convention, made up of one pastoral delegate and one lay delegate from each Circuit of our Synod, is our primary decision-making body – kind of like a national Voters' Assembly. The LCMS is an advisory body and does not have direct control over our congregation, yet the Convention sets the parameters under which we agree to walk together. Key decisions this year will likely include the relationship of laity and clergy (especially regarding the service of Deacons), the authority of the Synod President, and much more.

Last year, I was elected by our circuit as an alternate (substitute) delegate. Since then, our circuit's elected voting delegate has resigned from the clergy roster. As next in line, I will therefore be representing our Niagara West congregations in Tampa. Please keep both the Convention and the Youth Gathering in your prayers, as well as my safe travel (and sanity!) for each event.

God's blessings now and always to you & your families!

**JOY:FULLY
LUTHERAN**
1 THESS 5:16-18

REJOICE / PRAY / GIVE THANKS

Pastor Bahr

IC/XC
NI/KA





PRE-TEEN MINISTRY

Grade 3-5 met on Saturday, May 18th for the kick-off event of the new pre-teen ministry. There was plenty of laughter and energy as the young youths played, learned and ate together.

This event's topic was Beginnings (Part 1): Genesis 1-2. The youth played a game of teamwork as they raced the clock: one partner blindfolded, trying to locate papers (with the days of creation on them) based on their partner's verbal directions. They then had to put the days in order! It was a challenge, but they got a better time on the second round!

Not your normal study on creation, the youth talked about other creation myths: the Big Bang, Greek mythology, and others. How does the account of the Bible compare? Who is right? They were also introduced to the "God Can" where they can submit anonymous questions about any topic!

We are all looking forward to this month's introduction meeting: "He Knows My Name" Friday, June 7th from 7-9 PM.



Friday, June 7th
7-9 PM

Bring a friend and a snack or drink to share.
(Grades 3-5)

He Knows my Name

Name the group!

- Games
- Bible Study

Parent meeting at 8:40.

LET'S DO
LUNCH

Pastor Bahr would like to know you, your family and your hopes for our congregation's journey together. The idea is to have Pastor join you for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Cards designating your meal preference, date and time can be found at church on the glass display case.

JUNE would be a great time to schedule a date!

Grace Members Serve at the Magdalene Project

With the assistance of a \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team Grant, six of our Grace members along with one other served lunch on Saturday, April 6th, 2019 at the Magdalene Project in Niagara Falls, New York.

The funds enabled our group to purchase, prepare, and serve a healthy and delicious meal to more than fifty men, women, and children. Each of us had different tasks ranging from making sloppy joe, a fresh tossed salad, fresh fruit salad, two homemade cakes, and a large punch bowl filled with Hawaiian punch, 7UP, ice cream, sherbet, and pineapple. In addition, we had green beans, tortilla and potato chips, and candy treats that filled out our menu for all who attended. Our efforts certainly personified the team concept here.

We as a group had the opportunity to interact with the lunch recipients who thoroughly enjoyed our efforts. Many told us "Thank You" and quite a few came back for seconds along with some taking home a box lunch.

Each table had a nice Alice-Moll-made 5 x 7 picture frame featuring one of our church bulletins. Some of the diners liked them so much they asked if they could have them and we said sure.

This was a time for Grace members to share their time and talents and to feel the joy that their efforts provided to individuals who look for others for their daily food needs. To help someone in need knowing at this time you have made a difference is doing God's commandment of "Love Thy Neighbor".



Grace members will be serving lunch the first Saturday of each month at the Magdalene Project from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. How about **YOU** signing-up to be there? There is a sign-up sheet on the glass case in the fellowship hall. You will find this to be a heart-warming life experience that you will treasure doing and won't soon forget!

By: John Loss

*Magdalene Project is located at
301-317 19th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303*





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

See page 3 to learn more about the Magdalene Project! Feel free to contact John Loss with questions.

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES . . .

APRIL SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES: Donations to April Special Mission envelopes for Orphan Grain Train were matched by our Social Ministries budget and by Thrivent, enabling us to send a check in the amount of \$1200 to Orphan Grain Train's work in Nebraska as they continue to aid in the recovery from severe wind damage and massive flooding associated with the March winter hurricane. Thank you for your generosity toward our neighbors in need.

UPCOMING SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES: June mission envelopes will benefit Camp Pioneer as they share the love of God during their busy summer camping season. July envelopes are designated for LCMS Disaster Response, enabling our church to continue to respond to the many disasters that have occurred around our country in recent months.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES . . .

SUMMIT BABY BOTTLE BANK FUNDRAISER: Baby bottle banks will continue to be available in the chapel and narthex until Father's Day (6/16) for those who would like to support Summit's annual fundraiser. We are also accepting donations of diapers (size 1, 2, or 3), and baby toiletries. Summit is located on Pine Avenue near the City Market, and works with teens and young women experiencing unplanned and crisis pregnancy situations, offering counseling, parenting, and childcare classes. They maintain a boutique of necessary baby items. Shopping in the boutique is done with tokens earned each time a client attends a counseling or class session. If you have questions about Summit, feel free to speak with Alice Moll.

SUMMER MISSION PROJECT: Beginning in July and continuing until Rally Day on September 8th, we will have tables available in the chapel and narthex to accept donations of school supplies, socks, and underwear. All gifts donated will be distributed to inner city school children in Niagara Falls by the administrators, school nurses, and teachers. Partnering directly with the schools allows us to ensure that your gifts are placed directly into the hands of the children that are most in need. Jane Brese delivers our donations each year, and would be happy to discuss their needs with you if you have questions.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT: While we continue to be thankful for individual donations of school supplies, this year we will also have school supply lists from Harry Abate Elementary School as soon as they are available for those who might wish to adopt a "virtual student". If you would like to participate in this way, you can pick up a supply list from the donation tables for your preferred grade, purchase everything on the list, and bring the items back to the table in a paper bag (or book bag) with the supply list attached to the outside. These bags will be delivered to Harry Abate in September and the teachers will distribute them as appropriate.

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY—There is a box available for you to drop off laser toner cartridges and inkjet cartridges from your home and work computer printers for recycling. We are helping the environment as well as earning cash back for certain items. Just drop your cartridge in the box, and we'll do the rest. If you have questions, please contact Virginia Markel.

"SUNDAY SCHOOL DONATIONS: Please check with superintendents Jane Schulz or Wendy Coleman before leaving donations of any type in the Sunday School office or on the table by the downstairs kitchen. While we appreciate your generous intentions, please understand that items that we cannot use make extra work for our volunteers as we try to maintain an orderly, accessible storage system for our teachers. Thank you for your understanding and support."

Social Ministries (continued)

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES . . .

“CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS”: We are now accepting old cell phones for recycling with this organization. All styles of working and broken phones are accepted along with chargers if available. “Cell Phones for Soldiers” sends newer models to deployed soldiers. Older or broken models are recycled by them for cash to provide minutes. You may remove the SIM card or use the “factory reset” option to erase all personal information prior to donating your phone if desired. However, “Cell Phones for Soldiers” follows Department of Defense standards for wiping personal information from phones they receive. Virginia Markel is the contact person for this project.

5 x 7 FRAMES NEEDED: Our extra bulletins are being framed and used by the Magdalene Project and Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission as inspirational gifts to their clients. This is an ongoing project that requires 5 x 7 frames. If you have gently used frames of this size to donate, they can be left in the donation center at any time. Alice Moll will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this mission.

OLD EYEGLASSES AND HEARING AIDS can be donated to the collection box located in the donation center. 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. Ross Folmsbee is the contact person if you have questions.

NEW OPPORTUNITY: We are beginning a new project for the women served by the local agencies we partner with, such as the Magdalene Project. We will be donating gently used purses containing items such as travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste/brushes, deodorant, combs, feminine hygiene products, etc. To make this project a success, we need donations of gently used purses. We also need donations of toiletry samples you may receive in the mail or during hotel visits, or that can be found in the travel section of department stores. There will be a donation box available.

OTHER SOCIAL MINISTRIES NEWS

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 members or friends who could benefit from this ministry.

PENNY WAR UPDATE: With the support of the congregation, relatives, and friends, our annual Sunday School Penny War was a success again this year, with final donations totaling \$1760.16 for FogQuest. Thank you for your help and generosity!

Each year our Penny War allows us the opportunity to teach our Sunday School students about missions. And each year we discuss what it means to be a soldier in God’s Army, as we read in Ephesians 6 about putting on the armor of God: “Put on the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil’s evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world...So stand ready with righteousness as your breastplate...faith as a shield...accept salvation as a helmet...the word of God as the sword.”



Audrey Markel was our volunteer soldier for God's Army during our lesson about putting on the Armor of God.



Grace Lutheran Church

June 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Bruce Moll Dick Crawford	Altar Care: Alice Moll Luann Pyska					1
2 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Second Year Confirmation Student Mtg 11:30A Voters Mtg (Positions)	3 6:30P Survivors' Group	4 7:00P Diabetes Education Class	5 10:00A ABS – Last Class	6	7 7:00P "He Knows My Name" – Pre-Teen Event *Games* *Bible Study*	8
9 PENTECOST 9:00A SS & ABS 10:30A Worship – Confirmation & SS Sings 11:30A Congregational Picnic	10 6:30P Survivors' Group	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:30A Worship (HC)	17 6:30P Survivors' Group	18	19	20	21 	22
23 10:30A Worship	24 6:30P Survivors' Group	25 12:00P Grace Ladies Field Trip 12:00P Polls Open-Local Primary Election (till 9P)	26	27	28	29 9:00A American Red Cross Blood Drive (till 1:00P) 

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



Grace Lutheran Church

July 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6/30 10:30A Worship (HC)	1 6:30P Survivors' Group	2	3	4 	5	6
7 10:30A Worship (HC)	8 6:30P Survivors' Group	9	10	11 	12	13
14 10:30A Worship	15 6:30P Survivors' Group Submission for Aug/Sep Gleanings Due	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30A Worship (no Communion)	22 6:30P Survivors' Group	23 24 <u>67th LCMS National Convention</u> Tampa • July 20-25, 2019		25	26	27
28 10:30A Worship (HC) (Communion)	29 6:00P VBS	30 6:00P VBS 	31 6:00P VBS		Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel Randy Broeker	Altar Care: Jane Brese

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

Monday, July 29th – Friday, August 2nd

Grace Lutheran



CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who had Faithful Attendance during the months of March (M) and April (A). To be Faithful in attendance, you may miss one Sunday each month.

Daniel Bahr - M, A	John Bahr - M, A	Michael Bahr - M, A
Dillon Deskovic - M, A	Alyvia Dixon - A	Julia Dixon - A
Alexis Majka - M, A	Mariah Majka - M, A	Abigail Markel - M
Audrey Markel - M, A	Emily Markel - A	Tyler Markel - M, A
Ava May - M	Owen May - M	Sofia May - M
Dominique Mena - M	Abram Smith - M, A	Stewart Smith - M, A
Delaney Zimmerman - M, A	Louis Zimmerman - M & A	

SUPERINTENDENTS: Wendy Coleman & Jane Schulz
(with assistance from Tracy Gilmore & Michele Stenzel)

TEACHERS: Lacey Bahr, Sherry Reed Cassett, Wendy Coleman, Jennifer Maines,
Kathy Majka, Virginia Markel, Jane Schulz

MUSIC: Amy Folmsbee & Maye Smith

MISSIONS & CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Amy Folmsbee

MONTHLY SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING: Pastor Bahr

BULLETIN BOARDS: Michele & Amanda Stenzel

BAPTISM CANDLES: Erika Tuscher

CRADLE ROLL: Beverly Mills

CHURCH OFFICE: Denise Konopka

GRILL MASTER: Two Picnics (Sept. & June) Gary Krull

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT: Sunday School Families & Grace Congregation



Thank You!!





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

June 2019: Charitable Gift Planning Newsletter Article

For Gift Planning Counselors, Associate Counselors and Associated Ministries

Pentecost's Promise

Jesus' resurrection indeed glows with rays of love and hope. Pentecost's Promise inspires every believer with confidence that God is with us, today and forever.

Our Creator's consistency is remarkable. He formed the universe and planet for all people. His design's unmatched grandeur and beauty is evident everywhere, as is His infinite kindness. For sure, breathing life's breath in all living things proves a most compelling promise.

Perfection fashioned humans as the Crown of Creation, caretakers living in freedom. One limitation was communicated. "Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." The warning's intent was to keep us from the effects of disharmony, loneliness, inequity, immorality and wickedness. Human adherence to this command with every pass of the tree honored the God who had made it. Yet disobedience entered the world and with disobedience came death.

Sadly, we eat the forbidden fruit like our first parents did. Willfully disregarding the promises God gave, we fail to recognize the utter depravity in our nature. Rescue could not come from within us. Our deliverance had to be in our Savior, Jesus, given to us.

A promise of deliverance was given just as humans were banished from that temporal Paradise. Perfect Love couldn't allow His Crown (humans) to live forever in horrible conditions of death. The history of God's plan to rescue the world in Jesus is the purpose for which the universe was made.

No other God among gods entered human form to live among us, suffer the sacrifice of death to pay the price demanded of perfection gone wrong, fulfilling all prophecies and promises. Easter is documented proof that Jesus is God in flesh. His power over sin, death and the devil opened the way for us to live in the knowledge and doing of His will. That power comes to us by the Spirit.

Pentecost's Promise gives comfort that God is with us always. Pentecost's Promise gives us power from the Spirit of our Living God and the **gift of faith to believe**. We can now reflect His image, so others will know too. Does your life, and end of life planning, reflect Pentecost's Promise?

Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427 to learn how a trusted guide can encourage you to plan and direct your passion to give to loved ones and cherished ministries so others might know that the Promise of Pentecost is real.



Congregation Picnic

Join us to celebrate with our Confirmands
and stay for our Congregation Picnic!

Sunday, June 9th, 2019

10:30 AM - Worship & Confirmation Service

Sunday School Sings

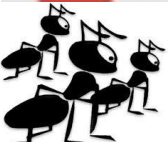
12:00 PM - Congregation Picnic

Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages provided

Please bring a dish/dessert to pass!

FUN FOR ALL!!!

We Hope To See You There!



DATES AT A GLANCE . . .

June 25 - 12:00 PM - Tuesday - Field Trip

Grace Ladies will be visiting the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center located in Niagara Falls, New York. The center is "an experiential museum that reveals authentic stories of underground railroad freedom seekers and abolitionists in Niagara Falls".

Flea Market & Bake Sale Follow-Up

The event was a huge success and we greatly appreciate all who donated items and baked goods. Monies raised will be used by the Grace Ladies to purchase window treatments.



2019 SUMMER BIBLE ADVENTURE

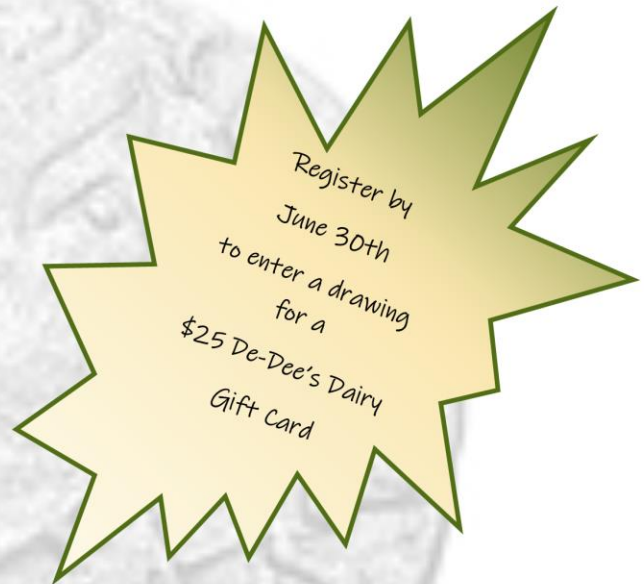


Summer Bible Adventure

July 29-August 2, 2019

6—8 PM

Age 3 (potty trained)
through entering grade 6.



Register by
family at
gracenf.org/vbs.



Paper forms
available at church entrances.

Upcoming Training

Jr and Senior High youth meetings:	VBS adult volunteer meeting	VBS décor and training meeting
—	—	—
Sunday, June 2nd and 9th	Sunday, June 9th	Saturday, July 13th
—	—	—
During Sunday School	Following worship	10 am—12:30 pm Décor 12:00-2 pm training
		— Lunch Provided

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 except for July 2019 first and fourth Sundays.

EDUCATION

Sunday School:
Sundays @ 9:00A

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

NOTE: Off for Summer
Rally Day
Sunday, September 8

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
June 25 @ 12:00P
Field Trip to
Niagara Falls Underground
Railroad Heritage Center

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
September 15 @ 11:30A
*New members are always welcome. We meet five times each year for about an hour, and a light lunch is included.

**Issue
11**

**Jun/Jul
2019**

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