

# THE GLEANINGS

## of Grace Lutheran Church



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OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG

REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

## October/November 2019



### OUR VISION

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

Members, friends, and family of Grace,

The long-awaited time is here! This month, I am finally being sent by the military to Officer Training School, something that was supposed to be completed within one year of commissioning. (It's now been more than two, if you're counting.) Officer Training School (OTS) is basic training, complete with marching, pushups, and people in strange hats who seem to have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed that morning.

At some point soon after OTS, they will schedule me for Chaplain School, which is much more civilized and will specifically train me how to be an effective chaplain. Both of these schools are held in the same place: Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama.

During OTS, I will unfortunately be almost completely out of contact. If you have pastoral needs during that time, call the office or one of our Elders. They have a list of local pastors who have agreed to cover visitations and emergencies. Intentionally, for security reasons, I can't give specific dates in public documents like this. However, dates will be announced in church.

While I'm gone, I've arranged a few great pastors to come in and cover services and Bible studies at Grace. Our guest preachers will include Rev. Alex Knowles (director of Camp Pioneer and himself a former military chaplain) and Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher (Eastern District President). We also plan a service to be led by the youth of our congregation! Our Wednesday Bible studies will be led by Rev. Ken Craig, former pastor of Immanuel-Lockport, who most recently has been working with St. Matthew in North Tonawanda. Rev. Denton White, pastor of our neighbor congregation of Holy Ghost, is first on the list for emergency pastoral care.

Due to the lack of available pastors in our area, we do have two Sundays which will be led by elders. I appreciate you supporting these gentlemen as they step outside their comfort zone to ensure you have the opportunity to worship. These two Sundays both happen to be Holy Communion Sundays. After careful evaluation of all the options and consultation with President Wicher, we will offer Communion according to our normal schedule, to avoid a lengthy interruption. How it works is like this: Prior to my departure, I will set apart and consecrate the bread & wine to be used for that day's worship service. In effect, I will be opening the feast. Then, under my administration of the meal as your called Pastor, the Elders will lead worship, repeating the Words of Institution not as a new consecration but for your sake, so that you can be assured this is Christ's own meal. They will then distribute Communion to you. This same process is regularly done when Elders make homebound visits. I want you to know that I approve this plan, as does President Wicher. If you recall your Small Catechism, it is God's Word in combination with eating & drinking the bread and wine which gives us the Eucharist. In Augsburg Confession article VIII, the church fathers state, "Both the Sacraments and Word are effectual by reason of the institution and commandment of Christ, notwithstanding they be administered by evil men." Now, I do not call our elders evil men! But the point is clear. Holy Communion comes from Christ's Word, regardless of the person up front. My administration of the meal and delegating the distribution to the Elders is in harmony with Augsburg XIII, just as is the preaching. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please call me.

**God's blessings now and always be with you!**

*Pastor Bahr*

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# Youth for Truth and Pre-Teen Youth

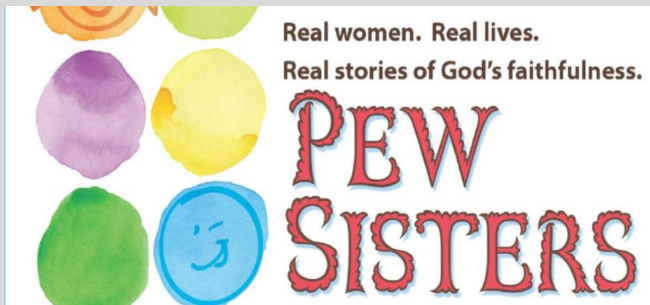
(Grades 6-12)

(Grades 4-6)

Youth for Truth is selling candy bars throughout the month of October to raise funds for the Jr./Sr. High retreat in November. Find a youth after service to get your candy bars!

## Upcoming Events

<b>October:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Skate Night at Rainbow Roller Rink
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-Teen Youth Event: What About Dinosaurs?
<b>November:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	Camp Pioneer Jr./Sr. High Retreat
	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bread Baking Servant Event/Lock-In



**Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 6–8 PM.**

Pew Sisters is back! Enjoy Christian fellowship in God's word. We meet once a month to cover a chapter or two of our chosen book: *God is in the Laundry Room*. All women of Grace are invited.

**Questions . . .**

Call or text Lacey Bahr at 716-525-5134

Thank  
you

Pamela Simcox would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all of the Grace members who attended her August 4<sup>th</sup> fundraiser.

**Thank you for your support!**





### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Ministries committee will be held after worship on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**New members are always welcome.**  
No need to make a reservation – just join us after church. We even provide a light lunch during the meeting!

### **DONATION OPPORTUNITIES . . .**

**HARVEST FOR FOOD COLLECTION:** Our annual fall project will begin on Sunday, October 13, (Columbus Day weekend) and continue until Thanksgiving. Tables will be available in the chapel and narthex to receive donations of non-perishable canned and boxed foods. All donations are appreciated. **Especially needed** are peanut butter, jelly, tuna, cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, applesauce, and canned fruit. As in previous years, we are working with St. Vincent DePaul Society on Military Road (next to St. Leo's church). They have already been in contact with us to express their need and their appreciation for our help each year. They will distribute your gifts locally over the upcoming holiday season.

**HAMS & FROZEN TURKEYS** are also needed to help provide holiday meals for local families that have difficulty providing for themselves. These will be donated to the Community Mission and the Lord's Day Dinners in Niagara Falls. Watch for the sales that will begin soon. Donations can be stored in our downstairs kitchen freezer. If you need help carrying your donation, please ask an usher for assistance.

**REMINDER:** We are still accepting donations of 5 x 7 frames in our donation center. Our extra bulletins are placed in these frames and they are given to clients of several area agencies, including Magdalene Project, Summit Life Resources, and Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission. A note of appreciation was recently received from the Niagara Gospel Mission expressing their thanks for these small tokens of hope. Alice Moll is in charge of this project if you have questions or would like to help.

### **UPDATE . . .**

**HARRY ABATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** THANK YOU to all of our members, friends, and VBS families that donated to our summer mission project with school supplies, socks, and underwear. A "thank you" goes out to Jane Brese for delivering the donations each year to Harry Abate Elementary School in our inner city where the need for these items is great (and to the choir members that managed to pack her car and fit it all in!). Jane reported that everyone at the school who saw her with the supplies made a special effort to express their appreciation, including the Superintendent of Niagara Falls Schools who just happened to be visiting on the day the delivery was made. Thank you also to Marla Crawford for obtaining a Thrivent Action Team grant and using it to shop for some additional items that she knows, as a teacher, are always in short supply.

**PURSES FOR MAGDALENE:** We are thankful for your donations of gently used purses and toiletry items, and for all of the work done so far by Robin Stephenson to pack and deliver 46 purses to the Magdalene Project. They will be distributed over the next few weeks by Magdalene volunteers to the women they serve who are homeless or living in difficult conditions. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to the family of Marnie Mahowish who donated a large box of toiletries in her memory. Robin is looking for help with this project. If you are interested, please see her any Sunday after worship.

# *Social Ministries* (continued)

## SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES . . .

**AUGUST SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE** donations totaled \$129. With funds added from our Social Ministries' budget, we were able to donate \$450 to the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, a group working with our government leaders to encourage and promote the continuation of religious freedoms in our country.

**OCTOBER SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE:** Lutheran School make a difference in the life of a child, especially in today's world where Christian beliefs are rapidly losing acceptance, and behaviors that are clearly contrary to God's Word are now celebrated and encouraged. Many of our congregational families have taken advantage of the quality education provided by Holy Ghost and St. John Lutheran, and we have members who teach at these top rated schools. Please keep our families and schools in your prayers, and consider the opportunity to step up and support Christian education by placing your special mission envelope in the offering plate before the end of October. Your generosity will contribute to the continued success of St. John and Holy Ghost as they guide and teach our students.

**NOVEMBER SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated for "Help and Hope for Homeless, Inc." This is a new charity founded by John Loss, a member of our congregation. Their intention is to work with local homeless or near-homeless individuals and families that have a true desire to improve their situation, connecting them with the help they need to become productive and self-sufficient. If you would like to support this effort, please place your Mission Envelope in the offering plate during the month of November. Questions can be directed to John Loss, or to board members Sue Loss or Robin Stephenson, also members of Grace.

**DECEMBER SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** will be donated to Samaritan Counseling, a local Christian counseling center with several locations, including Wheatfield and North Tonawanda. They offer confidential, faith-oriented counseling by professionals to individuals, couples, and families. Pastor Brese worked as a counselor for Samaritan for many years. Trish Andrews, a nurse practitioner, frequently refers patients to Samaritan and speaks highly of their services. Either would be happy to answer any questions you may have about Samaritan.

## PLANNING AHEAD . . .

**ADVENT GIVING TREE:** Many agencies in our community will be in need of our help following the holiday season, when donations typically are at their lowest. We will provide Giving Trees in the chapel and narthex beginning December 1 and continuing through January 5. All donations will be delivered in the beginning of January to help the agencies we work with restock after the holidays. If you wish to participate in this project, please take a tag from the trees and bring the requested item (unwrapped) back to the table as soon as you are able.

**HELP IS NEEDED:** This year's **TRUNK OR TREAT** will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 3 – 4:30 PM, rain or shine. A sign-up sheet is available on the glass case for those wishing to participate with their cars or for those wishing to donate candy. We also need volunteers to supervise snacks, games, and prizes. Costumes and decorations are encouraged but not mandatory. This event has grown each year and is our largest community outreach, with over 100 children in attendance. We have so much fun—consider joining us this year! PLEASE KEEP IN MIND that small children will be involved in this activity, and we would like to maintain a Christian environment. So please no bloody, zombie, or occult type decorations or costumes. Think FALL, think FUN!





# Grace Lutheran Church

## October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> <b>Mark Andrews</b> <b>Neil Stenzel</b>	<b>Altar Care:</b> <b>TBA</b>	<b>1</b> 6:00P Confirmation Class	<b>2</b> 10:00A ABS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	<b>7</b> 5-8P Christian Skate Night (Rainbow Roller Rink) 6:30P Survivors' Group	<b>8</b> 6:00P Confirmation Class 7:00P Diabetes Class	<b>9</b> 10:00A ABS	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship	<b>14</b> 6:30P Survivors' Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00A ABS	<b>17</b> 6:00P Pew Sisters	<b>18</b> 7-9P Pre-Teen Youth Event	<b>19</b> 9:00A American Red Cross Blood Drive (till 1:00P) 
<b>20</b> 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	<b>21</b> 6:30P Survivors' Group	<b>22</b> 12:00P Grace Ladies	<b>23</b> 10:00A ABS	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3:00P Trunk or Treat (till 4:30P) 
<b>27 REFORMATION</b> 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship – SS Leads Worship	<b>28</b> 6:30P Survivors' Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00A ABS	<b>31 HALLOWEEN</b> 		

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



# Grace Lutheran Church

## November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> <b>Ross Folmsbee</b> <b>John Loss</b>	<b>Altar Care:</b> <b>Alice Moll</b> <b>Luann Pyska</b>				1 Jr/Sr High Retreat at Camp Pioneer	2 Jr/Sr High Retreat at Camp Pioneer
<b>3 ALL SAINTS DAY</b> Jr/Sr High Retreat at Camp Pioneer 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	4 6:30P Survivors' Group	5	6 10:00A ABS 7:00P Choir Practice	7	8	9 
10 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship	11 6:30P Survivors' Group	12	13 10:00A ABS 7:00P Choir Practice	14	15 Submission for Dec/Jan Gleanings Due	16
17 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	18 6:30P Survivors' Group	19 6:30P Grace Ladies	20 10:00A ABS 7:00P Choir Practice	21	22 6-10P Pre-Teen Event 6P Youth for Truth Lock-in (Begins)	23 9A Youth for Truth Lock-in (Ends)
24 9:00A SS/ABS 10:30A Worship	25 6:30P Survivors' Group	26 6:00P Confirmation Class	27 10:00A ABS 6:30P Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	28 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED 	29	30

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

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## WELCOME TO THE 2019 – 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

We were very happy to have 23 students join us on Rally Day, September 8. Our lessons for Kindergarten thru High School begin with the Fruit of the Spirit, as found in Galatians 5:22-23 –

**“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:**

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”**

Following these nine lessons, we have four lessons on prayer.

We have three groups of students (as noted below). Each group has a Bible Lesson, with additional activities, such as music, craft, snack, game and experiment.

<b><u>Toddlin to Jesus</u></b> (1 yr. old to 4 yrs. old) hallway classroom across from downstairs bathrooms	<b><u>The Diggers</u></b> (Kindergarten thru 5 <sup>th</sup> grade) in the main downstairs area	<b><u>Youth for Truth - Digging Deeper</u></b> (6 <sup>th</sup> thru 12 <sup>th</sup> grade) in youth room and their classroom in the main area
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The following students have been in attendance so far this year (September 8 & 15). Please consider joining us and bringing your family & friends.

**TODDLIN TO JESUS:** Michael Bahr, Zander Hoffman, Thomas Majka, Tyler Markel, Elias Parmer  
Teacher: Marla Crawford

**BIBLE DIGGERS:** Vance Adamson, Bernard Austin, Daniel Bahr, Alyvia Dixon, Mariah Majka, Audrey Markel, Elias Markel, Aubrey Miranda, Abram Smith  
Teachers: Wendy Coleman, Kathy Majka, Brian Miller, Kristy Schaal, Jane Schulz

**YOUTH FOR TRUTH:** John Bahr, Dillon Deskovic, Julia Dixon, Amber Hermanson, Gavin Maines, Alexis Majka, Marissa Majka, Abby Markel, Emily Markel, Haley Markel, Dominique Mena, Joseph Mena, Autumn Norton, Stewert Smith, Alyssa Vosburgh

Teachers: Sherry Cassatt, Jennifer Maines, Virginia Markel



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (continued)**

### **FIRST TIME EVER**

Sunday School will be leading worship service on Sunday, October 27. Amy Folmsbee has put together a special Reformation Service which will involve the whole Sunday School, with participating church Elders. Sunday School students will be greeters, ushers, acolytes, will sing, have a children's message, participate in a skit and a sermonette using Reformation banners. Church Elders will lead the other "Pastor parts." Please plan to come to 10:30 AM worship on Reformation Sunday, October 27, as Sunday School students, staff, and Elders lead this special service.

### **OFFERINGS**

Every Sunday we receive a Sunday School offering, to be used to help with the costs of Sunday School curriculum and various supplies. You may use an envelope (which we can provide), if you wish. Even just putting a quarter in the offering basket helps develop the habit of bringing an offering to church. Each Sunday during worship one or two of our students then takes our SS offering up to the altar with the ushers. We feel it's an important practice for our students to develop at a young age.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS**

Every Sunday a small snack is provided to all students. Last year our staff provided most of these snacks. This year we are asking for your help. If you could donate a snack, please bring it to church and leave on the church bench in the chapel near the water fountain and we will take it downstairs. We usually have goldfish, cheezits, fruit snacks, pretzels, animal crackers, cookies ..... and a drink box. Thank you!!!

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

We are planning for Christmas. Our Sunday School Christmas program will be during our 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, December 22. There will be one whole Sunday School/Adult Choir practice on Saturday, December 21, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, ending with a lunch. All Sunday School students are included!!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Classes run every Sunday**

**9:00 AM to 10:15 AM**



## **October 2019: Charitable Gift Planning Newsletter Article**

For Associated Ministries, Gift Planning Counselors and Associate Counselors

### **REFORMING OUR WAYS**

John the Baptist differentiated himself from Jesus by saying “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” John’s purpose was to make straight the paths and encourage us to “Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” (Luke 3:8) Similarly, St. Paul proclaimed that “God wants us to turn to God and perform deeds in keeping with our repentance.” (Acts 26:20) Reforming our ways is not about outward alterations or a political viewpoint. Indeed, “God has granted repentance that leads to life!” (Acts 11:18)

In his famous 95 theses, Martin Luther wrote “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’ (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” Repentance is not simply a recognition of wrong-doing but being set free from sin itself. Repentance is acknowledging that all we can find about ourselves is sin, and that our rescue comes from Jesus who alone could rescue us through His life, death and resurrection. The reformers discovered the Jubilee of forgiveness, and it caught fire.

Many in our times equate God’s kindness with prosperity, good looks, health or strong ability. However, if our ways aren’t reformed in the heart, where sin emulates, then it’s not likely to be a reformation that leads to Jubilee or eternal life. Paul asked the Romans, “Do you not know that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4b).

Is repentance reforming your ways? When our ways are reformed by the Holy Spirit, we recognize our spiritual depravity before God. In the freedom of God’s grace received, we notice the things we manage are not ours to manipulate for our dark purposes, but are opportunities given by God so that we might show His Son Jesus through our lives. The way we plan to distribute the worldly wealth we manage for Him will characterize blessings rather than curses.

Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ [robert.wirth@lfnd.org](mailto:robert.wirth@lfnd.org) or 716-863-4427. You can discover that your congregation has a trusted charitable guide available to encourage you to plan and direct your passion to give to family and beloved ministries, so others might know that your own heart is reformed and wholly devoted to God.

# **Grace Lutheran Church**

**(Parking Lot)**

## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 3PM - 9:30 PM**

**\*HELD INDOORS IF RAINING\***

## **GAMES SNACKS PRIZES**

“Trunk or Treat” is a fun family activity! In addition to trick or treating from trunks of cars in a safe environment, we have drinks and donuts, Bibles, gifts, cool games with prizes, and everything is FREE.

Please plan to join us. Bring your children and their friends in their Halloween costumes and let the “trunk or treating” begin! We hope to see you there!

If you wish to participate in this fun event by handing out or donating candy, please sign up on the glass display case in the chapel.



The NIAGARA FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT will be joining us again this year!



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## Upcoming Events

### WORSHIP SERVICES

**Divine Service:**  
Sundays @ 10:30A

\*Holy Communion on the  
first, third and fifth Sundays

### EDUCATION

**Sunday School:**  
Sundays @ 9:00A

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

### GRACE LADIES

**Next Meeting:**  
October 22 @ 12:00 PM

### SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**Next Meeting:**  
November 10 @ 11:30A  
\*New members are always  
welcome. We meet five  
times each year for about  
an hour, and a light lunch is  
included.

**Issue  
13**

**Oct/Nov  
2019**