

# 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

### Summer 2021



#### OUR VISION

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

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)*

Members, friends, and family of Grace,

We live in a time of abounding opinions shared without research or hesitation, of fact-checkers that need to be fact-checked, of companies striving to outdo each other in being the most “woke”. Certain positions are popular, while daring to speak the opposite position may get one cancelled – or worse. Supposedly neutral companies do not hesitate to block access to opinions they do not share.

The church, bound to the Word of God, frequently finds herself at odds with culture’s declaration of right and wrong. When that happens, we have two choices: conform to the view promoted by society (including but not limited to media, social media, universities, government schools, friends, family, employers, clubs, movies & tv, sports personalities, and many more – intense pressure indeed!), or we can hold to God’s Word, and bear the consequences, which likewise may be many. In Finland, the Bishop of our sister Lutheran church there is being brought up on charges of incitement, facing imprisonment, for the crime of teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman. “As a Christian, I do not want to and cannot discriminate against or despise anyone created by God,” Dean Pohjola said in reaction to being charged. “Every human being, created by God and redeemed by Christ, is equally precious.” At the same time, he continued, “this does not remove the fact that, according to the Bible and the Christian conception of man, homosexual relations are against the will of God, and marriage is intended only between a man and a woman. This is what the Christian church has always taught and will always teach.” Increasing voices in the United States call for the same criminalization of speech and thought they consider to be hate.

Are you ready in season and out of season? Do you know sound teaching when you hear it? Have you an ear for the Word of God alone, or are you following your own passions and wandering off into myths?

This is why, since the beginning, the Christian Church has gathered around Word and Sacrament for strength, encouragement, and the fellowship of believers. “They [the very first Christians] devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Choosing to neglect this most important gathering is like intentionally taking off the armor of God right before the battle. It leaves you vulnerable to false teachers and poor theology.

Please, come to Bible study. Please, come to worship. You need it, and we aren’t the same without you.

Together in Service,

*Pastor Bahr*  

## Coming September 2021



A congregation-wide journey through the Bible in one year.  
Challenge yourself to attend Bible study beginning in the fall and be amazed  
at what you didn't know you didn't know!

Due to low community response, "Treasured" Vacation Bible School will be postponed until the summer of 2022. We look forward to offering this outreach opportunity in-person next summer!

### Community Party!

Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm

Open to Friends and Neighbors

Music, Games, Prizes, and MORE!

Collection: School supplies for Niagara Falls' schools



Check out the "Christian Education" tab at [GraceNF.org](http://GraceNF.org) to find a list of resources to continue challenging your understanding of God's Word and His world.

Next Board of Christian Education meeting is June 13<sup>th</sup>, following worship.

#### YOUR BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Lacey Bahr (Chair)**

716-525-5134

[laceybahr@gmail.com](mailto:laceybahr@gmail.com)

**Sherry Cassatt**

716-201-5223

[singinmom55@aol.com](mailto:singinmom55@aol.com)

**Pam Dixon**

[pdixon3621@gmail.com](mailto:pdixon3621@gmail.com)

**Brian Miller**

716-990-5571

[brianm93@icloud.com](mailto:brianm93@icloud.com)



# SOCIAL MINISTRIES

## SUMMER MISSION PROJECT (July through Labor Day)

**OVER 75% OF THE FAMILIES** at our inner city schools are living at or below the poverty level. Each year we partner with the teachers and nurses at our inner city schools to help meet the needs of these children for school supplies, socks, and underwear. Partnering in this way ensures that your gifts are placed directly into the hands of the children that are most in need.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Beginning in September, our three inner city schools will become “sister schools”, with Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students attending Kalfas and Niagara Street schools, and 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades at Harry Abate. Through this sister school arrangement, services and supplies will be shared among all three schools as the need arises. That means that your donations to our summer mission project will reach children at **ALL THREE SCHOOLS!**

Tables will be available in the chapel and narthex beginning in July to receive your donations of **SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SOCKS, & UNDERWEAR.** Each year when we make our delivery, school officials reinforce to us that many of their students start their school year without proper clothing and supplies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**WHY SOCKS & UNDERWEAR?** Nationally, socks and underwear are the items most often requested by individuals and families living in poverty. And, unfortunately, they are also the items least often gifted to donation centers. They are pieces of clothing most of us take for granted. But to families that are struggling to pay their rent and put food on the table, they are considered luxuries that can be moved from their “need” column to their “want” column. The reality is that shirts, pants, and shoes are required to send their children to school--underwear and socks are not. Your donations of socks and underwear will help provide both dignity and warmth during the upcoming school year.

**THANK YOU** to Social Ministries committee member Marla Crawford, a Grace member and teacher at Holy Ghost Lutheran School, for applying for a grant from Thrivent that will be used to supplement our donations. **THANK YOU** also to Jane Brese for faithfully delivering our gifts each year.

## STOCK THE SHOPPE PROJECT

Continuing through Father's Day in June, we are accepting donations of new baby clothes, diapers, and baby toiletries for **SUMMIT LIFE OUTREACH CENTER**. Summit is a Christian organization located on Pine Avenue (near the Niagara Falls City Market) that is devoted to helping young women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancy situations. Their clients receive free counseling as well as pregnancy and parenting education. Their “earn while you learn” program awards credits for attendance at counseling and educational sessions, and the credits can be used to “purchase” needed baby supplies in their “Parenting Shoppe”. Your donations will help to stock the Parenting Shoppe.

**THANK YOU** to Wendy Coleman & Jane Schulz for setting up our donation tables and to Wendy for applying for a Thrivent grant that will supplement this project, and to Alice Moll (who has volunteered at Summit) for obtaining our baby bottle banks and making deliveries each year.

## EMBRACING WOMEN IN CRISIS

**BABY BOTTLE BANKS** are also available on our Summit Life Outreach tables. Feel free to take a bank or two and fill them with your spare change. The money raised from this annual fundraiser will help to purchase supplies needed by the volunteers, counselors, and teachers at Summit as they provide needed information and support to women in crisis situations related to unplanned pregnancies. Many of their clients are struggling emotionally and financially, may be homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, or are living in unsafe or abusive situations. Please return your banks to the office or to Alice Moll by Father's Day (June 20). Thank you for your generosity!

## UPCOMING SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES

**JUNE SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** will be designated to support **Camp Pioneer**. Concordia Lutheran Ministries has agreed to purchase the property in partnership with Friends of Pioneer, who will operate and manage the camp. Both groups are extensions of LCMS. This arrangement will allow a fresh start, completely debt free! This means that every dollar raised will go directly into the ministry of Pioneer to restore, expand, and enhance the facility and its many ministry opportunities. Please use your June special mission envelope or donate online to special missions during June if you wish to support the future of Camp Pioneer.

**JULY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** will support **Niagara Hospice**. Niagara Hospice works with patients facing end-of-life situations to provide comfort, dignity, and improved quality of life. Patients and families are offered physical care focused on alleviating pain and other symptoms. Emotional and spiritual support is included in their plan of care. Services are provided in the patient's home, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. If you want to support the work of Niagara Hospice, place your donation in your July special mission envelope or donate to special missions online during July.

**AUGUST SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** will provide help for Heart, Love, & Soul Food Pantry. Located on Ontario Avenue in Niagara Falls, Heart, Love, & Soul offers a variety of services to our city's most needy, including breakfast and lunch in their dining room, a food pantry, health screenings, assistance with obtaining needed services, toiletry items that cannot be purchased with benefit cards, and various activities for at risk children and adults. Your August special mission envelopes or donations to special missions online during August will help them continue to provide these programs.

### **A LOOK AT HOW WE ARE USING GOD'S GIFTS SO FAR THIS YEAR:**

(The Social Ministries' budget adds a minimum of \$300 to each special mission, but will match up to \$400 if donations exceed \$300.)

AGENCY	DONATIONS RECEIVED	BUDGET MONEY ADDED	TOTAL DONATION SENT	REMAINING BUDGET BALANCE
2021 SOCIAL MINISTRIES BUDGET LINE				\$5200
NF MEALS ON WHEELS ( <b>JANUARY</b> SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$465.64	\$399.36	\$865	\$4800.64
YOUNG LIFE ( <b>FEBRUARY</b> SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$423.19	\$401.81	\$825	\$4398.83
WINGS FLIGHTS OF HOPE ( <b>MARCH</b> SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$674.34	\$400.66	\$1075	\$3998.17
LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN & CHILDREN (MAGDALENE) ( <b>APRIL</b> SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$281.16	\$318.84	\$600	\$3679.33

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**“So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.**

**So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone.” Galatians 6:9-10**

## Grace's "Historical Dream Team"

Our "Dream Team" is looking for some congregational help. In order to assist the Team in compiling a more complete history of the church and congregation, we are asking you to help in one or two ways.

1. Donating an artifact, picture, clipping, etc. for our record keeping. With your permission we will either copy and return the original or keep it as a donation towards the church files.
2. We are also looking for individuals who are willing to be interviewed by one of our Team about your history at Grace/Zion. Any great stories or memories you have to share would be greatly appreciated.

You may contact any of the below Team Members to set up a place and time to meet.

### **Team Members:**



Pastor emeritus, E Brese: Convener, 297-5764  
Ken Boyd: Photographer, 297-8108  
Elaine Timm: Historian, Copier, 471-2217  
Marla Crawford: Family Tracer, 773-4121



## Official Acts

As of 04/01/2021

### **Weddings:**

**Jennifer Brandt & Eric Norton**

Service: 5/21/2021 at Grace Lutheran

**GRACE** will continue to offer Sunday's weekly service online through our YouTube channel. Using this link or QR code, you may view the service live on Sundays starting at 10:20 AM or participate in any previous service anytime.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG2QrtXHQGAfdr6KTOqvg>





# Grace

## Current News and Announcements

**\*\* SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please note that for the months of July and August the office will have shorter summer hours. The office will be open Sundays from 9:30am – 12:00pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

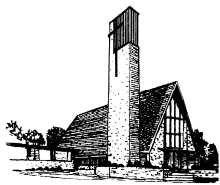
**\*\* DO YOU LIKE TO READ.** You sure do! A big "Thank You" to the fourteen members of Grace Lutheran that purchased the book that I wrote ...Not Always Homeless. It tells of my interviewing 13 current Niagara Falls residents who once were homeless or faced the fear of being homeless. One is a member of our church. I hope that you enjoyed reading the book as it gives a "voice" to what homeless people must face every day to survive and find their three basic needs. It is the grace of God that was with me on my path to do this writing. It enabled others to read of their unique situations and to put homelessness into its proper perspective in our country as well as our local community. The book is being sold as a fundraiser for the charity that I started while in the process of my writing. This charity is Help and Hope for the Homeless, Inc. If you would like to purchase a book please contact me at 773-9781. Blessings to you. John Loss

**\*\* IT'S NOT TOO LATE: ALTAR FLOWER CHART** for 2021 is hanging in the narthex. You may sign up for a remaining available date listed on the chart or you can call the church to request a date and/or see what is available. The cost for a single centerpiece is \$45 or you may choose two vases for \$56.

**\*\* ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS:** As much as we miss getting together, choir rehearsals are on hold for now. We are monitoring the COVID situation and we look forward to being back together as soon as we are able to do so. In the meantime, if you are interested in singing a solo or duet, please let Maye know. She is willing to arrange practice times as needed. There may be some restrictions on song selections related to copyright restrictions associated with posting our services on YouTube. However, Pastor Bahr will be able to help us figure out what is allowed through public domain rules and licenses that Grace currently holds. So step up to the microphone if you are so inclined!

**\*\* PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL:** If you are not currently receiving email messages from Grace and would like to, please contact the office with your current email and you will be added to the list. Also, be sure to keep your email up to date with the office if you make a change.

**NO EMAIL?** If you do not have or do not use email regularly, please let the office know. We are in the process of compiling a list of members that do not have or use email access so that we can keep you up to date when time-sensitive or urgent notices are sent out electronically.



# Grace Lutheran Church

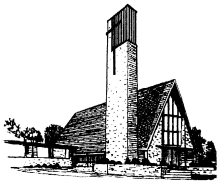
## June 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	3	4	5
6 9:00A Sunday CE - Acts 10:30A Worship (HC)	7	8	9 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	10	11	12 12:00P Pantano Shower
13 9:00A Sunday CE - Acts 10:30A Worship 11:30A BOCE Meeting	14	15 7:00P: Kings Brass 2021 Concert Tour 	16 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	17	18	19
20 Father's Day 9:00A Sunday CE - Acts 10:30A Worship (HC) 	21	22 6:00A: Primary Election	23 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	24	25	26
27 9:00A Sunday CE - Acts 10:30A Worship	28	29	30 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface		<b>Head Ushers:</b>  Dick Crawford Brian Miller	<b>Altar Care:</b>  Alice Moll Luann Pyska

CE: Christian Education  
HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org)  
Church Office Hours: Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/TH/F 10 AM-2 PM





# Grace Lutheran Church

## July 2021

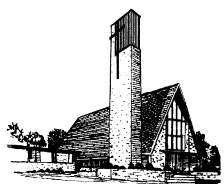
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Neil Stenzel Randy Broeker	<b>Altar Care:</b> Jane Brese			1	2	3
<b>HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY</b> 10:30A Worship (HC) 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30A Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30A Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843

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# Grace Lutheran Church

## August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30A Worship (HC)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30A Worship	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:30A Worship (HC)	16	17	18	19 6:00P Community Party	20	21
22 10:30A Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30A Worship (HC)	30	31			<b>Head Ushers:</b> Mark Binkley Jim Wolf	<b>Altar Care:</b> Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz

HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
 Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org)  
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# Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass



**Grace Lutheran Church  
736 Cayuga Drive  
Niagara Falls, New York**

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021  
@ 7PM**

For more than twenty years **The King's Brass** have performed over one hundred concerts each season with three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, keyboards, and percussion. Playing a wide variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, from Handel to jazz spirituals, from Christmas carols to patriotic marches, **The King's Brass** uses all corners of the concert hall to lift hearts and spirits in praise.

**Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass** provide innovative worship for young and old alike through the "best in sacred brass music." By teaming together, these Christian professionals from around the United States perform their original arrangements as heard on their eight recordings.



**FREE ADMISSION**

**FREE WILL OFFERING FOR THE BAND**



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

Electronic Service Requested

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Niagara Falls, NY  
Permit No. 419



### WORSHIP SERVICES

**Divine Service:**

Sundays @ 10:30A

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

### EDUCATION

**Acts**

Sundays @ 9:00A  
In-Person and Zoom

**Beyond the Surface**

Wednesdays @ 10:00A  
Zoom Only

\*No Classes July &  
August

### GRACE LADIES

**Next Meeting:**

TBD

### SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**Next Meeting:**

TBD

\*New members are always  
welcome. We meet five  
times each year for about  
an hour.

**Issue  
20**

**Jun/Jul/Aug  
2021**