

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

REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

October/November 2021







"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." Colossians 2:6-10

The themes of captivity and freedom take a recurring, central role in God's word. In fact, one can trace back the origins of the Sacrament of Holy Communion to this same theme. Remember, it was the Passover meal Jesus was celebrating when He instituted His new covenant - the Passover meal which remembered the people of Israel in bondage and freed by God. This, I believe, is no accident. From slavery to freedom - the central message of the Gospel. Not an earthly message, but a divine one. No more fear.

This message becomes obscured by philosophy and empty deceit. An idea is presented, and then Biblical passages are sought which support it. Scripture is twisted to meet the desired ends. The message of the Gospel is lost. As one example, during a sermon delivered in a Christian church Sept. 26, the Governor of New York stated, "I wear my 'vaccinated' necklace all the time to say I'm vaccinated... you know there's people out there who aren't listening to God and what God wants. You know who they are. I need you to be my apostles. I need you to go out and talk about it and say, we owe this to each other... this is how we can fight this pandemic, come back to normal and then start talking about the real issues that we have to – fighting systemic racial injustice."

On what authority does the Governor speak on behalf of God? Where is the scripture? As full disclosure, I've received the vaccine and I encourage others also, but I would never dare to claim it was commanded by God. Asserting that those who don't receive it are disregarding God's will crosses miles over the line, and as required by my Call, I must publicly rebuke this false witness. If I had space, I might point out a few things God did actually say, should the Governor be sincere about listening to His voice and changing her policies to conform to what He wants.

In sermons at our congregation, we eschew philosophy and stick to the real Gospel: that God became flesh and died for you, and rose on the third day. And it's good news! The central message of Christianity is not a temporal Gospel, but an eternal one. It's not meant to give us a better life here. It breaks our bonds and frees us to rejoice in God's presence forever. The real Gospel is veiled to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God – for what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake. We look not to the transient things that are seen, but to the eternal things that are unseen. "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom 8:15)

We do not fear. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's, and He has set us free.

Together in Service,

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 3 – 4:30 PM GRACE PARKING LOT (HELD INDOORS IF RAINING)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

"Trunk or Treat" is a fun family activity! Participants bring their cars to our parking lot and hand out goodies from their trunks. We also have free drinks and snacks, free Bibles, free gifts, and games. This is a big outreach event, with more than 100 children from the neighborhood and congregation participating!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: If you wish to participate, please sign up on the sheet located on the glass case.

- 1. You can participate by handing out individually wrapped candy or snacks from your car trunk. Fall decorations and costumes are encouraged, but not mandatory. If you are able, please plan to supply some of your own treats to hand out to the children. We will also have extras available for you to use.
- 2. You can sign up to help monitor one of our games. Our youth will be running the games, but adult supervision is appreciated.
- 3. We need a couple of adults to monitor our free gift give-away tables. They will be set up for you and will simply require some basic supervision.
- 4. We will be accepting donations of individually wrapped candy or snacks to help defray the cost to our volunteers. A table will be set up in the chapel to accept donations beginning in October.

<u>PLEASE KEEP IN MIND</u> 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!



ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Please plan to join us on for this fun activity. Bring your children and their friends in their Halloween costumes and "trunk or treat" around our parking lot in a safe, secure environment. We hope to see you there!

Current News & Announcements

- ** ALTAR FLOWER CHART still has some open dates for the remainder of 2021 and is hanging in the narthex. You many sign up for an available date listed on the chart or you can call the church to request a date and/or see what is still available. The cost for a single centerpiece is \$45 or you may choose two vases for \$56. Once you have picked a date, please fill out the order form found at either sanctuary entrance and return to the office as least one week before your date.
- ** **THE ALTAR GUILD** is currently looking for members to join. The guild is run on a monthly commitment and you will be matched with a current guild member and/or trained on the weekly guild duties. Please contact either the church office or Erika Tuscher if you are interested.
- ** 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.



Our choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, October 13, at 7 PM with tentative plans to sing during worship on Reformation Sunday (10/31), Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Epiphany. At this time, our plan is to take a winter break from rehearsals and resume practicing during Lent so that we can prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

NEW MEMBERS ARE NEEDED—THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS A DESIRE TO SING PRAISES TO GOD. If you would like to join the fun, just come to the chapel at 7 PM on October 13. We are saving you a seat. Please see Maye Smith or Ross Folmsbee if you have questions.

GRACE'S HISTORICAL DREAM TEAM

The Dream Team met this month on September 18th. Here is the second edition of Historical Tidbits.

Answers to last months historical questions

- 1. The chancel furnishings from old Zion were passed on to Concordia Lutheran Church on Beebe Road in the The Town of Newfane, and is still in use there.
- 2. Viola Greenwald's wedding dress is in the possession of descendant Jane (Mrs. Harold) Schultz.
- 3. Pastor Daniel Kleist lost his auto to Cayuga Creek.

For this month, try your wits at these questions

- 1. From what Asian Country did Grace sponsor an immigrant family in the 1970's until they joined others from their native land in Texas?
- 2. When did the congregation change its name from Zion to Grace? and why?
- 3. Can you identify this picture in the congregation's history (hint—1949)?

^{*} We are also looking to loan and copy any black and white pictures associated with Grace's history, also welcome are reports you have about people you have talked to or are still in contact with.



History Team: Ken Boyd, Marla Crawford, Elaine Timm, retired Pastor Brese



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?...Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

UPDATE ON OUR SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

WE RECEIVED a personal phone call from the one of the principals at our inner city schools thanking us for our generous support of their students with our gifts of school supplies, underwear, and socks. Ten large boxes were delivered at the beginning of the school year, and all of the school supplies had been distributed directly to their students who were in need within two days. The nurses will distribute the clothing items as they identify their needs. The principal emphasized that the teachers and nurses were very excited and grateful as they unpacked and distributed the gifts. Thank you for your support, and thank you to Marla Crawford for organizing this project and to Jane Brese for making the delivery.

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION BEGINNING SOON

Our annual fall project will begin on Sunday, October 10, (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.

We partner with St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Military Road, which serves our neighbors in need in Niagara Falls and the Town of Niagara. We have partnered with them for a number of years, and they both appreciate and depend on our help to assist in restocking their food pantry for the holidays after their shelves are emptied by their Thanksgiving distribution.

Because of the pandemic, they are still experiencing supply chain issues with certain bulk items, which has resulted in increased costs and shortages. **All donations are appreciated.** However, there are specific items they especially need help with. Those items include **canned vegetables (especially canned corn), tuna, canned soups, and Ramen noodles.** Please be sure that your gifts do not expire prior to December 2021.

Thank you for remembering our Harvest Food Collection as you are grocery shopping.

TURKEYS & HAMS

HAMS & FROZEN TURKEYS are needed to help provide holiday meals for families that are experiencing difficult times. These will be donated to local Niagara Falls agencies working with our poor and homeless. 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. **Last year we received 27 turkey and ham donations!** Let's see if we can match or beat that total again this year!

UPCOMING MONTHLY (SPECIAL) MISSION ENVELOPES

NOVEMBER MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to help GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Houma, Louisiana (near New Orleans). Their minister, Pastor Richard Rudnik, was a seminary classmate of Pastor Bahr. Their church suffered extensive damage at the end of August as Hurricane Ida passed through their area. Miraculously, their stained glass windows were spared. However, other windows were broken, a brick wall collapsed, shingles were ripped off, and major water damage resulted in destruction of most of the drywall and insulation which had to be ripped out and discarded. Numerous pictures of the damage can be viewed on their Facebook page, "Grace Lutheran Church in Houma Louisiana". They are rebuilding, but the process is slow and much help is needed. Donations to our November mission will be sent directly to their church to use as needed during their rebuilding efforts.

DECEMBER MISSION ENVELOPES are designated for Help & Hope for the Homeless, Inc. This local charity was founded by Grace member John Loss, and has the purpose of helping a homeless individual or family receive the training and skills they require to put their lives on a path to success. If you have questions regarding their work, feel free to talk to John or Sue Loss or Robin Stephenson who is a Board member.

YOU ARE WELCOME AT SOCIAL MINISTRIES MEETINGS

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome on the Social Ministries committee. The committee meets after worship five times per year, in January, March, May, September, and November. Meetings last about one hour and include a light lunch. We review local, national, and international needs that have come to our attention and make decisions on how to best use our resources in accordance with God's will. If you would like to participate, our next meeting is scheduled for November 14. Please join us on that day.

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
NF MEALS ON WHEELS (JANUARY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$465.64	\$399.36	\$865
YOUNG LIFE (FEBRUARY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$423.19	\$401.81	\$825
WINGS FLIGHTS OF HOPE (MARCH SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$674.34	\$400.66	\$1075
LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN & CHILDREN— MAGDALENE (APRIL SPECIAL MISSION)	\$281.16	\$318.84	\$600
FOOD FOR THE POOR (MAY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$359.15	\$315.85	\$675
CAMP PIONEER (JUNE SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$451.70	\$398.50	\$850
BABY BOTTLE BANKS SUMMIT LIFE RESOURCES	\$437.97		\$437.97
NIAGARA HOSPICE (JULY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$326.56	\$323.44	\$650
HEART, LOVE & SOUL (AUGUST SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES)	\$431.57	\$418.43	\$850
ST. JOHN & HOLY GHOST SCHOOLS (SEPT. & OCT. MISSION ENV.)	PENDING		



C.A.R.E

(Call and Reassure Elders)

DOES ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBE YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER?

YOU ARE HEALTHY, BUT LIVING ALONE, OR... YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH BALANCE, STAIRS, OR WALKING... YOU ARE HOME BOUND...OR YOU ARE EXPERIENCING HEALTH ISSUES

We have all heard the stories about someone who falls or becomes ill in their home and is unable to call for help. Unfortunately, these stories often do not have happy endings if an extended period of time passes before help arrives.

C.A.R.E. is a **free** program through the Niagara County Office for the Aging available to all Niagara County seniors or disabled adults who are living alone, home bound, or in need of regular contact to ensure personal safety. Married couples who are home bound are also eligible. This service may be used on a temporary basis while recuperating from an illness, or it can be an ongoing service.

Here is how it works. Screened and trained volunteers from the Office for the Aging place calls to their clients at agreed upon times, which can range from being daily calls for wellness checks, all the way to weekly calls for those who would benefit from a friendly conversation. If there is no answer when volunteers call, they will wait 15 minutes and try again. If there is still no answer, the volunteer will then try to reach designated emergency contacts. If that fails, 911 will be called to respond for a check on the client's status. If the client knows they will be unavailable for a scheduled call (such as a day when they will be at a doctor's visit), they simply let their volunteer know ahead of time.

To enroll in C.A.R.E. (or to apply to be a volunteer), call Nancy Smith at the Office for the Aging, 716-433-1886, Ext. 108. You can also email her at nancy.smith@daleassociation.com.

Current Christian Education Opportunities

Enduring Faith began Sunday, September 12th with Rally Day 2021. We celebrated together with Bible study, worship service, and a fellowship picnic. The Board of Christian Education would like to thank the many people that made the day full and festive!

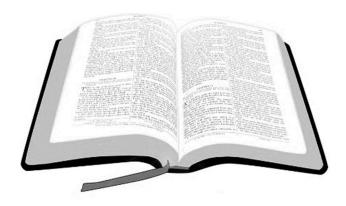
Children, youth, and adults learned the same lesson: that God made us and sent His promised Savior. Many people grew up learning the accounts of creation and the fall as children, but in the chapel the adults listened and discussed the impact of these true stories on our adult world. Downstairs, children learned that God loves them and sent His Savior, and youth extended that learning with an understanding of how that impacts their relationships with their friends.

Through memory work and take-home devotions, families and friends can learn and grow together throughout the week, living lives of faith daily.

There are still seats open! Come and see that the Lord is good. Sundays at 9 am.

Wednesday "BEYOND THE SURFACE" BIBLE STUDY begins October 6th at 10:00 and continues every week in person at Grace. In this study, using context, theology, and history, you'll be able to experience the next Sunday's readings in a way that goes far beyond a single read-through on Sunday morning. Appropriate for all levels - beginner through advanced. No prior experience necessary!

You can find copies of the bulletin with the verses printed out on the ledge outside the church office or you can call the office to find out the upcoming verses.



When to contact the Pastor

Many times, people are hesitant to "bother" the pastor for something they aren't sure he would want to know about. Yet a big part of being a pastor is caring for people in the joys and sorrows of life, and that's hard to do if the pastor doesn't know what's happening! Hearing from you is not a bother; it's allowing your pastor to fulfill his calling. Please consider a phone call, note, or e-mail for any of the following reasons:

****HOSPITALIZATION*** — VERY important! The hospital does NOT contact the church. Pastor won't know you are there unless you tell him.

- Pregnancy/Birth of a baby
- Desire for baptism
- Moving to a new address (near or far) or a new phone number
- Request to bless a new home (or an old one!)
- · A family member is homebound
- · A family member is dying/has died
- Engagement and request for marriage
- Desire for marriage strengthening (even if nothing's "wrong")
- Desire for personal absolution (a particular sin is troubling you and you want to confess privately)
- Desire for a pastor's counsel (difficult decisions, trouble with a child or marriage, depression, or any other reason)
- Your child moves out of the house, including to college
- You have an idea for the church and you'd like help with it

- You want to visit with the Pastor in your home, his office, or elsewhere
- You cannot attend a scheduled appointment or will be more than 15 minutes late
- You or someone you know wants to learn more about the Lutheran faith
- You or someone you know is interested in Christian education for a child/youth
- You are looking to volunteer in a way that best fits your talents
- You have a question about anything concerning faith, religion, life, or this congregation
- You just want to pray together
- You'd like a tour guide for Walt Disney World (just kidding! ...mostly.)
- Anything else that makes you ask: "I wonder if I should speak with the pastor about this..." or "Do you think the pastor would want to know about this?" - the answer is YES!

PASTOR BAHR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9AM-9PM by appointment.

Mobile: (716) 525-0462

You are <u>welcome and encouraged</u> to call Pastor's portable office whenever you need to talk or to set up an appointment for an in-person visit. **Text messages are OK too.** Messages left on this voicemail are checked promptly and are strictly confidential.

Office: (716) 283-1843 or office@gracenf.org

Our Administrator, Erin Anthony, is in the office Sun 8:30 AM-12:30 PM,

M/W/TH 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, and is able to make appointments for you or answer many questions you may have. Messages left on this number & email are private but NOT confidential.

E-mail: pastor@gracenf.org

Pastor checks e-mail frequently throughout the day. Messages sent to this address are seen only by Pastor.

*Note: Pastor's family days are Friday and Saturday, but he is always on call for emergencies.



October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers:	Altar Care:				1	2
Mark Andrews	Erika Tuscher					9:00A Birthday Party
Neil Stenzel	Virginia Markel					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC)			10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface			2:00P Pero Wedding
	6:30P Survivors' Group			5:00P Pero Wedding Rehearsal		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship			10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface			
	6:30P Survivors' Group		7:00P Choir Prac. Starts			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC)			10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface			8:30A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
	6:30P Survivors' Group	6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship			10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface			2000 Touris Touris
	6:30P Survivors' Group					3:00P Trunk or Treat

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9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC) CE: Christian Education HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843

Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org

Church Office Hours: Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2 PM



November 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 6:00A General Election	3	4	5	6
7 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC)	8 6:30P Survivors' Group	9	10 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	11 Veteran's Day	12	13
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship 11:30A Soc. Minis. Mtg.	Gleanings Deadline 6:30P Survivors' Group	16 6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.	17 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	18	19	20
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC)	6:30P Survivors' Group	23	24 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	29 6:30P Survivors' Group	30	10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface		Head Ushers: Ross Folmsbee John Loss	Altar Care: Alice Moll Luann Pyska

CE: Christian Education HC: *Holy Communion*

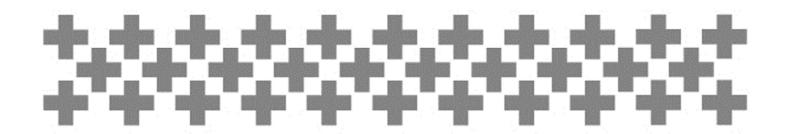
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Church Office Hours: Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2 PM

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive Grace Lutheran Church

Social Hall 736 Cayuga Drive Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Saturday, October 23, 2021 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org, Find A Drive: NFGraceLutheran

Appointments Preferred

ID Required

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Help save a life during lunch! Come to give in October and receive a link by email for a free Zaxby's Signature Sandwich or a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Terms and conditions apply, see reblood.org/zax.

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1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



August 2021

From the Desk of President Chris Wicher

RE: The official transfer of ownership of the Camp Pioneer property in Angola, NY

To the Congregations, Workers, Leaders, and Friends of the Eastern District, LC-MS.

Christ, our risen Lord, makes life new. In Christ, I believe we are blessed with new life now and to come as individuals and together, as the church, with all its parts and ministries.

The same holds true for Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. As you are aware, significant changes have taken place for the camp you loved and supported through the years. Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center closed operations in September, 2020. Thanks to God, after extensive conversations, negotiations and prayer, the property of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center has been sold to Concordia Lutheran Ministries of Cabot, PA, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The official closing of the property has now taken place. Concordia, in turn, has contracted with an organization called "Friends of Pioneer", (also a Recognized Service Organization of the LC—MS), to operate a Christian/Lutheran camp on the site. In my opinion, this transaction has been a "win" for everyone— for the Eastern District, for Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center Inc., and for the two Recognized Service Organizations that now own and operate the new camp.

The new camp is independently owned and operated. Your Eastern District, in every sense, holds no responsibilities or obligations to it. Nevertheless, moving forward, I would respectfully encourage your use and support of the new camp on the Angola site that promises new ministry opportunities for the Lord of the Church to show His love to many through a unique camp setting. The future, we know, is in His benevolent hands.

Be blessed in knowing that our God feeds and nourishes us with all things needful to eternal life.

Pastor Chris Wicher, President Eastern District, LC—MS



CONGREGATION NEWS

The following are members of the Church Council (asterisk denotes elected at congregational meeting on September 15, 2021).

*President: Richard Crawford

VP/Chair, Board of Elders: Mark Andrews

*Financial Secretary: Jon Lehning

Treasurer: Gary Krull

*Trustee: Douglas Goodnick

Chair Board of Education: Lacey Bahr

Recording Secretary: Cathy Hoffman

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr

Official Acts

As of 9/27/2021

In Memoriam:

Constance Schrock 08/26/2021 Service: 09/01/2021 at Lane Funeral Home

†Carl Schultz, Jr. 09/18/2021 Service: 09/27/2021 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/UCG2QrtXHQGArfdr6KTOrQvg

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

Electronic Service Requested



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service: Sundays @ 10:30A

*Holy Communion on the first, third and fifth Sundays

EDUCATION

Enduring Faith Sundays @ 9:00A

Beyond the Surface Wednesdays @ 10:00A

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting: October 19th @ 6:30P

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:

November 14th: 11:30A
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour.

Issue 22

Oct/Nov 2021