

# 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

April/May 2021



### OUR VISION

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

Members, friends, and family of Grace,

One year ago, a tiny virus from China dealt huge consequences. Our world ground to a halt. Although some recovery has begun, it will be years, if not decades, before the ripples from this pandemic are stilled. Well-meaning (and not so well-meaning) folks in talk shows and chat groups debate whether the measures governments have taken in response have saved millions of lives or simply worsened the pain of a mostly unavoidable situation.

Here at Grace, we have tried to do the best we can with the information we have available. We've not bought into the panic of some, nor have we dismissed the danger like others. Instead, we've tried to set a course which balances the essential activities of Grace – such as the Divine Service – against a need to mitigate risk, especially for our members who are in high-risk categories. In so doing, we've looked at the big picture, willing to take reasonable precautions but refusing to be treated more strictly than casinos, restaurants, super stores, and Planned Parenthood. Your Board of Elders and I have gotten used to making decisions that have no right answer. For the most part, our congregation has been patient and understanding with us, and we thank you for that.

As facts become known, vaccinations become widespread, and the impact of the virus diminishes across our region, we have modified Grace's policy slightly. You can read the entire policy posted at the entrances to the church, but here are some highlighted changes:

- **Increased building capacity from 25% to 50%.** That means about 200 people in the sanctuary. The 50% rule applies to each room individually (e.g. just because 200 people fit in the sanctuary, doesn't mean you can put 200 people in the Ladies' Lounge).
- **There are no designated entrances and exits; you may use any door.**
- **Communion distribution will not involve gloves.** COVID is not spread by touch nor by ingestion, according to the best research. Gloves provide minimal/no safety benefit and make the Eucharist much more impersonal. All assistants will still thoroughly wash their hands prior to Communion. If you have any concerns, please speak with me.
- **Drive-up Communion will be offered for 15 minutes after the service.** If you need more time, call the office at 716-283-1843 and tell Erin you're coming. We'll be there for you.
- **Food/Drink is permitted.** Food cannot be self-serve unless individually wrapped/portioned.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Communion will resume.**

We hope these adjustments will help life return a little closer to normal. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

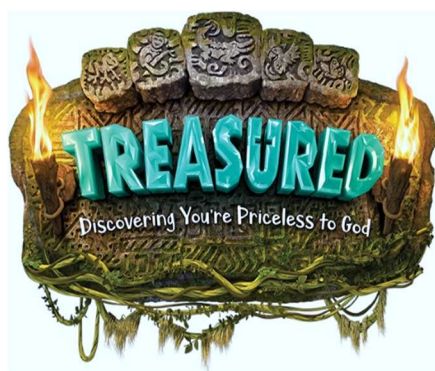
Together in Service,

*Pastor Bahr*  

**Thank you** to all who participated in the Board of Christian Education adult education survey during the month of March! We have received many responses, and are now in the process of reviewing the results and creating a plan of action. Watch for more information about upcoming education opportunities.

---

Vacation Bible School (VBS) *is* happening this year, but it looks different!



**Outpost VBS\***  
**Monday, Wednesday,  
and Friday**  
**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and  
20<sup>th</sup>**

\*What is Outpost VBS? Your family becomes a location for hope in your community. VBS will be run virtually in your home, allowing you to participate with the people you interact with every day. You may choose to lead your family alone, or to invite friends and neighbors at your comfort level.

**Adults can participate, too!** We have traditionally invited children to participate in Vacation Bible School, but God's word applies to all ages! This year, we invite adults to participate, either by enjoying the activities in your own home, or by inviting loved ones in your life to participate with you. Either way, you become an OUTPOST in your community!

**Community Walk-through Party!**

**Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, Time TBA**

**Open to Friends and Neighbors**

**Music, Games, Prizes**

**Optional: Bring school supplies for Harry Abate Elementary**

**YOUR BOARD OF  
CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

**Lacey Bahr (Chair)**

716-525-5134

laceybahr@gmail.com

**Sherry Cassatt**

716-201-5223

singinmom55@aol.com

**Pam Dixon**

pdixon3621@gmail.com

**Brian Miller**

716-990-5571

brianm93@icloud.com





Maundy Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>

6:30PM

<https://youtu.be/7o68oJIPOZ8>

Good Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:30PM

<https://youtu.be/2QkYhj4kG8>

Easter Breakfast April 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM

Easter Service April 4<sup>th</sup>

10:30AM

[https://youtu.be/IVePJTo\\_rso](https://youtu.be/IVePJTo_rso)

❖ Masks will be worn by all people over 2 years old before entry into the building. (For young children – do the best you can. We get it.) Once you reach your seat, you may remove your mask throughout the entire service if you choose. Please wear your mask before leaving the pew. If attendance reaches over 25% (100 people), we'll request masks be worn throughout the service if able.

## Current News & Announcements

**\*\* ALTAR FLOWER CHART** for 2021 is hanging in the narthex. You may 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 available. The cost for a single centerpiece is \$45 or you may choose two vases for \$56.

**\*\* 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.



# SOCIAL MINISTRIES

## *UPDATES:*

**JANUARY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** were designated for Niagara Falls Meals on Wheels. We were able to donate \$865 to this local organization, which provides meals to those in our community who cannot shop or cook for themselves. This service allows many of their clients to remain in their homes in situations that would otherwise necessitate them moving to an agency setting.

**FEBRUARY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** resulted in being able to donate \$825 to Young Life, an international organization with a local chapter that uses adult volunteers to reach out to teens to help them discover the love that God has for them. With their annual dinner fundraiser being cancelled for two years in a row due to COVID, this help was especially appreciated!

**OUR ANNUAL TOILET TISSUE PROJECT** was a success again this year! Due to your generosity and a grant from Thrivent, we were able to donate 864 rolls of tissue to Heart, Love & Soul. They will be distributed to clients in need over the coming weeks. Thank you for your help and love shown toward our neighbors!

## *LOOKING AHEAD:*

**MAY SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES** will be designated for **FOOD FOR THE POOR**. A former minister of Grace, Rev. Daniel Otto, was a long time volunteer with this agency. Food for the Poor is a Christian ministry that primarily serves countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, providing food, housing, healthcare, education, fresh water, and emergency relief. They strive to reflect God's unconditional love for all people. You can support Food for the Poor by using your May special mission envelope, or by donating on the Grace web page under "special mission".

Our annual support of **SUMMIT LIFE OUTREACH CENTER** will begin on Mother's Day in May and continue until Father's Day in June. Tables will be available to accept donations of new baby clothes, diapers, and baby toiletries. 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 allows them to shop for needed baby items in the "Parenting Shoppe" with credits received for attendance at educational sessions. Your donations will help to stock their Parenting Shoppe.

# APRIL SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES—



## The Magdalene Project

YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU

The Magdalene Project is located on Falls Street in Niagara Falls. Magdalene was founded several years ago by Joanne Lorenzo, who felt drawn toward the women of Niagara Falls who were working the streets as their main source of income. She began sharing the love Jesus has for them by meeting them where they were—on the streets.

Gradually her ministry has grown to include several projects. She supervises the **Rose Café**, a place where ladies from the streets can come to receive food, assurance of Christ's love, and a safe place to share their life circumstances.

Joanne regularly takes her van out to the street and visits area motels, providing a **mobile distribution** of food, clothing, and other necessities to homeless individuals.

She also offers a weekly **soup kitchen** to those in need. And she runs a **Kidz Club** that provides a safe environment for under supervised children to receive homework assistance, snacks, and Bible stories, and provides them with needed school supplies.

If you would like to support the **Magdalene Project**, please use your April special mission envelope or clearly mark an envelope "Magdalene Project". You can also donate online on the Grace web page under "special mission".



## FROM THE CONGREGATION:

---

The family of Ron Schulz wishes to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to all - whose concern, prayers, and sympathies were expressed in SO many ways: phone calls, texts, emails, FB messages, CARDS!!, food, memorials to Grace and St. John, flowers and to all who were able to come to the visitation and memorial service. Special thanks to Fretthold Funeral Home (esp. Jenna F.), Pastor Bahr and Grace Ladies.

We are still planning a committal/internment with military honors at St. Mark Lutheran Cemetery on Niagara Falls Blvd. followed by a catered picnic at Oppenheim Park some Saturday in June. All are welcome -to either or both. Love you ALL! Jane Schulz & Katelyn Pantano

**\* DO YOU LIKE TO READ?** A new book . . . Not Always Homeless, written by John Loss, is available to view and to purchase. It can be seen at Amazon.com. The book portrays the personal stories of thirteen people who survived and escaped a life on the streets in Niagara Falls. One of these is a member of our church. . . . Not Always Homeless also examines the causes and consequences of homelessness in America today and suggests faith-based remedies. John will have books for purchase as they will come in at the end of January to him. This reading will be enjoyable, informative, and enlightening to you.

---

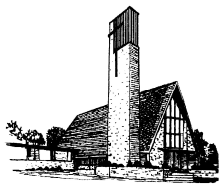
### Grace's "Historical Dream Team"

We have had our first few meetings and begun work on Grace's historical documents. Please notify us if you possess of any artifacts, historical records, stories, or items of interest from old Zion/Grace congregation. Please help us by identifying any items you have, contacting a team member to share what you have, and copying and/or donating any items you find.

#### **Team Members:**



Pastor emeritus, E Brese: Convener  
Ken Boyd: Photographer  
Elaine Timm: Historian, Copier  
Marla Crawford: Family Tracer





# Grace Lutheran Church

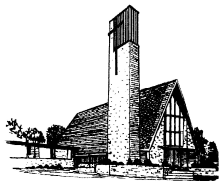
## April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Dick Crawford Mark Andrews	<b>Altar Care:</b> Ursula Zimmerman		10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	<b>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 6:30P Service (HC)	<b>2 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:30P Tenebrae Service	<b>3</b>
<b>4 EASTER</b> 9:00A Easter Breakfast 10:30A Worship (HC) 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00A (No Sunday CE) 10:30A Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 2:00P Bridal Shower
<b>18</b> 9:00A Sunday CE - Acts 10:30A Worship (HC)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
<b>25</b> 9:00A Sunday CE - Acts 10:30A Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

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; T/TH/F 10 AM-2 PM





# Grace Lutheran Church

## May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Gary Krull John Loss	<b>Altar Care:</b> Brenda Boyd					1
2 9:00A SUNDAY CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	3	4	5 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 9:00A SUNDAY CE 10:30A Worship 	10	11	12 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	13	14 <b>Gleanings Deadline</b>	15 12:00P: Piano Recital
16 9:00A SUNDAY CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	17	18	19 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	20	21 5:00P: Brant/Norton Wedding	22
23 9:00A SUNDAY CE 10:30A Worship	24	25	26 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day	CE: Christian Education HC: <i>Holy Communion</i>				
9:00A SUNDAY CE 10:30A Worship (HC)						

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



## **Current Christian Education Opportunities**

It's time to make the study of God's Word part of your regular spiritual habit.  
And what better time than right now?

**Sunday morning Christian Education** group is on the book of Acts.

**You'll discover the answers to questions like:**

How was the Christian church born?

What did Theudas and Judas (the Galilean) have in common, besides rhyming names?

Who was the greatest enemy of the early church?

Which disciples were mistaken for Zeus and Hermes?

Why should you never (ever!) (ever!!) get into a boat with St. Paul?

What happens when the Sunday morning sermon goes until after midnight?

(Hint: it involves pallbearers!)

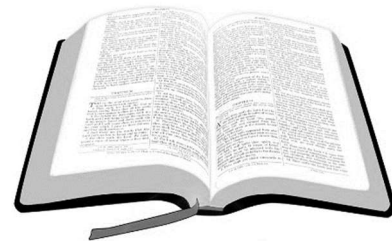
**And you'll also find out about...**

The amazing amazed magician

The lame walker

The holy handkerchiefs and astonishing aprons

The vicious viper vexed, vis-à-vis vanishing venom



Make your plans now to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM, for ACTS. Available live in person or by Zoom. Contact our office for a study guide – emailed or printed copies available.

**Wednesday “BEYOND THE SURFACE” BIBLE STUDY** continues at 10:00 every week via Zoom. 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.

There are two ways to join both classes:

1. Using Zoom on your computer or other electronic device: enter Meeting ID 716 283 1843 and passcode 736Cayuga.

2. Using your phone, call 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID 716 283 1843 and passcode 418404.

For phone callers – press \*6 to mute/unmute.

# Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass

## JUNE 15



**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.

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.



### **BACK THIS YEAR @**

#### **Grace Lutheran Church**

Save the date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021; invite your friends and watch for more information on this incredible musical entertainment event you won't want to miss.



# Official Acts

As of 03/25/2021

## In Memoriam:

†Ron Schulz	02/02/2021	Service: 02/08/2021 at Fretthold Funeral Home
John Pero	03/17/2021	Service: 03/22/2021 at Lane Funeral Home

† Denotes GLC Member

## Baptism:

Carson Gordner 03/21/2021

## Confirmation:

Dottie Strasburg 02/28/2021

Julia Quarcini 02/28/2021

# Membership Changes

## Removed:

Sawyer Bloomquist	02/07/2021	Address Unknown
Melanie Brandenhoff	03/11/2021	Address Unknown

**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/UCG2QrtXHQGArfdr6KTOqvg>



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

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
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

### 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  
19**

**Apr/May  
2021**