

# THE GLEANINGS

## of Grace Lutheran Church



736 CAYUGA DRIVE, NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-3498  
(716) 283-1843  
OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG

April-May 2024

### OUR VISION

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

As I sit here writing this on the first day of spring, I'm looking out the window at about two inches of snow on the ground with the winds blowing at thirty miles an hour or more, and the threat of more snow almost certain. Not what you or I would normally want to see at this time of year, especially since we have had a really mild winter with temperatures in the 70's in February. There is hope on the horizon however. The bird feeder in our yard is surrounded by about a dozen cardinals, with their bright red plumage almost glowing against the snowy background. Other birds, that have already made their pilgrimage from the south, compete for the seeds that we provide. Geese are returning from the south and animals are starting to come out of the hibernation. The daffodils and crocuses have come up from their winter homes underground and the buds are ready to open with the next warm, sunny days. We know spring is really on the way and it will happen soon.

I find that there are some similarities between Lent and our typical springtime ordeal. They always happen at the same time of year of course, but it's the fact that we have to suffer through the bad times before we can get to the good that I'm thinking about. During Lent we often think of the trials, humiliation, suffering and death of Jesus our Lord – really bad times. With Holy Week coming up it's hard not to reflect on those times without real sorrow in our hearts. However, we know that there is the greatest light of all at the end of the Lenten tunnel. The resurrection of our savior! We also know that our resurrection to eternal life is tied to His through our baptism into Him.

Springtime is certainly worth looking forward to, but the celebration of Easter and the risen Christ is by far the greater reward. Happy Easter!

In the service of Christ,

Mark Andrews

(Chairman of Grace's Elders)

# Board of Christian Education



## 2025 Youth Gathering

Youth from Grace, St. John, and Holy Ghost (and maybe more!) are coming together to build Christian community, fundraise for their trip, do works of service, and more. They are preparing for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Watch for opportunities to support our youth and adult leaders.



## Love to learn?

Lutheran Hour Ministries provides free training and study at levels and in a variety of areas:

- † Brief, daily Bible study
- † Academic-level Bible study
- † Evangelism
- † Stewardship
- † Cross-cultural ministry
- † MORE!

Sign on to [www.lhm.org/learn](http://www.lhm.org/learn) and create your free account to get started today!



## Summer Bible Adventure

Take a cruise through the 7 “Cs” of history:

- Creation
- Corruption
- Catastrophe
- Confusion
- Cross of Christ
- Consummation

The planning for this summer’s week-long church adventure is underway!

Help will be needed with advertising, Bible telling, registration, music, and more!

If you’ve never helped with VBS before (or it’s been a long time), reach out to any one of our Board of Ed members.

Save the Date:

**July 8-12, 2024**  
**6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

## Board Members

Lacey Bahr, Chair: 716-525-5134  
Virginia Markel: 716-622-2122  
Sherry Cassatt: 716-201-5223

## Summer Bible Adventure Volunteer Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping with:  
(check all that apply)

- Set/decoration creation
- Administration
- Bible lessons
- A/V
- Security
- Crafts
- Snacks
- Games
- Music
- Memory work
- Volunteer care
- Praying
- Donating items/funds

Return this form to the church office.

## From the Library



“When an ancient skeleton is discovered in Israel, will it shed new light on the life of Jesus or plunge the world into chaos?”

Written by historian novelist, this book begs the question: “If the resurrection were false, would my faith stand?” #1 Best Seller of 1994, riveting today.

# **DURING OUR VACANCY...**

*“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28*

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

Our Office Administrator, Erin Anthony, is in the church office on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM - 2 PM, and on the first Sunday of the month from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. She will be able to answer many of your questions about church activities. Erin can be reached by stopping in, calling 716-283-1843, or emailing her at [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org). Email and voicemail messages will be returned on Erin’s next scheduled work day. Articles for the bulletin should be submitted by Wednesday at 12 PM each week.

## **WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Worship services are at 10:30 AM each Sunday. Services are being conducted by our Board of Elders with Pastor Bahr volunteering his assistance when he is available.

## **BIBLE CLASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Bible Class and Sunday School are held each Sunday at 9 AM. Bible Class is being led by Pastor and Lacey Bahr.

## **CARE TEAMS:**

The Board of Elders and Board of Social Ministries have teamed up to provide visits and communion to our homebound and ill members on a regular basis. We thank Pastors Bahr, Brese, and Sallach for consecrating the wine and bread used by our Care Team Elders. If you become temporarily unable to attend church services due to an illness, injury, or any other situation, please contact the office so you can be placed on the prayer list (and receive a home visit if requested). **Please keep the office informed of any needs that arise during our vacancy.**

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

Each Sunday bulletin contains an attendance sheet that allows us to care for our church family. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO FILL OUT THIS FORM EACH WEEK WITH THE DATE AND YOUR NAME AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.** This will assist us in making sure that all of our members are being cared for as needed.

## **EMERGENCIES:**

If a need for immediate or urgent pastoral care should arise, please contact our congregation’s President, Dick Crawford (716-818-6992), or Chair of the Board of Elders, Mark Andrews (716-807-1758). They will arrange pastoral care for you.



# BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

## UPDATES

Our annual **TOILET TISSUE** project was successful again this year. Thanks to your generosity and a Thrivent Action Team grant, we were able to gift 825 rolls of toilet tissue to Heart, Love, & Soul for distribution to the clients they serve. Thank you for supporting this much appreciated project that provides comfort and dignity to our neighbors in need. Thank you to Ross Folmsbee for organizing this project.

**HOSPICE BOUQUETS:** A total of 31 bouquets were placed on the altar on March 17, resulting in a \$310 donation to Niagara Hospice. Thanks to all who donated, Jane Schulz for organizing the orders, and to Jane and Wendy Coleman for arranging them on the altar.

## MISSION ENVELOPE UPDATES:

**JANUARY MISSION ENVELOPES** were designated for Food for the Poor in memory of Rev. Daniel Otto, our past minister at Grace. We were able to send a donation of \$675 to help them provide clothing, food, shelter, and medical supplies throughout the United States and the world.

**FEBRUARY MISSION ENVELOPES** were designated for Young Life, an international youth organization with local chapters whose purpose is to bring teens to the knowledge of our loving Savior. We were able to contribute \$702 to support their work in our area.

## UPCOMING MISSION ENVELOPES:

**TO DONATE:** If you would like to support our upcoming missions, please place your mission envelope in the offering plate during the designated month. You can also donate online at [www.gracenf.org](http://www.gracenf.org) by clicking "give now" and choosing the "mission of the month" option.

**APRIL MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated to support **LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS**. Approximately 7 million people are blind or have severe visual impairment. It would cost \$800 to purchase a Bible in English; \$2200 in Spanish. Typical large print Bibles are insufficient for those with eye disease such as macular degeneration.

Lutheran Braille Workers provides Braille and extra-large print Bibles, Luther's Catechism, devotions, and other Christian literature in English, Spanish, and multiple other languages **FOR FREE**. They are supported by the donations of individuals and churches.



These resources are assembled by volunteers who work production centers around the country. **St. Mark NT and St. John NT are among the local churches looking to start a Large Print production center in North Tonawanda - one of only two in NY state!**

Please consider supporting this outreach to an unserved population with your Mission of the Month contributions. For more information on how you can help, or if you are in need of braille or large print resources, please contact Lacey Bahr 716-525-5134.

**MAY MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated to support **Pioneer on the Lake** as they continue their outdoor ministry on Lake Erie in Angola. This summer, Pioneer will be offering retreats, family camps, a camp for music lovers, and camp opportunities for disabled individuals, as well as several special events. Cottages are available to rent for families or friend groups. Your donations will aid in the upkeep of the camp and programming plans.

## SPRING MISSION PROJECTS

**OISHEI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COMFORT BAGS:** When children experience a condition that is serious enough to require admission to Oishei, they and their parents often experience a high level of anxiety. Many of these families have not had time to plan for a hospital stay, and their need for a pediatric specialty hospital may have taken them far from their homes.

Volunteers at Oishei pack and distribute Comfort Bags to all new admissions, ensuring that families feel warmly welcomed. The bags include toiletry items and a few toys or activities appropriate for the child's age to provide a measure of both care and comfort.

**During April, we will accept donations of items that are needed to fill the Comfort Bags.** Tables are available in the chapel and narthex to accept your gifts if you wish to participate. **There are "shopping lists" available** on each table with suggested items for your consideration.

Jim Wolf, one of our Elders, volunteers weekly with Oishei's Comfort Bag program, and he would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the bags or about volunteering opportunities at Oishei.

### Suggested Items to Donate:

- Travel Sized Toiletries: Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Hand Sanitizer, Toothbrushes & Paste, Pocket Tissues, Hand Lotion, Hairbrushes, Lip Balm, etc.
- \$5 Gift Cards:
  - Tim Horton's
  - VISA or Mastercard
  - Tops
  - Target or Walmart
  - Gas Cards
  - Etc.
- Playing Cards & Children's Card Games
- Coloring Books, Crayons & Markers
- Baby Rattles & Teething Rings
- Baby Board Books
- Children's Books & Teen Magazines
- Crosswords, Word Finds & Sudoku
- Activity Books
- Small Lego Kits
- Handheld Games
- Small Action Figures
- Matchbox Cars
- Slipper Socks (all sizes)



**BABY ITEMS FOR SUMMIT LIFE CENTER:** Summit, located on Pine Avenue in Niagara Falls, is run by volunteers who provide support to women in unplanned pregnancy situations. Summit's free services include pregnancy testing, sonograms, peer counseling, and a variety of classes pertaining to pregnancy and parenting. Each one-hour contact for counseling or classes results in earning credits that can be used in their Parenting Shoppe. From **Mother's day (May 12) through Father's Day (June 16), we will accept donations to help "Stock the Shoppe"**. Items that are needed include infant clothing, blankets, diapers, and baby toiletries.

**BABY BOTTLE BANKS:** If you would prefer to support Summit with a cash or check donation, Baby Bottle Banks will be available on the donation tables for your use. Please turn your bottle banks in to the office or to Alice Moll.

## CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE:

Please let the office know if you become temporarily unable to attend worship due to illness, injury, or any other situation. If desired, you will be placed on the prayer list. We also have Care Teams that can arrange a visit and offer communion if requested. The teams consist of an Elder and a Social Ministries member, using wine and bread that has been consecrated by one of our member ministers.

## ONGOING MINISTRIES:

**EYEGASSES & HEARING AIDS:** We collect these items for donation to the Lion's Club, which makes them available all over the world free of charge to individuals who otherwise could not afford to purchase them. A box is available in the coat room for your donations. Keep this in mind as you are doing your spring cleaning.

**SAMPLE-SIZED TOILETRIES:** If you receive sample-sized or travel-sized toiletry items in the mail, from vacations, or from doctors & dentists that you cannot use, please consider placing them in the donation box in the coat room. We donate these products to Niagara Falls agencies that use them to help the homeless that they serve.

**GREETING CARDS:** We send birthday greetings to our "over 90 club" members, our homebound, and members or friends of the congregation that are ill, grieving, or facing other challenges in their lives. If you know of someone who would benefit from a card, please let Trish Andrews or the church office know.

## NEXT MEETING—NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The next meeting of the Board of Social Ministries will be held after worship on Sunday, May 19. We meet five times each year for about an hour. Lunch is shared during the meetings. Please consider joining us and offering your suggestions and opinions.

# Current News & Announcements

**\*\* COMMUNITY BOARD** – Don't forget to check out the community bulletin board outside the church office for upcoming events, letters and cards.

**\*\* ALTAR FLOWER CHART** for 2024 is hanging in the narthex. You may sign up for any 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 \$49 or you may choose two vases for \$67.

**\*\* FLOWER BOUQUETS** that were placed on the altar on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> were to the glory of God and in appreciation and thankfulness for Niagara Hospice and the services they provide to patients and families.

## From the Grace Ladies

- ❖ Thank you Sherry & Virginia for hosting our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting where 15 ladies filled 270 Easter eggs for our Sunday School egg hunt.
- ❖ Two ladies led our devotions – Alice (sinner/saint) and Virginia (St. Patrick).
- ❖ We signed several "Thinking of You" cards for special "homebound" friends. We voted to contribute \$100 for Royal Rangers and \$100 to LWML Mites.
- ❖ We will be selling Treichler gift cards (like last year) from Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Each card is \$25. There will be a sign-up sheet.
- ❖ We are looking in to several possibilities for our June field trip. (Men included again this year!!)
- ❖ Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be Crafts with Katelyn and the hostesses will be Jane & Wendy.

# Official Acts

As of 3/18/2024

## Baptisms:

<b>John Loss</b>	01/28/24
<b>Mia Jacklin</b>	02/04/24

**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/@gracenf/streams>

## Newsletter Article – April 2024

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### ***Whose Is It Anyway?***

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

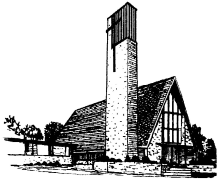
Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.


This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.





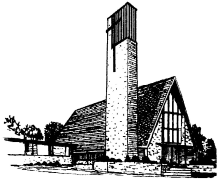
# Grace Lutheran Church

## April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 5:00A Pres. Primary Elec.	3	4	5	6
7 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	8 ECLIPSE DAY  6:30P Survivors' Group	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	15 6:30P Survivors' Group	16 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	17	18	19	20
21 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	22  6:30P Survivors' Group	23	24	25	26	27 9:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
28 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	29 6:30P Survivors' Group	30 5:00A Cong. Special Elec.			<b>Head Ushers:</b> Dick Crawford Mark Andrews	<b>Altar Care:</b> Ursula Zimmerman

CE: Christian Education  
HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org  
Church Office Hours: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2 PM



# Grace Lutheran Church

## May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Neil Stenzel John Loss	<b>Altar Care:</b> Erika Tuscher		1	2	3	4 10:00A Piano Rehearsal
5 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Soc. Minis. Mtg.	6 6:30P Survivors' Group	7	8	9	10	11 11:00A Piano Recital
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Social Min. Mtg.	20 <b>Gleanings Deadline</b> 6:30P Survivors' Group	21 11:00A School Elections 6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.	22	23	24	25
26 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	27 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  6:30P Survivors' Group	28	29	30	31	

CE: Christian Education  
HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
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# Give hope this spring.

## Give blood.



**American  
Red Cross**



## **Blood Drive** **Grace Lutheran Church**

**Social Hall**  
**736 Cayuga Drive**  
**Niagara Falls, NY 14304**

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Download the Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org), Find A Drive: NFCCommunity or call 1-800-RED CROSS to schedule your appointment today!

Appointments Preferred  
ID Required

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

**Spring into action: Come give blood April 8-28 for a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. PLUS, automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000 gift card, there will be two lucky winners! Terms apply: [rcblood.org/spring](https://rcblood.org/spring)**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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

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**WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

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

**EDUCATION**

Sundays @ 9:00A

**GRACE LADIES**

**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00PM  
Crafts

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**Next Meeting:**  
Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
@ 11:30AM  
\*New members are always  
welcome. We meet five  
times each year for about  
an hour.

**Issue  
37**

**Apr/May  
2024**