

# 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

### February-March 2022

#### OUR VISION

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



*I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.  
(Abide with Me, LSB 878)*

It was two years ago next month when we started “two weeks to flatten the curve”, followed closely by “45 days to slow the spread.” Just stay home, just social distance, just wear a mask, just get the vaccine, just move schools online, just get a booster, just don't visit people in nursing homes and hospitals, just wear a better mask, just get another booster, just... just... just. Now, almost 700 days later, mandates have yet to be withdrawn and the lines have become far more political than medical.

Our attendance is almost half what it was at this time in 2020, though some who are unable to join us in person do participate through YouTube. Programs and ministries have nearly ground to a halt and it's difficult to plan anything, not knowing when the next variant will appear or which child will sneeze and have to stay home from school this week, disrupting work schedules as well as family life.

One thing I've learned in the midst of all this is how much we need God's presence. It's so easy to become bitter, angry, depressed, upset, withdrawn, or rebellious. In doing so, we set aside the promises of God, focusing instead on the seemingly incontrovertible reality life places directly in front of us, with which we are bombarded every passing hour by the media, social media, friends, family, and our own thoughts.

#### **God wants a better life for us, and He's right here to provide it.**

When we pray in *Abide with Me*, “I need Thy presence every passing hour,” what we're really praying is that **we** would open our eyes to see that in the midst of the storm, God is there. He always has been. Like Peter on the sea that day long ago, we see the wind and waves and we falter, but Jesus doesn't. He reaches out his hand and pulls us to the safety of his outstretched arms – the same arms that once stretched out on a cross, now embracing.

His presence is never-ending. His grace never-failing. And with Christ as our guide and stay, we can look into the future with confidence: When we are in His arms, no matter what may come, He will not let us go.

Together in Service,

*Pastor Bahr*      IC/XC  
NI/KA



## UNIT 2 TRIVIA EVENT!

Save the date:  
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022  
6:00-7:30 PM

Dinner, trivia, prizes, and laughter!

Join us each **Sunday at 9 am for Enduring Faith**, lessons from God's Word for the whole family! Taught in age-appropriate classes, the entire family of Grace learns the same lesson. Resources are provided for extended learning at home: a summary of the days' lesson, a take-home discussion guide, and Bible memory work the whole family can do.

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## NEWS

"A Simple Explanation of Christianity" is a pocket-sized catechism for use in your home, or to give to someone exploring the Christian Faith. They are free and available at both sanctuary entrances.

The Unit 1 Trivia event, on Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>, members of Grace gathered to enjoy dinner together, receive prizes and rewards for Enduring Faith attendance and memory work, and participate in a fun-filled game of Bible Trivia! Adults and children alike good-naturedly competed to help their team win top prize by answering the most questions correctly. The teams got to name themselves: *Marvel's Avengers*, *Team Family + J*, and *The Oldies but Goodies*.

Check out Grace's Library, located in the Ladies' Lounge. It is in the beginning stages of development, but you can begin borrowing materials starting March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn Norton, Stewert Smith, and John Bahr in your prayers as they study in preparation to make their confirmation of the faith.

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## VBS 2022

IT'S BACK!

In-person Vacation Bible School is coming back! (God willing!)

But we need you!



Watch for the Sunday survey to see how you can help. Opportunities include:

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Preparing snacks and crafts         | Telling the Bible account |
| Creating sets and props             | Help with sound and video |
| Helping with forms and registration | Giving supplies as needed |
| Praying for volunteers and families | Being a children's guide  |



## ***SOCIAL MINISTRIES***

*“There will always be poor among you. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in your land’.” Deuteronomy 15:11*

### ***UPDATES:***

Your donations to our **ADVENT GIVING TREE** resulted in 18 large boxes of toiletries, paper products, and clothing. All your gifts are now in the hands of our partner agencies Heart, Love, and Soul, Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission, and Lighthouse Women and Children (Magdalene) for distribution to those in need through the winter months. One of their volunteers described how the individuals they serve often come to them owning nothing but the dirty clothes they are wearing—clothes that are in such disrepair that they usually must be discarded. The need in our city continues to be great. Thank you for helping our neighbors. And “thanks” to Sherry & Blaine Cassatt for keeping our trees full of tags.

Thank you for your donations of **25 TURKEYS AND HAMS** to assist our local agencies in providing holiday dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They were delivered to Community Mission, Salvation Army, Lighthouse (Magdalene), and the Lord’s Day Dinner. Each and every agency expressed their appreciation and were very thankful for the donations. Thank you to John & Sue Loss for making multiple trips to deliver these gifts!

**STOCKING PROJECT:** We were gifted 76 hand-knit Christmas stockings by a friend of a Grace member. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team grant, they were filled with soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, toothbrush & paste, candy, and a brochure, and then distributed just prior to Christmas by the Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission. Thank you to Robin Stephenson for heading up this project, and Alice Moll and Wendy Coleman for their assistance in stuffing the stockings.

## A LOOK BACK AT OUR 2021 OUTREACH EFFORTS

During 2021, we were privileged to help a number of agencies as they minister to our neighbors in need, some with monetary donations and others with donations in kind. We also supported organizations that care for others in various ways. Thank you for supporting our various monthly mission envelopes and mission projects. Your help has made this outreach possible. Agencies that we supported included:

<i>Meals on Wheels of Niagara Falls</i>	\$1265
<i>Young Life</i>	\$825
Wings Flights of Hope	\$1075
Lighthouse (Magdalene)	\$600 + toiletries, turkeys
Food for the Poor	\$675
Camp Pioneer	\$850
Niagara Hospice	\$650
Heart, Love, & Soul	\$850 + hats, mittens, toiletries, toilet tissue
Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission	\$250 + socks, toiletries, Christmas stockings
St. John & Holy Ghost Schools	\$900 each for tuition assistance programs
Grace Lutheran, Houma, LA	\$600 toward hurricane/flood repairs
Help & Hope for the Homeless, Inc.	\$785
Summit Life Resources	Diapers, baby clothes, toiletries
Harry Abate & Niagara Street schools	School supplies
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Non-perishable food items
Community Mission	Turkeys
Salvation Army	Turkeys & hams
Lord's Day Dinner	Turkeys & hams



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND SERVICE

Trish Andrews, Pastor (advisor) & Lacey Bahr, Ken & Brenda Boyd, Jane Brese, Blaine & Sherry Cassatt, Wendy Coleman, Dick & Marla Crawford, Ross & Amy Folmsbee, Russ & Jane Hughes, John Loss, Virginia Markel, Alice Moll, Luann Pyska, Robin Stephenson, & Jane Schulz.

**NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.  
FEEL FREE TO STOP BY A FUTURE MEETING AND CHECK IT OUT.**



## ***REMINDER:***

We send birthday cards to our homebound members as well as our members in the “over 90 birthday club”. We also send cards to members and friends of Grace who are experiencing serious illness, difficult challenges, or losses. Please let Trish Andrews (or the church office) know if you are aware of someone who would benefit from a card. Thank you to Trish for her continued faithful dedication to this project.

## ***IMPORTANT NOTE:***

Due to recent changes in recycling rules, we are **NO LONGER ABLE TO ACCEPT** several of the items we were previously collecting. The only items we are currently able to use are **EYEGASSES, HEARING AIDS, SAMPLE SIZED TOILETRIES, AND 5 X 7 PICTURE FRAMES.** There are boxes for donations of these items located in the coat room near the parking lot door. Please do **NOT** leave cell phones, ink jet cartridges, stamps, purses, or other items at this time since we have no outlet for them and it creates extra work for our volunteers.

## *UPCOMING PROJECTS & EVENTS:*

**FEBRUARY MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated to support **YOUNG LIFE**, an international youth organization with local chapters whose purpose is to bring teens to the knowledge of our loving Savior through meetings, activities, camps, and mentorship from caring, Christian adults. We have several members that have participated in Young Life activities over the years. Dick Crawford has been associated with this organization for many years and would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding their mission and local work.

**MARCH MISSION ENVELOPES** will be designated to support LCMS Disaster Response. They continue to help around the country at the various disasters that have been experienced over the past months. They are aiding the victims of September's hurricanes in the southern states. They had "boots on the ground" within 24 hours of the tornadoes that struck Kentucky and surrounding states and reported they were seeing the worst tornado damage they had ever encountered. LERT teams (Lutheran Emergency Response Teams) continue to deploy to areas needing help with clean up and rebuilding efforts.

**IF YOU WISH TO SUPPORT** either or both of these mission efforts, please place the "Special Mission" envelope from your packet in the offering plate during the appropriate month, or donate online to the monthly mission.

**YOUNG LIFE'S FUNDRAISING DINNER** is currently being scheduled for Thursday, March 31, at Classics V Banquet Center. All are welcome to attend. There is no charge for attending the dinner, but donations to support Young Life are appreciated. In the past, we have reserved a table or two so our members can sit together. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the glass case in the chapel at the end of February if you are interested in attending.

**TOILET TISSUE DONATIONS:** During the month of February we will have tables available in the chapel and narthex to accept donations of toilet tissue for the clients of Heart, Love, and Soul. This is an item that most of us take for granted. However, toilet tissue cannot be purchased with EBT benefits (food stamps). It is one of the things that is most requested and appreciated. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to show our love to our neighbors in a way that helps them maintain their dignity.

## *SOMETHING NEW:*

**DO YOU HAVE OLD CLOTHING HIDING IN YOUR CLOSETS?** Many of us have clothing we would like to get rid of, but it is missing buttons or has a broken zipper, or is too faded or worn to donate to a collection box. We have good news!! Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission is now accepting all types of clothing **IN ANY CONDITION**. They are able to recycle old clothing by the pound to a textile recycling location. It's a win-win situation...you get to clean out your "junk", and they earn money to help their clients. The Rescue Mission is located at 1317 Portage Road, Niagara Falls (the old YMCA). Their phone number is 716-205-8805. (Please do **NOT** leave your donations at Grace. We do not have the space to store or means to deliver them to the Rescue Mission at this time.)

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## History Dream Team: Historical Tidbits questions #5

1. Which of our former pastors was related to members of the congregation?
2. In what cemetery is former Pastor George Hoyer buried?
3. Housing (parsonage) was furnished to all pastors of the congregation until which pastor, who bought his own home?

### Answers to last Gleanings historical questions - Historical Tidbits #4

1. What early family of the congregation lived in the “Castle” at the corner of Lindbergh and Cayuga Drive? *The Theodor Witkop family lived in the “Castle” in the early 1900’s.*
2. Who was the first lay person to be elected as chairman of the congregation? *Maximillian Greenwald Sr. in 1934.*
3. Back on August 4, 1951 two congregational members were joined in marriage. Arlene Strasburg married a Luick, what was his first name? *Earl (Luick)*

(Submit your questions to the committee: Elaine Timm; Marla Crawford, Ken Boyd, or Pastor emeritus, E.Brese)

\*\*\*\*\*

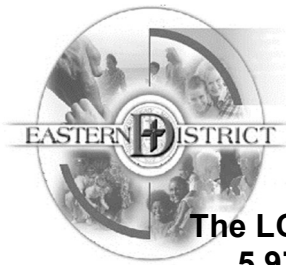
### A New Year’s Message Submitted by the Loss’s:

Happy New Year!

By: \*Author Unknown\*

Good morning and welcome to Flight 2022 We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in upright position. All self-destruct devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride, and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt, and discouragement should be put away. Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers are activated by Faith. Once Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith. There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our Captain, has cleared us for takeoff. Destination – Christ likeness! Wishing you a New Year filled with renewed Hope, renewed Joy, and new Beginnings!





**The Eastern District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)**

5111 Main Street, Williamsville, NY, 14221

Phone: (716) 634-5111 Fax: (716) 634-5452

[www.LCMSED.org](http://www.LCMSED.org)

**The LCMS is:**

- 5,975 congregations**
- 35 Districts**
- 1,864,800 baptized**
- 1,470,208 confirmed**
- 8 Universities & 2 Seminaries**
- 6,392 commissioned ministers**
- 5,866 ordained pastors**

**Your EASTERN DISTRICT is:**

- 121 congregations**
- 4 Regions, 16 Circuits**
- 31,960 baptized**
- 24,460 confirmed**
- 8 Day Schools**
- 140 commissioned ministers**
- 99 ordained pastors**
- 40 Early Education Centers**

“We desire healthy leaders **vigorously** equipping God’s people for Kingdom growth.”

In the LCMS we value our common partnership in many areas of ministry, yet we equally cherish congregational freedom. To accomplish our mutual ministry we form circuits, district, even a larger Synod so that together we can:

- Engage in local, regional and world mission outreach
- Train pastors and educators and other specialists through our seminaries and colleges
- Share the ministry of World Relief/Hunger
- Develop Bible based and Christ centered curriculum
- Promote biblical and confessional emphases
- Provide administrative and support services to local congregations
- Network cooperative efforts in synod, districts, circuits and congregations.



**Services and assistance provided by the LCMS and the Eastern District.  
Our congregations working together provide you with:**

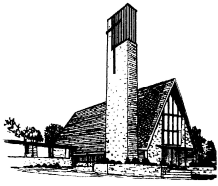
Congregation Ministry Facilitators (District Staff)  
 Circuit Counselor support, guidance and assistance  
 Consultations for Lutheran schools and pre-schools  
 Regular prayer to our Lord for one another  
 Lay Leadership Conferences  
 Demographic study services  
 Urban/Ethnic ministry assistance  
 Stewardship Education Workshops  
 Evangelism resources and training  
 Assimilation workshops and resources  
 VBS, Sunday School and Confirmation workshops  
 Advocacy for Lutheran Schools  
 Conflict management assistance  
 Human Care resources  
 Salary guidelines for church professionals  
 Support to growing congregations

Call list services to congregations desiring pastors, staff  
 Congregational Self-Study materials, guidance, consultation  
 Congregational planning and consultation, helping, enabling  
 Ministerial Health & Support for church professionals  
 Lutheran Church Extension Fund  
 Church worker student recruitment/scholarships  
 Gift Planning consultation and guidance  
 LCMS Concordia University System of Higher Education  
 Video, program, small groups & Bible study resources  
 Consultation for new ministries, partnerships, missions  
 Facilities planning and development support  
 Youth Gatherings, Retreats and resources  
 Support for congregational treasurers  
 Theological study documents/papers  
 Reconciliation  
 Relationship to world-wide partner churches



May 2021





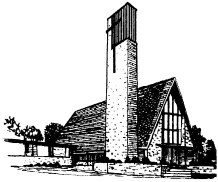
# Grace Lutheran Church

## February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> <b>Mark Binkley</b> <b>John Loss</b>	<b>Altar Care:</b> <b>Erika Tuscher</b> <b>Lin Matiasz</b>	1	2 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface 5:00P Confirmation	3	4	5
6 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC)	7 6:30P Survivors' Group	8	9 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface 5:00P Confirmation	10	11	12
13 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	14  6:30P Survivors' Group	15 6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.	16 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface 5:00P Confirmation	17	18	19 1:00P History Team Mtg.
20 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC)	21 Presidents' Day 6:30P Survivors' Group	22	23 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface 5:00P Confirmation 7:00P Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26 9:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
27 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	28 6:30P Survivors' Group					


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/TH/F 10 AM-2 PM



# Grace Lutheran Church

## March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> <b>Neil Stenzel</b> <b>Randy Broeker</b>	<b>Altar Care:</b> <b>Ursula Zimmerman</b>	1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00A CE 5:00P Confirmation 5:00P Supper 6:00P Lenten Service	3	4	5
6 10:30A Worship (HC)	7  6:30P Survivors' Group	8	9 10:00A CE 5:00P Confirmation 5:00P Supper 6:00P Lenten Service	10	11  6:00P Family Trivia Night	12
13 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	14  6:30P Survivors' Group	15  6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.	16 10:00A CE 5:00P Confirmation 5:00P Supper 6:00P Lenten Service	17  <b>GLEANINGS DEADLINE</b> 	18	19
20 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Social Minis Mtg	21  6:30P Survivors' Group	22	23 10:00A CE 5:00P Confirmation 5:00P Supper 6:00P Lenten Service	24	25	26
27 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	28  6:30P Survivors' Group	29	30 10:00A CE 5:00P Confirmation 5:00P Supper 6:00P Lenten Service	31		

CE: Christian Education  
 HC: *Holy Communion*

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## Current News and Announcements

\*\* SAVE THE DATE! As we finish our second unit of Enduring Faith Bible Class & Sunday School, we will have another Trivia Event on Friday, March 11, in the chapel from 6 - 7:30 PM. All are welcome to attend as we celebrate with food, fun, and fellowship. Check out your Bible knowledge and cheer on our students as they receive prizes for their completed memory work. A sign up sheet will be available soon in the chapel.

\*\* COMMUNITY BOARD – Don't forget to check out the community bulletin board outside the church office for upcoming events, letters and cards including a heartfelt note from Crystal Michel thanking Grace for her birthday cards and wishes.

\*\* NOTE OF APPRECIATION – The five members of the board for Help and Home for Homeless, Inc. would like to thank Grace Lutheran for your generous donation of \$785.00 for the December special mission. This will be put to good use with our goal of helping an individual man or woman to be able to leave their homeless lifestyle. From – John Loss.

\*\* BELLS: As you are aware we have an issue with the ringing of the Bells before service. Currently they ring inside the church but not outside. We are looking for volunteers for an action team to plan a replacement project. If interested please contact Pastor Bahr, Dick Crawford, Mark Andrews or Doug Goodnick.

\*\* Gladys Beningo would like to express her appreciation to those members who remembered her with Christmas cards and kind thoughts. She is truly blessed to have such caring fellow parishioners. Thank you.

\*\* Thanks to God for the Pastor and people of Grace for their prayers, messages, phone calls, food, visits, advice, transportation and caring favors showered upon at this time of recovery from brokenness of body and spirit. We are mending according to our heavenly Father's mercy and promises to sustain us. - Jane and her husband, retired pastor Erwin Brese

## Official Acts (as of 12/01/2021)

### In Memoriam:

†Chantell Simcox	12/08/2021	Service: 12/18/2021 at Grace Lutheran
†Vicki Janese	12/10/2021	

**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

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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:**  
February 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30P

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**Next Meeting:**  
March 20<sup>th</sup>  
\*New members are always  
welcome. We meet five  
times each year for about  
an hour.

**Issue  
24**

**Feb/Mar  
2022**