

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



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

February-March 2023

OUR VISION

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

Happy New Year to our Grace Family and Worshippers,


As we begin our search for a new Pastor there are many ways to pray throughout the process

- 1. Pray for your church.** A season without a pastor is one of the most important seasons in the life of the church. During this time, pray that our church would remain humble and unified. Pray that we would be patient and wait on the Lord's timing. Pray that we would be productive, **recognizing that the church is still the church – even without a pastor.**
- 2. Pray for your Pastor Search Committee.** The Pastor Search Committee has been entrusted with the weighty responsibility to identify the man that God is calling to be the church's next pastor. This is not an easy job. Pray that we would be unified and practice godly wisdom and discernment. Pray that the Lord would protect our Pastor Search Committee from unnecessary and unfair criticism from impatient church members.
- 3. Pray for your next Pastor.** While we may not know the identity of our next pastor, God does. And you can rest assured that the Lord can respond to any prayers uttered on behalf of our next pastor. As you pray for our next pastor, pray that God will give him the strength to leave his current ministry. Pray that God will give him a deep love for our church and community. Pray that the Lord will give him a strong desire to teach and preach the whole counsel of God and to fulfill the other biblical roles of a shepherd.
- 4. Pray for your next Pastor's family.** Whenever we call our next pastor, there's a good chance he won't join our church alone. If he's married, he'll be accompanied by his wife and any children still living at home. And they need your prayers just as much as he does. Pray that that our next pastor's wife and children will adjust to the community and the church and will develop new friendships quickly.

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Lenten Schedule

Lent		Sunday morning worship continues as usual at 10:30 AM
Wednesday, February 22 nd	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday: HC* and imposition of ashes
Wednesday, March 1 st	5:30 PM	Simple Supper
	6:30 PM	Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 8 th	5:30 PM	Simple Supper
	6:30 PM	Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 15 th	5:30 PM	Simple Supper
	6:30 PM	Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 22 nd	5:30 PM	Simple Supper
	6:30 PM	Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 29 th	5:30 PM	Simple Supper
	6:30 PM	Lenten Service
Holy Week		
Sunday, April 2 nd	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship Service
Thursday, April 6 th	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service (HC)
Friday, April 7 th	6:30 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service

*HC refers to a service with Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 9th

7:00 am Sunrise Service

8:00 am Easter Breakfast

This year available in the basement AND in the upstairs lounge!

9:00 am Easter education and celebration:

Adult class (Augsburg Confessions, continued)

Children (Easter story, egg hunt, music, and craft)

10:30 am Easter Jubilee Service (HC)



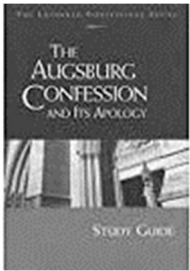
Board of Christian Education Update

September/October special mission reflection: With your donations and matching funds, we were able to send \$1715 to each of our Lutheran schools – Holy Ghost in Bergholz and St. John in North Tonawanda. Both schools put the money toward their tuition assistance funds. Both principals have written to thank you for your support. You can see the notes on the bulletin board across from the office.

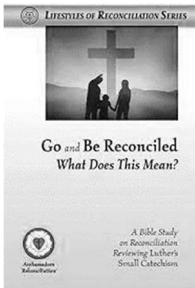
Sundays at 9 am

What’s happening during our vacancy? Adult Bible Class will be offering TWO studies on alternating Sundays:

HERE WE STAND! Many Reformers like Martin Luther risked their lives to confess the truth of Scripture, and still today their words echo in our churches. Come and discover the beauty of the chief of our Lutheran creeds, the Augsburg Confession of 1530. Study led by Pastor Bahr biweekly; see bulletin for dates.



GO AND BE RECONCILED. Live in unity, God tells us. That’s easier said than done. Grow deeper understanding for what makes the church unique in the world; what draw us - God’s people - closer together. “Go and Be Reconciled”, produced by Ambassadors of Reconciliation, study led by Lacey Bahr, Christian Reconciler-Coach (AOR).



Ark Encounter

See the following page about the itinerary for our trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter. The Way to Go Tours was able to secure a very affordable price! However, if your family is having trouble making your finances work, please let a member of the Board of Education know. We have some funds set aside to help.

To sign up for the trip, please let us know you are coming by writing your name on the sheet on the glass case by the parking lot exit. Then pick up a registration form, and turn it and your deposit into the church office OR send them to The Way to Go Tours.



Ark Encounter & Creation Museum, North Kentucky

May 10-12, 2023

Price Per Person: \$599

Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

The Ark Encounter opened July 15, 2016 with 7,000 in attendance. In its first three months of operation, over 300,000 people had visited – taking it all in! The ark is the largest timber-frame structure in the world, and most of the wood work was constructed by Old Order Amish men.

Jerry Waldkoetter, owner of The Way to Go Tours, was there twice in its first two years of operation. The timing of the itinerary was enjoyed by his clients. With each of the four visits, the motor coach was either the first or second motor coach to arrive for the day. This gives you a head start for the day!

Add to the itinerary the Creation Museum, the BibleWalk (Mansfield, OH), and the Botanical Gardens (Columbus, OH) and you have quite an inspirational tour!

Tour Features:

Hotel: 2 nights at the Hampton Inn, Wilder, KY

Meals: 2 breakfasts at the hotel; 1 TBA dinner; 1 dinner at the Hofbrauhaus in Newport, KY (number 1 restaurant of 61 in Newport)

Professional Tour Escort: Jerry Waldkoetter

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation

\$599 per person is based on double-occupancy. The single supplement is \$80 dollars. Sign up on the glass case and turn in your deposit of \$125 (checks made out to "Way to Go Tours"). **Register and pay in full by February 10th and receive a \$20 discount (pay only \$579)!** The remaining balance of a deposit-only registration (\$474) will be due April 10th.

If financial assistance is needed, please see Lacey Bahr. The Board of Christian Education wants to make sure as many as possible can come!

Simplified Itinerary from the Way to Go Tours:

Wednesday, May 10

- 6:45 am Depart from McDonald's, North Tonawanda
- 7:10 am Leave from additional pick up in Williamsville. Mid-morning break scheduled.
- 12 noon Lunch (on own) at Cracker Barrel, Mansfield, OH
- 1:00 pm BibleWalk, Mansfield, OH. Mid-afternoon break scheduled.
- 6:00 pm Dinner TBA (awaiting confirmation from management)
- 7:30 pm Depart for hotel
- 8:00 pm Arrival at Hampton Inn, Wilder, KY

Thursday, May 11

- 6:00 am Breakfast begins
- 8:00 am Leave for Ark Encounter
- 9:00 am Arrival at Ark Encounter, Williamsville, KY
- 12 noon Lunch (on own) at Ark Encounter
- 12:45 pm Leave for Creation Museum
- 1:30 pm Arrival at Creation Museum, Petersburg, KY (admission to the Stargazer Planetarium is included)
- 5:30 pm Dinner at Hofbrauhaus, Newport, KY
- 7:30 pm Return to Hampton Inn, Wilder, KY

Friday, May 12

- 6:00 am Breakfast begins
- 8:00 am Bus departs
- 10:00 am Arrival at Franklin Conservatory & Park Gardens, Columbus, OH
- 12 noon Lunch (on own) at the Conservatory
- 1:00 pm Leave for home (with a mid-afternoon break)
- 8:00 pm Arrival in Williamsville
- 8:30 pm Arrival in North Tonawanda

This itinerary is flexible, but timeliness helps the schedule run smoothly.





BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Did you know that there are over 2000 references to the poor in the Bible? God clearly calls us to care for the poor. In Deuteronomy 15:11, we are told “There will always be poor people in the land. That is why I command you to be ready to help your brother or sister. Give to the poor in your land who need help.” In Leviticus 19:9-10 we read “When you cut your crops at harvest time, don’t cut all the way to the corners of your fields. And if grain falls on the ground, you must not gather up that grain. Don’t pick all the grapes in your vineyards or pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. You must leave those things for your poor people and for the people traveling through your country.”

The Board of Social Ministries is thankful for the generous support Grace members and friends continue to show toward our neighbors in need in our community, our nation, and the world. Your donations enable our partner agencies to continue God’s work of serving the poor. Praise be to God!

UPDATES

THANK YOU to all who donated turkeys and hams to help feed our neighbors Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Your donations of 29 turkeys and 8 hams were delivered to Community Mission, Salvation Army, Lighthouse Women’s & Children’s, and the Lord’s Day Dinners by Ross Folmsbee, John & Sue Loss, Jane Schulz, and Wendy Coleman. We were also able to assist a Grace family. A Thrivent Action grant applied for by Amy Folmsbee helped to supplement this project.

AND ANOTHER SINCERE THANKS for making our Advent Tree a successful project again this year. A Thrivent Action grant (Marla Crawford) and your generosity will provide many needed items during the cold months ahead. All items have been distributed to Heart, Love, & Soul, Lighthouse Women’s & Children’s, and the Gospel Rescue Mission with much gratefulness expressed by each agency.

A LOOK BACK AT OUR 2022 OUTREACH

During 2022, we were privileged to partner with a number of agencies as they minister to our neighbors in need. Thank you for supporting our various monthly mission envelopes and mission projects. Here is a snapshot of our outreach, totaling **\$11,233.95** in monetary donations plus donations in-kind.

St. Paul, Illinois church fire	\$500
Young Life	\$900
Ukraine—Lutheran World Relief	\$1650 + personal care items
LCMS Disaster Response	\$517.40
Heart, Love, & Soul	\$825 + toiletries, paper products, clothes
Pioneer on the Lake	\$850 + tools & gardening supplies
Summit Life Resources	\$475.07 + baby clothes & toiletries
Food for the Poor	\$850
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$550
Lighthouse Women & Children	\$900 + toiletries, gloves, 5 turkeys
Our Savior (Buffalo) Camp J.O.Y.	\$250
LCMS Hurricane Relief	\$1080 (includes Thrivent matching funds)
Niagara Hospice	\$720.68
Meals on Wheels of Niagara Falls	\$340
Help & Hope for the Homeless, Inc.	\$825.80
Community Mission	9 turkeys & 2 hams
Salvation Army	8 turkeys & 2 hams
Lord's Day Dinners	7 turkeys & 3 hams
Harry Abate Elementary School	School supplies, socks, underwear
St. Vincent de Paul food pantry	Non-perishable foods
Gospel Rescue Mission	Men's toiletries, clothing, socks

TOILET TISSUE PROJECT

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. Since toilet tissue cannot be purchased with EBT benefits (food stamps), it is one of the items 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.

HOSPICE SPRING BOUQUETS



Spring flower bouquets to benefit Niagara Hospice will be available to order for \$10 in February. There will be a signup sheet on the glass case if you are interested in ordering a bouquet. Bouquets will be placed on the altar on March 12 and will be available for you take home after worship. Please see Jane Schulz to make your payment or to ask any questions you may have.

YOUNG LIFE FUNDRAISING DINNER

This year's dinner is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 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. We have reserved tables so that our members can sit together. If you are interested in attending, watch for a signup sheet on the glass case in the chapel at the end of February. Please talk to Dick Crawford if you have questions.

OISHEI CHILDREN'S COMFORT BAGS

SOMETHING NEW—Jim Wolf, one of our Elders, volunteers with the Family Resource Center at Oishei. Three times each week, volunteers distribute Comfort Bags to all new admits to ensure a warm welcome and reduce an oftentimes stressful scenario. The bags contain necessary toiletries, activities, and treats to provide some measure of comfort while families are away from home. During April, we will be accepting items that are needed to fill these bags. If you wish to support this mission, watch for a list of needed items in the bulletin during April. Jim will be happy to answer any questions you have about this project or volunteering at Oishei.

MISSION ENVELOPES--donations to the following can be placed in the offering plate during the designated month or given online under “monthly mission” at www.gracenf.org.

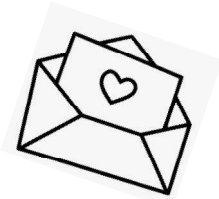
FEBRUARY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support Young Life, an international youth organization with local chapters whose purpose is to bring teens to the knowledge of our loving Savior through meetings, activities, camps, and mentorship from caring, Christian adults. We have several members that 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 benefit Potter’s Field, a volunteer Christian group located in the north end of our city on Highland Avenue. Three times each week, they pick up high risk children and teens whose parents are not active in their lives due to addiction, prostitution or incarceration. They provide a meal, activity, and Bible lessons, and the chance to “just be kids” for a couple of hours. They take them on field trips doing “kid” things they would not otherwise be able to do, such as ice skating and swimming. Their goal is to provide stable adult role models, love, and acceptance while helping them learn about Jesus.

When we asked about the origin of their name, it was explained that historically “potter’s fields” were places rich in clay where potters would go to obtain clay that could be molded into beautiful masterpieces of art. Once all of the clay was gone, the field was considered useless and often would become a cemetery for the unwanted and indigent. This group chose their name because they are embracing neglected “throw away kids” and, with God’s help, molding them back into the beautiful masterpieces that God created.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10

REMINDERS



CARD MINISTRY: 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.

BENEVOLENCE ENVELOPES: These envelopes are available in the chapel in the plastic tract holder (on the glass case) and can be used at any time. Donations in these envelopes are reserved for use by our pastor or elders if they become aware of a member with an emergency need such as food & shelter.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Social Ministries will be held after worship on March 12, including a lunch of BBQ pork or chicken. You are welcome to join us!

YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 5. After worship on that Sunday, Pastor Bahr has agreed to hold a short, informal review of how to use our AED (automated external defibrillator). This is the same piece of equipment that saved the life of Damar Hamlin, the Buffalo Bill who collapsed on the field during a game.

The AED is surprisingly easy to use, and yes, **YOU** could do it if needed. Using it does not require medical knowledge or physical strength. More and more public places, such as restaurants and entertainment venues, have AED's available, but they are of no help unless someone who is present is willing to make use of it.

We never know when an emergency will occur. Plan to spend a few minutes in the chapel after church to see how simple it could be to save a life.

Official Acts (as of 01/23/2023)

Received as Members*:

Yvonne Gurnée

Mary Machelor

Norman Machelor

*Received through completion of
"Exploring the Lutheran Faith" class on
12/25/2022.

Grace Ladies News

The new window blinds in the Chapel, offices, Ladies Lounge and Sacristy look so great – fresh & clean!

Thank you to Alice Moll and Ursula Zimmerman for all the “leg work” finding the best blinds at the best price and presenting all info to Grace Ladies before making any decisions. And the winner was JCPenneys, in which we also got JCP points for our purchase. The points were used to buy items for our Social Ministry Advent trees.

Thanks to Doug Goodnick for taking down all the old blinds and Cathy Hoffman, Donna Hoffman and Erika Tuscher for washing all the windows before putting up the new blinds. Also, thanks to the anonymous donation to cover the installation cost. It was teamwork to get it all done. Thank you ALL team members.

Thank you to Dorothy Snider’s family for the \$1,000 memorial.

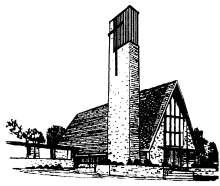
Thank you to all who bought Save Around Buffalo books. We sold 48 books making a \$550 profit. We depleted our savings account for the rest of the cost.*

*Watch for a future Grace Ladies fundraiser.

Upcoming Meetings:


- ◆ February 21st @ 6:30pm – Tea Party
 - Hostesses: Luann Pyska & Lorna Storey
- ◆ March 21st @ 6:30pm – TBA
 - Hostesses: Virginia Markel & Sherry Cassatt





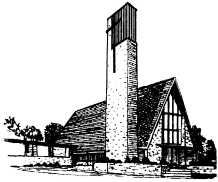
Grace Lutheran Church

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Mark Binkley John Loss	Altar Care: Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz		1	2	3	4
5 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	6 6:30P Survivors' Group	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00A CE: GBR 10:30A Worship	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14 	15	16	17	18
19 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	20 Presidents' Day 6:30P Survivors' Group	21 6:30P Grace Ladies Tea Party	22 Ash Wednesday 6:30P Service (HC)	23	24	25 8:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
26 9:00A CE: GBR 10:30A Worship	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28				

CE: Christian Education
 HWS – Here We Stand!
 GBR – Go & Be Reconciled
 HC: *Holy Communion*

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



Grace Lutheran Church

March 2023

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

CE: Christian Education
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Current News and 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 2023 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.

****Altar Guild****

Looking for something helpful to do around church? Check out the Altar Guild. Here's what the Altar Guild does each week to get ready for Sunday worship and other special services:

- ◆ Dust the chancel – altar, pulpit, lectern, communion rail, benches, etc.
- ◆ Change the hymn board
- ◆ Fill candles with oil
- ◆ Put up and take down the altar flowers
- ◆ Change paraments as needed – altar, pulpit, lectern, chapel altar
- ◆ Vacuum chancel as needed
- ◆ Communion trays, etc. as needed

The current Altar Guild members are Erika Tuscher, Ursula Zimmerman, Alice Moll, Lin Matiasz, Luann Pyska, Sherry Cassatt, Virginia Markel and newly trained Wendy Coleman and Jane Schulz.

Consider joining – please let Erika Tuscher know if you are interested. You can sign up for a month or be “on call” as a substitute or both.

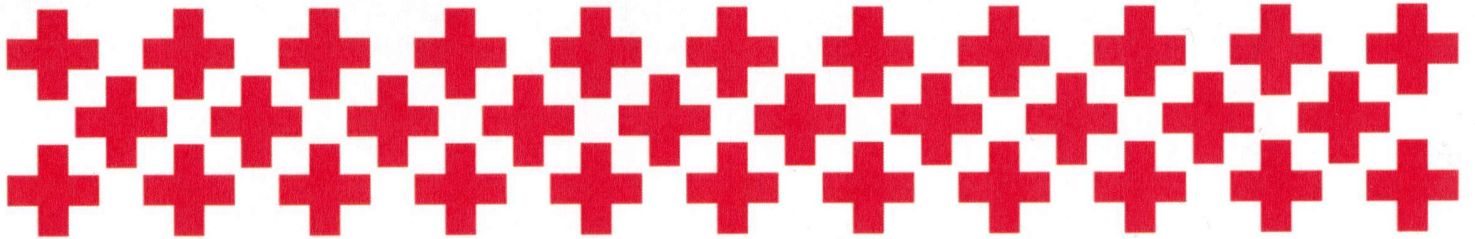
GRACE will continue to offer Sunday's weekly service online through our YouTube channel. Using this link or QR code, you may view the service live on Sundays starting at 10:20 AM or participate in any previous service anytime.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG2QrtXHQGArfdr6KTOrQvg>



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Grace Lutheran Church**

Social Hall
736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Saturday, February 25, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

Warm hearts. Warm thoughts. Give in February for a \$10 Gift Card by email, thanks to Amazon. And, automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for 2 to Clearwater Beach, FL. Includes travel, hotel, gift card and more! Terms: rcblood.org/heart.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

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

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

*Holy Communion on the
first, third and fifth Sundays

EDUCATION

**CE: "Here We Stand!"
And
"Go and Be Reconciled"**
Sundays @ 9:00A
(Alternating)

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
February 21st @ 6:30P

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
March 12th
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour.

**Issue
30**

**Feb/Mar
2023**