

# THE GLEANINGS

## of Grace Lutheran Church



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

## Summer 2023

### OUR VISION

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

The church from its beginning is unique among institutions. Its characteristics are divine and very human. It is the only institution whose reason for being is to preach the gospel in its purity and to administer the sacraments according to the gospel. Grace Lutheran is committed to be a thriving church, deep in tradition and messengers in the gospel of our Lord.

The Church community is created by God in Christ, enabled by the Holy Spirit, called, and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying creation of the world as we know it. Our current journey requires us to remain steadfast in our beliefs and dig deep into our God given talents to benefit our congregation. We are asking all members to actively participate in our worship service and bible study. We ask that you consider any of the unlimited opportunities available at Grace:

- Sunday School Staff
- Grace Ladies
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Social Ministries Committee
- Dream Team
- Trustee Committee

As we continue to meet with the call committee, elders and church council we ask for your continued prayers to find a new Pastor. The district has asked us to participate in another survey.

Our church is exploring participation in an LCMS revitalization program called Re:Vitality. Our participation in Re:Vitality will provide opportunities to strengthen our congregation for years to come. In order to make the most of this program, we need your input to know where to start. We *want*, **WE NEED** your opinion. We are asking everyone to go online and fill out a simple survey about our church. We want input from every one of you. If you do not use a computer, please call Erin in the office and we will get you a paper copy. It makes no difference if you have been a churchgoer all your life, or whether you just started coming this week; whether you are a member, guest, or regular attendee – We want to hear from each one of you.

To access the survey, simply go online to <http://lcms.cadds.alchemer.com/s3/&cong=C644859>

Your responses to the survey will be completely anonymous. No one will know your name. And no one here will be seeing any of the individual responses. It is important that you are honest so that we can have an accurate assessment of where our church is and answer the question, "Where are we...really?" You can also scan this QR code on your phone for access to the survey.

Thank you and God Bless.

Dick Crawford  
Church Council President



# **\*\* CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC \*\***

## **PLEASE JOIN US!**

We will be celebrating another successful Sunday School year on

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Our Sunday School students will be singing "Oh, He's King of Kings"  
with instruments during worship on that day.  
They will also participate as greeters, acolytes,  
readers, and ushers for the service.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PICNIC FOR ALL AFTER WORSHIP**

**HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,  
BEVERAGES PROVIDED**

**SIGN UP ON THE GLASS CASE TO BRING A  
DISH TO SHARE IF YOU ARE ABLE**



# **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:**

During June, our Office Administrator, Erin Anthony, will be in the church office on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM - 2 PM. During July and August, her summer hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM – 2 PM. She is 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. On June 11, our Sunday School will participate in the worship service and there will be a **CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC** following. (See additional information in this issue of the Gleanings).

## **CARE TEAMS:**

The Board of Elders and Board of Social Ministries continue to provide visits and communion to our homebound and ill members. 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.

# Summer Bible Adventure (VBS)



Taken to a foreign and pagan country, Daniel and his friends are faced with challenges to their faith. Whom should they fear? The king or their God? What will they do?



## Needs and donations:

At both sanctuary entrances are blue boards with our supply needs. Such items include snack items and craft supplies. Please take a sticker from the board and return the purchased item to the table by the upstairs kitchen.

We are especially in need of large plants to borrow. It will help set the scene for ancient Babylon.

## Volunteer opportunities:

- Set and Prop design – Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> (9 am – noon); Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> (9 am – noon); and (if needed) Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> (following worship)
- Volunteer Training – Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> following worship
- Set up – Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> following worship
- Leader/volunteer installation: Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> during worship

## **“School supplies, socks and...UNDERWEAR!”**

To show God’s love for these families, we are collecting **school supplies, socks, and underwear** through our Summer Bible Adventure program to support the children and families at Harry Abate Elementary School.

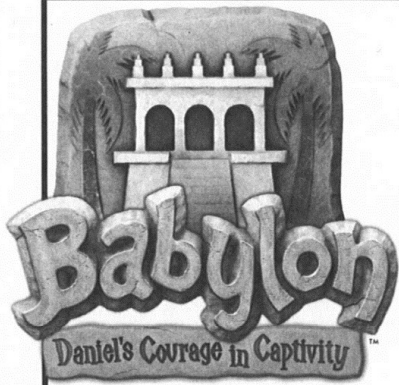
## Ways you can help:

**Purchase items.** Bring them in and place them on the donation table July 23rd through July 30th.

**Share with neighbors.** Make this a community affair! Ask your neighbors to help you fulfill the school shopping list with one or two items. Cut out this section of the Gleanings to inform and remind them, and arrange a day to pick up items from them.

**Donate money.** Checks can be made to Grace Lutheran Church, marked “School Donations”. All contributions are used to purchase items that are donated directly to the school.

*Thank you* for helping us to love our neighbors and provide for their needs.



# July 24th-28th, 2023

6:00-8:00 pm

Age 3 (potty trained) through entering 6th grade.

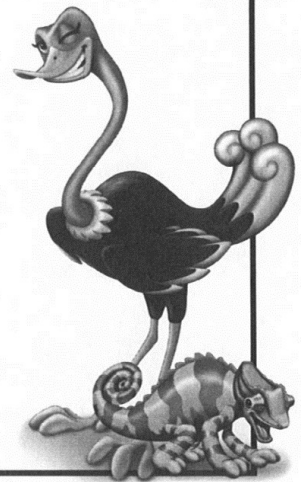
Register by July 2nd to entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Hoover's.

To register, pick up forms at both entrances of the sanctuary and return them to the office

or

fill out a form online at

<https://forms.gle/zCBcmtdcswAnoxZh7>



## Christian Education

**June 11<sup>th</sup> – Congregational Picnic**

**Summer Sunday Morning Education Hour: 9AM thru the Summer**

This summer adult education will continue to be offered. We will continue the study "Here We Stand!", a study of the Augsburg confessions each Sunday, with a few exceptions.

Please attend our 9 am classes in June to find out more.

**September 10<sup>th</sup> – Fall Rally Day and start of children's classes.**





# SOCIAL MINISTRIES

## UPDATES

**THANK YOU** for generously donating to our Comfort Bag project for Oishei Children's Hospital. God's timing is always perfect. Jim Wolf, who volunteers at Children's, tells us that our gifts were delivered at a time when their shelves were almost bare. Your gifts will touch the lives of many of our neighbors. The following is part of a letter of thanks received from Oishei:

*"On behalf of our 3,000 physicians, nurses, and staff, and the over 150,000 children and moms we serve each year, I want to extend my gratitude for your very generous donation.....Because of the positive impact from donations like yours, Oishei Children's Hospital was named a Top Children's Hospital for the second consecutive year by The Leapfrog Group, a national hospital watchdog organization. This distinction, which recognizes hospital achievements in patient quality and safety, is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive honors American hospitals can receive."*

## MISSION ENVELOPE UPDATES:

**MARCH MISSION ENVELOPES** were designated to support Potter's Field 99. Your donations allowed us to send \$1100 to support the work being done with children in our city that do not have stable parenting influences in their lives.

The following note was received from Rev. & Mrs. Vogel:

*"Before we began this ministry, the Lord gave us a passage from Joshua 3. Joshua told the people "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." Obviously, the Israelites had to have faith to put their feet in the Jordan. The Lord asked us to have faith to love His children, teach His children, train them up in the way they should go. Many people discouraged us because "how could we support a ministry with just children? They don't tithe." God provides. We are so grateful for the faithful people of the Lord like you. I'm not sure how you heard of us, but I know you are part of the Lord's plan. Thank you for listening and walking in faith with us as we answer the great commission. I pray you are able to meet some of the beautiful children you have sown into."*

**APRIL MISSION ENVELOPES** were designated to support Pioneer on the Lake. A donation of \$700 was sent to support the many programs and activities being offered at the camp this summer, along with associated maintenance needs. Pioneer on the Lake offers a peaceful setting on Lake Erie in Angola. Families can enjoy day admissions or rent cottages for a longer stay. In addition to the beach and picnic areas, there are many activities, events, and retreats being offered this summer. If you have never visited, it is worth checking out!



## **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.

**JUNE MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated to support Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) K9 Comfort Dog program. LCC has 130 Golden Retrievers located throughout the US who are trained to interact with people who are suffering and in need. These special dogs open doors and create opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, and presence of Jesus during times of natural or man-made disasters. Since 2008, they have been responding to areas affected by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and fires. They have also been present after many of the mass shootings experienced in our nation to comfort all those affected, including victims, first responders, and community members. LCC never charges those they serve. This mission is supported by donations, and per LCC policy **100% OF YOUR DONATION** will go directly to the training, care, and travel expenses of their K-9’s. Check out the dogs’ pictures at [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org) under “K-9 Ministries”.

**JULY MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated for Wings Flights of Hope. Wings is a local non-profit that flies patients in need of free transportation to specialized medical facilities throughout the northeast. Many times these patients require medical equipment that would not be allowed on a commercial flight. The pilots volunteer their time and planes, and they are on call 24/7 for situations such as organ transplants that require immediate transportation.

**AUGUST MISSION ENVELOPES** will support LCMS Disaster Response. As you are probably aware, there has been an increase in natural disasters throughout the United States, including many floods, hurricanes, forest fires, and destructive tornadoes. In May during one 48 hour time frame, there were over 50 destructive tornadoes recorded in our Midwestern states. LCMS continuously trains new LERT teams (Lutheran Emergency Response Teams) throughout the country, and they respond to the many areas needing assistance. They help with clearing debris, repairing damaged structures, providing food and other necessities, and they share the love of Jesus with those affected by these tragedies. Because the LERT teams are located throughout the country, they are often able to have “boots on the ground” within 24 hours of the event.



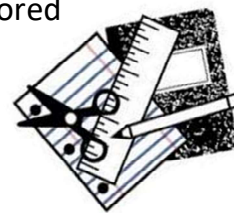
## **MISSION PROJECTS**

**SUMMIT LIFE OUTREACH CENTER:** Our collection of new baby clothes, infant toiletries, and diapers will continue until Father's Day (June 18). Tables for your donations are located in the chapel and narthex. Summit is a Christian organization in Niagara Falls that assists young women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancy situations. They offer free counseling and pregnancy/child care related education. Clients receive credits each time they attend a session, and the credits can be used in their "Parenting Shoppe" to choose free items needed for baby care. Your gifts will help to "Stock the Shoppe".

**BABY BOTTLE BANKS:** Banks in the shape of baby bottles are also available on our donation table. If you wish to support Summit in this way, take a bottle home with you and fill it with your spare change. (Checks made out to Summit are also accepted.) Bottles should be returned to the table, the church office, or to Alice Moll on or before Father's Day.



**SCHOOL & CRAFT SUPPLIES:** During July and August, our donation tables will be set up to receive donations of school and craft supplies. In September, school supplies will be delivered to Harry Abate Elementary and craft supplies will go to Potter's Field 99. Many of the students at Harry Abate are living below the poverty level, and their teachers are very appreciative each year of our donations that help them provide the tools their students need to succeed. Potter's Field is a Christian group in our city that gathers children whose parents are not able or willing to provide stable role models for various reasons. They provide a meal, do crafts, play games, teach Bible stories, and provide the love missing in many of their lives. Examples of needed items for these agencies include crayons, markers, pencils, pens, erasers, glue, scissors, folders, notebook paper, construction paper, glitter, stickers, and colored pencils. Snack packs and juice boxes are also appreciated.



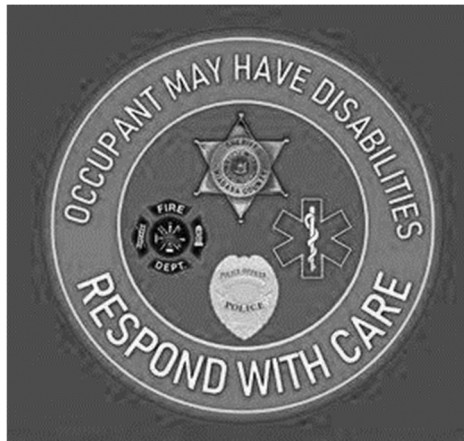
**GLASSES & HEARING AIDS:** There is a collection box available in the coatroom near the parking lot entrance for your old eyeglasses and hearing aids. We forward these items to the Lion's Club. They are distributed without charge to patients in the United States and throughout the world that cannot afford to purchase them, and who would not be able to see or hear without your help.



## **HELPFUL FREE SERVICES TO BE AWARE OF**

**C.A.R.E. (Call And Reassure Elders)** is available throughout Niagara County and is designed for individuals who live alone, or homebound couples. A call is made by a volunteer at a pre-arranged time each week day (or as desired) to verify the recipient's well-being, and a short, friendly conversation usually follows. If the recipient does not answer the phone, a second call is made after waiting 15 minutes. If there is still no answer, a call is made to the recipient's emergency contact. If that fails, 911 is contacted to respond for a welfare check. You can register for free for this program by calling Nancy Smith at the Dale Association, 716-433-1886, Ext. 108. If you are interested in making these calls, you can volunteer by calling the same number.

**RESPOND WITH CARE** decals are available by calling the Niagara County Sheriff's community services at 716-438-3310. The decals can be placed on a car window or house entrance, and they alert first responders that the individuals inside may have limited communication abilities. They are ideal for families with a member who is visually or hearing impaired, or has a cognitive challenge such as autism, Alzheimer's, or Down Syndrome. There is also the option, if desired, of leaving disability information and emergency contacts with the Sheriff's Department by calling 716-438-3393.



**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/UCG2QrtXHQGArfdr6KTOOrQvg>



# Grace Ladies News

THANK YOU to all – especially Robin Stephenson – for purchasing Treichler gift cards. With the 76 gift cards purchased and plus donations, we made a \$480 profit!



## June Field Trip - Forest Lawn Cemetery

On Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> we will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00AM and then carpool to Forest Lawn Cemetery. We need to be at Forest Lawn by 10:45AM to board the trolley and begin our guided historical tour which starts at 11:00AM and lasts 1.5 hours. The cost is \$15/person. A sign-up sheet is on the glass bookcase in the chapel.\* Please indicate if you can drive and how many passengers you can hold. After the tour we will stop for lunch at Taste of Italy on Delaware Avenue, down the road from Forest Lawn. We have reservations for 1:00PM. Let's fill the trolley!

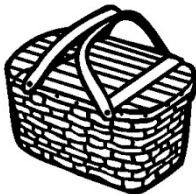
\*ALL are invited to join us – Family & Friends – But the trolley only holds 36. This is your chance, gentlemen, to join the Grace Ladies.

## Summer Picnic



The Grace Ladies picnic is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at the church.

Come for an evening of food and fellowship. Enjoy sausage (prepared by Linda Broeker), hamburgers and sides. There will be a sign-up sheet on the glass case in the chapel by the end of July.



Lastly, at our planning meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> we chose dates and activities for the upcoming months of September through May. Keep watch for a updated schedule with all events. Come and join us for any or all – you're always welcome.

# Grace

## Current News and Announcements

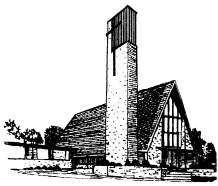
**\*\*** There have been no **OFFICIAL ACTS** since the last Gleanings was published.

**\*\* SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please note that for the months of July and August the office will have shorter summer hours. The office will be open 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in August from 9:30am – 12:00pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

**\*\* SUMMER COFFEE HOUR:** The Elders are bringing back a long-time tradition at Grace. We will be having a coffee hour after worship for the summer months, beginning on June 18. The Elders have June covered, but they are looking for volunteers to help provide some sweet treats and baked goods during July and August. If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet located on the glass case. If you have questions, please see Gary Krull.

**\*\* COMMUNION SUNDAYS:** For the summer months of June through August, communion will be the following Sundays: June 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and August 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\* BOWLING FUNDRAISER:** The 3rd Annual Rapids Bowling Center "No-Tap" Fundraiser for Help and Hope for Homeless, Inc. will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023. 'No-Tap' means when you knock down nine pins on your first ball you get a strike. Rapids, once again, has donated all 32 lanes to our charity to aid in helping the homeless living among us here in Niagara Falls. The cost to bowl is \$10.00 per person which is for three games and includes your bowling shoes. There are two shifts to bowl with one starting at 9:30 AM and the second at 12:30 PM. We will have bumpers and ramps for the kids to use in their bowling. Entry forms will be on the glass case in the fellowship hall, can be downloaded from the Rapids website, or you can register in person at Rapids. If paying by check, follow what is stated on your entry form. We will have items to win by purchasing tickets for you to deposit in the prizes of your choice. Again, follow the instructions on the entry form to do this. There are four ways that you can support our annual bowling fundraiser for us. (1) Bowl, (2) Donate, (3) Purchase tickets to win prizes, and (4) Donate a basket, prize, or gift certificate for people to win. Any questions you can ask Robin Stephenson, Sue Loss, or John Loss all members of the charities Board of Directors. Thank you for considering coming out and help us out on August 12, 2023, at the Rapids Bowling Center.



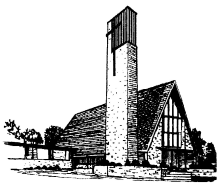
# Grace Lutheran Church

## June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Dick Crawford Ross Folmsbee	<b>Altar Care:</b> Alice Moll Luann Pyska			1	2	3
4 9:00A CE: GBR 10:30A Worship 11:30A Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30P Survivors' Group	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Church Picnic	12 6:30P Survivors' Group	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day 10:30A Worship (HC) 	19 6:30P Survivors' Group	20 6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.	21	22	23	24 9:00A VBS Set Design
25 10:30A Worship	26 6:30P Survivors' Group	27 5:00A: Primary Election	28	29	30	


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](mailto:office@gracenf.org)  
Church Office Hours: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2

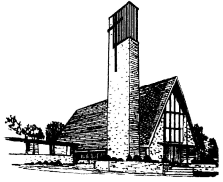


# Grace Lutheran Church

## July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Neil Stenzel Randy Broeker	<b>Altar Care:</b> Virginia Markel Sherry Cassatt					1
2 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship	3  6:30P Survivors' Group	HAPPY 4 <sup>th</sup> OF JULY 	5	6	7	8 9:00A VBS Set Design
9 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	10  6:30P Survivors' Group	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship 11:30A VBS Training	17  6:30P Survivors' Group	18	19	20	21	22 9:00A VBS Set-Up
23 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A VBS Set-Up	24 6:00P VBS 6:30P Survivors' Group	25 6:00P VBS	26 6:00P VBS	27 6:00P VBS	28 6:00P VBS	29
30	31	HC: <i>Holy Communion</i> CE: Christian Education HWS – Here We Stand!				
9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship	6:30P Survivors' Group					

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org)  
July Church Office Hours: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 8:30 AM-12:00 PM; T/TH 10 AM-2 PM



# Grace Lutheran Church

## August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	7  6:30P Survivors' Group	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship	14 <b>GLEANINGS DEADLINE</b>  6:30P Survivors' Group	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	21  6:30P Survivors' Group	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship	28  6:30P Survivors' Group	29	30	31	<b>Head Ushers:</b>  Mark Binkley Jim Wolf	<b>Altar Care:</b>  Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz

HC: *Holy Communion*  
 CE: Christian Education  
 HWS – Here We Stand!

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
 Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org)  
 August Church Office Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 8:30 AM-12:00 PM; T/TH 10 AM-2 PM



# ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP

Wednesday, May 10th, eight of Grace's members boarded a bus for the 8-hour trip to Kentucky. Their destination - the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum. Ben, John, Daniel and Michael Bahr; Flory Bellreng; Pam Dixon; and John and Sue Loss experienced life-sized wax portrayals of Biblical scenes and history, beautiful botanical gardens, delicious German food, and great fellowship with dozens of other tour-goers. They returned late Friday, May 12th. Talk to one (or more) of our folks who went to hear what they enjoyed most.

Grace's Board of Education would like to thank Jerry Waldkoetter at The Way to Go Tours for arranging the fun and educational get-away. See [www.thewaytogotours.com](http://www.thewaytogotours.com) for more information on tours they offer.





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

**CE: "Here We Stand!"**  
Sundays @ 9:00A

### GRACE LADIES

**Next Meeting:**  
June 20 @ 6:30P

### SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**Next Meeting:**  
TBD

\*New members are always  
welcome. We meet five  
times each year for about  
an hour.

**Issue**  
**32**

**Jun/Jul/Aug**  
**2023**