

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



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

October/November 2023

OUR VISION

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

Commitment to Faith

As a congregation we have rallied together and overcome some major obstacles in the last couple of years.

When Covid-19 hit safety plans and measures were put together to bring our church services into our homes. We used technology then and continue to use it on Sundays to bring our services live to those still unable to come back to church. Our social ministry teams reaching out to those that are homebound and providing them with communion.

Our trustee Doug Goodnick reported to us last year that one of the furnaces was in jeopardy of failure. Through his efforts he was able to keep the church heated throughout last winter. He put together a replacement plan, quotes were received, costs were explained to the congregation. A positive vote was taken to repair the furnace, Social Ministries and the Youth Group came up with fundraising programs (mystery envelope donation & chocolate bars) with both knocking their efforts out of the park with \$13,000.00 raised.

All of this going on as we continue the quest to find a new Pastor. This has been a slow but deliberate process as we work with our district President Pingel and his staff to find our new shepherd.

A meeting to update the congregation will be scheduled for Sunday October 8th immediately following services.

Our Sunday Bible Study has been studying the Augsburg Confession and its apology. Pastor Bahr has been leading a very compelling and interactive review. Currently we are on session 7 – The New Obedience: Faith and Good Works. “God’s loving gift of justifying faith has the power to bring forth good works in the life of the believer. God does not leave us to live in sin and misery. The Holy Spirit who works faith also produces good works in those who obtain forgiveness of sins and righteousness before God through faith in Jesus Christ.”

A tombstone inscription in Shrewsbury, England, reads, “For the Lord Jesus’ sake, Do all the good you can, To all the people you can, In all the ways you can.”

Our churches teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). It is necessary to do good works commanded by God (Ephesians 2:10), because of God’s will. We should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. The forgiveness of sins and justification is received through faith. The voice of Christ testifies, “So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty” (Luke 17:10).

These are experts from our study guide, they tell us that Faith is the mother of good works, and doing what is right.

As I continue to learn about the Augsburg Confession and its apology, I find my understanding and faith in God renewed. I encourage you to join us Sunday’s at 9:00am as we continue to learn about our Great and Wondrous God.

Richard Crawford, Church Council President

Sunday School news

Adult Bible Class will continue *Here We Stand!*, our study of the Augsburg Confessions, through October. Beginning in November, we turn to *Go and Be Reconciled*, where we will examine what God's word says about conflict resolution and reconciliation with our fellow man. There is no adult Bible class on November, the 26th.

Youth (Grades 6-12) are utilizing *The Action Bible Devotional*, a graphic novel-style Bible, as a launching points for discussion.

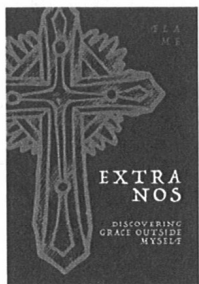
Children (PreK through 5th grade) meet with a loving series of teachers to walk with Jesus through His time on earth. Children's lessons follow the order below:

October 1	Jesus in the Temple
October 8	John Points to Jesus
October 15	Jesus Clears the Temple
October 22	Jesus with Nicodemus
October 29	Jesus/Samaritan Woman
November 5	Jesus at Bethsaida
November 12	Jesus Calls Matthew
November 19	Peter and the Christ
November 26	No Sunday School: Thanksgiving

From the Library

Check out our resources! Literally.

From faith-based novels to historical references; children's board books to biographies of witnesses, there is a wide range of titles available to borrow.



The newest book is Flame's *Extra Nos*. This autobiography is an easy-to-read account of a young Christian rapper as he goes from enthusiastic Calvinist to on-fire Lutheran when He discovers the God of the Bible and the grace that comes from outside himself.

Check books out by writing your name and number on the card in the book and dropping the card into the basket (you know, like we used to do).

MISSION OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER


Our local Lutheran schools have been around for over 100 years each! During that time, they have had excellence in academic and extracurricular programs – all while sharing the love of Christ with their students and their communities.



But having a large staff (both schools are PreK through 8th grade), maintaining facilities and grounds, paying dues and insurances, and running their programs has a monetary cost!

Please consider using your "Mission of the Month" envelopes to support St. John and Holy Ghost, two schools our church has benefitted from for decades.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



180,000
STUDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES
AND THE COMMUNITY

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES


- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus


PROVIDING EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

EARLY CHILDHOOD > 1,677
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS > 191
MIDDLE SCHOOLS > 625
HIGH SCHOOLS > 103
TOTAL > 2,594

LEARN MORE
 888-THE LCMS (843-5267)
lcms.org/school-ministry





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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. 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 held in the chapel, and Sunday School is in the basement. All ages are welcome. There is no pre-registration required.

CARE TEAMS:

The Board of Elders and Board of Social Ministries 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.

WARM HEARTS, WARM TOES

BOILER FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Our boiler is no longer working properly. Cost estimates to replace it range from \$25,000 - \$30,000. As of mid-September, we had raised over \$11,000! We are making great progress toward funding this project! Thank you for your continued generosity.

DO YOU HAVE FUNDRAISING IDEAS?

If you have an idea and would like to coordinate a fundraising event, please speak to Dick or Mark.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PANERA FUNDRAISER: Mark your calendars! Grace Ladies will be sponsoring a fundraiser on Thursday, October 19, from 4 – 8 PM at the Military Road Panera. There are flyers available for you to pass out to your friends. The flyer needs to be shown when you order, or there is also a code that can be used if you order online. Panera will donate **40% of their profit** from all sales that use the flyer or code during that time frame. This was a special promotion offered by Panera. Their usual fundraising projects give 25% back to the organization, so let's show our support for this unusual opportunity! **Please note—Panera has asked that we NOT pass out flyers outside their door or on their property. Please respect their request.**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER “CHANGE” THE BOILER FUNDRAISER: Similar to the Penny War that we did for many years, we are offering the opportunity to lighten your load by dropping your spare pocket or purse change in a box during the months of October & November. There will be boxes located in the narthex and chapel next to our fundraising thermometer signs where you can deposit your spare change. You'll be amazed at how fast it adds up! Our past Penny Wars resulted in well over \$1000 in change most years. If you wish to participate, look for the boxes to “lighten your load”.

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE: The Grace Ladies are planning a bake sale for Election Day (November 7). If you are able to help with baking, please let Alice Moll know.

Thank you to all who have generously donated so far through our Candy Sale, Envelope Fundraiser, and free will donations. To God be the glory, great things He has done! His love and care toward us are shown in so many ways!

“My God will use his glorious riches to give you everything you need. He will do this through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

UPDATES

THANK YOU for supporting our summer mission project. Once again this year, your donations filled a car with school supplies, socks, and underwear! Thank you to Jane Schulz for applying for a Thrivent Action Team grant, shopping, and delivering your gifts to Harry Abate Elementary School. Their principal, Lynne Tompkins, enthusiastically expressed her sincere appreciation for our care of their students. She will make the supplies available to the teachers and nurses who are on the front lines and able to determine which students are truly in need.

Thank you also to Virginia Markel who delivered the craft supplies to our Potter's Field contact. They are very thankful for the support Grace has given them this year to help the children they serve. These are children that have absent or minimally involved parents in their lives. The mentorship and caring provided by the volunteers at Potter's Field truly is making a difference in their lives.

AUGUST MONTHLY MISSION envelopes supported LCMS Disaster Relief. Social Ministries matched the donations from the congregation, and the donation was made through Thrivent which also matched at \$1 for every \$2 donated. The end result was that LCMS Disaster Relief received \$1500 for their work in Maui after the destructive fires. (Thrivent also paid all transaction fees, so 100% of this money went for disaster relief.)

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION



Our annual food collection will begin on Columbus Day weekend (October 8) and continue until the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 19). As we are all aware, there has been a dramatic increase in grocery prices over the last couple of years. As a result, our partner, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Military Road, continues to see ever-increasing requests for assistance. They are extremely thankful for the help we are able to give them.

This year, we will also be assisting Potter's Field with donations of **MACARONI AND CHEESE**. Potter's Field provides several dinners each week for the children they mentor, many of whom would be missing a meal if not for the help of Potter's Field volunteers. Mac & cheese is a universal childhood favorite. Donations of mac & cheese will go to Potter's Field. All other donations will be distributed by St. Vincent de Paul to our neighbors in need.

Tables will be available in the chapel and narthex to receive your donations of non-perishable foods. We will be delivering your gifts on Thanksgiving weekend to assist St. Vincent's in restocking for their Christmas distribution. Please be sure that your gifts do not expire prior to December 2023. Thank you for remembering our Harvest Food Collection as you are grocery shopping.

TURKEYS & HAMS

HAMS & FROZEN TURKEYS are needed to help provide holiday meals for families that are experiencing difficult times. These will be donated directly to local Niagara Falls agencies that provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the homeless and needy in our city. Watch for the sales that will begin soon. Donations can be brought to church **beginning Sunday, October 8, through the Sunday, December 10**, and stored in our downstairs kitchen freezer. If you need help carrying your donation, please ask an usher for assistance.

PLEASE JOIN US!

As budgets become tighter, prices continue to rise, and natural disasters continue to occur, we are seeing an ever increasing need to help our neighbors in Christ. Help us make the difficult decisions on how to be good stewards of the gifts God gives us. Our next Social Ministries committee meeting is scheduled for after worship on **November 12**. We meet for about an hour (and lunch is included). Your opinion matters—hope to see you there!



FROM THE GRACE LADIES

We thank Wanda Schaal-Smiley for presenting "The History of Aprons" at our September 19th meeting. It was very informative and fun to share our aprons and personal stories. We also enjoyed lots of yummy food. Thank you to Wendy and Jane for hosting. You can see the pictures on our Grace Lutheran Facebook page.

Please note that all our upcoming meeting times have been changed to 6:00PM instead of 6:30PM.

Upcoming Dates

Our next meeting is October 17th and we will be making Christmas Card booklets. These will be given to the homebound, those in nursing homes and hospitalized, etc. Hostesses will be Joyce, Lin and Dorothy.

We will be hosting an Election Day Bake Sale on Tuesday, November 7th.

The November meeting is on Tuesday, November 28th and is our "Annual Wine 'N' Cheese Party" with "Show & Tell". Hostess for the meeting is Alice.

FROM THE CONGREGATION

- There have been no official acts since the last Gleanings was published.

- Congregation meeting on Pastor search scheduled for Sunday October 8th immediately following services.

- Dear Beloved people of God,

Our hearts overflow with Thanksgivings for you who have flooded us with prayers, well wishes, gifts of love and time in calling to wish us good health, healing, and peace!

Jane and I can never give our Lord Jesus enough praise and thanks for all of you. Donations of food stuff fill our refrigerator and shelves. Many of you have given us rides to appointments, and helped us in so many ways beyond counting. Meister Eckhart said it well many years ago: the best prayer you ever say is to turn to God in gratitude to say "thank you!"

There is nothing better to say, Thank you!

Jane and Pastor Brese , God bless you all!

- Help and Hope for Homeless, Inc. is looking to find a man or woman who once was homeless, is homeless now, or is living on the fringe of society barely making it and wants a better and more stable life for themselves. We will help to place you in a job training program that you like so when you finish you can fully support yourself and or your family. Look through the ON-BOCES course catalog for a job training program that you like and would be good for you. Check the course description to make sure that you qualify and can handle the academic qualifications for this particular course that you are interested in to be a successful graduate upon completion. We will pay for the training costs in full for you as it is our goal to help those who want to help themselves. We want you to be self-sufficient, have your dignity back, and to be proud of what you have accomplished for yourself. You may be an inspiration to others who see what you did and think I can do that, too. -John Loss President and Founder, homelesshelpersnfy@gmail.com

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

3 – 4:30 PM

GRACE PARKING LOT (HELD INDOORS IF RAINING)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

“Trunk or Treat” is a fun family activity! Participants bring their cars to our parking lot and hand out goodies from their trunks. We also have free drinks and snacks, free Bibles, free gifts, and games. This is a big outreach event for Grace. We usually have close to 100 children from the neighborhood and congregation participating!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: If you wish to participate, please sign up on the sheet located on the glass case.

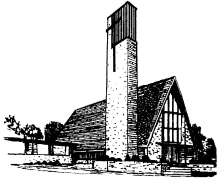
1. You can participate by handing out individually wrapped candy or snacks from your car trunk. Fall decorations and costumes are encouraged, but not mandatory. If you are able, please plan to supply some of your own treats to hand out to the children. We will also have extras available for you to use.
2. We need an adult or two to monitor our free gift give-away tables. They will be set up for you and will simply require some basic supervision. All items are free and our guests can take whatever they wish.
3. We will be accepting donations of individually wrapped candy or snacks to help defray the cost to our volunteers. A table will be set up in the chapel to accept donations during October.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND that small children will be involved in this activity, and we would like to maintain a Christian environment. So please no bloody, zombie, or occult type decorations or costumes. Think FALL, think FUN!



ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Please plan to join us on for this fun activity. Bring your children and their friends in their Halloween costumes and “trunk or treat” around our parking lot in a safe, secure environment. We hope to see you there!



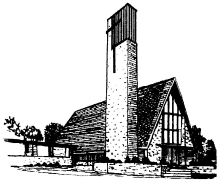
Grace Lutheran Church

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	2 6:30P Survivors' Group	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship 11:30A Pastor Search Mtg.	9 6:30P Survivors' Group	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	16 6:30P Survivors' Group	17 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	18	19	20	21 8:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
22 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship	23 6:30P Survivors' Group	24	25	26	27	28  3:00P Trunk or Treat
29 9:00A CE: HWS 10:30A Worship (HC)	30 6:30P Survivors' Group	31 			Head Ushers: Mark Andrews Neil Stenzel	Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt Virginia Markel

CE: Christian Education
 HWS - Here We Stand!
 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

November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Ross Folmsbee John Loss	Altar Care: Alice Moll Luann Pyska		1	2	3	4
5 9:00A CE: GBR 10:30A Worship (HC)	6 6:30P Survivors' Group	7 5:00A General Election Grace Ladies Bake Sale	8	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY
12 9:00A CE: GBR 10:30A Worship 11:30A Soc. Minis. Mtg.	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14	15 Gleanings Deadline	16	17	18
19 9:00A CE: GBR 10:30A Worship (HC)	20 6:30P Survivors' Group	21	22	23 THANKSGIVING 	24	25
26 No Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	29	30		

CE: Christian Education
 GBR – Go & Be Reconciled
 HC: *Holy Communion*

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Panera
FUNDRAISING



Help support us!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

40%*
OF SALES
WILL BE
DONATED

October 19, 2023
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT
1508 Military Road

DIGITAL FUNDRAISER PROMO CODE: FUND4U

Present a printed or digital copy of this flyer to the cashier when ordering at the Cafe or Drive-Thru. Enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at an in-cafe kiosk to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

**BLOOD
SHORTAGE**

Blood donors needed now



Grace Lutheran Church

(736 Cayuga Dr., Niagara Falls)

Saturday, October 21st, 2023

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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 and third Sundays

EDUCATION

October:
Here We Stand!

November:
Go & Be Reconciled

Sundays @ 9:00A

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
October 17 @ 6:00P
Christmas Cards

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
November 12th : 11:30A
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour.

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Oct/Nov
2023