

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran



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

September 2023

OUR VISION

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

“Kairos”. It’s not a word that we hear too often in the Lutheran church. In the Roman Catholic Church, it usually refers to an educational retreat program. Kairos is actually an ancient Greek term that is typically translated as the “right time” or “opportune moment” to say or do something. “Perfect timing” or “propitious moment” are other definitions.

In a theological setting Kairos can be defined as “God’s time to act in human affairs” or “the Holy Spirit is present and moving in a person, situation, or group to accomplish some specific work for the advancement of the kingdom of God”.

Those last definitions are what I think we need to remember as we move forward with our search for a new pastor for our congregation. Everything happens in God’s time! That’s not to say we don’t need to prepare and pray and examine ourselves as a congregation, but the end of our search will be determined when God is good and ready to deliver the leader our church needs. We will have to be patient and understanding especially in these times when pastors are in very short supply as compared to the vacancies that the churches in our area are currently experiencing.

As we search for a new pastor we need to keep prayer at the front of our thoughts. The first verse of hymn 681, “Send O Lord, your Holy Spirit” which is used at the ordination of a new pastor could also be used as a prayer that we could use as we search for our new shepherd. “Send O Lord Your Holy Spirit on your servant now we pray; Let him prove a faithful shepherd that no lamb be led astray. Your pure teaching to proclaim, to extol your holy name, and to feed Your lambs, dear savior, make his aim and sole endeavor.” We could add Kairos to that!

In God’s Service,

Mark Andrews



Sunday, September 10th

- 9:00 am Adult and Child Sunday School
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Church Picnic - Burgers and hotdogs provided.
Bring a dish to pass.

SUMMER BIBLE ADVENTURE

What a beautiful summer to celebrate God’s presence!



This year at Summer Bible Adventure, we learned that God is with us – no matter how we feel or what we’re going through! We studied the adventures of Daniel and his friends and saw the miraculous things God can do. Through music, interactive stories, indoor and outdoor games, and a marketplace full of crafts and snacks we interacted with nearly 30 children from our church and surrounding community!



God is with us!

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made SBA week possible!

- Ben Bahr
- Daniel Bahr
- John Bahr
- Randy Broeker
- Blaine Cassatt
- Sherry Cassatt
- Dick Crawford
- Marla Crawford
- Rich Fees
- Amy Folmsbee
- Ross Folmsbee

- Doug Goodnick
- Kathy Goodnick
- John Goodnick
- Cathy Hoffmann
- Donna Hoffmann
- Joyce Learned
- Kathy Majka
- Audrey Markel
- Virginia Markel
- Lyn Matiasz
- Autumn Norton



- Jennifer Norton
- Katelyn Pantano
- Luann Pyska
- Jane Schulz
- Robin Stephenson

and the many who purchased items!



BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL REQUEST

The Board of Education would like to upgrade the digital resources we have in the form of a new smart tv and a mobile stand for that tv. If you would like to contribute, please contact Lacey Bahr at 716-525-5134 or laceybahr@gmail.com.



MISSION OF THE MONTH:

During the months of *September and October*, Grace is supporting our local Lutheran Schools, Holy Ghost and St. John. Both provide a Christ-centered, high-quality education.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Laying the foundation of Biblical literacy, Christian living, and Lutheran practice.

FROM THE GRACE LADIES

Come join us for an evening of Sharing the love of aprons and their rich histories. Our guest speaker, Wanda Smiley, will give a presentation on the history of aprons. All aprons have a story to tell so please bring one with you to share it's story. It may be your mothers, grandmothers, one sown or created for you or by you, one stained over the years from all your good cooking, one used for a certain holiday, etc, etc. you get the idea. Mark your calendars ladies, Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30pm.

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>



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, will be in the church office on Thursday, September 7, from 10 AM – 2 PM, and in the morning of Sunday, September 10. Beginning September 11, she plans to resume her regular hours of Monday, Wednesday, 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. 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.

RALLY DAY:

Sunday, September 10, is Rally Day at Grace. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** and **BIBLE CLASS** will be held at 9:00 AM and **WORSHIP** will begin at 10:30 AM. There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC** following worship. Hot dogs, hamburgs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

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.



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.”

(Martin Luther)

FLU SHOT CLINIC:



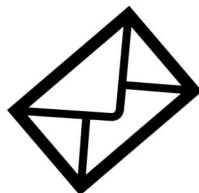
A flu shot clinic sponsored by Rite Aid has been scheduled at Grace for Sunday, September 24, after worship. Most insurances are accepted. Be sure to bring your insurance card with you.

UPDATES:

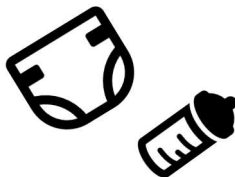
MAY MISSION ENVELOPES were designated to support the Lord’s Day Dinner, providing holiday and emergency meals for residents in need in Niagara Falls. We were able to send \$700 from Grace to assist them as they continue to provide for the hungry in our city.

JUNE MISSION ENVELOPES supported Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs. Our donation totaled \$600. One hundred percent of this donation will go toward the care of these specially trained dogs and their travel expenses as they and their trainers minister to those throughout our country dealing with the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

JULY MISSION ENVELOPE donations supported Wings Flights of Hope. Our donation of \$600 will be used to support the costs volunteer pilots incur when flying patients from our area to specialty medical facilities for needed medical treatments.



STOCK THE SHOPPE: Thank you for your generous donations of baby items to our spring project to support Summit Life Outreach Center on Pine Avenue in Niagara Falls. Summit offers counseling and parenting educational services to young women in our city experiencing the challenges often experienced with unplanned pregnancies. Clients of Summit are able to choose baby clothes, toiletries, and other supplies from the Parenting Shoppe each time they visit Summit. We were able to gift Summit with **740 diapers and numerous clothing and toiletry items as well as blankets and towels.** Thank you to Wendy Coleman for applying for Thrivent Action funds, and to Alice Moll for delivering your gifts.



BABY BOTTLE BANKS: We received donations totaling **\$482.28** in the baby bottle banks that were available in the spring to support Summit Life Outreach Center. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this agency. And thank you to Alice Moll for counting the change received, as well as delivering the donation to Summit.

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

At our September Social Ministries meeting, we will be planning upcoming fall activities. Watch the bulletin and the next Gleanings for details on our annual food drive and Trunk or Treat in October.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Our next meeting is scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 17th** after worship. We meet five times each year. Meetings last about an hour and include a light lunch. New members and new ideas are always welcome—no reservations needed!

OUR PRAYER LIST

...a time to share each other's burdens,
a time to rejoice in each other's victories,
a time to take it to the Lord in prayer.

Change. It's all around us. Some changes we embrace for their convenience. Most of us are old enough to remember a time when we didn't have dishwashers, or microwaves, TV remotes, garage door openers, cell phones, and ATM's. Unfortunately, there are other changes in our world that we may not feel as comfortable with, or we may find disturbing for one reason or another. Yes, times have changed. And times will continue to change. That is the reality of our world.

But one thing that should never change is the desire of the church to care for its members. In Romans 12, Paul tells us that *"we have many parts in one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are **one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.**"* Think about that for a moment. We are all joined to each other as one body in Christ.

Paul expands on this thought in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12) where we read ***"If one part of the body suffers, then all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part is honored, then all the other parts rejoice together."***

What a beautiful message Paul shares. If you have ever had a broken bone or had a serious injury or illness, then you know that when one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers. Paul is teaching us that, in the same way as a human body, we at Grace are one body together in Christ. And when one part is suffering, the rest of the body is suffering. Likewise, when one part is rejoicing, the rest of the body will rejoice also.

Because we all suffer when one of our Grace body suffers, and we all rejoice when one rejoices, we should never hesitate to ask to be included on the weekly prayer list. Prayer is a powerful, important part of our Christian life. God hears our requests and He answers in the way that He knows is best.

When you are facing a serious illness, upcoming surgery, personal or family challenges, ask your Grace family to pray with you. When you are rejoicing over a graduation, a wedding, an anniversary, a new job, a new baby, ask your Grace family to give thanks with you. Messages left for Erin in the office by Wednesday will be included on the following Sunday's list. You can also hand a prayer card to an usher before worship on Sunday morning.

"What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." (LSB #770)

WARM HEARTS, WARM TOES

BOILER FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Our boiler is no longer working properly and is in need of replacing. Cost estimates for this replacement range from \$25,000 - \$30,000. As of mid-August, we had raised over \$4700! That's a great start! 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. They would be happy to discuss it with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANDY SALE: Our youth's summer candy sale was enthusiastically supported! Turns out that a lot of us that have a sweet tooth! Watch for another candy sale in the future.

ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER: Envelopes are still available on the white board in the chapel. Quite a few have already been filled and returned for our boiler fund. Feel free to take one or more of the remaining envelopes, fill it with the amount requested, and return it to the offering plate. We will raise **\$5050** if all the envelopes are filled.

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 will be flyers available for you to pass out to your friends. The flyer needs to be shown when you order. There will also be a code to use if you order online. Panera will donate **40% of their profit** from all sales that use the flyer or code during that time frame.

“CHANGE” OUR BOILER FUNDRAISER: Similar to the Penny War that we did for many years, we will offer the opportunity to lighten your load by dropping your spare pocket or purse change in a box during the months of October & November. Start saving your change. More details will follow.

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 Doug Goodnick, our Trustee, for all of his time and effort to keep our boiler running for so many years, and for researching our best options going forward. If you have questions regarding the boiler or the cost, he would be happy to answer them for you.

Grace

Current News and Announcements

**** CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT:** Choir will start up in September. Please note the first rehearsals are Wednesday September 13th and September 20th at 7pm, and we will plan on singing Sunday September 24th. As always, new members are welcome. Thank you to all for your praise to God through music. If you have questions, please talk to Ross Folmsbee or Maye Smith.

**** IT'S NOT TOO LATE: ALTAR FLOWER CHART** for 2023 is hanging in the narthex. You may sign up for a remaining 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 \$64.

Official Acts

As of 08/16/2023

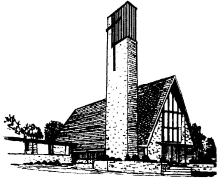
In Memoriam:

†Dorothy Snider	06/19/2023	Service: 07/07/2023 at Lane Funeral
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Baptisms:

Paisley Simcox	07/25/2023
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† - denotes GLC Member



Grace Lutheran Church

September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Gary Krull Mark Andrews	Altar Care: Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz				1	2
3 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	4 LABOR DAY 6:30P Survivors' Group	5	6	7	8	9
10 RALLY DAY 9:00A 10:30A Worship 11:30A Rally Picnic	11 GLEANINGS DEADLINE 6:30P Survivors' Group	12	13 7:00P Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Soc. Min. Mtg.	18 6:30P Survivors' Group	19 6:30P Grace Ladies Meeting	20 7:00P Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 11:30A Flu Shot Clinic	25 6:30P Survivors' Group	26	27	28	29	30

CE: Christian Education
 HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843
 Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org
 September Church Office Hours: 2nd Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2 PM
 (Starting week of 9/10)

FLU SHOT CLINIC

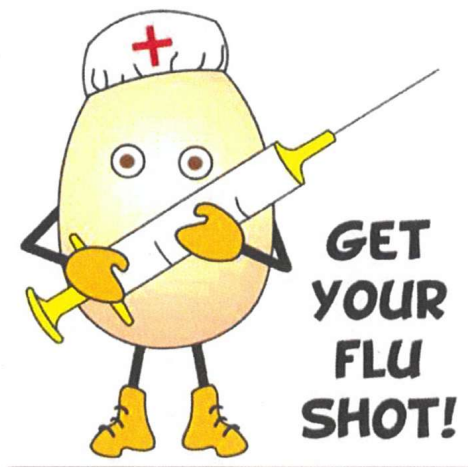
TO BE HELD AT GRACE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
AFTER WORSHIP

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

BRING YOUR INSURANCE CARD

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

*Holy Communion on the
first, third and fifth Sundays

EDUCATION

Sundays @ 9:00A
In-Person
Kick-Off 9/11

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, Sept. 19th
@6:30 PM

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
Sunday, Sept. 17th
@ 11:30 AM
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour.

**Issue
33
Sept
2023**