

# 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

September 2021



### OUR VISION

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

***"Ephphatha."***

(Mark 7:34)

Members, friends, and family of Grace,

With this word, from our Gospel reading the first Sunday in September, Jesus commands the deaf and mute man to be opened. As a result of Jesus' word, the Bible records that "his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly."

**Ephphatha.** (*EHF-fah-thah*)

Be opened.

How often are we deaf to the word of God? How often mute when He calls us to speak?

As a congregation of Christ, Grace Lutheran Church is made up of her members, with Christ as the head. Nothing more, nothing less. When her members are active, she is active. When her members are negligent, she fades away.

**Ephphatha.**

Be opened.

Opened to hearing and learning the Word of God in worship and Bible study.

Opened to joyful service that brings about the mission of God.

Opened to compassionate caring for God's people.

Opened to putting off your old self... and putting on the new self, in the image of God. (Eph 4:22-24)

September, with the arrival of Fall and the beginning of the school year, is traditionally seen as a time of new beginnings. If you're not in the habit of regularly attending worship AND Bible study, why not start now?

**Ephphatha!**

Be opened!

Together in Service,

Together in Service,

*Pastor Bahr*

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NI	KA



## Rally Day

September 12, 2021

8:30 am	Enduring Faith Registration
9:00 am	Enduring Faith Education Hour
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	(After Worship) Fellowship Lunch

***Enduring Faith*** is Grace's Sunday morning education program for 2021-2022. Whether you've never read the Bible or have read it 1,000 times, you will learn new things about God's true story and its relevance for today. All age levels will learn the same lesson on Sunday (at an age-appropriate level), encouraging parents, mentors, and children to engage in conversation throughout the week. Come each week to be prepared for the **Bible Trivia Event** in November!

Worship is the hub of our Christian experience. Receive God's Word and blessings, join voices in praise to our God, and bring your petitions to Him in prayer. We will be celebrating and installing the Enduring Faith teachers and the newly elected member of the church council.

Join us for food and fellowship following the worship service! Hamburgers and hotdogs, drinks and frozen treats will be provided. If you'd like to bring a dish or dessert to pass, please sign up at either sanctuary entrance or call the church office.

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



# SOCIAL MINISTRIES

## UPCOMING MEETING:

The Social Ministries committee will meet in person after worship on September 19. Pizza and drinks will be provided for the meeting.

**New members are welcome.** The committee is responsible for designating the recipients of our monthly Special Mission Envelopes, and we plan and organize various outreach projects to help our members and neighbors in need. If you would like to join the work of this committee, you are welcome to attend the upcoming meeting.

## SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES:

The Special Mission Envelopes found in your envelope boxes for **September and October** are designated to support Christian education at Holy Ghost & St. John Lutheran Schools. Your donations will provide tuition assistance to families that would otherwise not be able to afford this option for their children.

In today's world, it is often a challenge for Christian families to help their children stay on a God-pleasing path as society promotes lifestyles that are clearly contrary to God's Word. We at Grace are blessed to have both of these schools available to our families. Not only do they teach and reinforce Christian beliefs and values to their students on a daily basis, but they are both ranked as top schools among all public and private schools in our area.

Many of our congregation's families have sent their children to Holy Ghost or St. John Lutheran Schools, and we have members who are (or have been) faculty members, including Marla Crawford, Jane Schulz, Katelyn Pantano, and Lacey Bahr. They, along with Pastor Bahr, would welcome any questions you may have about our schools and the advantages of Christian education.

Please keep our families and schools in your prayers, and consider the opportunity to step up and support Christian education by placing your special mission envelope in the offering plate during September and October.

## **SINCE WE LAST TALKED:**

Thank you to all who have donated to our Social Ministries projects and Special Mission Envelopes throughout the summer.

Our **Stock the Shoppe** project to support Summit Life Resources resulted in over 150 donations of baby items, including diapers, clothes, toiletries, and many other infant supplies. Thank you to Wendy Coleman, Jane Schulz, and Alice Moll for organizing this project and delivering your donations.

The **Baby Bottle Banks**, received \$437.97 in donations to support Summit Life Resources in the work they are doing with young parents experiencing unexpected pregnancy situations.

**Special Mission Envelopes** for Food for the Poor (May) allowed us to donate \$675 to this international charity. Camp Pioneer (June) received \$850 from Grace, and Niagara Hospice (July) received \$650.

**School supplies, socks, and underwear:** As this is being written at the end of August, our tables are overflowing with supplies for our inner city children. Be assured that each one of your gifts will find a home with a child in our city who is in need. Plans are in place for the delivery of your gifts at the beginning of September.

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# **FLU SHOT CLINIC**

**TO BE HELD AT GRACE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**

**AFTER WORSHIP**

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**

**BRING YOUR INSURANCE CARD**

# Grace

## Current News and Announcements

**\*\* CHOIR NOTICE:** We are planning to start choir rehearsals again on an intermittent schedule so that we can sing for upcoming special and holiday services. If you were attending choir rehearsals prior to COVID, we have you on our contact list. If you did not previously attend but are interested in joining, please leave your information with the office and we will add you to our contact list. New members are needed. More information will be coming soon.

**\*\* IT'S NOT TOO LATE: ALTAR FLOWER CHART** for 2021 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 \$45 or you may choose two vases for \$56.

### **Grace's "Historical Dream Team" – History Tidbits**

Since the congregation is marking its 115 years of existence in 2022, your Historical DreamTeam has been busy collecting information, interviewing people and taking pictures. Each issue of the newsletter will contain something of interest from our history. Please enjoy, add your story and pass them along.

For Example:

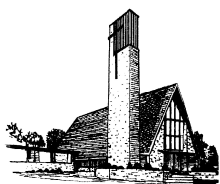
#1 – When our present sanctuary was dedicated for use in 1956. what happened to the old furnishings? Can you name the Niagara County Lutheran church that now uses the old altar, pulpit and pews that we first used?

#2 – One of the earliest weddings (1910) in the congregation was between Maximillian Greenwald, Sr. and Margaretha Viola Weber. That wedding dress has been cleaned and will be on display at our celebration next Fall.

#3 – Which pastor was gifted with a new car that he parked in front of the parsonage on Munson Avenue, only to have it roll down the street, cross Cayuga Drive and end up in Cayuga Creek?

More fun stories ahead,

Ken Boyd. Elaine Timm, Marla Crawford, Rev. Brese



# Grace Lutheran Church

## September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Gary Krull Brian Miller	<b>Altar Care:</b> Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz		1	2	3	4
5 10:30A Worship (HC)	6 LABOR DAY 6:30P Survivors' Group	7	8	9	10	11
12 RALLY DAY 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship 11:30A Rally Picnic	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Soc. Min. Mtg.	20 6:30P Survivors' Group	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28	29	30		

CE: Christian Education  
 HC: *Holy Communion*

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



# Grace's Community Party

Held Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> was a fun chance to show the neighborhood that we are active! Nine stations included water games, corn hole, mini golf, Bible trivia, crafts, and snacks. We also gave away Bibles, Thrivent t-shirts, and frozen treats. Vacation Bible School music energized the party and smiles, and fellowship were enjoyed throughout the evening. The Board of Christian Education wishes to thank all who participated and made the Community Party a special memory-making event!



## YOUR BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Lacey Bahr (Chair)

716-525-5134

laceybahr@gmail.com

### Sherry Cassatt

716-201-5223

singinmom55@aol.com

### Pam Dixon

pdixon3621@gmail.com

### Brian Miller

716-990-5571

brianm93@icloud.com

# Official Acts

As of 06/01/2021

## Deaths:

†June King

called on 06/18/2021

Service: 06/24/2021 at Grace Lutheran

Albert "Babe" Strasburg

called on 08/02/2021

Service: 08/10/2021 at Kaiser Funeral

## Baptisms:

Malia Kuntz

06/20/2021

Benaiah Kuntz

06/20/2021

## Confirmed:

Brittany Kuntz

06/20/2021

Michael Kuntz

06/20/2021

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  
In-Person

**Beyond the Surface**  
Wednesdays @ 10:00A  
Starting 10/6

### GRACE LADIES

**Next Meeting:**  
TBD

### SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**Next Meeting:**  
Sunday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>  
@ 11:30 AM  
\*New members are always  
welcome. We meet five  
times each year for about  
an hour.

**Issue  
21**

**Sept  
2021**