

# THE GLEANINGS

## of Grace Lutheran Church



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OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG  
REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

### Summer 2022

#### OUR VISION

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

*Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence-  
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence! (Isaiah 64:1-2)*



The beautiful world God created has become a seriously messed up place.

Not that this should be news to any of us who understand original sin! Even still, the depths of depravity we encounter on a regular basis can be heartwrenching.

Every time a criminal act or a tragedy occurs, the political wagons circle, everyone with their own (often contradictory) solutions to the same age-old problems. If we just did \_\_\_\_\_, it would stop.

The problem is, we've done \_\_\_\_\_. Really, we have. No matter what it is, there's a place on earth that has tried it. Gun control? Done it. Incarceration? The book's been thrown. Mental health? More money? Abolish police? Change education? Somewhere, sometime, all of these have been tried.

And nothing worked.

Every solution tries to minimize or hide the effects of sin without getting rid of the cause, and so every solution – yes, even the one your party offers – is flawed. There is no solution that will work except one which addresses the actual problem: our bondage to sin.

Only Christ can do that. Further, it is only through His church, by His means of grace, that is, Word and Sacrament ministry, that He has promised to do it.

Would you like to fix the world? Start by going to church AND Bible study every week. There, you will hear the Gospel of life. In His quest to fix the world, Jesus fixes you first. He restores your relationship to God, which transforms your relationship with your neighbor. He restores your hope and your love and gives you peace beyond understanding. He teaches you what it means to be His disciple, to shun that which the world loves and desire that which is of God. And when you realize His love for you, He asks you to bring your family and your friends, that He might heal them too.

This is how we heal the world: "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them."

Together in Service,

Pastor Bahr  $\frac{IC}{NI} \frac{XC}{KA}$



# Summer Bible Adventure July 25-29, 6-8 PM

Registration is available online at  
[gracenf.org/vbs](http://gracenf.org/vbs)

Register now for your free music and register by June 30<sup>th</sup> to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Hoover's gift certificate!

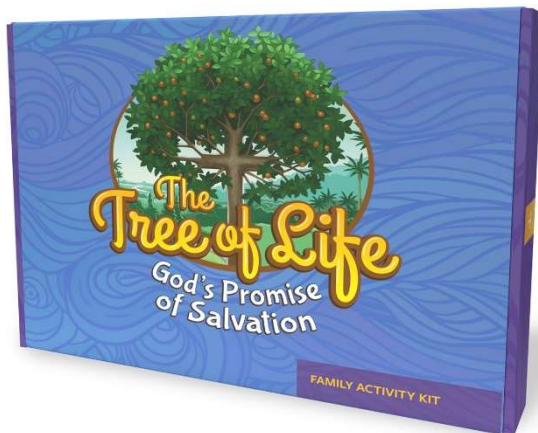
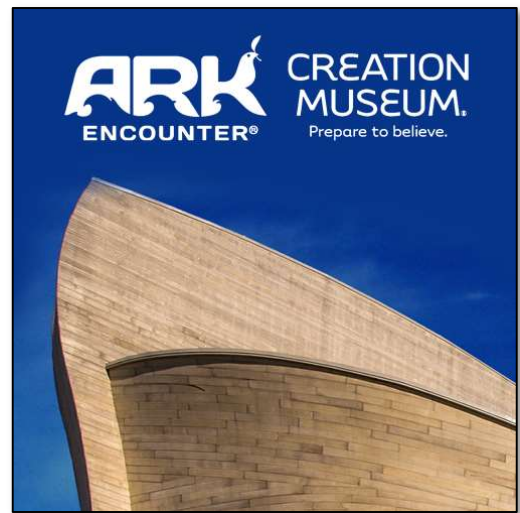
Invite a friend!

The Board of Christian Education is working to organize a church-wide trip to Kentucky for

## May 2023

Watch for information on busing and housing.

Learn more about these amazing museums at  
[CreationMuseum.org](http://CreationMuseum.org)  
[ArkEncounter.com](http://ArkEncounter.com)



Family Summer Resource:

## *The Tree of Life*

Family Lesson Kit

10 lessons for the summer! See a sample in the chapel.

\$20, customizable for family member ages.



# SOCIAL MINISTRIES

“Each one of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You should not give if it makes you unhappy or if you feel forced to give. God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

Martin Luther is quoted as saying, “God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does.” There are so many in need today, locally, nationally, and worldwide. The Social Ministries committee spends time at each meeting considering, and sometimes struggling with, the many needs and requests that have been received. We are privileged to be able to make opportunities available to help our neighbors in Christ. We encourage you to pray about these opportunities and then follow the advice given in 2 Corinthians, cheerfully participating according to how God has moved your heart.

## UPDATES:

Thank you for your prompt and generous response to our request for donations of toiletries and medications for **UKRAINE**. Your gifts were delivered to Elderwood at Northgate on Nash Road. From there they were transported to the Ukraine Cultural Center in Buffalo and shipped to their contacts in Ukraine, where they were immediately placed into the hands of the people in need.

**YOUNG LIFE’S** fundraising dinner in March resulted in donations of \$164,795. Grace was represented at the dinner by 12 members, including Dick & Marla Crawford, John & Sue Loss, Blaine & Sherry Cassett, Virginia & Audrey Markel, Erika Tuscher, Wendy Coleman, Jane Schulz, and Cathy Hoffman. Thank you for your support of this group that reaches out to teens in our area to share the love of Jesus.

Thank you for supporting **PIONEER CAMP** with donations of various tools and other items from their “wish list”. These items will be delivered to the camp for their use over the coming months.

## PAST MISSION ENVELOPE UPDATES:

**MARCH MISSION RECEIPTS** were designated to support LCMS Disaster Response as they continue to respond to wildfires, storm damage, and floods nationwide. We were able to donate \$517.40 to help their Lutheran Emergency Response Teams (LERT) in their mission.

**APRIL MISSION RECEIPTS** supported Heart, Love, & Soul in Niagara Falls in the amount of \$825. Heart, Love, and Soul offers meals, a food pantry, a Necessary Shop offering personal care items and cleaning supplies, and laundry and shower facilities for our city's homeless, as well as health care and social service referrals. In January alone, they report that they served 3,224 meals and aided 296 families through their food pantry.



## UPCOMING MISSION ENVELOPES:

**TO DONATE:** If you would like to support the following 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 **FOOD FOR THE POOR**. A former minister of Grace, Rev. Daniel Otto, was a long time volunteer with this agency. Food for the Poor is a Christian ministry that primarily serves countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, providing food, housing, healthcare, education, fresh water, and emergency relief to some of the poorest countries in the world. They strive to reflect God's unconditional love for all people as they help with their basic life needs.

**JULY** mission envelopes will help **LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION** in their mission to provide books such as "Luther's Small Catechism", devotional booklets, and children's Bible stories in their native language to countries where the doors to sharing the Gospel are threatening to close. Normally, every \$5 donated will print one of these books and put it into waiting hands. Because a supporter of Lutheran Heritage Foundation is matching donations dollar to dollar this year, a donation of \$5 will double to provide two books.

**AUGUST** mission envelopes are designated for the support of **LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN AND CHILDREN CENTER** (formerly Magdalene) located on Falls Street in Niagara Falls. This mission group reaches women of our city who are working the streets as their main source of income. They provide meals, clothing, and opportunities to learn about Christ, as well as a weekly recovery program for addictions. A mobile food pantry goes out to various inner city areas several times a month. Various activities are also offered throughout the year for our inner city children.

## SPRING PROJECTS:

**STOCK THE SHOPPE**--Continuing through Father's Day (June 19), we are accepting donations of new baby clothes, diapers, and baby toiletries for **SUMMIT LIFE OUTREACH CENTER**. Summit is a Christian organization located on Pine Avenue (near the Niagara Falls City Market) that is devoted to helping young women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancy situations. Their clients receive free counseling as well as pregnancy and parenting education. Their "earn while you learn" program awards credits for attendance at counseling and educational sessions, and the credits can be used to "purchase" needed baby supplies in their Parenting Shoppe. Your donations will help to stock the Parenting Shoppe.

**BABY BOTTLE BANKS** are also available on our Summit Life Outreach tables. Feel free to take a bank or two and fill them with your spare change. The money raised from this annual fundraiser will help to purchase supplies needed by the volunteers, counselors, and teachers at Summit as they provide needed information and support to women in crisis situations related to unplanned pregnancies. Many of their clients are struggling emotionally and financially, may be homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, or are living in unsafe or abusive situations. Please return your banks to the office or to Alice Moll by Father's Day (June 19). Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to Wendy Coleman & Jane Schulz for setting up our Summit donation tables, to Wendy for applying for a Thrivent grant that is supplementing this project, and to Alice Moll (who has volunteered at Summit) for obtaining our baby bottle banks each year.

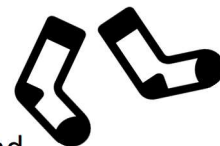
## SUMMER PROJECT:

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SOCKS, & UNDERWEAR:** "Business First" ranks Niagara Falls school children as having the 6<sup>th</sup> highest poverty level of 98 Western New York schools, with a youth poverty level of 31.4%. Keep in mind that this rating was based on the assessment of ALL children in the district, not just the students attending our inner city schools, which means the poverty rate of our inner city children is likely even higher. Many of our city's families cannot afford the supplies needed for their children's education.

We will have tables available in the chapel and narthex during **July & August** to receive your donations of school supplies, socks, and underwear. In September, they will be distributed **DIRECTLY** to our city's children in need by teachers and school nurses.



**WHY SOCKS & UNDERWEAR?** Nationally, socks and underwear are the items most often requested by individuals and families living in poverty. And, unfortunately, they are also the items least often gifted to donation centers. They are pieces of clothing most of us take for granted. But to families that are struggling to pay their rent and put food on the table, they are considered luxuries that can be moved from their “need” column to their “want” column. The reality is that shirts, pants, and shoes are required to send their children to school-- underwear and socks are not. Your donations of socks and underwear will help provide both dignity and warmth during the upcoming school year.



Thank you to Social Ministries committee member Jane Schulz, a Grace member and substitute teacher/aide at St. John Lutheran School, for applying for a grant from Thrivent that will be used to supplement our donations. Thank you also to Jane Brese for faithfully delivering our gifts each year.

## **ONGOING MINISTRIES:**

**EYEGASSES & HEARING AIDS:** We collect these items for donation to the Lion’s Club, which makes them available all over the world free of charge to individuals who otherwise could not afford to purchase them. A box is available in the coat room for your donations.

**SAMPLE-SIZED TOILETRIES:** If you receive sample-sized or travel-sized toiletry items in the mail, from vacations, or from doctors & dentists that you cannot use, please consider placing them in the donation box in the coat room. Your donations are distributed to women in need in Niagara Falls by Lighthouse Women & Children.

**5 X 7 PICTURE FRAMES:** There is a donation box for 5 x 7 frames in the coat room. Alice Moll places pictures from our inspirational bulletin covers in them and donates them to agencies such as the Gospel Rescue Mission in Niagara Falls. They tell us it makes their rooms more inviting and warm.

**GREETING CARDS:** We send greeting cards to members or friends of the congregation that are ill, grieving, or facing other challenges in their lives, and birthday greetings to our “over 90 club” members and our homebound. If you know of someone who would benefit from a card, please let Trish Andrews or the church office know.

**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

## Current News and Announcements

**\*\* 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 Sundays from 9:30am – 12:00pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

**\*\* IT'S NOT TOO LATE: ALTAR FLOWER CHART** for 2022 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 \$47 or you may choose two vases for \$60.

**\*\* UPCOMING CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** The administration of our church and congregation are important roles in the ministry of our faith.

The following positions on the church council are up for Election:

Vice-President (Incumbent Mark Andrews)      Treasurer (Incumbent Gary Krull)

Board of Education (Incumbent Lacey Bahr)

Nominations will be taken from the floor if you would like to get more involved.

The voters meeting will take place immediately following service on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Official Acts

As of 06/01/2021

### Baptism:

**Beau Bannister**

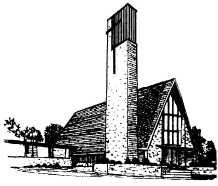
Service: 05/01/2022 at Grace

### In Memoriam:

†**Gladys Beningo**

05/02/2022

Service: 05/21/2022 at Grace



# Grace Lutheran Church

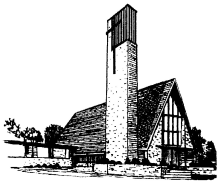
## June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Head Ushers:</b> Dick Crawford Ross Folmsbee	<b>Altar Care:</b> Alice Moll Luann Pyska		1 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	2	3	4 10:00A Grace Ladies Flea Market
5 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship (HC) Confirmation Sunday	6 6:30P Survivors' Group	7	8 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface 7:00P Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 9:00A Enduring Faith 10:30A Worship	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14 2:00P History Dream Team	15 10:00A CE: Beyond the Surface	16	17	18
19 <b>Father's Day</b> 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Voters' Meeting 4:00P Thormodson Wedding	20 6:30P Survivors' Group	21 6:30P Grace Ladies Mtg.	22	23	24	25
26 10:30A Worship	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28 6:00A: Primary Election	29	30		

CE: Christian Education  
 HC: *Holy Communion*


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

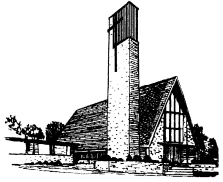




# Grace Lutheran Church

## July 2022

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
3 10:30A Worship (HC)	HAPPY 4 <sup>th</sup> OF JULY 	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30A Worship	11 6:30P Survivors' Group	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30A Worship (HC)	18 6:30P Survivors' Group	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30A Worship	25 6:00P VBS 6:30P Survivors' Group	26 6:00P VBS	27 6:00P VBS	28 6:00P VBS	29 6:00P VBS	30
31 10:30A Worship (HC)	HC: <i>Holy Communion</i>					Office Phone: 716-283-1843 Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org Church Office Hours: Sunday 9:30 AM-12:00 PM; T/TH 10 AM-2 PM



# Grace Lutheran Church

## August 2022

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

HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843  
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# Time to Celebrate!

The Board of Christian Education,  
along with the members of Grace Lutheran Church,  
welcomes

**John B. Bahr   Autumn C. Norton   Stewart M. Smith**

into adult membership by means of public confirmation of their faith in Jesus Christ.

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2022**

## **Celebrate with us!**

*115 Years of Grace*



*Anniversary Service*

*Sunday, September 11, 2022 @ 10:30 am*



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

**Beyond the Surface**  
Wednesdays @ 10:00A

\*No Classes July &  
August

**GRACE LADIES**

**Next Meeting:**  
June 21 @ 6:30P

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**Next Meeting:**  
TBD

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

**Issue**  
**26**

**Jun/Jul/Aug**  
**2022**