

Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, New York 14304
www.gracenf.org
Divine Service: Sunday 10:30 AM

Office (716) 283-1843
office@gracenf.org

Our Vision: Welcoming people to grow in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace.

For Our Guests

Dear friend, welcome to Grace! Make yourself at home. Grace Lutheran Church is a family made up of regular, imperfect people growing in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace, rejoicing together in God's restoration and forgiveness, and celebrating our new life in Christ Jesus. If you have any questions for us, please don't hesitate to speak with an usher or the pastor.

If you're in Niagara Falls **on vacation** right now, thanks for coming! We pray this worship service refreshes your spirit by showing you a wonder even more beautiful than the mighty Falls He made: the depth of His amazing love for you.

If you **live in the area**, we pray you find comfort, peace and joy through the worship service today. We would be delighted to worship with you again, and if you don't have a church home and you'd like to become part of the Grace family, please speak with an usher or the pastor.

RESTROOMS are located in the parent's room (back of the church) and next to the parking lot door.

*** *I have children, and they're not always quiet. Do you mind?***

We warmly welcome children to worship just like Jesus did, and we love the liveliness they bring to the service. If your little one's crying is making you uncomfortable, there's a cry room in back for your convenience. Don't worry about coming and going if that's what you need to do. We're parents and grandparents too. We've been there and we understand!

*** *The plate's coming. Do I have to give an offering?***

Members of Grace have the privilege and responsibility of stewarding the mission of our congregation through generous giving. God teaches that giving comes from a joyful heart, not under compulsion. If you are visiting today, you are not expected to participate in the offering; please direct your gift to your home congregation.

*** *What about Holy Communion?***

Communion is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays and in other special services. We believe what Jesus says about Holy Communion: that it is His body and blood, not symbolically but actually present, given to us for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible cautions that anyone who receives Communion without this understanding will be receiving it to their great harm.

For this reason, out of sincere love, we ask that those who commune at this altar are baptized Christians who, having been instructed in the faith, regret their sins and desire to receive Christ's real Body and Blood for forgiveness, trusting in God's Word as He revealed it in Scripture. If you are not a member of a Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregation, please speak with the pastor before you commune.

If you are not communing today, you are welcome to come forward for a pastoral blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail. There is non-alcoholic white wine on each tray for those who require it. Finally, those who have difficulty walking may indicate such to an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

In the timeless tradition of the Christian church, the **Common Cup** is offered to all. If you desire to commune using the common cup, raise your hand as the individual cups approach, then assist the Elder by holding the chalice at its base and guiding it as you receive.

Members and Guests: Please help us serve you by indicating your presence today, and any special needs, on the fellowship sheet in your bulletin & place in offering plate.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FEBRUARY 1, 2026

– based on *Divine Service 1: LSB 151* –

This symbol () means that part of the service is found in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal.

Welcome, Announcements

Hymn of Invocation: “Arise and Shine in Splendor”

LSB 396

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



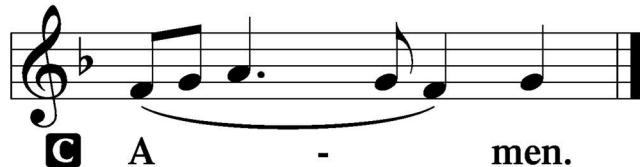
C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Music found in LSB #155

C REFRAIN: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8



C Praise the **LORD**, all | nations!*
Extol him, all | peoples!
For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the **LORD** endures for- | ever.
Ascribe to the **LORD** the glory | due his name;*
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P ...This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

LSB 842

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Back Cover of Hymnal

Prayer of the Church

The Pastor will close each section: **P** Lord, in Your mercy,

Then please respond: **C** Hear our prayer.

Offering

LSB 955



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read "What about Holy Communion?" on page 2.

P The Lord be with you.	C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.	C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \ddagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \ddagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn:

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

LSB 851

Nunc Dimitis

LSB 165

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C** Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Lift Hight the Cross”

LSB 837

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr

Organist: Maye Smith

Acolytes: Stewert & Abram Smith

Head Ushers: Mark Binkley & John Loss

Communion Assistants: Jim Wolf & Mark Andrews

Reader: Mark Andrews

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 02/01/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

MONDAY – 02/02/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 02/08/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship

Statistics for the week of January 25, 2026

Worship Service: 31 Attended, 50 Views

Adult Education: 10

Youth Education: 8

Education Staff: 3

Offering: \$1,337.24

Mission of the Month: \$220.00

Sunday School: \$2.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements
by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.
Office Hours: First Sunday of Month 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10-2
GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org*



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Isaiah 58:3-9a, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, and Matthew 5:13-20.

ATTENDANCE SHEETS found in the bulletin assist us in making sure that all of our members are being cared for as needed. Please fill one out EACH WEEK and place it in the offering plate.

FEBRUARY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support **YOUNG LIFE**, an international youth organization with local chapters. At Young Life, responsible, caring Christian mentors work to bring teens to the knowledge of Christ. We have several members that have participated as teens in Young Life activities, and Dick Crawford has been associated with Young Life for many years. He would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding their mission and local work. If you would like to support Young Life, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during February, or donate online by choosing "monthly mission".

NEXT SUNDAY IS "SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY": Let's tackle hunger! While the teams battle it out on the field, we are teaming up to fight for the hungry in our community. Will it be the Seahawks or the Patriots? Our donation tables are ready, and you are invited to CAST YOUR VOTE by placing a can (or two, or three...) of chunky style soup, stew, or pasta on the donation tables next to the team you are rooting for. All donations will benefit the food pantry at Heart, Love, & Soul in Niagara Falls. Let's huddle together and help our neighbors in need. "For I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35

HOSPICE BOUQUET SALE: A sign up sheet is available on the glass case to order bouquets in support of Niagara Hospice. Bouquets are \$10 each. Payment should be given to Jane Schulz and can be cash or check (made out to Niagara Hospice). Deadline for ordering is Sunday, February 15. Bouquets will be placed on the altar on March 15, and can be taken home after worship.

SIMPLE SUPPERS will be offered during Lent beginning at 5:30 p.m., prior to our 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening services. (There will NOT be simple suppers on Ash Wednesday or during Holy week.) Volunteers are needed to provide food and drinks beginning February 25 through March 25. Please add your name to the sign up sheet on the glass case if you are able to help.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Thursday February 12th at 6:30pm.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LISTS have been posted at the narthex and parking lot entrances. Check out the list and offer birthday wishes and blessings to your friends at Grace.

GRACE LADIES: The next meeting is Tuesday, February 17th beginning at 6PM. See the Feb/Mar Gleanings for details.

FREE BIBLES: Our congregation provides free Bibles for guests and neighbors who come through our doors for voting, Survivors' Group meetings, VBS, Trunk or Treat, and many other events. Our supply is running low, and it's time to restock. Each case of 40 is about \$100. If you'd like to support this mission, please mark your gift "Bible Outreach" (for online: choose the Special Missions category first). Those who receive Bibles are very grateful!

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the table in the Chapel. Please check your name off the sheet once you have picked up your envelopes. If you do not have envelopes listed and would like a box please leave a note for Erin Anthony in the office.

2026 FLOWER CHART is now hanging in the narthex. Cost for a centerpiece is \$50, or you can choose two vases at a cost of \$64. When you sign up for a date, please find the altar flower order form outside either sanctuary entrance. Please complete the form and return to the church office no later than the Sunday week before your date.

40 Days of Life Begins their Lenten prayer vigil for unborn children and their parents on Ash Wednesday. To participate in the vision-casting for this event (on January 29th, 7PM) or to sign up for a prayer shift, please contact Kristen Jorg at 231-286-8685 or Lacey Bahr at 716-525-5134. Please pray for all affected by this event.



**About the Cover**

Looking up to a man hanging on a cross is considered foolishness to many people in this world. God's Word teaches us that, by faith, we see in Christ's work on the cross the power of God, which brings us forgiveness and salvation. Because of the powerful work of Christ on the cross, we see that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Forgiveness is only found in Jesus, God's Son, who died on the cross to forgive our sins.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**Old Testament Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

- 1 Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- 2 Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
- 3 "O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
- 5 O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."
- 6 "With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
- 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
- 8 He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning
I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom

of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."