
Grace Lutheran Church

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

Office (716) 283-1843
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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 JULY 12, 2026

– based on Divine Service 4: LSB 203 –

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

Welcome, Announcements

Hymn of Invocation: “Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess our sin. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.
- C** Before God and one another, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition, and so we pray: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Almighty God, merciful Father, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. In Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children; therefore You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 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 and Gloria

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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.



C Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God! *
 How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!
 For from him and through him and to him are | all things. *
 To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

C Praise to You, O Christ.

📖 Hymn of the Day: "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

LSB 577

Sermon

📖 The Apostles' Creed

Back Cover of Hymnal

Prayer of the Church

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

Then please respond:

C Hear our prayer.

📖 The Lord's Prayer

Back Cover of Hymnal

Offering

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:** “On What Has Now Been Sown”

LSB 921

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: Michael Bahr & Virginia Markel

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & Randy Broeker

Reader: Doug Goodnick

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Virginia Markel & Sherry Cassatt

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 07/12/26

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Hour

MONDAY – 07/13/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 07/19/26

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Statistics for the week of July 5, 2026

Worship Service: 71 Attended, 29 Views

Offering: \$4,538.84

Mission of the Month: \$43.00

Sunday School: \$5.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements
by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.
July Office Hours 3rd Sun 9:30-12:30, T/Th 10-3
GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org*

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today celebrating 30 years of Marriage by Marla and Dick Crawford.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Isaiah 44:6-8, Romans 8:18-27, and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY: On July 26, we will celebrate our Grace members who have or will turn 80 or older during 2026. Plan to invite your families and friends to worship that day and join us for coffee hour after worship. We will enjoy a piece of birthday cake as we congratulate our "oldies but goodies", one of which will be turning 101 years young this summer!

JULY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support the Niagara Falls Lord's Day Dinners. The founders of this mission, Yvonne and Matt Davis, provide free holiday meals to those in need at the VFW Post on Seneca Avenue. But they don't limit their service to holidays only. Anyone who is hungry can knock on their Ashland Avenue home's side window at any time and they will receive food to eat. They have been doing this for over thirty years, and they are funded strictly by donations. If you would like to help them with this mission, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during July or donate online under "monthly mission".

SUMMER MISSION PROJECT: Tables have been set up in the chapel and narthex to receive donations to our annual collection of school supplies and children's underwear and socks. Approximately 80% of the children in our inner city schools are living at the poverty level, making it difficult for parents to provide adequate supplies needed for successful learning. Needed supplies include (but are not limited to) notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, pens & pencils, scissors, and erasers. We also accept donations of socks and underwear, items that our children often go without because their family budgets cannot afford them. All donations will be distributed directly to students in need by teachers and school nurses in September.

THANK YOU for your generous donations of baby items for Summit Life Resource Center. Baby bottle banks totaled \$304.59 in donations. Thank you to Alice Moll for delivering your gifts to the Center and to Wendy Coleman for sponsoring the Thrivent project.

GRACE LADIES SUMMER PICNIC – Come join us on Tuesday, August 4th at 5:30pm at church for annual picnic. Sign-up sheet is on glass case in chapel. Bring a side dish or dessert to go with our hot dogs and hamburgers. Also, if you made a mosaic picture frame at our June field trip to Orange Poppy Art Studio, bring that along to display our artistic abilities. Hope to see you August 4th!



About the Cover

Our upward cries of "Abba, Father" stem not from fear but from the faith created in us by the Holy Spirit through the Word. We have been made the very children of God because Christ, the Son of God, who became our Brother by taking on human flesh, died on our behalf! Since we are the children of God, we are also heirs with Christ and receive what He has already accomplished: forgiveness of sins and resurrection from the dead. Our Father in heaven wants to hear all our prayers.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:10–13

¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow
come down from heaven
and do not return there but
water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and
bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out
from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which
I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing
for which I sent it.

¹² "For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before
you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field
shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up
the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come
up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the
LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not
be cut off."

Epistle: Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."