
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 FOR JULY 26, 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: “How Great Thou Art”

LSB 801

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.

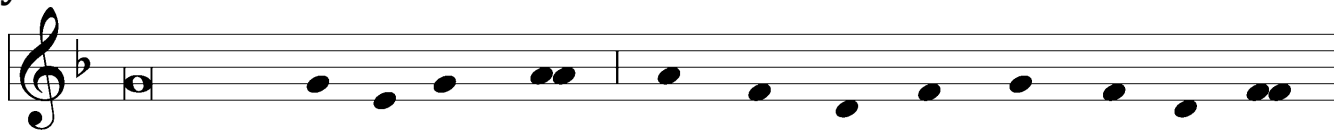
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



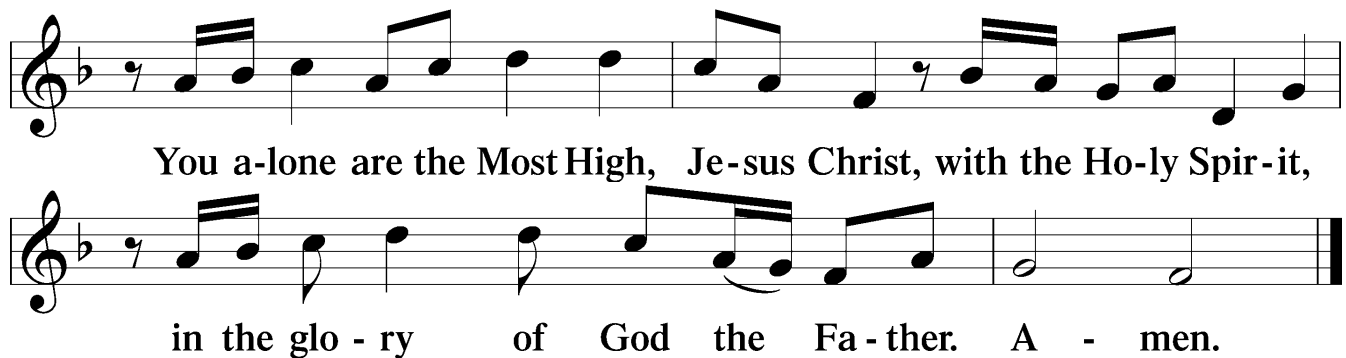
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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

Romans 11:33, 36



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



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth 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: "Beautiful Savior"**

LSB 537

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.

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.

Offering

Offertory: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

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: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

LSB 922

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: Sherry Cassatt & Elizabeth Washburn

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & Randy Broeker

Reader: Wendy Coleman

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt & Virginia Markel

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 07/26/26

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Birthday Fellowship

MONDAY – 07/27/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 08/02/26

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Coffee Hour

**Statistics for the week of
July 19, 2026**

Worship Service: 60 Attended, 25 Views

Offering: \$1,171.84

Sunday School: \$5.00

Mission of the Month: \$25.00

* 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 to the Glory of God and in thankfulness for the many blessings He has bestowed upon our “over 80” members throughout their lifetime. “To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity.” 2 Peter 3:18

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS are Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, and Matthew 14:13-21.

PLEASE JOIN US in the chapel today after worship for a piece of cake and fellowship as we celebrate our Grace members who have or will turn 80 or older during 2026. We give thanks for all of the senior members of our Grace family.

NEXT SUNDAY is still open on the sign up sheet to provide a snack for our coffee hour after worship. The sign up sheet is located on the glass case if you are able to help.

FRIDAY IS THE LAST DAY to donate to our JULY MISSION, 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 today or donate online under "monthly mission" by Friday.

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. 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.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS: Kathy Majka has generously volunteered to help you with the Thrivent Cause Kits you are eligible to order every year. On the Thrivent website, under the "generosity" tab, you can choose a solar light or water filter. It will be sent to you free of charge, and Kathy will assemble it and return it to Thrivent. These items are distributed in disaster areas in the United States as well as around the world. Help your neighbor in Christ by ordering your kit today.

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! Thank you to Doug and Randy for helping with the grill.





About the Cover

God's love is not found in a mere feeling. God's love is in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's love is in Jesus, through whom all things were made. God's love is in Jesus, who is above all authorities, powers, and creation. God's love is in our Lord, who stretched out His arms on the cross to win us forgiveness. God's love is in Jesus, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. Nothing will be able to separate us from that love.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Epistle: Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the

love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44–52

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.

⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”

⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”