

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



736 CAYUGA DRIVE, NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-3498
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OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG

April-May 2026

OUR VISION

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

As Christians and as a church, we don't need to be afraid to honestly engage with tough topics. Instead of avoiding the big questions of life, instead of assuming everyone else must have it all figured out, let's wrestle with our doubts and questions together. For some of these questions, there may not be a definitive answer for us to reach. The best we can do might be to accept that it's a mystery. But as we wrestle together, we can grow together. Questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith. They're the path to a deeper faith.

Do you wrestle with doubt? We may not admit it or talk about it very often, but I suspect we all have doubts and questions about faith. As Christians, we look around at the hurt and brokenness in this world, and where is God. We read about the violence, hunger, homeless, poverty, wars and wonder how all this can be God's world. We see the radically different opinions and views held by Christian's and wonder at the church's claim to be Christ's body.

It's important to know that having doubt does not imply a lack of faith. Rather, doubt is part of faith, because doubt means you're wrestling with faith. Doubt is a sign that faith matters. Doubt is not only natural, its healthy, provided it spurs us on to further reflection and a search for what is true. Faith should be wrestled with, and we should question and bring our questions to the One we trust to have the answers. Attending Bible study provides a deep dig into our doubts and shows a path to follow.


If Christ had not been raised, our preaching, our faith is useless, for we would still be in our sins, guilty before God and without hope for life and salvation! If Christ had remained in the grave, it would prove that God had not accepted the payment Christ offered for our sins with His own blood. That would mean that we are still lost in our sin, without hope, and without life!

But as the eyewitness testimony recorded in the Gospels tells us:

Jesus Christ HAS RISEN, Alleluia!

Happy Easter!
Dick Crawford, Council President

Lenten Schedule

<i>Holy Week</i>		
Sunday, March 29 th	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship Service (HC)
Thursday, April 2 nd	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service (HC)
Friday, April 3 rd	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service

*HC refers to a service with Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th

8:00 am Sunrise Service

8:30 am Easter Breakfast

This year available in the basement AND in the upstairs lounge!

9:15 am Easter education and celebration:

Adult class

Children (Easter story, egg hunt, music, and craft)

10:30 am Easter Jubilee Service (HC)





SUMMER BIBLE ADVENTURE (VBS)

July 6-10, 2026

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Ages 3 (potty trained) – entering grade 6

Register today:



Help needed:

- Creative people to design and implement decorations, backdrops, props, etc.
- A helper to prepare and serve snacks.
- People who can relate to children and read.

Training is provided!

Contact Lacey Bahr: 716-525-5134 (text or call), laceybahr@gmail.com

Upcoming dates:

Decoration Making: Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 27;
both 9 am-12 noon

Leadership Training: Sunday, June 28, 9:15 AM

Youth Training: Sunday, June 28, after worship



For all who have donated snacks and waters for our downstairs kids and youth, thank you! You have blessed us with your care.

Did you know? The young Sunday School children have completed their unit on the Armor of God, and will be studying an overview of the people of the Bible for the remainder of the year.

Creation/Evolution Class

Grades 3-5 • Saturday, May 9, 10 AM – 12 PM

Let's talk about science, and how it truly aligns with God as designer and the Bible as true history! Students in grades 3-5 come with an adult mentor and learn more about dinosaurs, geology, and biology. Together, we'll discover how evolution and creation are not compatible theories of how life began, and prepare you to defend your faith in years to come.



Register today at:

With questions, contact Lacey Bahr: 716-525-5134 (text or call), laceybahr@gmail.com.

Intentional Theology (IT)

Young Adults – high school through early career • 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6 PM – 8 PM
• Dinner provided

In the months of February and March, 13 young adults and 5 pastors have met to discuss the intersection of life and theology.

Each evening, a team of two pastors from our local LCMS congregations (in rotation) meet with local young adults. These students ask pressing and relevant questions, and the pastors, in real time, give Biblically-grounded answers. Meetings will continue in April, May and June.

Want to help?

- Pray for the participants.
- Donate to help with cost of food and free materials (Bibles, catechisms, etc.).
- Invite young adults you know to participate.





BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

*Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.*

You are going to hear those words during one of our worship services in April. The words are from a beautiful composition written by Hal H. Hopson entitled “The Gift of Love”, and will be sung by a trio of Lacey Bahr, John Bahr, & Dillon Deskovic. The piece also includes the words “*let inward love guide every deed.*”

Each time you choose to purchase an item to donate to one of Grace’s mission projects, you are professing your love and care for one of God’s children in need. Thank you for your continued support of our missions!

UPDATES

HOSPICE BOUQUETS: A total of 29 bouquets were placed on the altar on March 16, resulting in a \$290 donation to Niagara Hospice. Thanks to all who donated, and to Jane Schulz for coordinating with Niagara Hospice.



SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY: Despite the inclement weather that we had on Soup-er Bowl Sunday, approximately 180 cans of soup were donated through your generosity and a Thrivent Action Team. Heart, Love, & Soul was especially thankful for the timing of our donation, since the months after Christmas are typically a time of fewer donations. Jane Hughes, who volunteers at Heart, Love, and Soul, reports that the soup “flew off the shelf”. The need is great, and it continues to increase. Thank you for donating, and thank you to Alice Moll for her Thrivent Action Team.

MISSION ENVELOPE UPDATES:

JANUARY MISSION ENVELOPES were designated for Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). Our donation of \$3000 was delivered in person by Mark Andrews, Jane Schulz, and Wendy Coleman. It was accepted by the Principal, Vice Principal, Family Resource Director, and the school social worker at Bloneva Bond Elementary School in Niagara Falls. They expressed sincere gratitude for this generous gift. Our donation will fund the construction of 10 beds for children in Niagara Falls who do not have beds. Thank you for helping SHP move toward their goal, which is “No child sleeps on the floor in our city”. Mark Andrews is volunteering with the delivery and set up of the beds. Feel free to talk with Mark if you would like to know more or would like to volunteer. He would be glad to share some heartwarming stories with you.

FEBRUARY MISSION ENVELOPES were designated for Young Life, an international youth organization with local chapters whose purpose is to bring teens to the knowledge of our loving Savior. We were able to contribute \$1000 to support their work in our area.

UPCOMING MISSION ENVELOPES:

TO DONATE: If you would like to support our upcoming missions, please place your mission envelope in the offering plate during the designated month. You can also donate online at www.gracenf.org by clicking “give now” and choosing the “mission of the month” option.



APRIL MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support our military at this time when many of our men and women are being deployed to the Middle East. At Pastor Bahr’s suggestion, the Board of Social Ministry has designated the Military Project at Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne for our April mission envelopes. (Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne is one of our LCMS seminaries, preparing their students for a career as a Lutheran pastor.) The Military Project provides theological resources, support, basic supplies, toiletries, and encouragement to military chaplains and members of the Armed Forces around the world as they work to bring the mercy of Christ to the military. Pastor Bahr has received materials from them for his work as chaplain at the Niagara Falls Air Base. Your donations will go toward the support of Fort Wayne’s Military Project.

MAY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support **Pioneer on the Lake** as they continue their outdoor ministry on Lake Erie in Angola. This summer, Pioneer will be offering retreats, family camps, a camp for music lovers, and camp opportunities for disabled individuals, as well as several special events. Cottages are available to rent for families or friend groups. Your donations will aid in the upkeep of the camp and programming plans.

SPRING MISSION PROJECTS

BABY ITEMS FOR SUMMIT LIFE CENTER: Summit, located on Pine Avenue in Niagara Falls, is run by volunteers who provide support to young moms and dads in unplanned pregnancy situations. Summit’s free services include pregnancy testing, sonograms, peer counseling, and a variety of classes pertaining to pregnancy and parenting. Each one-hour contact for counseling or classes results in earning credits that can be used in their Parenting Shoppe. From **Mother’s day (May 10) through Father’s Day (June 21), we will accept donations to help “Stock the Shoppe”**. Items that are needed include infant clothing, blankets, diapers, and baby toiletries.



BABY BOTTLE BANKS: If you would prefer to support Summit with a cash or check donation, Baby Bottle Banks will be available on the donation tables for your use. Please turn your bottle banks in to the office or to Alice Moll.

GALISANO (OISHEI) CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COMFORT CART: When children experience a condition that is serious enough to require admission to Galisano, they and their parents often experience a high level of anxiety. Many of these families have not had time to plan for a hospital stay, and their need for a pediatric specialty hospital may have taken them far from their homes.

Volunteers at Galisano visit new admissions with a cart loaded with personal care items and toys. Parents and children are warmly welcomed and encouraged to choose items from the cart that will provide them with comfort and entertainment.

During April, we will accept **donations** of items that are needed to fill the carts. Tables are available in the chapel and narthex to accept your gifts if you wish to participate. Suggested donations include such things as small toys, crayons, colored pencils, markers, coloring books, puzzle books, and card games. Complete **shopping lists** are available on the donation tables for you to take. **Please note**—toiletries are not needed at this time. They recently received a very large donation of toiletry items.



Jim Wolf, one of our Elders, volunteers weekly at Galisano, and he would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this program or about volunteering opportunities at Galisano.

PRAYER LIST & CARE TEAMS:

Please let the office know if you become temporarily unable to attend worship due to illness, injury, or any other situation. If desired, you will be placed on the prayer list. We also have Care Teams that can arrange a visit and offer communion if requested. The teams consist of an Elder and a Social Ministries member, using wine and bread that has been consecrated by our pastor.

ONGOING MINISTRIES:

EYEGLASSES & 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. Keep this in mind as you are doing your spring cleaning.

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. We donate these products to Niagara Falls agencies that use them to help the homeless that they serve.

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

NEXT MEETING—NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The next meeting of the Board of Social Ministries will be held after worship on Sunday, May 3. We meet five times each year for about an hour. Lunch is shared during the meetings. Please consider joining us and offering your suggestions and opinions.

From the Grace Ladies

Grace Ladies will be selling Treichler gift cards again this year. See the sign-up sheet on glass book case. Cost is \$25 – cash or check made out to Grace Ladies. The sign-up sheet will be available from April 12 through May 3. Please pay Ursula Zimmerman or Alice Moll.

Tuesday, April 21st beginning at 6PM, is our next meeting. Jane Schulz and Wendy Coleman will be hostesses. We will be doing crafts led by Katelyn Pantano.

Tuesday, May 19th at 6PM will be our planning meeting and election of new officers.

Official Acts (as of 03/23/2026)

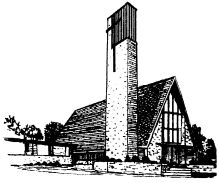
Baptisms:

Elias Markel	02/08/26
Connor Rowland	03/22/26
Quinn Rowland	03/22/26

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/@gracenf/streams>





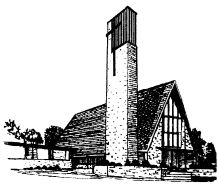
Grace Lutheran Church

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				6:30P Maundy Thursday Service (HC)	7:00P Tenebrae Service	
5 8:00A Sunrise Service 8:30A Breakfast 9:15A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	6 6:30P Survivors' Group	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14 6:00 Young Adult Group	15	16	17	18 9:00A Coffee w/ Chris
19 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	20 6:30P Survivors' Group	21 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	22 	23	24	25 9:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
26 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28 6:00 Young Adult Group	29	30	Head Ushers: Dick Crawford Randy Broeker	Altar Care: Ursula Zimmerman

CE: Christian Education
HC: *Holy Communion*

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



Grace Lutheran Church

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel Jim Wolf	Altar Care: Erika Tuscher Donna Hoffman				1	2
3 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	4 6:30P Survivors' Group	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 	11 6:30P Survivors' Group	12 6:00 Young Adult Group	13 Gleanings Deadline	14	15	16
17 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Social Min. Mtg.	18 6:30P Survivors' Group	19 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	20	21	22	23
24 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	25 MEMORIAL DAY  6:30P Survivors' Group	26 6:00 Young Adult Group	27	28	29	30 9:00A VBS Decorations

31 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)
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CE: Christian Education
 HC: *Holy Communion*

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Give hope this spring.

Give blood.



American
Red Cross

Grace Lutheran Church

(736 Cayuga Dr., Niagara Falls)

Saturday, April 25th, 2026

(9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Help hope bloom! Give blood 4/13-30 for \$15 e-gift card to merchant of choice. See rcblood.org/hope



**SCAN FOR
APPOINTMENT**

Schedule your appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org
Blood Donor App | Sponsor Code: NFCCommunity

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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

Sundays @ 9:00A

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, April 21st
6:00PM
Crafts

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
Sunday, May 18th
@ 11:30AM
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour.

**Issue
49**

**Apr/May
2026**