THE GLEANINGS
of Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-3498
(716) 283-1843
Office@GraceNF.org

October/November 2026

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

My wife is currently reading a book called "Things I Want My Daughters to Know". When I saw it on her bedside table it reminded me of a story that she related to me along the same lines. When her daughter had just recently turned twelve years old, she came to her mother in a huff declaring "You didn't wash my favorite jeans". Her mother calmly replied "well – that's because twelve year olds are old enough to do their own laundry and now that you are twelve I will teach you how it's done." She did just that and from then on her daughter did her own laundry. Years later when her daughter went away to college she called her mother and told her an amusing story of her first visit to the campus laundromat. When she went in, she saw a bunch of young men and women in miss matched clothes because they were down to the last clothes that they had brought with them to the campus. Some were almost in tears as they looked at the machines and didn't have a clue as to how to do their laundry. Her daughter added "Thanks mom, for preparing me for this."

Teaching our youth, the basics of life is just one of many things we should be doing. Life has gotten infinitely more complicated since I was a child. I can remember when one of my friends showed me his brand new red LED watch. It was one of the first uses of LED's that was brought to market. Today our TV's, watches, computers, and appliances all have multicolored LED's. Sometimes I think that our children or grandchildren are in a better position to teach us. Maybe that is true of tech, but teaching our children, grandchildren, and other youth the basics of life, and preparing for the future, both ours and theirs, is the job we need to do. Teaching the ten commandments is something that seems to have gone by the wayside in our society. A large part of society seems to live by "what's in it for me" and there seems to be no qualms about getting it by any means. Teach your children and grandchildren the way to live as defined by the ten commandments as well as the other basics of everyday life. Remind them that when they sin, God's forgiveness is theirs if they ask for it.

Preparing for the future. It's hard to imagine what the future holds with the speed of technology flying along at the speed of electrons. But there are certain things that are absolutely going to happen. We are all going to die. For Christians dying with the promise of the resurrected Christ is something to look forward to. As we age, we plan for the future by putting together a will so that whatever we leave behind can be used as we see fit. Leaving money to advance the teachings of Christ through the church, is one of the best ways we can make sure the next generations are brought up knowing the saving grace that we know and assuring that the ten commandments are known. Think about it the next time you update your will or have one put together.

In God's Service,

Mark Andrews

TRUNK OR TREAT
AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(In the parking lot—or indoors if raining)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
3 - 4:30 PM



Dress up in your costume, bring your friends, and come to a safe trick or treat activity in our parking lot for candy, free gifts, games, and other treats. We also have FREE BIBLES available if you or someone you know needs one in their home.

HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!



Current News & Announcements

**** IN SEARCH OF** a used laptop, iPad or notebook for use in the church.

There have been no **OFFICIAL ACTS since the last Gleanings publication.

****ALTAR FLOWERS:** Please remember that if you sign-up for altar flowers, the form must be turned into the church office no later than that Monday before to give ample time for ordering and delivery. There are forms in both the narthex and the chapel. The cost for a single centerpiece is $50 or you may choose two vases for $64.

==========

A note from the Grace Ladies

We thank Melody Brown (Pres. Lin's sister) for being our guest speaker at our Sept. meeting. She shared about DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) telling us about their history and special projects. She has been a member of DAR for 41 years – and Gerry Miller has been a member for 55 years. Erika Tuscher and Ursula Zimmerman were hostesses.

Our upcoming events are:

- October meeting is Tuesday, October 20th. We will be making some new Chrismons for our church Christmas trees. Wendy Coleman & Jane Schulz will be hostesses.
- November 18th we will have our annual Wine n' Cheese meeting and finish making Chrismons.
- Our Christmas Party is planned for Tuesday, December 8th.

LAST MINUTE: We have a field trip to Becker Farms planned for Friday, October 16th. We will leaving church at 10am and the tour is a 11am, followed by lunch and pie. Cost is $12 for tour and pie. See sign-up sheet on glass case in Chapel.



*All ladies of Grace are invited to all activities.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you something to drink?...The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35, 37, 40

UPDATES

August mission envelopes supported **Wings Flights of Hope** with a donation of $900. This will enable Wings to transport two patients to receive specialized medical care that is not available locally. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of two of your neighbors. Each of these individuals is intimately known and cared for by God, as we are reminded in Luke 12:7, "Indeed, the very hairs of our head all are numbered". God sees their struggles and cares for their needs. We pray that He will grant healing to each of them.

Your **SCHOOL SUPPLY AND CLOTHING DONATIONS** filled 14 large boxes, which have been delivered to Harry Abate Elementary School thanks to Jane Schulz and Wendy Coleman. They were met by Principal Allen Cowart and Vice Principal Tracy Spagnolo, who took a picture to post on their social media page. (You can also find the picture on our Grace Facebook page.) Both expressed their deep appreciation for our support of their children in need, and were excited to look through the boxes and see the variety of items that were donated. They will make your gifts available to their teachers who will give them directly to the children as they discover their needs. Thank you for helping Harry Abate kids to have a successful start to their school year! Also thank you to Kathy Majka for obtaining Thrivent Action funds for this project.



TRUNK OR TREAT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join us for an afternoon of community fun on Saturday, October 24, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the church parking lot! (Don't worry! If it rains, we will bring the festivities indoors.) To make this wonderful event a success again this year, we need your help! There are two great ways to get involved:

Host a Trunk: Park your car, decorate your trunk (optional), and enjoy handing out candy to the kids!

Donate Candy: Help us keep the treats flowing by donating candy or other treats.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE GLASS CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you can help us bring smiles to our community's children. We can't wait to enjoy the afternoon with you!

UPCOMING MISSION ENVELOPES

OCTOBER MISSION ENVELOPES will support the Niagara Gospel Mission's "Feed the Falls" free Thanksgiving meal. **NIAGARA GOSPEL MISSION** served over 2000 Thanksgiving meals to people in need last year and anticipate they will serve at least that many again this year for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due to inflation and the rising cost of food, the cost of hosting this event will increase significantly this year. Our donations will help the Gospel Mission continue to provide a nutritious meal to everyone who walks through their doors.



NOVEMBER MISSION ENVELOPES will be used to create a new reserve fund, administered by the **NIAGARA FALLS LIONS CLUB**, to provide eyeglasses for students in the Niagara Falls School District. Each year, the Lions Club conducts vision screenings in local schools using specialized equipment. When a screening indicates a student needs glasses, the Niagara Falls District's school nurses notify the parents that a professional exam is indicated. Unfortunately, many families lack the insurance coverage or financial resources to obtain an exam and glasses. To bridge this gap, nurses will refer these students to the Lions Club, where your generous donations will help to fund the corrective eyewear they need to see clearly.

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION & THE NEW FACE OF HUNGER

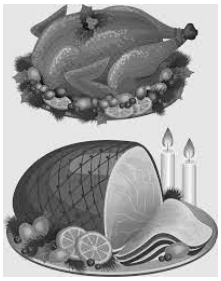
He walked into the food pantry not knowing what to expect. He had never been to a food pantry before. He had never needed to. He had a job, was a reliable employee, and went to work every day. He had always been able to live within his budget, pay his bills, and take care of his family. But things had changed. With gas and food prices soaring, he was no longer able to provide enough food for his family. Now he was, for the first time in his life, needing to ask for help. The tears started to form as he accepted the box of food from the volunteer. He realized he had now entered the world of the working poor, a world he had never expected to join.

This is a true story. The volunteer that helped him that day was someone many of you know—Jane Hughes, who donates her time at Heart, Love, and Soul (HLS) Food Pantry. According to Jane, the requests for assistance at HLS and other food pantries in our city continue to rise as the economy becomes more and more challenging for those who were already living paycheck to paycheck. By her estimate, approximately one third of those needing assistance are now families who have an income, but cannot manage to pay for all their necessities—the working poor.

Beginning in October, we will be offering the opportunity to help our less fortunate neighbors feed their families. Our annual food collection for **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY** on Military Road will run from Columbus Day weekend (October 11) until the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 22). St. Vincent anticipates that their supplies will be depleted after their Thanksgiving distribution, and they are depending on our donations to restock their shelves for Christmas.

Tables will be available in the chapel and narthex to receive your donations of non-perishable foods. **"Shopping lists"** will be available with the items that are especially needed, but all donations are appreciated. (Please be sure that your gifts do not expire prior to December 2025.) Thank you for remembering our Harvest Food Collection as you are grocery shopping.

ARE YOU "TEAM TURKEY" OR "TEAM HAM"?



Which team wins at your home as the favorite holiday meal? Turkey lovers point out that turkey is the traditional choice for the holidays. After all, have you ever seen an inflatable ham leading the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade? Turkeys make a great center-piece and provide the warm look everyone wants to create for the occasion. And then there's the leftovers for sandwiches, soups, and casseroles. And don't forget about tryptophan—and the couch-comas that are sure to follow.

For those who prefer a ham dinner, they argue that ham is much easier to prepare. It doesn't require a three-day marathon to thaw, clean, and stuff. And it doesn't require a math genius to figure out how many pounds are needed and how long it will take to thaw—not to mention finding enough room in the fridge to do so. It comes ready to bake, sometimes even pre-cut. It's unlikely anyone is going to sit down for a ham dinner and whisper "I hope it isn't dry this year". As for the turkey leftovers going farther than the ham that remains after dinner, is anyone really thinking how great it is to have turkey leftovers on day ten of eating turkey something-or-other?

While we're debating the pros and cons of each choice, there are numerous families in Niagara Falls that will not be able to afford either this year. The number of working-class families that can no longer meet their budgets and care for their families is on the rise.

Whether you are "Team Turkey" or "Team Ham", every frozen turkey or holiday ham you donate will go to a local organization for their free holiday dinners, and will provide comfort and a nutritious meal for those in need. They will be donated to Community Mission, Salvation Army, Lighthouse Women and Children, and the Lord's Day Dinner to help them provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Donations can be brought to church **beginning Sunday, October 11, through Sunday, December 13,** and stored in our downstairs kitchen freezer. If you need help carrying your donation, please ask an usher for assistance.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Our annual **GIVING TREES** will be up and loaded with tags beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving). Watch for more information in the bulletins and the next Gleanings.



POTTER'S FIELD CHRISTMAS CHILD

For many kids growing up in our high-risk, inner-city neighborhoods, Christmas doesn't come with the magic of bright lights and piles of presents under a tree. When families are struggling to make ends meet, holiday gifts simply aren't in the budget.

In December, Potter's Field will be celebrating the birth of Jesus by hosting their annual Christmas party for the children they minister to throughout the year. If you would like to help Potter's Field provide gifts for each of their children, **PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE GLASS CASE BY NOVEMBER 8**. Virginia Markel will then provide you with a child's name, age, and wish list for shopping ideas. Bring your wrapped gift(s) back to church marked with the child's name, and Virginia will make sure they get to Potter's Field.

By getting involved, you aren't just giving a toy—you are showing a vulnerable child that they truly matter. This is an opportunity to turn a season of hardship into a magical memory for a child.



JOIN OUR NEXT MEETING—We saved you a seat.

(Don't worry—it's not in the front row.)

And in true Lutheran fashion, lunch is included!

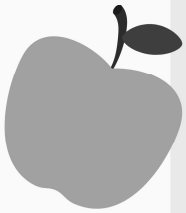
We continue to see an ever increasing need to help our neighbors in Christ. We need your voice to help us make the difficult decisions on how to be good stewards of the gifts God gives us. Our next Social Ministries committee meeting is scheduled for after worship on **November 8**. We meet for about an hour. Your opinion matters—hope to see you there!

"We may not be able to change the whole world, but to the one person we help, his world is changed completely." (Anonymous)

FUN FALL ACTIVITIES

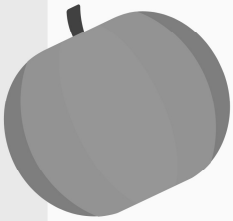
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

HARVEST FESTIVAL
REDEEMER, 11 AM-3 PM
265 FALCONER ST | NORTH TONAWANDA



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

TRUNK OR TREAT
ST. PAUL, 4:30-6:00 PM
453 OLD FALLS BLVD | NORTH TONAWANDA

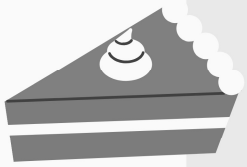


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

TRUNK OR TREAT
GRACE, 3-4:30 PM
736 CAYUGA DR | NIAGARA FALLS

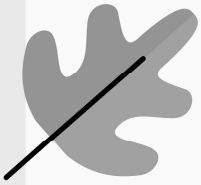
FALL/HOLIDAY BAZAAR
ST. MATTHEW, 9 AM-2 PM
875 EGGERT DR | NORTH TONAWANDA

TRUNK OR TREAT
ST. MARK, 2-4 PM
1135 OLIVER STREET | NORTH TONAWANDA



TRUNK OR TREAT
ST. PETER'S, 4-5:30 PM
6167 WALMORE RD | SANBORN

TRUNK OR TREAT
FIRST TRINITY, 2-4 PM
1570 NIAGARA FALLS BLVD | TONAWANDA
FIRSTTRINITY.COM/EVENT/TRUNK-OR-TREAT-5/



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

TRUNK OR TREAT
ST. JOHN, 5:30-7 PM
6950 WARD RD | NORTH TONAWANDA

OCTOBER 2026

Grace Lutheran Church

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Mark Andrews Neil Stenzel	**Altar Care:** Sherry Cassatt Virginia Markel			1	2	3
4 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	5 6:30P Survivors' Group	6	7	8 6:00P Elders Meeting 6:00P Young Adult Group	9	10
11 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	12 6:30P Survivors' Group	13	14	15 6:00P Young Adult Group	16 10:00A Grace Ladies Field Trip	17 9:00A Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1pm)
18 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	19 6:30P Survivors' Group	20 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	21	22	23	24 9:00A Coffee w/ Chris 3:00P Trunk or Treat
25 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	26 6:30P Survivors' Group	27	28	29	31	31

CE: Christian Education

Office Phone: 716-283-1843
Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org
Church Office Hours: 1st Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

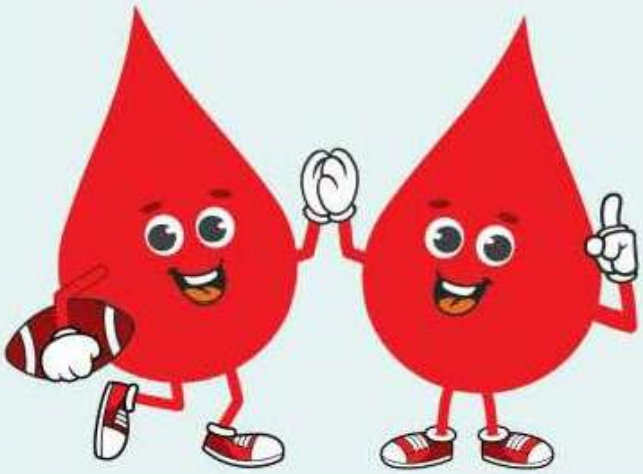
November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	2 6:30P Survivors' Group	3 6:00A General Election	4	5	6	7
8 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 11:30A Soc. Minis. Mtg	9 6:30P Survivors' Group	10	11 **VETERANS DAY**	12 6:00P Young Adult Group	13	14
15 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	16 6:30P Survivors' Group	17	18 **Gleanings Deadline**	19 6:00P Young Adult Group	20	21
22 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship	23 6:30P Survivors' Group	24 6:00P Grace Ladies Mtg.	25	26 **THANKSGIVING** 	27	28
29 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	30 6:30P Survivors' Group				**Head Ushers:** Ross Folmsbee John Loss	**Altar Care:** Alice Moll Luann Pyska

CE: Christian Education

Office Phone: 716-283-1843
Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org
Church Office Hours: 1st Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; M/W/TH 10 AM-2 PM

American Red Cross



Huddle up to help save lives!

Give blood.

Grace Lutheran Church

(736 Cayuga Drive, Niagara Falls, NY)

Saturday, October 17th, 2026

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Fall into the habit of donating! Get a $15 e-gift card when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or use the Blood Donor App and enter sponsor code: **NFCommunity**

Your Blood Type Has Superpowers.
O Neg, O Pos, A Neg, B Neg
Will you be a Super (Life) Hero?
POWER RED DONORS NEEDED!!!

One donation, twice the power. A Power Red donation lets you safely give two units of red blood cells in a single visit, doubling your ability to save lives when every second counts. Help Trauma patients, Moms & Babies, Sickle Cell Patients and support Cancer treatments, be there for emergency surgeries. Your donation can make an extraordinary difference.

SCAN FOR APPOINTMENT

$15 gift card

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

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 Lutheran Church
736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-3498

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Niagara Falls, NY
Permit No. 419



WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

*Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays

EDUCATION

Christian Education
Sundays @ 9:00A

GRACE LADIES

Next Event:
October 17th @ 10:00A

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:
November 8th: 11:30A
*New members are always welcome. We meet five times each year for about an hour.

Issue 52

Oct/Nov 2026