

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



736 CAYUGA DRIVE, NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-3498
(716) 283-1843
OFFICE@GRACENF.ORG

September 2026

OUR VISION

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

We refer to August as the “dog days of summer” because it’s often when summer is hottest and people slow down, stay inside and don’t do much. But really, August is a month when people do a lot of things! Shopping for school, workouts for sports and band start up, daycare centers start filling, Colleges have orientations, students move in. And then classes begin!!

September starts a new school year full of fresh notebooks, new teachers, different classmates, and opportunities to learn and grow. It can also bring uncertainty. Some students are excited to begin another year, while others may feel nervous about making friends, keeping up with school work, or facing new challenges. The wonderful news is that God never sends us into those moments alone. When God spoke to Joshua, He knew Joshua would face challenges that seemed bigger than he was. Instead of promising an easy journey, God promised his presence: "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." That promise is true for us today. Whether you're walking into kindergarten, starting middle school, heading off to high school, beginning college, or serving as a teacher or school staff member, Christ goes before you. He walks beside you in every classroom, every hallway, every test, every friendship, and every difficult day. School is about more than grades and assignments. It is also a place where God calls us to live out our faith. We can show the love of Jesus by being kind to someone sitting alone, encouraging a classmate who is struggling, respecting our teachers, working honestly, forgiving others, and remembering that every person we meet is someone God loves. There will be days when things don't go as planned. You may feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or unsure of yourself. In those moments, remember that your worth is not measured by report cards, test scores, athletic achievements, or popularity. Your identity is found in Christ. Through His life, death, and resurrection, you are God's beloved child. His love for you never changes. As this new school year begins, pray each morning for wisdom, courage, patience, and opportunities to reflect the love of Jesus. Trust that God will guide your steps and strengthen you for whatever lies ahead.

Try to keep a schedule that includes time for Bible reading and prayer, and for Sundays in the Lord’s house to hear His Word and receive Holy Communion. It’s in these things that God does a lot for us. He doesn’t stop because of the heat!

RALLY DAY

EVERYONE IS INVITED

SEPTEMBER 13

BIBLE CLASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9 AM

WORSHIP 10:30 AM

PICNIC TO FOLLOW WORSHIP

Hot dogs, hamburgs, and drinks are provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

SIGN UP ON THE GLASS CASE



SEPTEMBER MISSION OFFERINGS

For one month only, your mission envelopes will go to our two local Lutheran Schools. St. John in North Tonawanda and Holy Ghost in Bergholz provide quality education in a Christ-centered environment. Your offering will help children hear about Christ each day, even when their families can't afford it, by contributing to their tuition assistance fund.



Thank you for your generosity and support.

Find out more at:

www.stjohnnt.com/school

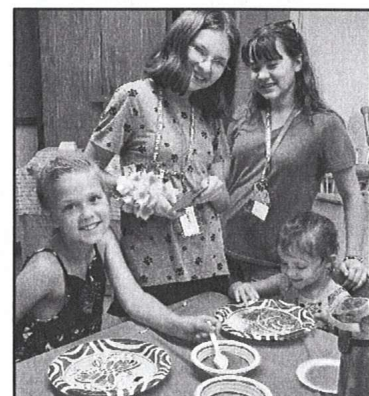
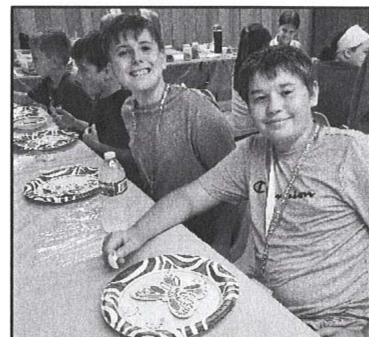
and

<https://holyghostlcms.org/school-home/>

SUMMER BIBLE ADVENTURE NEWS

The week of July 6, twenty-three students entered our sanctuary to learn about the God who came to seek and save. Each day they learned from the Bible that God is with them no matter their circumstances, and that He sent Jesus to save them from their sins. During games, crafts, snacks, experiments, and more, this message was enhanced through the love and care of our twelve adult workers and our nine youth leaders.

Thank you to the many donors and volunteers who make this program possible each year. Some of these families only hear about Jesus during this week. God be praised for the opportunity!



RALLY DAY

Join us Sunday, September 13th for a potluck picnic lunch following our official Rally Day Sunday School and Worship, all beginning at 9:00 AM. Please note: Sunday School classes for all ages will begin the week before on September 6th.



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

UPDATES:

A SIGN recently seen at a local agency: “Love your neighbor as yourself does not have ‘UNLESS’ tacked onto the end of it.”

In recent months, you have responded generously by using your monthly mission envelopes to support various organizations that are doing the Lord’s work. In May we sent \$550 to **CAMP PIONEER** to support their many summer camps that reach out to people of all ages with various needs. This donation was matched by an anonymous donor, **doubling its value to \$1100**. A contribution of \$675 (June mission envelopes) was sent to **LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES’ K-9 COMFORT DOGS (LCC)** to support the work they do in areas of natural and man-made disasters in our country. Our spring “Baby Bottle Bank” fundraiser for **SUMMIT LIFE RESOURCES** resulted in raising \$304.59. Those funds, along with the many donations of baby clothes and toiletries, were gratefully received and appreciated by Summit as they help young women in unplanned pregnancy situations. Your July mission envelopes resulted in Matt & Yvonne Davis receiving \$700 to help fund their **LORD’S DAY DINNERS** along with their generous daily feeding of those in need by passing homemade dinners through their kitchen window to those who are hungry and request help. Thank you for having generous hearts and for being “Good Samaritans”, helping your neighbors in need.

BREAKING NEWS—First Trinity Lutheran Church on Niagara Falls Boulevard in Tonawanda (across from Trader Joe’s) has been accepted into the LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs program. They expect to receive their Golden Retriever soon. After their dog is trained, he will be available to serve our community. As their website says, “Something Paw-some is coming!”.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SOCKS, & UNDERWEAR:

It’s not too late to donate. Your generous gifts will be delivered to Harry Abate Elementary School during the second week of school. By then, the teachers will know their students and be able to identify which students are in need of materials to help them have a successful start to the school year. All items will be distributed directly to the students by their teachers. Thank you for helping our city’s school children who are in need.



REMINDERS FROM THE COAT ROOM

EYEGASSES & HEARING AIDS that you no longer need can be donated to give the gift of sight or hearing. There is a donation box located on the shelves in the coat room. Ross Folmsbee passes them on to the Lion's Club, which uses them in their free clinics to provide glasses to individuals that otherwise could not afford them.

SAMPLE-SIZED TOILETRIES that you receive in the mail or from hotels can be placed in the donation box on the shelves in the coat room. Our partner agencies use these items in their outreach to the homeless.

SODA CAN PULL TOPS: Kathy Majka has provided a box in the coatroom for the pull tops from pop cans. She collects them to support Ronald McDonald House. The recycled aluminum provides funds to help pay operational expenses. The Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo serves approximately 500 individuals each year whose relatives are patients in Children's, Sisters, ECMC, and Roswell hospitals. The House provides a bedroom, shower, meals, and a laundry for their guests, most of whom have traveled to Buffalo to receive care that is not available in their home town. Everything is provided free of charge and is funded by donations.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: While we appreciate your generous intentions, please do not drop off items not requested above. If it is something that we have not requested, we most likely cannot find a use for it and we will have to discard it.

TRUNK OR TREAT

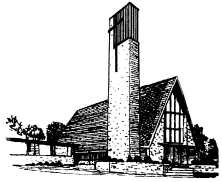


Mark your calendars and reserve the day! Tentative date for our annual Trunk or Treat event will be held on Saturday, October 24, in our parking lot from 3 – 4:30 PM, rain or shine. All members of Grace are welcome to bring their cars, decorate their trunks (optional), dress up in costumes (optional), and give treats out to our member and neighborhood children. Please consider joining us for this fun outreach activity. The more cars we have, the more fun it is for the children (and adults)!!

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Social Ministries meeting will be held in November. Please consider joining us. We meet five times a year after worship, and enjoy lunch while we are meeting. Watch the bulletin and future Gleanings for dates.

Something to think about: “If you're too busy to help others, you're busier than Jesus.”



Grace Lutheran Church

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	7 LABOR DAY 6:30P Survivors' Group	8	9	10	11	12
13 RALLY DAY 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 11:30A Rally Day Picnic	14 6:30P Survivors' Group	15 6:00P Grace Ladies Meeting	16	17 6:30P Council Meeting	18	19 9:00A Coffee w/ Chris
20 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 11:30A Soc. Min. Mtg.	21 GLEANINGS DEADLINE 6:30P Survivors' Group	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	28 6:30P Survivors' Group	29	30		Head Ushers: Gary Krull Mark Andrews	Altar Care: Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz

CE: Christian Education
HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843
Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org
September Church Office Hours: 3rd Sunday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM; See Current News

Grace

Current News and Announcements

**** SEPTEMBER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Office will be closed from September 4th – 14th. The office will then be open the 3rd Sunday and the week of the 20th revert back to Monday, Wednesday & Thursdays from 10am-2pm.

**** 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 form in both the narthex and the chapel.

**** The next Gleanings deadline is September 21st** and will cover October & November.

From the Grace Ladies

Thank you so much Pres. Lin and daughter, Janice, for another fun & successful summer picnic on Aug. 4 that 28 ladies enjoyed. So great to have Terri Snider Szuflita join us – and thanks so much for \$500 check for Grace Ladies in memory of her mom, Dorothy Snider.

Our September meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th at 6PM with guest speaker Melody Burow (Lin's sister) who will talk about Daughters of the American Revolution – DAR. Hostesses will be Erika Tuscher & Ursula Zimmerman.

On Tuesday, October 20th at 6PM will be our meeting and making some new Chrismons for our Christmas Trees. Hostesses will be Wendy Coleman & Jane Schulz.

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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>



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:

Sundays @ 10:30A

*Holy Communion on the
first and third Sundays

EDUCATION

Sundays @ 9:00A

In-Person
Kick-Off 9/6

GRACE LADIES

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 15th
@6:00 PM

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Next Meeting:

November

*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about
an hour.

**Issue
51**

**Sept
2026**