

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



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

Summer 2026

OUR VISION

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

It finally looks and feels like spring is here. It didn't seem like the cold and rain would ever stop. The trees are all leafing out and the press is on to get vegetables and flowers planted. It is really uplifting to see the renewal that comes with spring. My wife and I were very fortunate this year to be on vacation just after Easter. We took a road trip south and were able to experience the renewal of spring in its different phases as we proceeded south. Even a short distance from home provided a different looking landscape with redbud trees blooming along the road and the trees just starting to produce their leaves. The farther south we went, the more leaves we saw on the trees and the more we saw spring gardens in full bloom.

In the church year, Easter comes every spring. We decorate the church with abundant flowers and celebrate the risen Christ. Spring and Easter are both significant reminders of renewal in our lives. The natural world around us comes alive with all the flowers, leaves on the trees, green grass, and renewed fresh air. The world around us will continue to grow at a significant rate. All the trees will be fully loaded with new green leaves. The plants in our gardens will bloom and the vegetables will begin their growth toward maturity when we will be able to enjoy the freshest produce possible.

Easter brings us renewed focus on the reason we are Christians – the risen Lord, but what comes next? It sometimes seems like Easter is the final chapter of the church year. It's not the case of course but Sunday school will be taking a hiatus soon for the summer months, people will be taking their long awaited vacations and church will take a back seat to the many parties and functions of the summer season. It is somewhat understandable that this happens especially here in the north. We suffered through a particularly cold and extended winter this year and as the spring and summer months come upon us we want to enjoy every bit of it.

During our vacation we did a lot of hiking. Walking around in the woods and seeing the beauty of the world that God created for us brought into focus the magnitude of what He has done for us. The world around us is a marvelous place, full of the nearly endless variety of plants, animals, mountains and valleys. Seeing all this brought on a heartfelt sense of gratitude. All the beauty that God provides for us here on earth, pales in comparison to what God provides for us with Christ rising from the dead, the forgiveness of sins and a future in his heavenly kingdom. Let us all try to remember His gifts this summer and always. Make a real effort to attend church whenever possible so that we can learn more about His saving grace and love for us.

In God's service,

Mark Andrews



SUMMER BIBLE ADVENTURE (VBS)

July 6-10, 2026

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Ages 3 (potty trained) – entering grade 6

Register today:



INVITE A FRIEND!

Help needed:

- Creative people to design and implement decorations, backdrops, props, etc.
- 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

Youth Training: Sunday, June 28, 9:15 AM **changed*

Leadership Training: Sunday, June 28, after worship **changed*

Creation/Evolution Class

On Saturday, May 9, 10 AM – 12 PM nine people gathered to learn more about the truth of the Bible against secular, atheistic learning. Each family received a copy of *Exploring Geology with Mr. Hibb*, an interactive science book that lays out the effects of the Great Flood (as described in Genesis 6) on the rock formations of the world.

JOIN THE FUN!

CHURCH PICNIC--JUNE 14

Join us for Bible Class and Sunday School at 9 a.m., followed by worship at 10:30 a.m. After worship, enjoy a picnic lunch in the chapel. **ALL ARE INVITED!** Hamburgs, hotdogs, and drinks are provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able.



COFFEE HOUR

Beginning on June 21 and continuing through the summer, there will be coffee and snacks available in the chapel after worship.

Plan to stay for a few minutes when you are able and chat with your Grace friends.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

There is a signup sheet on the glass case for those who are willing to help by providing a treat.

Please consider adding your name to the signup.

ON JULY 26, WE WILL HAVE A BIRTHDAY CAKE AFTER WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE ALL MEMBERS TURNING 80 OR OLDER IN 2026.



RALLY DAY PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

DID YOU KNOW that over the last two years, the average length of time that a family experiencing financial challenges will need to rely on a food pantry jumped from three months to eight months?

DID YOU KNOW that as of March 2026, there are over 2100 homeless families in Western New York?

DID YOU KNOW that FeedMoreWNY is currently serving 165,000 individuals, up from 142,000 last year?

DID YOU KNOW that a significant portion of the surge in those needing assistance consists of working families, seniors, and students who have never needed emergency food assistance before?

When we help those who have little or nothing, we are not just giving food or clothes, we are restoring the broken dignity of a fellow human being. We are saying, "I see you, and you matter." Every act of kindness proves to someone who has no home or someone who is unable to feed their family that love still exists. *"Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you have done it unto me."* Matthew 25:40

UPDATES

THANK YOU for generously donating to our Comfort Bag project for Golisano Children's Hospital. Jim Wolf, who volunteers at Children's, and Marla Crawford, who sponsored the Thrivent Action Team, packed up 350 items for delivery to Children's! The toiletries, toys, baby items and gift cards that you donated will be distributed to families experiencing a pediatric hospitalization, which is always a stressful time for both the child and the family. The items you gave will touch the lives of many of our neighbors and show them that others care about what they are going through. Your support is appreciated.

MARCH MISSION ENVELOPES were designated to support Samaritan Counseling Center. We were able to donate \$975 to help defray the cost of counseling for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing stress and anxiety related to various challenges in their lives.

APRIL MISSION ENVELOPES supported the Concordia Fort Wayne Military Project with a check for \$870. They donate needed supplies to our military chaplains (including Pastor Bahr) for the work they do with the men and women who are protecting our country.

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.

JUNE MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) K9 Comfort Dog program. LCC’s golden retrievers are located throughout the US. They are trained to interact with people who are suffering and in need. These special dogs open doors and create opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, and presence of Jesus during times of natural or man-made disasters. Upon request, they have responded to areas affected by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires and other disasters. They have also been present after many of the mass shootings experienced in our nation to comfort all those affected, including victims, first responders, and community members. Some dogs are specially trained to work with military or police agencies. LCC never charges those they serve. This mission is supported by donations. Per LCC policy, your donation will go directly to the training, care, and travel expenses of their K-9’s. Check out the dogs’ pictures at www.lutheranchurchcharities.org under “K-9 Ministries”.



JULY MISSION ENVELOPES will be helping to feed the hungry in our city at this year’s Lord’s Day Dinners. The Lord’s Day Dinner was founded over 30 years ago by Niagara Falls residents Matt & Yvonne Davis who felt called to provide traditional holiday dinners to local residents in need. Anyone was welcomed to walk up to a side window of their home, where they would be handed a hot meal. The initiative has grown so much that holiday meals are now hosted at the VFW on Seneca Avenue. Yvonne supervises the cooking and prepares much of the food herself. They typically serve between 300 and 400 meals at each holiday. The Davis’ rely on community donations and volunteers to help complete their mission. They receive no government funding for this endeavor.

AUGUST MISSION ENVELOPES will help Wings Flights of Hope accomplish their mission to assist patients needing specialized medical care not available in Western New York. Wings is a local non-profit that flies patients for free to medical facilities throughout the northeast. Many times these patients require medical equipment that would not be allowed on a commercial flight, or they are too weak to be able to tolerate a commercial flight. The pilots volunteer their time and planes, and they are on call 24/7 for situations such as organ transplants that require immediate transportation.



SPRING & SUMMER MISSION PROJECTS

SUMMIT LIFE OUTREACH CENTER: Our collection of new baby clothes, infant toiletries, and diapers will continue until Father's Day (June 21). Tables for your donations are located in the chapel and narthex. Summit is a Christian organization in Niagara Falls that assists young women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancy situations. They offer free counseling and pregnancy/child care related education. Clients receive credits each time they attend a session, and the credits can be used in their "Parenting Shoppe" to choose free items needed for baby care. Your gifts will help to "Stock the Shoppe". Thank you to Wendy Coleman for sponsoring this Thrivent Action Team and setting up the tables.

***BABY BOTTLE BANKS:** Banks in the shape of baby bottles are also available on our donation tables. If you wish to support Summit in this way, take a bottle home with you and fill it with your spare change. (Checks made out to Summit are also accepted.) Bottles should be returned to the church office, or to Alice Moll on or before Father's Day.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SOCKS & UNDERWEAR: During July and August, our donation tables will be set up to receive donations of school supplies as well as child-sized socks and underwear. Donations will be delivered to Harry Abate Elementary in September. Latest statistics show that 80% of the students at Harry Abate are living below the poverty level. Their teachers are very appreciative each year of our donations that help them provide the tools their students need to succeed. Examples of needed items include crayons, markers, pencils, pens, erasers, glue, scissors, folders, notebook paper, construction paper, and colored pencils.



WHY SOCKS & UNDERWEAR? Socks and underwear are the items most often requested by individuals and families living in poverty. And, unfortunately, they are also the clothing items least often gifted to donation centers. They are pieces of clothing most of us take for granted. But to families that are struggling to pay their rent and put food on the table, they are considered luxuries that can be moved from their “need” column to their “want” column. Your donations of socks and underwear will help provide both dignity and warmth during the upcoming school year. We thank Kathy Majka for sponsoring the Thrivent Action Team for our school supplies, socks, and underwear project, and Jane Schulz for being our expert shopper.

THRIVENT MEMBERS

CAUSE KITS: This is a unique opportunity to help those in need. If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible to order one Cause Kit each year. You have a choice of either a water filter kit or a solar light kit. They are sent to you at no charge and are easy to assemble. After assembly, you will mail them back to Thrivent with the provided box and mailing label. They are then distributed to areas of need, which includes third world countries, but also includes disaster areas of the United States after floods, fires, and storms. You can order your Cause Kit on the Thrivent website under the “Generosity” tab.

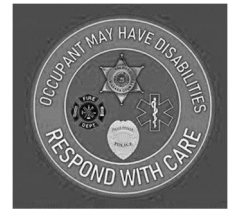
HELPFUL FREE SERVICES TO BE AWARE OF

C.A.R.E. (Call And Reassure Elders) is a free service available throughout Niagara County and is designed for seniors who are in need of someone to touch base with them to ensure their well-being. A call is made by a volunteer at a pre-arranged time each week day (or as desired) to verify the recipient’s well-being, If the recipient does not answer the phone, a second call is made after waiting 15 minutes. If there is still no answer, a call is made to the recipient’s emergency contact. If that fails, 911 is contacted to respond for a welfare check. You can register for this program by calling the Dale Association, 716-433-1886. If you are interested in making these calls, you can volunteer by calling the same number.

FREE HEARING SCREENINGS are offered periodically by the Dale Association in Lockport. The screening is done by a licensed audiologist. An appointment can be made by calling 716-433-1886. This is a service offered to Niagara County residents and is intended to be a screening only—no products are offered for sale.

FREE ASSISTIVE DEVICES are often available through the Dale Association in Lockport. Items such as walkers, raised toilet seats, and shower chairs that have been donated are passed along to those in need at no cost. Call 716-433-1886 to check on availability. There are also some helpful items available at Grace. Check with Doug Goodnick if you are in need of a device.

RESPOND WITH CARE decals are available by calling the Niagara County Sheriff's community services at 716-438-3310. The decals can be placed on a car window or house entrance, and they alert first responders that the individuals inside may have limited communication abilities. They are ideal for families with a member who is visually or hearing impaired, or has a cognitive challenge such as autism, Alzheimer's, or Down Syndrome.



DISPATCH ALERT OPTION: You may contact the Niagara County Sheriff's Office at 716-438-3393 to request an informational alert be added to their records for a person with disabilities. In addition to name, address, and emergency contact information, details about the individual's disability will be added to their records. This information will remain strictly confidential, and will only be available to first responders during an emergency.

YELLOW DOT is a free program designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention after a car crash. A Yellow Dot sticker is placed on the driver's-side rear window of your vehicle. It alerts first responders that vital medical information is stored in the glove compartment. The kit comes with a form to fill out with your pertinent medical history and medications that will help emergency and medical personnel avoid delays in administering appropriate medical care. You can have a free kit mailed to your home by calling the Niagara County Sheriff's Office at 716-438-3310.

NEXT MEETING—NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The next meeting of the Board of Social Ministries will be held after worship on Sunday, August 30. 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.

Grace Ladies News

Thank you to all who purchased Treichler Gift Cards – especially Robin Stephenson, who sold 63 cards! Grace Ladies made a profit of \$625.00

At our May planning meeting a motion was made, seconded, and passed to keep our same officers for 2 more years:

President – Melinda Matiasz

VP – Robin Stephenson

Treasurer – Ursula Zimmerman

Secretary – Virginia Markel

Publicity – Jane Schulz

Upcoming events are as follows:

- ❖ Our June field trip this year will be taking us to Grand Island on June 9th, meeting at church at 9:30AM to carpool. First we are going to Orange Poppy Art Studio for our make-up of our Kraft with Katelyn. We will be making a mosaic picture frame - cost is \$10.00, payable that day at the studio. Then to Brick Oven for lunch and then a stop by Kelly's Country Store. A sign-up sheet, sample picture frame, and Brick Oven menu is on the glass case in chapel.
- ❖ There will be no meeting or activity in July.
- ❖ Our summer picnic will be held at church on Tuesday, August 4th at 5:30PM. We could use a grill master – Randy, Dick, Jim, Gary, Ross – for our hot dogs/hamburgers. Please bring a dish to share.
- ❖ We planned events/activities for each month starting in September. Info will be shared in our annual brochure and future bulletins and Gleanings.



Grace

Current News and Announcements

**** SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please note that starting the week of June 21st through the end of August the office will have shorter summer hours. The office will be open the 2nd Sunday in July and Tuesdays and Thursdays until the first week of September from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

**** SUMMER COFFEE HOUR:** We will be having a coffee hour after worship for the summer months, beginning on June 21st. There is a sign-up sheet located on the glass case for volunteers to help provide some sweet treats and baked goods during the summer months.

****OFFICIAL ACTS:** There has been no official acts since the last Gleanings.

****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.

****RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** The June blood drive will be held at St. John de LaSalle in Niagara Falls. More information on the last page. Drives will return here to Grace in the fall.

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>



Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. *“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you”* (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: *“The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity”* (Rom. 12:8).

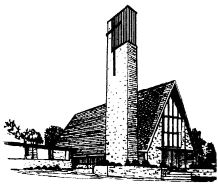
So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each *“as he has decided in his heart,”* as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love *“in deed”* (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



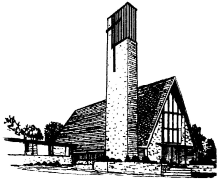
Grace Lutheran Church

June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC)	8 6:30P Survivors' Group	9 9:30A Grace Ladies Field Trip 6:00P Young Adult Group	10	11	12	13
14 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship 11:30A Church Picnic	15 6:30P Survivors' Group	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day 9:00A Sunday CE 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Coffee Hour 	22 6:30P Survivors' Group	23 5:00A: Primary Election 6:00P Young Adult Group	24	25	26	27 9:00A VBS Décor Making
28 9:15A VBS Leader Train 10:30A Worship 11:30A Coffee Hour 11:30A VBS Youth Train	29 6:30P Survivors' Group	30			Head Ushers: Gary Krull Ross Folmsbee	Altar Care: Alice Moll Luann Pyska

CE: Christian Education
HC: *Holy Communion*

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



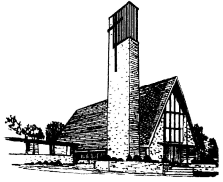
Grace Lutheran Church

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel Randy Broeker	Altar Care: Virginia Markel Sherry Cassatt		1	2	3	HAPPY 4 th OF JULY 
5 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Coffee Hour	6 6:00P VBS 6:30P Survivors' Group	7 6:00P VBS	8 6:00P VBS	9 6:00P VBS	10 6:00P VBS	11
12 10:30A Worship 11:30A Coffee Hour	13 6:30P Survivors' Group	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Coffee Hour	20 6:30P Survivors' Group	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30A Worship 11:30A Coffee Hour	27 6:30P Survivors' Group	28	29	30	31	

HC: *Holy Communion*

Office Phone: 716-283-1843
 Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org
 July Church Office Hours: 2nd Sunday 9:30 AM-12:00 PM; T/TH 10 AM-2 PM



Grace Lutheran Church

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Head Ushers: Mark Binkley Jim Wolf	Altar Care: Erika Tuscher Lin Matiasz					1
2 10:30A Worship 11:30A Coffee Hour	3 6:30P Survivors' Group	4 5:30P Grace Ladies Picnic	5	6	7	8
9 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Coffee Hour	10 6:30P Survivors' Group	11 GLEANINGS DEADLINE	12	13	14	15
16 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Coffee Hour	17 6:30P Survivors' Group	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:30A Worship 11:30A Coffee Hour	24 6:30P Survivors' Group	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:30A Worship (HC) 11:30A Coffee Hour	31 6:30P Survivors' Group	HC: <i>Holy Communion</i>				

Office Phone: 716-283-1843
 Office Administrator: Erin Anthony – office@gracenf.org
 August Church Office Hours: T/TH 10 AM-2 PM



**American
Red Cross**

CELEBRATE MORE

Life

Blood Drive St John de LaSalle

**Parish Center-Behind Church
8477 Buffalo Ave.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304**

**Saturday, June 20, 2026
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Give twice the impact in one donation!
Power Red donors provide the red cells patients need most.
Your Power Red appointment can help trauma victims,
surgery patients, and those with chronic illnesses.
Ready to make a bigger difference?

For an appointment visit your American Red Cross
Blood Donor App, RedCrossBlood.org, Find a Drive: NFCCommunity
or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

**Come to give blood 6/1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card +
chance to win a \$7.5K prize! See rcblood.org/june.**

Give Blood.

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

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Grace Lutheran Church
736 Cayuga Drive
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WORSHIP SERVICES

EDUCATION

GRACE LADIES

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**Issue
50**

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

Resumes
Sunday, September 13th
@ 9:00AM

Next Meeting:
June 9 @ 9:30A

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

**Jun/Jul/Aug
2026**

*Holy Communion on the
first, third and fifth Sundays