

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

204 North Main Street Columbia City, IN 46725-2191

Phone 260-244-7118 Fax 260-248-2138

E-mail: office.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.gracecolumbiacity.org

Newsletter E-mail: newsletter.gracelutheran@gmail.com



April 2026 Newsletter

Congregational Meeting

Members of the congregation,

Over the past year I have come to realize that we will not fill up this church every Sunday morning, and that is OK. Although it is always nice to see a full congregation and the larger ones on Easter and Christmas, this is not all the church is for. The church is the center for activities and Gods word. Whenever I leave after property meetings, church council meetings or drive by the church at any given time, I see a lot of activity around our church.

We have the best Preschool Teachers around teaching the youth in our community and sharing God's word. We have a Food Pantry that serves our community and neighbors bringing hope and God's nourishment. We have 3 scout groups that operate out of our church, once again supporting our youth. There are also many organizations that use our building, Adelphi Group, Men's Breakfast, Whitley County Quilters, AA, Tops, Bowen Center, Voting, Family Get Togethers, Funeral Dinners and the list goes on. We also participate in many community functions, Old Settlers Day Noodle Dinner, Pork Chop Dinner, Walk of Trees, Giving Tree and something new this year, First Friday. First Fridays was a real eye opener for me. During the first month of participating, we were lost and trying to find our niche. Well, we found it, over 5 Fridays we handed out over 500 helium balloons and wrist bands with Grace Lutheran Church logo on it. When you see the smile on a kids' face after putting a wrist band on them, it melts your heart. During or last 2 events we had kids looking for the Balloon Tent. What a great feeling having children wanting to come to your event.

Over the past 2 years we have changed our format for Bread Loaf Offering. This has made it more meaningful and a good explanation of what the money is used for. These past 12 months we have collected for 8 local organizations, 3 synod directives, and the Gideons. We collected over \$1300.00 that helped our community.

We have so much to be proud of. So, it's not about filling the parking lot and pews on Sunday morning, but it's about teaching and spreading God's word throughout our community every day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Freiburger,

President, Church Council

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



APRIL



Where we've been...

We enjoyed reading books about transportation, and St. Patrick's Day. We focused on the letters Cc and Dd, the number 8. We enjoyed playing outside more and the beautiful sunshine.

Where we're headed...

We will be finishing up with number 10, reviewing all shapes and making patterns. We will learning the letters Ww and Kk. We will have fun learning about different types of weather and springtime.

Important Dates

March 30- April 3- NO School- Spring Break
April 16th and 17- Muffins in the Morning at 7:45 am.
April 21st- Dairy Queen Fundraiser 4 pm- 8 pm
April 28- Botanical Conservatory Field Trip- Butterfly Exhibit
May 15th- No School- Professional Development for Teachers
May 18th & 19th- Field Days (last Reg. Day of School)
May 20th & 21st- Picnic at Kid's Dreamland- 11:30 pm- 1 pm- class will be combined

End of Year Celebration/ Graduations

May 19- T/TH Classes- End of Year Celebration at 6 pm.
May 20- MWF ½ Day Classes- Graduation at 6 pm.
May 21- MWF All Day Class- Graduation at 6 pm

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



APRIL



Graduation Ceremonies

There will be THREE different End of the Year Celebrations or Graduations this year.

End of the Year Celebration will be on May 19th at 6pm for the T/ Th classes.

MWF ½ Day Classes will have their Graduation on May 20th.

MWF ALL Day class will have their Graduation Ceremony on May 21st at 6:00pm.

After both ceremonies we will have refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU!!

We are so incredibly grateful for each of you who helped make our Fish Fry and Silent Auction such a success. Whether you donated delicious baked goods, gave your time to volunteer, or supported the event in any way, your generosity and willingness to step in made a meaningful difference. Because of you, the evening was not only successful, but also filled with a wonderful sense of community. Your support helps provide the materials, experiences, and opportunities that enrich our classrooms and directly impact our students each day. Thank you for showing up, pitching in, and being such an important part of our preschool family. We truly couldn't do this without you!

Botanical Conservatory Field Trip

All classes will be going to the Botanical Conservatory Field Trip to see the Butterfly Exhibit on April 28th from 10 am- 12 pm.

6.00 per adult
4.00 per child

More Information and Permission
Sip going home after Spring Break!

Class at Kid's Dreamland

Last regular class days will be May 18th and 19th. On the last days of school, we would like the students and parents to meet at Kid's Dreamland to have a picnic lunch and play together. MWF classes will meet together on May 20th at 11:30am Kid's Dreamland. T/ Th class will meet together on May 21st at 11:30am at Kid's Dreamland. Please make sure to bring a lunch for your child and/ or yourself. Siblings are invited and welcomed to join us.

Prayer Request

If someone you know needs some extra prayers through a hard time or sickness, please email the office at Prayers.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Or you can call someone on the Care Team:

Jane Straub: 260-229-1118

Linda Trowbridge 260-229-1815

Linda Grawcock 260-609-5037

Ann Wolfe 260-609-5920

Sandy Whiteleather 260-503-4281

Important Email addresses

Church business and bulletin items:

Office.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Newsletter articles (due by the 21th of the month):

Newsletter.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Prayer Chain requests:

prayers.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Join us for fellowship hour immediately following the service.

THANK YOU

to all the wonderful people who donated their time and yummy treats each week!!!

Food Pantry needs this month : Cereal

Also food pantry needs Plastic bags (Walmart, Kroger's, ect).

Purpose statement: Empowered by Jesus to participate in God's work with our community.

Guiding Principles:

- Always growing Relationships with God, one another, and the world
- God is at work in the world and we get to participate
- Trusting that God equips us, we understand and serve the needs of our community and world
- Music and worship are expressions of the Holy Spirit in this place.
- Each one has something to contribute
- All are on a journey, still traveling and searching
- We can walk arm in arm without seeing eye to eye

Easter Week Services

Easter week service dates and time: Maundy Thursday April 2, 7:00 pm at Grace, Good Friday April 3, 7:00pm at Hope, Easter Sunday April 5, 8:15am Hope and 10:00am Grace. Grace will have a carry in Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt starting at 8:00am.

Altar Guild

We are in need of some new faces on Altar Guild. What does this entail, mainly preparing the Bread and wine for Sunday morning services.

It does not take long to prepare (10 minutes) and you can do this on Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning. You do not have to do an entire month at a time, although that is preferred. We would love to have you on the Altar Guild Team. Any question ask Joe Freiburger, Maelynn Fries, Marsha Ruesch or Pastor

Synod Assembly Meeting

*The year's Synod Assembly will be on line this year versus in person down in Indianapolis. The date is Saturday June 6th. We need one male and one female to represent our church. You will need to be pre registered, so if you are interested or have any questions. See Pastor Matt

Game Night

We are having a game night on Tuesday April 21 from 7pm to 9pm. The church will be supplying Ice Cream Cake from Dairy Queen (to support our preschool fundraiser) Coffee and Lemonade. We will also have cards available. You can bring in your favorite game if you wish or snacks to share. So come on out, join in some fellowship and show of your gaming skills. If you have any questions or suggestions, See Pastor or any Council member.

These are letters from people that received from our angel tree, at Mission 25.

To Whom it may concern,
Thank you so much for making
this Christmas so special for my ~~kids~~ kids
and I, last year I was in jail for all of
the holidays and missed out on all the
Christmas fun, but thanks to ~~you~~ you, this
year made up for that and then some, and
I am so grateful, my ~~to~~ kids and I
had such a good Christmas thanks to you,
we appreciate it more than you know,

Thank you again, so
very much, I'm forever
Thankful, grateful, blessed!

-Destiny Mackey

My Secret Family

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2 First I will say I hope your Christmas
3 & New Years was very blessed and
4 amazing, just as mine was! I can
5 not express my gratitude bodily
6 or strongly enough for the support
7 you gave indirectly to Mission 25,
8 but also directly to my son Malachi,
9 and myself! (Patricia, that's me) The
10 gift cards, toys, clothes, lotion, baby
11 plates, cups, and so much more!
12 I have no clue who you are, but
13 just know my thankfulness is expanded
14 ~~throughout~~ beyond that Christmas morning!
15 My thoughts and prayers are dedicated
16 to your family. If its okay with
17 all of you I will keep you updated
18 w/ letters now & later, hopefully
19 some photos if I can ever get
20 some actual good photos of my
21 son & I together. I pray this
22 year brings bundles & bundles of
23 learning experiences, beautiful bouquets
24 of love & joy, and most of ^{all} blessings
25 upon blessings from the big guy from
26 up stairs! (Our Heavenly Father) Again
27 I very thankful and very appreciative
28 of the time, money, & emotions you

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blessed my son & I with for
Christmas & New Years. Tears of
joy and much recognition of
humbleness towards not only myself
but also allowing my son & I to
accept what was gifted to us all the
while understanding that with all
these gifts there is nothing behind
any of it as far as an ulterior motive
or any strings attached "in fine print!"
So for that as well I thank you
very much for.

Hopefully I can & will send
another letter w/ time to come &
pictures!!

May God keep Angels
around for protection to all loved ones &
your home, I ~~am~~ pray He brings
peace, love, and joy to all the hearts
that brought those things to mine &
my sons heart!

With All My Love &
Apperiation,

Patricia &

Malachi

Parker XOXO

XO



Bread Loaf offering

We will continue the same format for bread Loaf Offerings that we have been doing for the last 2 years. On the first Sunday of the month, we will announce which organization will benefit from the offering. We will be passing around 2 Bread Loaf Baskets. The following Sundays, the Bread

Loaf basket will be in the Narthex next to the collection plate. Here is a list of the recipients that will receive the Bread Loaf offering each month. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Joe Freiburger, Pastor or any other church council member, Thank You for all your support and donations. Joe Freiburger

April- Synod Disaster Relief Response

May- The Center

June- Gideons

July- Babe

August- Lutheran Senior Care Ministries

September- Grace Lutheran Preschool

October- Fire Fighters Christmas Candy Handout

November- Mission 25 Giving Tree

December- Grace Lutheran Food Pantry

Easter Breakfast

Spring is fast approaching, and we are all ready for some warmer weather. Easter is late spring this year on April 20th. Our services this year will be: Ash Wednesday Hope 7pm, Maunday Thursday Hope 7pm, Good Friday Grace 7pm, Easter Sunday Hope 8:15am, Grace 10am. We will have our carry in breakfast on Easter morning at 8:30am The church will be providing drinks, coffee, juice or lemon aid. We will pass around sign-up sheets as we get closer to April. So be thinking about your favorite breakfast casseroles or desserts. Think Spring.

Adelphi Group

Adelphi ladies met Tuesday, March 17,2026 for their first gathering of the new year. Prayer was given and doxology was sung prior to the meal.

A delicious luncheon was brought in by Hope. Provided was sliders, pasta salad, cheese and crackers, also two luscious green deserts for St Patrick's Day.

Following the meal Linda Trowbridge took the group through the plans for the upcoming meetings. Women from "the Closet" will come to the April 21st meeting to tell about their clothing ministry.

Chocolate lovers "old world fudge"" will be joining us at the May 19th meeting. Don't Miss it!

There will be more interesting programs. A sale is being discussed. Everyone is invited to come.

A card for Norma Herron, one of our members was signed. She had fallen and broken a bone. We are praying for her recovery.

Hope your Lenten Journey has been meaningful. May your Easter be full of Alleluias!

1st Sunday-Sunday School
1st Sunday- Blood Pressure checks
2nd Sunday- Confirmation
3rd Sunday- Sunday school
4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school



April Birthdays



COULTER, Joyce	04/01
SCOTT, Jake	04/07
DARSTEIN, Donna	04/08
GRAWCOCK, Linda	04/09
WILKINSON, Ethan	04/12
HART, Jeremy	04/16
DRIVER, Michael	04/20
COULTER, Paul	04/23
ANDERSON, Shella	04/24
BORN, Sarah	04/30

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Christian Holidays, Holidays in United States

Apr 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am - Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Wccs Spring Break</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S.</p> <p>3:40pm - Staff Meetings</p> <p>4pm - Whitley County</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12pm - Food Pantry</p> <p>4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Maunderly Thursday</p> <p>7pm - Maunderly Thursday</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>12pm - Food pantry</p> <p>7pm - Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Holy Saturday</p> <p>10am - S.K Party</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am - Blood Pressure</p> <p>11:15am - Fellowship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Easter Monday</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands</p> <p>6:30pm - Property Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S.</p> <p>3:40pm - Staff Meetings</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12pm - Food Pantry</p> <p>4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am - Fellowship</p> <p>1pm - Worship @Oakes</p> <p>2pm - girl scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands</p> <p>5:30pm - Financial Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Church Council</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S.</p> <p>3:40pm - Staff Meetings</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p> <p>6:30pm - Sigma Eta</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Tax Day</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:20am - Pre-k chapel</p> <p>11am - Pre-k chapel</p> <p>12pm - Food Pantry</p> <p>12:40pm - Pre-k chapel</p> <p>4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:45am - Muffins in the</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>7:45am - Muffins in the</p> <p>12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am - Fellowship</p> <p>11:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S.</p> <p>10:30am - Care Team</p> <p>11:30am - Adelphai Group</p> <p>3:40pm - Staff Meetings</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12pm - Food Pantry</p> <p>4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1pm - Shoda Party</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am - Fellowship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts America</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S.</p> <p>3:40pm - Staff Meetings</p> <p>4pm - Whitley County</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12pm - Food Pantry</p> <p>4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>12pm - Food pantry</p> <p>5pm - Girl Scout Lockin</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12am - Girl Scout Lockin</p>

Worship At Hope Sundays at 8:15am
Worship with Holy Communion at Grace
Sundays at 10am

LIVE on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/gracelutherancolumbiacity

Upcoming Important dates...

April 2- Maunday Thursday service @ 7pm @ Grace

April 3- Good Friday service @ 7pm @ Hope

Easter Breakfast @ Hope after church

Easter Breakfast @ Grace @ 8am

April 21- Game Night @ 7pm

April 21- Pre-k DQ Fundraiser night