

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



December 2025 Newsletter

October 13, 2025 Joint Council Meeting Minutes
Hope Lutheran Church – Grace Lutheran Church

Present- Reverend Matt Converse, Laura Auer, Janice Daniel,
Joe Freiburger, Maelynn Fries, Deena Hart, Mark Krider, Paul Marken,
Mike Noel, Bill Owen, Sarah Pearl

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Grace President Joe Freiburger
Paster led devotions from Luke 17:5-19. This was yesterday's gospel lesson.
There was good discussion and commentary about this passage. Pastor
pointed out that the apostles' request to "Increase our faith" stemmed from a
desire to move up in the overall hierarchy.

Minutes from last month deferred till next month.

Pastors Report: Pastor Matt gave a summary of his written report. For Grace
council, we need to have completed staff evaluation forms back by next
month. Pastor also shared about the Thursday AA group that meets here.
There was some trouble with a couple individuals that were "bullying" the
others in the group. Paster Matt had to be involved as well as the Columbia

City Police. The convener of the group was removed from the group. He did turn in his key. He apparently kept the \$700 from their donation box.

Treasurers Report: deferred till next month

New Business:

The new business centered around joint services with Hope and Grace for the coming year.

A) 2025 Holiday schedules:

- a. Hope likes hosting a 9:00 AM Thanksgiving Service. This will continue.
- b. Christmas Eve. It was decided that we will have no communion. We will have two services as normal. Each church will decide their own times.
- c. For December 28 th each church will have its own regular service.

B) Easter season:

- a. Feb 18 th is Ash Wednesday. Last year Ash Wednesday was at Hope. For 2026 the service will be at Grace at 7:00pm.
- b. No Mid-week Lenten services are planned at this time.

c. Maundy Thursday is April 2 nd . This service will be at Grace at 7pm.

d. Good Friday is April 3 rd . This service will be at Hope at 7pm.

C) Tenderloin Fry is Feb 17 th . Hope would like to continue to participate and help. They are ok with the 80/20% split of profits. They would like to continue to have sign up sheets brought out for Hope members to sign up.

D) Old Settlers will be the same as the Tenderloin Fry with Hope helping and the 80/20 split of profits.

E) Summer 2026 Holidays:

- a. Memorial Day weekend May 24 th there will be one service at Grace.
- b. July 5 th one service at Hope.
- c. Labor Day Sept 6 th . One service at Grace.

F) The 4H Pork Chop Dinner is July 12 th . As those working the lunch shift need to be at the 4H center shortly after Grace's service starts, there will be only one service at Hope that morning.

G) Personnel sheets. It is ok to skip items that you don't have an answer to. If you answer excellent or needs improvement, etc., please give explanation.

H) Giving Tree. Since the Salvation Army does not have staff in place to support the Giving Tree, Grace will continue to work with Mission 25. Hope has been working with Child Services through the Department of Corrections and will continue to do this again.

I) Food Pantry. Dave Hockerman provided a written report. The highlight is that the pantry has distributed over 32,000 lbs of food through September.

J) Property. Mark called our attention to the Felger Hart letter quoting their Commercial Preventative Maintenance contract. This will be used going forward and should make things go more smoothly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes prepared by Paul E. Marken. 10/14/25

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

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) and Egg cartons.

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

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



Troop 84/ Pack 3082

Pack 2082 has their Raingutter regatta, and The Troop came and helped with running/ timing it.





Troop 84/ Pack 3082

The Troop and Pack have been hard at work, working on merit badges, rank advancements and other things within the community. Nov 22, we participated in project 216. Project 216, is putting together meals for people in need, or in third world countries. Each bag has six servings in them. All together there was over 1000 meals prepped.



Adelphi Group

Adelphi Group met on Tuesday Nov 18th. The ladies from Hope provided the lunch on. Linda Trowbridge gave the blessing. Following the meal Ann Wolfe went over the upcoming meetings.

Then Beth Moss gave an excellent program on nursing, the history and present day. She is serving as Parish Nurse to both congregations. She is available for health concerns, home communion and does blood pressure checks, the first Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall, After church service.

The December meeting will be on Monday the 8th, at 11 am. Members are to wear holiday attire and enter the sanctuary before 11am. The preschool children will be presenting their Christmas Program. Following the presentation, members will meet in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch.

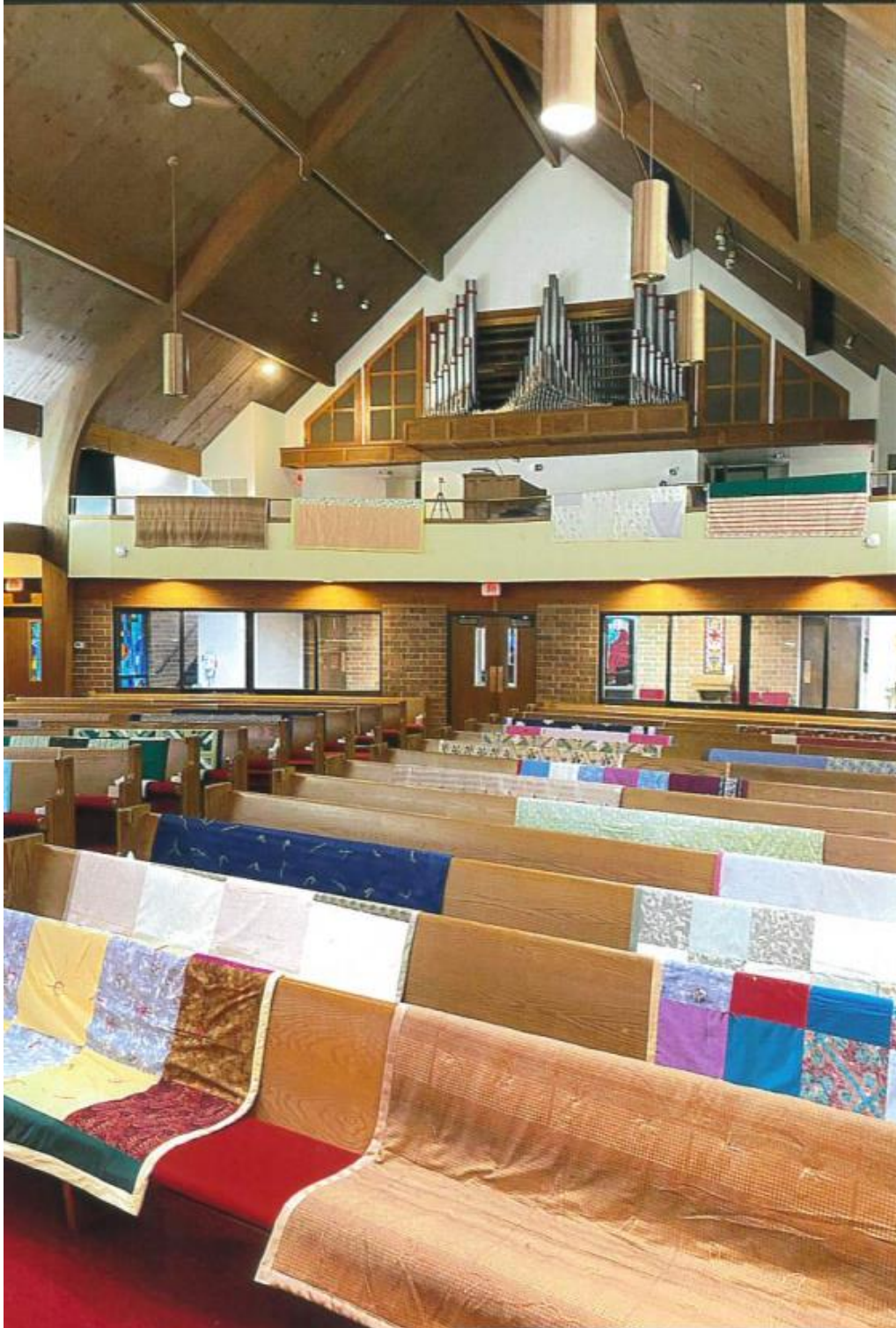
All are reminded that there are no meetings in January or February but are asked to come with ideas for 2026 in March.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas Season with family and friends.

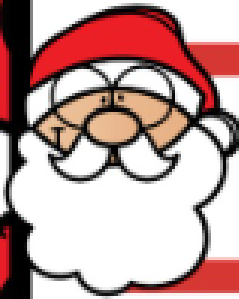
We would like the gifts to be under the tree by December 17. A note from Mission 25: **YOU ARE A BLESSING!** You are the reason smiles will happen, hearts will be full, and hopes will be **ALIVE** on Christmas morning.



A special thank you to Donna Darstein, Nancy Lopshire, and Jo Krider for piecing and sewing the quilts. Thank you to Jan Morsches, Sandy Whiteleather, Linda Trowbridge for knotting. We sent 39 quilts to World Relief. Also Adelphi ladies assembled 17 health kits to be sent.



Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



DECEMBER



Where we've been...

I always feel that this time of year is the busiest at school and at home. We've been busy reading all kinds of turkey books. We've made a fun turkey craft. The students have been working really hard learning to write their names. We will continue to work on learning are numbers up to 5 and continue with the letters T and N.

Where we're headed...

December will be just as busy. We will be learning about the birth of Baby Jesus and the real meaning behind Christmas. We will be making ornaments, presents for our parents, and gingerbread houses. We will end with a visit from Santa Claus. Please see the flyer attached about Santa Claus visiting.

Important Dates

Dec 4th and 5th - Ornament Making Days
Dec. 18th & 19th- Gingerbread House Making Days
Dec. 18th & 19th- Christmas Parties
Dec. 22th - Jan. 2th- No School- Christmas Break
Jan. 5th- No School (Teacher Day ONLY)
Jan 6th- School Resumes

Volunteers

I still need volunteers to help with Ornament Making Days and Gingerbread Houses Making Days. It will be about and hour of class time. If you can volunteer and help, please let me know.

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



DECEMBER



Santa's Coming to Preschool

Santa Claus will be visiting our classes on December 18th and 19th during our Christmas Parties.

Please send in a toy that costs \$15 or less. Please have the gift wrapped (in wrapping paper your child doesn't recognize) and put it in a brown paper bag so your child does not see it! (You can get brown paper bags from Kroger.) Make sure you write your child's name on the brown bag and present!! Please make sure the toy is something they can play with right away, not a movie or video game. It is always hard to see most children playing with a new toy while one child just watches. Please have the gifts here by Friday, December 12th!!

Sunday Church Services

We welcome all our families to our church services here at Grace Lutheran Church or Hope Lutheran Church. Pastor Matt preaches at both congregations on Sunday mornings.

8:15 am- Hope Lutheran Church
2001 S. 500 E. Columbia City

10:00 am- Grace Lutheran Church

Weather Changes

Reminder that the weather is constantly changing here in Indiana. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately to play outside for 20 minutes everyday especially the morning classes. Students should have a coat, hat, and gloves. The playground does get some strong wind gusts when it is windy outside.

Helping your child...

Please work with your child so

they are independently :

- pulling up their own pants after using the restroom
- putting on their book bag and coat
- zipping up their coat, hat and gloves

Practice cutting with scissors and holding a writing utensil correctly.



December Birthdays



NELSON, Brad	12/02
OLIVER, Misty	12/04
WEISS, Larry	12/04
HAMILTON, Harriet	12/06
KRIDER, Jo	12/08
AMSTUTZ, Molly	12/09
KRIDER, Memphis	12/10
WEISS, Abby	12/13
STRAUB, Thomas	12/14
BOCKELMAN, David	12/22
SWEAT, Micheal	12/22
ROTHGEB, Byron (Bud)	12/23
OWEN, William	12/25
KRIDER, Ayden	12/27
CONVERSE, Matthew	12/28
WHITELEATHER, Sandra	12/28
RUESCH, Marsha	12/29

1st Sunday-Sunday School

1st Sunday- Blood Pressure Checks

2nd Sunday- Confirmation

3rd Sunday- Sunday school

4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school

Dec 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 First Sunday of Advent 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 2pm - girl scouts	1 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Property Team 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	2 9am - T.O.P.S. 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	3 8am - Men's Breakfast 10:20am - Pre-k chapel 11am - Pre-k chapel 12pm - Food Pantry 12:40pm - Pre-k chapel 4pm - Voucher	4 9:30am - Pre-k Ornament 1:30pm - pre-k Ornament 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	5 Pastor's Day Off 9:30am - Pre-k Ornament 12pm - Food pantry 1:30pm - Pre-k Ornament	6 11am - Birthday Party
7 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Blood Pressure 11:15am - Fellowship	8 Feast of the Immaculate 12:30pm - Helping Hands 5:30pm - Financial Team 6:30pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America	9 9am - T.O.P.S. 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082 6:30pm - Sigma Eta	10 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	11 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	12 Feast of Our Lady of Pastor's Day Off 5pm - Troop 84 Lock in 12pm - Food pantry	13
14 Troop 84 Lock in 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 1pm - Worship @Oakes 2pm - girl scouts	15 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	16 9am - T.O.P.S. 10:30am - Care Team 11:30am - Adelphai Group 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	17 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	18 9:30am - Pre-k Christmas 1:30pm - pre-k Christmas 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	19 Pastor's Day Off 9:30am - pre-k Christmas 12pm - Food pantry 1:30pm - pre-k Christmas	20 12pm - Krider Christmas
21 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 11:15am - Sunday School 1pm - Straub Christmas	22 Wccs Winter Break 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	23 9am - T.O.P.S. 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	24 Christmas Eve 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 7pm - Christmas Eve 9pm - Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Christmas Day Office 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	26 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	27
28 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship	29 Wccs Winter Break 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	30 9am - T.O.P.S. 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	31 New Year's Eve 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	1 New Year's Day 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	2 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	3

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...

Christmas Eve 7pm Grace no communion
9pm Hope no communion
11pm Grace no communion