

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



February 2026 Newsletter

November 10, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees Present

Joe Freiburger
Maelynn Fries
Linda Grawcock
Deena Hart
Mark Krider
Paul Marken
Bill Owen
Sarah Pearl

Absent

Paster Matt Converse
Branson Heidenreich
Morgan Heidenreich

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by President Joe Freiburger

Minutes from September were reviewed. These were approved with one typo correction under Worship and Music. The October minutes were also reviewed. Correction under new business A b, the Christmas Eve services are Grace at 7 and 11pm and Hope at 9pm. D should say Old Settlers Noodle Dinner. October minutes were approved with these two corrections.

Pastors Report: None.

Treasurers Report: Deena gave a summary of the October treasurer's reports. There were no deposits from Tithely in October. It is known that money was taken out of at

least one member's account and went to Tithely. Deena is still working with Tithely to resolve this. The reports were approved subject to audit.

Old Business:

- A. Confirmation class. This is tabled until next month when pastor is here.
- B. Evaluation forms should be returned tonight.
- C. Hanging of the greens will be the 23rd of November. Christmas decorations were discussed. Lights for the tree were discussed. New wreaths have been purchased for the columns.

New Business:

- A. The date to have Faron come and speak to the congregation was discussed. Since the congregational meeting is January 18th, it was felt that February would work better. February 15th was proposed. Deena will contact Faron and see if this date will work for her.
- B. Instead of midweek advent services, we will try to do a single advent carry-in event. It was agreed that this will be Tuesday the 16th. This will be a soup and salad carry in. This will start at 6pm. Pastor will do a devotional.
- C. Walk of Trees. Allisson and Marsha are willing to do the Walk of Trees again for Grace. We will again provide them a \$200 budget.

Team Reports:

Property – Mark gave a summary of his written report.

Food Pantry – Joe gave a summary of the written report from Dave. Pantry has been very busy. Things are going well. The Brethren and the Methodist Churches have both been collecting food and donating to the pantry. The list of most needed items might be adjusted to include more things.

Fellowship – Mark. The Bread loaf offering for October was \$147 to the Firemen's candy collection. The advent event was mentioned above. Setting up a Cards/Game night was also discussed. Perhaps something could be set up for February. Linda will make some calls and seek a volunteer to lead this.

Worship and Music – Paul mentioned he ordered a replacement handle for one of the bells and Malmark contacted him that it was under warranty. The new handle was passed around council. Paul will install this on the bell soon. The pianos in the sanctuary were both tuned. The baby grand in the balcony is showing its age. It did tune but it will not last forever. We could consider having this piano restrung someday. The pipe organ will be tuned soon. A question was brought up about the piano in the fellowship hall. It is used by Sigma Eta but not longer stays in tune. Paul will look into the painos in the fellowship hall and in the balcony.

Christian Ed – Linda is still trying to hold a Sunday School class when she can. There have been many days where there were only two students.

Stewardship – Linda went over some of her plans from the time and talent sheets. She is still contacting people who said they were interested in helping.

Permanent Endowment – Paul. Nothing to report.

Altar Guild – Maelynn has the new sign up list for next year posted. She will plan a Saturday to wipe down pews and invite others to help. The finish on the inside of the chalice is coming off and makes the wine taste funny. Mark will see if it can be refinished or repaired in some way.

Staff Support – Sarah. Nothing to report.

Preschool – Council reviewed Kirsten's written report. The CCDF funding cuts are making this seem no longer worthwhile.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes prepared by Paul E. Marken. 11/11/25

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

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



FEBRUARY



Where we've been...

We enjoyed reading and comparing the different versions of Goldilocks and the 3 bears in Mrs. Jines' class. Mrs. Beck's class enjoyed lots books about snow. We've been working hard on learning the letters in our name and writing our name. Students continue to learn more numbers, letters, and shapes through various activities.

Where we're headed...

This month we will be learning all about how to keep our teeth healthy and clean. We will discuss the different ways to show kindness to others. We will continue learning our numbers 6 and 7, writing our names and finishing up learning all our shapes.

Important Dates

Feb. 11 & 13- Valentines Parties
Feb 13- No School- Professional Development Day for Teachers
Feb. 16- School is in SESSION
Feb 17. No School- WCCS
Feb 25th and 26th- Parent/ Teacher Conferences
Feb 26th- No School
March 11th- Open House/ Registration Night 5:30pm -7:30pm
March 16- No School- WCCS calendar
March 18- Preschool Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser
March 30- April 3- NO School- Spring Break

Valentines Party

February 11th & 12th, 2026
Students are welcome to bring in Valentine's cards, treats, little goodie bags, or etc.
We'll be making special bags in class to put all their treats in.
Please only write whom the valentines are from because it makes it easier and faster to pass out.

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



FEBRUARY



Preschool Annual Big Eyed Fish Fundraiser

Our fall fundraiser has been pushed into March. This fundraiser benefits your child and the teachers with things needed for the classroom and teaching. We are not mandating that families help but we are highly encouraging it. Parents will not be expected to volunteer the whole time. We will break the volunteer times down into an hour or two. The teachers cannot run this fundraiser by ourselves.

Big Eyed Fish will be helping by providing us with their fish. If you have never had it, it is delicious.

Please keep your calendars open for this day.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Please signed up for a time to meet with your child's teacher for Parent/ Teacher Conferences on February 25th or 26th. Please do so through the link I will send out on Brightwheel next week. There is NO SCHOOL on THURSDAY, February 26th. Our hope is to meet with each and everyone of you.

Winter Clothing

Please make sure that your child has the proper clothes to be able to go outside. **We will go outside as long as the temperature and wind chill is at or above 30 degree.** When we finally get snow on the ground, and it is warm enough, I will ask you to bring in snow pants and boots in for your child.

Preparing for Kindergarten

Students should know...

- how to write their names
- know all the letters in their name
- count to at least 20
- know as many letters as possible in the alphabet
- know numbers 1-10
- Can sit and listen to a book
- Can follow simple directions
- Can zip and button pants, coats and jackets



Bread Loaf offering



Bread Loaf Offering 2026

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

January- Whitley County Ministerial Association (Energy Assistance) c/o

Craig Allen Myers 169 E 600 S-57 Churubusco In. 46723

February- Campus Ministries

March- Gafkjen Endowment Fund

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



February Birthdays



FRIES, Jaclyn	02/01
BRUBAKER, Andrew	02/02
DUBACH, Wallace	02/03
MOOG, Craig	02/04
BRUBAKER, Tim	02/06
OLIVER, Christopher	02/08
KRIDER, Eathan	02/09
HEUER, Brandin	02/13
ROTHGEB, Cameron	02/15
ALT, Linda	02/20
SAMUELS, Rex	02/22

1st Sunday-Sunday School

1st Sunday- Blood Pressure Checks

2nd Sunday- Confirmation

3rd Sunday- Sunday school

4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school

GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

FAT TUESDAY
TENDERLOIN



FRY



FEBRUARY 17, 2026

4-7PM

ADULTS \$14

6-11 \$7

5 & UNDER FREE

ADDL TENDERLOIN \$4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Blood Pressure 11:15am - Fellowship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Property Team 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast 10:20am - Pre-k chapel 11am - Pre-k chapel 12pm - Food Pantry 12:40pm - Pre-k chapel 4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 1pm - Worship @Oakes</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands 5:30pm - Financial Team 6:30pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082 6:30pm - Sigma Eta</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off Pre-K Development day 12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 11:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>16</p> <p>President's Day Wccs Snow Make-up day 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Wccs No school 9am - T.O.P.S. 10:30am - Care Team 11:30am - Adelphai Group 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Shrove Tuesday</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast 10:20am - Pre-k chapel 11am - Pre-k chapel 12pm - Food Pantry 12:40pm - Pre-k chapel 4pm - Voucher 7pm - Ashe Wed Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8am - ILST Training</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 12pm - District Dinner</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 4pm - p/t conf</p>	<p>26</p> <p>pre-k No school 8am - P/t conf 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Krider baby shower</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...

Fat Tuesday Feb 17 4-7 pm

Fish Fry March 18 4-7 pm