

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

January 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 - Pastor 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 23 rd 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 18 th , it was felt that February would work better. February

15 th 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 16 th . This will be a soup and salad carry in. This will start at 6pm. Pastor will do a devotional.

C) Walk of Trees. Allison 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 pianos 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. Marsha 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

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



JANUARY



Where we're headed...

Welcome back from Christmas break. I hope everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends. The next several months will be pack full of learning and fun. We will continue learning numbers 5-10, our shapes, more letters and continue practice writing our names.

Where we're headed continued...

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU NOTIFICATIONS ARE TURNED ON FOR BRIGHTWHEEL. We are going to be reading different versions of Goldilocks the 3 Bears. We will also enjoy books about snow. In February, we will focus on teeth and community helpers.

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 are at or above 30 degree.** When we have snow on the ground, and it is warm enough, I will ask you to bring in snow pants and boots in for your child.

Important Dates

Jan- 6th- Class Resumes
Feb. 11 & 12- Valentines Parties
Feb. 13- NO SCHOOL- Professional Development Day for Teachers
Feb. 16- Make-up Day- WCCS calendar
Feb. 17- NO SCHOOL (WCCS Calendar)
Feb 25th and 26th- Parent/ Teacher Conferences
Feb 26th- No School

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

Beth Moss (239)-293-5233

Important Email addresses

Church business and bulletin items:

Office.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Newsletter articles (due by the 24th 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) and Egg cartons.

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

Pack 3082

Pack 3082 helped lay wreaths in cemeteries for people that served in different branches of the military .

Pack 3082 also went to The Waters and sang Christmas carols to the residents and shared cookies with them and also handed out handmade Christmas Cards

Troop 84

Troop 84 helped lay wreaths in cemeteries for people that served in different branches of the military .

Troop 84 also had a Court of Honor, Christmas party. We had Scouts receive eagle required merit badges.

Adelphi Group

The preschool children sang songs in the Sanctuary for Adelphi ladies at their December meeting. Pastor Matt told the story “‘Twas the Night Before Christmas”.

The tables were decorated with candy cane theme and the Grace ladies served appetizers.

The ladies voted to donate \$50 towards Wish Tree and \$100 to utility services for families in need.

Next summer the ladies will have a garage sale so do some winter cleaning.

There are no meetings January or February but are asked to come with ideas for 2026 in March.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Last month Pastor Matt gave a Blessing of the Prayer Shawls.

Since 2005 the ladies have knitted or crocheted 505 shawls.

They have been given to the elderly, surgery, bereavement, joy and military.

If you know of someone that would be comforted by a shawl please take one. They are located in the cupboard in the fellowship hall. Just sign your name in the tablet.

Thank you, Sandy Whiteleather & Linda Trowbridge



Bread Loaf offering

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 Funds

April- Synod Disaster Relief Response

May – Camp Whitley

June – Mission 25

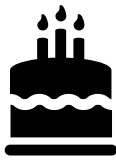
We will be passing around 2 Bread Loaf Baskets one Sunday each month. The following Sundays, the Bread loaf basket will be located in the Narthex next to the collection plate.

Now is the time to start getting your annual meeting reports ready for the congregational meeting on January 25th. If you have your reports done, please send them to Office.gracelutheran@gmail.com. Or you can put a copy in the office mailbox across the hall from the main office.

The Deadline to turn in your minutes is January 15.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on January 25th following church service. We will be having a carry in meal and I will be passing around a signup sheet on January 4th and the next few Sundays. The church will be providing chicken and drinks, coffee, lemonade and tea. Please put this in your calendar.



January Birthdays



Birthdays

OELSCHLAGER, Ted	01/06
WINELAND, Tracy	01/06
TROWBRIDGE, Victor	01/08
SMITH, Lyla	01/09
KRIDER, Aubree	01/12
HART, McKenzie	01/13
WILCOXSON, Tom	01/17
LINTHICUM (GILLARD), Margaret	01/18
WHEELER, Gregory	01/19
GRAWCOCK, Bob	01/22
RESSLER, Sadie	01/22
RESSLER, Natilie	01/22
HIVELY, Jean	01/23
SCOTT, Gentry	01/23
BOCKELMAN, Becky	01/27
BOCKELMAN, Brent	01/28
KRIDER, Nicholas	01/28
PEARCE, Tucker	01/28
KITSON, Ray	01/29

1st Sunday-Sunday School

1st Sunday- Blood Pressure Check

2nd Sunday- Confirmation

3rd Sunday- Sunday school

4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:15am - Worship Service	Wccs Winter Break					
10am - Worship Service	12:30pm - Helping Hands	9am - T.O.P.S.	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	Pastor's Day Off	
11:15am - Fellowship	6:30pm - Scouts America	4pm - Whitley County	8am - Men's Breakfast	7:30pm - AA	12pm - Food pantry	
2:30pm - Marsh Meal	6:30pm - Scouts America	6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	12pm - Food Pantry	7:30pm - Al-anon		
	7:30pm - AA		4pm - Voucher			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:15am - Worship Service	Fellowship Hall Closed					
10am - Worship Service	Wccs No school	Epiphany	8am - Men's Breakfast	7:30pm - AA	Pastor's Day Off	
11:15am - Blood Pressure	12:30pm - Helping Hands	9am - T.O.P.S.	12pm - Food Pantry	7:30pm - Al-anon	12pm - Food pantry	
11:15am - Fellowship	6:30pm - Property Team	3:40pm - Staff Meetings	4pm - Voucher			
	6:30pm - Scouts America	6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082				
	6:30pm - Scouts America					
	7:30pm - AA					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Fellowship Hall Closed						
8:15am - Worship Service	12:30pm - Helping Hands	9am - T.O.P.S.	8am - Men's Breakfast	7:30pm - AA	Pastor's Day Off	
10am - Worship Service	5:30pm - Financial Team	3:40pm - Staff Meetings	12pm - Food Pantry	7:30pm - Al-anon	12pm - Food pantry	
11:15am - Fellowship	6:30pm - Church Council	6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	4pm - Voucher			
1pm - Worship @Oakes	6:30pm - Scouts America	6:30pm - Sigma Eta				
2pm - girl scouts	6:30pm - Scouts America					
	7:30pm - AA					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:15am - Worship Service	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	9am - T.O.P.S.	8am - Men's Breakfast	7:30pm - AA	Pastor's Day Off	
10am - Worship Service	Snow make-up day	10:30am - Care Team	10:20am - Pre-k chapel	7:30pm - AA	12pm - Food pantry	
11:15am - Fellowship	12:30pm - Helping Hands	11:30am - Adelphai Group	11am - Pre-k chapel	7:30pm - Al-anon		
11:15am - Sunday School	6:30pm - Scouts America	3:40pm - Staff Meetings	12pm - Food Pantry			
	6:30pm - Scouts America	6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	12:40pm - Pre-k chapel			
	7:30pm - AA		4pm - Voucher			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:15am - Worship Service	12:30pm - Helping Hands	9am - T.O.P.S.	8am - Men's Breakfast	7:30pm - AA	Pastor's Day Off	
10am - Worship Service	6:30pm - Scouts America	3:40pm - Staff Meetings	12pm - Food Pantry	7:30pm - Al-anon	12pm - Food pantry	
11:15am - Congregational	6:30pm - Scouts America	4pm - Whitley County	4pm - Voucher			
11:15am - Fellowship	7:30pm - AA	6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082				
2pm - girl scouts						

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...

Congregational meeting @ Grace Jan 25th,2026

Shrove Tuesday Tenderloin Fry Feb 17,2026 4-7pm

Ash Wednesday Feb 18th,2026 @ Grace @ 7pm

Preschool Fish Fry March 18th,2026 4-7pm

Maunday Thursday April 2nd,2026 @ Grace @ 7pm

Good Friday April 3rd,2026 @ Hope @ 7 pm

Easter April 5th,2026 @ Hope @ 8:15 am

Easter April 5th,2026 @ Grace @ 10 am