

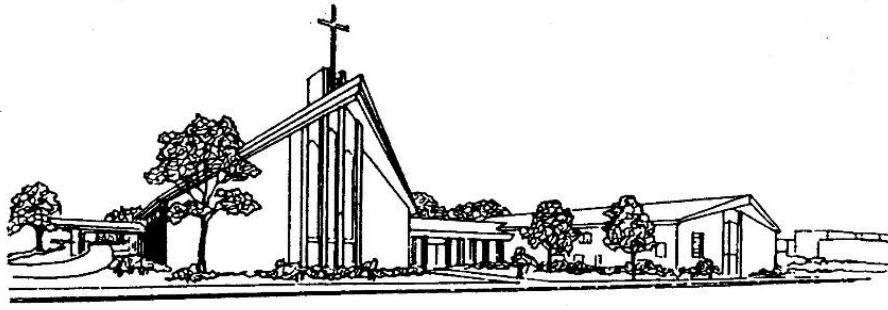
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

July 2026 Newsletter

April 13, 2026

Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees- Paster Matt Converse, Joe Freiburger, Maelynn Fries, Linda Grawcock, Deena Hart, Mark Krider, Paul Marken, Beth Moss, Sarah Pearl, Brent Whiteleather

Meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm by President Joe Freiburger

Devotional: Pastor led devotions from 1 Corinthians 15:12-28. In this passage St Paul talks of the resurrection. This is the main resurrection passage of the Bible. It was also Bishop Mikael Agricola of Finland's day.

Minutes from March were reviewed and approved with two typo corrections.

Pastors Report: Pastor gave a verbal overview of his written report. Pastor mentioned the city needs our consent to move forward with the DORA, which would come within 200 feet of our property. No one on council had any objection to the DORA as described in the letter. Pastor will fill out the consent form and return it to the city.

Treasurers Report: Deena gave a verbal summary of the March treasurer's report. The report was approved subject to audit.

Old Business:

A) Synod Assembly. We will need two delegates for the on-line Synod Assembly which will be June 6 th . The

delegates need to be one male and one female.

B) PAL's Group. The group is required to meet at the Mission 24 building and cannot meet here.

C) Alter Guild Schedule. The schedule is filling up. We have September and December open yet. We may have to split these months into individual weeks.
New Business:

A) First Friday. We are approved and have an assigned space. We will be there every month except July. Joe has 1,000 balloons on order with the preschool logo on them. Joe is getting new shirts for everyone and will order 300 wristbands. We will be meeting at 4:30 at church to go over and get set up. Our new location is on Van Buren Street near the side of Pickles Café.

B) Game Night and DQ Fundraiser. Two sheet-cakes are on order. People need to bring their own drinks. They can also bring snacks to share if they like. Mark is bringing several decks of cards. People can also bring board games.

Team Reports:

Property – Mark. Mark gave a summary of his written report. The property team moved to change the countertops in the restrooms off the Narthex. They also moved to replace the flooring in these two restrooms. Mark did not have a price for the flooring, but they have volunteers to do the labor. This does not require council approval if it stays under \$1,000. Property may proceed.

Food Pantry – Joe. Dave submitted a written report. Joe also mentioned the Bread loaf offering and how this year we have been collecting much more than last year. It is believed that the announcements and passing of the bread loaves is making a large difference.

Fellowship – Mark. Game night is coming up. Easter breakfast was successful, but we need to move the time back to 8:30 AM. 8:00 AM was too early.

Worship and Music – Paul. Nothing formal to report. The bell tables are still set up in the lounge. This does not seem to be a problem so far. It is very helpful for the Bell Choir. Coming up in July there are two weeks in a row where our service will be at Hope. We should consider starting to publicize this.

Christian Ed – Linda. Linda likes the Whirl curriculum very much. We should order the whole series. The videographer for the confirmation curriculum has taken a new job so the video production has slowed. Linda will put the proposed adult class on the calendar and begin making plans for it.

Stewardship – Linda. Linda discussed different ideas for stewardship talks. Ideas included having an outside speaker come and talk about financial giving. Other ideas included individual members talking about what their church means to them or why it is important.

Permanent Endowment – Paul. Nothing to report at this time.

Altar Guild – Maelynn. Nothing additional to report.

Staff Support – Sarah. Nothing to report.

Preschool – Council reviewed Kirsten's written report.

Parish Nurse – Beth gave a summary of her written report.

Newsletter articles are due by April 25th. (Earlier is better)

Linda mentioned Adelphi is considering a garage sale August 6, 7, 8.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes prepared by Paul E. Marken. 4/13/26



GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH PRESCHOOL

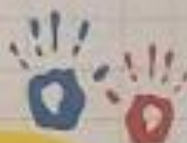
PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



We are a caring, safe, and nurturing environment with a Christian based education. We believe in offering your children the opportunities to make decisions and solve problems. We engage children in a curriculum that encourages a positive outlook towards school. Our aim is to prepare them for the future and cultivate a lifelong love of learning.

**3-5
YEARS
OLD**

CLASSES OFFERED:



4-5 year olds

- MWF 8:30-11:30
- MWF 12:30- 3:30
- MWF 8:30-3:30

3-4 year olds

- T/ Th 8:30-11:30
- T/Th 12:30- 3:30

For More Information and to Register
visit our website
www.gracecolumbiacity.com



Enrollment Information
Contact: Kirsten Jines
260-244-7118 ext. 3
pregracelutheran@gmail.com



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

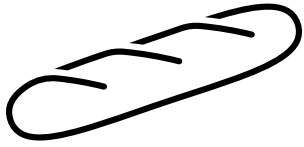
On June 3, the property team and a few individuals put down 6 yards of mulch on the south end of the property to cover the roots that were tripping hazards.:

Pictured are Tyler Darstein, Keith Darstein, Kris Hartwig, Tom Struab, Bill Owen, Linda Grawcock, Mark Krider and myself camera man. A big improvement With the appearance and safety..



Bill Owen sharing about Maple Acres.





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

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





The Grace and Hope Lutheran Church garage sale will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on August 6, 7, and 8th (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). We will begin accepting donations the week beginning July 26th. Normally someone is working at Grace during the day and you can gain entrance to fellowship hall by ringing the doorbell. However, if you need assistance, please call Linda Grawcock, 260-609-5037 for help. We will not accept adult clothing, but children's clothing is always needed. Shoes that are clean and in good condition are good sellers. As always, we appreciate items that are clean and not broken. The members of our two churches have always been generous with their donations and time volunteered for this fundraiser. Let your family and friends know about this project for any donations they might have, and, of course, the invitation to come shopping! Adelphi ladies will answer any questions you might have. Thank you in advance for your help in making this sale a success.

Reformation Treasures Return to Fort Wayne

FREE EXHIBIT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Rare Reformation-era books preserved for generations by a Fort Wayne Lutheran family are returning temporarily to the city from the Kessler Collection at Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

These remarkable volumes—along with other rare books illustrating the Protestant Reformation—will be exhibited at Emmanuel Lutheran Church for **one day only**.



Featured items include:

- 16th-century catechisms
- 1526 printing of Luther's *Deutsche Messe*
- Rare Reformation-era Bibles
- Early Lutheran liturgical writings

Special Lecture at 2:00 PM

*From Latin to the People:
Reforming Worship in 16th-
Century Germany*

Curators and Lecturers:

Dr. Richard "Bo" Manly Adams
Director of Pitts Theology Library

Dr. Armin Siedlecki
Head of Cataloging and Rare Book Cataloger

July 25, 2026

Exhibit: 10am - 4pm

Lecture: 2pm

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana



Also on display will be historical photos and artifacts telling the story of the Dornseif family in Fort Wayne whose ancestors brought the books to America as German immigrants in the mid-1800s and preserved them for many years before donating them to the Pitts Theological Library.

EVENT DETAILS

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
917 West Jefferson Boulevard
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Lecture: Sanctuary (2pm)

Exhibit: Ebenezer Parish Hall, 10am-4pm

Parking: Street and church parking

For more information contact: David Reinking (dreinkin@gmail.com)



**Learn
more**



EMORY

CANDLER
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

Pitts Theology Library





July Birthdays



LINVILL, Maeve	07/01
BRUBAKER, Aidan	07/02
HOCKERMAN, Kathy	07/03
ABRELL, Stephanie	07/04
DARSTEIN, Keith	07/04
HEUER, Abigail	07/06
ALT, Lena	07/13
HEUER, Lori	07/13
HART, Deena	07/15
SMITH, Landon	07/15
HARTER, Dorian	07/16
SMITH, Charles	07/19
DRIVER, Lena	07/21
MARKEN, Audra	07/21
MYERS, Eric	07/24
ROTHGEB, Olivia	07/24
HOCKERMAN, Kaitlyn	07/25

1st Sunday-Sunday School

1st Sunday- BP checks

2nd Sunday- Confirmation

3rd Sunday- Sunday school

4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 12pm - Jagger Family	29 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	30 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Whitley County	1 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	2 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	3 Independence Day Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	4 Independence Day
5 8:15am - Worship Service 11:15am - Blood Pressure 11:15am - Fellowship	6 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	7 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	8 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	9 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	10 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	11
12 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 1pm - Worship @Oakes	13 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	14 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082 6:30pm - Sigma Eta	15 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	16 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	17 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	18
19 8:15am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 11:15am - Sunday School	20 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	21 9am - T.O.P.S. 10:30am - Care Team 11:30am - Adelphai Group 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	22 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	23 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	24 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	25
26 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship	27 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	28 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	29 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	30 8am - Life Line Screening 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	31 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	1

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...

July 5 Service combine at Hope @ 8:15am

July 19 Service combine at Hop @ 8:15 am