Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

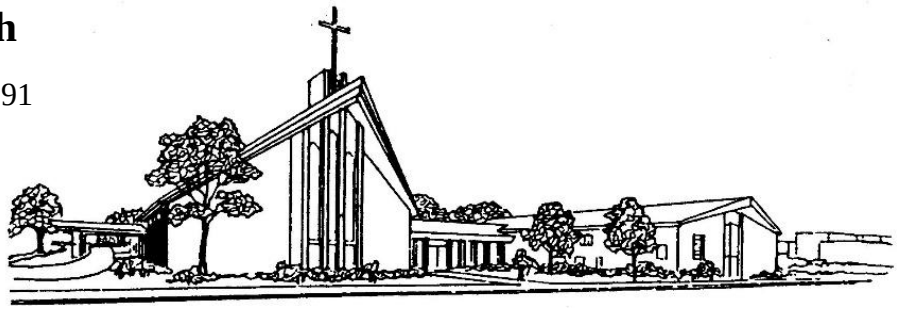
204 North Main Street Columbia City, IN 46725-2191

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



November 2026 Newsletter

September 14, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Joe Freiburger

Devotional: Pastor led devotions from Romans 14. This passage refers to what the Lutheran tradition may refer
to as “Adiaphora”, or things not essential to the Gospel. An example is whether someone eats meat or not.

Minutes from August were reviewed and approved with a correction.

Pastors Report: Pastor gave a verbal overview of his written report.

Treasurers Report: Deena provided a copy of the August treasurer’s report. The report was approved subject to audit. If there are questions for Deena, she can answer them next month.

Old Business:

A) First Friday recap. Went well but was not as busy. 128 wristbands and ballons were given out. October one will be the last one for the year.

B) Columbia City Volunteer Hub. This is all set and we are good to go. Our food pantry is listed as a place where people in the community can volunteer.

C) Regional Gathering Oct 24. The breakout sessions are listed on the Synod website. We have 5 members registered to attend.

D) Joe will investigate AED training possibilities and possibly schedule a class.

New Business:

A) Payroll and Time tracking – Pastor Matt. Pastor gave an overview of our payroll system. What we have works really well for salaried employees. It works less well for our two hourly employees. We have learned there are other options that might work much better for us. There are five companies that pastor has identified that all look promising. Pastor moved for council to authorize a committee to investigate and decide on the best payroll processing company for the church to use. The committee would consist of Pastor, Deena, and the staff support team. The committee is authorized to make the change after identifying the recommended path forward. Second by Paul. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Synod Council meeting – Paul. Paul gave an overview of the recent Synod Council meeting. He also shared some stewardship information from Tim Brown, ELCA Stewardship guy.

C) Insurance - Mark. Mark has spoken with some local insurance agents who stopped by the church and has investigated other options just to keep aware of options out there. They are from Summit Ridge Insurance (representing Erie Insurance). At this point the costs appear to be about the same. The coverage for the number of preschoolers might be something we should monitor.

D) Concerns were raised about observed preschool staff's tone, and volume towards preschoolers. This does not seem to meet the expectation of a Christian based preschool. There has also been some concern about the professionalism in the way our preschool staff is dressed. These items will be addressed by pastor.

Team Reports:

Property – Mark. Mark gave a summary of his written report. In particular Mark is preparing signage for the Thanksgiving turkey give away. Hopefully this might prevent any confusion like that which caused building damage last year.

Food Pantry – Joe. Things are going ok. Thank you cards are up to date. We did receive a visit from the Community Harvest agency liaison. For August the Bread Loaf total was $101.01

Fellowship –Mark. Nothing to report. We may consider scheduling another game night.

Worship and Music – Paul. Rejoice choir and bell choir are starting up again. For next meeting, come with ideas
on what we should do during Advent. For lent we had a carry in and small service.

Christian Ed – Linda. Linda does not believe she is doing a good job at Christian Ed and believes that this role
would be better filled by someone else. Linda announced that she is resigning her position on council.

Stewardship – Linda. Nothing to report.

Permanent Endowment – Paul. Nothing to report.

Altar Guild – Maelynn. Nothing to report.

Staff Support – Sarah. Nothing to report. The team will meet soon.

Preschool – Council reviewed Kirsten's written report.

Parish Nurse – Beth gave a summary of her written report. Beth mentioned how the In Person Counseling seems to be increasing.

Newsletter items are due by the 24 th .

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm with the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes prepared by Paul E. Marken. 9/29/2026.

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 260-293-5233

Lois Noel 260 403-1395

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!!!

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

Food Pantry needs this month : Cereal

Also food pantry needs Plastic bags (Walmart, Kroger's, ect) , Egg cartons and Peanut Butter.

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



NOVEMBER



Where we've been

October was a very busy month. We've spent a lot of time learning all about fire trucks and firefighters. We learned all about fire safety from the Columbia City Fire Department. Do you have a safe meeting place outside your house in case of a fire? We've been working hard on the letters Aa, Mm and Ff. The students have learned the numbers 1, 2, and 3, and the shapes circle and square. Ms. Mariah has been working with the 4-5 years olds on writing their names.

Where we're headed...

In November, we will continue learning all about pumpkins and turkeys. We will be learning the parts of a pumpkin and the life cycle of a pumpkin. We will learn about Turkeys, the letter Pp, Tt, number 4 and the shape triangle.

Important Dates

Nov. 2nd- No School (WCCS Calendar)
Nov. 11th and 12th- Parent Teacher Conferences (No School on Nov. 12th)
Nov. 19th and 20th- Donuts with Grown-Ups (Before School)
Nov. 25th- 27- Thanksgiving Break- No School
Dec. 3rd and 4th- Ornament Making Day
Dec. 17th and 18th- Gingerbread Houses/ Christmas Party with Santa
Dec. 22- Jan. 4- Christmas Break- No School
Jan. 18- No School (WCCS Calendar)

Church Services

All Families are welcome to join us Sunday mornings for church. Pastor Matt serves both Hope Lutheran Church off us US 30 and here at Grace Lutheran Church.

Hope Lutheran Church service begins at 8:15 am.

Grace Lutheran Church service begins at 10:00am

©THE JOYFUL JOURNEY

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



NOVEMBER



Ornament Making and Gingerbread Houses Days

I will need a least 3-5 parents per class to volunteer to help the kids make ornaments on Dec. 3rd and 4th. We will have all the materials prepped and ready, you will just need to assist with gluing and assembling. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer during your child's class time.

Gingerbread Houses and Santa Visit

This year we will be making our gingerbread houses the same day Santa will visit the preschool. We will start our day with making our gingerbread houses and end with a visit from Santa. We will need parent volunteers to help the children make the gingerbread houses. Parents are welcome to come see Santa visit the preschoolers.

Weather Changing

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, jacket, or sweatshirt. 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**
- **zipping their coat by themselves**
- **putting their folder and lunch bag in their bookbag**

Practice cutting with scissors and holding a writing utensil correctly.

©THE JOYFUL JOURNEY

Adelphi Group

After the singing of the "Blessing" song the Ladies from Hope shared a luncheon of pulled pork, chips, salad and mixed fruit. In honor of Norma Herron's 99th Birthday a delicious cake was served following the singing of "Happy Birthday."

After the meal Shawn Ellis, Director of Mission 25, presented the program. She told of the many outreach areas of Mission 25 in the community. A number of items were brought in for the Mission. The Mission 25 Tote will remain in the Parish Hall for more donations. Shawn said they could use paper products also. She invites the group to plan a visit to tour the facility and share a meal sometime in the future.

Ann Wolfe then led the Business Meeting. The next meeting will be November 17th at 11:30am. Grace Ladies are in charge of the meal and a representative from "Honor Flight" will be present to talk about the program.

The December 8th meeting will be at Hope. Plan to be there!!

In other business a discussion on the disbursement of funds was held. The Giving Tree(at Grace and Hope), meat for the Food Pantry, *schools, batting for quilts, and money to help defray the cost of shipping the quilts and kits to LWR received funds. Also WELCA and Kathleen Lutz were given funds.

Linda Grawcock reported on Mary Raber and Coesse schools as she was checking on their needs. She stated that the kids need food and money for field trips. Shoes and boots are needed too!

A letter has since been received from "Prayer League" the organization Kathleen Lutz works through. She experienced a fall. "Kathleen is currently on medical leave from her ministry responsibilities." Remember she is in Kenya and we are encouraged to keep her in our prayer.

Enjoy the Fall Colors and see you in November!!



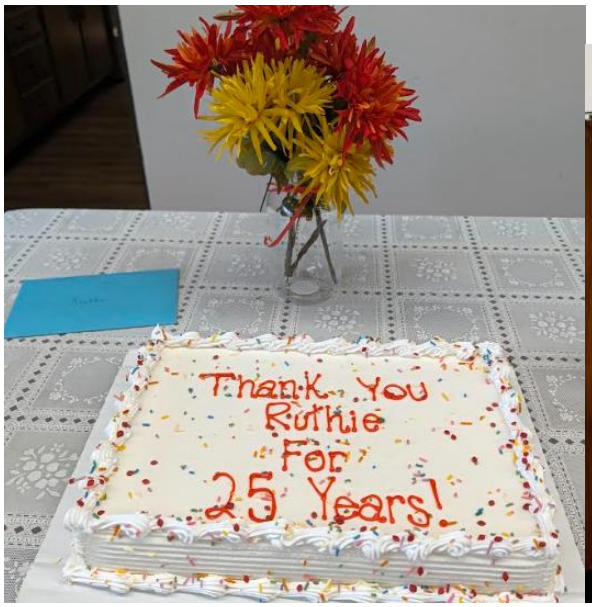




Grace Lutheran Food Pantry

Grace Food Pantry has been in existence since 1981.

On October 2nd,2026,we celebrated 25 years of faithful service. Ruthie Busick .Th volunteers that were at her party were Pastor Matt, Joe Freibuger, Jane Straub, David Hockerman, Ruthie, Keith Darstein and his son Tyler.





We are having training for the new AED machines that we received a few months back. We currently have 2 machines, one located in the hallway outside parish hall and one located upstairs for pre-school. The training will be right after church service on November 15th in the parish hall The training lasts about 45 minutes and is very informative. Blake Forrester from Parkview EMT will be doing the training. I would hope we can have as many members attend training; in case we would ever need to use them. They are very easy to use as it gives you instructions on what to do for each step. The best thing, the training is free. Hope to see you there.
Joe Freiburger

The annual Christmas Giving Tree will be up in the Narthex November 22. This year we are sponsoring 2 families from Mission 25. Also Twin Bed sheets and bathroom towels for their residents.
Please have the gifts under the tree by Friday, December 11.

The Giving Tree will be up through the month of January. Please donate socks, mittens & hats for all ages. They will be distributed to preschoolers and The Clothing Closet.

Thank you for participating with our Giving Tree.

May the love that is Christmas live in your heart this Holiday Season.



Bread Loaf offering



This month's Bread Load Offering is for the families of the giving tree. Last year Linda was able to buy additional bedding and towels for the families of the giving tree. If there are any tags left on the tree she was able to buy for them also. Men's Breakfast is also partnering with the giving tree and have pledged $200 in gift cards for groceries and gas. What a wonderful thing we can do this year to make sure families have a blessed holiday. Any question see Joe Freiburger or Linda Trowbridge

Thank You for your generosity,

Joe Freiburger



November Birthdays



KRIDER, Mark	11/03
KNAFEL, Ted	11/05
KRIDER, Felicity	11/05
OELSCHLAGER, Holly	11/05
WILKINSON, Sawyer	11/06
BAATZ, Judy	11/07
SMITH, Scott	11/11
VOIROL, Becky	11/11
MORSCHES, Janice	11/12
SMITH, Janelle	11/12
JOHNSTON, L. Joan	11/13
STRAUB, Jane	11/16
BOWER, Joy	11/18
HOCKERMAN, David	11/19
WINELAND, Eileen	11/20
PEARCE, Marta	11/21
WHITELEATHER, Rickey	11/21
NELSON, Kim	11/22
KRIDER, Mariah	11/23
ROTHGEB, Karen	11/24
MARKEN, Holly	11/30

1st Sunday-Sunday School

1st Sunday- Blood Pressure Checks

2nd Sunday- Confirmation

3rd Sunday- Sunday school

4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Christian Holidays, Holidays in United States — Nov 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day Daylight Saving Time 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Blood Pressure 11:15am - Fellowship	2 All Souls' Day 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Property Team 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	3 Election Day 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	4 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 6:45pm - Scouting	5 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	6 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	7
8 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 1pm - Worship @Oakes	9 12pm - Helping Hands 5:30pm - Financial Team 6:30pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	10 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082 6:30pm - Sigma Eta	11 Veterans Day 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 5pm - Girl scouts	12 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	13 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	14
15 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 11:15am - Sunday School	16 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	17 9am - T.O.P.S. 10:30am - Care Team 11:30am - Adelphai Group 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	18 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	19 7:30am - Pre-k Donuts 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	20 Pastor's Day Off 7:30am - Pre-k Donuts 12pm - Food pantry	21
22 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship	23 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	24 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	25 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 5pm - Girl scouts	26 Thanksgiving 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	27 Black Friday Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship	30 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	1 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	2 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 6:45pm - Scouting	3 9:30am - Pre-k Ornament 1:30pm - Pre-k Ornament 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	4 Pastor's Day Off 9:30am - Pre-k Ornament 12pm - Food pantry 1:30pm - Pre-k Ornament	5

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…

Nov 22 Hanging of the greens, After service