

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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October 2026 Newsletter

August 10, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Joe Freiburger

Devotional: Pastor led devotions from Matthew 14. In this passage Jesus walks on the water to meet the disciples. This signifies Jesus' authority over both the land and the water. This echoes ancient emperors' claims of being able to walk on water. In Matthew's account, one of Jesus' followers, Peter, also walks on water.

Minutes from June were reviewed and approved.

Pastors Report: Pastor gave a verbal overview of his written report. Pastor is looking at another vacation weekend for September 13 th . We will likely do a video sermon that day. Pastor mentioned he was approached by a church directory company. After some discussion, the council felt that it was too soon after our last directory (2 years ago) and that we should wait another

year before updating our directory. Pastor also shared some interesting statistics from Ryan Burge.

Treasurers Report: Deena gave a verbal summary of the June and July treasurer's reports. The reports were approved subject to audit.

Old Business:

A) Game Night. Seventeen people attended game night. It went well and everyone seemed to have fun. For the next one, we will not publish an end time.

B) First Friday recap. 153 wristbands and balloons were handed out in August. 154 were handed out in June. This went really well and there was a lot of good discussion with people about our church and its programs. For the future, if we leave the church parking lot at 5:15 it gives us the right amount of time to get set up.

C) Old Settlers Day Noodle Dinner. Mark gave a written report of the proceeds from the OSD Noodle Dinner. The attendance at Noon was way down this year. For next year we will consider not serving lunch but doing dinner from 3-7pm.

D) Columbia City Volunteer Hub. The status of this is unknown. Pastor will investigate.

New Business:

A) Synod Regional Gather October 24. We will tentatively plan to meet at the church and leave at 8AM. Paul, Holly, and Joe are planning on going. Pastor and Kim will also go. The church office will register those going.

B) New AED. The church has two new AED machines. We are looking into having a class put on to teach members how to use the new machines. This would possibly be during coffee hour and would be taught by the Parkview EMTs.

Team Reports:

Property – Mark. Make gave a summary of his written report. The property team has been busy as usual. The new AED's have been mounted. The one in the preschool area has an alarm that goes off when the door is opened. This prevents people from playing with it. The AED downstairs does not have its alarm activated.

Food Pantry – Joe. Dave wrote a written report which the council reviewed. We have been approved for the REMC grant. The pantry statistics show a continued increase in need in our community.

Fellowship – Mark. Noodle dinner and game night were discussed previously.

Worship and Music – Paul. The next planning meeting is this coming Sunday. We will be planning rejoice choir dates. Bells are polished and ready for next season. Joe inquired about when the Bell Choir plays. The Bell Choir rehearsals are on the Thursdays that are not Rejoice Choir rehearsals. The Rejoice Choir rehearses the two Thursdays before they play. The Bell Choir performs based on when there is a piece or two ready, and we have at least two practices in a row.

Christian Ed – Linda. Nothing to report.

Stewardship – Linda. Nothing to report.

Permanent Endowment – Paul. The committee met and picked new recipients. Scholarships have been given out. This year there were seven new applicants. The committee decided to give out five new scholarships based on the trend in higher earnings over the last few years (and the expectation that it will continue) and the high number of applicants.

Altar Guild – Maelynn. Sanctuary was cleaned last Saturday. Maelynn will update the contact information of the altar guild team members.

Staff Support – Sarah. The committee needs to meet. How to evaluate staff's summer performance was discussed briefly. The committee will consider this.

Preschool – Council reviewed Kirsten's written report.

Parish Nurse – Beth gave a summary of her written report. Beth mentioned how the In Person Counseling is such an important part of her ministry. Joe mentioned how bread loaf offering has gone really well this year. He is unhappy with Babe as they were not willing to send anyone to speak, or even return Joe's call to talk about their program. Joe has suggested we replace Babe with Mission 25 for the next cycle. There was unanimous agreement in council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes prepared by Paul E. Marken. 8/12/2026

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



OCTOBER



Where we've been...

September has been a great month learning about each other and learning to get along. We've been very intentional this year teaching rules and procedures and the students are working really hard to practice them. Then we moved onto learning about apples and reading lots of books about apples. We've learned about the number 1 and 2, the letters Aa and Mm and the shape circle.

Where we're headed...

This month students will be learning all about Fire Safety. Mr. Jines will be visiting us with his fire gear. Also this month, we will be learning all about pumpkins. We will be learning numbers 3 and 4, the shape square and the letters Ff and Pp.

Important Dates

Oct. 9th- Field Trip for ALL CLASSES to the Columbia City Fire Station
Oct. 13th-16th- Fall Break/ No School
Oct 29th & 30th- Halloween Parties
Nov. 2nd- No School (WCCS Calendar)
Nov. 11th and 12th- Parent Teacher Conferences (No School on Nov. 12th)
Nov. 25th- 27- Thanksgiving Break- No School

Fall Parties

We will be having our fall parties during class time on October 29th and 30th. Students may dress up in their halloween costume. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN STILL USE THE RESTROOM WHEN TAKING THEIR COSTUME ON AND OFF. PLEASE NO WEAPONS, MASKS, OR HATS. Students are allowed to bring candy or little treats to pass out to their friends. We will still have snack so please make sure the treats or candy your child passes out to their friends is individually wrapped and can be taken home easily.

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



OCTOBER



Faith Lessons

Our Faith Lessons are usually on Wednesdays. We have started Faith lessons with MWF classes. We will start our Faith Lessons with our T/Th classes in October. During our Faith lesson time we learn a story about Jesus, sing songs and pray. Our lessons have been about "When I worship, I can..." and the Golden Rule lesson (We are kind to our friends so our friends are nice to us.)

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

Parent Teacher Conferences

Please watch for a link to be sent out the week of Oct 19th to sign up to meet with your child's teacher for Parents Teacher Conferences. We will be holding them on Nov 11th and 12th. We will meet for about 15 minutes. This will be a time that we will talk about your child's strengths and what they need to improve on. There is NO SCHOOL either day.

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 by themselves
- packing their folders and lunch boxes in their book bags
- Practice cutting with scissors and holding a writing utensil correctly.

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



Adelphi Group

Adelphi September News

Adelphi met Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Following the "Blessing" song sung to the tune of "Edelweiss" members enjoyed their sack lunches.

The Business Meeting consisted of going over dates for upcoming meetings. The October Meeting will be on the 20th. Mission 25 will be in attendance to tell about their work. Members are asked to bring men's hygiene products, pillows, pillow cases and dishwasher pods (clear). On Tuesday, November 17th a representative from Honor Flight will inform members about their program.

A discussion was then held on the treasury and the distribution of funds. The Garage Sale was profitable and members are asked to bring ideas for the disbursement of funds to the October Meeting.

The ladies got to work and put 21 Personal Care Kits together! Donna Darstein had told the group that she and her Quilt Crew had knotted over 50 quilts! Quilts and Kits will be taken to St. John's on West Washington in Fort Wayne Saturday, October 17th. Watch for quilts on pews beginning in October.

All women are encouraged to come to Adelphi to enjoy learning and fellowship with those supporting the work of the church here and around the world.



Restroom Remodel

Over the past year, the 4 restrooms in our church and preschool have been remodeled. The 2 preschool restrooms were completed last summer and the 2 restrooms off the Narthex were completed last month. The 2 restrooms off the Narthex received new countertops and plumbing, cleaning, painting and new flooring. The restrooms were showing their age and it was definitely needed. I would like to thank Mark, Vic and my son Kris for all their hard work in completing this.

Joe Freiburger

With Preschool back in, That means that the restrooms in the educational building are used for the preschool Mon – Fri from 8:30-3:30pm.

This also means that Mariah is in the preschool Mon/Wedn/Fri. If you need something from the office. Please email at office.gracelutheran@gmail.com, Or call the church office at 260-244-7118 et 1, please leave a voicemail. Mariah will call you, answer emails when she gets out of class.

First Fridays

On September 4th, we had another First Friday event. It was the start of the holiday weekend, and the foot traffic was a lot lighter than previous months. The weather was a little warm, but you have to expect that at this time of year. Thanks to Bill, Maelynn, Pastor and myself we handed out 128 wristbands and balloons, down a little bit from the previous months where we handed out over 150 each month. Bills and Maelynn's fingers were a little sore at the end of the event, from tying all the balloons. October 2 will be the last First Friday of the year. Thanks to all who supported and helped throughout the year to make this a successful event.





Bread Loaf offering



This month's Bread Loaf offering will be going to the Columbia City Firefighters. They are collecting for the Christmas Candy handout

 It will be a Drive-thru Event. Attendees need to remain in their vehicles, enter the designated lane from Chauncey Street (West side of Courthouse), and receive candy on Van Buren (North side of Courthouse). Cones will mark the path.

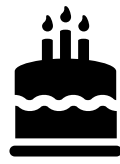
 Santa will be in attendance waving at attendees and will speak to all children that stop by to say hello before his magical trip back to the North Pole.

 This continues the 140+ year tradition dating back to the 1880's! Each child will receive a 1lb bag of candy and an orange. Past participants remember traveling from Warsaw by horse and buggy to get their candy because that WAS their Christmas present.

 Thanks to the Columbia City Fire Department for putting on this annual family tradition in a safe manner each and every year!

Any question, see Joe Freiburger or Mark Krider

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 12pm - Family Reunion	28 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	29 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	30 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	1 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	2 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	3
4 Feast of St Francis of 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Blood Pressure 11:15am - Fellowship	5 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Property Team 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	6 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	7 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher 6:45pm - Scouting	8 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	9 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	10
11 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 1pm - Worship @Oakes	12 Columbus Day 12pm - Helping Hands 5:30pm - Financial Team 6:30pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	13 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082 6:30pm - Sigma Eta	14 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	15 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	16 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	17
18 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 11:15am - Sunday School	19 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	20 9am - T.O.P.S. 10:30am - Care Team 11:30am - Adelphai Group 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	21 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	22 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	23 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	24
25 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship	26 12pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	27 9am - T.O.P.S. 3:40pm - Staff Meetings 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	28 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	29 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	30 Pastor's Day Off 12pm - Food pantry	31 Halloween



October Birthdays



WEISS, DiAnna	10/01
KRIDER, Micheal	10/02
KRIDER, Lucas	10/03
RUESCH, Donald	10/03
PEARCE, Ty	10/04
BOCKELMAN, Kendal	10/06
FREEWALT, Sherri	10/10
KRIDER, Scarlett	10/10
ALLEN, Piper	10/11
ELLIOTT, Bret	10/18
PEARL, Sarah	10/19
PEARL, Peyton	10/21
WHITELEATHER, Brent	10/23
PEARL, Mackenna	10/26
SULLIVAN, Jeanette	10/29
KEISER, June	10/31
PARISH, Jeanne	10/31

1st Sunday-Sunday School

1st Sunday- Blood Pressure Checks

2nd Sunday- Confirmation

3rd Sunday- Sunday school

4th Sunday- Adult Sunday school

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...