

## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

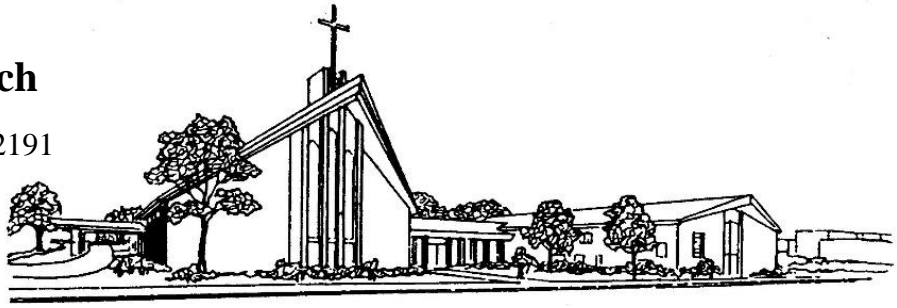
204 North Main Street Columbia City, IN 46725-2191

Phone 260-244-7118 Fax 260-248-2138

E-mail: [office.gracelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:office.gracelutheran@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gracecolumbiacity.org](http://www.gracecolumbiacity.org)

Newsletter E-mail: [newsletter.gracelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.gracelutheran@gmail.com)



# **September 2025 Newsletter**

## **June 9, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes**

Present: Paster Matt Converse, Joe Freiburger, Maelynn Fries, Deena Hart, Mark Krider, Paul Marken, Bill Owen, Sarah Pearl

Absent : Branson Heidenreich, Morgan Heidenreich, Linda Grawcock

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Joe Freiburger  
Paster led devotions from Proverbs 8. This text discusses the personification of Wisdom. Pastor also read from John 1. The proverbs passage says Wisdom was there from the beginning. The John passage says the Word was there from the beginning. These two passages both refer to Jesus as the second person in what Christians would call the Trinity.

Minutes from May 12 th meeting were approved with corrections.

Pastors Report: Pastor Matt gave a summary of his written report. One item of discussion was the city asking about DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area). It sounds like beer vendors could potentially be allowed in Smiths parking lot if we do not object.

Discussion took place around if this creates a hardship for the AA groups that meet here. It was decided to ask the AA groups if they have an objection to this before we answer the city. Other than our concern for our AA groups, council did not have any objections.

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

Old Business:

A) First Friday recap. This went over well. We gave away 100 balloons that were printed with our church name. Half of them had helium. Going forward we may use plain balloons and have bracelets with our church name as this may be a lot cheaper. We are also looking into water bottle labels and giving away water.

B) Confirmation class. Nothing new to report. A meeting is upcoming.

C) Synod Assembly. Paul gave summary of Synod Assembly. Bishop Tim gave the three keynote speeches. He is an excellent preacher. Paul recommends if anyone has a chance, they should hear Bishop Tim preach. The Synod Vice Chair and committee positions were elected. The Bishop's assistants were installed. Paul had the honor to play drums at both services.

New Business:

A) Pork Chop Dinner. Deena moved we do this one last year. Second by Maelynn. It is getting harder each year to find enough volunteers. Our service attendance is lower than in the past and on the day we are serving, there is almost no-one left in church. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Christmas tree decorations. The old decorations are very old and worn out. Kim has bought some crafty stuff to make new decorations. September 21 st is being considered for a decoration making day. This might be a carry in lunch coffee hour and decorations could be made after.

C) Noodle Dinner June 19 th . Mark has most things taken care of. This seems to be under control at the moment.

D) Water Cooler. The water cooler in the education wing has gone out. Leasing the cheapest one from Culligan is \$60/month. A new one is \$200 with \$70 in filters every 6 months. Council agreed it makes more sense to throw away the old one and buy a new one ourselves.

E) Baby Changing stations. Council was in agreement with Lucas' suggestion of adding a baby changing station to the Men's Room. Council was ok with the more expensive Koala one made in the USA as it is believed this is higher quality. Lucas may choose which one is purchased.

#### Team Reports:

Property - Mark gave a summary of his written report.

Food Pantry - Joe went over Dave's written report.

Fellowship -Mark. A lot is going on that has been discussed previously.

Worship and Music - Paul. Kim is doing a good job coordinating when Joyce is out and making sure music is covered, whether through rejoice choir or her and Dave doing music. This past Sunday was an experiment with pipe organ on our present setting. New dowels were donated for storing banners in the sacristy. Bells are planning to play once more but have had challenges coordinating a date.

Christian Ed - Nothing to report.

Stewardship - Nothing to report.

Permanent Endowment - Paul. The next meeting is coming up.

Altar Guild - Maelynn. September and December are still open. We may need to split these months up by Sunday to get coverage.

Staff Support - Sarah. Reviews will be coming up this summer.

Preschool - Council reviewed Kirsten's written report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

# Troop 84 B/G

The Boys and Girls Troops have been hard at work, on merit badges and working on rank advancements.

If you know a child (boy or girl) ages 11-18 years old. That is looking at joining scouts, or has questions about scouts. The Troops meet Mondays 6:30pm - 8pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

## Pack 3082

The pack just had their joining night, for new scouts. We also had our kickball night. With the new scouts. We will be starting our regular meetings on Sept 2, 2025, @ Grace Lutheran Church at 6:30pm.

If you know of a child Kindergarten Through fifth grade, that is interested in scouts or has questions. The Troop meets on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 7:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

The Troop is planning a camp out and invited the Packs, to work on outdoor merit badges and other advancements that are needed for the cub scout ranks.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:Office.gracelutheran@gmail.com)

Newsletter articles (due by the 21<sup>th</sup> of the month):

[Newsletter.gracelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.gracelutheran@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain requests:

[prayers.gracelutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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

## First Friday

The theme for August was wrestle mania. There were professional wrestlers and the wrestling team for Columbia City High School were having matches also. The weather was perfect and the crowds showed it. We were really busy handing out wristbands and balloons, talking with parents and having some great fellowship. We handed out 128 wristband and balloons. At times we had a line of kids waiting. Thanks to Pastor, Mark, Linda, Maelynn and myself for representing Grace Church. Special thanks to Mariah for prepping all the wrist bands.

September's them is Arts on the square and afterwards is Movie on the Square. The movie will be Jumanji. If you are interesting is representing Grace Church at the event see me.

Joe Freiburger



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## Adelphi Group

The Meeting began with the Group song sung to the tune of Edelweiss. Members then enjoyed a luncheon provided by the Ladies from Hope. Scalloped potatoes, green beans with bacon, salad and chocolate brownies were on the menu.

Following the meal, Ann introduced September McConnell, Chief Executive Officer of the Community Foundation of Whitley County which was established in 1991. The original gift was \$50,000. In thirty years \$216,734 in Total Grants have been distributed. She stated that without “a generous community” none of the grants/scholarships could be possible. As of 2024 the Foundation “grew to encompass 229 endowed funds.” She spoke of their new building and invited the group to come and visit.

Ann then went over the coming meetings. In September Health Kits will be put together for Lutheran World Relief. Also on Saturday September 20, 2025 the Mustard Seed Truck will be here to accept items (Check the bulletin board for lists.) from 9am to Noon.

Tuesday, October 21 will find the group traveling to the Parker Grace Tearoom in Roanoke. Watch for further details.

The November 18th Meeting will have Beth Moss, Parish Health Nurse, speaking to the group about her work with the congregants. This should be very informative.

Our December Meeting will be on Monday the 8th which is a change from our normal Tuesday date. We will be entertained by the Grace Lutheran Preschool students with their Christmas Program.

Sandy Whiteleather spoke about the “Free the Girls” box and went over the items needed for the Personal Care Kits. She also told about the coming Retreat “Built on a Rock” which will be held on September 26 and 27 at Lutherwald-Kempski Retreat Center.

Linda Grawcock asked if Adelphi would be willing to take on the task of getting volunteers for the Pork Chop 4-H Dinner? It was voted to get volunteers signed up for this community event. It was also voted to help financially those wanting to attend the Retreat.

All are welcome to come to any and all Meetings!

Built on a Rock “ Weathering the Storms of Life” (and the Sunny Days too!)



Recently, Adelphi group hosted a speaker from The Mustard Seed. This is an organization that assists formerly unhoused individuals in setting up household items for their new living situations. These are individuals who are beginning a new chapter in their lives after having gone through counseling and other similar support programs. Now, as they set up a household for themselves, they require necessary items to furnish their household. These would include kitchen supplies (small appliances, cutlery, baking tools, casseroles, dishes, etc.), bathroom linens, bed linens, and so on.

Their needs also include furniture, such as table and chairs, a sofa and or comfortable chairs, small tables, lamps, throw rugs, dressers, etc. As you look around your own home, consider those things that provide a basic level of comfort. It would also be nice to have home décor donations such as wall art, floral pieces, etc. These are the things that are needed to give those individuals a comfortable "landing" space as their new living situation plays out.

This year Adelphi women have decided not to orchestrate a garage sale, but instead set up a collection point for donations for household items. These items need not be new but, rather, gently used furnishings. We believe we can make a difference in the lives of people who deserve some assistance in obtaining a new found success in their lives. Here are some things to keep in mind. Your donations should be in good condition. The Mustard Seed does not have the resources to rehabilitated donations. Put it this way, if the item is not something you would give your adult child or other close relative in need, it probably should not be donated to this effort.

Also, there will be a very short window for collection of these donations. We will receive items at the church on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> ( 9:00am until Noon). The Mustard Seed people will have a truck at the church and will be picking up the donations on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please think about what you might be able to offer as a donation and be ready for the time of collection. Thank you in advance for considering this worthwhile project, Adelphi Women.

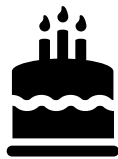
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday-Sunday School

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday -BP checks

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday- Confirmation

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday- Sunday school

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Adult Sunday school



## September Birthdays



MARKEN, Paul	09/03
BAATZ, William	09/06
FRIES, trevor	09/07
GREEN, Brett	09/07
GREEN, Gary	09/11
SMITH, Brandon	09/14
RESSLER, Amelia	09/19
RESSLER, Joe	09/19
GREEN, Melissa	09/24
GILLARD, Charmin	09/25
ALLEN, Holly	09/26
ALT, Tom	09/26
WINELAND, Donald	09/28
WOLFE, Ann	09/29

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

# CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

COME FOR BRUNCH

STAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS CHEER!



11:30AM SUNDAY (AFTER THE SERVICE)

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COME JOIN THE CHRISTMAS FUN

AS WE CREATE OUR NEW CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS!

# Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



# SEPTEMBER



## Where we've been...

It's been a great first week of weeks in class. We are currently working on routines and rules. Students are learning how to work together on cleaning up. The favorite part of everyone's day though seems to be recess or snack time.

## Where we're headed..

We will continue to practice our routines and rules. We will begin working on our class family trees and learning about our friends. We will begin learning the letter A and the numbers 1 and 2. We will be learning the shape-circle.

## Important Dates...

September 2nd- No School  
**SEPT OR OCT- FIELD TRIP- TBD**  
October 1st and 2nd- Picture Day-  
Weather Permitting  
Oct. 8th- Field Trip for ALL CLASSES to  
Columbia City Fire Station  
Oct. 15th-17th- Fall Break/ No School  
Oct 27 & 28th- Halloween Parties (RCT)  
Oct. 29th & 30- P/ T Conferences-  
NO SCHOOL- 29th & 30th

## Picture Day(s)

Picture Day will be October 1st and 2nd depending on the day your child attends school. Pictures will be taken outside. Therefore, pictures may be rescheduled due to weather.

# Grace Lutheran Church Preschool



# SEPTEMBER



## Helping your Child

We are working on independence here at school. Here are a list of things you can help your child practice at home.

- 1.) Putting their folder in their bookbag
- 2.) Zipping their bookbag
- 3.) Washing their hands with soap (really scrubbing, not just letting the soap go down the drain).
- 4.) Wiping/ blowing their nose

## Housekeeping...

Folders need to come to school **EVERY DAY**. Your child should have a purple, blue, red, green or orange folder depending on what class he/ she attends.

Please send a water bottle, filled **ONLY** with water, everyday with your child. Doors will be unlocked at 8:25 or 12:25.

Make sure your notifications on for Brightwheel so reminders and important information is not missed.

## Helping your Child

You can always help your child by working on:

- Counting to 20
- Practice writing their name
- Identifying shapes
- Identifying letters in their name

**KUEHNERT DAIRY FARM  
FIELD TRIP- TBD**

**MORE INFORMATION TO  
COME !!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship	1 <b>Labor Day</b> 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Property Team 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	2 9am - T.O.P.S. 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	3 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	4 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	5 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 12pm - Food pantry	6
7 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 10:30am - Blessing of the 10:45am - Teacher 11:15am - Blood Pressure 11:15am - Fellowship	8 12:30pm - Helping Hands 5:30pm - Financial Team 6:30pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	9 9am - T.O.P.S. 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082 6:30pm - Sigma Eta	10 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	11 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	12 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 12pm - Food pantry	13 8am - Delta Kappa
14 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 1pm - Worship @Oakes	15 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	16 9am - T.O.P.S. 10:30am - Care Team 11:30am - Adelphai Group 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	17 8am - Men's Breakfast 10:20am - Pre-k chapel 11am - Pre-k chapel 12pm - Food Pantry 12:40pm - Pre-k chapel 4pm - Voucher	18 9am - Adelphi Collection 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	19 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 9am - Adelphi Collection 12pm - Food pantry	20 9am - Adelphi Collection
21 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 11:15am - Sunday School 12pm - ornament making	22 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	23 9am - T.O.P.S. 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	24 8am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - Food Pantry 4pm - Voucher	25 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	26 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 12pm - Food pantry	27
28 8:15am - Worship Service 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship 12pm - Family Reunion-	29 12:30pm - Helping Hands 6:30pm - Scouts America 6:30pm - Scouts America 7:30pm - AA	30 9am - T.O.P.S. 4pm - Whitley County 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 3082	1 8am - Men's Breakfast 9:30am - Pre-k Pictures 12pm - Food Pantry 1:30pm - pre-k pictures 4pm - Voucher	2 9:30am - pre-k pictures 1:30pm - pre-k pictures 7:30pm - AA 7:30pm - Al-anon	3 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 12pm - Food pantry	4 <b>Feast of St Francis of</b>

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**Worship At Hope Sundays at 8:15am**  
**Worship with Holy Communion at Grace**  
**Sundays at 10am**

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**LIVE on Facebook:**

**[www.facebook.com/gracelutherancolumbiacity](http://www.facebook.com/gracelutherancolumbiacity)**

**Upcoming Important dates...**

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Blessing of the backpacks @ Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

Teacher inductions @ sept 7<sup>th</sup>.