

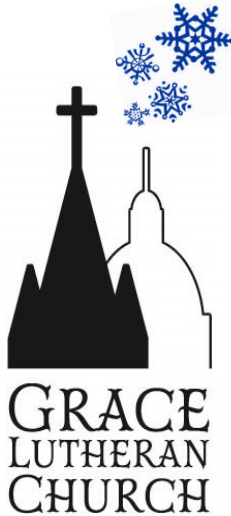
GRACE NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OFFICE: (217)522-3965

www.gracelutheran-springfield.org



GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

*As disciples in Christ, we support our faith community,
encourage spiritual growth in everyone,
and serve all creation with Christ-like love.*

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ *spreading God's Word*
- ♦ *building relationships*
- ♦ *serving the community*
- ♦ *reaching out to those in need*

January 2026

NEW YEAR
New Hope

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INFORMATION

What we need is here.

This wisdom is found in Wendell Berry's poem "Wild Geese."

What we need is here.

God gives us this day our daily bread – everything we need to feed the body, mind and soul.

What we need is here has been our song now three months running, singing us through two discover-y workshops and Advent worship. This journey has gifted us with the awareness of who we (Grace Lutheran Church) are as God's people in this particular time and place. This awareness provides the good soil (WHY) that our HOWs and WHATs will need in order to bear fruit.

WHAT

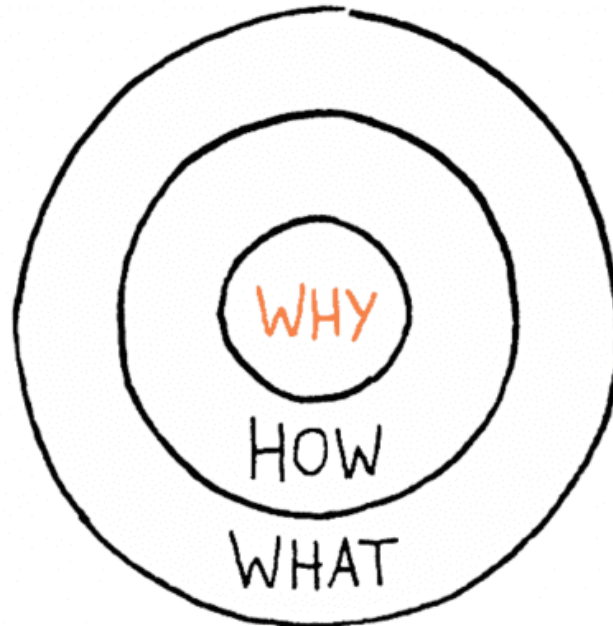
Every organization on the planet knows WHAT they do. These are products they sell or the services

HOW

Some organizations know HOW they do it. These are the things that make them special or set them apart from their competition.

WHY

Very few organizations know WHY they do what they do. WHY is not about making money. That's a result. WHY is a purpose, cause or belief. It's the very reason your organization exists.



And this is the WHY that the Spirit has revealed; we have discovered:

**God's purpose for Grace Lutheran Church
is to be fed and to feed our neighbors:
mind, body and soul.**

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in discovering Grace Lutheran Church's WHY statement, our mission statement for 2026 and the near future. We now have the reference point to assess all that we do, as we will be asking: does *this* grow out of our WHY?

The discover-y discernment process helped us to identify priorities to live into our WHY, ways in which God might be calling Grace Lutheran Church to come alongside of what God is doing in a more intentional way. The discernment of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats revealed these four priorities:

- Strengthening financial sustainability
- Engaging 'new' people in community
- Food Pantry as a resource for evangelism
- Growing worship & music ministries

The fulfilment of these priorities will be realized because of what God is doing here; what we need is here. Grace's Exploratory Team (Aaron Babel, Julie Harvill, Randy Heidorn, Jim Schlouch, Ed Wollet) will present our plan for action to Council January 13, and then with people of Grace at the January 25 Annual Meeting.

with Grace, Pastor Krieger

Oh the Weather outside can be frightful... continuing on into the winter months, in case of severe weather such as ice or heavy snow, please check your email for updates on worship cancellations for Sunday mornings. Also, we will post on Facebook and the website when possible. If you don't use either let me know in the office and I will include you on a list. If you are still unsure, you can call Pastor Krieger at 815-848-5884.



GOD USES CAREGIVERS TO GIVE HIS CARE, COMFORT AND
COMPASSION TO ALL WHO ARE SUFFERING

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

(ELW 815) is one of my favorite hymns for this time in the church year. Here is an article from *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship*:

Kathleen Armstrong Thomerson (February 18, 1934 – April 7, 2025) was an American organist and hymnwriter. She wrote both the hymn and its tune in St. Louis, during the hot summer of 1966, where she lived with her husband and two-year old son. Her mother was coming to visit but was delayed by an airline strike. The temperature hovered up to 105° F., there was no air conditioning, her son had heat rash, and brownouts killed traffic lights and made driving hazardous. They decided to drive to her mother's air-conditioned house in Houston until after the heat wave broke. Anticipating the visit to her family and friends at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, she wrote the melody and first stanza before they left St. Louis, finishing the rest in Houston, for which the tune is named. --Paul Westermeyer, ©2010 Augsburg Fortress.

Some of you have heard my own story around this hymn. Connie and I sang this hymn almost every night to our kids when they were little. The night before the movers came to take us to Springfield from Valparaiso, we all slept on mats in the basement and sang this as our last song together in our home. As anyone who has moved with kids can tell you, it's a difficult process, and you don't feel at home again for a while. Although I was working for another church in Springfield at first, I had a Sunday off and visited Grace. When you sang this beloved hymn, it felt like home. For me, it was a sign. Theron retired later that year, and I applied for and was offered the job, confirming the direction God was leading. I am so thankful for the past 11 years serving as your cantor at Grace Lutheran Church.

January 4

Greeter: Jean Scherer
 Ushers: Frank Beckman &
 Paul Derlitzki
 Reader: Leona Garrison
 Communion Asst: Pat Ekle
 Altar Guild: Deb Smith

January 18

Greeters: Jim & Maurine Orr
 Ushers: Jack & Judy Wheaton
 Reader: Diana Weyhenmeyer
 Communion Assistant: Chuck
 Weyhenmeyer
 Altar Guild: Debbie Rigg

January 11

Greeter: Laurie Farrell
 Ushers: Mark & Cindy Anderson
 Reader: Chris Schofield
 Communion Assistant: Jean
 Scherer
 Altar Guild: Toni Klit

January 25

Greeter: Mary Jo Anderson
 Ushers: Chuck & Diana
 Weyhenmeyer
 Reader: Mary Plymire
 Communion Assistant: Kim Gietl
 Altar Guild: Kim Gietl

Online and In-Person Attendance

Week	YouTube	Facebook	
Christ the King	11/23/2025	12	VIDEO ERROR
Christ the King	11/23/2025	74 In-person	
Advent 1	11/30/2025	CLOSED FOR SNOW	
Advent 1	11/30/2025	14	105
Midweek Advent	12/3/2025	22 In-person 6 ZOOM	
Advent 2	12/7/2025	71 In-person	
Advent 2	12/7/2025	13	66
Midweek Advent	12/10/2025	23 In-person 5 ZOOM	
Advent 3 SNOW	12/14/2025	27 via ZOOM	
Advent 3	12/14/2025	17	124
Midweek Advent	12/17/2025	18 In-person 4 ZOOM	
Advent 4 Youth Led worship	12/21/2025	81 In-person	
Advent 4	12/21/2025	16	76
Christmas Eve 5:00pm In-person	12/24/2025	170 In-person	
Christmas Weekend Online	12/25/2025	28	102
Christmas Day	12/25/2025	22 In-person	

*As Christ fed the multitudes,
the mission of the Grace Food Pantry is to feed the hungry.*

The resilience of our volunteers and clients never ceases to amaze when the full force of winter hits, and that resilience was certainly on display again this month through two major snowfalls and a few days of some truly bitter temperatures. Through these challenges, the Food Pantry has been open every scheduled day, and we had at least 40 to 50 client visits even on the worst weather days.

Several big thank yous are in order to those who keep our outside distribution point as safe and clear as possible for clients and volunteers alike in the season of snow and ice. The National Park Service and City of Springfield are supportive, patient and tolerant of us as things get a little tight on the sidewalk and in the area where cars pull up along Capitol Avenue. And -- as they do year-round -- the Grace staff pitches in double time with snow shoveling, loading and unloading to help us in inclement weather. Thank you Pastor Krieger, Kim, Aaron and JB!

The generosity of our community also never ceases to amaze, especially with the annual surge of food and monetary donations from friends both old and new that come in every Thanksgiving-Christmas season. We just received notice that for the third year we have received a competitive grant -- this year for \$30,000 -- from the St. Joseph's Home Legacy of Care Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. This grant will almost fully fund our annual cost of serving our senior citizen clients, who number about 3,500 a year.

Some of our other major gifts this holiday season were mentioned in last month's report, but here is a full accounting of major food and financial donations we've received since early November:

St. Joseph's Home Legacy of Care Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln -- \$30,000.

Our Savior's Lutheran School annual Thanksgiving food drive -- 3,100 food items.

St. John's Lutheran Church annual Thanksgiving food drive -- 2,600 items.

Franklin Middle School Beta Club -- 2,200 items.

Lutheran High School National Honor Society -- 800 items.

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church -- 750 items.

Key Players Piano Studio -- 232 items.

First Church of the Nazarene -- 200 items.

hats, gloves and socks.

Springfield Chapter Mom's Demand Action/Everytown for Gun Safety -- 150 items.

King's Daughters' Organization -- 140 items and \$40.

Sangamon County Department of Public Health -- 120 items.

SIU IVF and Fertility Department -- 70 items.

Bunn Gourmet -- 500 pounds of ground beef and chuck roasts.

Country Market on Wabash -- Ten 15-pound turkeys.

Illinois Pork Producers Association -- 12 large hams.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church -- \$3,527.

United Way of Central Illinois -- \$2,980.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund -- \$2,000.

First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee -- \$2,000 (in addition to First Presbyterian's ongoing monthly gift of \$2,500).

St. John's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund -- \$1,500 (in addition to annual donations from St. John's members which total \$15,000 to \$20,000).

ELCA Central/Southern Illinois Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy grant -- \$1,200.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Women's Mission Circle -- \$200

This month the Food Pantry will again be the beneficiary of the News Channel 20 Weather Team's 3-degree Temperature Challenge, sponsored by Green Family Stores, which has brought us \$2,100 in each of the past two years.

Pantry volunteers this month again joined with members of Grace and Peace Lutheran to pack and distribute Christmas good baskets to 80 families. Grace sponsors baskets provided to families from McClernand Elementary and Franklin Middle schools, and Peace sponsors baskets for families from Blackhawk Elementary School.

November marked the Pantry's sixth straight month of serving more than 1,000 households. Our year-to-date client totals through November 30 were 10,387 households served, a 7 percent increase over the same period a year ago, and 27,037 individuals served, an 11 percent increase over last year. By the end of November we had already served more clients than we did in all of 2024 and are on pace to end the year serving close to 11,000 households representing nearly 30,000 individuals.

date donations of \$257,722 against expenses of \$249,454, leaving an account balance of \$63,486. Our donations are up 34 percent over last year, while expenses are up about 20 percent. That balance of \$63,486 compared favorably with a balance of \$55,268 at the end of November 2024.

With receipt of the St. Joseph's Home grant now confirmed we will end 2025 with an account balance of right around \$100,000, compared with a balance of \$85,567 at the end of last year.

It's been another gratifying and humbling year of helping address the tragedy of food insecurity amongst us -- thanks to the incredible food ministry of Grace and the growing support of our four other "anchor" churches and an increasing number of additional churches, schools, community organizations and individuals from a broad cross-section of the community.

Doug McFarlan, Director



January 3 RC Curry
January 5 Sally Erickson
Willie Herron
Emma Von Holten
January 7 Nolan Best
January 8 Betty Wanless
January 9 Patricia Casper
January 11 Emma Best
Christopher George
January 12 Craig Schattschneider
January 14 Jacob Matteson
January 17 Nathaniel Benanti

January 18 Todd Folder
Andrea Myers
January 19 Natalie Jensen
January 21 Connor Dees
January 22 Paula Benanti
Bonnie Braye
Susan LeMasters
January 23 Georgiann Bredehoft
January 24 Diana Thompson
January 25 Cindy Anderson
January 26 Kim Gietl
January 28 Grant Folder
Ashley Fullriede
January 31 Vivien Darling

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY and GOD'S
BLESSINGS TO YOU!**

You are not alone. Your Stephen Ministers are available. Stephen Ministry equips a team of lay caregivers to provide one-on-one, Christ centered care to people experiencing life difficulties. To contact us, call the church office, 217-522-3965. Your contact is confidential, whether or not you decide to accept our services.



Quarterly Word in Season Devotionals... for the New Year are at the back of the church or call the church office and one can be sent to you. We have regular as well as large print.

Also, quarterly **Living Lutheran Magazines** are available at Grace for those who would like. Also at the back of the Sanctuary or in the fellowship hall. If you would like this mailed to you, let Kim know.

**Join us weekly for worship in person or online:
FACEBOOK and YOUTUBE**

You can go to either our website at www.gracelutheran-springfield.org and you will be taken to a link that you can view services or go directly to Facebook to *Historic Grace Lutheran Church* or to our YouTube Channel: Grace Lutheran Church Springfield IL and you can view the video of the service for the weekend as well as past services. If you need pastoral assistance please call the church office 217-522-3965.

WE NEVER RESEMBLE GOD AND JESUS MORE THAN WHEN WE ARE
GIVING CARE TO OTHERS



MEMBERS HOMEBOUND/LIMITED MOBILITY

DIXIE ALVIES
SANDY BENANTI
MARY BLUMLE
GLENDA BOWLES

GEORGIANN
BREDEHOFT
RC CURRY
ANN EVANS

JAMES LEWIS
MARCELLA MCGOWAN
TOM & KATHY MYERS
DON THANNEN

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	
  			
4 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am undecorating sanctuary	5 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i>	6 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 6:00 pm Twisted Stitchers Epiphany 	7 12:30 Grace 6:00 Plan Woll
11 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am International potluck	12 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i>	13 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 10:30 am Property 6:30 pm Church Council	14 Annu deac 10:30 Pant
18 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Grace Forum 10:30 am Sunday School	19 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i>	20 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 12:00 NOON Admin & Finance 4:30 pm Ruth Circle	21 12 n Musi
25 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting	26 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 2:00 pm ELCA 5:00 pm Zoom	27 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i>	28

Y 2020

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!!</i>	2	3
2:30 pm Faith/ Grace Circle 3:00 pm Strategic Planning at Ed Vollet's	8 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 2:00 pm Nominating committee	9	10
4 Annual Meeting Deadline 10:30 am Food Pantry Board	15 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00 pm Stewardship	16	17 8:30 am CSIS Council
1 2 noon Worship & Music	22 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	23	24
8	29 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	30	31

Christmas Basket Blessings



Thank you to those who gave both in honor of loved ones and those who are caring for our community.

- * Joyce Abrams to remember Bob Abrams
- * Curt & Valerie Benanti to remember Clara, John and Carolyn Benanti, Edna Nation, Betty and George Clough, and Helen Moore
- * Charlotte Blumle to remember Helen and Charles Blumle and Barbara and Wilbert Rehwald
- * Pat Ekle in memory of Ted Ekle
- * Ann Evans in honor of family
- * Laurie Farrell to remember family and friends
- * Larry & Leona Garrison to remember Charles and Laura Thompson, Verne and Florence Garrison
- * Trudy and Cary Israel to remember our parents
- * Ann Jakowsky to remember Jake and Henry Jakowsky
- * Corrine Kircher to remember Frank Kircher
- * Toni Klit to remember John Klit
- * Adam, Heidi and Adalyn Lowery to lovingly remember our daughter Adysen Lowery and mother Susan Cane
- * Mary Plymire to remember loved ones
- * Brenda Poston to remember Tom Poston
- * Debbie Rigg to honor grandchildren: Emma, Chelsea, Nolan, Oliver and Isabel
- * Pat Tatman in joy of Grandson's
- * Chuck & Diana Weyhenmeyer to remember loved ones

2026 FLOWER CHART is up in the fellowship hall if you would like to give flowers for special occasions, in memory of a loved one or just because they bring joy to the worship space.

Christian Education News

Join us - All are welcome!

Grace Forum regularly meets each week on Sunday morning in the fellowship hall beginning at 10:30am. We begin back January 4 with undecorating the sanctuary.

January 11 we will have our International Potluck. Bring your favorite dish!

For the next few weeks speakers and activities from various community organizations are planned. Join us if you are able.

January 18 Fifth Street Renaissance and CORAL

January 25 Annual Meeting

February 1 Innocence Project

February 8 African American History Museum field trip

February 15 Helping Hands Meal Prep



Brown Bag Bible Study continues Thursdays at 12:10pm. Please join us as we continue studying God's word in 2nd Samuel.

Sunday school for 2026...We will meet the Third Sunday for Sunday school and then provide families with lessons and activities for at home throughout the month.

We will meet January 18 in person.

Our classroom is on the second floor.



JOY IS OUR REWARD WHEN WE ARE KIND

Epiphany is January 6, 2026 What is Epiphany?

A Christian festival commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi.



ALL WOMEN *Please note the following schedule of things happening in January:*

Faith/Grace Circle meets January 7 at 12:30 pm weather permitting in the fellowship hall at Grace.

Ruth Circle our next meeting is planned for January 20 at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall at Grace.

Butter braids - another success!!... WELCA's profit was over **\$1151.40** which WELCA gives to local service agencies. Thanks to everyone for purchasing and donating to our fall Butter braid, cookie and pizza fundraiser. We will use the money to support many community ministries such as Grace Food Pantry, Washington Street Mission, the James Project, LSSI, etc. Thanks for your Grace with your orders.

It is time to nominate your choice for Bold Women's Day 2025.

A plaque in the fellowship hall at church lists all past Bold Women. Help us recognize another bold woman of Grace. Please give your nomination to Kim Gietl by the middle of January. Thank you.

TWISTED STITCHERS...is a group that get together the first Tuesday evening of the month, January 6, and have an evening of fellowship and stitching crafts (knitting, crochet, cross-stitch, quilting or anything else).



Faith Community Nurse Article January 2026
Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer



Happy New Year! A new beginning for everyone. I thought I would start out the year talking about an educational program I attended over zoom for Faith Community Nurses. The title was, "The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: A Guide to Decluttering Your Life and Legacy." The program was about decluttering your life and home. She first discussed having a plan and putting it down in a notebook. This is so you can follow your plan. Don't take on your whole house, maybe a corner of a room at a time.

Then you collect four tubs for items. You ask yourself, "Will anyone be happy if I save this or want this for themselves?" If the answer is no get rid of it. She said to ask yourself, three questions, will anyone be happier if I save this, will anyone benefit from this and does it fit now? The first tub is for keeping items. Ask does this item bring me joy? The second tub is for donating items. The third tub is for trash and last tub is for relocating items. Say the item was in the dining room and you now think it belongs in the living room. This tub is for relocating it. She had a great idea for redoing your valuable information like passwords. Put them all in a notebook along with information you want others to know about. This includes funeral arrangements, bank, retirement accounts - where they are, and any other thing that is important to you.

She made another very good point of letting stuff go. She gave her example of her china. She asked her kids and none of them wanted it, so it got donated. She stressed simplify your life now and you will enjoy life more. I have a sign in my bedroom that I see every day with the word simplify. I am still looking at it for motivation. She also stressed to do more with less. She said it is important to be gentle with yourself. Start small and don't get overwhelmed.

She suggested the following items for your project and support.

- Physical Tools such as a shredder and tubs for collecting items
 - Personal Action Plan
 - Celebrate your progress no matter how big or small
- Goal is a more peaceful and free life.

I have to have 20 hours of continuing education in order to keep my registered nurse license and it comes due in May 2026. This program was provided by the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association. I've been a member for many years, on the educational team and soon to be a Director of Region 5 in the Midwest. I enjoy these programs; people from all over attend them. I've met people from Alaska, California, Arizona, the Midwest to Maryland and Florida. It is interesting to see what everyone is doing in their congregations.

I hope 2026 brings many blessings to you and your loved ones.



Welcome Home Boxes... On average, between 20 to 30 households are assisted into housing each month though that number will hopefully increase to around 40 households soon. In coordination with the Heartland Continuum of Care, with other Faith Communities, we hope to fill a box, possibly quarterly. We have completed 5 baskets thus far. When we do another basket, please write your name with the item. Thanks for your support and feedback.

International Potluck January 11, 2026



Help us celebrate and bring dishes from your ethnic background (or food you like) to share at our potluck right after worship. Also, if you would like to display several items about your heritage, please bring them.



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Money to help pay for the Holiday Baskets, Little Lambs supplies, gloves and hats, socks and kits for those experiencing homelessness are some of the ways we at Grace have used our Thrivent Action Teams and \$250 to help others this past year. Please remember to use the two cards that you have each year if you qualify with your Thrivent membership. You usually will have an email in a day or two if your project has been accepted and will receive the VISA card in a week or two.

If you need help with applying for a project or ideas, please contact Jean Scherer at 217-725-0301. Thrivent also has a phone number you can contact if you would like them to apply for the project as well. May we be good stewards of our blessings so we can touch the lives and hearts of others.

GLOVES and HATS ARE MOST NEEDED and requested at the Food Pantry throughout the WINTER

We will have a bin just on the other side of the coat rack on the older pew in the fellowship hall that we will continue to collect over

JANUARY 17, 2026

THANK YOU FROM THE GRACE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR WONDERFUL RESPONSE
TO OUR FALL DRIVE OF TIME TALENT AND COMMITMENT
"CORNERSTONE OF GRACE"**

Thank You's

- ❄ Thank you to the Krone family who provide candy bags for the Christmas Food baskets each year as well as our beautiful Christmas tree.
- ❄ To Doug McFarlan for not only his leadership weekly with the Food Pantry but also taking time to write grants to help the pantry benefit from large donations from local foundations and organizations throughout the year.
- ❄ Robin Mahnken for her years as coordinator of the Washington Place activities and for leadership for this year's outing.
- ❄ All those who continued to grow and learn through Grace Forum and Sunday Church School in 2025 and for teachers who took the time to plan.
- ❄ Thank you to Leona Garrison for arranging for Christmas wreaths.
- ❄ Those who decorated the sanctuary and tree for Christmas.
- ❄ The Community Ministry committee thanks those who rang the bell for the Salvation Army December 20: Laurie and David Farrell, Verne and Carolyn Nelson, Sara Oehlert and Margo Galloway, Pat Ekle, Dick and Deb Smith, Deb and Hal Wakefield, the Darling family, and Dawn Holm and Scott Noel.
- ❄ Thank you to the Ruth Circle for the beautiful flowers and card received during my recovery from surgery. Also, to Mary Plymire who delivered them to me. Thank you to the congregation for all the thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and especially to Pastor Krieger who came and prayed before and stayed with Verne during the procedure.
—Carolyn Nelson



The council met in November. We did not meet for December and will meet early in January.

Some highlights from November meeting:

- Current and Building on the decline in the past months.
- **MOTION** to approve date for a congregational meeting during Grace Forum to discuss the pew arrangement for May 17, 2026—**approved**
- Draft Budget for 2026 includes recommendation of 2.5% increase for staff and a 14% insurance increase as well.
- Jim Schlouch will once again put together a budget narrative to be included at the annual meeting.
- Church insurance is being shopped for the coming year coverage.
- Nominating Committee working to get 5 members for Council and 1 member for Grace Trust.
- Thanksgiving baskets went well with extra donations from Country market of turkeys.
- Stewardship sent out Time & Talent along with Intent letters for 2026.
- Discover-why? Both sessions had good discussion and great leadership by Bishop Greg Busboom. Exploratory Team will now meet and make recommendations to Council and also be prepared for the Annual Meeting.
- **MOTION** to approve Sundown One for the installation of camera in the sanctuary space in the amount of \$14,472.51 to be paid for by anonymous donor - **approved**.

The current financials follow:

November 2025

Income: \$40,863

Expense: \$39,800

Surplus: \$1,063

November 2024

Income: \$43,208

Expense: \$37,113

Surplus: \$6,095



SPECIAL NOTICE GRACE LUTHERAN
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2026 All active confirmed members should be present to share in this important meeting. The agenda will include, but is not limited to, election of Council members and the 2025 Nominating Committee.

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE... All reports for the Annual Meeting are due on or before January 14, 2026. If you can email them to

President, Pastor Tom Krieger

Vice President, Jim Schlouch

Treasurer, Brenda Poston

Secretary, Jean Scherer

Administration & Finance: Jim Schlouch

Christian Education: Kari Downey, Jean Scherer

Community Ministry: Brian Dees, Jean Scherer

Evangelism: Aaron Babel

Fellowship: OPEN

Parish Life: OPEN

Property: Craig Schattschneider

Stewardship: Aaron Babel

Strategic Planning: Mike Darling, Ed Wollet

Worship & Music: August Appleton

Youth: Jerry Janssen, Amelie Janssen

Verne Nelson

REMINDER: Committee chairs and/or secretaries please stop at the work room every week so that you can sign off on transactions vouchers.
Thank you for giving your time.

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Please call the church office for any information Phone (217) 522-3965

Grace Food Pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

11:00 am– 1:00 pm



GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
714 EAST CAPITOL AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

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CANTOR

J.B. George

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron Von Holten

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer

ONLINE ADMIN

Aaron Babel