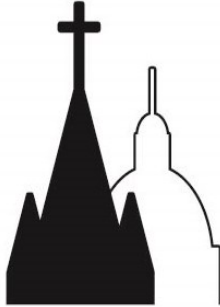


GRACE NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OFFICE: (217)522-3965



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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 2023

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The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 29. We will receive reports of Grace ministries, and we will elect more members to Council. We extend our gratitude for the leadership of those completing terms: Julian Janssen (youth), Amy Monahan, Mary Schofield, Jessica Thannen, and Wanda Williams! In addition, our gratitude goes out to Randy Heidorn for completing two terms as our vice-president (acting president). Others continuing their terms on Council include Josie Anderson, Mark Anderson, Aaron Babel, Annie Ellis, Rosie O'Fallon, Mary Plymire, Diana Weyhenmeyer, and Ed Wollet; thank you for your continued leadership!

Another item on our Annual Meeting agenda is the election of Grace voting members to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly (registration deadline will be March 1). Grace is eligible to present **two adult voting members + one youth voting member** (age 21 or under), and our pastor, as voting members to the Assembly. The 2023 Synod Assembly's first session will be held the morning of Saturday, March 25, via Zoom. The remaining sessions will be June 1-3 in-person at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Each voting member will need their own email address and an internet-connected device (phone, tablet, or laptop) for ALL sessions. The 2023 Assembly will include the election of a new bishop.

Back to **Sunday, January 29**, the date of our **Annual Meeting** which will take place directly after **worship** that day. You are invited to share in a **potluck** following the Annual Meeting, part of an opportunity for the Stewardship Committee to share with the congregation the results of our 2022 *Giving with Grace!* stewardship campaign. The number of *Statements of Intent*, as well as our intended growth in giving, will be shared and celebrated (even as we continue to share updates throughout January). Thank you for your patience, questions and prayer as our Stewardship Committee has guided us all in sustaining ministry excellence and extending our Grace with/to the Food Pantry and Washington Street Mission!

with Grace, Pastor Krieger

Hats, gloves and scarf trees are still getting filled!! They are in the fellowship hall. Help keep others warm this winter. **We will collect**





ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2023.

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 2023 Nominating Committee.

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE... All reports for the Annual Meeting are due on or before January 13, 2023. If you can email them to k.gietl15@yahoo.com, that would be extremely helpful. If you have questions contact Kim Gietl. They will be available via email and printed at church by January 15.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Lunch at the Cracker Barrel with the Washington Place residents, Lutheran World Relief Kits, food for the Salvation Army Overflow Shelter, money to help pay for the Christmas Baskets are some of the ways we at Grace have used our Thrivent Action Teams and \$250 to help others. Please remember to use the two cards that you have each year if you qualify with your Thrivent membership. They have simplified the process and you usually will have an email in a day or two if your project has been accepted. You will receive the Visa card in a week or two. If you need help with applying for a project or ideas, please contact me at 217-725-0301, Jean Scherer. 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.

Oh the Weather outside can be frightful... Going 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. 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.



The **ONLINE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** is shaping up very well. If you have not taken the opportunity to add your contact information and picture, click on this link to get started: www.gracelutheran-washingtonplace.org/directory

After the flurry of Christmas preparations, I'm usually ready for a quieter time by January. The Christmas Season ends on January 6, with the Feast of the Epiphany. We remember the Magi and their journey of faith and then jump right into Jesus being baptized and called by the Spirit to begin ministry as the Chosen One, the Lamb of God.

Along with the Time after Pentecost, the Time after the Epiphany is called "Ordinary Time" in the church year. In the many ways COVID took away ordinary things (and still does), I find comfort in some routines just being ordinary things. Ordinary time uses green as a color of growth. You may have noticed the beautiful new green fabric panels on the reredos (wall behind the altar in the front of the church) and paraments for the altar. Thanks to Cindy Anderson for finding contrasting hues of green: a bright, vibrant green for the growth of summer and a darker green with texture (fallen leaves?) for autumn.



But what grows in the winter? What seems fresh and new in the most ordinary of times? Our new evergreen paraments for the Time after the Epiphany help remind us of those special plants that keep right on growing through the coldest of winters. It is a different kind of growth: evergreens do not literally grow much in cold weather.

We too benefit from a different kind of growth for a season. I am reminded of the hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation," which includes the phrase "...silent growth while we are sleeping." As we hear Jesus reveal God's love to an ever-wider audience, we are challenged to grow in our thinking. God calls us to love our neighbor, even when that neighbor might not agree with us politically or ever "like" any of our social media posts. Even when we might not have even imagined that person to be our neighbor at all.

Having once again been challenged by Jesus' radically inclusive love, we then can go back out with energy and vigor into the places and circles God puts us, ready to do the work to which God calls us. We continue with many projects to make our space welcoming and safe for all who would enter, as an act of faith and stewardship to which our generation is called. We also venture out in a new ministry outside our building with increased support of Washington Street Mission. We partner with other churches as we discover our shared calling to be the hands of Jesus in our community.

Where will the Spirit lead you as you live out your baptism?

January 1

Greeter: Pat Casper
 Ushers: Frank Beckman & Paul Derlitzki
 Lessons & Carols
 Readers: Pat Casper
 Verne Nelson
 Roberta Volkmann
 Harold Janssen
 Jaymie Babel
 Wanda Williams
 Diana Weyhenmeyer

January 8

Greeter: Pat Ekle
 Ushers: Verne & Carolyn Nelson
 Assisting Minister/Reader: Ed Wollet

January 15

Greeter: Laurie Farrell
 Ushers: Mark & Cindy Anderson
 Assisting Minister/Reader: Cindy Anderson

January 22

Greeters: Jim & Maurine Orr
 Ushers: Jack & Judy Wheaton
 Assisting Minister/Reader: Chris Schofield

January 29

Greeter: Mary Jo Anderson
 Ushers: Chuck & Diana Weyhenmeyer
 Assisting Minister/Reader: Mary Plymire

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

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

Online and In-Person Attendance

Week	YouTube	Facebook
Advent 1	11/27/2022	58 In-person
Advent 1	11/27/2022	30 70
Advent 2	12/4/2022	77 In-person
Advent 2	12/4/2022	22 49
Advent 3	12/11/2022	78 In-person
Advent 3	12/11/2022	25 79
Advent 4	12/18/2022	106 In-person

Join us each week - All are welcome!
Sunday School and Grace Forum regularly meets each week on
Sunday morning for Education hour beginning at 10:30am.
Grace Forum in the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School on second floor.
We will not meet for Education hour on December 25 and
January 1. We begin back January 8.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 2 BEGINS!

EPISODE 1	<i>THUNDER</i>
EPISODE 2	<i>I SAW YOU</i>
EPISODE 3	<i>MATTHEW 4:24</i>
EPISODE 4	<i>THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY</i>



Brown Bag Bible Study will continue **Thursdays at 12:10pm.**
Please join us as we continue studying God's word in Exodus.



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

Mark & Cindy Anderson in honor of Betty Webb and Freddy Drake

Anonymous in gratitude of Lyn Kennedy's 92nd birthday

Curt and Valerie Benanti to remember Clara, John & Carolyn Benanti, Edna Nation, Betty & George Clough, Adysen Lowery and Helen Moore

Wayne and Sandy Benanti to remember the Lee Benanti family, the Virgil Steffens family and Adysen Lowery

Sally & Tom Erickson to remember family members of Bryden, White and Erickson families.

Ann Evans to remember my parents

Laurie Farrell to remember loved ones

Corinne Kircher to remember Frank Kircher, Helen and Ray Howell

James Krieger to remember Karen Krieger 13 years a SAM and lifetime professional volunteer

Velma Lawson to remember loved ones

The Tatman family to remember and who misses our dear Jane Fee

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

The end of the year can be a time of reflection, and as we reflect on 2022 at the Food Pantry, our thoughts turn first to the passing of our longtime friend and volunteer extraordinaire, Freddy Drake. Always quick with a smile and never a complaint, Freddy was truly beloved by all the volunteers. We miss him terribly.

Throughout this holiday season, the Pantry has once again witnessed acts of kindness from many organizations and individuals.

- The November choral Benefit Concert hosted by Grace raised about \$2,600 with a freewill offering for the Pantry. Special thanks to John Rigg and JB George for their leadership in making this event such a huge success.

- St. John's Lutheran Church and Our Savior's Lutheran School conducted their annual Thanksgiving food drives and delivered nearly 7,000 items of food to us.

- November brought an end to the outdoor growing season but not before the volunteers from the Dean Garden at the Lincoln Home site had donated 370 pounds of fresh produce throughout the summer and early fall.

- The fall CROP Walk sponsored locally by Grace resulted in a donation to the Pantry of \$1,187.

- We also appreciate the great support we receive from our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church, which recently increased its \$1,000 monthly donation to the Pantry to \$1,500.

- In December, we've received significant annual donations from food collections at Franklin Middle School, Trinity Lutheran School and St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church, among others.

In November and again in December volunteers from the Pantry partnered with Grace and Peace Lutheran churches to assemble and deliver Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, hams, milk, eggs, bread and personal items to 90 families, mostly from McClermand, Franklin, Blackhawk and Jefferson schools.

Through the end of November, the Pantry had served 6,535 households and 15,842 individuals, a 43 percent increase over the same period in 2021 and an 8 percent increase over the last full, pre-pandemic year of 2019.

We ended November with an account balance of about \$55,000. That balance remains healthy for now but has continued to draw down for most of the year as we deal with expense increases due in large part to the impact of higher costs for our food purchases and on the number of clients who need our help. The Food Pantry Board has implemented a few cost-cutting measures with our purchase of non-perishable foods so that we can continue to provide fresh milk, bread and eggs to clients -- but on our present course, we will be challenged to maintain this level of service through 2023.

JANUAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<p>1</p> <p><i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!</i></p> <p>9:15 am Worship with Lessons and Carols</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p> <p>6:00 pm Twisted Stitchers</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00</p> <p>Final</p> <p>12:00</p> <p>Circ</p> <p>6:30</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:30 am Education Hour</p> <p>5:00 pm Recital hosted by Emma B.</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p> <p>10:30 am Property</p> <p>1:30 pm Pastor & JB at Concordia</p> <p>6:00 pm Evangelism</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:30</p> <p>Mini</p> <p>5:00</p> <p>Boa</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:30 am Education Hour</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting with Mutual Ministry</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p> <p>6:00 pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:30 am Education Hour</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>25</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday school</p> <p>10:30 am Annual Meeting with Potluck</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>Gr</p> <p>rec</p>

JAN 2023

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>12:00 noon Admin & Finance</p> <p>12:30 pm Faith/Grace Circle</p> <p>5:30 pm Church Council</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p> <p>12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Epiphany</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>3:30 pm Community Ministry</p> <p>5:00 pm Food Pantry Board</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p> <p>12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 pm SAS</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p> <p>12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lincoln Home Event</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p> <p>12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

**Grace Food Pantry will
reopen on January 3.**

Winter



Late in 1988 Robin and Scott Mahnken moved to Springfield, Illinois. Robin had a job at Memorial Medical Center and Scott continued with his union carpenter's job locally. They searched for a church for a time while getting to know their new location in other ways as well. In 1990 the family joined Grace having visited several Lutheran churches in the area. "Grace seemed to fill the bill and was a great fit for our family," says Robin.

Roberta Volkmann took them under her wing and they are very thankful to her for helping them adjust to their new church home. In the mean time Aaron was happy as a lark because there were many kids attending Grace at that time and he became friends with children in the puppet ministry and also became active in the youth group.

When Robin's dad was suffering from dementia, Pastor Julie and Pastor Christell helped the family through a very rough patch. At the same time other church members befriended Tristen, her niece, and made her feel treasured and wanted. This in turn supported Robin and Scott who were raising Tristen at this time.

Also very important to the Mahnken's was a true Grace Lutheran Church romance between Robin's son, Aaron and the Oehlert's daughter, Emily. Today Emily and Aaron are married, have three children, and live in Buffalo, N.Y. They really treasure their younger lives as lived at Grace Lutheran Church and are active in their church in Buffalo.

When Robin's mother was very ill Pastor Krieger visited her several times and was a great comfort. Robin's mom kept a diary and this was published by Robin and a book was given to each of the grandchildren.

In the diary her mom tells of traveling in France. While there, she purchased a tie tack for her husband, and charms of the Eiffel Tower for herself and Robin. As Pastor Krieger was counseling the family after her death, he presented the charms to each of the great grandchildren and was "just perfect" in talking with the children.

Recently, Robin has had to confront a very serious illness which requires her to have a stem cell transplant or bone marrow transplant. Robin feels blessed to have come through the chemo sessions with fewer problems than most people. She is now home and careful about her interactions with others because her immune system is not functioning.

She is so thankful to the many members of Grace who have sent cards, letters, calls and many prayers. Through all of this, she has felt supported and loved by her church home.

Robin has also been a great example to the rest of us with her positive attitude, her sense of humor and her faith.



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

Faith/Grace Circle meets January 4 at 12:30 pm

Ruth Circle will meet on January 17 at 6:00 pm.

Butterbraids - another success!!

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



WELCA's profit was \$802.40 which WELCA gives to local service agencies. So many people made this a success. Deb Wakefield redesigned the order form. Velma Lawson sent emails to 57 people who had ordered butterbraids from us before. Kim and Harold Janssen do a wonderful job of writing orders as people place them. Many people from Grace order them. Jessica Thannen ordered 106 for her boss to give them to his clients for Christmas. Kendal Hoselton told her bunco group about them and sold 14. Kim Janssen, Pat Ekle and Rosie O'Fallon handed out orders as people came to pick them up. Our church secretary is always helpful in handling orders which are not picked up on the designated date. It is a wonderful project only because so many people volunteer to help. In fact we had more volunteers than we could use.

It is time to nominate your choice for Bold Women's Day 2023. A plaque is 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.



Another new year. I don't know about you but I am glad 2022 is over and hoping 2023 will be much different and better. It has been a long year with isolation and limited activities. I am in year two of retirement and hope to move around more than in the past. Covid is behind us but keeps popping back up. I hope this new year brings many possibilities for everyone. I always love the start of the new year with excitement and new beginnings. One thing I've learned these past several years is patience. Not that I wanted to learn but slowing down hasn't been so bad. I hope 2023 brings you new ideas, new beginnings and growing spiritually.

Blessings for you in 2023, Diana

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.
- * Jean Scherer for her help with the Washington Place outing and to Robin Mahnken for her years as coordinator of the Washington Place Christmas Party.
- * All those who continued to grow and learn through Grace Forum and Sunday Church School in 2022.
- * Thank you to Leona Garrison for arranging for Christmas wreaths.
- * Those who decorated the sanctuary and tree for Christmas.
- * Thank you to the folks who signed up and tried ringing the bells for Salvation Army at Scheel's on December 3.
- * Thank you to the Sangamon County Association for Home and Community Education for their generous donation of hats, gloves, and scarves for our Mitten Trees. 32 children's hats, 48 pairs of children's gloves, 37 adult hats, 27 pairs of adult gloves, and 5 adult scarves were donated. Thanks SCAHCE!
- * Thank you to GRACE LUTHERAN for showing our kids love for the holiday season and giving with Grace the gifts for Christmas.
- * Thank you to all those families who were able to provide boots for those in need at McClernand elementary!
- * The altar flowers from November 27 were beautiful, very "fallish" and lasted almost two weeks. Thank you to Marilyn Blado for the



January 3 RC Curry
January 5 Sally Erickson
Willie Herron
January 7 Nolan Best
Emma Von Holten
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 21 Connor Dees
January 22 Paula Benanti
Bonnie Braye
Susan LeMasters
January 23 Georgiann Bredehoft
January 24 Diana Thompson
January 25 Cindy Anderson
Wilbert Rehwald
January 26 Gerald Fines
Kim Gietl
January 28 Grant Folder
Ashley Fullriede
January 29 Katherine Galloway
January 31 Vivian Darling

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

Wise People
Seek Him Still



Epiphany is January 6, 2023

What is Epiphany???

A Christian festival, observed on January 6, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi; Twelfth-day.

MUGS...We have Grace mugs with gorgeous stain glass art on them. We give them to our visitors. If you would like one, contact Kim in the office. They are \$5.00.

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, ask Pastor Krieger, contact the church office, or contact any Stephen Minister; Cindy Anderson, Jan Conrady, Lindsey Clemons, Susan LeMasters, Jim Hobbs, Sara Oehlert and Charlotte Blumle. Your contact is confidential, whether or not you decide to accept our services.



New Year and New Prayer ... the Prayer Ministry will be looking a little different in the New Year. We will continue to list those that have requested prayers in our weekly bulletin but we have decided to list the names of people we are praying for on a monthly basis. The names listed will be those who have asked for prayers in each particular month. We will, of course, continue to pray for everyone on the list - past and present. Our goal is to bring some clarity to the list and keep everyone informed in a timely way. If there is anyone who would like to be included on the Prayer Chain email list please contact Sara Oehlert (soehlert@aol.com) and she will add you to the list.

WASHINGTON PLACE CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Smiles, laughter and talking were abundant at the lunch at Cracker Barrel on December 10th with Grace members and residents from the Washington Place and their staff member, Charlie. Thanks to Robin Mahnken for the resident's table favors and nutcracker ornaments and setting up the lunch and Nutcracker Ballet experience at Sangamon Auditorium. Scott Raper, the Executive Director of Sangamon Auditorium, gifted the Washington Place residents with passes for a VIP backstage tour and tickets for the ballet. Scott gave the tour himself and was wonderful with the residents and had a present for each of them. They even had a picture taken with Clare, the little girl in the ballet which the story was about. What a lovely time everyone had and we hope to do another experience with them this coming spring!

MEMBERS HOMEBOUND/LIMITED MOBILITY

DIXIE ALVIES	BREDEHOFT	BONNIE
DOROTHY BAHRE	BETTY & RC CURRY	SCHATTSCHEIDER
GLENDA BOWLES	GLORIA GAGNON	ANN SCHLICHT
GEORGIANN	ELEANOR SAKRIS	CRYSTAL SHADID

Vice President, Randy Heidorn

Secretary, Annie Ellis

Administration & Finance Ed Wollet

Christian Education Jessica Thannen, Amy Monahan, Mary Plymire

Community Ministry Diana Weyhenmeyer, Randy Heidorn, Annie Ellis

Evangelism Josie Anderson, Aaron Babel

Fellowship Mary Schofield, Wanda Williams

Parish Life Rosie O'Fallon, Josie Anderson

Property Mark Anderson

Stewardship Mary Plymire, Annie Ellis

Strategic Planning Ed Wollet

Worship & Music Wanda Williams, Rosie O'Fallon, Randy Heidorn

Youth Julian Janssen



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We did not meet for December but will meet early in January.

The current financials follow:

November 2022

Income: \$23,609

Expense: \$31,377

Deficit: (\$7,768)

YTD 2022

Income: \$328,662

Expense: \$392,608

Deficit: (\$63,946)

November 2021

Income: \$35,224

Expense: \$30,011

Surplus: \$5,213

YTD 2021

Income: \$324,223

Expense: \$371,099

Deficit: (\$46,876)

Church in Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Please call the church office for any information (217) 522-3965

Grace Food Pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
11:00 am– 1:00 pm



GRACE EVANGELICAL
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CANTOR

J.B. George

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron Von Holten

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer