



GRACE NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*



May 2025

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Council of Nicaea, with Arius depicted as defeated by the council, lying under the feet of Emperor Constantine. The [Hagia Sophia](#) is in the background of the icon.

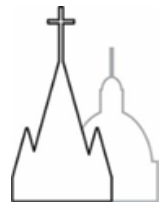
The Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 gave us the *Nicene Creed* — a bold declaration of faith in Christ that continues to unite Christians around the world. In honor of its 1700th anniversary, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (524 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield) will host an Ecumenical Celebration on **Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m.**

At the invitation of Bishop Thomas John Paprocki (bishop of the Springfield Diocese), Bishop Greg Busboom (bishop of our Central/Southern Illinois Synod) together with other area Christian leaders will be participating in the service.

This celebration echoes the spirit of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, reminding us that unity is not a one-week event but a year-round journey. Inspired by John 11:17-27, we join to proclaim with Martha, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God." All are welcome and invited to come together to pray, reflect, and renew our commitment to the unity Christ wills for the Church.



Deacon Pat Caley faithfully served Grace Lutheran Church during the interim before I arrived at Grace and has graciously agreed to do so again **May 5-13**. If funeral services are needed during this time, please contact Pat through our church office.



Continues on Page 3

Rev. Dan Frachey will lead us in worship on **Sunday, May 11**. Dan was ordained October 19 with the Roman Catholic Women Priests USA and is a faithful colleague of the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association, United Open & Affirming communities of faith, an active participant and supporter of Springfield's theatre community, and delights the tastebuds with his Rochester Jellies.




The Exploratory Evangelism Task Force established by our Council will meet with the rostered leaders of our CSIS staff on **May 22** to begin our study and research toward developing a culture of evangelism at Grace, which could potentially lead to a staff person for guiding us in the Spirit. The Task Force's purpose is to discover what possibilities, logistics, and reasons there are for growing our evangelism, most importantly answering the question: 'why?'.

with Grace,
Pastor Krieger

GOD IS GOOD AND WANTS GOOD THINGS FOR US

Presented By The Land of Lincoln Chorus

Disney Classics



MAY 2nd & 3rd, 2025


Dinner at 6pm | Show at 7pm


SUGAR CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
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barbershopsinging.net

\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 10
<small>adults/parson</small>	<small>general/parson</small>	<small>age 12 & under/parson</small>

Special Guest Quartet: The Audacity



Like us on:  www.facebook.com/landoflincolnchorus

lotC programs and activities are funded in part by the Springfield Area Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council Agency, National Endowment for the Arts, and City of Springfield.

Images created by Brent Gough

You can also buy tickets from John Rigg or Dan Hurst

From *Devotions for Choirs, Resurrection of our Lord, Year C*, by Wayne Wold:

We know what to expect when, on Easter, we stand, sing alleluias, perhaps see a procession or blessing with incense, and hear the gospel announced—we know we are about to hear proclaimed the thrilling story of Jesus' resurrection. Each of the gospel accounts relates the story in a slightly different way, especially regarding such details as the reactions of those first witnesses and the responses of those persons to whom they next told the good news. The story may sound a bit different not only because of the variances between each evangelist's version; different translations also add dimension and nuance to the story. Multilingual congregations have the added advantage of hearing the Easter story proclaimed in more than one language. This story of Jesus' resurrection—so central to the Christian faith—is too profound to be limited to one language or one translation—or even to just words for that matter.

And so we dress up our sanctuaries and our church gardens and our bodies with bright colors and shiny objects. And we expect more smiling faces, both in the nave and in the choir loft. And in our worship we bring in the extra instruments and pull out a few more stops on the organ. And then there's all the singing! "Alleluia" and exclamation points have returned. And in an attempt to proclaim and celebrate this story of cosmic proportions, we call on our ancestors in the faith—such as the seventh century John of Damascus—to give us the words to sing:

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory. [ELW 361]

And English-speakers try to expand their praise to sing the Tanzanian hymn by Bernard Kyamanywa: [in English, ELW 364, Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia]

Mfurahini, haleluya, mkombozi amefufuka.
Amefufuka, haleluya, msifuni sasa yu hai.

Each Easter offers us a brand new experience of Christ's resurrection. Whether this is your first or your 101st Easter celebration, prepare to be wowed by the sheer imagination, power, and love of God.

Let us pray: As we prepare for this special day, we ask for energy, for peace, and for the presence of mind to experience the presence of you, the living Christ. Amen.



Your Health News, Diana Weyhenmeyer

With summer around the corner, I thought a refresher on sunscreen and some sun tips might help remind us to stay safe in the sun.

Apply sunscreen at least 15-30 minutes before going out in the sun. This keeps you protected and has time to be absorbed. I have a bad habit of putting it on and going especially when golfing.

Another tip is to wear a hat with brim on it to protect your ears from the sun. If you wear a ball cap be sure to put some sunscreen on your ears for protection.

You need to reapply sunscreen every two hours when in the sun. Read the label if in doubt of when to reapply. The sun's rays are harshest between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

The SPF factor varies widely. I will never forget when a doctor told me the only difference between sunscreen is percentage of sun's rays. For example a sunblock with SPF 15 blocks 90% of sun's rays, while an SPF of 50 blocks 96% of sun's rays. Nothing is 100%.

Give babies and children extra care in the sun. Ask a doctor before applying sunscreen to children under age 6 months. Apply sunscreen to children older than 6 months every time they go out. Develop good sun safety habits and practice them together.

Your eyes are also important to protect. Wear sunglasses that offers 99%-100% UV protection. This assures you the glasses block both UVA and UVB rays. The label will tell you this on the glasses. Be wary of dark tinted eyewear sold as fashion accessories that may provide little or no protection from UV light. Don't assume you get more UV protection with pricier sunglasses or glasses with a darker tint. This is a misconception of people. The darker the glasses doesn't necessarily mean better protection. Cataracts can be a result of sun exposure.

I am at high risk for skin cancer because of habits I had as a teenager. Risk factors for skin cancer include two or more blistering sunburns in one year, and fair skin. I do monthly mole exams using the ABCD's of Melanoma when checking my moles.

A= Asymmetry (half of the mole doesn't look like the other half)

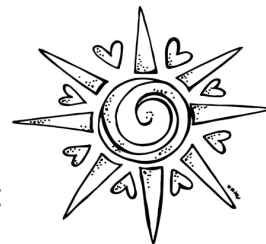
B= Border irregularity (moles have smooth edges, melanoma moles have jagged edges)

C= Color (say a brown mole all of a sudden turns black or changes color this should be checked)

D= Diameter (any mole bigger than a pencil tip eraser should be checked out)

Have a nice and safe summer in the sun!

5 In Christ's love, Diana





EASTER BASKET HONOREES

90 Easter Baskets were taken to Black Hawk, Franklin, McClernand and Jefferson schools as well as some in need. We thank you for your generosity and this will help with Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets too.

Joyce Abrams — Remembering Bob Abrams

Anonymous— Remembering Loved Ones

Curt & Valerie Benanti — Remembering Clara and John Benanti, Carolyn Benanti, Betty and George Clough, Edna Nation, Russ Nation and Helen Moore

Pat Casper

Ann Evans—Remembering Larry Evans

Laurie Farrell—Remembering Parents Margaret and DeMonte Cress
Larry & Leona Garrison - Remembering Verne and Florence Garrison,
Charles and Laura Thompson, Howard, Frank and Verne Lee

Anna Mae Handshy - Honoring Tom and Kathy Myers, Gloria Gagnon

Corinne Kircher - Remembering Frank Kircher

Adam, Heidi and Adalyn Lowery—Remembering our daughter Adysen
Lowery and mother Susan Cane

Carolyn Nelson—Remembering Betty Curry

Ilse Nunn—Honoring my daughter Ursula S. Polk. LTC, US Army

Brenda Poston— Remembering Tom Poston

Judy Rake

John & Debbie Rigg - Honoring our family

Chris Schofield—Remembering Sylvia Schofield Crawford

Mary Schofield—Remembering Janice Ringling

Dick & Deb Smith

Chuck & Diana Weyhenmeyer - Remembering family and friends

Ed Wollet—Remembering Judy Wollet

SAVE THE DATE....Pentecost June 8, 2025

All are welcome to wear red. We hope to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of our youth that morning as well as a reception for the families of those youth and new members who have joined recently.



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

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

**Our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch will be at noon
Wednesday, May 14.**

Through the end of the first quarter the Food Pantry had served 2,141 households, a 4 percent decrease over the same period in 2024, and 5,774 individuals, virtually the same number as last year. It is way too early to draw conclusions or make projections, but so far this has been the first time in several years that we have not seen a significant increase in clients. Perhaps the increases of recent years have been so great that we have hit something of a plateau, or perhaps forecasted potential cuts in aid to food banks, food stamps and other programs will drive numbers up again later in the year.

Finances have held up nicely through a period when we typically see a significant drop off in donations. As of March 31, we showed 2025 income of \$51,172 against expenses of \$46,863, a \$4,309 surplus that left us with an account balance of \$79,887. Our Food Board policy is to keep the account in a range of \$40,000 to \$80,000. If the balance falls below \$40,000 we implement temporary cutbacks in some of the items we distribute. If the balance exceeds \$80,000, we can consider adding certain offerings, at least temporarily.

Thank you to Our Savior's Lutheran School for its donation of \$418 from "chapel offerings."

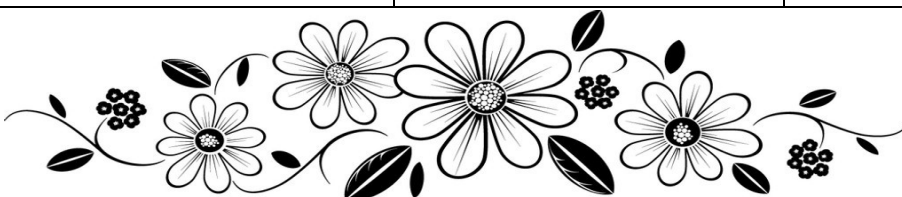


We also were pleased to receive donations from annual food drives done by Scout troops and packs at Douglas Avenue Methodist and St. John's Lutheran churches, each of which brought us about 1,000 items this year. Collections at Peace Lutheran (160 items) and Third Presbyterian (65 items) churches also were appreciated.

We welcomed a group from the Junior League of Springfield, who came to the Pantry one evening to do various tasks as part of a designated day of service by that organization.

A big thank you to the many Pantry volunteers who once again helped Grace and Peace Lutheran churches provide 80 Easter food baskets to families at McClernand and Blackhawk Elementary schools, Franklin Middle School and families sponsored by Grace, Peace and St. John's churches. This annual project -- which is repeated at Thanksgiving and Christmas -- is fully funded by Grace and Peace churches separate and apart from Food Pantry finances, BUT it is mainly Pantry volunteers AND Grace staff who pick up, unload and store the foods for these baskets, which are then assembled and delivered by folks from Grace and Peace and a few Pantry volunteers.

With Spring fully upon us, it now seems safe to thank volunteers one last time for slogging through the Winter. While Spring rains, winds and chilly days can be a nuisance for volunteers and clients, we made it past the season of ice and snow with only one day of closure thanks to everyone's commitment, passion and dedication to our work.

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	
 			
4 RACHEL'S DAY 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Grace Forum 2:00 pm Ecumenical Worship at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	5 <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> Pastor Krieger away	6 National Nurses Day Thank you to our Parish Nurses!!! 9:00 am St. John's in building retreat <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 6:30 pm Twisted Stitchers at B Poston	7 1 C 3
11  9:15 am Worship	12 <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i>	13 10:30 am Property <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i>	1 1 L F 3
			→
18 <i>Blood pressure checks</i> 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Second Sunday School / Confirmation / Grace Forum	19 <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i>	20 10:00 am Synod ZOOM 12:00 pm Admin & Finance <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 6:00 pm Ruth Circle Diana W. away	2 3
25 9:15 am Worship	26 Memorial Day <i>Food Pantry</i> AND Office Closed	27 9:30 am Staff Meeting <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 6:30 pm Council	2 3

2025

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 5:30 pm RIC Welcome Team	2	3
7 12:30 pm Faith/Grace Circle 5:30 pm Choir	8 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	9	10
4 12 noon Volunteer Luncheon Food Pantry Board 5:30 pm Choir	15 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	16	17 Pride Fest Downtown Old Capitol Art Fair Downtown Library Book Sale in Grace Lot
1 5:30 pm Choir	22 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 10:30 am Exploratory Evangelism 1:00 pm Stewardship & Evangelism 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	23 Grace Notes	24
8 5:30 pm Choir	29 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	30 LORD, INVOLVE ME IN HELPING TO BRING PEACE IN THE WORLD	31

Serving the Assembly in May

May 4

Greeter: Jean Scherer
 Ushers: Frank Beckman &
 Paul Derlitzki
 Reader: Pat Casper
 Communion Asst.: Pat Ekle
 Diana Weyhenmeyer
 Altar Guild: Toni Klit

May 11

Greeters: Jim & Maurine Orr
 Ushers: Kim & Pam Schlicht
 Reader: Arlene Lenser
 Communion Asst.: Chuck
 Weyhenmeyer
 Altar Guild: Kim Gietl

May 18

Greeter: Laurie Farrell
 Ushers: Chris & Mary Schofield
 Reader: Mary Plymire
 Communion Asst.: Harrison Allen
 Altar Guild: Debbie Rigg

May 25

Greeters: Mark & Cindy Anderson
 Ushers: Jack & Judy Wheaton
 Reader: Cindy Anderson
 Communion Asst.: Randy Heidorn
 Altar Guild: Deb Smith

Weekend	Date	YouTube	Facebook
Lent 3 with Bishop visit	3/23/2025	66 In-person	
Lent 3	3/23/2025	15	35
Midweek 3	3/26/2025	27 In-person 2 ZOOM	
Lent 4	3/30/2025	22	25
Lent 4	3/30/2025	57 In-person	
Midweek 4	4/2/2025	21 In-person 7 ZOOM	
Lent 5	4/6/2025	25	16
Lent 5	4/6/2025	69 In-person	
Midweek 5	4/9/2025	30 In-person 7 ZOOM	
HOLY WEEK Video	4/13/2025	65	219
Palm Sunday	4/13/2025	72 In-person	
Maundy Thursday 12:15 pm	4/17/2025	16 In-person 5 ZOOM	
Maundy Thursday with First Pres	4/17/2025	45 In-person	
Good Friday 12:15 pm	4/19/2025	17 In-person 5 ZOOM	
Good Friday with UMC	4/18/2025	45 In-person	
Easter Sunday	4/20/2025	132 In-person 7 ZOOM	

Pridefest is coming to Downtown Springfield May 17, 2025

Is this event “family friendly”? Absolutely! There is a family area, kids activities, a family stage, over 100 vendors and lots of good food and drinks.

What time does everything start? The parade starts at 11:30, PrideFest ribbon cutting is at Noon. Everything kicks off from that.

Where is the Pride Parade? The parade starts at 5th & Allen and goes north to PrideFest at 5th & Capitol.

How much does it cost to get into Springfield PrideFest? It is FREE!

Old Capitol Art Fair Downtown

May 17-18, 2025

Set against the backdrop of the Illinois Old State Capitol building, attendees find the Springfield Old Capitol Art Fair to be a unique tradition of fine art.

This event has brought artists and shoppers from across the country flocking to downtown Springfield's two-day outdoor art gallery for over 60 years.

During the Summer...the weekly brunches following worship (approx. 10:30 am) June through August will be a time of fellowship and food. A sign up sheet will be on the white board for any and all who would like to bring tasty items along with those committees. Keep watch.

Stephen Ministry *Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing....* **Just a reminder...you are not alone.** Stephen Ministry equips a team of lay caregivers to provide one-on-one, Christ centered care to people experiencing life difficulties. Your contact is confidential, whether or not you decide to accept our services. Stephen Ministry is available in our congregation! We are here to help!



PRAYER OF GRACE MINISTRY

Prayers The Holy Spirit does and will offer our prayers for us. Romans 8:26 tells us, *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words"*. If you have a specific prayer request that you would like added to the Prayer Chain or if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain email list please contact Kim, in the office, k.gietl15@yahoo.com, Pastor Krieger tomkrieger63@gmail.com or Sara Oehlert soehlert@aol.com

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Council met April 22, 2025 the following are highlights:

- ♦ YTD Budget of Current and Building giving at 25% for March—on target
- ♦ March is surplus of \$1,278
- ♦ **MOTION** - To accept transfer out of Phil, Katherine, Seraphina, Miles and Margot Galloway to St. John's Lutheran, Springfield
To accept transfer in of Carol Weyhrich from Peace Lutheran, Springfield
—**Approved**
- ♦ Food Pantry clients down for the month
- ♦ Thanks to Parish Life for providing Lenten suppers
- ♦ Stewardship working with time & talent sheets, and appeal date and theme
- ♦ 4 youth going to Leadership Lab and 1 youth, mentor and Pastor going to Confirmation Camp

March 2025

\$46,074 Income
\$44,796 Expense
Surplus \$1,278

YTD 2025

\$113,737 Income
\$121,255 Expense
Deficit (\$7,517)

March 2024

\$33,418 Income
\$41,149 Expense
Deficit (\$7,730)

YTD 2024

\$121,565 Income
\$133,530 Expense
Surplus \$8,035

CONGREGATIONAL ONLINE DIRECTORY Sign up today or contact Aaron Babel (aaronbabel@yahoo.com) to get added to our online directory. Sign up at this address or scan the QR code. <https://gracelutheranil.ctrn.co/signup.php>

MEMBERS HOMEBOUND OR LIMITED MOBILITY

DIXIE ALVIES
SANDY BENANTI
CHARLOTTE BLUMLE
MARY BLUMLE
GLENDA BOWLES

GEORGIANN BREDEHOFT
RC CURRY
ANN EVANS
GLORIA GAGNON
VELMA LAWSON

MARCELLA MCGOWAN
TOM & KATHY MYERS
ILSE NUNN
DON THANNEN

ALL WOMEN of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.



Rachel's Day is May 4th. In 1994, one woman urged her Bethel Lutheran Church Congregation on the West Side of Chicago, to support children who were facing violence. In 1996, the convention passed the Memorial, resolving that "ELCA Women encourage their Congregations to recognize the first Wednesday in May each year as 'Rachel's Day' (wherein Rachel grieved for her children, based on Jeremiah 31:15-17) Did you know that every 30 minutes a child or teen dies or is injured from a gun? Rachel's Day is now observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear.

Faith/Grace Circle May 7 at 12:30 pm

Ruth Circle May 20 at 6:00 pm

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). Twisted Stitchers will meet **on May 6th at the home of Brenda Poston.**



SAVE the DATE... June 17th is the Annual WELCA picnic that starts at 6:00 pm. 5:00 pm for set up.

SPENDING TIME IN GRATITUDE AT THE END OF THE DAY IS A GOOD PRACTICE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Gabrielle Behl from Glenwood High School

Claire Thannen from South East Missouri University



If we have missed anybody—please let us know and we will include them in June.

Thank You's

- To JB George and Randy Heidorn for all their expertise with video and sound, for those who read and pantomimed for our Lenten and Easter worship experiences.
- Thanks for all the help with the Lenten dinners including set-up, clean-up and Parish Life Committee for dinners provided.
- The Property Committee thanks the participants who volunteered their services for the church cleanup day on April 12th. They are: Judy Wheaton, Josie Anderson, Laurie Farrell, Deb Smith, Craig Schattschneider and Mark Anderson. Thanks also to Aaron Von Holten for organizing the needed supplies. So.... what was done? The pews were cleaned with Murphys soap and cushions vacuumed, chair lift plastic shields were cleaned as well at the rails, the chancel parquet floor was cleaned, and the fellowship hall men's and women's bathroom walls and stalls were cleaned. A big thank you too all!! Property Committee

May Birthdays

May 2	Jenny Jackson	May 18	Jerry Janssen
May 3	Toni Krone	May 19	Alaina Hawker
	Joseph Matteson	May 20	Page Rehwald
May 4	Robin Mahnken	May 21	Karen Carlson
May 5	August Appleton		Ed Wollet
	Ellie Tarr	May 24	Marcella McGowan
	Judy Wheaton		Linda Dunbar
May 7	Brandy Filson		Chris Puckett
	Reddington Luckey	May 25	Paul Derlitzki
May 11	Nick Behl	May 28	Annabelle Clemons
	Anna Cheek		
	Kelly Zoelzer		
May 12	Monica Weakley		
May 13	Jim Schlouch		
May 16	Harmon Janssen		
	Ardina Voelker		

MAY YOUR *birthday*
BRING YOU AS MUCH
happiness
AS YOU *give*

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT

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.*

THANK YOU JESUS FOR LOVING and FORGIVING ME DESPITE MY IMPERFECTIONS

**Join us for worship online:
FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, OR BY EMAIL**

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 services for the weekend.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**ORGANIZATION
GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
714 EAST CAPITOL AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701
DATED MATERIAL – USELESS IF DELAYED
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO. 668**

Grace Food Pantry operating schedule is Mon, Tues, Thu 11:00 am-1:00 pm
CHURCH PHONE: 217-522-3965

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:



gracelutheran-springfield.org



OUR STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Tom Krieger

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer

CANTOR

J.B. George

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron VonHolten

WEBSITE ADMIN

Aaron Babel