



GRACE NOTES

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Phone: (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.*



NOVEMBER 2025

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Pastor's Pages

Perfect Game

Armando Galarraga. My central-Illinois tongue has to sound it out a few times before it rolls off smoothly, but once it does, it becomes almost poetic. I am admittedly not much of a baseball fan, but I have every admiration for Armando Galarraga, for what he made of what was otherwise just another early day in June. There were two outs in the ninth inning of a thus far Perfect Game when Galarraga delivered his pitch. The batter made contact, and the race was on to First. The foot on the bag, the ball in the glove. moment where time paused ...and then both arms of the First Base Umpire shot out from his side: SAFE. So close! (Photo credit *Kirthmon F. Dozier, Detroit Free Press*)



The thing is, the instant replay showed what Galarraga, his teammates and many watching thought they saw, too, which was that the runner was actually OUT. Rules as they were, it was not overturned. Galarraga had been robbed a spot in baseball history. But that is where perfection came in.

When interviewed after the game, Galarraga expressed his respect for the First Base Umpire, humbly saying, "Nobody's perfect." That, my friends, is my definition of the perfect game. That is why the only baseball hat I possess is the Detroit Tigers, with the date June 2010 written on the bill.

Psalm 127

¹ Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. This first half of the first verse of this psalm of Solomon is one of my favorite. We often think of ourselves as the architects and creators, the builders of the church, at the cost of losing sight that if it is the church we are "building," it is God's work we are carrying out. And where does building begin, what does all of the rest of the building depend upon? An AI Overview describes a cornerstone this way, "A good cornerstone is solid, precise, foundational, and central to the structure or system it supports. Key characteristics include proper alignment (being square and **perfectly** cut) for accurate construction, providing a rock-solid foundation that ensures longevity and stability, and being the first and most essential element to which all others are built in reference." Builders sometimes lose sight of what makes for "perfect," as is illustrated in Psalm 118:22

Psalm 118

²² **The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

Pastor's Pages continued

²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Jesus

For whatever good could come out of Nazareth, he certainly did not perfectly fit the expectation people held for what the messiah would be and do. Everyone would need to take a step back and reconsider how they had been building, what kind of builders they were, and in all humility, ask if it was still *the Lord* who was building the house. We humans don't find that kind of humility to come easily. The New Testament invites us into this humility with Psalm 118:22 and each time it appears again in Mark 12:10, Matthew 21:42, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11 and 1 Peter 2. It takes humility to see that Jesus "is solid, precise, foundational, and central to" our faith; he is "the first and most essential element to which all others are built in reference."

1 Peter 2

⁴ Come to [Jesus], a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner."

Grace

The Lord started building Grace Lutheran Church in 1841, and who knows how long the Lord had been laying out the blueprint for it in Pastor Springer's soul before that. And now, *here we are*, living stones built into Grace, and more importantly, built upon Jesus. Because of our Builder, and because of the cornerstone God has laid, this imperfect community of disciples is what God makes perfect look like.

Cornerstone of Grace is our 2025-2026 Stewardship theme. Ministry highlights will be shared at worship the first three Sundays in November, and we will cap it off with our annual appeal on Sunday, November 23 when your forthcoming *Statements of Intent* are given as part of our offering. Because the Lord builds this house, we who build it are not working in vain. —Pastor Krieger





November 2

Please come for worship that weekend as we remember and names are spoken aloud for the Saints who have gone before us.



FALL BACK NOVEMBER 2

November 1—remember to turn back your clocks ONE hour before bed.

ADVENT IS ON THE WAY!

The Advent Season is just around the corner and we have some things planned. **December 3, 10, and 17.**

6:00 pm meal and 6:30 pm worship



CHRISTMAS EVE we will worship together at
(4:30 pm prelude) 5:00 pm **Wednesday, December 24.**

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday, December 25 at 9:15 am
we will come together again for worship.

Join us for this special time of year as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

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.



Notes from Cantor JB George...

Benefit Concert for the Grace Food Pantry.

Here's a sneak peek at our Food Pantry Benefit Concert on November 9 (2pm, at Grace)

The Prairie Winds Flute Ensemble will join us, along with Cathy McGuire playing both bassoon and recorder (at different times, of course ☐). Vocal students of Justin Johnson will again perform, including Miriam Carter. Handbell choirs from Our Savior's and Grace will be on the program this year!

The choir is composed of members of all five anchor churches of the food pantry: Grace, St. John's, Peace, Our Savior's, and First Presbyterian. We will fill up the chancel with people, and the whole sanctuary with sound. The four pieces sung by the choir are all perfect for the "already, but not yet" aspect of November and Advent in the church year.

"Joy in the Morning" by Natalie Sleeth speaks of peace and contentment, love and forgiveness, and the glory of the Lord shining forever.

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" by Howard Goodall is famous for being the theme song of BBC's "The Vicar of Dibley." Psalm 23— frequently requested for funerals—is an assurance of God's presence with us, both in good times and bad. Its promises are comfort both for the bereaved and the dying: all of life is in God's hands.

"With a Voice of Singing" by Martin Shaw is a favorite of Grace's Chancel Choir. It was requested for their funerals by our beloved choir members Wil Rehwald and John Klit. Like Psalm 23, it is a song of deliverance and lasting joy.

"Draw the Circle Wide" by Mark A. Miller refers to the circle of God's love and inclusion. We are called to "draw it wider still" and reminded that "no one stands alone." Over the whole course of the Bible, we see God's people being constantly surprised at how God challenges their ideas of who is "in" and who is not. The composer, Mark Miller, is an ordained United Methodist pastor who has experienced intersectional marginalization because he is both Black and gay. As we continue our journey in Reconciling in Christ, it is my great hope that we will all continue to "stand side by side" to draw our circle wide.

God's promises of comfort and presence are not only for the "hereafter," but meant to encourage and empower all of us as we show Jesus to the world each day.

GIVE ME PATIENCE, LORD, AS I WAIT FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO MY CURRENT NEED

Holiday Food Baskets have been a long tradition of Grace Lutheran Church. We partner with other Lutheran churches and schools in the area to provide food to help make the holidays a bit better for families in need. Baskets are provided before Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

It is time once again to look toward funding and implementing the holiday basket program. Though funded separately from Grace Food Pantry by Grace, Peace Lutheran and St Johns Lutheran, we use obtain the food through the pantry and reimburse it for the costs. We have already begun stocking up for the baskets for Thanksgiving. Those baskets will go out November 19 and then for Christmas December 17.

Please consider donating to the Holiday Baskets, which cost about \$65 per basket. Grace pays for 60 baskets per holiday. That is approx. \$4,000 for each of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Your help is appreciated. Each family receives a tote with about \$65 worth of groceries and personal items, including a ham, milk, bread, eggs, potatoes, apples, numerous non-perishable cans and boxes of food, and a bag of toiletries. You can support this ministry by donating cash (earmarked for Holiday Food Baskets) and/or the nonperishable foods listed below:

Non-perishable Needs for Holiday Food Baskets:

- * Cans of peaches, pears, pork and beans, ravioli, and pasta sauce
- * Boxes of spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, saltine crackers, cereal, cake mix and icing, stuffing, mashed potatoes.
- * Jars of peanut butter, jars of jelly (plastic, not glass, please)



Help make someone's Thanksgiving special...

If you would like to sponsor a basket, or half a basket, to honor someone, or remember someone who is no longer on their earthly journey, please fill out the form below, tear or cut it out and mail it to Grace or put in the offering plate. We will print your name and the name (s) of those you honor or remember in the December Grace Notes.

Thank you for helping this special ministry.

Your gift will be recorded on your giving statement.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Person(s) Name(s) to honor or remember: _____

Amount of gift: _____

Christian Education News

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL/GRACE FORUM

/BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome !!

Sunday school meets on the second floor November 16 in the large Sunday School room at 10:30 am.

GRACE FORUM...please join us weekly **Sundays at 10:30 am** in the fellowship hall.

Brown Bag Bible Study will continue **Thursdays at 12:10 pm**. Please join us in person or via ZOOM as we study God's word.



CALL A VETERAN...November 11 and thank him or her for their service to our country.

The Military Outreach Ministry Team at St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to all the Veterans at Grace Lutheran Church. **A Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday November 9th at 12:00pm** at St. John's Lutheran Church. Please call Kristin at 217-793-3933 by Wednesday November 5th to make a reservation. This information is provided by COL John Moulton, USA, Retired.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.....EVERY YEAR WE COLLECT CHRISTMAS

CARDS FOR THE VETERANS IN THE HOSPITAL AT DANVILLE. IF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA CHRISTMAS CARDS PLEASE PLACE THEM IN THE CONTAINER LABELED "GREETING CARDS" OVER THE COAT RACK IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. WE WILL DELIVER THEM SOME TIME IN DECEMBER.



Prayers of Grace

Our Prayer Ministry is alive and well and the email responses that many of you have offered to each prayer are uplifting and greatly appreciated by those we pray for. Keep 'em coming!
In need of prayer? - Call the church office (217)522-3965 - Email Sara Oehlert at soehlert@aol.com

Prayer
CHANGES
things

GREET PEOPLE WITH A SMILE AND SAY "MAY THE LORD BLESS YOUR DAY"



What is a Stephen Minister?

A **Stephen Minister** is a caring individual who can help others navigate their present situation. Stephen Ministers are trained to help when people encounter loss, grief, relationship challenges, and a myriad of things that can throw one's life into a tailspin. They are not counselors. They are not "know-it-alls." They are not individuals who try to fix everyone's troubles. They simply provide love, care, and support when it is needed the most. Let

us know if you are in need.

A Grace Ministry of Caring Needs You... Stephen Ministry is asking if you would assist their birthday card ministry by volunteering to send birthday cards to members for a month in 2026. Cards, a list of names, addresses, birthdates, and the stamps will be provided or you may wish to donate. You could pair up with a friend to share a month as well. Please contact Jan Conrady.



HOSPITAL VISITS...Let us know if you are going into the hospital so that we may call on you. Also if you or your family has welcomed a baby to your family also let us know so that child can be recognized with a rose!

IN-PERSON/ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Week	Date	YouTube	Facebook
Pentecost 16	9/28/2025	6	40
Pentecost 16	9/28/2025	56 In-person	56 In-person
Pentecost 17	10/5/2025	12	52
Pentecost 17	10/5/2025	59 In-person	59 In-person
Pentecost 18	10/12/2025	5	43
Pentecost 18	10/12/2025	58 In-person	58 In-person
Pentecost 19	10/19/2025	6	31
Pentecost 19	10/19/2025	54 In-person	54 In-person

Serving the Assembly in November

November 2

Greeter: Mary Jo Anderson
 Ushers: Frank Beckman & Paul Derlitzki
 Reader: Mary Plymire
 Altar Guild: Pat Ekle
 Communion Asst: Aaron Babel

November 9

Greeter: Jean Scherer
 Ushers: Mark & Cindy Anderson
 Reader: Jack Wheaton
 Altar Guild: Kim Gietl
 Communion Asst: Kim Gietl

November 16

Greeter: Pat Casper
 Ushers: Jack & Judy Wheaton
 Readers: Addison & Savannah Downey
 Altar Guild: Deb Smith
 Communion Asst: Diana Weyhenmeyer

November 23

Greeter: Laurie Farrell
 Ushers: Chuck & Diana Weyhenmeyer
 Reader: Arlene Lenser
 Altar Guild: Toni Klit
 Communion Asst: Randy Heidorn

November 30

Greeter: Gari Hurst
 Ushers: Chris & Mary Schofield
 Reader: Verne Nelson
 Altar Guild: Kim Gietl
 Communion Asst: Pat Ekle



NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	
2 ALL SAINTS Daylight Savings time ends 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Grace Forum	3 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i>	4 VOTE ✓ 9:30 am Staff Meeting <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 6:00 pm Twisted Stitchers	5 12:00 pm Grace Forum 4:30 pm Practice
9 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Grace Forum 12 noon Veterans Lunch at St. John's 2:00 pm Benefit Concert	10 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i>	11 VETERAN'S DAY <i>Office Closed</i> <i>FOOD Pantry CLOSED</i>	12 10:30 am 4:30 pm Practice
16 Blood pressure checks 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Grace Forum and Sunday School 11:30 am Sunday School Parent Meeting	17 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i>	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting with Mutual Ministry <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 12:00 noon Admin & Finance 4:30 pm Ruth Circle	19 Thanksgiving Basil 4:30 pm Practice
23 APPEAL SUNDAY 9:15 am Worship with Thank Offerings 9:00-11:00 am Butter Braids 10:30 am Grace Forum	24 <i>11:00-1:00</i> <i>Food Pantry</i> Pew Move	25 9:30 am Staff Meeting <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 6:30 pm Council	26 1:15 pm Practice 4:30 pm Practice
Aaron V. gone			
30 Advent 1 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Grace Forum			

ER 2025

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 pm Faith/ ce Circle 0 pm Choir ctice	6 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study CSIS boundaries training	7	1 Anderson/Webker Wedding FALL BACK
			8 Youth Symphony masterclass at Grace
30 am Property 0 pm Choir ctice	13 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study	14	15 Discover-Y workshop 2
Thanksgiving Food kets 0 pm Choir ctice	20 11:00-1:00 Food Pantry 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study WC Conference at Vandalia	21 Butter Braids 12:30-5:00 pm	22
	Aaron V. gone		
5 pm OS at Food try 0 pm Choir ctice	27 	28 Food Pantry & Office Closed Thursday & Friday	29

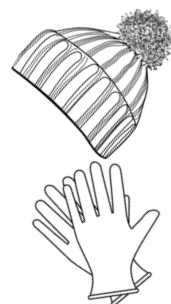


HELPING IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Hats gloves and scarves.... Some have already gone to individuals around the neighborhood and all the others will be handed out in November to the schools, so that the recipients can stay warm all winter.

One tree is designated for adult donations and the other tree is designated for student donations. Please note that McClernand is made up of Pre-school through fourth grades, so some of the students will need smaller sizes.

Thank you, for your continued support of this annual drive!



GLOVES ARE MOST NEEDED

They are not only given to the schools but many who come to the food pantry ask for these essential items. You are welcome and encouraged to bring them throughout the winter months.

Butter Braids, Pizzas and Cookies... NEW ITEM!

Butter braids began for sale the end of October and will end November 16. We will have people pick up Friday, Nov 21 and then Sunday for Grace. How to order: There is an order form on the white board in fellowship hall or Contact Kim or Harold Janssen at docwho1@comcast.net or 217-753-0338.

Butter braids \$18... apple, strawberry cream cheese, cinnamon, cherry, cream cheese, blueberry cream cheese, and four cheese & herb.

Cookies \$18... (40 pre-portioned frozen balls. They do not all have to be baked at the same time) triple chocolate, white chunk macadamia nut, chocolate chip, peanut butter, snickerdoodle.

Pizzas \$18... (two 11" pizzas of the same kind) four cheese, ultimate pepperoni, meat lovers, meat with vegetables, bbq chicken

**Pick up Friday November 21, 12:30-5:00 pm and
Sunday, November 23, 9:00-11:00 am**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.... Friday, November 21, 12:00-5:00 pm or any part of that time we need someone to hand out butter braids through the food pantry window to people who come to pickup their order.



Faith/Grace Circle... meet the first Wednesday of the month.
Our next get together will be **November 5.**

Ruth Circle...Tuesday, November 18, 4:30 pm at Grace

All are welcome! This circle will meet at the earlier time throughout the winter months.



TWISTED STITCHERS...will meet **November 4 at 6:00 pm.**

**THANK OFFERINGS- Mark 12:41-44 The Widow's Mite
November 23, 2025**

For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thank offerings. Each year, Thank offerings are collected and sent to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, in the month of November Women of Grace may send checks made out to Women Of The ELCA with a footnote of "Thank Offering" or cash can be placed in the offering plates. We will have a special prayer of blessing and time of thanks at offering during worship that day. Thank Offerings go entirely to support mission projects such as scholarships for pastors, construction of hospitals, assistance for women' shelters, and support for organizations that are combating human trafficking.



SAVE THE DATE: "Cookies for the Homebound"

event **Saturday, December 13.** Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am followed by packing the cookies. Everyone in the congregation is invited to supply the cookies. Your cookies may be brought to the church

from Sunday, Dec 7 - Saturday, Dec 13 9:00. If there is a person to whom you would like to deliver their cookies let Charlotte know (217) 546-5573 or charblume@gmail.com. If you plan to attend the free breakfast please sign up on the reservation sheet on the white board in the fellowship hall.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council meeting will be held October 28 at 6:30 pm
Financials for September follow:

- ◇ Contribution statement will go out with Time and Talent
- ◇ October 11 Discover-Y at Lincoln Park

FINANCIAL REPORT

September 2025

Income: \$21,587
Expense: \$75,656
DEFICIT (\$54,069)

September 2024

Income: \$28,110
Expense: \$73,030
DEFICIT (\$44,920)

YTD 2025

Income: \$301,219
Expense: \$393,983
DEFICIT (\$92,764)

YTD 2024

Income: \$318,265
Expense: \$385,601
DEFICIT (\$67,336)



Living
Lutheran

Update...

Much like the devotional, we would like to offer the Quarterly Printed version of Living Lutheran through Grace Lutheran.

We will have copies available at the church for pick up or you are welcome to call Kim in the office 217-522-3965 and have one mailed to you, this would help with cost for our community. Online content at www.livinglutheran.org includes LL Stories, a free email digest sending news and stories straight to your inbox. Choose the frequency (weekly, biweekly or monthly) and the topics you're interested in.



YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

I was thinking about our congregation and the wealth of knowledge we have for each other.

Charlotte and Anna Mae are two wonderful examples of strong women we have in the congregation. Charlotte and I were talking Sunday about her message on her walker which says, "God loves you and so do I." She said she got it out of a daily reading she does and Deb Wakefield laminated it for her. I thought what a neat idea. She was talking about how the elderly sometimes gets left out and how this message was for everyone. It was definitely a conversation starter. I think the elderly sometimes feel left out. I know my hearing now isn't as good as it used to be. I hope as I get older I am included in things I want to do. To see Charlotte and Anna Mae every week is a bold statement to me. I hope if I reach their age, I will still attend church weekly. I've often times said, "I want to be like Charlotte when I grow up." Charlotte was our first Bold Woman in our church and very much deserved the award. It is so nice we help each other out. Our community is so strong and helpful to each other. I know of several people I would call if I needed something.



I haven't stayed for Grace Forum for a long time and must admit Charades were fun on Sunday. People enjoyed it and competition was strong between the round team (at the round table) and the square team (at the square table). I wasn't very good at it but enjoyed it a lot. That is a neat way to build community. Playing games always brings people together and builds bonds between people.

I have started smiling at people for fun. Sometimes they smile back. Smiles always makes me happy. Chuck told me my smile caught his eye when we were dating.

We are an inclusive church and welcome everyone who comes to our doors. That is another thing I enjoy about our church. Well I've rambled on enough and will close for now.

In Christ's Love, Diana

DID YOU KNOW?... the person who has been a member at Grace Lutheran Church the longest is Charlotte Blumle.....86 years!

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

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

There has been absolutely no letup in the surge in client numbers that began in June as September marked the fourth straight month that we served over 1,000 households. The 1,032 households we served in the month was a 27 percent increase over last September, and the 2,893 individuals served was 39 percent higher than last year -- so that's more households and bigger households.

For the year through September 30 we had served 8,092 households, a 5 percent increase over the same period in 2024, and 20,888 individuals, a 9 percent increase. Barring an unlikely drop off we will end the year serving well over 10,000 households and 25,000 individuals.

Financially, as reported last month, the \$33,500 we made at our golf outing and a \$10,500 grant from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln gave our balance sheet a huge (and needed) boost going into the last three months of the year. We ended September with an account balance of \$79,845 based on year-to-date donations of \$188,946 against expenses of \$184,679 for a surplus of \$4,267. This position is consistent with recent years, and, although the account balance has begun to draw down again, we will benefit from a few more annual sources of significant donations in the coming weeks.

The Annual Benefit Concert for the pantry, which brought us \$5,000 in free will offerings last year, will be hosted by Grace and JB George on Sunday, Nov. 9. We also will again be the December beneficiary of News Channel 20's 3-Degree Temperature Challenge sponsored by Green Family Stores. We'll receive \$100 for each day the weather forecast is within 3 degrees of the official high temperature. This program has brought us \$2,100 in each of the past two years.

We also look forward to the two biggest food drives that benefit the pantry each year at St. John's Lutheran Church and Our Savior's Lutheran School. Those drives will bring us literally thousands of non-perishable food items just before Thanksgiving.

Also upcoming is the annual partnership activity of pantry volunteers with Grace and Peace Lutheran churches through which Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets are donated to families from McClernand Elementary, Blackhawk Elementary and Franklin Middle schools. We provide baskets to 80 families at each holiday. We'll deliver Thanksgiving baskets on Wednesday, Nov. 19 and Christmas baskets on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

With summer now in the rear view mirror, we thank the many young people (mostly grandchildren and children of volunteers) who helped at the pantry on several occasions.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT CONTINUED...

The summer-to-fall transition also has wound down the fresh produce donations we have received weekly from the Downtown Springfield Farmer's Market and the neighboring Dean's Garden at the Lincoln Home complex. And we appreciate the summer-long donations of non-perishable foods that we received from Bergen Golf Course through the Springfield Park District's "Food Pantry Mondays" program. Golfers who bring food donations to any Park District course on a Monday receive discounted fees that day.

Doug McFarlan, Director

November Birthdays

November 1	Isabella Behl	November 21	Carol Morris Andrew Thannen Deb Wakefield
November 2	Adam Cheek Hallie Christell	November 22	Lee Ann Carlson Jim Orr Gary Thompson
November 3	Jeff Menke Amy Thompson	November 23	Drake Ervin
November 5	Chuck Weyhenmeyer	November 24	Mary Jo Anderson
November 6	Gerald Orban	November 28	Ashleigh Butler Debbie Rigg
November 7	Elaine DiGiovanna	November 29	Nick Loyd Kathy Sakris
November 9	Ann Beckman		
November 10	Liam Darling Roberta Volkman		
November 12	Ron Clark		
November 13	Chelsie Best		
November 18	Kim Janssen		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AND

GOD'S BLESSINGS!



MEMBERS HOMEBOUND/LIMITED MOBILITY

DIXIE ALVIES
SANDY BENANTI
MARY BLUMLE
GLENDA BOWLES

GEORGIANN
BREDEHOFT
RC CURRY
JAMES LEWIS

MARCELLA MCGOWAN
TOM & KATHY MYERS
DEBBIE RIGG
DON THANNEN

GIVING THANKS...

- ♦ A big thank you to all who helped and or donated to the LWR health kits project for 2025. With all your help we were able to make 93 kits. With all the people who stayed after church to help we were done in record time. Thank you to John Rigg for delivering those. Thanks to the wonderful giving members of Grace Lutheran Church!
- ♦ To Doug McFarlan for his continued leadership and ALL THOSE who continue to volunteer in the Food Pantry each week.
- ♦ Thank you to Cindy and Mark Anderson who brought us supper when I did not feel well. Cindy made an excellent pork roast with sides. The meal was delicious and there was enough food to serve us for the next two nights for which we are very grateful. Thanks again, Verne and Carolyn Nelson



Little Lambs Learning Center Update

Hello friends,

Christmas is fast approaching here and I realize it's about that time to put out my call to all my friends who have always been a part of spreading a lot of Christmas cheer to our Little Lambs since we first opened our doors in 2018!! We have children who have grown and graduated from our early learning program, and we have new faces

that have joined our family. It is challenging at times, but God's faithfulness has been constant. At Little Lambs we believe in giving much needed/ practical necessities that our children and their families use in their everyday life when we decide on gifts to give at Christmas.

This year we decided to buy our children some kitchen necessities (pots and pans and cutlery and ladles). We are giving them school backpacks too as they need those to carry their school materials every day.

I went into town yesterday to buy samples of the pans so you can see exactly what you will be giving if you choose to take part in sponsoring a child at Christmas...We will make the purchases locally as pans are bulky and therefore can't be boxed and shipped to

Uganda. We would love to send them home with Christmas hampers too if you're interested in that. Please PM or contact Kimberly Gietl for more information if you're interested in being part of this beautiful cause. We are hoping to serve 25—30 families at a cost of \$75.00 each set. To the right are some pictures of the pots we decided to purchase. Me and Brian have paid for three families ...to get the ball rolling! We love you all! Blessings always!



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.

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

Please call the church office for any information.

Phone: (217) 522-3965

Email: grace.elcaspfld@gmail.com

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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PASTOR

Tom Krieger

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer

CANTOR

JB George

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron VonHolten

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

ONLINE ADMINISTRATOR

Aaron Babel