

Blessed To Be Blessings

November is the month for giving thanks. We begin the month with All Saints Sunday, a day for celebrating especially our blessed dead, particularly those who have passed on the faith to us by the witness of their lives. Some of those saints go back to the earliest church, and include the writers of the books of the New Testament. Others we have had more direct contact with, those who introduced us to the faith, who brought us to be baptized, taught us to pray and to sing the songs of the faith, and who personally nourished and guided our faith. I'm thinking here of my parents and grandparents, but also of my pastors and teachers. Still others have been companions on the journey, fellow congregation members with whom we shared worship, Bible study, or service projects. Giving thanks for the saints on All Saints Sunday reminds us that our life of faith is not a solitary journey. We are not in this alone.

That sense of shared life is also at the heart of what we celebrate later in the month at Thanksgiving. Gratitude connects us to others. It reminds us that all we have—our lives, our talents, our daily bread, and especially the people in our life—comes as gifts from God. And that realization also turns our attention outward. When we give thanks, we are moved to share with others, to be instruments and conduits of God's good gifts.

How appropriate, then, that this month we also celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Grace Food Pantry. For four decades this ministry has been a quiet example of saints in action on this side of the grave. It began with a few faithful volunteers who saw a need in our community, who took Jesus' beatitudes seriously, and whose faith made them want to be partners in making those promised blessings a reality. Week after week, year after year, the Grace Food Pantry has offered food, compassion, and dignity to neighbors in need. Many of those early volunteers are now among the "great cloud of witnesses" we remember on All Saints. But their witness continues through those who have taken up their work.

As you surely know by now, recent changes in government policy are making things even harder for people in need, and we are beginning to see the evidence of that in the numbers coming to us for help. This past Thursday, a fifth Thursday of the month when numbers are typically much lower, we served well in excess of 100 families. At the same time, other changes have made it more difficult, and more expensive, for the Pantry to procure the food we provide.

But even in the midst of these troubled times, we continue to give thanks for all God's blessings, and especially for the opportunity to be a part of blessing our neighbors in need. May those blessings continue to abound!

+ Pastor Repp

-2&3-

God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer

- 4-10 -

Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

- 11 -

World Connections

Service, Advocacy, Ecumenism, Learning

- 12-

November Worship Support Schedule, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Building Use Information, Webpage and Zoom Links

- 13 -

November Calendar

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

313 S Prospect Ave Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 356 6232

www.glccu.org

Like us on Facebook and Instagram! Subscribe to our YouTube Channel



God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer

Remember to Change Your Clocks This Weekend

The clocks turn back by one hour at 2:00am on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

Please Note:

The Grace Lutheran Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Wednesday, November 26—Friday, November 28. It will reopen for normal office hours on Monday, December 1 at 9:00am.

Please Note: We Are Not Having a Thanksgiving Eve Service This Year

We hope that you have a wonderful holiday, and celebration of thanks with your loved ones.

November Faith Circle

Faith Circle meets on the third Tuesday evening of each month at 7 pm in the narthex. All are welcome. We begin the evening with refreshments (coffee and snacks provided by the hostess) and fellowship. The lesson leader presents the Bible study, beginning around approximately 7:30 pm.

This month's Faith Circle is on **Tuesday, November 18th.** It is being hosted by Helen Repp, with Mary Jo Erickson serving as the lesson leader. We collect an offering each month, which will support the ministries of WELCA (Women of the ELCA) as well as selected local and ELCA charities. We use the Bible study materials from *Gather Magazine*, a WELCA publication. *Plan to attend and bring a friend!*

On The Way

On The Way resumed this fall on **Thursday evenings, beginning October 16**, and is meeting through mid-November.

On The Way is a faith-formation opportunity at Grace that connects new and prospective members with established members of our faith community. If you're reading this, you're a candidate for participating in On The Way!

Each 90-minute session begins with conversation on a topic of faith, continues with group reflection on a biblical text, and closes with communal prayer.

We'll meet for *On The Way* in the chapel, from **7:00-8:30 p.m**. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. That timing overlaps with Game Night, but this is only temporary.



Brown Bag Bible Study

Because of various scheduling problems, our biweekly **Thursday lunchtime Bible Study** will end up being a monthly meeting this fall, with a delayed start on **October 30**. All meetings will be from **12:30-1:30** in the Narthex. We'll continue our reading in Romans that we started last spring. There's no preparation necessary.

The remaining dates in the fall schedule are:

-November: 13 -December: 11

Please bring your own lunch. (There is a microwave in the kitchenette if you need to heat anything up.)



God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer

Adult Sunday School

Join us at **11 a.m.** after the service in the Hoffmeister Room for our Adult Sunday School class! Meeting weekly throughout the year, unless otherwise noted.

First Friday Synod Prayer Group

Where and how is the Spirit moving? One way to find out is to gather together regularly for what Luther calls "The Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Saints." You are invited into a time of prayer on Zoom from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on the first Friday of every month.

We will share what the Holy Spirit has laid on our hearts and then lift up those concerns and hopes to God in prayer. This spiritual practice allows us to see Christ and be Christ for one another as the Holy Spirit builds up our communities of faith across the Central Southern Illinois Synod. Come join us as we share our hopes and concerns with God and one another for the sake of our shared life together. You can sign up for the First Friday Synod Prayer Group here: https://www.csis-elca.org/event/first-friday-prayer-group/

Upcoming Musical Events:

December 7 @ 9:30am: Cantata Sunday: Durante's *Magnificat*

December 14 @ 4:00pm: ELCA Advent Concert hosted at Grace Lutheran Church

December 21 @ 9:15am: Mahomet-Seymour Madrigal Singers Service Prelude



Early Advent Project

Social Ministry and the **Grace Lutheran Food Pantry** would like to give our 300+
monthly Pantry patrons a little holiday gift.
Personal care items are often requested.

In the month of November, we will collect care items to distribute during Advent in December. Items to be collected:

Nov 9 - Tooth brushes

Nov16- Toothpaste(4+oz)

Nov 23- Deodorant

Nov 30- Bath size soap

The "grocery cart" will be in the narthex for your donations.

Thank you for your generous giving!



Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

FOOD PANTRY CELEBRATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GRACE FOOD PANTRY.

CHILI COOK-OFF (AND LUNCH)

Sunday, November 2nd at 11:00AM

Place: Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

* Tasting and judging by all the attendees. Donations will determine the winners with all proceeds benefiting the Grace Food Pantry. Please be ready to vote for your favorite chilli with cash or check donations.



Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer



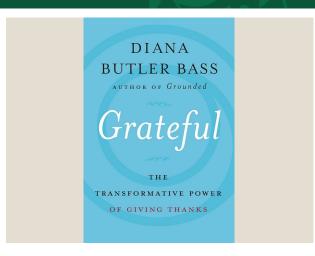
Fall 2025 Outdoor Cleanup Day - Saturday, November 15, 8-12 Noon

Please come help get the outside of Grace tidied up for the winter. We will be raking leaves, stacking fallen branches, trimming some bushes, removing weeds, covering a/c units, and various other outside tasks. Family-friendly opportunity!

Arrive anytime during the first half of morning hours and help us finish by noon! On-site guidance will be available if you have any questions. Coffee and donuts will be available! Please bring your gloves, rakes, pruners and trimmers. Paper Yard waste bags will be provided. All yard bags will need to be moved to the Union Street curb for pick-up by the City.

Church Women United's World Community Day "Be Kind at All Times"

The CWU group is meeting from **9:30-11:00am** on Friday, November **7**, **2025** at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church (808 E. Bradley Ave, Champaign, IL 61822). Please join for a morning of discussions on how to root in kindness and address differences in the world today.



December Book Club

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks by Diana Butler Bass

Diana Bass holds a doctorate in religious studies from Duke University and has written eleven books, as well as articles in a variety of magazines and newspapers. Her work has received numerous literary awards. She also writes a weekly email column called *The Cottage* that is "part retreat, part think tank [and a] place for inspiration and ideas about culture, faith, and spirit."

"There is no better response to this historical moment than cultivating gratitude. This book will show both why and how to do it, and in the process, you will get the extraordinary pleasure of Diana's company, as she rediscovers the gifts that gratitude brings."

—Ana Marie Cox

The Book Club will meet on **Tuesday evening**, **December 2**, at 6 PM in the narthex at Grace Lutheran Church. Please bring your own sack supper. Beverages and a light dessert will be provided. We hope you will join us!

Janet Lepp and Eileen Herrstrom

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer



Chancel Flower Sign-Up for 2026

You are invited to help beautify the sanctuary with flowers for Sunday services in 2026. Remember a special date in your life or a special person with a personal dedication. You may dedicate flowers for more than one Sunday.

The cost of flowers for one Sunday is \$50 and the florist supplying and delivering your arrangement to church is Fleurish on Walnut Street in downtown Champaign. After the service on the Sunday you dedicate flowers, you may take the floral arrangement home.

The sign-up will take place in the narthex on the Sundays of October 26, November 2 and November 9 following the church service. Listed here are the dates which are available for you to sponsor flowers. We do not use flowers during Lent and not during a few additional Sundays during the year. If you are unable to sign up at church, you may call Gloria Rainer and leave a message about the date you would like to sponsor flowers. Gloria will return your call and verify. If you reserve a date for flowers via a telephone call to Gloria, please send your check to her or place your check in the "Flower mailbox" labeled with Shirley Traugott's and Gloria's names.

At the time you sign-up, please pay for the flowers using cash or a check. Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church, Memo – Chancel Flowers.

Thank you very much for your support and participation! If you have any questions, or need Gloria Rainer's contact information, please call the Grace Office at (217)356-6232 or email office@glccu.org

2026 Dates to Sponsor

Flowers (Some Dates have Now Been Sponsored, Please Check for Current Date Availability When Signing Up for Yours):

January: 11, 18, 25 February: 1, 8, 15

March: none (no flowers are used during Lent)

March: 29 - Palm Sunday (Palms) April: 5 – Easter (Easter Flowers)

April: 19 & 26

May: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 June: 7, 14, 21, 28 July: 5, 12, 19, 26

August: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September: 6, 13, 20, 27 October: 4, 11, 18, 25 November: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

December: 6, 13, 20



Community Connections Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer



What's on Your Calendar for 2026?

Do you enjoy receiving a bit of "snail mail" from time to time? If you're like me, a personal note immediately rises to the top of the pile of mail that is much more often "junk mail," ads, or solicitations for donations than it is personal letters these days. That infrequent-but-welcome note from a friend or relative is becoming a "little gem" in a world where email and texting reign supreme.

We at Grace mail both birthday and anniversary cards, yes, "snail mail," to people in the GLC family who are celebrating those occasions. Would you like to help? Typically, volunteers offer to cover one or two months. This card ministry assignment would take about 2-3 hours of time per month. All materials (cards, recipient lists, adhesive address labels, and postage) are provided. The volunteer writes a brief personal note to the recipient and drops the card in the mail a few days before the recipient's special day.

The cards themselves are lovely thanks to the generosity of Meg Loven, who is our very own "stamping expert." A couple times a year we gather a small group to stamp new cards, and Meg has been providing materials and guidance at our "stamping parties" for several years.

The Parish Life Committee invites you to consider this opportunity to help our faith community celebrate special occasions. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Kathy Bowersox.

For Parish Life, **Kathy Bowersox**



It's Stewardship Time!

Actually, stewardship is a year-round practice that covers not only financial support of our congregation, but also all of the other support our members provide: the time and talent you so generously share in all of the tasks involved in worship support, the behind-the scenes efforts to maintain and improve our property and building, and your presence at our services and other activities. In all of those ways you have stepped up and pitched in. Thanks you! But November is the time when we focus on financial support of Grace in advance of writing a budget for the coming year. Pledge cards will be sent out very soon in the mail, and you will be hearing Temple Talks during 3 Sundays this month. Pledge cards will be collected during the service on November 23. Please take time to consider this important part of our life together at Grace.

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

Council Corner November 2025

The following information is from the October 14, 2025 Council Meeting

New Action Items for Council:

A) Resolution to appoint Debbie Peterson as ad-interim Treasurer

Whereas the Treasurer's office is vacant; and Whereas Article 2, Section 5 of the bylaws states that "Vacancies concerning ad interim on the Congregation Council shall be filled by the Council";

Resolved

that the Council elect Debbie Peterson as adinterim Treasurer, a legal member of the Council with full voting rights, beginning 14 October 2025,

that Debbie's election by the Council be confirmed by the Congregation at its next meeting or not later than the Congregation meeting currently scheduled for 25 January 2026, and

that her ad-interim term of office expire on 1 June 2026 or unless the Congregation elects a new Treasurer prior to this date.

Delegates Needed

The Central/Southern Synod Assembly of the ELCA for 2026 will be held June 6. Grace needs two delegates—a male and a female and an alternate for each. This year the assembly is online and just the one day. If anyone is interested in being our delegate please let Ruth Anderson or Mary Jo Erickson know. We will be voting on these delegates at our January congregational meeting so it is not too early to begin thinking about it.

Mark Your Calendars for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Dear Grace Community,

We will be holding our semi-annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25, 2026, at 10:45am, (following the worship service), to approve the Annual Budget and vote on delegates for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly and the East Central Conference Assembly.

We expect the meeting will be conducted inperson with a Zoom option to participate.

Marlys Scarbrough Congregational President



Please Take Pictures!

Thank you for the photos that have been sent through so far! We love including them in the Grace publications.

Grace doesn't have anyone assigned to take photos at our events. But most of you carry very good cameras in your pockets and purses (your cell phones!) Send the office pictures of church events that we can share in *GraceNotes* and *Connections*.

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer



Back-to-Back Bach: 275th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 16, 2025 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Grace Lutheran Church 313 S Prospect Ave., Champaign IL

Celebrate the durable delights of J.S. Bach's music! We're honoring the 275th anniversary of his death with two of Bach's best-loved works. They're a perfect start to your holiday season, with their themes of Advent and Christmas. First, his *Magnificat in D* will thrill you with its grand choruses and stunning solos, accented with trumpet and timpani. Next, you'll hear his *Gloria in D* — a work so dazzling that Bach used it again in his famous *Mass in B Minor*. You're sure to feel a festive mood, as chorus and orchestra join in the richly intertwined melodies that Bach does best. Please stay afterward for a reception with cake.

Tickets: \$20/adults \$10/students
Tickets can be printed or displayed on a phone.

Doors open 30 minutes early.

Come as you are; our concerts are casual!

Livestream This event will be offered live online! Look for details close to the concert date.

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

Treasurer's Report

SEPT 2025 Monthly Report	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE		
INCOME	\$34,472.78	\$184,354.54		
EXPENSES	\$27,415.16	\$217,870.97		
NET	\$7,057.62	\$(-33,516.43)		

SEPTEMBER Income Income giving was slightly higher than expected. But over \$9,000 in Quarterly interest from the CDs caused a surplus this month.

(Monthly budgeted \$24,666.67)

SEPTEMBER Expenses Expenses were a little less than budgeted. (Monthly budgeted \$28,744.66)

SEPTEMBER NET was a surplus of \$7,057.62 Year to date deficit is \$(-33,516.43) Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Peterson



Food Pantry Updates

The Grace Food Pantry has been busy! In **October**, the pantry reached:

Oct. 2: 87 households, 326 individuals
Oct. 9: 66 households, 220 individuals
Oct. 16: 55 households, 249 individuals
Oct. 23: 111 households, 427 individuals
Oct. 30: 110 households, 471 individuals

That's **429** total families and **1693** people in our community that have been served by this ministry during the month of October. To support the work that the Food Pantry does, you can donate online at https://glccu.org/donate/.

Grace Lutheran Church's November Committee Meeting Schedule:

- Worship & Music Committee: November 3 at 1:00pm (Pastor's Office)
- Executive Committee: Tuesday, November 4 at 4:30pm (Pastor's Office)
- Property Committee: Sunday, November 2 at 10:45am (Chapel)
- Council: Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00pm (Hoffmeister Room & Zoom)
- Finance Committee: Monday, November 10 at 6:30pm (Hoffmeister Room)
- **Parish Life Committee:** Thursday, November 20 at 6:00pm (Zoom) *Please note there will not be a Parish Life Committee meeting in December.*

World Connections

Service, Advocacy, Ecumenism, Learning



ELCA Good Gifts Guide 2026

Start your holiday planning early with the ELCA Good Gifts Guide 2026. An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

Click the link to learn more about gifting livestock, climate resilience and safe birth kits, health aid, and much more through this ELCA program:

https://goodgifts.elca.org/page/72439/shop/1



Ongoing LWR Projects

Lutheran World Relief was founded in the United States after World War II. LWR tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to challenges that threaten their livelihood and wellbeing. LWR works with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality, and they do not evangelize. The mission of LWR is to affirm God's love for all people, working with other Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering. Click the link to read more about some of their ongoing projects: https://link.nih.god/worloads/

ELCA C/SIS Newsletter Sign-up

Click the link to add yourself to the ELCA Central/Southern Illinois Synod's e-newsletter list! Receive their online publications and stay up to date about happenings and events around the area and state! https://www.csis-elca.org/forms/newsletter-signup/



God's Love Made Real

God's Love Made Real is shorthand for the ELCA's vision statement and encompasses all the ways our congregations, synods and ministries are helping the world around us know the love of God in Jesus. Click to learn more.

Worship Support for November 2025									
	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30				
Assisting Minister	Kathy Bowersox	Helen Repp	Dennis Archer	Eileen Herrstrom	Marlys Scarbrough				
Reader	Russ Dankert	Liv McPherson	Kathy Bowersox	Dennis Archer	Meg Loven				
Deacons	Jim Anderson	TBD	Dan Lepp	Nancy Marshall and Art Traugott	Tina Fehrenbacher				
Cantor	Helen Repp	Helen Repp	Helen Repp	Eileen Herrstrom	TBD				
Greeters	Bev Kieffer & Jim Fleming	Bob & Emily Dorsey & Family Erick & Meg Lover		Dave & Carol Larson	Carolyn Pater & Jim Fleming				
Ushers	Dave & Carol Larson	Brian & Amy Nicely	Van & Kathy Bowersox	Bev Kieffer & Mary Jo Erickson	Dave & Carol Larson				
Livestreamer	Meg Loven	Dave Brown	Jim Anderson	Michael Miller	Kevin Vail				
Coffee Hour	Chili Cook-off	Mary Jo Erickson and Gail Hug	The Repps		The Lepps				
Flowers	Nancy & Rodney Marshall	Leanne & Ray Wichus	Jim Fleming	Alice Hadley	JoEllen DeVilbiss				
Dedication	In Celebration of Our 20 th Wedding Anniversary	In Celebration of Addison Wichus' Birthday	In Memory of Jo Fleming	In Memory of Henry Hadley	In Memory of Reid Alexander				

• **Using GLC Facilities**

Our facilities are available for use by members and by outside groups. To use the space, please fill out a facilities use request form on the website (<u>click the link to the form here</u>) and email it to <u>office@glccu.org</u>. Once the request is approved, it will be added to the calendar, and you can make arrangements to pick up a key if necessary. For more information please visit the website at https://glccu.org/facility-use/ or call (217) 356-6232.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund allows the church to offer financial assistance to people in our community. The office receives requests for help with rent, utilities, and other needs, and your donations make this important work possible! To donate to this fund, you can give online at https://glccu.org/donate/ or by mailing a check to the church office with "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.

Online Resources

Please see your email for the list of webpages and how to access them.

Grace Meeting Zoom Link

Please see your email for the Grace Meeting Zoom link.

November 2025 Calendar

November 2023 Caleman							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
•9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •10:45am Property Committee (CH) •11:00am Food Pantry Celebration Chili Cookoff (FH) •12:00pm Women's AA (CH) •1:30 ELCA Advent Concert Prep Rehearsal (S &CL)	3 •1:00m Worship & Music Committee Meeting (P) •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	4 •4:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (P) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	5 •7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CL)	6 •10:00am Food Pantry (FH)	7	8 •Dada Bhagwan Vignan Institute (FH, N)	
9 Grace Food Pantry Sunday •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (CH) •1:30 ELCA Advent Concert Prep Rehearsal (S &CL)	•10:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (H) •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	•6:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH) •7:00pm Council (H)	•7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CL)	•10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Game Night (N)	•6:00pm BACH Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall Reserved overnight 11/14- 11/15 after set- up)	•7:00pm BACH Rehearsal (S, N, H, FH)	
•9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (CH) •1:00pm BACH Concert (S, FH)	•7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	•6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH) •7:00pm Faith Circle (N)	•7:00am Food Pantry Truck Delivery (FH) •10:00am Comrades of Art (N) •7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CL)	•10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Parish Life Committee Meeting (Zoom)	21	22	
World Hunger Sunday •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (CH)	•10:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	•6:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH) •7:00pm Social Ministry Committee (N)	26 Grace Office Closed •7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service (S)	27 Grace Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	28 Grace Office Closed	29	
30 Advent •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (CH) •1:30 ELCA Advent Concert Prep Rehearsal (S &CL)			(S) Sanctuary (CL) Choir Loft (N) Narthex (K) Kitchenette (P) Pastor's Office (CH) Chapel (H) Hoffmeister (CR) Class Rooms (N) Nursery (FH) Fellowship Hal	1			