

Grace Connections

Lutheran Church
Champaign, Illinois

The Heart of the Matter

I expect that most of you are familiar with Luther's seal, shown here, and there is a good chance that you have also heard Luther's own explanation of the design, which he said was a visual summary of his whole theology. The black cross within a red heart, he said, is a depiction of Romans 10:10, "one believes [in Christ] with the heart and so is justified," that is, made right with God. This believing, or maybe better, "trusting," is what the Christian faith is. And when the gift of faith makes us right with God, that leads to a life characterized by joy, comfort, and peace. But the joy that faith gives is not the kind of joy the world promises, says Luther, and that is why the rose is white. The joy of faith is the joy shared by the angels, which Jesus spoke about in the parable of the lost coin: "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10) The white rose is set in a sky-blue circle representing the hope of heaven. And the golden circle that encloses the seal represents the eternal nature of that hope.



I just learned that Luther wrote the explanation for his seal in the summer of 1530, right around the time that the Lutheran reformers were presenting their statement of faith to the Holy Roman Emperor in an effort to end the conflict with the church caused by Luther's theological awakening and the Roman Catholic establishment's unwillingness to make room for his discoveries. That statement of faith is now called the Augsburg Confession. At the heart of that document are articles 4-6. Article four says that there is nothing that we do to merit the salvation worked by Jesus' death and resurrection, but we obtain it purely by God's grace, through faith. Article five goes on to clarify that faith, too, is a work of God the Holy Spirit, which is worked in us when we hear the promise of the gospel. The job of the church is to communicate that promise, in word and in sacrament, so that the Holy Spirit can do the Spirit's work of faith-creation. Article six then talks about the results of faith. When, by God's grace and the work of the Spirit, we come to trust God's promises, then we can't help but do good in the world for the sake of our neighbor. Our works and deeds are not a to-do list left over after our faith is created. They are a spontaneous result of trusting in God. In other words, they're not what we *have* to do, they're what we *get* to do, joyfully. That is the heart of the matter that we celebrate on Reformation Sunday.

+ Pastor Repp

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.glccu.org

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God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer

October 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, October 20th**. It is being hosted by Helen Repp, with Kathy Bowersox 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!***

Visit from the Bishop Sunday, November 1st

Bishop Greg Busboom will be joining us for the Sunday Morning Service at Grace Lutheran Church, and will give a presentation in the Fellowship Hall following the service:

9:30am—Sunday Morning Service

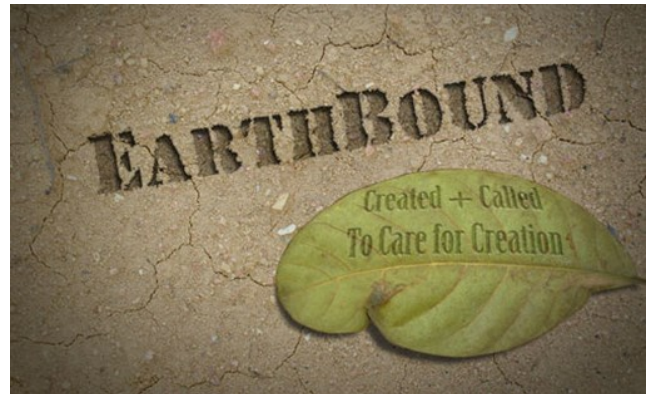
10:45am—Presentation in the Fellowship Hall

Light refreshments will be provided after the service, in the Fellowship Hall. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to bring anything. Thanks!

Music Note:

The **Grace Bell Choir** will perform on **October 4th** during the 9:30am Sunday morning Service.

The **October 18th** Sunday morning service will be a **Guitar Service**.



Adult Sunday School

Beginning on October 18 we'll be led through a six-session program from Select Learning focused on creation and our relationship to it, drawing on the Lutheran emphases on justification and vocation.

The series explores the origins of some common misconceptions about Scripture's portrayal of creation, inviting us see care for creation as part of our baptismal vocation. We'll also learn how God's people throughout the Church are living out that call.

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.

Fall SCHEDULE:

October 4 – no class (Synod Day)

October 11 – no class (Food Pantry Lunch)

October 18 – Earthbound, session 1

October 25 – Earthbound, session 2

November 1 – Bishop's Holy Land Presentation

November 8 – Earthbound, sessions 4-6

November 15 – Earthbound, sessions 4-6

November 22 – Earthbound, sessions 4-6

November 29 – Earthbound, sessions 4-6

December 6 – St. Andrew's Presentation

December 13 & 20 – TBD

God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer



FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY

2026 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Days

Synod Days: East Central Conference

Sunday, October 4, 2026 - 2:00-7:00pm
at Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign

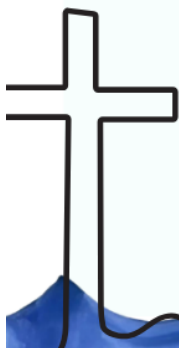
Join us for a day of worship, learning, fellowship, and relationship-building for all generations of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

Each synod day includes:

- Cross-generational worship
- Activities for children and families
- Shared meal
- State of the Synod video
- Q&A with synod staff
- Mission moments from each conference
- Four “Spirit Labs” workshop options (each person may choose 2):
 - **The Foolishness of Trying to Save Your Church: Letting Go So We Can Go!** led by Bishop Greg Busboom
 - **Jesus Journeys and Faithful Field Trips**, led by Deacon Jason Fisher, Director for Evangelical Mission
 - **Body Building with Love: Tools for Adaptability**, led by Pastor Kristen Schmid, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Communities
 - **Here I Am, Send Me! A Vocational Workshop**, led by Pastor Amy Zietlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Leadership

For the work of ministry: Living out our baptismal calling to:

- live among God’s faithful people
- hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s supper
- proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- strive for justice and peace in all the earth



Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

**Get Ready! From Pastor Chapman
at Good Shepherd Lutheran:**

HOPS & HYMNS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

5-7 PM

**Riggs Beer Company,
Urbana**

SONG BOOKS PROVIDED



Reminder the Crop Walk is Sunday, October 4th

Hunger and food insecurity continue to rise locally, nationally, and internationally. Donations raised for the CROP Walk support Church World Services' hunger outreach programs. A percentage of the proceeds from the local walk stays in our community to support local programs addressing food insecurities.

This year's CROP Walk will be in Urbana, **starting at the Unitarian Church on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00.** If you are interested in walking or supporting this year's CROP Walk, please contact Sandy at (217) 621-9417 or Elaine at (217) 359-5421.

Food Pantry Thank-you Luncheon for the Congregation, Sunday, October 11, 2026

This is an invitation from the Grace Pantry Board to join us (including family and significant others) on **Sunday, October 11th at 10:45am** in the Fellowship Hall for a free luncheon sponsored by the Pantry Board.

This is a small token to show our appreciation for all the prayers, donations and volunteer hours that all have put in to make the pantry what it is today.

We thank God for all of you & hope to see you on the 11th!

-Grace Pantry Board



Card Stamping with Meg Loven

We will be stamping birthday and anniversary cards with Meg Loven on **Monday, October 5th, beginning at 10:00am** in the narthex. The cards we make go out to the congregation for special occasions throughout the year.

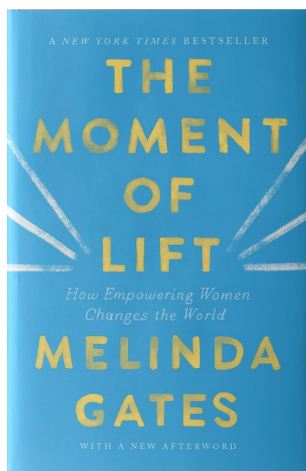
Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

November Book Club

**The Moment of Lift:
How Empowering
Women Changes
the World (2019)**

**by Melinda French
Gates**



“Melinda tells the stories of the inspiring people she’s met through her work all over the world, digs into the data, and powerfully illustrates issues that need our attention—from child marriage to gender inequity in the workplace.”

—President Barak Obama

The book is “about gender equity, and its golden thread is empathy. This book lifts up the voices of women and girls whose experiences have been entirely unlike Melinda’s own. They’ve taught her a great deal, and in this beautifully crafted and artful memoir, Melinda Gates invites the reader to learn from them too.”

—Dr. Paul Farmer, Harvard Medical School

We will discuss the book at a new time—**Saturday November 21, 2026, at 9:30 AM—in the Narthex at Grace Lutheran Church.**

We have a limited number of copies for \$10 from Jane Addams bookstore, and others are available through libraries and bookstores.

Hot drinks and snacks will be provided.

We hope you will join us!

-Janet Lepp and Eileen Herrstrom



Fall 2026 Outdoor Cleanup Day - Saturday, November 14, 8-12 Noon

**Join this family-friendly opportunity.
Coffee and donuts available!**

Help tidy up Grace for the winter. Among the tasks, we will rake leaves, stack fallen branches, trim bushes, remove weeds, & cover A/C units.

Arrive early and help us finish by noon. On-site guidance will be available for questions. Please bring gloves, rakes, pruners and trimmers. Paper yard-waste bags will be provided. Bags will be moved to the Union Street curb for city pick-up.

October Game Nights at Grace Lutheran

Gather with friends and enjoy an evening together! **Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, from 6:00-8:00pm**, a group will meet for Games in the Narthex. The group will gather to enjoy each other's company and engage in card and board games. **The dates for this month are October 8th and 22nd.**

If you are interested, please let Jim Fleming know. *Come and join us, and feel free to bring along your favorite game!*

Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

Council Corner July-September 2026 (there was no meeting in August)

The following information is from the July 2026 Council Meeting:

New Action Items for Council July 2026:

A) From Finance Committee: A motion: Whereas, The Grace Finance Committee has been evaluating other insurance companies for the past year; Be it resolved that the Grace Lutheran Church Council approve moving our insurance coverage (property and workman's compensation) from Church Mutual to Goodville Insurance thru the local broker Loman-Ray of Sullivan Illinois effective August 1, 2026.

– ***The motion was approved***

B) Due to many members of Exec being on vacation, the Exec Committee recommends that the Executive Committee and Grace Council meetings for August be cancelled. – ***The Executive Committee and Grace Council meetings for August are cancelled.***

C) Had a phone call from Champaign Unit 4 asking if Grace will continue to be a Community Crisis partner with Dr. Howard school for the 2026-2027 school year. – ***A motion was made and approved to continue to be a Community Crisis partner. Debbie will follow through with Dr. Howard School.***

D) We received a Facilities request from Nicole Vandervlugt to use the organ for personal practice. – ***After some discussion, the request was approved, the practice times need to be coordinated with Mike Keely.***

There were no New Action Items for the Council at the September 2026 meeting.



Stewardship Time is Coming Up!

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. *Thank you!*

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 at the end of October, in the mail, and you will be hearing Temple Talks during the Sunday morning services on November 1st, November 8th, and November 15th.

Pledge cards will be collected during the service on November 22. Please take time to consider this important part of our life together at Grace.

Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

Treasurer's Report

AUGUST 2026 Monthly Report	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME	\$ 16,688.59	\$ 162,544.04
EXPENSES	\$ 25,491.06	\$ 200,336.73
NET	\$ (-8,802.47)	(\$ -37,792.69)

AUGUST Income was less than expected this month . (Monthly budgeted **\$20,833.33**)

AUGUST Expenses were a little less than expected. (Monthly budgeted **\$27,200.25**)

AUGUST NET is **\$ (-8,802.47)**

Year-to-Date Actual Deficit is **(\$ -37,792.69)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Peterson, Treasurer



Food Pantry Updates

The Grace Food Pantry has been busy!
In **September 2026**, the pantry reached:

- **Sept. 3:** 101 households, 408 individuals
- **Sept. 10:** 91 households, 357 individuals
- **Sept. 17:** 91 households, 331 individuals
- **Sept. 24:** 124 households, 511 individuals

That's **407** total families and **1607** people in our community that have been served by this ministry during the month of September.

To support the work that the Food Pantry does, you can donate online at <https://glccu.org/donate/>.

• 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 ([click the link to the form here](#)) and email it to office@glccu.org. 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.

• 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.

World Connections

Service, Advocacy, Ecumenism, Learning



World Food Day is October 16th!

Your gifts help our church respond to hunger and poverty through hundreds of projects in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. These gifts are brought together with the skills, capacity and resources of local communities to make transformative changes.

One out of every 11 people — as many as 720 million — in our world are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to accompany communities in need because we work with congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as other partners and Lutheran churches overseas. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to farm animals, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Click the link to make an online donation at:

[Support ELCA World Hunger Today](#)

Offering envelopes are also available in the pews at Grace Lutheran Church.

You Can Mail Your Donation:

Make checks payable to ELCA World Hunger.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA Gift Processing Center

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

The C-U Refugee Center

The Refugee Center is a local, Champaign-Urbana, non-profit organization that has been serving refugee, migrant, and immigrant families since 1980. We can help immigrants and refugees with orientation to the United States; document translation; immigration paperwork; public benefits access such as SNAP, WIC, TANF, SSI, Medicaid, and All-Kids; health care; legal referrals; know your rights training; family emergency plan preparation; and more. We offer our services in over 300 languages.

For more info or to put families or organizations in touch with us, please contact us at:

Office Phone: (217) 344-8455

Website: www.therefugeecenter-cu.org/

Instagram: @the_refugee_center

Facebook: @TheRefugeeCenter

How You Can Help

Ready to help? Great! Let's work together to make a difference. We often need volunteers to:

- Tutor a client in English
- Translate documents
- Serve as an interpreter at the Center
- Serve as an interpreter in the community
- Teach citizenship classes
- Tutor students one-on-one
- Monitor playtime on Saturday mornings
- Plan fundraisers and special events
- Provide office assistance
- Complete marketing and development projects
- Serve as a board members

Worship Support for October 2026

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Assisting Minister	Denis Archer	Kathy Bowersox	Helen Repp	Eileen Herrstrom
Reader	Andy Grichnik	Chet Alwes	Lacy Grichnik	Russell Dankert
Deacons	Lois Wilken			
Greeters	Kathy & Van Bowersox			
Ushers	Grigorescu & Thackery families	Dave & Carol Larson	Brian & Amy Nicely	Jeff & Tina Fehrenbacher
Livestreamer	Dave Brown	Michael Miller	Jim Anderson	Meg Loven
Coffee Hour	Andy & Lacy Grichnik and Grace Schoedel	Food Pantry Luncheon	Kathy & Van Bowersox	The Dorsey Family
Flowers	Nancy & Rodney Marshall	Debbie Peterson	Debbie Peterson	Jim Fleming
Dedication	In memory of Lance Wimberly, Tim Marshall, Susan Freiburg and Aunt Ruth Schmidt	In honor of Bev Kieffer	In memory of my dad, Fritz Wojcik	In memory of Jo

Grace Office Schedule:

The Grace Lutheran Church office is open Monday—Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Exceptions will be announced in our GraceNotes or in the monthly newsletter.

Grace Lutheran Staff:

Pastor— Chris Repp

Office Assistant—Karen Maher

Director of Music—Kyle Schrage

Organist—Mike Keeley

Grace Council Officers:

Council President—Marlys Scarbrough

Council Vice President—Dale Herrstrom

Council Treasurer—Debbie Peterson

Council Secretary—Kevin Vail

Grace Council:

Liaison to Finance

Dennis Archer

Liaison to Property

Van Bowersox

Liaison to Parish Life

Dee Ehler

Liaison to Social Ministry

Tina Fehrenbacher

Financial Secretary

Gail Hug

Member-at-Large

Leanne Wichus

Alt. Liaison to Social Ministry

Alicia Winter

Grace Committee Chairs:

Worship & Music—Ruth Anderson

& Carolyn Pater

Finance Committee—Debbie Peterson

Parish Life Committee—Kathy Bowersox

Property Committee—Rotating Chairpersons

Social Ministry Committee—Lois Wilken

Ministry Coordinators:

Altar Care—Ruth Anderson

Assisting Ministers—Pastor Chris Repp

Deacons, Greeters—Karen Maher

Flowers—Gloria Rainer & Shirley Traugott

Readers—Carolyn Pater

Sound Technician, Livestream—Ruth Anderson

Ushers—Dave Larson

Wedding Coordinator—Claire Vail

October 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	(S) Sanctuary (CL) Choir Loft (N) Narthex (K) Kitchenette (P) Pastor's Office (CH) Chapel	(H) Hoffmeister (CR) Class Rooms (N) Nursery (FH) Fellowship Hall		1 •10:00am Food Pantry (FH)	2 •8:00am Fellowship Hall RESERVED 8:00-11:30am	3 Synod Day Preparations (Full Building RESERVED)
4 •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H) •1:30pm Synod Day (Full Building)	5 •10:00am Card Stamping with Meg Loven (N) •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	6 •10:30am Property Committee Meeting (CH) •4:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (P) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	7 •8:00am Fellowship Hall RESERVED 8:00-11:30am •7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	8 •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Game Night (N)	9 no events scheduled	10 no events scheduled
11 <i>Grace Food Pantry Sunday</i> •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •9:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry Thank-you Lunch Set-up, Event & Clean-up •12:00pm Women's AA (H)	12 •10:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (H) •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	13 •6:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH) •7:00pm Council (H & Zoom)	14 •7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	15 •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •2:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting (N) •6:00pm Parish Life Committee (Zoom)	16 no events scheduled	17 no events scheduled
18 •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H)	19 •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	20 <i>Newsletter Copy Deadline</i> •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH) •7:00pm Faith Circle (N)	21 •7:00am Food Pantry Truck Delivery (FH) •10:00am Comrades in Art (N) •7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	22 •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Game Night (N)	23 no events scheduled	24 no events scheduled
25 <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H) •3:00pm Mark Woolwine Piano Recital (S & N)	26 •10:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CL)	27 •6:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	28 •7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	29 •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •4:00pm Mutual Ministry (H)	30 no events scheduled	31 Bishop's Visit Preparations (Fellowship Hall RESERVED)