

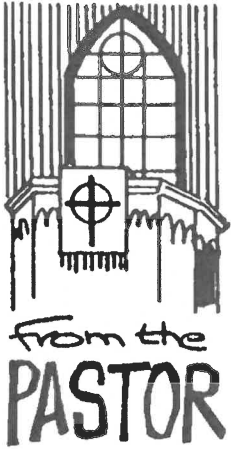
February  
2025  
Edition

# The Lamp

## Grace Lutheran Church

Making Christ known to all through Worship, Service, and Fellowship

### Love



Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, "When a chap is in love, he will go out in all kinds of weather to keep an appointment with his beloved. Love can be demanding; in fact, more demanding than law. It has its own imperatives. Think of a mother sitting by the bedside of a sick child through the night, impelled only by love. Nothing is too much trouble for love." Jesus makes it clear as he draws near the cross that his motivation is love. He is choosing to make this sacrifice. He is choosing to be faithful to what God has put before him.

There is a tale that in the first century a man came to Tertullian, a father in the early church. And in trying to justify some compromises the man had felt he had to make, commented, "I have to live, don't I?" to which Tertullian is reported to have said, "Do you?" The challenge is to focus away from self and to others, to ask where our real values are—survival only, or living as to make a difference. Leo Tolstoy said, "The only certain happiness in life is to live for others." It is when we see the world with a larger level than self. It is when we become concerned with others that we find the depth of God's love for our lives.

In the month of February, we find ourselves surrounded by hearts and valentine wishes of "be mine". This is the month of "love". In this "me first" society how is it that you and I find the depth of God's love for our lives. It is often said, "love is not love until you give it away". In this month of February, in any month, how are we "giving it away". As brothers and sisters in Christ we are challenged to love our neighbor, the hungry, the lonely, the enemy, the homeless, the imprisoned, the stranger, the voiceless, etc.

Happy Valentines,  
Happy Loving,  
Pastor Paul




GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 907 LUTHER DRIVE  
 WILMINGTON, IL 60481  
 (815) 476-9480

# February 2025

**Kuzma Item**  
 Canned  
 Fruit

Making Christ known to all through Worship, Service, and Fellowship

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

							<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Groundhog Day 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9am Friday Crew Noon Graceful Ladies @ Knockin' Boots in Coal City	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b> 9am Worship Coffee time Council Meeting 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:30 Preschool Valentines Party in Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b> 10:30 Preschool Valentines Party in Fellowship Hall	<b>14</b> Valentines Day 9am Friday Crew 	<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b> 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	<b>17</b> President's Day No Preschool Office Closed	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Friday Crew	<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b> 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	<b>24</b> <i>Lamp articles due!</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9am Friday Crew		

## VOLUNTEERS

**Assisting Minister** **Lector**  
 Christy Ziller Lynn Stehlik  
 Dee Eisner Helen Warke  
 Dave Phillips Karen Nielsen  
 Christy Ziller Mark Lange  
 Dee Eisner Jackie D.

### Videographer

Mark Lange  
 Lynn Stehlik  
 Christy Ziller  
 Lynn Stehlik  
 Mark Lange

### Greeters

Maryann & Will Ricken  
 Marsha & Phil Keller  
 Cindy & John Flas  
 Jim & Arlene Hankins  
 Terry & Dave Phillips

### Ushers

Cindy & John Flas  
 Jim & Arlene Hankins  
 Dan Bell & Bruce Elsner  
 Maryann & Will Ricken  
 Diane Creed & Gary Gruhn

Altar Guild: Dee Elsner

## In Our Prayers



Members: Marie Christian, Susan Trimby, Terry Phillips, Cindy Filas, Norma Siebring, Andy Nielsen, David Kirstein

Home-bound: Ruth Chew (at home), Marie Christian (at home),

Doris Dickey (Riverside Senior Living, Kankakee), Joann House (Sunny Hill, Joliet), Jean Goodwin (Bickford House, Bourbonnais), John Muday, (Arcadia Care, Morris)

Friends and Family of Grace: Jan Stage (sister to Jackie Danalewich),

Al Zlomie Sr. (our custodian), Carrie Francis (friend of Jackie Danalewich),

Mary Ellen Webb (sister of John Filas), Tim Nelson (one of our musicians),

Candy Marshall (Jim Hankins' sister), Sarah (Jean Petersen's granddaughter),

Karen (Jean Petersen's daughter), Bobby Schamonski (friend of Grace Lutheran),

Melinda (niece of Jodi Dzak), Robert Cooper (friend of Dan Bell),

Jeanie (sister to Bonnie Hill), Linda Wilder (daughter of Marie Christian),

April Highbaugh (friend of the Folkestads), Yaniv (grandson of Ruth Chew),

Lucy Cranmer (great granddaughter of Helen Warke), Brian (son of Marie Christian),

Edward McCarthy (son of Barbara Kirstein), Rita Francis (friend of Jackie Danalewich),

Elle Ingalls (friend of the Kellers), Chris Thompson (grandson of JoAnn Thompson),

Brenda (daughter of Norma Siebring), Christopher Warke (son of Helen Warke),

Roger Gundersen (son-in-law of Helen Warke), John Pick (nephew of Helen Warke)

Reese Wyers (granddaughter of Cindy & John Filas),

Catherine Conger (daughter of Karen Nielsen), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

## Preschool News



We are so ready for Valentine's Day! January flew by. We made snowmen, Eskimo's, cardinals and fun winter hats. Take a look in our hallways to see all of our fun crafts we did! We love doing crafts!

We are excited about our Valentine's Day parties. The parents plan our parties and do a great job. We will be having ice cream sundaes.

February is dental health month and we always enjoying learning about how to take care of our teeth.

We continue to enjoy our chapel time stories.

Our learning concepts for February are:

Alphabet—L, H, W

Color—Pink

Number—6

Shape—Heart

Value—Helping others

Opposites—open/closed

Emphasis—Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Dental Health month

Community Helpers—Dentists and Mail Carriers

Bible Story—God Loves the Children

Mary Kay Hays, Director

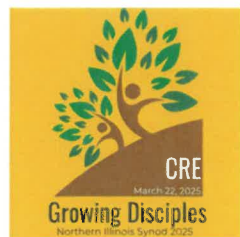
**Grace on Social Media**

Grace is getting a lot of attention on social media these days. On facebook, you should be seeing weekly posts about worship and congregation activities. Follow our professional page at **Grace Lutheran Church, Wilmington, IL**. This is the page that houses our live and archived worship services. The more followers we get, the more our page will pop up on community streams. You'll be helping to get the word out about Grace. Ask your family and friends to follow Grace too! Be a friend on our social page **Grace Wilmington**. On this page we post our activities and events. Again, your help is needed. by choosing to friend this profile you are giving others a chance to see all the good things Grace has to offer. Invite your friends and family to be a friend of Grace. Our church website is [www.gracewilm.org](http://www.gracewilm.org). We are always looking for pictures and updates for our webpage. We are working on a YouTube Channel to also host archived Worship videos. We will let you know when that is functional. Bruce Elsner is our current media publicist with Christy Ziller doing many of the graphics. Be sure to let them know when you see a Grace post.

**To the Grace Congregation,**

**Thank you so much for the generous monetary gift at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness and support mean the world to me. I am truly grateful to have you in my life.**

**Blessings,  
Pr. Paul Carlson**



**You are invited to the Congregational Resourcing Event on March 22, 2025 at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Illinois. Come gather together with members from across our synod as we share ideas and inspiration for all the great ways we can grow disciples in our congregations and in our communities.**

**The day is \$35 which includes coffee, breakfast treats, a joint session, lunch, and choice of breakout sessions. The website lists descriptions of the 20 offered breakout sessions which include A Gazillion Outreach Ideas, The Grief Box, and Community Engagement. All congregation members are invited and we will be carpooling from Grace leaving at approximately 7am and returning close to 6pm. Register and pay for your spot on your own, and then let Paula Webb know that you are interested in carpooling on that day. We hope you will join us!**

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Sunday, November 3, 2024

Devotions were offered by Gary Gruhn.

Members marked as present were Bruce Elsner, Gary Gruhn, Phil Keller, Mark Lange, Mila Morrison, Paula Webb, Christy Ziller, and Pastor Carlson.

**Approval of the prior minutes of September 15th, 2024.** A motion was made by Bruce E. and seconded by Mila M. A vote was cast and the minutes were approved with corrections. There was no October meeting.

**Pastor's Report** Pastor spoke with the Hambrick family who are visitors during Fellowship time.

Advent services are being planned for Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th with soup suppers beginning at 6:00 and service beginning at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Lou will be assisting beginning in January only once a month.

Sunday, November 24th - Grace will decorate the hall, entryway, and outside right after church. There will be a light lunch. People are encouraged to bring a dish to pass.

For special events, instruct visitors on procedural ways to receive communion and offering.

**Properties** The sealing of the asphalt was completed. However, there were concerns about the striping. The company said it will correct that in the springtime

Mark received a quote from Elens and Maichin Roofing for replacing the roof and there needs to be a team created before taking any action. However, it is important to fix the stacks and vents on the roof because the flashing needs repair. A motion was made by Paula to make those repairs needed to the roof for \$950. Mila seconded the motion. A vote was cast and the motion passed.

There was concern about the location of the piano. It has been moved to give more space to people who are communing and going back to their pews.

The windows in the preschool area have been refitted with the screens. They are locked and any safety concerns have been corrected.

There are plans to cover the windows in fellowship hall with plastic to help heat loss. A message was shared from Marianne Ricken, "First, I would like to thank Gary, Phil, and Marsha for all the help and words of encouragement. The properties team received a grant of \$250 from Thrivent. This grant is to help pay for the plastic on the windows for Barb's office and includes fellowship hall. Helping with this project is Maryann, John, and Dave.

There were boards broken on the play set. There is a need for a camera near the playground.

**Finances and Stewardship** A report was given by Gary Gruhn. The boiler furnace inspection went well, but the thermostat had to be replaced.

The outdoor thermostat went bad and will be replaced.

We entered into a copier contract that was signed with a possible buyout at the end of 5 years.

Grace is still giving their 10% to ELCA and the synod.

We have a total of 8 \$10,000 CDs in the MIF savings.

Plans are taking place for an internal audit.

The budget committee will consist of Gary, Mark and Bruce; they will put together a budget for next year to be approved at the next congregational meeting.

**Outreach Report** A report was given by Paula Webb. Fall Fest was a success. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Grace helped with this event as a community outreach opportunity. Many children decorated pumpkins and had their faces painted.

We donated lots of goodies to Aperion Care: magazines, books, bibles, and devotionals, in total, five boxes.

We need to collect 800 cans of beans to be given to Christian Help Association for their holiday food baskets.

**Communications Report** A report was given by Bruce Elsner. We are continuing to update our posts and promoting programming on both Facebook pages. We are looking into more posts.

**Worship Committee Report** Christmas Eve Eve, Monday, December 23 will have a 5:30 coffee juice and cookie bar with service at 6:00 pm. Jackie D. is working on getting the word out on postcards.

**Preschool Report** The report was shared by Mark and Marsha Keller. Mark shared the child safety document. There was discussion about the treatment of known sex offenders and background checks.

**A written report was presented by Marsha Keller.** Notes from the report included that Terry Phillips, Mary Kay Hayes, and Marsha reviewed the children's protection document. Mary Kay revised it and has it ready for approval. Once it is approved, Mary Kay will review it with staff and obtain signatures. Grandparent parties were held in September. With an increase of students, she will need additional tables and chairs for Halloween and Christmas parties. In regards to planning activities and events that involve the preschool, it is imperative to be in communication with Mary Kay prior to any publication of the event. In addition, the preschool board members meet with Mary Kay in August and review the budget and discuss events through December. Before the start of the school year, Mary Kay sorts all the toys and with the help of the preschool board, wash them and prepare them for the students. The board meets again with Mary Kay in January. Board members assist with parties, serve as greeters, and help with refreshments. Dee Elsner and Terry Phillips are also on the board.

**Education Report** The report was shared by Christy Ziller.

**Sunday School** Current option, Bible in a Bag. There will be a lesson and a craft. There is a sign up to get helpers. Discussion was held in taking an offering during Sunday school time and donating the monies for the year to the heifer project through the ELCA.

Attendance by the Numbers:

Sept. 15 = 2

Sept. 22 = 1

Sept. 29 = 0

Oct. 6 = 2

Oct. 13 = 2

Oct. 20 = 0

Oct. 27 = 3

**First Communion** First Communion class was held August 18 and September 22. October 20 will be the last class. Classes shall be held from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Children are expected to be in attendance for church service on those Sundays. Church services begin at 9:00 am. October 27, Reformation Sunday, will be the First Communion with families and guests during church service. Students received a student Bible, certificates, and red flowers before the service. They communed with their families and guests. There was a special cake ordered to celebrate the occasion during fellowship. Participants include: Chase Combes, Leland Combes, Kolton Hubert, Alex Rosenberg, Kolton Winker, Johnathon Jones, and Cooper Brockett.

**Looking ahead:**

**Easter Egg Hunt** will be Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 with games activities and bunny photos

**V.B.S. Next year 2025** - June 23rd through 27th. It will be a night program hosted by the Methodist Church.

The next meeting is December 1, 2024.

Devotions will be provided by Mark.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Christy Ziller  
Grace Lutheran Church Council Secretary  
Wilmington, Illinois

**Communion/Visitation Calendar on the Bulletin Board**

Our shut-ins need a visit and communion on a monthly basis. Susan was doing all this, but then as you all know, she got sick. Pr. Paul Carlson set this all up. He matched people to our shut-ins. He blessed the communion kits. When they are empty, bring them back to Grace. They will be refilled and set on the altar to bless. If you'd like to help with this endeavor, please let Pr. Paul know. Please use the calendar on the bulletin board to write who was given communion on the date they received it.

In 1535, Martin Luther's barber and friend, Peter Beskendorf, asked him some questions about prayer. Luther responded with a letter – How One Should Pray, for Master Peter the Barber. Luther began, "I will tell you as best I can what I do personally when I pray. May our dear Lord grant to you and to everybody to do it better than I! Amen" Later in the letter Luther states, "It is of such continual prayer that Christ says in Luke 11, 'Pray without ceasing,' because one must unceasingly guard against sin and wrongdoing, something one cannot do unless one fears God and keeps his commandment in mind, as Psalm 1 says, 'Blessed is he who meditates upon his law day and night.'" For Luther prayer was a continuing faith activity in life.

**Missionary for a Day ~ February 2025**

02/08	Susan Trimby	In Celebration of music, singers & musicians
02/10	Christy Ziller	In Memory of her brother, Jim Winker
02/14	Women of the ELCA	In Celebration of Valentine's Day
02/18	Gary Gruhn	Forgive as you are forgiven
02/26	Jim & Arlene Hankins	In Celebration of Jim's Birthday

**BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY**

02/04	Norma Siebring	02/06	Bill Dzak
02/08	Susan Trimby	02/18	John Filas
02/22	Lori Quigley	02/22	Jessica Yoakum
02/24	Stan Long	02/26	Jim Hankins
02/28	Barbara Kirstein	02/28	Lindsay Melvin

***Anniversaries ~ February 2025***

02/20     *Jim & Arlene Hankins*