

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held following service on Sunday, June 7 to appoint new board members to the church council for a 3 year term.

Grace Lutheran Church Council ~ Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, April 18, 2026 **Location:** Grace Lutheran Church

Attendees: Mark Lange, Cindy Filas, Gary Gruhn, Bruce Elsner, Diane Creed

1. Devotions

Devotions were provided by Gary Gruhn.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

March Council Meeting Minutes

The March Council Meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the March Council Meeting minutes. Moved by Bruce Elsner; seconded by Gary Gruhn. **Vote:** 5 Yea, 0 Nay. Motion carried.

3. Current Business

Pastor's Report

In the absence of Pastor Carlson, Mark Lange shared the following information:

Mark attended the Congregational Resourcing event on March 7, 2026, including a seminar on grant writing. A list of ELCA grants was provided, including a grant that may support preschool security; this will be reviewed by the next meeting.

The Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 12–13, 2026.

Financials

Gary Gruhn reviewed the monthly financial report.

Financial Snapshot – March 2026

| Grace | | Preschool | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Category | Amount | Category | Amount |
| YTD Operating Income | \$34,563.45 | YTD Operating Income | \$62,332.11 |
| YTD Operating Expenses | \$34,489.49 | YTD Operating Expenses | \$54,279.48 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ 73.96 | Net Income (Loss) | \$ 8,052.63 |

Electronic giving messages have been placed in the Lamp, on the bulletin board, and in the weekly bulletin. A QR code has been added to the weekly bulletin on an ongoing basis.

Motion: To approve the Financial Report as written.

Moved by Mark Lange; seconded by Bruce Elsner.

Vote: 5 Yea, 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Properties

Cindy Filas reported on needed repairs to the glass sanctuary door.

Action Item: Cindy Filas will obtain a price quote by the next meeting.

The Council discussed replacing sanctuary light bulbs and noted that a lift will be needed to complete the work.

Motion: To approve the spending of up to \$750 on light bulbs, cleaning, lifts and any high work.

Moved by Mark Lange; seconded by Diane Creed.

Vote: 5 Yea, 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Education

Paula Webb submitted an Education Status report for Council review.

Cindy Filas will explore a movie night at the park and report back by the next meeting.

(continued next page →)

Shared Ministries

An additional letter was sent to five local churches; one response has been received to date.

Roof Committee

The roof replacement fund currently has approximately \$14,414.61.

The committee reviewed a proposal from Trident Construction Group (contact: Dave Phillips).

Communications and Social Media

Bruce Elsner followed up with Mary Kay (preschool) regarding security cameras focused on the playground. The purpose is to deter vandalism and reduce damage to the playground area; next steps will be identified by the next meeting.

4. Next Meeting

Date: Monday June 8th, 6:00 PM

Devotions: Diane Creed

Action Items Summary

| Action Item | Responsible | Due |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Review ELCA grant list for potential preschool security support. | Council | Next meeting |
| Obtain a price quote for glass sanctuary door repairs. | Cindy Filas | Next meeting |
| Explore a movie night at the park and report back. | Cindy Filas | Next meeting |
| Identify next steps for preschool playground security camera options. | Bruce Elsner | Next meeting |

Prepared by: Bruce Elsner

To be approved by: Grace Lutheran Church Council at the next meeting

*Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran,
 Thank you for the sympathy, love and support to us as we made our way
 through the death of our brother Larry. Whether you attended the services,
 sent a card, shared a text, made a donation, or said a prayer, we are blessed
 by your love and care. I hold all of your kindnesses in my heart.
 Love, Susan*

CHURCH...

Some may see Church and Church activities as similar to work or school and may believe that a break is needed in the summer. Hopefully, you do not see your relationship with God as something that needs a break.

Summer is suddenly upon us! We are just as glad as you are that summer has come. It is so great to be able to get outside, go for a walk, a bike ride, a picnic, or to sit by a lake.

Go to the movies. Go to the pool. Go on a trip. Go to the mountains. Go fishing. Enjoy a boat ride—just remember to invite God to join you. And, if you are in town, we look forward to seeing you at Grace!

God's Peace,
Your Church Council

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

June 2026

Kuzma Item
Canned Juices
Mac n' cheese

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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 9am Friday Crew | 6 |
| 7 9am Worship Congregational Meeting Coffee time | 8 6pm Church Council Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 9am Friday Crew | 13 8:30-11am Fellowship Hall in use |
| 14 Flag Day 9am Worship Coffee time | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 9am Friday Crew | 20 |
| 21 Father's Day 9am Worship Coffee time | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 9am Friday Crew | 27 |
| 28 9am Worship Coffee time | 29 | 30 | | | | |

VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister Lector
 06/07 Dee Eisner Laurie Humann
 06/14 Christy Ziller Gary Gruhn
 06/21 Dave Phillips Jackie D.
 06/28 Dee Eisner Lynn Stehlik
 07/05 Christy Ziller Jeff Reents

Videographer

06/07 Christy Ziller
 06/14 Mark Lange
 06/21 Lynn Stehlik
 06/28 Christy Ziller
 07/05 Mark Lange

Greeters

06/07 Cindy & John Filas
 06/14 Jim & Arlene Hankins
 06/21 Mark & Brenda Lange
 06/28 Roy & Bonnie Hill
 07/05 Maryann & Will Ricken

Ushers

06/07 Mark & Brenda Lange
 06/14 Dan Bell & Paula Webb
 06/21 Maryann & Will Ricken
 06/28 Jim & Arlene Hankins
 07/05 Gary Gruhn & Kurt Stehlik

Altar Guild: Christy Ziller



In Our Prayers

Members: Karen Nielsen, Dan Bell, Maryann Ricken, Pr. Paul Carlson, Susan Trimby, Helen Warke, Sharon Folkestad, Andy Nielsen, David Kirstein

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

Irving DeWald (at home), Doris Dickey (Riverside Senior Living, Kankakee), Jean Goodwin (Bickford House, Bourbonnais), Joann House (Sunny Hill, Joliet), John Muday, (Arcadia Care, Morris), Ken Wolske (Serenity Living, Manteno)

Friends and Family of Grace: Linda Wiedmeyer (sister of Jodi Dzak), Del S. (friend of Karen & Andrew Nielsen), Mary Kay Hays, Grace's Preschool Director Nicole Windsor (friend of Dee Elsner), Beth V. (friend of Dee Elsner)

Erv Ricken (Will's brother), Gloria Ricken (Will Ricken's mom)

Brian (son of Marie Christian), Ken Yeates (friend of Dan Bell)

Irene Walsh (friend of Lois & Chris Smith), Kim Absher (friend of Cindy Filas)

Jessica Osipavicius (friend of Dee Elsner), Irwin Pardon, (friend of the Rickens)

Freda Presswood (sister of Rita Shaver), Dave Anderson (friend of Pr. Paul Carlson)

Sarah (Jean Petersen's granddaughter), Karen (Jean Petersen's daughter)

Robert Cooper (friend of Dan Bell), Linda Wilder (daughter of Marie Christian)

April Highbaugh (friend of the Folkestads), Lucy Cranmer (great granddaughter of Helen Warke), Reese Wyers (granddaughter of Cindy & John Filas)

Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Missionary for a Day ~ June 2026

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 06/02 | Chris & Lois Smith | In Honor of Grandchildren |
| 06/10 | Kurt & Lynn Stehlik | For Emma's Birthday |
| 06/11 | Kurt & Lynn Stehlik | In Honor of their Anniversary |
| 06/17 | Dan Bell | In Honor of Mary & Dan's Anniversary |
| 06/21 | Graceful Ladies | In Honor of Father's Day |
| 06/29 | Gary Gruhn | Have a Wonderful Day! |

BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 06/11 Dave Phillips | 06/12 Charlie Schad |
| 06/13 Bonnie Hill | 06/16 Irving DeWald |
| 06/17 Karen Nielsen | 06/21 Jaden Christian |
| 06/26 Jean Goodwin | 06/30 Regina Bauer |



| | |
|--|-------------------|
| <u>WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR JUNE</u> | |
| 06/11 Kurt & Lynn Stehlik | Happy Anniversary |
| 06/17 Dan & Mary Bell | |
| 06/17 Earl & Sharon Folkestad | |
| 06/28 Will & Maryann Ricken | |

Roof Fund Fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in the SLAMMERS game! What a fun way to help with the Roof fund. If you were unable to attend, we hope you can join us next year.



Preschool Board

Welcome Mary Ann Ricken to the Preschool Board. We thank MaryAnn for choosing the Preschool as part of her volunteer time here at the church. MaryAnn has years of volunteer experience and will be a great asset to the board. The Preschool Board is made up of three congregation members and the director of the preschool. The board helps to establish the budget and policies for the school year. The board is a liaison between the Council and the preschool, requesting repairs to assure that the building and classrooms are safe and comfortable for the children. The board works with the director to provide chapel time each week for the children. The preschool board creates opportunities for interaction between the congregation and the preschool. As Grace Lutheran's biggest community outreach, we are thankful for the director and the board members who provide leadership. This year's sessions have dismissed for the Summer but be on the look-out this Fall for ways that you can support our preschool ministry.

Vacation Bible Camp Registration

Our numbers are growing each day, but there is still time to register for Vacation Bible Camp 2026. Monday June 15- Thursday June 18 9am-11am will be a whirl of activity here at Grace. Take a registration form from the Fellowship table and share it with a relative, neighbor, or coworker. Who would want to miss four fun filled mornings of songs, stories, games, crafts, and snacks? Registration through June 9 is \$8.00 per child. June 10 registration goes up to \$10.00 per child. Parents or guardians that can help us out all four days will get free registration for all of their children. Help spread the word!

Vacation Bible Camp Helpers

We are still in need of helpers for Vacation Bible Camp. Check your calendar and see if you are free Monday June 15 - Thursday June 18 9-11am. Maybe you have all 4 days or you can only commit to one day. All help would be appreciated. If you are interested, please contact Paula Webb at 815-214-0523.

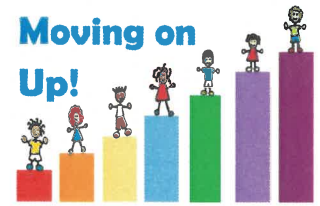
Vacation Bible Camp Supplies

It takes a LOT of supplies to keep 20+ little ones busy! You can help us gather supplies for VBS. Our theme this year is "I Love to Tell the Story." Each day the children will get a chance to retell the story using various props. So some of our supplies may seem a little odd such as an arm sling and ace bandages. In the Lamp you will find a complete list of supplies needed. Some can be purchased locally, many can be found around the house or in that closet you have been meaning to clean out. Others are in an Amazon wish list and can be sent right to the church. Please help us gather materials for the big week. You may also want to make a cash donation. You may put it in a pew envelope labeled VBS and add it to the offering. You may also use VANCO electronic giving and note that it is for Vacation Bible School. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

GRADUATIONS AND PROMOTIONS!



During worship service on May 17th we lifted up people in prayer as they were graduating or being promoted. Those that received a blessing included: Chirsty Ziller who received her PhD. Angi Wyers who completed Nursing School. Marie Dvorak and James Dvorak who graduated from college. Reese Wyers, Athena Zamfoti, and Owen Brandt, graduating High School. Kendal Wyers graduated from 8th Grade. Spencer Webb was promoted to 2nd grade. Elle Keller was promoted to 1st grade, and Lois Keller graduated Preschool. We applaud them for their hard work and success!



June is the Church's gentle invitation to breathe again. To remember that the Holy Spirit who rushed in like wind at Pentecost now walks with you in the ordinary days. To trust that God is still shaping you, even when life feels quiet or routine.

This month carries the beauty of Trinity Sunday — a reminder that God is mystery, relationship, and love woven into the fabric of your life. It carries the bold witness of the Augsburg Confession, calling you to stand with courage and clarity. And it carries the voice of John the Baptist, urging you to prepare your heart for Christ in every season.

June tells you this: **You are part of a story that is still unfolding. You are held by a God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And you are being grown — slowly, steadily, faithfully — into the person God is calling you to be.**

May the God of grace strengthen your faith, the peace of Christ guard your heart, and the Holy Spirit guide your steps today and always. Amen.

"The Holy Spirit doesn't only move in the mighty moments. Often He works in the quiet places — the ordinary days, the small obediences, the unnoticed acts of love. June reminds us that growth happens in green seasons."

PRESCHOOL NEWS



This has been a wonderful year! We ended the year with a great party! We had two bounce houses for the kids to enjoy. Everyone brought in food and drinks for us to enjoy. The weather was perfect!

Graduation was a beautiful night to honor our graduates. They sang us a couple of songs and enjoyed getting their medals. The church was packed with family to celebrate them. We enjoyed refreshments and fellowship after. We wish all our graduates the best of luck in Kindergarten!

We are taking registrations for next year! If you know someone that would like to attend our school, please let them know that now is the time to register.

We are thankful for everyone's help in donating their time and donations this year! We really appreciate you all! Enjoy your summer!

Grace Lutheran Church 2026 Vacation Bible School Registration

Ages 4-entering 5th grade

Please print and drop off with registration fee in box at 907 Luther Drive or email form to gracewilmington@sbcglobal.net for contact to VENMO. Register by June 9 for \$8.00 per child which includes 4 days of supplies and snacks. Fees are \$10.00 per child after June 9. Registration is FREE for all children of moms or dads that volunteer all four days 8:45-11:15.

Child 1 First and Last Name _____
Age _____ Birthday _____ Grade going in to _____
Allergies _____
Special notes about your child _____

Child 2 First and Last Name _____
Age _____ Birthday _____ Grade going in to _____
Allergies _____
Special notes about your child _____

Child 3 First and Last Name _____
Age _____ Birthday _____ Grade going in to _____
Allergies _____
Special notes about your child _____

Please write additional children on the back.

____ I give permission for my child(ren) to be photographed in unnamed group photos for use in printed and digital publications. ____ NO consent. Parent signature _____

Parent _____ Phone number _____
Address _____ Email _____
Name and Address of anyone else who may pick up your children (view of license will be requested)

Home church _____ No church
If volunteering, we will need a background check to which I agree by signing _____

Fees

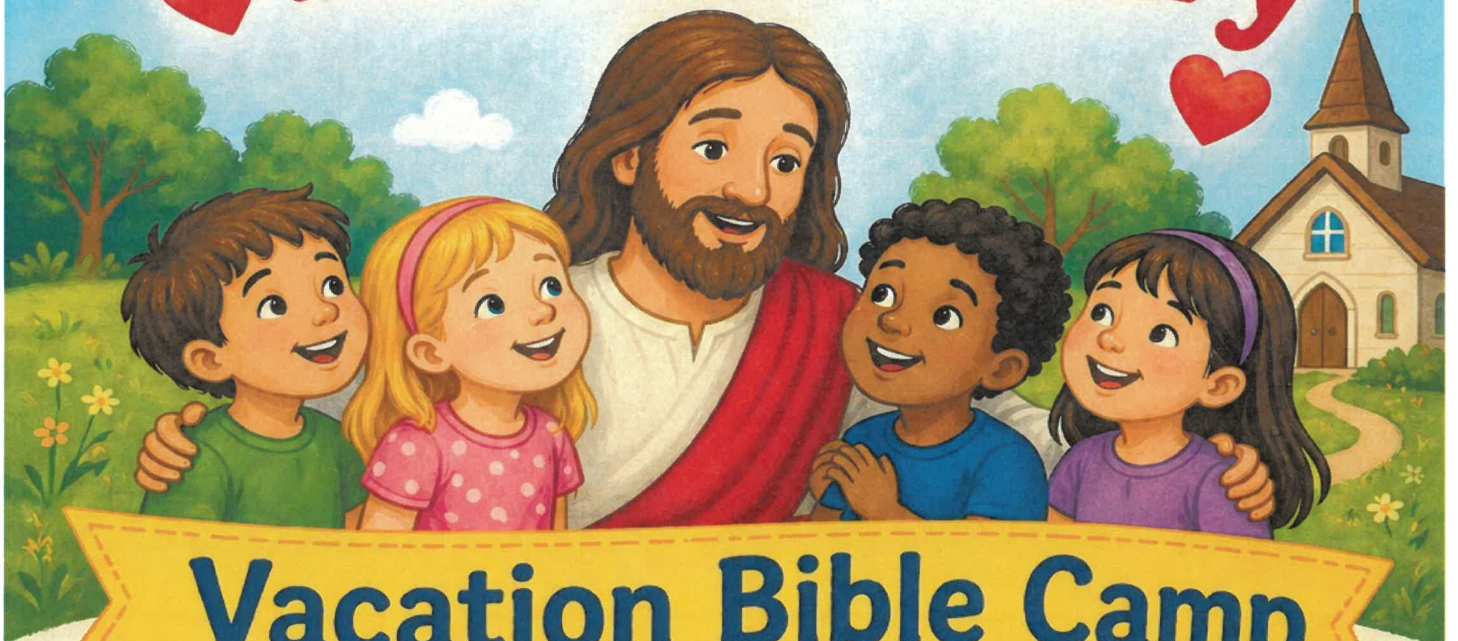
____ I will volunteer Monday - Friday 8:45-11:15 (be sure to sign background check agreement) NO FEES
Before June 9 \$8.00 x ____ children = _____
June 10 and after \$10.00 x ____ children = _____

Please **enclose fees** with registration. Venmo or Questions contact Paula Webb 815-214-0523

Student Volunteer Info - Student volunteer helpers entering 6-8th grade - please add child information to the back (no background check). We will text or call. High School students may contact us to volunteer as we would love to have you!



I Love to Tell the Story



Vacation Bible Camp

✝ Grace Lutheran Church ≡



June 15-18



9-11am



games



crafts



stories



snacks



songs



Vacation Bible Camp Supplies Needed - Can you help us gather the supplies we will need for a great week of VBS?

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 bags of carrots | <input type="checkbox"/> | acrylic oil paints various colors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 bags goldfish crackers | <input type="checkbox"/> | washable paints various colors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 bottles of ranch dressing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Elmers glue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 tubs whip cream | <input type="checkbox"/> | rubber stamps of animals and plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 large Jello box mix in 3 different colors | <input type="checkbox"/> | circulat aluminum pie pans (Amazon list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 boxes graham crackers | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 book bags (Amazon list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 containers strawberries | <input type="checkbox"/> | Card stock paper (Amazon list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 container blueberries | <input type="checkbox"/> | LED lights and circuit strips (Amazon list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 popsicles or freeze pops | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 batteries (Amazon list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 container lemonade mix | <input type="checkbox"/> | Used Small and Medium Tshirts for paint coverups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 juice boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> | arm sling (returnable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 packages of large plain white paper plates | <input type="checkbox"/> | bandage wraps such as ace and gauze bandages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 package of small plain white paper plates | <input type="checkbox"/> | Robes, twin sheets, cloth pieces for costumes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | package of spoons 25 count | <input type="checkbox"/> | Walking stick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | package of clear plastic cups 25 count | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | flashlights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | package of cups slightly bigger than dixie cups 100 count | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 large brighter light (borrow and return) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | paint brushes and sponges of various sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> | creation pictures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | package of multi colored construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | gems, small shells, large beads, and treasures for a garden stone craft | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | flat glass marbles for garden stone craft | | |

Amazon list - https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/21KHHTHS9WX05?ref_=wl_share