

GRACE NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

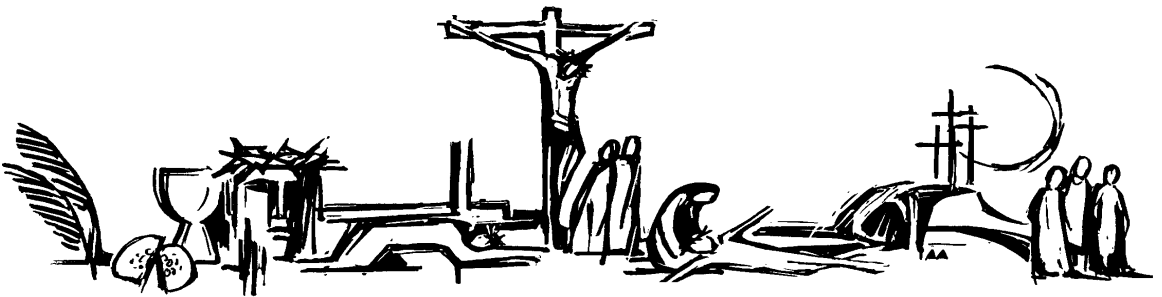
GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

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*

April 2020



In this Issue...

PAGES 2...A WORD FROM PASTOR

PAGE 3...FROM THE CANTOR

PAGE 4-6...LENTEN/HOLY WEEK

PAGE 7...ONLINE WORSHIP/
CALL COMMITTEE

PAGE 8...HOLIDAY BASKETS/
FLOWERS

PAGE 9...STEPHEN MINISTRY/
THANK YOU'S

PAGE 10...CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/
FELLOWSHIP

PAGE 11...PRAYERS

PAGE 12... FOOD PANTRY REPORT

PAGE 12...THANK YOU'S

PAGE 13...COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 14...WELCA

PAGE 15...BIRTHDAYS/COUNCIL

A Word From Pastor Wayne in the midst of COVID 19

When I was student at Concordia Jr College in Portland, Oregon the Latin Motto for the college "**Christi Crux Est Mihi Lux**" which means "The Cross of Christ is Light to Me." This phrase, this call has stayed with me throughout my ministry and life. It has been with me through good times, my marriage to Cindy and our 49 years of marriage. The birth of my children and the blessing that they bring. My ordination and 39+ years of ministry. It has gone with me through some tough times. The death of my parents and my brother and sister. The suicide of my cousin. The death of Cindy's Stepfather and the estrangement from my son. The funerals of hundreds of Church members.

All of you I am sure can add your own joys, sorrows, trials and tribulation. But you as a church have gone through joys and sorrows Grace Lutheran Church established 1841 served by 27 pastors. Countless baptisms, confirmations, and weddings. You have seen at least according to my count 8 wars, national tragedies like 12-7 and 9-11. This church and membership has seen the Spanish flu, Polio, HIV and H1N1 virus's. Yet through out the joys and sorrows this has always rung true **Cristi Crux Est Mihi Lux The Cross of Christ is Light to Me!!! Covid 19**

Luther reminds us in his famous hymn *"Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us, we tremble not, we trust God's will they can not overpower us. Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage, this tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must Prevail! One little word shall triumph. (ELW 505)* So amidst this crisis let us encourage each other and our selves with this Motto "**Christi Crux Est Mihi Lux**"



PLEASE NOTE: FOR APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS WE WILL CALL AND EMAIL THOSE INDIVIDUALS NEEDED IF WE ARE WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN THE BUILDING IN THE MONTH OF APRIL.

This is a different, uncertain time for all of us.

I have sung the Great Litany on the First Sunday in Lent for many years, and, at Grace, have always sung the petitions for the procession. It is so very comprehensive, and there have always been some petitions which haven't really applied to us. "From epidemic . . . **Good Lord, deliver us**" was always one that seemed distant, maybe even archaic. It was something that we should work and pray about others' misfortune, like Ebola outbreaks far away in Africa. Now, it seems like a different time.

Music of the church is a great comfort, and I hope everyone has a hymnal at home to read and sing these great texts that so often go straight to the heart. If you do not, and are able to get to church, I can supply plenty of extra green and blue hymnals that have not been in the pew racks recently that you would be more than welcome to borrow.

Here is one not in either of those books, but which is fitting for this time:

Be Still, My Soul

- 1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855



YOUR HEALTH NEWS Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

I thought I would do some research on the coronavirus. This information comes from the Center of Disease Control (CDC).

Current understanding about how the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spreads is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses. COVID-19 is a new disease and there is more to learn about how it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, and to what extent it may spread in the United States.

Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

How easily does the virus spread?

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (spread easily), like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained.

The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community ("community spread") in some affected geographic areas. Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

YOUR HEALTH NEWS Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

Symptoms

Reported illnesses have ranged from **mild symptoms to severe illness** and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure**:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

People: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Animals: Do not handle pets or other animals while sick. See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 to 95% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

YOUR HEALTH NEWS Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed. Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

I would like to stress two items I think are very important, remain calm and encourage others to do the same. The second and most important item is to wash your hands especially before and after you touch your face. Wash your hands and rub them together for twenty seconds (two rounds of happy birthday). This is the best protection I know is good hand washing and often.

In Christ's Love, Diana

Join us for worship online: FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, OR BY EMAIL

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 services for Wednesday and Sunday. If you need pastoral assistance you can reach Pastor Wayne by text message at 309-360-1085 or please call the church office. God bless you and keep you safe in this time of uncertainty.



The Call Committee met on March 10 to discuss strategies and go over interview questions. Once the Synod sends us an interested candidate, it will be the Committee's job to interview this person. We have composed specific questions which will be used to evaluate candidates (all candidates will be asked the same questions). If the Committee agrees the candidate is a good fit for Grace, it will recommend the person to the Church Council who

will also meet and interview the candidate, discuss the proposed salary/benefit package with the candidate, and vote on whether to recommend the candidate to the congregation. Until reaching this point, confidentiality is extremely important and neither members of the Call Committee nor the Church Council can discuss any potential candidates until they are presented to the congregation.

At this point in the process we invite the members of our congregation to join us by becoming ambassadors for Grace. If you are visiting another ELCA congregation while traveling or know someone in an ELCA congregation in another community, make an opportunity to talk about Grace and our search for a shepherd. Your ambassadorship could occur during an informal conversation over coffee after services or simply in an email. You might refer to our website, share a copy of *Grace Notes*, or just tell why you are a member of Grace. Your enthusiasm may trigger a word-of-mouth network that leads to an appropriate candidate for us!

Grace Lutheran Call Committee; Phil Galloway, Roberta Volkmann, Harold Janssen, Sara Oehlert, Tom Appleton, and Chris Schofield

MEMBERS HOMEBOUND

DOROTHY BAHRE
BETTY FOWLER
GLORIA GAGNON
DELORES KERN

HELEN MOORE
GENE RUBLEY
ELEANOR SAKRIS

HELP MAKE SOME FAMILIES EASTER SPECIAL!

We hope to provide Easter Baskets to families somehow. 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 bring or mail it to Grace. We will print your name and the name(s) of those you honor in the May Grace Notes. Thank you for helping with this special ministry. Your gift will also be recorded on your giving statement.



Easter Basket Honorary or Memorial

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

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

Amount of gift: _____

SPRING GARDEN OF FLOWERS



Those wishing to make donations to the annual Easter Spring Garden of Flowers are asked to do so by filling out the form below. Donations may be given in memory or honor of loved ones. A list of donors and those being remembered by the gifts will be included in the bulletin. Gifts of all sizes are welcomed. Those who wish a suggested dollar amount might consider the \$10.00-\$15.00 range. Thank you!

I/we would like to help defray the cost of decorating for the
Easter Spring Garden.

Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

In Memory/Honor (please be brief) of: _____

FLOWERS WILL ADORN THE SANCTUARY AS SOON AS WE ARE ABLE
TO WORSHIP IN THE BUILDING AGAIN!!!!

Stephen Ministry

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.... Encourage the faint and help the weak. —1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14b

"It was the interaction, and I think the Christian connection, that really made me feel comfortable to open up."

"She didn't judge me; she didn't tell me what to do; she just walked side-by-side with me."

"I needed a miracle, and my Stephen Minister was my miracle."

See the people telling these stories, and many others, at stephenministries.org.

Pick up a confidential request to meet with a Stephen Minister in the box on the wall in the Fellowship Hall, near the main stairway door. Place it in a plain envelope back in the that box. Stephen Ministry is available in our congregation! We are here to help!



Thank You's

- ◇ Thank you to those who serve as participants at weekend services and for our online worship services.
- ◇ Thank you to Charlotte Blumle and the secret shoppers who utilized their time to facilitate the \$1000.00 from Bunn.
- ◇ A special Thank You to the church and Dorothy Bahre for the beautiful flowers that were on the altar. Also, to Josie Anderson for delivering them to me. As always they brighten my days! Have a blessed day! Eleanor J. Sakris
- ◇ Dear friends, thank you for your gift of \$344.39 from your weekend offering to the mission of St. John's Breadline. You Rock!!! We cannot do this without you. Your kindness allows us to help those in need of faith, food and kindness. St. John's Breadline
- ◇ BIG THANK YOU to Doug McFarlan for his leadership and control over the Food Pantry situation in this tumultuous time. Thank you to all the volunteers who keep this essential service going for those in need in our community. Well done good and faithful servants.
- ◇ Thank you to those who have sewn and continue to sew facemasks for all our volunteers and the medical community.



**SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL, ADULT
FORUM, CONFIRMATION CLASS,
BROWN BAG STUDY**
WE HOPE TO MEET AGAIN SOON!



If you are graduating high school or getting a college degree in the spring—let us know. We want to recognize you in the Grace Notes!

FELLOWSHIP FUN FACTS

Mary Schofield, Kendal Hoselton, Deb Smith, Wanda Williams, Pat Janssen

September: Labor Day Picnic—September 1

COOKBOOKS... We need your help for this fundraiser for the Food Pantry. When you make a recipe from our cookbook, and you like it, put it on Facebook or Instagram with info about where they can get the cookbook. COOKBOOKS make great gifts for Easter, Mother's Day, weddings and graduations!



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

TWISTED STITCHERS... is a group of ladies that get together the first Tuesday evening of the month in someone's home and have an evening of fellowship and stitching crafts (knitting, crochet, cross-stich, quilting or anything else).



PRAYERS OF GRACE MINISTRY

The Habit of Daily Devotions

The habit of doing daily devotions takes practice and starting can sometimes be the hardest part. Here are a few tips on how to help you get started. There isn't a right or wrong way to do devotions and any time spent in prayer and reflection with God is meaningful.



Choose a devotional

Using a devotional is a great way to get started and stay on track with doing daily devotions. There are hundreds of different devotionals to choose from. You can buy them at your local bookstore or order them online. There are also free, daily devotionals available online or even in print.

Find a good time

In order to do devotions well, you need time to focus, read, and reflect on your study. In our busy world, this might seem impossible, but it's not. Start by taking note each day of the times when you have a few minutes. The time of day isn't as important as making sure you find a, peaceful and consistent time.

Sit down and read carefully

When you find the time for your devotions, sit down and read them! Most devotionals offer a scripture passage, a short reflection, and a suggested prayer. Many daily devotionals are short, but contain a lot of information, so take some time to consume God's teaching. Read the Bible passage and then the author's reflection. Think about how the teaching applies to your life. Then take some time in prayer. Use the suggested prayer or you can say your own. Either way, be sure to focus on what God's Word is saying to you.

Make it a habit

Perhaps this will be the most difficult part for you, but that's okay! We all struggle with busyness and that's why it is so important to find a good time in your schedule. It is easiest to create a habit when you do your devotions at the same time each day. Try to be both flexible and intentional about identifying the different times you are free. If remembering is difficult for you, try putting reminders in your phone or even placing post-it notes where you might see them when you have free moments.

It takes practice

Doing daily devotions takes practice, but the benefits are worth it. You not only learn more about God and his Word, but the daily acts of reflection and prayer prepare your heart for the transformational leading of the Holy Spirit!

—Daily Devotional Blog by Kaitlin Kamp February 3, 2017

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Helen Appleton

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

In February of 2020, we served 356 families composed of 804 individuals compared to 504 families composed of 1021 individuals in 2019. After serving 1400 individuals in January, February was a break! Our starting balance was \$46,658.80. There were \$4,854.15 in deposits and \$4,381.52 in expenditures for an ending balance of \$47,131.43. In addition to the generous monthly donation which we regularly receive from Peace, we received a donation of \$368.56 from Westminster Presbyterian Church. We also received \$752.51 from Franklin Middle School. This amount is in addition to donations and a food drive which the school had in the fall.

Spring is now officially here and as many people will be cleaning out cabinets, it is time for my annual reminder regarding health and safety rules for donating old canned and boxed goods to the Food Pantry. The Food Bank and Public Health safety rules allow us to distribute most foods after their "best used by" date. We can distribute boxed goods for at least a year. We can distribute most non-acidic canned goods for up to five years if the can does not have major dents, bulging, or rust. The primary exception is baby food. If something is past the date you prefer to use but is not spoiled, please donate it to the Food Pantry rather than throwing it away.

Golfers: Mark your calendars for a golf outing to benefit the Food Pantry on September 20. If you have a business and would like to be a sponsor, please contact Kim, Annie Ellis, or Helen Appleton. There will be more details as the planning continues!

We will have our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, May 6 at 1:00 p.m. (assuming that the corona virus is waning and it is safe). Kim and Joyce Martens work hard to keep our mailing list of volunteers up to date. If you are a volunteer and do not get an invitation by the end of April, please call the church office. A meeting of the Food Board will follow the luncheon and all volunteers are invited to stay for the meeting as well.



Butter Braids, cookies and pizzas... ARE POSTPONED. Please tell family and friends about this WELCA fundraiser, which supports local social service agencies. Refer questions to Charlotte, 546-5573.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Council Meeting, February 25, 2020

On Tuesday, February 25 2020 the Congregational Council held a dinner and planning meeting. Reports were received from Pastor Wayne, Treasurer Susan LeMasters, and various committees.

New appointments to committees and officers were done and approved.

Interim Pastor's statistical report given – approved unanimously

Budget and Reports were given.

Committee Reports given – Approved unanimously

May 2nd Cleaning Day

Easter Breakfast potluck

February 2020

\$26,923 Income

\$23,862 Expense

Surplus \$3,055

February 2019

\$29,018 Income

\$26,085 Expense

Surplus \$2,933

YTD 2020

\$53,883 Income

\$53,751 Expense

Surplus \$132

YTD 2019

\$43,531 Income

\$56,645 Expense

Deficit (\$13,114)

If you are able to continue your regular giving please do so by mail or continue with direct giving. Thank you!

Attendance for February 2020

418 (4 weeks)

Attendance for February 2019

456 (4 weeks)

Average attendance, year to date: this is the total number of worshippers divided by the number of weekends in the year to date. (i.e. Total attendance 800 divided by 6 weekends=133 members in average attendance).



Connecting faith & finances for good.®

\$250...may be available for a project you are working on this year, e.g. Animal Protective League, scouts, school supplies, Grace Food Pantry, etc. If

Thrivent approves your application for funds, you will receive a credit card for \$250 to purchase advertising, supplies, etc. For further information contact Charlotte Blumle, 546-5573.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ALL WOMEN of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.

Rachel's Day is May 5th.



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by [signing up for a daily email message](#). You can also download the newly updated app for your [IOS](#) and [Android](#) devices.

Servant Opportunities

- Serve on Altar Guild especially at 8:00 am worship
- Help in the Food Pantry
- Help with the cookbook fundraiser
- Help with church clean-up day

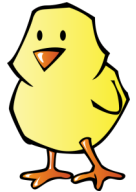
THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU **We will have a "Church Clean-Up Day"** **May 2nd 8:30-11:00am**

There are many tasks to do, but nothing strenuous or hard. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship hall and more details to come. Thank you for your help in this endeavor. Contact Art Carlson 546-1846



April Birthdays

April 2	Alaina Ervin Jackie Matteson Ian McCormick Sarah Trinh	April 18	John Langfelder
April 3	Katy Gietl Kate Schlouch	April 21	Josh Downey Connie George Bill Hansen
April 4	Lindsey Clemons	April 22	Josh Hooper Verne Nelson
April 5	Kristin Fyans	April 23	Jon Jackson Julian Janssen
April 6	Amy Monahan	April 24	Colby Letz
April 7	Nathan Shomidie Ben Trinh	April 26	Tom Myers Liz Rossi Karen Williams
April 8	Holly Hansen	April 27	Marley Loyd
April 10	Marilyn Blade	April 28	Kevin Harrison
April 12	Lani McClaughlin Lynn Wilson	April 29	Katie Burdette
April 14	Erin VonHolten	April 30	Cathy McGuire
April 15	Donna Thannen		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY and GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU!

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT

Administration/Finance	Tom Appleton, John Klint, Susan LeMasters
Christian Education	Jessica Thannen, Amy Monahan
Community Ministry	Randy Heidorn
Evangelism	Janet Conrady, Deb Landis, Amy Monahan
Fellowship	Mary Schofield, Wanda Williams
Long Range Planning	Gene Blade, Phil Galloway
Parish Life	Deb Landis
Property	Gene Blade, Bob Ellis
Stewardship	Phil Galloway
Worship & Music	Tom Appleton, Wanda Williams
Youth	Claire Thannen

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.

**ORGANIZATION
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gracelutheran-springfield.org



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September-May: Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am

June-August: Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 9:15 am

Our church is ACCESSIBLE for wheelchairs.

Nursery care is available at Sunday worship services.

Please call the church office for any information. Phone...522-3965

Office Hours Mon—Fri 8:30am—4:30pm

Grace Food Pantry operating schedule is:

Mon, Tues, Thu 11:00 am-2:30 pm, Wed 11:00 am-1:00 pm...522-9707

OUR STAFF

INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. O. Wayne Shelksohn

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer

CANTOR

J.B. George

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron VonHolten