

Grace GATHERINGS



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330

December

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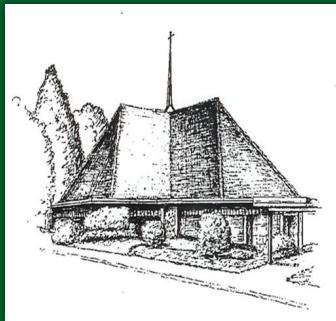
Blood Drive
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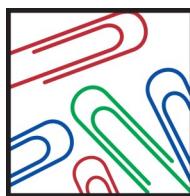
Grace Lutheran Church of Corvallis is a **Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation**. Whoever you are, Whatever your past, However you live, Whomever you love – You are welcome here.



Our VISION is
"to be a Christ-centered
Community who welcomes all,
grows in faith, and reaches out in
love."



Our MISSION is
"to follow Christ into our community and world manifesting with caring hearts and helping hands the good news of the Kingdom of God."



Office Hours

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Updated Church Staff Schedule

Monday and Thursday
(on site):
9am—2pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and
occasional Friday (off site):
9am—4pm

**The Church office will be closed
between Christmas and New Years**

If you reach our voicemail, please leave a message. We do check voicemails regularly.

Giving at a Glance
Support the many ministries of
Grace Lutheran

**Contributions as of
November 21, 2025**

Contributions for the Month of
November: \$21,098;
November Budget: \$19,200;
First 3 Weeks Giving: \$21,098;
Weekly Budget: \$4,800;
(based on 4 weeks)
YTD contributions: \$253,443;
YTD budget: \$244,200

Grace Personnel

Pastor E. Remy Remmers (They/Them)
revremy@grace97330.org

Director of Youth and Family – Sha e Richert-Lathum
shae@grace97330.org

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst (She/Her)
office@grace97330.org

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar (He/Him)

Bryson@grace97330.org

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck

Bookkeeper - Cobie deLespinasse (She/Her)
bookkeeper@grace97330.org

Financial Secretary: Mike Franklin (He/Him)

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens
prayers@grace97330.org

Custodian - Outside Contractor



Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving

On the birth of a new Granddaughter of Martha A

Please email prayers to prayers@grace97330.org
or Scan this QR Code to add prayers to our
prayer chain and prayers in worship



Norma M	12/01
Jude G	12/06
Meredith J	12/07
Nancy S	12/08
Gabri B	12/09
Jamie P	12/09
Denice R	12/17
Sara G	12/20
Pat O	12/23
Jessica S	12/26
Cathy M	12/27
Anna W	12/28
James W	12/28



Annual Reports Due December 15, 2025

If you are a Grace Committee or Ministry Chair,
please send an electronic copy of your report to
Andrea in the church office by December 15



Pastor Emerson Remy Remmers

(They/Them)

Contact Information

Email: revremy@grace97330.org

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs: In the Area

Friday: Sabbath

Saturday: Day Off

Siblings in Christ,

When I am participating in community theater, I often don't tell people that I'm a pastor. This is for several reasons: one, pastors should have friends outside the church; two, it is a nice break to participate in something as opposed to leading it; and three, I guess I am nervous that I would be treated differently. When one of the actors found out she had more questions about me being a Christian than about me being a Pastor. "So you try to be good all the time?" She asked. "Well, yeah that's part of it." I replied. She then started listing things happening in the world, this country, this state that she took to mean that being good all the time was a waste of time. There was no way to address all the evil in the world so why bother trying. You do what you can to take care of yourself and those you care about. I looked at her rather perplexed after her list and explanation. This woman was older than some of the cast. I had heard about the good she had done for this theater. I had seen how she interacts with other generations – she gendered the transgender and nonbinary cast members almost perfectly all the time even though she isn't LGBTQIA+. I could see all the good that she had done even for communities that were not her own. From my perspective she is someone who does good at least a good percentage of the time and yet her eyes were focused on the brokenness of the world.

This year's Advent theme is 'What do you fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent'. We live in a complicated and nuanced world, and so was the world that Jesus was born into. This Advent we will take seriously the angels' message and trust that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. We will look closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?

As we journey through this season, may our hope become gritty and resilient. May we remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

Peace,
Pastor Remy



Coming for Advent 2025

New Advent Devotions
Daily Facebook Posts
Adult and Children's Sunday School

For More Advent Activities, please go to Page 6
For Sunday Advent Readings go to Page 7



Grace Lutheran Church Council

November Council Meeting Minutes:

https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Congregation-Council-Minutes_111025-00000002.pdf

First, this month I would like to give you a point in time update of how the fall stewardship campaign is going. So far, though November 20, we have received 49 estimates of giving, 6 from people that did not submit a card last year. These could be new members, they could be those that just did not turn in a card for one reason or another. The total of the estimates received is now \$221,220 compared to a total of 61 estimates received last year for a total of \$227,988. As you can see, our support is growing. If you have turned in your estimate, thank you. You are helping us to more accurately predict what we will be able to financially do next year. If you have not, there is still time, please try to turn in your estimate – and remember, this is an estimate, we understand things happen and that actual amount may end up being less . . . or more! Also, we all know and celebrate that financial estimates are only a portion of our total ministry. Just within our congregation, we all also commit our time and talent – For all these gifts you share, thank you for your commitment!

Second this month, and again stewardship, there is good news and an opportunity to report. A very generous gift has been received from an anonymous donor for ADA property issues. It can be used for anything “ADA.” That is, it can be used for new construction or equipment. It can be used for repairs and normal maintenance or permitting. While being ADA accessible is always a goal, sometimes it gets overlooked or trivialized. This is an effort to open an account and to invite each of us to prayerfully consider giving to an ADA fund which this gift will start.

A simple example of ADA expenses is the lift at the end of the wing Sandcastle occupies that is the only indoor ADA accessible method to get to Ronnenkamp Hall. This unit must be inspected/serviced and permitted annually. The simple procedure runs nearly \$1,000/year if repair parts are not required. There is also the entry door to the front entryway that has an automatic (ADA) access door which often doesn’t work due to seasonal wood swelling. This donor invites us all to look at ADA accessibility issues seriously and to contribute as you feel moved to continue to build the fund so projects may be addressed. If you do choose to contribute, simply mark the contribution as “ADA Property Fund” and it will be properly recorded.

Finally, third this month, this will be the last Congregation Council Corner prior to the holidays and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. All have a blessed, merry and Holy Christmas and if traveling, travel safely!

President
Mike Franklin
Vice President
Susan Speulda
Secretary
Cathy Knock
Treasurer
Bob Keith
Financial Secretary:
Mike Franklin

Council Members:
John Baggenstos
Charlotte Chrisman
Frank Davis
Angie Gallagher
Gary Hertel
Meredith Junge
Jaya Lapham Conser
Nate Olsen
Robyn Vega



What do you fear?

INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT

Advent 2025

Adult and Children's Sunday School

Starting November 30

9 am in Ronnenkamp Hall

Nativity Program

Sunday, Dec. 21

10 am In Person and Live on YouTube

Sunday Advent Worship

Sunday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and 14

10 am In Person and Live on YouTube

Family Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 23

4 pm In Person Only

This service is created with children and families in mind, but all are invited.

Advent Wreath Making and Potluck

Sunday, Nov. 30

Following Worship

In Ronnenkamp Hall

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Please watch for more information on times

In Person and Live on YouTube

Midweek Advent Soup Supper and Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10, and 17

6 pm soup Supper and 7 pm Worship

In Person and Live on YouTube

Holden Evening Prayer Service



It's time to decorate Grace for Christmas!!

If you would like to contribute to the Altar Guild Flower Fund, look for forms located in the church entry.

To share a poinsettia (or other holiday plant) with the Grace Sanctuary display, please bring it to the church office after December 15.

For your information to be included in the holiday bulletins, please have forms to the office by noon on Monday, December 15th.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!



Advent 2025 Readings

November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Lamentations 3:55-57
Luke 1:5-13

December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 43:19-21
Matthew 11:1-11

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Luke 1:26-39

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Nativity Program
Matthew 1:18-25
Isaiah 41:5-10

December 24

Christmas Eve

Luke 2:1-20

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



The Giving Tree with Tags
is in the Church Entry.

Deadline for any donations will be Sunday,
December 14



Thank You!!

Thank You to everybody who donated food to
Jackson Street Youth Services for their Holiday
Food Boxes.

Jackson Street picked up 13 boxes of food to
hand out for Thanksgiving and Christmas food
Boxes.

Along with Food donations, Grace Members also
donated monetarily which also went to Jackson
Street Youth Services.



Since 1986 Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers of Corvallis has been on a mission to offer vital services to individuals with disabilities and older adults in Benton County. **VIC** is there to lend a hand with rides, grocery shopping, laundry, friendly visits and ramp building. VIC's core values are based on the Golden Rule: Treat others as you wish to be treated. Many of our clients have no family in the area and rely on the help of VIC to be able to stay in their own homes.

Here at Grace we have been blessed with a team of dedicated long time volunteers for VIC. Donna Wernz was the Grace representative on the board for 20 plus years, she resigned in 2024! Norma Moody was the Grace Coordinator for 23 years and resigned this past summer. Jim Wernz, Juan Guzman and Ardis Koester are present long time volunteers. Cathy Mueller has been a volunteer for several years and has now stepped into the Grace Coordinator position and in September became the board member representing Grace.

Now for the **BIG** news! At the Benton Community Foundation 7th Annual Philanthropic Achievement Award Banquet on November 13th **VIC** was honored as **Volunteer Group of the Year!** This is quite an honor and acknowledgement of the work VIC does!!

VIC is always looking for friendly volunteers, especially office staff and drivers. Can you spare 3-4 hours a month to make a difference? If this is something you are interested in, you can go to <https://viccovallis.org/> to apply or call the office at 541-714-0820. The office is open 9:30-noon, Monday through Thursday. VIC is also on Facebook and Instagram!



Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Michael Hadlock
Communications Committee—TBA
Sunday Hospitality—Meredith Junge
Events Hospitality—Sue Davis
Growing Young Ministry: Shae Richert-Lathum
Altar Guild - Linda Samuels

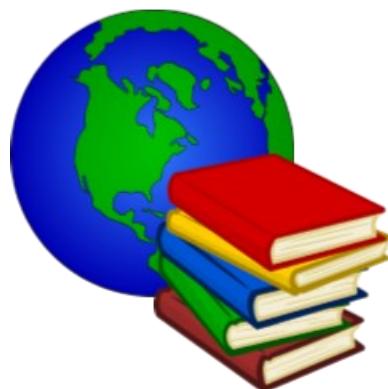
Worship & Music Committee—Sue Davis

Finance Committee - Bob Keith
Personnel Committee - Gary Hertel
Caring Ministry Team - Marshall Hill-Tanquist
Stewardship Committee - TBA
Outreach Committee—Elaine Franklin



In Grace Gallery

Longtime Grace member Linda Burt is sharing her unique art in the Grace Gallery (Ronnenkamp Hall) now through New Years. The exhibit is entitled Light and Shadow across Oregon Landscapes in Two Media – Watercolor and Sumi Ink Drawing. Recent Grace attendees may not know Linda or her husband Larry because the couple usually worship with us on Zoom. Linda is a retired faculty member in OSU's Department of Human Development and Family Life, specializing in Early Childhood Education. Larry is a retired OSU Extension economist. Since concluding their employment, the couple spent many hours caring for parents, children, and grandchildren. They formerly were devoted to playing mandolin music in the Oregon Mandolin Orchestra in Portland. But Linda has always pursued her art, working in a variety of media. For the current showing, Linda has combined two media, watercolor and the rarely practiced Sumi ink drawing. Thank you for sharing, Linda!



Grace's Global Book Club

2025/2026 Book List

[https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-2026-
Global-Book-Group-Reading-List.pdf](https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-2026-Global-Book-Group-Reading-List.pdf)

We meet on the First Tuesday of each Month in the Grace Library at 1 pm

Upcoming Dates

December 2

The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who changed the course of History from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement.
By Sharon McMahon

January 6, 2026

Talk to Me: Lessons from a Family Forged in History by Rich Benjamin

February 3, 2026

The Paris Express by Emma Donoghue



Blood DRIVE

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Please contact The American Red Cross to sign up or for more information

We are looking for Volunteers to Open and Close the Building during this blood drive. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.



Sack Lunch Ministry

Grace makes up 50 sack lunches each month to hand out at Grace or at Vina Moses

Sack Lunch Work Party
4th Sunday of the Month during Coffee Hour

Items we are collecting

- Drinks – Juice Boxes, Capri Sun, or small bottles of water.
- Granola or Fruit and Grain Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Puddings or other treats
- Napkins, spoons, and paper bags



Wisdom Seekers Book Group

New Book Starts in January 2026

The Wisdom Seekers Book Group will be starting a new book on Thursday, January 8th – *Temperance Creek*. A Memoir by Pamela Royes. Royes' memoir traces her suburban upbringing in the flatlands of North Dakota, to college in Oregon, to a decision to abandon the conventional direction her life was taking in exchange for a move to full-time sheepherding and dude ranch work from the depths of Hells Canyon to the heights of the Seven Devils and Wallows.

Meeting Times: Thursdays at 12 pm via zoom

If you would like to join us for some fun discussions, please contact Mark Klopsch at klopschm@comcast.net to request the Zoom invitation.



Quilting and Prayer Shawl Ministry



2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2pm
In the Sewing Room in the Basement

Contact Linda Samuels for more
information



The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of Each Month
at 11:45 am

December 16

Corvallis Club

Please RSVP to Mary Ann B by
December 9

Quilts To Warm Hearts and Homes

Over the years Grace members and friends have made hundreds of patch quilts to aid others. In recent years we have given most of these quilts to Vina Moses to share with disadvantaged people in Benton County. Right now we are focusing on quilts that can be included in the Giving Tree project for children and youth (see Christmas tree in narthex).

In the past the quilting group sent quilts to Lutheran World Relief for distribution in Africa. Last year LWR made a special appeal for twin bed-sized quilts to send to Ukraine, where winter is cold and many families have lost their homes and all contents. The Grace Quilting Group in early November sent five quilts in answer to this appeal. We plan to send more during the coming year, while continuing to supply Vina Moses.

To aid this joint mission, we have joined forces with The Quilt Loft in Albany. Customers there create magnificent quilt tops but many do not wish to sew and attach the backings. We receive the larger of these tops (smaller go to Hospice in Albany) for backing preparation before forwarding to Vina Moses. To date 14 of these cooperative projects have been completed.

Doing various kinds of projects require no "quilting" expertise but rather simple stitching, and they offer a good time for participants to laugh and share together. Quilts may be queen or twin sized, TV-watching throws, or infant "blankets." Most are backed with cotton and fluffed with polyester batting. Some are backed with fleece.

The dual plans for Vina Moses and Lutheran World Relief are ambitious! How can you help?

- 1) Contribute four hours a month to pin and stitch -- second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m. If you have a sewing machine at home, you can even contribute from there, on your own time schedule. No special knowledge or talent as a tailor is required, and "tutoring" is freely given. Contact Linda Samuels, Cathy Mueller, Nancy Strohlein, or Sharon Rosenkoetter for more information.
- 2) Donate sheets, tablecloths, napkins, or fabric to be incorporated into quilts. Cotton or linen fabric is preferred. Big pieces of fleece can also be used.

All of our work is blessed by the congregation before it is sent on its journey, near or far. Thank you for your support.



Love Shared with Ukrainians

Last spring the Grace Foundation sent \$8,000 to aid Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Uzhhorod, western Ukraine, and asked Grace families to consider private gifts. Here is a report on the disbursement of the Foundation funds:

\$4,000 went to the Uzhhorod Interfamily Clinic and eldercare, which were created through support from the Corvallis Sister Cities Association and other donors in western Europe to provide free and reduced medical care for thousands of IDPs. These individuals and families have fled to the western part of the war-ravaged country fighting for its existence after the savage Russian invasion and ongoing war. The funds we contributed help to cover general medical care for thousands of patients at the clinic, including elderly displaced patients without homes. The Interfamily Clinic, under the direction of Dr. Paul Kolesnyk, also provides professional mental health counseling to address trauma issues.

\$2,500 was disbursed to the Tree of My Life Center for injured veterans and their families. Many of the veterans are amputees who were wounded by landmines. The Center, housed in an old mansion, offers rest, relaxation and recreation, including adapted swimming, along with introductions to other veterans and time for families to be together in a “happy” place. It is viewed by Uzhhorod volunteers as critical to the health mission of the service.

\$1,500 was contributed to the SOS Center for mental health counselling for IDPs. Therapists from around the world assist in this effort.

The Corvallis Sister Cities Association thanks Grace Lutheran Church Foundation and members for sharing your love with individuals and families facing ongoing, almost unbelievable challenges. Although Uzhhorod citizens are experiencing frequent loss of heat, water, and electricity with rolling energy blackouts throughout the country, the city remains a safe haven for many thousands who have been displaced by the war in other areas. To date, there have been no missile strikes on Uzhhorod.

All donations to the Corvallis Sister Cities Association (CSCA) are tax deductible. CSCA is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Contributions may be sent to Citizens Bank, Corvallis, or channeled through Grace giving.