

January 2026  
volume XXV, issue 1

# Grace GATHERINGS



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

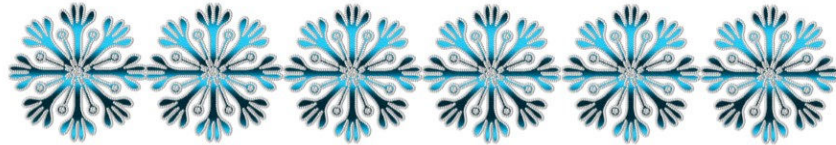
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

## 2026 Annual Meeting

January 25, 2026  
Following Worship  
In Person Only

2025 Annual Report will be coming soon.

# ANNUAL MEETING

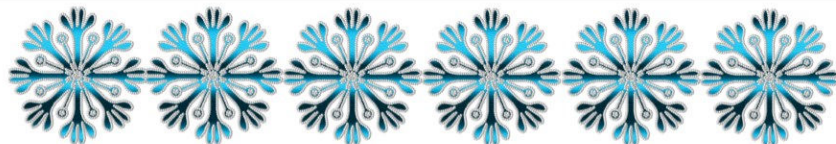


## Sunday POTLUCK

## Sunday Potluck

January 4, 2026  
Following Worship  
In Ronnenkamp Hall

Bring a White Elephant Gift and join us  
in Bingo, Food and Fellowship



**Global Book Club**  
First Tuesday of the Month at  
1 pm in the Grace Library

## Wisdom Seekers

New Book Starts  
January 8, 2026

12 pm on Thursdays via zoom

January 6  
*Talk to Me: Lessons from a Family Forged  
in History* by Rich Benjamin



## Updated Church Staff Schedule

Monday and Thursday  
(on site):  
9am—4pm

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

The Church Office will be closed between  
December 25 and January 5, 2026.

The Church Office will also be closed on  
Monday, January 19, 2026 in honor of  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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** **December 21, 2024**

Contributions for the Month of

December: \$16,496;

December Budget: \$37,900;

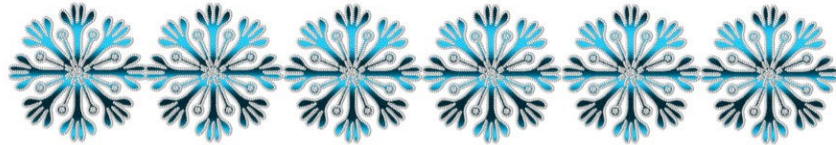
First 3 Weeks Giving: \$16,496;

Weekly Budget: \$7,580;

(5 weeks in December)

YTD contributions: \$281,574;

YTD budget: \$271,740



## **Share the Love!**

Announcing  
An elegant, affordable Valentines  
dinner

Friday, February 13, 5:30 p.m.  
Ronnenkamp Hall

For singles, couples, groups --  
Those with treasured memories, cherished  
presents, anticipated futures  
Warm, hopeful conversation, laughter, smiles  
Candlelight

**Music by:** Bryson Skaar  
**Gourmet cuisine by:** the Grace Worker Bees  
A terrific, inspiring speaker

Tickets will be available in January 2026

## **January Birthdays**

George C	01/01
Don F	01/01
Linda B	01/02
Margaret S	01/02
David L	01/03
Jenny O	01/05
Inge D	01/11
William S	01/11
Scott B	01/12
Daniel S	01/20
Kathleen K	01/21
Midoriko S	01/21
Sarah W	01/21
Thomas C	01/22
Cameron O	01/26
Shane M	01/28
Henry B	01/31
Michael H	01/31
Mark S	01/31

**Pastor E. Remy Remmers**  
**(They/Them)**

Contact Information  
Email: [revremy@grace97330.org](mailto:revremy@grace97330.org)

**Office Hours**

Mon.-Thurs: In the Area  
Friday: Sabbath  
Saturday: Day Off

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Welcome to the new year and the Season of Epiphany. Epiphany is when we celebrate the magi arriving to the manger scene with Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Fun fact we do not know how many “magi” there were. It’s also very possible that the Magi arrived a year or two after Jesus was born. Talk about extending the celebration. What we do know is that there were three gifts. This is part of why tradition has said there were three magi. This Epiphany we will be doing the tradition of Star Words.

Star Words is a relatively new Epiphany practice. Like the Magi followed a star to guide them to the Holy Family. We will pick a Star Word to guide us for 2026. The idea is to create a list of intention words or guiding words and put them on paper. In worship on the first Sunday of the year there will be a basket of words to choose from. You will be encouraged to pick a star word that will then guide you throughout the year. If you don’t like your word, you can always swap with another in the basket or your neighbor. If you are primarily joining us online, please let us know and we can email you a star word or mail you one of the star word cards. Here are some theological statements about this tradition:

1. The magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words offer a tool to actively seek and reflect on God’s presence among us, both in the moment and in hindsight.
3. We recognize that it is often easy to miss God throughout our daily lives. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.
4. We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.
5. By not looking at or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

Let the light of Christ Show us the way this Epiphany Season,  
Pastor Remy



**Wednesday Bible Study with**  
**Pr. Remy**

Returns on Wednesday, January 7, 2026

1 pm in the Grace Library

## Grace Lutheran Church Council

December Council Meeting Minutes:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/25-12-08-Congregation-Council-Minutes.pdf>

### Congregation Council Corner

This has been published in several different places but to take advantage of all available communication methods available, a word about the live broadcasting of our Sunday morning worship services as well as other events in our sanctuary. You may have noticed that at particular times during the broadcast that the bottom is blurred out and more recently, still pictures have been substituted for a live picture of what is going on. This is all very intentional and for a specific purpose.

As you are certainly aware, the situation today is not the same as it was in the past. When I was previously living in Corvallis and about 70 years ago (I was a lot younger), I would often go anywhere I wanted, alone, and not worry about my safety. Today, we wouldn't dream of young children even walking around the block alone. When our worship service is streamed publically, we worry about who has access to the names and likeness of the children in this community. Furthermore, foster children are not legally allowed to be televised in that manner. Therefore, we are taking the extra step during the children's sermon of blurring the lower portion of the picture and in cases where children may be identified in the whole broadcast picture, substituting a still picture. It is totally for the children's protection and safety and to comply with certain legal requirements.

On another topic, our current constitution describes the congregation council as having between nine (9) and twelve (12) elected members plus the Pastor. The treasurer may or may not be a member of the council but is always a member of the executive committee. We have been endeavoring to keep that number at twelve (12). The prescribed term is three (3) years so that equates to four (4) positions being open each year.

Pastor Remy has been speaking with colleagues and found that most congregations our size tend to have less council members, definitely less than our current twelve (12). A primary advantage of a smaller council is that it makes more members available to serve within the committee structure where we are currently having issues with membership.

As a result of this informal survey and the potential advantage, we as a council have decided to start moving toward a nine (9) member council (plus pastor). After elections at the upcoming congregation meeting, we will achieve a ten (10) member council as we will only fill three (3) of the possible four (4) available persons and in addition, Jaya Lapham Conser has moved to Eugene and subsequently resigned. Jaya had one year left in her term so that position will not be filled. We will have another resignation next year from the term completing a year later so will be able to achieve the desired nine (9) person council at next year's (2027) annual meeting.

That is all a leadup to the fact we are currently looking for persons to run for council, a three (3) year term, elected at the annual meeting. There are also positions available for voting member to the Oregon Synod Assembly (1-day via Zoom), and representatives to Lutherwood's Annual Meeting. Please speak with Sue Speulda or Marna Renshaw if you are interested in one of the open positions to be elected at the annual meeting. If you are interested in a committee position, speak to anyone on the congregation council.

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

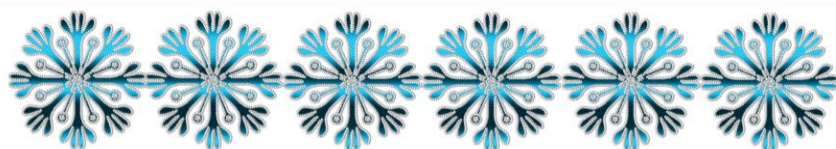
**Council Members:**  
John Baggenstos  
Charlotte Chrisman  
Frank Davis  
Angie Gallagher  
Gary Hertel  
Meredith Junge  
Jaya Lapham Conser  
Nate Olsen  
Robyn Vega



## **Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers**

Fall Newsletter

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/NL-12-2025-2-pub.pdf>



### **New Christ in Our Home**

January—March 2026

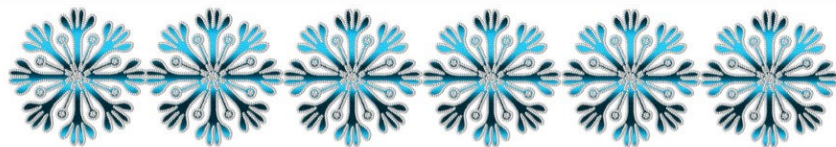
Now Available in the Church Entry. Please contact Andrea in the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.

### **Ladies Luncheon**

11:45 am on the 2nd and 4th  
Tuesday of the Month

**January 13th** - New Morning Bakery

**January 27th** - Vinewood Tapehouse



*Welcome,*

**New Members**

### **New member Recognition**

Sunday, January 11, 2026