

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



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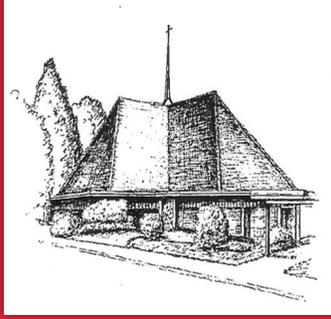
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Grace Lutheran Church of Corvallis is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. Whoever you are, Whatever your past, However you live, Whomever you love – You are welcome here.

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 commu-
nity and world manifesting with
caring hearts and helping hands
the good news of the Kingdom
of God.”



Office Hours

Updated Church Staff Schedule

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

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

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

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Giving at a Glance Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of January 23, 2026

Contributions for the Month of
January: \$36,751;
January Budget: \$48,500;
First 3 Weeks Giving: \$36,751;
Weekly Budget: \$12,125;
(4 weeks in January)
YTD contributions: \$36,751;
YTD budget: \$36,750

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

If you have a prayer request,
please send it to prayers@grace97330.org
If you would like to be added to the prayer chain
mailing list, please contact Andrea in the church office.

Prayer Request

Carol G
Alan, Son of Herb H
Ar, Family and friend of Cathy M
Maxine K

Prayers of Comfort

Family and Friends of Robert Anderson
Family and Friends of Herb Hanson
Family and Friends of Evelyn Hendrix



Lucy M	02/01
David T	02/04
Bob Z	02/04
Michael F	02/05
Ron O	02/07
Ardis K	02/09
Donna W	02/09
Sue M	02/13
Linda R	02/14
Bonnie Z	02/19
Brenda B	02/21
Debbie Z	02/21
Toney L	02/23
Jerrold K	02/24
Katie O	02/24
Gloria W	02/25
Brandy G	02/28
Noel V	02/28



Save the Date

CPR and Defibrillator Training

Saturday, March 14

Sign Ups coming soon

Scholarships available

Please contact Elaine F. or Andrea in the
Church Office

Pastor E. 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,

My heart continues to break with the news of ICE kidnapping and killing our neighbors. It is a heavy weight to slowly be disillusioned from institutions that used to serve you. It's an even heavier weight to realize those institutions have never treated difference fairly. It can be easy to isolate and be overwhelmed. Breathe, pray. I often ground myself through breath prayers. A short simple phrase on the breath in and another on the breath out. Some will pray the psalms this way. Breath in: *Be Still* Breath out: *and know that I am God*. This Lent we will be grounding ourselves in the theme: Tell Me Something Good.

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday which is on February 18th this year. Early in the life of the Church Lent was a season to prepare people for their baptisms that would happen at Easter. During Lent they would have a what would be similar to us as a confirmation program. They would learn the basics and essentials to Christianity. This curriculum we will be using studied what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is *good news*. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

May the peace of Christ ground you so that we can love our neighbor together,
Pastor Remy

Grace Lutheran Church Council

January Council Meeting Minutes:

https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Congregation-Council-Minutes_011226-00000002.pdf

Congregation Council Corner

As this is written, January 19, we are quickly approaching the end of the council year. As you know, fiscally we are tied to the calendar year but practically, leadership-wise, our year is essentially February through January, based on the annual meeting in late January and the elections that take place at the first council meeting after that meeting, typically referred to as the “organizational meeting.” It is at that time that the newly elected council members take their place and new council/congregation officers are elected.

¹² There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. ¹³ We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 NIRV

It is important, to remember the “many parts.” No council is the same; all have their strengths and weaknesses, but all are contributing as part of the body in new and exciting ways. All of our contributions are unique, all are different in the time they can add creatively to this mosaic.

So, a big thank you to all those that have served elected positions on the council this past year, alphabetically, they are John Baggenstos, Charlotte Chrisman, Frank Davis, Mike Franklin, Angie Gallagher, Gary Hertel, Meredith Junge, Cathy Knock, Jaya Lapham Conser, Nate Olsen, Susan Speulda and Robyn Vega. The council also includes Pastor Remy and a member of the Executive Committee (by constitution) is the Treasurer who typically sits in at council meetings but is not necessarily a member of the council – that has been Bob Keith this past year.

Furthermore, we give special thanks and appreciation to those whose term is ending or have recently resigned from the council. Those folks include Charlotte Chrisman, Frank Davis, Meredith Junge, Jaya Lapham Conser, and Nate Olsen. Of those, Frank has agreed to let his name stand for reelection to a second 3-year term.

A special thank you to Bob Keith who has served as treasurer since the untimely passing of Hal Brauner and is now, with big smiles, not running for reelection and Robin Comforto has been identified as his replacement, subject to election at the organizational meeting.

Please take a minute and thank these folks as you see them in the next few weeks, especially those ending their service.

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



Lent 2026 Events

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 18
7 pm In Person and Live Stream

Sunday Lent Worship

Sunday, Feb. 22—March 29
10 am In Person and Live on YouTube

Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship

Wednesday, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25
6 pm soup Supper and 7 pm Worship
In Person and Live on YouTube
Sign Ups in the Church Entry

Lenten Devotions

Coming Soon, Watch for more information

Lenten Social Media Posts

Daily Facebook Posts starting Wednesday,
February 18.

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 29, 2026
10 am in Person and Live on YouTube

Holy Week

March 30—April 4, 2026
Please watch for more information

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026
Please watch for more information



It's time to decorate Grace for Easter!!

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

To share Easter Orchids with the Grace Sanctuary display, please bring it to the church office between March 30 and April 2

For your information to be included in the holiday bulletins, please have forms to the office by noon on Monday, March 30th.

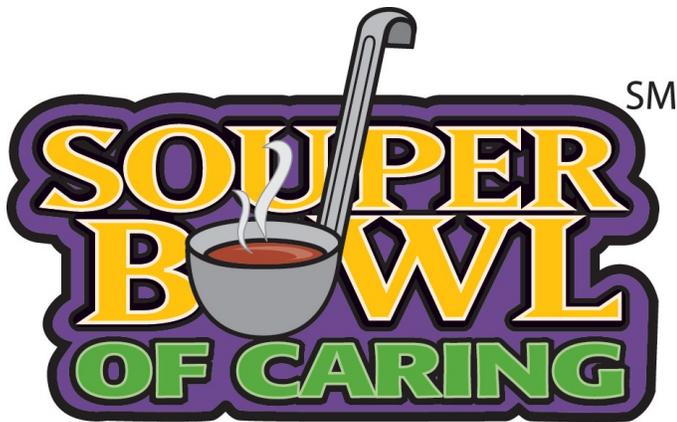
Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!



Farewell Shae Celebration and Potluck

Sunday, February 1, 2026
Following Worship

Join us as we say Goodbye to Shae as
they leave for a new journey



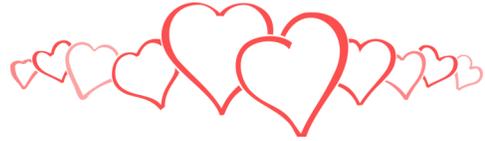
tacklehunger.org

Vote for your team as we get close to Super Bowl Sunday.

Bring in Canned Soup or a Monetary Donation on
February 1 or February 8.

All Donations will go to the Food Bank.

Share the Love!



An elegant, affordable Valentines
dinner

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

For singles, couples, groups (limit 72 total) --
Those with treasured memories, cherished
presents, anticipated futures
Invite Friends
Warm, hopeful conversation, laughter, smiles
Candlelight

Music by: Bryson Skaar

Gourmet cuisine by: The Grace Worker Bees
Meat, Vegetarian, and Gluten Free
Options Available

Terrific, inspiring speakers: Dr. Mark and Alice
Rampton

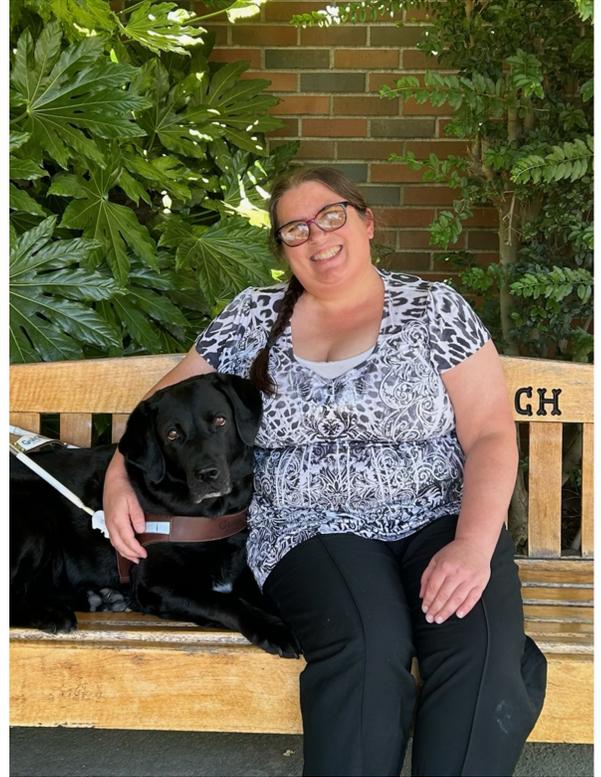
Tickets available before and after worship from
January 11 to Feb. 1, 2026

Price for Dinner: \$10 (Cash or Check)

In Addition, there will be an opportunity to donate
to Human Services in our sister city in Ukraine

While training with Bali in 2017, I remember the trainers telling us that the average career of a guide dog is 6-8 years. I remember thinking that felt so far away, and I felt this way even after I reapplied for my next dog in May of 2023. Up until Summer of 2024, Bali continued to go strong. We walked on average of 1-2 miles every day, with some days walking 3 miles. During the Summer of 2024, I noticed that Bali couldn't go as far, as fast, and as many days in a row. This was the first time I realized that in the near future my partnership would be coming to an end, because up to this point the trainers would tell me that if I didn't think Bali was ready to retire when I got the call, then I could continue to work her.

That was over a year ago, and in that time Bali's drive to work has gotten less, her longevity while working is lower and she is much slower. For the last year, I was just waiting on that call, the call to train with my new guide... and it finally came. I have now gotten that call, and I will be training with my new dog. For online privacy, I will not be releasing the date in the worship service or in the monthly newsletter, but I will release that date to individuals either in person or via email who I know are part of the Grace Community. What I can say is I will be gone for 2 weeks, where I will have very limited contact with my friends, family, and the Grace Community. My Graduation will be Live Streamed on YouTube and we will find a way to share this information to the people of Grace.



A Summary of the Career of Bali

Bali and my partnership lasted 8.5 years. When we came home we did a lot of volunteer work and general exploring, until I got the job at Grace. It seemed like getting my job here at Grace changed our direction and path in life. Bali and I did a lot of travel in our 8.5 years together. We would travel to California 4 times, we would travel to Washington DC and even to Michigan. Bali and I would attend many conventions from the PTA convention to NFB (National Federation of the Blind) and even to the Great Lakes Homeland Security Convention where we were speakers. Bali and I would share our journeys on Social Media and set out to show the world what "Blindness Really Looks Like".

What does this Mean Going Forward?

First, to answer a big question that many people have asked me... In Bali's retirement, Bali will stay at our home and live the life of a pet dog. Because she will be retired, I will then be bringing in my new dog to Grace. This dog will be between the ages of 1.5 and 2 years old and we will have only known each other for 2 weeks. To Compare, when I started at Grace, Bali and I had been partners for almost 2 years and she was almost 4 years old. You will more than likely see or hear me do a lot of training, rewarding, and reinforcing of behaviors or training tasks, especially in the early months. My new guide and I do not know each other, so part of these early months is also creating the bonds and also showing this dog what I expect from it. I do ask that you do not interact with my new dog until I have said it is OK. I also ask that you do not compare Bali to this dog. This dog is not "Replacing" Bali but it is allowing Bali to retire and my new dog and I will be just starting a new journey together.

IN the next couple months, I ask for patience and understanding in allowing me to be gone from Grace with little contact so that I can start the bonding with my new dog. If there are any questions while I am gone, we will have office volunteers available or to reach out to Pr. Remy. I ask for understanding with any emotions that you may see me show in this transition. I also ask for support in not interacting with my new dog, Because I know it will be hard, but it is super important. I also thank all of you who have helped make it possible to continue living life with a guide dog.



February 1, 2026
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

February 8, 2026
5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

February 15, 2026
Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 22, 2026
1st Sunday in Lent

John 2:1-11
Matthew 13:31-32

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

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson,
Communications Committee—Bob Keith,
Sunday Hospitality—Meredith Junge
Events Hospitality—Molly Hallgrimson
Growing Young Ministry: TBD
Altar Guild - Linda Samuels,
Worship & Music Committee—Sue Davis

Finance Committee - Bob Keith
Personnel Committee - Cathy Mueller
Caring Ministry Team - Marshall Hill-Tanquist
Stewardship Committee - Carol Warloe
Disaster Preparedness Committee—Andrea Barnhurst,
Safety Committee—TBA
Outreach Committee—Elaine Franklin



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

February 10, 2026

China blue

February 24, 2026

El Sol de Mexico



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>

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

Upcoming Dates

February 3, 2026

The Paris Express by Emma Donoghue

March 3, 2026

In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream by
Eric Dregni

April 7, 2026

Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult

May 5, 2026

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

June 2, 2026

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain

A Word from the Finance Committee

The Church budget for 2026 started with carrying over an ending balance from 2025 of a negative (\$6,905.00). Total income was \$2,933 less than budget and total expenses were \$4,005 more than budget.

For 2026, Contributions are forecasted to be \$323, 000, a 13.5% increase from 2025 and total income to be \$373,521, a 13.8 % increase from 2025. Contributions in 2025 were 3.7% greater than budgeted. The anticipated "Contributions" income in 2026 is a stretch number this year. It is reasonable.... but still a stretch. Total expenses for 2026 are estimated to be \$365,196 a increase of 7.3% from 2025. Ministry Staffing salaries are per the Personnel Committee recommendations with other modifications made due to insurance coverage and a corrective reading of the Synod Compensation Guidelines for Ordained Staff. Staffing Salaries are up 16.3% compared to 2025. Other expenses, under "Ministry Support" (utility expenses, etc.), they were all budgeted to be 5-20% higher in 2026.

The ending balance (bottom line) for 2026 is a positive \$420.

At the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026, the 2026 Budget was passed with a correction of \$358 dollars added to the bookkeeper salary for 2026 to be relative to the 2025 rate.

Submitted by: Bob Keith

Finance Committee Chair

