Grace Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2026

Giving Thankfully

When the calendar flips to November, my sister Megan starts listening to Christmas music. “It’s the start of the holiday season!” she says. I personally hold off on the jingle bells until after Thanksgiving, but since America starts celebrating holidays weeks before they come up on the calendar, I can see why the first days of November already put Megan in the holiday mood. Just as all of December is culturally “Christmas,” the entirety of November feels like Thanksgiving Day. And in a country that often spends the holidays wrapped up in the trappings of materialism, what a wonderful way to start the “most wonderful time of the year”—remembering the many blessings and gifts for which we can be grateful.

We know that every gift we have comes from God’s hand and that God gives these gifts to us, not only for our own good, but for the good of those around us. Paul writes in Hebrews 13:16, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” While we enter this month giving thanks to God for our many blessings, we also act on our gratefulness by passing those blessings along where we can.

We have several opportunities to give thankfully throughout the month of November:
· November 1 – Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative olive wood carving shop
· November 7 – Walk for Life
· November 8 – Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing
· Collection of lounge pants, snacks, and body wash for Veterans Victory House
· Operation ELF Angel Tree for Kay Phillips Children’s Advocacy Center

Check out details on all these opportunities in this newsletter, the weekly announcement page, and flyers posted in the narthex. I’m so thankful for your partnership in sharing the love and mercy of Christ with our neighbors near and far.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry “most wonderful time of the year!”



In this newsletter you can expect:

Church Calendar

LowCountry Walk for Life

Holy Land

Oktoberfest

Sunday School

Youth

Christmas Events

Stewardship

Serving Schedule

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Time Change Fall Back Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH Holy Land Ministry Visit Corn Maze 1:30PM	2 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	3 Election in GH 7AM - 7PM LifeLight Study 10:30 AM PPC Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR	4 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM GH Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary	5 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	6 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	7 LowCountry Walk for Life 10:00 AM
8 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH Pack Shoeboxes 12:00PM	9 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	10 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR	11 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM GH Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary	12 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	13 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	14 Emily Brenn rehearsal GH 9-11:30 AM
15 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH Emily Brenn piano recital GH - 3 PM	16 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	17 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM Men's Group 6:00 PM Grace Hall Book Club 7:00 PM at The Taste on Dorchester	18 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Lunch & Learn 11:00 AM GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM GH Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary	19 Stephen Ministry 10:30 AM in CR Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	20 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	21 Private Party GH - 12-5 PM
22 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH Pot Luck 12:00 Noon GH Voter's Meeting 12:30PM GH	23 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	24 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM	25 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Thanksgiving Eve Ser. 12 & 7PM PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM GH	26  Office Closed Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	27	28
29 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH	30 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	1 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM	2 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH Advent Serv. 12 & 7PM PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM GH Sr. Choir 7:45 PM Sanctuary	3 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	4 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	5 Decorate for Christmas 9:00AM YOG Christmas Party 5:00PM at Brindis's

LOWCOUNTRY Walk for Life
Wannamaker County Park
Nov 7, 2026
10:00am

Mark your calendars for November 7! That's the date for this year's Lowcountry Pregnancy Center Walk for Life at Wannamaker County Park. The mission is simple: raise funds to save lives.

The Lowcountry Pregnancy Center (LPC) has been serving Charleston-area women and families dealing with unplanned pregnancies for over 30 years. The center provides services like pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, counseling, STI testing, parenting classes, fatherhood classes, baby items, and adoption referrals—all free of cost to their clients. They also engage in the important work of caring for women who suffer from the guilt of a previous abortion, offering Bible studies that emphasize the forgiveness found in Christ.

This non-profit pregnancy center relies on the generous donations of people like you and me to keep their life-changing services going in our community, and one of their biggest fundraising events is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for the 19th annual Lowcountry Walk for Life on November 7nd at Wannamaker County Park. We invite you to get out your walking shoes and join our team for this fun and rewarding event. The schedule is below:

10:00 a.m. – CHECK-IN OPENS. Please be aware that there is a $2 park fee per person. There will also plenty of fun, activities, and live music to enjoy during this time before the walk begins.
11:00 a.m. – THE WALK BEGINS! The pleasant 2-mile walk takes place on a scenic paved trail that is stroller, wheelchair, and pet-friendly.
11:45 a.m. – COOKOUT PARTY! Immediately following the Walk for Life, all walkers, sponsors, and volunteers are welcome to enjoy a free lunch in the park.

If you are interested in walking with us, please check out the informational bulletin board outside Pastor's office and go to lpcfriends.com/events to register and find more information. If you are unable to walk but would like to donate to the cause, you can place donations in the basket on the table by Pastor's office. Please make checks out to Lowcountry Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for your partnership in sharing life and hope with the clients of LPC!

Deaconess Karen Suter



Congratulations



Grace 2026
Confirmation Class

A Confirmation service was held on Sunday, October 25th during the 11:00 AM worship service.

Those confirmed were:

Ezekiel Brindis,

Lauren DeMercurio,

Claire Limehouse,

Claire Ott,

Lucy Ott.

A reception to honor the confirmands was held in Grace Hall following the service.

Oktoberfest 2026

Grace's community outreach Oktoberfest was a huge success! The event brought both our congregation and our neighbors together for a fun evening filled with food, drinks, games, and fellowship. It provided a wonderful opportunity to introduce members of the community to our church.

Thank you to the congregation for helping with the planning, setup, food, drinks, activities, and cleanup. Your time and support made this big event possible. Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's **Oktoberfest** on October 16, 2027!
























Beer














Sunday 2009




OKTOBERFEST
@GraceLutheranChurch



Lutheran Women in Mission

Women of Grace Christmas Pot Luck

We will have a Christmas Celebration on *Sunday, December 6th* at 12:00 Noon in Grace Hall. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share.
We will have a skit, sing Christmas music and have a short meeting to distribute the funds we have raised this year for mission projects.
Door prizes will also be given.
Women (and young women) are invited to this fun Christmas Event.



Mark your calendars!
Grace Congregational Christmas Party
Saturday, December 10th.
5:00 PM



The Senior Choir is still looking for new members to sing for the Advent and Christmas season. Rehearsals are each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. There is no practice on Thanksgiving Eve. All voices are needed. If you are interested, please text Patty Barnes, choir director at 843-371-1620 or email her at musicalpatty49@att.net.



Starting next month, on the first Sunday in November, rehearsal will begin for the Children's Christmas Program!!
These rehearsals will take place during the Sunday School hour (10:10-10:35am) with the addition of one dress rehearsal on a date TBD.
All children Sunday School age are invited to participate and will work together to learn and present a Christmas Jubliee to our congregation on *Sunday December 20th at the 9:30am service* hour.
If you have any questions please contact Lindsay Ott or Erika Gray.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry is going to be busy in November many opportunities for you to spread God's love and Grace to our community.

November 8 is the last day for donations for the Veterans Victory House as they will be delivered on November 10th just in time for Veterans Day.

November 8th after the third service we will be packing the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

November 15th the Angel Tree will be up and tags for 25 children will be available. These gift need to be returned to Church by Monday December 7th as they will be delivered on December 9th.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support as we spread the joy of our Savior's birth.

POC: Susan Star



Jr. Choir

On November 8 during the 11:00 service, the **Jr Choir** will be singing "Prepare the Way of the Lord." This anthem keeps repeating the theme, "Prepare the way of the Lord, and all the people will see the salvation of our God." The music starts out softly as if you hear a parade in the distance. Then it builds as you hear voices strong with recorder and bells. Finally you'll hear the music fading away leaving you to ponder the message that now is the time to prepare for our Lord's coming. The gospel message for the day also reintegrates the same thread as we'll hear about the 10 virgins getting ready for the groom. It's a Sunday you won't want to miss!

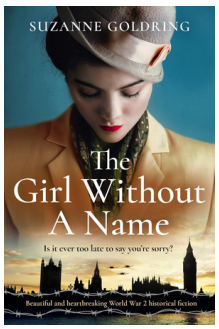
Merna Ahlemeyer



THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS

On Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026 we will hear about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after each service they will have on display olive wood religious handicrafts from Bethlehem available for purchase. The olivewood carvings include Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and others.They make nice gifts for a wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter or Christmas. They are carved by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on their crafts for their daily bread.

Book Club



The Girl Without a Name: Beautiful and heartbreaking World War 2 historical fiction.

A beautiful and heartbreaking read, this is the story of the courage of a young woman in wartime and another woman's quest to right the injustices of history. Fans of The Letter and The Nightingale will be hooked on The Girl Without a Name.

September 1940. As the bombs of the Blitz rain down on the East End of London, Ruby and Stevie are falling in love. United by a shocking experience when they were evacuees, brave sixteen-year-old Ruby believes she and Stevie are kindred spirits, and they find solace together surrounded by the bombed-out shells of London houses. But when Stevie is posted abroad, handsome and smart in his khaki uniform, Ruby can't shake a sense of foreboding. As she waits desperately for letters with foreign stamps that never come, she begins to fear that he is lost forever...

Meeting at The Taste on Dorchester
Nov. 17th at 7:00 PM



Lunch and Learn
will be November 18th
at 11:00 AM.
Watch the announcements
for more information.



A **Voter's Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 22 at 12:30PM in Grace Hall.
We will be ratifying the 2027 church budget. Please plan on attending.

A **pot-luck** will precede the voter's meeting in Grace Hall. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Thanksgiving Eve services will be on Wednesday, Nov. 25th at 12 & 7 PM.
The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday Nov. 26 & 27.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just a reminder that Grace offers Sunday School classes every week for students in kindergarten through 12th grade! This a great way for kids to make new friends and continue to study God's Word and grow in their understanding of the Christian faith. Check out some of the fun the kids are having in Miss Mary's classroom.









YOUTH OF GRACE

UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER 3

PIZZA & CHURCH YARD SALE PACK UP

12:30 PM GRACE HALL

NOVEMBER 1

CORN MAZE & HAY RIDE

1:30 - 4:30 PM WEST FARM CORN MAZE

NOVEMBER 8

PACK SHOEBOXES

NOON AFTER 11 AM SERVICE IN GRACE HALL

DECEMBER 5

YOG CHRISTMAS PARTY

TIME 5 PM THE BRINDIS HOUSE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CORI HARDING :
(630)336-9911 OR CORIHARDING77@GMAIL.COM

YARD SALE PROFITS

Awesome Success!

The 2026 Fall Yard Sale profits were $11,105.65.
The following is the breakdown of the funds.

25% LWML Mites $2,776.41

25% Women of Grace $2,776.41

10% Community Assistance Fund $1,110.58

8% Altar Guild Special $888.45

6% Church Mortgage $666.34

6% Endowment Fund $666.34

5% Youth Special $555.28

Missionaries

5% Rev. Michael Paul (Taiwan) $555.28

5% Rev. Timothy Sandino (Germany) $555.28

5% Rev. Jonathon Anderson (Panama) $555.28



Thank you to everyone who helped and/or donated to the Fall Yard Sale. We have a great reputation for our yard sales. Many people talk about it. We are known for our friendliness, organization and great prices. And of course it's size. Thanks again everyone.

Shirley Marquardt



Growing in Stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure

In November, members of Grace Lutheran Church will receive Time, Talent, and Treasure commitment sheets. These forms are not simply about filling volunteer positions or discussing finances. They are an opportunity to prayerfully reflect on how God has blessed each of us and how He might be calling us to serve Him and our neighbors through the ministry of our congregation.

Scripture reminds us that everything we have comes from God. Our time, abilities, resources, and opportunities are gifts entrusted to us by our gracious Lord. As stewards of these gifts, we are called to use them faithfully for His glory and for the building up of His Church.

Each member has been uniquely equipped by God. Some serve through teaching, music, hospitality, administration, maintenance, visitation, or caring for those in need. Others serve through quiet acts of encouragement, prayer, and support. No gift is too small, and no act of service goes unnoticed by our Lord.

As you receive the Time, Talent, and Treasure sheets, we encourage you to spend time in prayer. Consider asking God:

Where can I best use my gifts to serve?
What talents has He entrusted to me that may bless others?
How can I faithfully manage the financial resources He has provided?

Stewardship is not about obligation but about grateful response. Because Christ has first given Himself for us, we respond with thankful hearts, offering our lives in service to Him. Together, our collective gifts support worship, Christian education, outreach, fellowship, and care for those in our church family and community.

Please prayerfully consider how God may be leading you to share your time, talents, and treasures in the coming year. We give not because we must, but because we have been richly blessed by God's grace in Jesus Christ.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

May the Lord guide and bless your prayerful consideration as we continue His work together at Grace Lutheran Church.

Grace Stewardship Board

Grace Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Statement
For the Month of September 2026

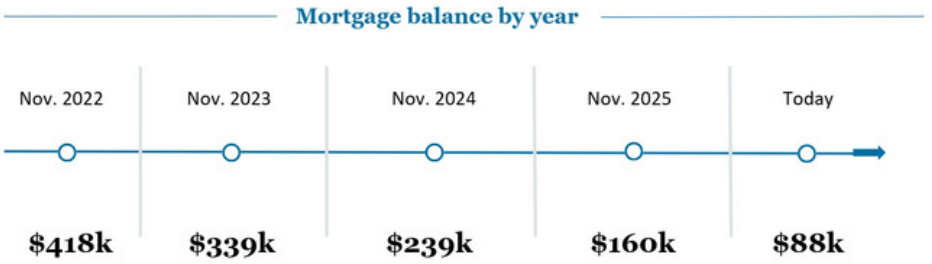
Operating Results

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Income	$50,935.62	$368,143.08
Expenses	$39,683.52	$327,674.91
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	**$11,252.10**	**$40,468.17**

Financial Position

Account	Beginning Balance	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance	Change
Assets	**$238,446.26**	**$58,685.35**	**$56,073.98**	**$241,057.63**	**$2,611.37**
11011 - Grace Operating Checking	$54,649.09	$57,551.86	$56,028.11	$56,172.84	$1,523.75
11012 - Grace Operating Savings	$16,524.56	$8.29	-	$16,532.85	$8.29
11013 - Scrip Checking	$1,505.16	-	$45.87	$1,459.29	($45.87)
11014 - Columbarium Checking	$4,139.20	-	-	$4,139.20	-
11015 - Grace Building Fund Checking Account	$4,350.67	-	-	$4,350.67	-
11016 - Certificate of Deposit 3768 - Grace - Matures 12/14/26	$20,341.79	$41.01	-	$20,382.80	$41.01
11018 - Certificate of Deposit 8438 - Grace - Matures 11/7/26	$25,000.00	-	-	$25,000.00	-
11020 - Certificate of Deposit - Columbarium 0739 - Matures 01/10	$15,000.00	$91.62	-	$15,091.62	$91.62
11000 - Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
12100 - Inventory Asset	$65,350.56	-	-	$65,350.56	-
13010 - Grace Lutheran Church Endowment	$31,585.23	$992.57	-	$32,577.80	$992.57
Liabilities	**$112,003.99**	**$11,906.65**	**$4,069.26**	**$104,166.60**	**($7,837.39)**
25010 - LCEF Mortgage	$107,416.31	$9,502.58	-	$97,913.73	($9,502.58)
26004 - 403b Roth	$292.17	$1,718.90	$1,731.78	$305.05	$12.88
26006 - Federal Payroll Taxes -Employee	$4,558.58	$546.36	$612.94	$4,625.16	$66.58
26007 - Group Term Insurance - Employee	$6.60	-	-	$6.60	-
26010 - State Payroll Tax - Employee	$888.47	$138.81	$136.80	$886.46	($2.01)
26015 - Payroll Liabilities	($1,587.74)	-	$1,587.74	-	$1,587.74
26040 - Deposit for Grace Hall	-	-	-	-	-
26050 - Grace Endowment Transfer Clearing Account	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts Payable	$429.60	-	-	$429.60	-

Grace Mortgage Payoff Update



We are pleased to share continued progress toward paying off Grace Lutheran Church's mortgage! Our remaining balance is now approximately $88,000, down from $418,000 in November 2022. That represents $330,000 paid down, including $72,000 since November 2025.

We give thanks to God for all He provides and for the faithful generosity of our congregation. As we move closer to becoming debt-free, we encourage everyone to keep this effort in their prayers. Reducing this financial obligation will allow Grace to direct more resources toward the work of His Church, including the proclamation of the Gospel, service to our neighbors, and meeting the future ministry and facility needs of our growing congregation.

If you would like to contribute toward Grace's mortgage payoff, you may do so by designating an amount on your offering envelope for mortgage paydown or by scanning the QR code to give online.

SCAN TO GIVE ONLINE

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful stewardship of the gifts God has entrusted to you!

Grace Board of Stewardship

Nov. 1
Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Ed & Kathy Peters
Elders
8:00: Jon M. (L), Sammy P.
9:30: Steve H. (L), John K.
11:00: Brian B. (L), Ben. H.
Ushers
8:00: Greg Sheldon
9:30: TBD
11:00: Cori Harding, Leon Mills
Altar Guild Carol Skinner
Acolyte 8:00 TBD
11:00: Caleb Brindis, Peter Heckethorn

Nov. 8
Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Martha Hicks, Diane Montgomery
Elders
8:00: John K (L), Jon M.
9:30: Aaon J. (L), Sammy P.
11:00: Paul O.. (L), Ben H.
Ushers
8:00: Rich Wilson
9:30: TBD
11:00: Ed & Shirley Marquardt
Altar Guild Nancy Clowney
Acolyte 8:00 TBD
11:00: Jordan Gray

Nov. 15
Tabulators Jen Miller
Ed & Shirley Marquardt
Elders
8:00: Sammy P.(L), Aaron J
9:30: Steve H. (L), Josh G.
11:00: George J.(L), Aaron
Ushers
8:00: Ken Blekicki
9:30: TBD
11:00: Shirley M., Marta S.
Altar Guild Susan Star
Acolyte 8:00 TBD
11:00: Lukas Barsuhn

Nov. 22
Tabulators Jen Miller
John Kinney, Marta Simpson
Elders
8:00: Jon M. (L), John K.
9:30: Kyle S.(L), Steve H.
11:00: Josh G.(L), Paul O.
Ushers
8:00: Gre Sheldon
9:30: TBD
11:00: Claire O., Jodell J.
Altar Guild Kathy Dinges
Acolyte 8:00 TBD
11:00: Caleb Brindis

Nov. 29
Tabulators Sherri M.
Bill & Kathleen Dinges
Elders
8:00: Sammy P.(L), Brian B.
9:30: John K.(L), Kyle S.
11:00: Aaron J. (L), Paul O.
Ushers
8:00: Ken Blekicki
9:30: TBD
11:00: Grant & Chritine B.
Altar Guild Nancy Blekicki
Acolyte 8:00 TBD
11:00: Peter Heckethorn

Nov. 25 - 12:00PM
Kyle S. (L), Steve H.

Nov. 25 - 7:00PM
Josh G. (L), Brian B.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2026-2027

Rev. W. Richard Willsea .....Pastor
Karen Suter .....Deaconess

John Kinney .....Executive Director
Kyle Sinisi .....Asst. Executive Director
Sammy Peek .....Treasurer

Lindsay Ott .....Director, Board of Christian Education
Grant Barsuhn .....Director, Board of Church Properties
Steve Hoffman ..... Director, Board of Elders
Jodell Jenkins .....Director, Board of Evangelism
Kathy Dinges .....Director, Board of Parish Fellowship
Kevin Henry.....Director, Board of Public Relations
Susan Star .....Director, Board of Social Ministry
Paul Ott .....Director, Board of Stewardship
Cori Harding .....Director, Board of Youth
Phillip Graham .....Director, Board of Columbarium

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Sherri Marquardt .....Financial Secretary
Carol Skinner .....Chair, Altar Guild
Shirley Marquardt .....Women of Grace (LWML)
TBD.....Administrator/
Editor, Grace Newsletter
Jenna Brenn/Kevin Henry .....Webmaster

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Patricia Barnes .....Organist/Choir Director
Merna Ahlemeyer .....Junior Choir Director