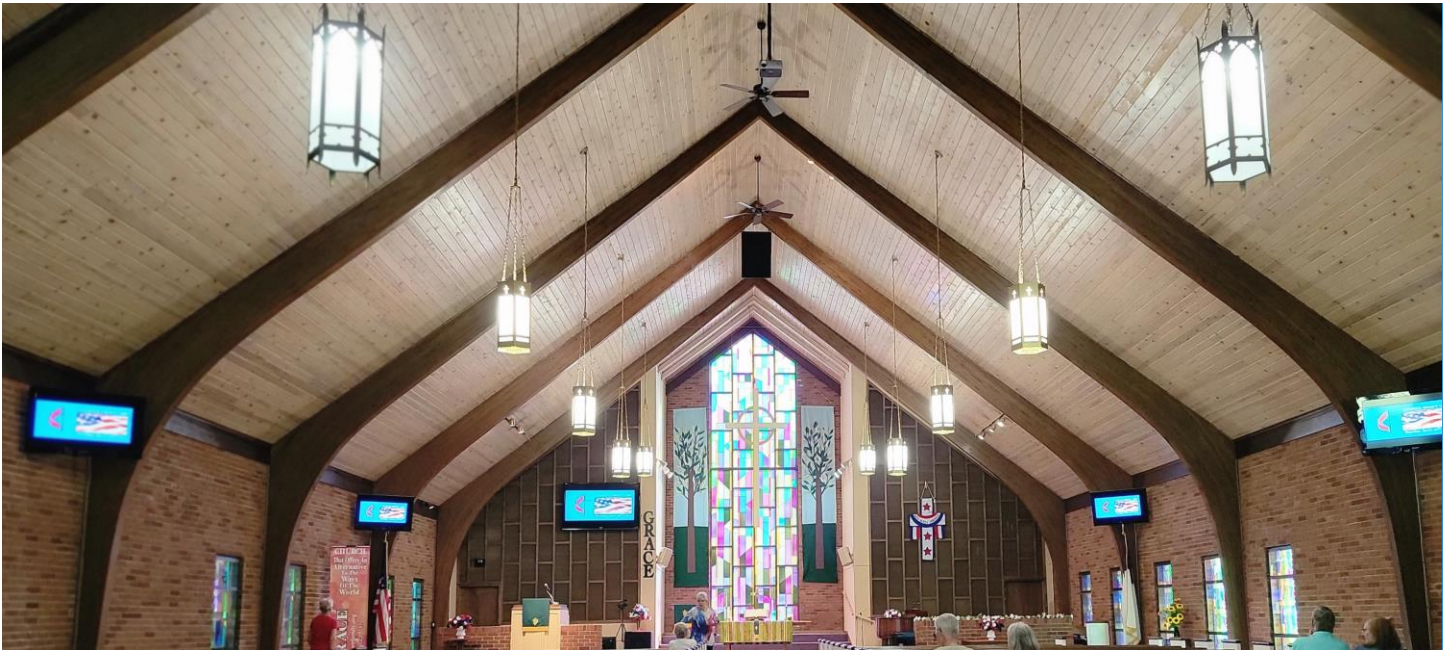


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1345 CHARTRES STREET, LA SALLE IL 61301



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you all in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ!

Christmas is around the corner. I am writing this letter to you as we are celebrating Thanksgiving Day 2024. There is this chill in the air, the trees are barren, holiday decorations and lights are up and beautiful. And I hope you all had a great thanksgiving too! We had a very eventful November here at church. We had a great Annual Conference, with new committees, budget and plans for 2025. I am thankful to our God for being with us all through the year. I thank God for each of you and for your continued support, prayers and contributions for the life and ministries here at Grace. May God continue to bless and guide you all through the coming year too!

The scripture passage quoted above comes from the book of Isaiah referring to a different context in the lives of the Israelite community but it also foreshadows the coming of the Messiah – the Christ. Christians today see this prophecy as a description of the titles and the atoning work of our Savior Jesus Christ. For us, Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He assured us the pardon for our sins and made possible the reconciliation with God the Father with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in the words of prophet Isaiah – “For us a child is born, a son is given to us.” And in the words of St. John we are informed that, “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son Jesus Christ,” for you and for me and for the entire God’s creation. That is the reason we celebrate Christmas! Christ is the greatest gift we can ever dream of. This is the Good News for you this Christmas time! May our loving Lord give you a great time with family and friends. May you experience the peace and presence of God in your hearts and lives. And may you live as channels of God’s love and grace to all those around you. Satya and the girls along with Archie join me in sending our warm wishes and blessings for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and also a Happy New Year 2025!

Pastor Solomon

L.I.F.T Event schedule for 2025



Saturday, January 11 – 11:00am lunch – Four Star Family Restaurant (1270 May Road in Peru)

Saturday, February 8 – 11:00am lunch – Thyme Kitchen (405 5th St in Peru, across from Westclox building)

Saturday, March 8 – 11:00am lunch – John’s Place (1802 5th Street, Peru)

THURSDAY, March 27 – L.I.F.T. volunteers provide the meal for P.A.D.S.

SUNDAY, April 6 – 2:00 - Café Event with refreshments – Spring Chicken party
Celebrating chickens and eggs! INVITE A FRIEND to join us!!

Saturday, May 17 – 11:00am lunch – Angelo’s (400 E. Dakota Street in Spring Valley)
(Note that this is one week later than usual, to avoid the busy Mother’s Day weekend.)

Saturday, June 14 - 11:00am lunch – Cabin Fever (5220 Trompeter Road in Peru)

July – no lunch or event

Saturday, August 9 - 11:00am lunch – Olive Garden (5223 Route 251, in Peru)

SUNDAY, September 14 – 2:00 - Café Event with refreshments – Tea Party
INVITE A FRIEND to join us!!

Saturday, October 11 - 11:00am lunch – Lou’s La Grotto (3001 5th Street in Peru)

SUNDAY, November 9 - 2:00 - Café Event with refreshments – “The Game of Life”
Board games and fun! INVITE A FRIEND to join us!!

Saturday, December – no lunch or event

Restaurant lunch locations and event themes could be subject to change. Any necessary updates would be emailed.)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!**

CHRISTMAS

BY Elizabeth Schuetz

Christmas is.....

Christmas is a time when heaven touches earth.

Christmas is a time when one carries a piece of home in the heart and returns home.

Christmas is a time for revealing hope.

Christmas is a time for family and friends.

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving gifts.

Christmas is a time for decorations, lights, and ornaments on a tree.

Christmas is a time for remembering the past and looking forward to the future.

Christmas is a time when winter comes with white snow covering the ground and cold and ice all around.

Christmas is a time for Santa Claus and carols.

Christmas is a time for the telling and retelling of the story - the story of Jesus' birth.

Christmas is a time to send and receive Christmas cards in the mail.

Christmas is the time that comes only once a year, but wouldn't it be nice if Christmas is a time that is here all year?

Christmas is a time when people are a little bit more friendly.

Christmas is a time for sweet treats like candy canes, cookies and hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows on top.

Christmas is a time to slow down amid the busy time that is Christmas time.

Christmas time is for all of us to think about and decide what we will do with the Christmas time that we are given each year.



Thanks for all your contributions toward supporting our Missions & Stewardship committee

Special Services of the Season, 2024

Sun 12/01 Communion Service, 1st Sunday in Advent

With Advent comes, for many communities, the lighting of the Advent wreath. While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst. For the next 4 weeks we light a candle of the advent wreath.

12/01: We light the 1st **candle of hope** as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

12/08: We light this **candle of peace** as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

12/15: We light this **candle of joy** as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

12/22 We light this **candle of love** as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Sun 12/15 CAROL SUNDAY. Choir Singing 9 AM

The service incorporates singing of several Christmas hymns and carols by the choir, congregation and individuals.

Later at 3: 15 PM (12/15/2024)

Meet us at the church as we go to spread the Spirit of Christmas and the joy and cheer of Christ's birth to the home/nursing home bound elderly members of our congregation.

12/19 Blue Christmas Service 6 PM

A Blue Christmas service is a quiet, contemplative service that usually happens on the evening of the winter solstice. This day, which has the longest night and the shortest day, is symbolic of our darker nights when we find ourselves grieving, lonely, or longing for something better. During this service we honor and recognize people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. And collectively we pray and support one another.

12/24 Christmas Eve Service 6: 30 PM

All are welcome to come to celebrate the birth of Christ. Come and be blessed and be a blessing for others. Merry Christmas!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

By Elizabeth Schuetz

I Wish for You.....

Happy New Year!

I wish for you good health, much happiness, and a wonderful New Year!

I wish for you to be surrounded by family and friends.
I wish for you to let go of the past, embrace today, and look to tomorrow.

I wish for you to look around you in this world and be the solution to problems and not the cause of problems.

I wish for you to know the grace, love, and blessings of God for He loves you so very much.

I wish for you that all your dreams and wishes come true.

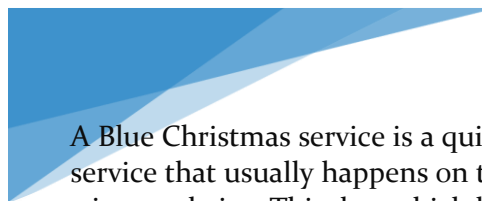
I wish for you all the things that bring you joy today, tomorrow, and always.

I wish for you this and so much more.....

Happy New Year!



Dec 19th 2024
6 PM



A Blue Christmas service is a quiet, contemplative service that usually happens on the evening of the winter solstice. This day, which has the longest night and the shortest day, is symbolic of our darker nights when we find ourselves grieving, lonely, or longing for something better. During this service we honor and recognize people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. And collectively we pray and support one another.



December 24th 2024 at 6: 30 PM

Advent Bible Study: "Prepare the Way for the Lord"

Please join us for a 4-week Bible Study, beginning this Sunday through December 22nd at 10:30 am. Books are \$15 each.

Pairs 'n Spares: Save December 8th at 4:00 - 6:00 pm for Pairs 'n Spares. Join us for conversation, activities, and refreshments.



Culver's Night: Our next Culver's Night will be Wednesday, December 11th from 5-8 pm. Dine in - Drive thru - Carry out! All purchases help our church. If you can work, please contact Trudy Forkner 815-228-0990

Grace Giving Tree: People are in need of socks. Bring them to Church and clip them on the Grace Giving Tree or leave them in the basket under the tree in the foyer. Men's and women's gloves also are needed. Thank you.

How about sending a greeting to one of Grace UMC's shut ins? If you know of anyone else who should be included on this list or of any corrections, please contact **Leann**

Wilcoxon at llwilcoxon@comcast.net or 815-223-1143

Dick Graff [505 College Ave, Ottawa, IL 61350](mailto:505CollegeAve@comcast.net)

Harold & Mary Fran Walter [259 N 2559th Rd, Peru, IL 61354](mailto:259N2559thRd@comcast.net)

Don Kubberness/Manor Court [3230 Becker Dr, Peru, IL 61354](mailto:3230BeckerDr@comcast.net)

Rose Marie Redeen [714 12th St, Peru, IL 61354](mailto:71412thSt@comcast.net)

Tabby Chandler [1828 15th St, Peru, IL 61354](mailto:182815thSt@comcast.net)

Myrtle Hitchins, Manor Court [3230 Becker Dr, Peru IL 61354](mailto:3230BeckerDr@comcast.net)

Russ Defenbaugh [206 N. Central Ave. Ladd, IL 61329](mailto:206NCentralAve@comcast.net)



Eyeglasses: Put your old glasses, frames, or lenses in the: I Care International Eyeglasses Box in the foyer at Church. We have collected 20 big bags of glasses so far.



Change for Change: Please bring all of your change and make some noise in the bucket. Every penny counts! October's Change for Change collection totaled \$52.00.

The 2024 total so far is \$458.46. Thank you for all of your generous contributions!

PASTOR:

REV. DR. SOLOMON SUDHAKAR, PHD

solomonsudhakar@yahoo.com

773 936 8979

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

BRANDI ORGAN

Grace United Methodist Church

1345 Chartres Street

LaSalle, IL 61301

Phone: 815 223 1001

gracelasallechurch@gmail.com

Website: gracelasalle.com

Office Hours:

8:30 AM -1: 30 PM Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday
Wednesday by appointment

Worship Times:

Sunday 9: 00 AM

Adult Bible Study

Sunday 10:30 AM

MERRY CHRISTMAS!