



*This welcoming and inviting church on the hill
is virtually and physically OPEN for worship!*

Grace Episcopal Church Parish Profile

April 2022

grace episcopal church
107 S. Prospect St.
Galena, IL 61036
815-777-2590
<https://www.gracegalena.org/>



Almighty God, giver of every good gift: we pray for our Rector Search Committee. Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds and hearts of those who shall seek a new rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Our Mission is to learn, teach, and live God's Word, uniting in a growing family of faith and sacramental tradition and actively including and loving all.



Who We Are



Grace is seeking to call a part-time rector who will devote 30 hours per week, including Sundays, guiding and teaching a vibrant congregation that is:

- *High energy, high satisfaction
- *Genuinely warm, friendly, and caring
- *Supportive of members in time of personal need
- *Open and welcoming to all

What follows is added detail as to who are the people of Grace, what we think makes Grace special and the qualities we hope to match in our next rector.

The four points above are the most frequently mentioned descriptors of the Grace congregation gleaned from our Congregational Assessment Tool survey and Small Group discussions. Does this set us apart from our fellow congregations in the Chicago Diocese of the Episcopal Church? Not really. They describe a group of people – very much like those in other congregations – working to live out our faith together. We go about this important work influenced by our history, our community, and our goals. As we are looking to call a new rector, Grace has today and into the future the benefit of our associate priest, our deacon, our lay leaders, and homilists.

The Grace melting pot includes parishioners with a variety of levels of education and achievement. We celebrate both this variety and the shared values of our members who are or have been among others, professors, teachers, shop keepers, business owners, engineers, farmers, military leaders, artists, lawyers. We are blessed to be a congregation that does its best to act on the call to be nonjudgmental and accepting of all. Our congregation brings to Grace a varied background of previous church homes, and this adds in a most positive way to the texture of Grace.

Outreach holds a prime place of sharing in our greater community. Our funding outreach goes as far as Glory Parish in South Sudan and La Santa Cruz Parish in Oaxaca, Mexico. We also reach out with funding contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development, United Thank Offerings, Heifer International, Bishop's Appeal, Galena Food Pantry, and



the Galena Arts and Recreation Center. Just prior to Christmas 2021, the congregation joined with other Galena churches in funding a program targeted to help cover the outstanding medical bills for those in need. Our Outreach goals are funded from the earnings of the Grace Endowment plus individual contributions.

The people of Grace are committed to volunteering in the Galena community. This starts with doing simple and yet so very important volunteering when help is needed to sitting on a variety of community organization boards including the Food Pantry, the Historical Society, the Arts and Recreation Center and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. We may be a bit of an older congregation, but we continue our drive for contributing to our community.

The music of Grace is one of the joys we share. Our choir plays a vital role in the life of Grace. All enjoy the voices of our choir, the talent of our choir director and pianist. To see the whole congregation listening to the last piano piece played after the dismissal is to see a congregation that appreciates the music of Grace.

Many visitors are drawn to the architectural beauty of Grace church and truthfully, we enjoy worshiping in this beautiful building. Yet as each of us can attest, the most significant part of the beauty of our learning and worship experience is formed by the people who are the congregation of Grace.



Strengths, Opportunities and Challenges



If you pick any ten parishes in rural Illinois, each will list “aging parish population” as a prime challenge. No one has a magic wand to apply to this challenge. We can well accommodate programs for children in our parish hall. But finding an approach that can compete with the hurdle of overscheduled children is no small task.

The Covid challenge got Grace to pivot to Zoom so our Grace community could stay in contact and play a part in our lives. We have upgraded to streaming our services on YouTube by adding cameras and digital controls. The challenge of Covid has helped us to find ways to reach those who can not easily attend services.

Accessibility and parking were problems that needed solving. Our new parish house eliminated the accessibility hurdles. The additional parking added has allowed those with mobility problems to park adjacent to the parish house for easy access.

Opportunities for Grace are many. The influx of people moving to the Galena area holds potential to reach out to those who might wish to try Grace. Parishioner participation in the life of Galena offers opportunities to keep Grace visible to all. We hope our focus on social issues strengthens our parish, adds a positive feeling within the parish, and lets others see the role of caring we trust we add to the Galena community.



What we seek in our next rector

What we seek in our next rector is developed from the Small Group input meetings. The number one desire of the parishioners is that our new rector should be an insightful preacher, a good homilist. We want to call a good storyteller, a good teacher, and one who can share the Gospel in a manner relevant to today's questions and challenges. Our priest also needs to be comfortable in providing direct pastoral care (in coordination as needed with our pastoral care committee) and if needed, crisis support.

A rector who desires to be involved in the broader Galena community is important to the success of Grace. Participation in the United Churches of Galena plus local service organizations is valuable. We hope our new rector is willing to reside in the greater Galena area so she/he can add their talents to our greater community.

With Grace being as active and involved as it is, our rector will need to have good organizational skills, be willing to delegate tasks to Grace committees, and coordinates closely with the parish administrator, the vestry and Grace committees as applicable. We do not want to overload our rector with tasks that are better accomplished when shared.

The Grace rector needs to be open to differences in society, cultures, and people. We welcome all who come through our doors and embrace diversity.

We do understand checking off all the boxes above is a bit optimistic. We will work in tandem with our rector coupled with their leadership and creativity to keep growing Grace. The effort is shared.



How We Grow In Our Faith



The greatest strength of Grace Church is the level of genuine warmth that members feel for each other and that is translated to visitors also. Care and concern for fellow members is a Grace hallmark. This care is shown in driving members to medical appointments as needed, delivery of food and personal support to members with an illness, and aiding members in obtaining vaccines. No one needs to be alone.

While Covid knocked down our Sunday coffee hour, it did not knock it out. We are back at it with a big smile every Sunday. We have also revived our Canapes and Conversations held once a month at a parishioner's house. Friends and visitors are always welcome.

Our Welcoming Committee greets visitors each Sunday to ensure they feel comfortable when attending. Questions are answered, parish members are introduced, and invitation to the coffee hour after the Sunday service is made. Personal notes are sent to visitors. The effort is complete yet also low key, so no one is made uncomfortable. Finally, we give church tours at the drop of a hat to any who attend and even to anyone walking by during the week. It is fun to show the beauty of the church.

Ecumenical involvements are shared with our



brothers and sisters from the Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations. These include seasonal events such as Advent services, World Communion Sunday, World Day Prayer, and Christmas concerts, discussion groups, Yarn ministry, and community social services.

Wednesday mornings bring members to church for a 7:30 AM service. This could be Morning Prayer or a full Eucharist service. Lay members provide the homily as needed. In our typical hospitable style, this service is followed by a breakfast at a local restaurant. A first-time participant gets their breakfast free.

Education For Ministry, Quiet Days, Centering prayer, Lenten devotions, Bible study, and our Meditation Garden are also a part of the spiritual focus on the parish. A final strength is the desire of the congregation to grow in faith. Religious education coupled with the teachings of Christ is central for the members of Grace. How this translates into spiritual growth is important for our members and vital for our church. This spirit then goes out into the community serving others.



Notes on the history of Galena and Grace



Our area's earliest recorded history dates to 11,000 years ago when the Native Americans of the area hunted along the Mississippi River and then began to grow crops to sustain their communities. The unique topography of the Driftless Area in north-west Illinois exposed large quantities of lead in the hillsides and in the first half of the 1800's, miners flocked to this area to stake their claims. With the miners also came the shop keepers, grocers, saloons, and churches. Grace Church used a wood framed building to hold services beginning in 1838. The current stone church we know today was consecrated in 1850.



Much of the limestone used in the construction of Grace was quarried on site. Added were stain glass Apostle windows from Belgium, an Erban organ purchased from the Henry Erban Organ Company of New York. We still use this organ as part of the Sunday service. The Eagle Lectern is carved from one piece of black walnut. A marble baptismal font was added as were Tiffany style windows. The chalice used most Sundays was crafted in 1881 from gold, silver, and gems contributed by the parishioners. The reredos behind the alter was carved the same time as the Eagle lectern. In 1894, the chancel of the church was moved farther back into the hillside and a chapel was added to the side of the main structure.



Galena and Grace Church both declined in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The lead was mined out, the Fever River was allowed to silt in, times were tough. Down but not out, Grace continued to hold services. Galena was so poor at that time that no one could afford to tear down the old buildings in town. Ironically, from this stagnation came the preservation of the National Historic Register architecture of Galena today.

The Grace structure was significantly restored starting in 2000. As well, the church was re-furnished with cherry pews and pulpit. After this restoration work, discussions as to how to add a parish house that would be fully accessible and give us added space and parking began. This finally got us to our addition finished in 2018. Since then, the stained-glass windows have been restored and laminated glass coverings were installed to protect these priceless windows.

Galena itself is the county seat of Jo Daviess County. The location was established as the Fever River port for paddle wheelers to transport lead down the Mississippi River. The surrounding geology is one of hills and valleys and is called the Driftless Area. Our topography was unchanged when the ice age glaciers sent to the left and right of this area missing our portion of Illinois and a huge area to our northwest in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin.

The this is home population is increasing modestly with the most growth in the Galena Territory just east of town. The these are our tourist guests population brings about one million visitors annually making Galena the second most visited tourism focused town in Illinois after Chicago.

We have a new hospital, separate medical clinic, and related health-care providers. We have one retirement home which includes a memory care wing. We have one nursing home. The Galena School District is a K-12 district. Separate but working in conjunction with the school district is the nonprofit Arts and Recreation Center: a combination childcare and park district activity center. Galena is home to one of the Carnegie Library buildings. The busy downtown, supported by our visitors, offers a variety of shops and restaurants. The Galena Jo Daviess History Museum tells the story of Galena and of General U.S. Grant who lived in Galena prior to the start of the Civil War. Grant eventually had eight additional generals from Galena who served with him. The Grant home on the east side of town is a favorite stop for tourists.

Outdoor activities in the area include a variety of golf courses, Chestnut Mountain for snow sports, Lake Galena for fishing and the Mississippi River for boating. The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation manages open lands for hiking, winter cross country skiing, and the preservation of Native American sites.

Just 20 miles to the west is Dubuque, Iowa. Located here are two more hospitals, plus related healthcare providers of every specialty. Dubuque is home to three colleges and one university and a symphony orchestra that preforms throughout the year. There is also the Dubuque Arboretum and a crown jewel of Dubuque, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

Dubuque also has its Millwork District, an area where old factories are being converted into apartments, condos, and restaurants.

The combination of the rich history of Galena and Dubuque, the Mississippi River that separates the two towns, the topography of the Driftless Region, the focus on families, and education, the excellent health care options, all combine to make this part of the world a most delightful place to settle.

cityofgalena.org
cityofdubuque.org





grace church

the episcopal church in galena

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<https://www.gracegalena.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FullyGrace>

YouTube: [Grace Church Galena](#)

Grace Episcopal Finances

On January 18, 2022 the 2022 budget was approved by the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church.

The total income was projected as \$147,900

Pledge income 137,080

Non pledge collections 6,600

Investment income 2,900

Congregants offered to increase their pledges for 3 years as a starting point to support a rector commitment for up to $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

These additional pledges will go into effect when the new Rector is in place.

Adding the increase in pledge amounts to the 2022 total gives Grace a new total pledge income of \$190,425.

The revised total income projection: \$199,925

It is understood there will be adjustments to the budget in various expense categories based on the final clergy stipend, medical insurance, pension and other related expenses.

How To Apply

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago has 122 member congregations, spreading from Lake Michigan on the east, to the Wisconsin border on the north, and the Iowa border on the west. The Diocese is known for its leadership initiatives designed to support congregational vitality. The diocese focuses its energies on two key programs: The College for Congregational Development and Fierce Conversations. The Nicholas Center, located on the fifth floor of the Diocesan office building in downtown Chicago, provides classroom space and accommodations for these programs as well as other leadership events for clergy and lay leaders.

At a special convention in December, 2020 the Rev. Paula E. Clark, then canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Washington, D.C., was elected to serve as bishop. While the diocese awaits bishop-elect Clark's consecration, the diocese is well served by our Assisting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, and the Standing Committee, which is functioning as ecclesiastical authority.

To apply for this position, please complete the Clergy Information Form for Transitions found on the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago website (<https://episcopalchicago.org/for-clergy/clergy-openings/>). For more information on the application process please contact Andrea Mysen, Director of Ministries, at amysen@episcopalchicago.org or (312) 751-4203.