

Grace Lutheran Church
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December

2020



Dear Saints of Grace,

As we begin December this year, we begin in the first week of Advent, as is often the case. I say it regularly in Advent, but if you recall Advent means coming. The season of Advent is the season where we look at our Lord's having come to us at the first Christmas. In some years, I've done Advent series that look at that coming in view of things like His coming as the light of the world in the darkness of our sin. I've looked at it in view of the hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel, which speaks of His coming as that God with us. This year I'll be looking at that coming in view of the commonly held themes for the Sundays of the season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

To be clear, apart from the theme of Joy for the third Sunday, these are not themes that are steeped in a long tradition of the Church. They have some grounding in the readings for those Sundays: the first of hope because of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled; joy because of the call to rejoice in the Lord always on the third Sunday. However, if you look on the internet, you'll find some different listings for the themes. However, this list appears to be the most common. It also seems helpful for us to meditate on this year. In the midst of the challenges that we are experiencing, is it not a good reminder that our hope, peace, joy, and even our love are all grounded in our Lord Jesus? We so often stray from that knowledge, but as we prepare our hearts for His coming, those hearts so prone to wander require a call to return to their rightful focus.

In view of that, we'll hear about these themes for the Wednesday evening Advent services which will be at their usual time of 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings on December 2, 9, and 16th. The 2nd will be the theme of Hope, the 9th the theme of Peace, the 16th the theme of Joy, and the theme of Love will be for Christmas Day. Those will also be recorded and the link sent to you as usual.

In the meantime, we will be figuring out just how to go about having our Christmas Services. Based on the attendance we had for the Thanksgiving Service, it is clear that we'll have to offer multiple services. However, just what those services will look like and what times they will be offered is yet to come. Keep your eyes peeled for that information to be sent to you. Likewise, our Voter's Assembly will certainly have a different approach than in years past. There will likely be the ability to attend via Zoom, but again, the details for that will be forthcoming.

In any case, as we look at all of the oddities this year keeps bringing, thankfully, we rest in the One who is worthy of our Hope, who gives us His Peace, who brings us His Joy in the midst of all sadness, and whose Love has caused Him to be born for us at the first Christmas that He could lay down His life for us on the first Good Friday, that we may know that eternal life is ours by His resurrection on the first Easter. Thanks be to God in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Zickler



News from the Women's Club



WOMEN'S CLUB STARTS NEW CHARITY DRIVE

Phil's Friends is a Christian nonprofit organization founded by two-time cancer survivor Phil Zielke. They are committed to bringing support and hope to those affected by cancer in the United States, reaching out through care packages, offering ongoing support through their Cards of Hope program, and spiritual support by way of prayer.

Beginning December 1 and continuing through January 31, the Women's Club is organizing a donation drive for Phil's Friends.

In addition to assembling fleece blankets, the club is asking for donations of hats (knitted, crocheted, baseball, etc.), fuzzy socks (women's only), playing cards, journals (5x7, not spiral bound), puzzle books (such as word search), lotion (fragrance-free, no larger than 5 oz), single toothbrushes, toothpaste (5 oz or less), Biotene (no larger than 6 oz.) and gift cards (Walgreen's, Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Jo-Ann). **ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE NEW AND UNUSED BECAUSE OF RECIPIENTS COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS.**

Please help us fill up the boxes you will find in the Narthex and Parish Hall.

Thank You!!!

December Birthdays!!

Casey Brown	12/1
Vanessa Keeler	12/1
Elloise Krohe	12/3
Cheryl Dore	12/7
Amanda Tribuzio	12/9
Ute Lipp	12/11
Corinne Sheldon	12/11
Gerald Olszewski	12/13
Brett Latman	12/15
Ava Schmidt	12/18
Betty Tanzer	12/18
Steve Latman	12/22
Christopher Perri	12/23
Jessica Zickler	12/27
Madelyn St. Charles	12/30
Heidi Garton	12/31



December Anniversaries!!

Vanessa & Joey Keeler 12/9/17
Karen & Steven Hayes 12/10/2005
Lisa & John Mullarkey 12/16/1989

Come let us
Adore
Him





It is time to order poinsettias!



Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex & the kitchen counter. Or call the church office & place your order with Terry

The Poinsettia plants will decorate our sanctuary through the Christmas Day Service (after the service you can take home the plants you ordered.) The cost for a poinsettia plant is \$13.00. They will be delivered 12/24.

Last day to order is
Tuesday, December 15th.

SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, December 13th after the Service. If you have any questions, please call Sara Fitzgerald at 708-822-8094

Email: swanderer05@hotmail.com

REPORT OF RECEIPTS Budget to Actual Comparisons

NOVEMBER 2020

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget	\$ 17,489.17	\$ 192,380.83
Actual	\$ 14,889.00	\$ 161,759.00
Over (Under)	\$ (2,600.17)	(\$ 30,621.83)

NOVEMBER 2019

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget	\$ 17,362.50	\$ 190,987.50
Actual	\$ 18,135.00	\$ 189,849.00
Over (Under)	\$ 772.50	(\$ 1,138.50)

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca

Garry Atkins, friend of the Blessman family

Peggy Barbieri, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton

CJ Brown

Ann Cannon, friend of Doris Svec

Jennifer Cinelli, niece of John Huebner

Isaac Defee, friend of the Claster family

Blake Donegan, grandson of John & Lois Flood

John Donegan, friend of John & Lois Flood

Tim Eggert

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

Phyllis Floyd

Christine Fry, daughter-in-law of Bill & Betty Tanzer

Jim Gallaher, friend of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak

Horwath Family, friend of Carolina St. Charles

Lin Johnson

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Mary Jane Kowal, family member of Peggy Keeler

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Jack Lapice, cousin of Doris Svec

Steve Latman

Gail Loos, friend of Karen Hayes

Sonny Mansor, friend of Joey Keeler

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Debra Muir, daughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Lisa Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman family

Dorothy Neugebauer, friend of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Joyce & Bob Oberst, family of Sue & Tony Napolitano

Col. Carol Ann O'Donnell, Ret. VFW

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

Realie Family, friends of the Stetler Family

Sandoval Family, friends of the Stetler Family

Pat Schlueter

Shirron Reid, daughter-in-law of Jim & Ruth Reid

Sharon Riordan

Herb Schulz, friend of Marilyn and Gary Clausen

Judy & Kurt Steiner, family of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Don & Gayle Steele

Noah (Picek) Tovar, great-granddaughter of the Floods

Chris Vocke, friend of Pastor Zickler

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mike Walters, friend of Donna Perkowski

Ellie Wilkins, cousin of Glen Hass

Lillian Winkelman

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

Karla Bergenthal - Eleanor Kulaga
Lorraine Moller - Suzette Olszewski



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

Pastor opened our meeting with prayer. Minutes of the last meeting held in February were read and approved.

Pastor's Report: Since the beginning of the Covid19 breakout, we have been recording the services and putting them out on the internet to our congregation.

Pastor has also been doing this for weekly devotions. Sunday services have been holding at about 15 to 20 persons at each service. Sunday Bible classes are being held between services with about 10 to 12 in attendance. Hopefully, we will be able to sustain this until the end of the pandemic. Keep praying and rely on God to help us through this.

Financial Secretary: No report

Treasurer's Report: There have been enough receipts coming in through October to pay bills. Fortunately, there have been no huge bills. We are slightly under budget, but no funds were transferred from the Legacy account. We did receive a \$5000.00 gift from Vi Beck memorials which was split between the Building Fund and the Roof Fund. Thank you to all the boards for staying in and under their budgets. Thank you to an anonymous donor who paid for the parking lot resurfacing. Also thank you to the Fullers who have snow plowed the parking lot over the last couple years free of charge.

Trustees' Report: After the parking lot resurfacing, there seems to be one bad spot that is crumbling. This will be repaired in the spring. The parkway tree which was damaged when a car ran into it, has been replaced. Electrical work has been completed in the parking lot, the stained glass window, and lights throughout the building. Both the a/c and the boiler have been inspected with both found to be in good condition. The boiler room door has been replaced with one that doesn't slam! The evergreen bushes on the north and south side of the church have been removed because they were all dying. Should you have suggestions for new landscaping, let Linda McGuire know. The area under the tree at the corner has been cleaned up with maybe stone or chips to be put down. Jim and Linda McGuire power washed the bricks once the evergreens were removed. Thank you Jim and Linda!

Elders Report: We will continue to meet Sundays holding the two services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Thanksgiving service will be Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm and we are planning Wednesday Advent services as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Church Christmas trees will be going up Saturday 11/28 at 10:00 am. Thank you to Ron Kolar, Steve Latman and Gary Clausen for their service. They have chosen not to be on the ballot at this time.

Walter High School: Currently there are 230 students enrolled; 65% attend in person and 35% attend virtually. Twenty-five percent are taking college courses at Concordia for college credits. There is a brick paver fund drive in motion. So far, 75 pavers have been sold; each brick is a \$500 donation. Please consider donating to Walther for the future growth of these young men and women.

Grace Christian Academy: One teacher tested positive for covid, so now teaching is all virtual.

Board of Christian Education: We are continuing to meet in person every 4 to 5 weeks. Lessons and activities are being emailed to families for home teaching.

Confirmation class is meeting on Sunday and Pastor is still planning on a May confirmation.

Evangelism, Audit, Planning Committees: No report

No old Business

New Business: The proposed budget for 2021 totals \$219,950.00. Voting will be in December. Also, the list of nominees for Officers and Boards was presented. Nominations are now open and voting will be at the December meeting.

With no further business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Josefek, Secretary

The proposed 2021 budget on this page and the preceding page will be voted on at the Sunday, December 20th Voter's meeting. If you have any questions please contact Paul Sulak.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2020 ACTUAL 10 MONTHS	2020 PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	2020 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET
BOARD OF ELDERS				
Pastor				
Salary	48,750	58,500	58,500	63,000
Housing allowance	5,417	6,500	6,500	7,000
Substitute pastors	975	975	500	750
Pension/Disability	7,992	8,719	8,720	9,390
Medical (Welfare)	26,863	29,305	29,200	28,520
Health reimbursement	1,835	1,845	1,800	1,850
Conferences & convention	248	248	750	700
Car allowance	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000
Reimbursed expenses			500	500
Total	94,580	109,092	109,470	114,710
Music				
Organist salary	11,667	14,000	14,000	14,500
Substitute organist	60	120	400	400
Choir music				
Total	11,727	14,120	14,400	14,900
Office				
Secretary's salary	12,090	14,508	14,500	15,000
Postage, printing, supplies	658	850	2,000	2,000
Total	12,748	15,358	16,500	17,000
Other				
Social security	1,844	2,208	2,250	2,340
Bulletins & worship material	29	29	100	100
Worship supplies and expense	695	825	1,400	1,400
Food & refreshments	19	50	200	200
Fellowship and events			500	500
Other	550	2,250	2,000	2,000
Total	3,137	5,362	6,450	6,540
Information technology				
Telephone, fax, internet	2,568	3,085	3,200	3,200
Office equipment & maintenance	815	1,075	1,800	1,800
Computer software	967	1,031	1,200	1,200
Website			300	1,300
Other	913	2,300	1,000	2,000
Total	5,263	7,491	7,500	9,500
TOTAL ELDERS	127,455	151,423	154,320	162,650
EVANGELISM (ADVERTISING, PUBLICITY, CHURCH GROWTH)				
PLANNING COMMITTEE				

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2020 ACTUAL 10 MONTHS	2020 PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	2020 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET
BOARD OF TRUSTEES				
Janitorial	6,750	8,100	8,100	8,700
Insurance	5,912	7,390	7,200	7,500
Organ, piano maintenance		325	1,400	1,400
Maintenance				
Parsonage	546	725	2,400	2,400
Church	5,701	5,825	4,000	4,000
Janitorial supplies	92	175	1,000	1,000
Grass cutting		900	2,000	1,750
Utilities - Church				
Electric	2,796	3,265	4,000	4,000
Gas	3,731	5,737	7,000	7,000
Scavenger	978	1,116	1,200	1,200
Water	331	360	750	600
Utilities - Parsonage				
Electric	1,147	1,340	1,600	1,600
Gas	495	625	1,400	1,400
Scavenger	325	425	200	450
Water	1,143	1,389	1,400	1,400
TOTAL TRUSTEES	29,947	37,697	43,650	44,400
BOARD OF EDUCATION				
Lessons and supplies		375	1,500	1,500
Holiday programs			200	200
Subscriptions	2,041	2,280	2,500	2,500
Youth programs			100	100
Adult education			100	100
Confirmation			250	250
Miscellaneous			250	250
TOTAL EDUCATION	2,041	2,655	4,900	4,900
DISTRICT AND OTHER PAYMENTS				
District funding	1,750	3,500	3,500	4,000
Walther High School	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Grace Christian Academy	500	500	500	1,000
Other missions		1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL DISTRICT PAYMENTS	3,250	7,000	7,000	8,000
TOTAL BUDGET	162,693	198,775	209,870	219,950

Grace Lutheran Church
2019 Officers and Board Members and 2020 Nominees

Officers (All 1 Year Terms)

Office	Incumbent	2021 Nominee
Chairman	Steve Latman	Chris Krohe
Vice Chairman	Bob Blessman	Bob Blessman
Secretary	Judy Josefek	Judy Josefek
Treasurer	Paul Sulak	Paul Sulak
Asst. Treasurer	David Claster	David Claster
Financial Secretary	Gary Clausen	Bob Blessman
Board of Finance	Karen Hayes	Karen Hayes
	Judy Josefek	Judy Josefek

Auditors

3 Year Term	Incumbent Term	Term Expiration	2021 Nominee
Lois Flood (Chair)	Extended	2020	Lois Flood (Chair)
Harold Kulat	Extended	2020	Harold Kulat
Mark Rehn	Extended	2020	Mark Rehn

Education

3 Year Term	Incumbent Term	Term Expiration	2021 Nominee
Chris Dame	1st	2023	Chris Dame
Denise Stetler	1st	2023	Denise Stetler
Amanda Lazaro	1st	2023	Amanda Lazaro

Elders

3 Year Term	Incumbent Term	Term Expiration	2021 Nominee
Bob Blessman	Extended	2020	Bob Blessman
Bob Dame	1st	2020	Bob Dame
Joel Holcombe	2nd	2020	Joel Holcombe
Chris Krohe	2nd	2022	Chris Krohe
Mark Rehn	Extended	2020	Mark Rehn
Chris Stetler	2nd	2020	Chris Stetler
Paul Sulak (Chair)	Extended	2020	Paul Sulak

Trustees

3 Year Term	Incumbent Term	Term Expiration	2021 Nominee/ Incumbent
Dave Haffner	2nd	2021	Dave Haffner
Del Herman	2nd	2021	Del Herman
Linda McGuire (Chair)	Extended	2019	Linda McGuire
Tony Napolitano	1st	2022	Tony Napolitano
Glenn Hass	1st	2022	Glenn Hass