

Grace Lutheran Church
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January 2021



Dear Saints of Grace,

Happy New Year! I'm sure we're all in agreement that we hope 2021 will be an improvement over 2020. It seemed like everywhere we turned the year just kept bringing us new and interesting surprises. In any case, we often like to look at the new year as an opportunity for new beginnings. However, as we think of that, I think we can make a strong correlation to the faith.

As we look at how challenging this year has been, we see how many difficulties we have experienced. As we consider how difficult the single challenge of just the pandemic has been, we desire a break from all of it. And as I say a break, I don't just mean a temporary stoppage. I mean a clean break, a separation. In view of our faith, we understand that such challenges and difficulties arise because of the appropriate curse upon us and the whole world as the consequence of sin. This reminds us that what we really want is a break from sin—again break in that sense of separation.

When we view our own challenges—from doing evil when we seek to good, to having evil happen to us when we haven't deserved it, to experiencing our own aches, pains, sorrows, and sufferings—we see just how deeply that challenge of sin affects us and everything. However, we do have a clean break from it. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus is that break. As He carried sin to the cross, as He suffered its deserved outcome and buried it in His tomb, His resurrection is that new beginning we all so deeply want.

And we are joined to that break in baptism. In those waters, He has provided for us union to the new beginning of His resurrection. We are made anew. Obviously, we don't see it with our eyes. As we endure the stresses that come along with sin and, in particular, this pandemic, we keep experiencing the old life, the life of this world. We experience it day in and day out. But that resurrection of Jesus is ours. It is yours by the promise of God to you in baptism. That means that you may not see that new beginning, but it has been begun in you. You do have that break, you do have a clean start, a new life in Jesus.

In light of that new life, we continue on in the joy of that life and its proclamation in this year to come. As we do so, we continue to pray that the end of the pandemic will be here and that with its end we may enjoy that fellowship that is proper to the Church face to face. In the meantime, I will continue with providing my devotions for the weekly readings. We'll also continue with uploading recordings of the service, that you may hear many times a week and in multiple ways of that love of our God for you, and the new life He gives you in His Gospel.

As I say that, and acknowledge our circumstances, I encourage you also to please keep in touch with us. It's always good to hear from you. Also, with regard to finances, I want to thank you that you have been faithful in ensuring the work of the Gospel can continue here at Grace. Last year had its challenges for all, and while we didn't meet our budgeted need for giving, thankfully it was sufficient to keep up with spending for the congregation which also fell below budget. Please continue to keep up that faithfulness in the year to come! Additionally, to aid that good work, please also keep your eyes open for information regarding electronic giving which the tech committee will be investigating for us to implement this year. Finally, in all things, rejoice in our new life in Christ as He has come to save His people!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler

SCRIP



SCRIP orders are taken on Sunday,
January 10th after the First Service.

Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094

From the Women's Club

Thank you for all the donations to Phil's Friends!!!

If you want to donate, but don't want to go shopping, they'll kindly accept gift cards
(See list below). Collection continues through January 31st.

phil's friends
cancer is strong. hope is stronger.

Care Package Needs

Adult items only please! All items need to be new and unused, because our friends with cancer have compromised immune systems. Email info@philsfriends.org or call 224-653-8315 for the greatest need.

- LOTION**
Fragrance-free; 5oz. or smaller
- HATS**
Knitted, crocheted, baseball, etc.
- FUZZY SOCKS**
Womens only
- BIOTENE**
6oz. or smaller
- GIFT CARDS**
- LIP BALM**
*Due to an abundance, please inquire if needed
- TISSUE PACKS**
*Due to an abundance, please inquire if needed
- DECKS OF PLAYING CARDS**
- PUZZLE BOOKS**
- SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE**
(5 OZ OR LESS)
- BLANKETS**
Rolled throw blankets, crocheted, or fleece tied. See instructions on back.
- JOURNALS**
Size: 5x7 (not spiral bound)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS & ROSELLE HOPE CENTER: 1350 LAKE ST, SUITE 1, ROSELLE, IL 60172
CROWN POINT HOPE CENTER: 1249 ARROWHEAD CT, CROWN POINT, IN 46307
224-653-8315 | [INFO@PHILSFRIENDS.ORG](mailto:info@philsfriends.org) | [WEB: PHILSFRIENDS.ORG](http://WEB:PHILSFRIENDS.ORG)

We are also starting a 2nd collection of CLEAN plastic grocery shopping bags. The collection boxes are in the Parish Hall



Thank you for your selfless giving!

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

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mike Walters, friend of Donna Perkowski

Ellie Wilkins, cousin of Glen Hass

Lillian Winkelman

Addison Wille

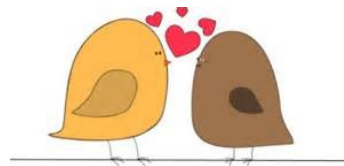
Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

Karla Bergenthal - Eleanor Kulaga
Lorraine Moller - Suzette Olszewski

January Birthdays!

Connor Blessman	1/4
Glen Hass	1/13
Carol Hassel	1/13
Leah Picek	1/13
Gary Clausen	1/24
Bob Blessman	1/26
CJ Brown	1/29
Chris Dame	1/30
Carlos Lazaro	1/30
Jack Fitzgerald	1/31



January Anniversaries!

Tracy & Bradley Cohen 1/24/1987
Meaghan & Chris Krohe 1/26/2013

**Grace Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly
December 20, 2020**

After opening our meeting with a prayer and approving the minutes from the November meeting, Rev. Jacob and Tia Corzine were unanimously welcomed as new voting members.

Pastor's Report: Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 pm (masks required) and 6:30 pm (masks optional). Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 am (masks optional). Please remember to call for a reservation as we are still limited to the number of occupants due to covid regulations. All services will have the same sermon but with some variation of songs. The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years. Pastor and family will be on vacation through January 9th; Pastor Corzine will be preaching on January 3rd. There will be no Bible classes until January 10th. The next Sunday School in person get together is planned for January 17th.

Financial Secretary's Report: Receipts for the month of November were \$15,983.00; year to date is \$173,349.06. We are under budget year to date by \$30,621.83.

Treasurer's Report: All bills have been paid; we are in fairly good shape.

Trustee's Report: The house at 4110 Johnson has built a trench from the side of their garage into our alley so their runoff water would run into our sewer. Linda has taken pictures and also called the village. No response yet.

Elders: no report

Walther High School/Grace Christian Academy: no report

Board of Christian Education: no report

Planning and Evangelism Committees: no report

Audit Committee: The report has been completed, but the committee needs to review it before submitting it to the congregation.

The proposed budget for 2021 was then quickly reviewed. The total is only a few hundred dollars more than 2020 with slight increases in worker compensation and an increase to our district giving. The total is \$219,950.00. It was noted that even though actual attendance is down, people are still giving and we have been able to meet our obligations. The tech committee will look into other possibilities of giving such as on line. MOTION: to accept the proposed budget for 2021 as presented. PASSED

The next item presented was the ballot for Officers and Board Members for 2021.

Since there was no discussion or further nominations, the following motion was made and seconded: MOTION: to accept the proposed ballot for 2021. PASSED

Installation is planned for January 10, 2021.

Old Business: none

New Business: Women's Club wishes to thank everyone for all their donation to Phil's Friends so far. It is a collection of assorted items for cancer patients. Thanks also to Mark Rehn for dropping off the collections so far. We will be collecting items through January.

Motion made and passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek
Secretary