

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**Rev. Matthew Zickler**

**4101 Wolf Rd**

**Western Springs, IL 60558**

**(708) 246-0536**

[gracelutheran.ws@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheran.ws@gmail.com)

[grace.lutheran.pastor.ws@gmail.com](mailto:grace.lutheran.pastor.ws@gmail.com)

[grace-lutheranws.org](http://grace-lutheranws.org)

# March 2021



Dear Saints of Grace,

As I reflect on preaching last week for the first Wednesday in our Lenten Series, I am thinking about Jesus as High Priest, about the sacrifices the priests in the Old Testament offered, and about Christ's sacrifice as well. Obviously, I'll be describing this in the weekly sermons as well, but I think it's good for us to take a minute to ponder sacrifices for a bit. This is all the more pertinent because of it being Lent, the season when we meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us and for our sins.

To think about those Old Testament sacrifices can be a disturbing, brutal, and, in a way, violent. Imagine if you came to church here and the central part of our service was taking animals and sacrificing them. To our sensibilities this is nearly unfathomable. But the image should make us think. It should make us think about two things. First of all, it should make us think about our society and our selves. Why is it such a challenging thought to us? I think in large part because it's not something we have a lot of exposure to. As we have moved away from being an agrarian society that focuses on farming, and as we have moved to cities where others specialize in things like food preparation, we have created an environment where we aren't exposed to some of the brutalities and hardships that life in this world naturally brings. Likewise, we have sanitized our lives in so many aspects. Look at how we treat the sick. We put them in hospitals and nursing homes, which takes them out of our view. To be clear, I'm not saying all of this is bad. It's not bad that we have butchers that process animals that we can have the meat we have. It's not bad that we make sure our sick get the best care they can. I'm just making the point that it affects our sensibilities in understanding those things, and it affects how we understand the brutality and danger of this broken and fallen world. That's first.

**CONTINUED->**

Second, it should make us think about the grace of God. The reality is that the death of the animals in the sacrifices was brutal. It was just as brutal as we think of it. In fact, it's more so. Death, any death, is not what God desired for the world in its creation. When He looked upon this world at the beginning, He saw that it was good. It was, in fact, very good. Death was not a part of it then. Death came when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The first place that we see death is not in Genesis 1-2. Instead, it's in Genesis Three when God clothes Adam and Eve with the skins of animals. There was a picture of what would be happening when God instituted the sacrifices at the Tabernacle with Moses. However, that's not the only picture. It's also a picture of something far greater. It's a picture of the horrible and brutal sacrifice that our Lord Jesus would make on the cross. As Adam and Eve deserved that death in the beginning, but the animals died and God clothed them in the skins of those animals, and as the animals were slaughtered at the temple, this was all just a foreshadowing of the perfect sacrifice that was to come, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. And that sacrifice was violent. It was brutal. It was disturbing. And it was deserved. To be sure, Jesus didn't deserve it, but we do. That's a sobering thought. In our sanitized world where we think isn't that bad, it's all the more sobering. But it also should bring great joy as we look to Easter. It should bring great joy, because it shows us just how much our God has loved us. It shows you just how much He loves you. And He does love you. He loves you so much that **neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** There is a beautiful thing to meditate upon this Lent.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler

# SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken  
on Sunday, **March 14th** after the Service.

**Questions?**

**Please call Sara Fitzgerald  
708-822-8094**

## REPORT OF RECEIPTS

### Budget to Actual Comparisons

#### JANUARY 2021

|              | <u>Month</u>   | <u>YTD</u>     |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Budget       | \$ 24,329.17   | \$ 24,329.17   |
| Actual       | \$ 9,950.00    | \$ 9,950.00    |
| Over (Under) | \$ (14,379.17) | \$ (14,379.17) |

#### JANUARY 2020

|              | <u>Month</u>  | <u>YTD</u>    |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Budget       | \$ 17,489.17  | \$ 17,489.17  |
| Actual       | \$ 13,260.00  | \$ 13,260.00  |
| Over (Under) | \$ (4,229.17) | \$ (4,229.17) |



Sign-up sheets for Easter lilies are in the Narthex & the kitchen.

They are \$13. The lilies will decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday & after the service, you can take them home.

**Last day to order is Sunday, March 28**

## *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

**Calderon Family**, friends of Linda McGuire

**Jennifer Cinelli**, niece of John Huebner

**Nubia Cuevas**, friend of Linda McGuire

**Isaac Defee**, friend of the Claster family

**Richard Dominguez**, friend of Pat Schlueter

**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

**Richard & Joanne Hass**, parents of Glen Hass

**Jack Hockman**, friend of Linda McGuire

**Horwath Family**, friends of Carolina St. Charles

### **Doris Jacobson**

**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 Oberst**, sister of Sue Napolitano

**Col. Carol Ann O'Donnell**, Ret. VFW

**Levi Olson**, cousin of Paul Sulak

### **Leah Picek**

**Jürgen Pietzsch**, cousin of Jennifer Claster

**Kurt Seehofer**, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler

**Adam Skelton**, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

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

### **Sharon Riordan**

**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

**Zachary Vossoughi**, g.grandson of friend of Dave Haffner

**Mike Walters**, friend of Donna Perkowski

### **Addison Wille**

**Nancy Wolff**, sister of Tyna Eggert

## *March Birthdays!*

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Brittany Briscoe | 3/2  |
| Judy Josefek     | 3/9  |
| Hope Stetler     | 3/10 |
| Hope Perri       | 3/11 |
| Matthew Stetler  | 3/13 |
| Elijah Zickler   | 3/13 |
| Chris Arata      | 3/17 |
| Tyna Eggert      | 3/22 |
| Nancy Hanson     | 3/22 |
| Ezekiel Johnson  | 3/26 |
| Becky Josefek    | 3/28 |

## *Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers*

- Karla Bergenthal • Eleanor Kulaga  
• Lorraine Moller • Suzette Olszewski



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
December 31, 2020

OPERATING FUNDS

|  |                   |                   |                  |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Balance - January 1, 2020                                  |                   |                   | 64,912.04        |
| <u>Receipts - January 1 through December 31, 2020</u>      |                   |                   |                  |
| Weekly collections   | 209,728.00        |                   |                  |
| Other receipts   | 3,824.06          |                   |                  |
| Building Fund  | 1,000.00          |                   |                  |
| Roof Building Fund   | 363.00            |                   |                  |
| Interest Income  | 54.70             |                   |                  |
| Net scripts revenue (1,715.00 less 1,673.36)               | 41.64             |                   |                  |
| Violet Beck estate   | 5,000.00          |                   |                  |
| Other memorials received                                   | 1,000.00          |                   |                  |
|  |                   |                   |                  |
| Total  |                   |                   | 221,011.40       |
| <u>Disbursements - January 1 through December 31, 2020</u> |                   |                   |                  |
|  | <u>Budget</u>     | <u>Actual</u>     |                  |
| Elders   | 154,320.00        | 153,282.20        |                  |
| Trustees   | 43,650.00         | 37,697.50         |                  |
| Education  | 4,900.00          | 2,280.21          |                  |
| District & other missions                                  | 7,000.00          | 7,000.00          |                  |
| Other agencies and non budget expenses                     |                   | 490.00            |                  |
| Benevelence - Office script cards                          |                   | 973.46            |                  |
| Total  | <u>209,870.00</u> | <u>201,723.37</u> | (201,723.37)     |
| Transfers to Edward Jones                                  |                   |                   | (6,000.00)       |
| Balance - December 31, 2020                                |                   |                   | <u>78,200.07</u> |

|   |                     |                                |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | <u>LEGACY FUNDS</u> | <u>ROOF AND BUILDING FUNDS</u> |
| Balance - January 1, 2020                         | 82,024.79           | 78,118.99                      |
| Transfers from checking account                   |                     | 6,000.00                       |
| Interest Income January through December 31, 2020 | 1,410.00            | 837.55                         |
| Increase in value of mutual fund                  | 402.73              |                                |
| Balance - December 31, 2020                       | <u>83,837.52</u>    | <u>84,956.54</u>               |
| Detail of Account Balance                         |                     |                                |
| Certificates of deposit held by Edward Jones      | 55,000.00           | 73,985.83                      |
| Money Market account at Edward Jones              | 21,621.02           | 10,970.71                      |
| American Balanced Fund - mutual fund              | 7,216.50            |                                |
| Total   | <u>83,837.52</u>    | <u>84,956.54</u>               |

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES  
2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

|   | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| REVENUES (Regular)*                               | 185,953 | 181,142 | 175,830 | 199,148 | 197,598 | 237,994 | 213,552 |
| EXPENSES  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Elders  | 119,686 | 132,388 | 140,628 | 142,548 | 145,640 | 150,613 | 153,282 |
| Trustees  | 41,918  | 39,794  | 31,571  | 30,318  | 41,090  | 36,905  | 37,698  |
| Education   | 3,384   | 3,516   | 4,062   | 3,886   | 3,377   | 4,306   | 2,280   |
| Evangelism  | 390     | 390     | 486     |         |         |         |         |
| District & other agencies                         | 5,000   | 6,261   | 8,432   | 7,557   | 8,639   | 18,704  | 8,463   |
| Parsonage repairs & new col                       | 17,007  |         |         | 9,754   |         |         |         |
| Total   | 187,385 | 182,349 | 185,179 | 194,063 | 198,746 | 210,528 | 201,723 |
| OVERAGE (SHORTFALL)                               | (1,432) | (1,207) | (9,349) | 5,085   | (1,148) | 27,466  | 11,829  |
| Transfers from Legacy Fund                        | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Bequest income not included<br>in above revenue   | 15,000  |         | 40,720  |         | 5,000   | 50,660  | 5,000   |
| Other non budget expenses not included above      |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Air conditioner unit (paid from Legacy Fund)      |         |         |         |         | 8,468   |         |         |
| Fire alarm system (paid from legacy Fund)         |         |         |         |         | 21,315  |         |         |
| Organ maintenance (paid form memorials collected) |         |         |         |         |         | 5,863   |         |
|   |         |         |         |         | 29,783  | 5,863   |         |

\* Does not include memorials, building, or roof fund receipts.