

Grace Lutheran Church
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Dear Saints of Grace,

As we come into October again, we look forward to celebrating the Reformation at the end of the month. This year Sunday falls on the very day we celebrate the occasion of Luther's posting the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany. So, yes, while there is another day of observance on October 31st, as Lutherans it's good for us to remember that return in the Church to a focus on salvation by what Jesus has done and not by our own goodness or merit. In light of that, I thought it would also be good to take this month's article as an opportunity refresh our understanding of the three solas ("alones") of the Lutheran Reformation.

First, is Sola Scriptura. This sola means that we draw our teaching from the Bible. In theology we call the Bible the "norming norm." That means that as we think about what shapes teaching and understanding, it's the Bible. The Bible shapes our thought about all things that relate to God. We go as far as the Bible goes in explaining and we do not go further than the Bible does in that. To be clear, this doesn't mean that we throw out any other teachers from the history of the Church. Often, this can be understood to be "anti-traditional." While it's true that we never want to elevate traditions of men to the level of God's Word, what it means is that we look always to the Scripture first and foremost to learn about what something means. However, sometimes we can understand that teaching of Scripture in light of the wisdom of those who have come before us. Nonetheless, where those teachers contradict or depart from the Bible, we stand on the Bible alone for our teaching. Sola Scriptura, Scripture alone.

Second is Sola Fide. This sola means that we are saved through faith and not by our works. What that means is that we understand ourselves always to be trusting in something to save us. Rightly, that trust, that faith, is in the work of Jesus and Jesus alone. To put it in light of Luther's comments on the First Commandment, "You shall have no other Gods,"—which Luther called the commandment that demands faith—this means that we make a god of whatever we fear, love, or trust above all things. If we trust in our works to save us, our faith is in our works. Even if we trust in our faith to save us (by it's own goodness), our faith is in ourselves. But as that faith rightly trusts in Jesus to save us because He took our sin upon Himself and redeemed us, then that trust is in Him. In other words, faith trusts and receives what God has done. Sola Fide, Faith alone.

Third is Sola Gratia. This sola means that we could never earn, merit, or deserve heaven no matter how hard we try. Instead, it is given to us as a totally free gift by God. You have perhaps heard the acronym God's Riches At Christ's Expense. I also like to describe grace by calling it the receiving of something good that we don't deserve from God (to contrast mercy which is to not receive the bad things we do deserve from God). In any case, this describes how God saves us without our having deserved or earned it. He gives us the whole of heaven all because of His love and the forgiveness that Jesus earned for us on the cross. This obviously ties closely with Sola Fide, because it's the action Jesus does for us that earns this by God's grace, but He gives us faith where we receive the benefit of what He has done. Sola Gratia, Grace alone. This relates to two other lesser used solas from the Reformation: Solus Christus; and Soli Deo Gloria. Soli Deo Gloria hopefully looks familiar because it's how I always sign these articles: "To God alone be glory," meaning none of us can take credit for the good there is. That's all God's doing. Solus Christus means that this is all through the work of Christ alone. And as we see that, we see how blessed we are to return to all of this in light of the Reformation.

Soli Deo Gloria!


Pastor Zickler

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

This meeting opened with a devotional prayer by Pastor Zickler followed with the reading of the minutes from our previous meeting last December 2020. The minutes were approved as read. A motion was made and passed to accept Brian and Casey Brown as voting members.

Pastor's Report: Today is the first day back to Sunday School with about 30 children in attendance. Due to covid, the children will be spread out in most of the classrooms upstairs and also using space downstairs in fellowship hall. Bible class will be held in the sanctuary starting Sept. 19 with midweek Bible classes beginning on Sept. 15th. Pastor is applying for PhD programs at three different locations. He did assure us that his studies would not disrupt his church and family responsibilities. But first, he has to be accepted!

Financial Secretary Report: Since it has been over 8 months since our last voters meeting, the year end financial report for December 2020 was handed out. Even though attendance has been up and down, giving has remained steady. August 2021 receipts stand at \$14,041.00. Paul and Bob are working on setting up a direct deposit program for those who wish to use it.

Treasurer's Report: Currently, there is \$48,000.00 in the checking account so we should not have any problem paying bills. The Edward Jones accounts remain steady with about \$170,000.00 total. We need to start working on our budget for next year.

Trustees Report: We received a couple roofing estimates (\$60,000 to \$70,000) but were told that we really don't need one right now. The neighbors drain problem has been solved thanks to some friendly conversation by Chris Krohe and Linda McGuire. What we really need is to repair or replace the parking lot. It may be a good idea to make a long range plan of capital expenses for the buildings and grounds. This suggestion was forwarded to the planning committee.

(continued)

Elders Report: Elders has been meeting monthly trying to keep up with all the covid rules and changes. Service attendance has held steady at around 50 people. The board has agreed to increase payment to substitute pastors and organists. MOTION: increase payments for organists - \$100/ service; pastors - \$150/ 1 service, \$200/ 1 service & Bible class, \$225/ 2 services. Passed. Everyone seemed to have a good time at the picnic – about 70 people attended. Elders agreed to give \$500 to Hurricane Ida relief through Lutheran Church Charities and \$500 to the BEDS program. Bob Dame and Jim Blessman, our tech team, have improved the internet throughout the building which allows us to video stream our services. The next project is Pastor's office wiring.

Walther Academy: Walther has existed for over 50 years providing quality education in a Lutheran setting. Graduates have received millions of dollars in scholarships for higher education. This year there are 270 students. The annual monetary campaign is in progress and one way you can help is to purchase a paving brick to memorialize someone.

Grace Christian Academy: Unfortunately, only 100 students are enrolled this year; they hoped for 115 students. Tuition stands at \$6,200.00/year with a \$1,500.00 subsidy from scholarships. Unfortunately, the Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago, is preventing Grace from receiving about \$14,000.00 due them.

Board of Education: Sunday school started today.

Planning Committee: The committee needs to have a meeting regarding the suggestion for a capital expense plan.

Old Business: Nothing at this time

New Business: Discussion was then held on the 2022 convention and our delegate selections. MOTION: Pastoral delegate: Pastor Zickler, Lay delegate: Chris Krohe, Alternate: Bob Dame Passed. As far as candidates for president, vice-president and circuit visitor, MOTION: to select the persons currently in office. Passed

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Josefek, Secretary

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Grace Women's Club has a new mission...

Breakthrough Urban Ministries, located near the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago.



Items needed for this temporary shelter are:

Dishwashing liquid
Laundry detergent
Toilet paper
Deodorant
Toothbrushes
Razors

Travel/hotel size
Toothpaste
Lotion
Shampoo
Conditioner
Shaving Cream

Gently used or new

Towels (preferably Bath, but any size ok)
Twin Sized sheets
Coffee Mugs

Women's clothes that are needed

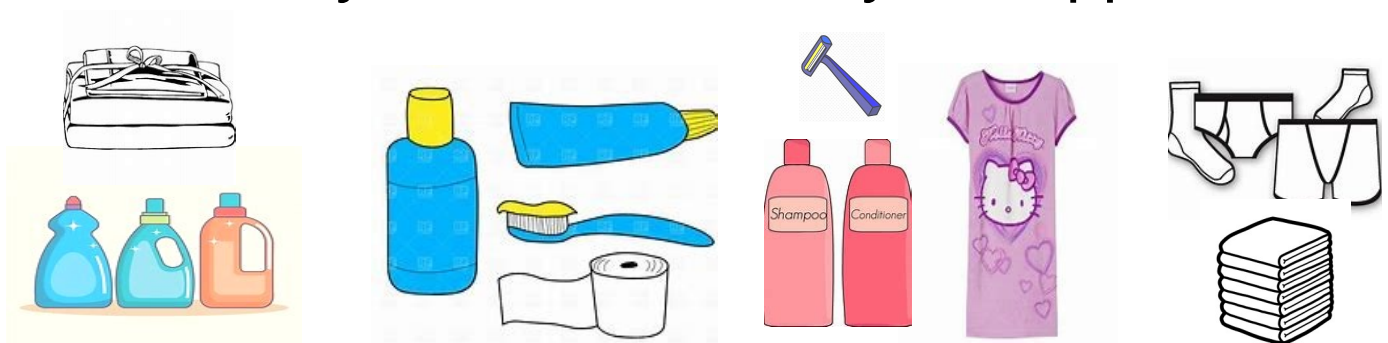
Bras
Panties
Nightgowns

Men's clothes that are needed

Socks
Underwear
Belts

Please put items in the boxes located in the Parish Hall by Sunday, October 17.

Thank you in advance for your support!





DIAPER DERBY

Caring Network, Illinois are reaching out to our faithful partners in ministry as it is time for Caring Network's annual **Diaper Derby**. We hold the Diaper Derby to support our **four** local Caring Network baby banks located in Itasca, Naperville, Oak Brook and Wheaton. These supplies are a huge encouragement to our clients, as one said recently, "If I had known all the help that was available, I would not have aborted my first baby!" Please help us continue to meet the needs of the clients we serve!

Collecting diapers, wipes and gift cards for Target or Walmart.
Diaper sizes for 4, 5, & 6 are especially needed.



Drop-off Deadline October 31, 2021

SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, **October 10** after the Service. If you have any questions,
Please call Sara Fitzgerald 708-822-8094 swander05@hotmail.com

SCRIP are gift cards purchased at face value from over 400 different vendors.

For each card purchased Grace receives a percentage of the purchase price.

Percentages vary with each vendor. A complete list of participating vendors is available in the parish hall. Payment is due at time of order, checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Simply by making your regular shopping runs you are raising funds for Grace. Unbelievably easy.

SCRIP



SCRIP

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca**Peggy Barbieri**, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton**Ann Cannon**, friend of Doris Svec**Jennifer Cinelli**, niece of John Huebner**Nancy & Kent Cloninger****Jerry Cohen**, husband of Tracy Cohen**Tiia Corzine & unborn child****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**Liz Dzengeleski**, friend of Linda McGuire**Sarah Figueroa**, friend of the Claster family**Richard Flatley**, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post**John Flood****Phyllis Floyd****Christine Fry**, daughter-in-law of Bill & Betty Tanzer**Laurie Georgas**, friend of Judy Latman**Cassie Gray**, cousin of Paul Sulak**Joanne Hass**, mother of Glen Hass**Jack Hockman**, friend of Linda McGuire**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 Oberst**, sister of Sue Napolitano**Shawn O'Farrell**, friend of Doris Svec**Levi Olson**, cousin of Paul Sulak**Dominic Paoletti**, grand-nephew of Erick & Carol Hassel**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**Kimmey Skelton**, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler**Shirron Reid**, daughter-in-law of Jim & Ruth Reid**Sharon Riordan****Ray Rompala**, brother-in-law of Paul Sulak**Judy & Kurt Steiner**, family of Nancy & Ron Kolar**Don & Gayle Steele****Ted, Megan & Gideynn Torreson**, family of Chris Krohe**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**Nancy Wolff**, sister of Tyna Eggert**Katherin Wong & unborn son**, daughter of Mark Rehn

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

**Karla Bergenthal - Eleanor Kuluga
Suzette Olszewski**



October Birthdays!!

Matthew Ayers	2
David Haffner	2
Sara Fitzgerald	3
Del Hermann	5
Gavin Claster	8
David Claster	9
Jim Blessman	14
Bea Dahl	17
Chris Stetler	18
Rosemary Blessman	19
Tera Mullarkey	22
Eliana Zickler	24
Tom Josefek	26
Walt Bergenthal	28

October Anniversaries!!

Samantha & Alex Schmidt	October 3, 2015
Judy & Tom Josefek	October 4, 1969
Carol & Erick Hassel	October 16, 1971
Donna & Tom Perkowski	October 23, 1977
Lin & Ezekiel Johnson	October 26, 2013