

Grace Lutheran Church
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December

2021



Dear Saints of Grace,

Once more the season of Advent is upon us, and we are barreling forward toward Christmas. It seems that this is always such a hectic time of year for so many, but in the midst of it, I encourage you to take time from the hecticness and pause in consideration of what this season is really about. As I think I have pointed out before, it's good to recall that Advent is actually a penitential season like Lent. To be sure, there is an aspect to it that is less restrained than Lent, but even still, in the history of the Church it was a season that focused on spiritual disciplines and even fasting (a hard thing in our culture in December!). This, however, is why we have our additional Wednesday evening services. As the Church directs her focus on celebrating the coming of our Lord into this world to bear our sin and be our Savior, additional gathering to hear the Word and pray are always beneficial to our souls and lives in the Lord.

For those prayer offices this year, which we will be having on the 1st, 8th, and 15th at 7:00 P.M., we will be looking at the "hymns" of Advent/Christmas. What do I mean by that? Do I mean hymns like "Savior of the Nations Come," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," or other more culturally favored songs? I don't. Those are certainly wonderful, and many are worthy of study, but what we will be looking at are the songs we see in the Gospels, specifically in the Gospel of Luke surrounding the birth of Jesus: the Benedictus, the Magnificat, and the Gloria.

Now if I listed those, and you said, "what?" I am sure you are not alone. So to explain, the Benedictus is the song that Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, sang at the birth of John, as John was the one promised to make straight paths for the Lord. The name comes from the first words of the song in Latin. Benedictus means "blessed." The song starts, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel."

The Magnificat is the song that Mary sang when the angel Gabriel came to her to tell her of the news that she would be the one to carry the Lord in her womb, giving birth to the Savior of the world. That one may be familiar to you as we sing it in all of our Wednesday evening services, both in Advent and Lent. Its name comes from the Latin word beginning of the song as well, "magnifies." As she says, "My soul magnifies the Lord..."

Finally, the Gloria. This is one that I know you are familiar with because we sing it almost every week on Sunday Morning. In Setting Three, the setting of the service we use the most and the one that is very similar to the old TLH (Red Hymnal) service, it begins, "Glory be to God on high." Gloria, once more is the Latin term for the beginning of that song too. The Gloria is the song the angels sang at the birth of Jesus as they appeared to the Shepherds in the field.

Studying and singing these songs is good for us because it connects us to the life of the Church going back to the Lord's birth. It reminds us of the immense joy that is ours as He has been so gracious to us as to enter into the muck of our sin in this world and redeem us to eternal joy and life in Him.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler

P.S. If you would like to study these passages you can find them in Luke 1:68-79 (The Benedictus), in Luke 1:46-55 (The Magnificat), and Luke 2:14 (The Gloria).



News from the Women's Club



The Women's Club thanks everyone for their participation in the donation drive for Breakthrough Urban Ministries. Your generosity was amazing!



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
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 \$14.00. They will be delivered 12/24.

**Last day to order is
Tuesday, December 14th.**

SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken on
Sunday, **December 12th** 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

SEPTEMBER 2021

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget	\$ 18,329.17	\$ 164,962.50
Actual	\$ 12,659.00	\$ 129,434.00
Over (Under)	\$ (5,670.17)	(\$ 35,528.50)

SEPTEMBER 2020

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget	\$ 17,489.17	\$ 157,402.50
Actual	\$ 13,755.00	\$ 134,960.00
Over (Under)	\$ (3,734.17)	(\$ 22,442.50)

OCTOBER 2021

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget	\$ 18,329.17	\$ 183,291.67
Actual	\$ 15,590.00	\$ 145,024.00
Over (Under)	\$ (2,739.17)	(\$ 38,267.67)

OCTOBER 2020

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget	\$ 17,489.17	\$ 174,891.67
Actual	\$ 11,910.00	\$ 146,870.00
Over (Under)	\$ (5,579.17)	(\$ 28,021.67)

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

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

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

Gail Loos, friend of Karen Hayes

Sonny Mansor, friend of Joey Keeler

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

James McGuire, nephew of Linda McGuire

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mary Claire MoDrak, friend of Lisa Mullarkey

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

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

Eileen Plate, friend of Linda McGuire

Kurt Seehofer, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Kimmy Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler

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

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 Kulaga
Suzette Olszewski*



**Grace Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting
November 21, 2021**

After Pastor opened the meeting with prayer, the minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Pastor's Report: Thanks to everyone for being so understanding when Jessica Zickler came down with covid and thanks, also, to Pastor Corzine for taking care of the Sunday services for two weeks. Pastor is still processing his Phd applications due in January. For Advent services this year, the theme will be the Hymns of Advent. Services will be Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The circuit forum met yesterday and Pastor was accepted as the circuit visitor. There is an open house at Redeemer, Elmhurst, this afternoon from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. All are welcome to join in the celebration of their new renovation of the sanctuary. Looking ahead to Christmas, Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 pm, Christmas Day at 10:00 am and Sunday the 26th at 9:00 am.

Financial Secretary: There is no report at this time, but there will be the latest report in the newsletter. Bob Blessman has been set up for the direct deposit program but there are about 3 hours of tutorials to sort through.

Treasurer's Report: There have been no major expenses but there will be a bill coming up for the repair of the boiler. There is about \$46,000.00 in checking as of 10/31/21 and currently \$170,800.00 in the legacy funds.

Elders: Pastor will be on vacation 1/2/2022 and the church office will be closed the week during Christmas and New Years. A gift of \$500.00 was given to St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Beecher, Illinois, after succumbing to a fire. Church Christmas trees will be decorated Saturday 11/27. Lastly, the tech team would like to work on the wiring in Pastor's office over Christmas week.

Trustees: This past week, two pumps were replaced on the boiler for about \$2,500.00. Since the boiler is 70 years old, trustees felt it wise to get estimates for a new boiler. Also, they are looking for a new lawn service – suggestions welcome.

Planning Committee: The meeting was devoted to discussion regarding capital expenses for the future upkeep of the church building and grounds and parsonage. They are looking for sources to review the building as to what needs immediate attention and what can wait – such as the boiler and parking lot. Also, ideas for church outreach in the community were brought up such as the Tower Tree display in town.

Continued->

Board of Education: At the last teachers meeting, it was decided the children would participate in the Christmas Eve service by singing and leading the congregation in hymns.

The children will be practicing on Sunday mornings with the service being at 5:00 pm Christmas Eve.

Walther Christian High School: In the month of 9/23 & 9/27, 99 students participated in the Christian Day of Service by helping at the NPO “Feed My Starving Children.” The entire school celebrated Hispanic Heritage month in October by visiting the National Museum of Mexican Art. Mrs. Lori Boyer, an outstanding choral director, has returned to Walther to teach music and didn’t hesitate to get the students singing (“Oh When the Saints Come Marching In”) while they were outside for an unexpected fire drill. Coming up on February 19, 2022, will be the Bronco Benefit Banquet at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Schaumburg. On February 26, 2022, the second Bronco Benefit will be held via Zoom all across America. Finally, the Wing Stop foundation donated \$5,000.00 to enhance the STEM program.

Grace Christian Academy: Grace now has increased to 105 students. They have applied for a grant from the Albert Pick Jr. Fund and are now in the process of their Thanksgiving and Christmas funding appeals. The Thanksgiving Appeal will be sent out to 5000 potential donors. A statement was then read regarding social emotional learning and what are the core values of Grace Academy. (A separate print out has been submitted for the newsletter-see following page.)

Old Business: None

New Business: The budget for 2022 was presented with very few changes. The increase is approximately 4.3%. Please review it for voting in December. The slate for officers was then presented so please review it also for voting at the December meeting.

With no further business at hand, a motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary

Grace Christian Academy—Continued:

Social Emotional Learning is being emphasized. It was noted by some Board Members that this serves as a helpful focus in place of Critical Race Theory. What is the greatest ingredient that foreshadows success after graduation? A – ambition, B – IQ, C – ability to manage emotions, D – academic achievement. Ans.: C is composed of EI/EQ. EI is emotional intelligence; EQ is the ability to monitor one's own and other feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information to guide one's thinking and actions. "If your emotional abilities aren't in hand, if you don't have self awareness, if you are not able to manage your distressing emotions, if you can't have empathy and effective relationships, then no matter how smart you are, you are not going to get very far" – Daniel Goleman.

EQ counts for twice as much as IQ and technical skills in determining who will be successful. "When it comes to success in business, EQ eats IQ for breakfast"

EI is being smart with feelings and emotions: self awareness, self regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. EI is the greatest single predictor of success.

What constitutes Success?

1. Strong communicator – communicates and collaborates with others.
2. Understanding people – able to empathize and relate to others.
3. Conveys respect – treats people honorably with kindness.
4. Connected to God – demonstrates a commitment to God through words and actions.
5. Exhibits perseverance – shows grit and determination through adversity.
6. Strives for excellence – takes pride in the work and puts forth the best effort.
7. Shows responsibility – radically dependable and able to complete tasks successfully.

Success Skills Report Card

Of the 7 skills in determining success each student will be judged with results discussed with the respective parents.

Core Values of GCA

1. GCA is distinctively Christian – everything that we do & teach is rooted in Christian faith and founded upon God & His word.
2. GCA is a community of Grace - we go beyond just rules & consequences in order to reach the hearts of our students & gladly welcome others into our school family. (Tim added consideration of welcoming others in our family).
3. GCA is responsive – we strive to exceed expectations & provide a positive school experience for every student & parent through fun & engaging experiences in & out of the classroom.
4. GCA is forward thinking- we value innovation & strive to discover best practices for student learning.
5. GCA is purpose driven – we lead, serve, & teach with great passion because we are confident in what God has called us to do. We work to cultivate that same passion in every one of our students.
6. GCA is a safe haven – we provide an environment where students are protected both physically & emotionally, & provide a loving atmosphere where God has called them & be without fear.
7. GCA is a community of learners – we provide students with a sense of belonging where they are encouraged to work cooperatively with their classmates to solve problems creatively.

The proposed 2022 budget on this page and the preceding page will be voted on at the Sunday, December 19th Voter's meeting. If you have any questions please contact Paul Sulak.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

To be approved at the December 19, 2021 Voter's meeting.

	2021 ACTUAL 10 MONTHS	2021 PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	2021 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET
BOARD OF ELDERS				
Pastor				
Salary	52,500	63,000	63,000	65,700
Housing allowance	5,833	7,000	7,000	7,300
Substitute pastors	900	900	750	900
Pension/Disability	8,607	9,390	9,390	9,800
Medical (Welfare)	28,080	30,633	28,520	32,430
Health reimbursement	1,839	1,847	1,850	1,850
Conferences & convention	298	287	700	700
Car allowance	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000
Reimbursed expenses			500	500
Total	100,557	116,057	114,710	122,180
Music				
Organist salary	12,083	14,500	14,500	15,000
Substitute organist	400	400	400	500
Choir music				
Total	12,483	14,900	14,900	15,500
Office				
Secretary's salary	12,480	15,000	15,000	15,500
Postage, printing, supplies	941	1,275	2,000	2,000
Total	13,421	16,275	17,000	17,500
Other				
Social security	1,939	2,315	2,340	2,470
Bulletins & worship material	14	20	100	100
Worship supplies and expense	1,269	1,269	1,400	1,400
Food & refreshments			200	200
Fellowship and events	563	563	500	500
Other	637	3,465	2,000	2,000
Total	4,422	7,632	6,540	6,670
Information technology				
Telephone, fax, internet	2,616	3,139	3,200	3,200
Office equipment & maintenance	852	1,172	1,800	1,800
Computer software	850	1,033	1,200	1,200
Website	310	310	1,300	1,000
Other	654	750	2,000	1,500
Total	5,282	6,404	9,500	8,700
TOTAL ELDERS	136,165	161,268	162,650	170,550
EVANGELISM (ADVERTISING, PUBLICITY, CHURCH GROWTH)				
PLANNING COMMITTEE				

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2021 ACTUAL 10 MONTHS	2021 PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	2021 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET
BOARD OF TRUSTEES				
Janitorial	7,250	8,700	8,700	8,700
Insurance	6,645	8,342	7,500	8,500
Organ, piano maintenance		300	1,400	800
Maintenance				
Parsonage	639	750	2,400	2,400
Church	2,923	3,025	4,000	4,000
Janitorial supplies	147	308	1,000	1,000
Grass cutting			1,750	1,500
Utilities - Church				
Electric	3,140	3,509	4,000	4,000
Gas	5,148	6,192	7,000	7,000
Scavenger	1,092	1,338	1,200	1,600
Water	318	409	600	600
Utilities - Parsonage				
Electric	1,213	1,412	1,600	1,600
Gas	509	659	1,400	1,400
Scavenger	336	420	450	450
Water	1,228	1,543	1,400	1,600
+				
TOTAL TRUSTEES	30,588	36,907	44,400	45,150
BOARD OF EDUCATION				
Lessons and supplies	612	750	1,500	1,500
Holiday programs		125	200	200
Subscriptions	2,002	2,231	2,500	2,500
Youth programs			100	100
Adult education			100	100
Confirmation	351	351	250	250
Miscellaneous			250	250
TOTAL EDUCATION	2,965	3,457	4,900	4,900
DISTRICT AND OTHER PAYMENTS				
District funding	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Walther High School		2,000	2,000	2,000
Grace Christian Academy	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other missions	1,500	1,500	1,000	2,000
TOTAL DISTRICT PAYMENTS	4,500	8,500	8,000	9,000
TOTAL BUDGET	174,218	210,132	219,950	229,600



*Thank you to all
who helped decorate
the chancel-it's
greatly appreciated!
-Nancy & Ron Kolar*

