

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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# February 2022

Dear Saints of Grace,

February is upon us again, and with it Valentine's Day. For whatever reason, I thought it would be interesting to find out about the history of Valentine's Day, in light of this. So, I did a trusty internet search. I looked on Wikipedia (as I'm sure you know, a source considered less than reliable for academic purposes), and a couple more reliable sites: the History Channel; and A Roman Catholic online encyclopedia called "New Advent." So, what did I find?

The date of February 14<sup>th</sup> has long been associated with three St. Valentines. One was a priest in Rome itself who was beheaded under the reign of Claudius II. One a bishop of Terni, also killed by the persecution of Claudius (both buried on the Flaminian Way). The third a man in Africa who suffered persecution there. So how did this day come to be associated with love? Some legends as late as the 1400's connected the day to another Valentine priest who helped Christian soldiers to marry although they had been forbidden to do so in order to focus their military prowess. This seems historically inaccurate, though, as the emperor during that time actually was recorded as encouraging the pursuit of women by his soldiers. Other legends say that there was a Valentine who was taken captive because of his care for Christians, despite the persecution of the faith. And others speak of a Valentine who healed people, and at the time of his death sent a note to his beloved (a Valentine, as we think of it). None of these are verifiable.

However the association first came about, it does seem that Geoffrey Chaucer may have had a hand in popularizing it. Apparently, no records of Valentine's Day and romantic celebrations have been found before his poem in the work "Parliament of Fowles." The poem describes February 14<sup>th</sup> as the day when birds and humans come together to choose a mate.

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So, what do we do with this? First of all, whether we want to participate in the commercialization of Valentine's Day or not, the occasion is a good reminder for those who are married to consider the joy of that marriage. Christ has given marriage as a blessed picture of His relationship to the Church; the wife representing that Church submissive to the Lord in all things, and the husband representing the Lord loving the wife by giving up his very life for her. And, in our culture a good confession of this is needed, not only in view of the issues and controversies relating to sex and gender, but just the way that marriage is not held in high esteem. Second, it can also remind us to care for those who are single in the midst of a time that can be very difficult. When any member of the Church hurts, as we share in the body of Christ, we also hurt. We are called to care for those hurting among us especially.

Finally, we can also keep in mind the most important aspect of how this became a day of recognition in the first place: the witness of faithful Christians. I have mentioned this before, but it's good to remember that when we speak of those killed for their confession as martyrs, the word martyr actually just meant a witness. How often have you thought of Valentine's Day and considered there to be a call in it to confess your faith to the world? If you're like me, this is the first time (really, it is—I hadn't thought about it until writing this). But what an opportunity to remember something so contrary to our culture that is quickly fleeing from Christianity: this day started in view of the faithful witness of those unafraid of giving their lives on behalf of their confession. It's a stark thought, but a good reminder. After all, He has laid His life down for us as He is our perfect Groom. And in doing so, He has made us His perfect bride in His grace.

Soli Deo Gloria,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Zickler".

Pastor Zickler

**SCRIP**



SCRIP orders are taken on Sunday,  
February 13th after the Service.

Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald

708-822-8094



*Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers*

**Lesley Arca**  
**Peggy Barbieri**, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton  
**Ann Cannon**, friend of Doris Svec  
**Dan Christian**, friend of Christopher Krohe  
**Jennifer Cinelli**, niece of John Huebner  
**Nancy & Kent Cloninger**  
**Jerry Cohen**, husband of Tracy Cohen  
**Isaac Defee**, friend of the Claster family  
**Blake Donegan**, grandson of John & Lois Flood  
**John Donegan**, friend of John & Lois Flood  
**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  
**Dave Hansen**, friend of Linda McGuire  
**Joanne Hass**, mother of Glen Hass  
**Jack Hockman**, friend of Linda McGuire  
**Sally Ilcewicz**, sister of Sue Napolitano  
**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  
**Ben Mahler**, friend of Kyle Sheldon  
**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  
**Caitlin Place**, granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar  
**Eileen Plate**, friend of Linda McGuire  
**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  
**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 a 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 - Lorraine Moller - Suzette Olszewski**

**February Birthdays!**

<b>Matthew Briscoe</b>	<b>2/2</b>
<b>Donna Perkowski</b>	<b>2/2</b>
<b>Jack Sheldon</b>	<b>2/6</b>
<b>Nancy Harris</b>	<b>2/9</b>
<b>Don Steele</b>	<b>2/15</b>
<b>Ryker Ayers</b>	<b>2/16</b>
<b>Owen Fitzgerald</b>	<b>2/16</b>
<b>Christine Sulak</b>	<b>2/16</b>
<b>Irene Rohde</b>	<b>2/25</b>
<b>Lesley Arca-Blessman</b>	<b>2/27</b>
<b>Natalie Fuller</b>	<b>2/27</b>
<b>Lloyd Dzoga</b>	<b>2/28</b>
<b>Nancy Kolar</b>	<b>2/28</b>

**February Anniversaries!**

**Arnie & Doris Svec**  
**02/23/1963**

