

Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Matthew Zickler

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March 2022



Dear Saints of Grace,

It is time for the season of Lent once again. As we observe this season yearly, it's a good time for us to reflect on our own sinfulness and brokenness. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to recenter and refocus our lives around the Lord Himself who went to the cross and suffered the burden of our sin that we might have life in His resurrection on that first Easter. As we reflect on that, however, it also shows us that the life of Jesus, from birth to death to resurrection, finally gives us the complete picture of who He is. We can't understand who Jesus is just by looking at His birth. Sure, we see that He is "Immanuel," "God with us," born of a virgin, but what does that mean for us? We see it in the cross and empty tomb. Those show us the gravity of sin and the seriousness of its consequences. But who is it that died? The Christ Child born that first Christmas. And who is that?

Of course, that's a common question asked today, isn't it? Who is Jesus? Jesus Himself asked that question to His disciples. They gave numerous answers. Likewise, if you asked ten people on the street today, you would likely get a variety of responses from those people. For our Lenten series this year, we're going to reflect on a few of those responses at our Wednesday midweek services. The first Wednesday we'll look at how people speak of Jesus as a prophet. The second will center around people calling Jesus a friend, and treating Him like He's a buddy. The third will reflect on people describing Jesus as a good man and teacher, and the fourth as a miracle worker of some kind. The last Wednesday will then look at Jesus as an example. Then on Good Friday and Easter, we will reflect on Jesus as He is the atonement for our sin and the victor over it, respectively.

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These reflections will be called, “Views of Jesus at the Cross.” With each title or category, it could be understood properly that Jesus is that thing—a good man, a prophet, etc.—but the cross shows us what the depth of that really is. It brings to bear the gravity of Jesus and His work. It reveals the immensity of God’s love; something that’s not merely superficial or sentimental, but sacrificial and deeply giving.

In view of that, please join us on those Wednesdays, and join us this Wednesday as well as we begin observing Lent with Ash Wednesday. As has been the case the past few years, we will invite those who would like to come early to do so for the imposition of the ashes. As I always remind people, this is not compulsory. You can even come early and not come forward. That’s OK. But please feel welcome if you would like to reflect on the need for repentance in that way.

In any case, all the more, I encourage you to take the opportunity to hear the Lord’s Word preached at our Wednesday services and to reflect on the need we all have to bring that Word to the center of our lives in every circumstance. The cross shows us His great love for us, and in His mercy draws us to Himself. What a gracious and loving mercy this is.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler

ONLINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE!
YOU CAN FIND IT ON THE WEBSITE AT
<https://grace-lutheranws.org/giving/>

Follow the directions on the page to learn how you can set up your account to give there.

You have the ability to apply your offerings to particular funds as well as to set up recurring gifts.



SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken
on Sunday, **March 13th** after the Service.

Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094



Dear Grace Members,

Thank you so much for all the calls & get well cards on my recent surgery, and for the sympathy cards on my sister's passing.

They were such a comfort to me!

God Bless You All,

Sue Napolitano

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca

Peggy Barbieri, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton

Bob Blessman

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

Elaine Hackett, aunt of Meaghan Krohe

Dave Hansen, friend of Linda McGuire

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

Jack Hockman, friend of Linda McGuire

Doris Jacobson

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

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

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

Athey Ulrich

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

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

Mike Walters, friend of Donna Perkowski

Lillian Winkelman

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

Katherin & James Wong, daughter & g. son of Mark Rehn

March Birthdays!

Brittany Briscoe 3/2

Jacob Corzine 3/3

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

• Suzette Olszewski



**Grace Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly
February 20, 2022**

Pastor opened our meeting with prayer followed with the reading of the December minutes. The minutes were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: Pastor applied for his PhD program at Loyola, but has not heard back yet. There is the possibility that another chasuble may be gifted to the church. Lent is coming up and the topic Pastor has chosen is "Views of Jesus at the Cross." With regards to Bob Blessman's recent health issue, it was quickly treated and he is now home and doing well.

Financial Secretary: no report at this time

Treasurer's Report: Paul recapped the year 2021.

Beginning balance: \$78,200.07

Total receipts: \$224,922.64

Total disbursements: \$217,981.77

Leaving a balance on 12/31/2021 of \$85,140.94

There was no change to the Legacy fund except for additional interest and a modest increase in value. The total Legacy fund is \$85,654.90.

Paul also prepared a comparison chart from 2015 to the present.

Elders Report: They met in January to discuss the usher schedule and the Lenten season. To have another elder on the board would be very helpful. If anyone is interested, please talk to Paul or Pastor.

Trustees Report: No problems have been reported so all looks good. They are still looking for a new landscaper.

Walther High School: Nothing much to report except for the Bronco national Zoom day and the dinner to be held later this month at Maggianos. A big plus for the school is the fact that there were no covid incidents all year!

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Grace Academy: Currently there are 102 students enrolled with the hopes of increasing that to 110 next year. Donations are lower than last year. The base salary of \$28,000 was raised to \$30,500.

Board of Christian Education: There is a planning meeting to be held March 6 to come up with ideas and activities for our newly confirmed youth.

Evangelism: nothing to report

Planning Committee: They met in January to discuss a capital improvement plan for the church, grounds and parsonage. This plan should include maintenance – such as the boiler, organ, parking lot – in order to be prepared for the future. And just to be on the safe side, the committee would like to recommend that we open a line of credit with LCEF. It would be a non collateral, low interest, 3 year loan with an opening cost of \$300.00. MOTION: to pursue and apply for a line of credit with LCEF. PASSED On another note, the Men's Group is currently meeting and there are plans to have an evening Women's Group.

Auditors Report: They will plan a meeting soon.

Old Business: Ron recapped a letter from the President of Walther thanking everyone for their support during Covid.

New Business: There was a suggestion that Grace do a year end State of the Church report with details on new members, deaths, baptisms, confirmations and so on. Also maybe a report from each group like Sunday school and Women's Club on what they did for the year. This suggestion will be taken into consideration.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek
Secretary

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
December 31, 2021

OPERATING FUNDS

Balance - January 1, 2021 78,200.07

Receipts - January 1 through December 31, 2021

Weekly collections	214,419.07	
Other receipts	1,997.00	
Building Fund	435.00	
Roof Building Fund	100.00	
Interest Income	48.17	
Net scripts revenue (2,150.00 less 2,121.60)	28.40	
Other donations	4,000.00	
Other memorials received	2,695.00	
Landscaping Fund	1,200.00	
Total		224,922.64

Disbursements - January 1 through December 31, 2021

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
Elders	162,650.00	161,496.99	
Trustees	44,400.00	39,845.20	
Education	4,900.00	3,194.21	
District & other missions	8,000.00	9,500.00	
Other agencies and non budget expenses		889.37	
Boiler repair		3,056.00	
Total	<u>219,950.00</u>	<u>217,981.77</u>	(217,981.77)

Transfers to Edward Jones

Balance - December 31, 2021 85,140.94

	<u>LEGACY FUNDS</u>	<u>ROOF AND BUILDING FUNDS</u>
Balance - January 1, 2021	83,837.52	84,956.54
Transfers from checking account		
Interest Income January through December 31, 2021	1,027.24	493.49
Increase in value of mutual fund	790.14	
Balance - December 31, 2021	<u>85,654.90</u>	<u>85,450.03</u>
Detail of Account Balance		
Certificates of deposit held by Edward Jones	45,000.00	78,985.83
Money Market account at Edward Jones	32,300.75	6,464.20
American Balanced Fund - mutual fund	8,354.15	
Total	<u>85,654.90</u>	<u>85,450.03</u>

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
REVENUES (Regular)*	181,142	175,830	199,148	197,598	237,994	213,552	221,616
EXPENSES							
Elders	132,388	140,628	142,548	145,640	150,613	153,282	161,497
Trustees	39,794	31,571	30,318	41,090	36,905	37,698	39,845
Education	3,516	4,062	3,886	3,377	4,306	2,280	3,194
Evangelism	390	486					
District & other agencies	6,261	8,432	7,557	8,639	18,704	8,463	10,389
Parsonage repairs & new copier			9,754				
Total	182,349	185,179	194,063	198,746	210,528	201,723	214,925
OVERAGE (SHORTFALL)	(1,207)	(9,349)	5,085	(1,148)	27,466	11,829	6,691
Transfers from Legacy Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bequest income not included in above revenue		40,720		5,000	50,660	5,000	
Other non budget expenses not included above							
Boiler repair (paid from building fund)							3,056
Air conditioner unit (paid from Legacy Fund)				8,468			
Fire alarm system (paid from Legacy Fund)				21,315	5,863		
Organ maintenance (paid from memorials collected)							
				29,783	5,863		3,056

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