

Grace Lutheran Church
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October 2022



Dear Saints of Grace,

October is upon us and so with it fall is coming into full swing. We've come through the first month of "back to school" or back to "normalcy" after the summer, and now things are full speed ahead in life. Likewise, October means cooling weather, Halloween (with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's right around to corner—sorry for the reminder!), and the Reformation. Commonly in the October newsletter, I'll discuss something relating to the Reformation, and so I'll start with that briefly this month. However, I also have a couple of other important things to note as well... so please stay tuned.

To start with the Reformation, I often like to reflect on the "sola"s of the Reformation: Sola Scriptura; Sola Fide; and Sola Gratia, so we'll start with that quickly. Sola Scriptura, Scripture Alone, reminds us that our doctrine, our teaching and beliefs, all come from Scripture. It doesn't mean we ignore the history of the Church. In fact, we have a lot of wise teachers who have come before us that inform how we understand the Bible apart from the baggage we bring to it from our time and place, but the Bible finally is the authority for teaching and life. Then Sola Fide, Faith Alone; this is the reminder that we don't go to heaven by being good and earning it. Instead, we receive the promise that Christ has died for our sins and gives us salvation as a gift. We get the benefit of that gift by believing, by trusting, in that work of Jesus—that is, by faith. This is closely tied to the last sola: Sola Gratia, Grace Alone. This reminds us that this is all God's doing and not our own. We don't deserve it, but He gives it to us without cost to us (although it cost Jesus His life), but instead it is free and a gift. Sometimes we also speak of all of this being Solus Christus, that is by Christ Alone, and Soli Deo Gloria, to the Glory of God Alone. This all reminds us of our God's good work and love for us in sending Jesus to take our sin upon Himself that we would live forever in His kingdom by His resurrection.

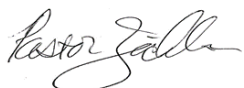
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Having said that, it is a good entrée into the next thing I'd like to note. This past Sunday, I mentioned that Dr. Andrew Das will be on a webinar on October 10th at 7:00 P.M. introducing the book of Colossians. As we reflect on Sola Scriptura, what a great opportunity to dive into that Scripture and learn more about it. If you're interested look it up at <https://www.nidlcms.org/colossians-bible-study/>. We'll also study Colossians on Sunday mornings after we finish our discussion about figures in Church History.

Next, we'll also be starting a Ladies Group. This is a different group from our Women's Club which meets on the last Monday of each month during the day. It is not intended to compete with it, in fact we'd love for you ladies to go to both. The first meeting of the Ladies Group will be October 4th at 7:30 at Grace. As a note, we'll be kicking off the Men's Group again too, so keep your eyes open for that.

Finally, I'd like to note some contents within the Newsletter. This last Sunday, we held a Voter's Meeting in which it was brought up that there are significant capital improvements needed, especially with regard to the parsonage. The Voters have charged the Planning Committee to work with the Trustees in determining various options we have for addressing the needed improvements. Some of the materials included in the following pages lay out the loosely estimated costs as well as possible considerations at this point regarding how to go about this work. I am grateful that we are in a financial position where these sorts of considerations can be discussed without fearing a total crisis for the congregation (thanks be to God!), but also recognize that the costs could be quite significant. In view of that, please keep your eyes peeled and ears open for more information. But do so also knowing that we trust always in our Lord Jesus who has provided the greatest need of all in our salvation, and we are assured that He will provide for all of our needs of body and soul. It's in that comfort that we have peace and confidence in all things, whether it be as we consider finances, His Word, or the craziness of the Fall Season!

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

Our meeting was called to order with an opening prayer followed by the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Bob Blessman is stepping down as financial secretary after several years of service. Thank you, Bob, for all you have done. In his stead, Sue Napolitano agreed to step up. **MOTION:** to have Sue Napolitano fulfill the responsibility of financial secretary for the remainder of 2022. **PASSED.**

The Circuit Forum is October 1 which pastor will be attending. We will also need a lay delegate. **MOTION:** to elect Bob Dame as the lay delegate. **PASSED.**

The Planning Committee has been working on a capital improvement plan for the church building, grounds and parsonage. The main items are:

- 1) The boiler – which has now been completely installed and ready to operate.
- 2) The church roof – which the church has been saving for over the last several years. There is \$69,000.00 currently in the roof fund.
- 3) The church grounds – landscaping is great but the parking lot should be resurfaced.
- 4) The parsonage – the kitchen and bathrooms should be updated and/or remodeled. There are water leaks coming from the bathroom. There could also be some inside wall damage from ice backing up on the roof. Two other items to look at would be the old plumbing and the electrical wiring. Chris Krohe walked everyone through a power point presentation listing total assets and liabilities and estimated costs for improvements. We would have several options:

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- 1) Leave everything as is and do nothing
- 2) Utilize our liquid assets and pay cash for everything (\$250,000.00) in which case we would likely run out of monies soon.
- 3) Borrow funds
- 4) Create a capital campaign
- 5) Combination of above.

The priorities would be whatever the Voters decide. The time line can be over a period of time the voters decide on and we could even utilize any and all of our own talents.

Discussion followed regarding borrowing funds. We are in the process of applying for a line of credit from LCEF at 4% interest. That line of credit would probably be up to \$35,000. If we did not borrow funds, we will probably not be able to do all that's needed in as timely a manner. Depending on the priorities and how much labor and materials would cost influences how much we would borrow.

MOTION: after listening to discussion, the planning committee is directed to come up with a prioritized project plan and a proposed borrowing plan. **PASSED.** This plan should be brought to the November voters meeting.

MOTION: to accept the following into voting membership: Cindy and Ken Brandt, Ryan and Christina Enright. **PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Josefek, Secretary

Financial Picture in view of the Capital Needs discussed at Voter's Meeting 9/25/22.

Assets

Large and Fixed Assets

Asset	Current Value
Parsonage	\$375,000
Church	\$1,250,000
Total	\$1,625,000



Liquid Assets

Asset	Current Value
Checking account	\$125,000
Legacy Fund	\$43,494
Building Fund	\$85,000
Total	\$253,494

Liabilities

HOW TO USE: This sheet calculates your total debt. Change table rows or add new ones to describe your liabilities.

Long-Term Liabilities

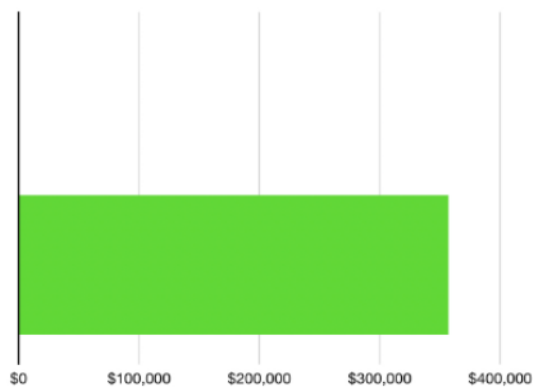
	Remaining Principal
Mortgage	\$0
Total	\$0

Short-Term Liabilities

	Outstanding Balance
Line of Credit	\$0
LCEF Unsecured Note	\$0
Total	\$0

Capital Expenditures

	Outstanding Balance
Boiler	\$82,045
Roof	\$75,000
Parsonage	\$150,000
Parking Lot	\$50,000
Total	\$357,045



WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

We're meeting on October 24 at 1:00 pm. This month we will be spending time finishing quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief. And a little sneak preview, the Women's Club Bake Sale returns in November. Watch for details.

Just a reminder, all are welcome. Come and join us!

Very Important Question Needing Response



We're already in the month of October and are trying to get a choir to sing and bells to ring again. Presently, we don't have enough members to sing or ring.



Are you willing to help?

I know it's hard for some members to commit to every Wednesday for practice but the bells and choir add so much to our service!

If you cannot commit to every Wednesday practice, would you rather sing on special days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, etc.?

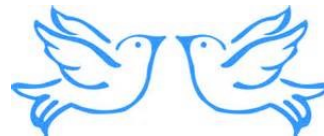


Would you like to play an instrument? Individual or duet?
You don't need to read music for either group. Please give it some thought...

And let Pastor or Lois know if you're interested or have any questions.

October Birthdays!!

Matthew Ayers	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





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, 2022

SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, **October 9** 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

Terese Barron, friend of Mark Rehn

Bob Blessman

Ann Cannon, friend of Doris Svec

Dan Christian, friend of Christopher Krohe

Nancy & Kent Cloninger

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

Bill Corzine, father of Jacob Corzine

Bea Dahl

Blake Donegan, grandson of John & Lois Flood

John Donegan, friend of John & Lois Flood

Rose Ferguson and Unborn Child, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

Christine Fry, daughter-in-law of Bill & Betty Tanzer

Jerry Gajda, brother-in-law of Linda McGuire

Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak

Elaine Hackett, aunt of Meaghan Krohe

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

Doris Jacobson

Rachel Kaiser and Unborn Child, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Ron Kolar

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Jack Lapice, cousin of Doris Svec

Allison Leininger, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Edward Lopez, friend of Linda McGuire

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Aoife and Ava McEvoy & Kevin Hannafin, cousins of Corinne Sheldon

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mary Claire MoDrak, friend of Lisa Mullarkey

Dianna Mohrmann and Unborn Daughter, daughter and granddaughter of Mark Rehn

Debra Muir, daughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Lisa Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman family

Benjamin Napolitano, g.grandson of Sue & Tony Napolitano

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

Jamie Pestien, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Cluster

Caitlin Place, granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

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

Oscar Rehn, father of Mark Rehn

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

Amelia Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Zachary Vossoughi, g.grandson of friend of Dave Haffner

Mike Walters, friend of Donna Perkowski

Allen Washburn, uncle of Christopher Krohe

Anthony & Marissa Wiehofen, friends of the Krohe family

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

Jessica Zickler and Unborn Child

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

**Karla Bergenthal - Eleanor Kulaga
Suzette Olszewski**

