

Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. Matthew Zickler
4101 Wolf Rd
Western Springs, IL 60558
(708) 246-0536



gracelutheran.ws@gmail.com
grace.lutheran.pastor.ws@gmail.com
grace-lutheranws.org

January 2023



Dear Saints of Grace,

While I often write of things pertaining to the New Year in the January newsletter, I thought I would change that a bit this year. Usually, I encourage you all to consider a new resolution to undergird your life of faith and piety, or I reflect on something connected to our new life in Christ as we are raised from the death of our sin in His resurrection by the promises of baptism. However, this year I was reflecting on a couple of other things.

First, I recognize that January can often be that point in the year where we get bogged down in the trudging through winter. It seems like that has started a bit already with how dark and dreary it has been this December, but that always works well in that month to contrast the light that is Christ.

After all, we have that joy in the first month of the Church Year to reflect on the darkness outside, but remember how Christ has come into the darkness of this broken world and taken that darkness upon Himself that would live in Him. He is the Light of the World-that Light which no darkness can overcome (John 1:5)-as we heard on Christmas Day. But once Christmas and New Year's are over, it's onto the dark, dreary days of winter. It's still often cloudy and bleak, and usually when it's not we still don't want to go outside because it's too cold. Ah... winter in the Midwest!

But, as we experience that I want to encourage you in Christ all the more. Just as we reflect on Christ as the Light of the World at Christmas, the season of Epiphany continues to remind us that this Christ came truly as God in the flesh of man. "Epiphany" means something to the effect of "manifestation," and the season points out to us that Christ manifested Himself as God with us in His life and ministry. He manifests this in His miracles and His amazing works. And as He did that, He was bringing the Kingdom of God to this broken dominion of sin, death, and the devil. As those forces would seek to discourage us and bog us down in the depths of winter, be encouraged always in the joy that is ours in Him.

To contrast how I usually speak in January, rather than focusing on something new, turn toward that which is Old. Return back to the comfort of that Old story of your salvation in Christ. When we truly take time to pause and reflect on the depths of our sinfulness, but do so in view of the immense and unimaginable grace our Lord has shown us by coming to us, bearing our sins, and giving us new life in Him, what greater thought do we have to reflect on and mull over. We so easily pass over this in our thoughts because we think we know it. But that Old message of the Gospel still stands, and it is glorious!!

This January, then, when the winter drags on, take that time to meditate on the glories of your salvation in Christ. Do so by reading and hearing His Word. And do so in your own thoughts too. Take time for prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to guide you in this, and take time to avail yourself of the Spirit's promised presence in the Word, in preaching, in the Supper. He will not fall short. He promises it.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 18, 2022**

Our meeting opened with the reading of Psalm 24 and prayer. The November minutes were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: Once again, the children's Christmas Eve service is at 5:00pm and divine service on Christmas Day is at 9:00am. Pastor and family will be on vacation from 12/26 through 1/3/23. The pastor from Bethany, Naperville, will lead worship on January 1, 2023.

Financial Secretary: The receipt balance as of 11/30 is \$21,366.00 leaving us under budget for the month of November by \$4,297.33.

Treasurer's Report: The cash balance is approximately the same as last month. End of the year donations have been coming in.

Elders Report: Elders will be having their next meeting in January. A new workstation/copier/fax will be ordered shortly. Leasing seems to be the best option.

Trustees, Board of Education, Evangelism, Walther High School and Grace Academy: no reports at this time

Old Business: The proposed budget for 2023 was presented. The total budget was increased approximately 6.5%. With no questions, additions or changes.

MOTION: to approve the 2023 budget as presented. **PASSED**

The slate for officers and boards was presented. Additions from the floor are Bob Blessman to the Board of Auditors, Kyle Sheldon to the Board of Elders and Ryan Enright to the Board of Trustees. **MOTION:** to accept the nominations for officers and boards as amended. **PASSED**

As a congregation, we need to submit by 2/28/23 our nomination for President of the Synod plus various other offices. Elders will take this into consideration at their next meeting for future presentation to the voters.

New Business: Altar Guild informs us the price of our weekly flowers is going up from \$30.00 to \$47.00 weekly for two bouquets. Should we continue with the same service, look for a new provider or do our own arrangements? After some discussion,

MOTION: to incorporate 6 seasonal silk flower arrangements along with fresh flower arrangements yearly. Altar Guild will decide on flower purchases. **PASSED** Carol will make sure an announcement gets into the newsletter.

(Continued->)

Planning Committee Report: The committee finally received all 4 bids for the parsonage remodel/reconstruction and, at this point, are reviewing and comparing them. They have, however, broken down the work into 3 major steps.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. downstairs bathroom | estimated completion date by 3/30/23 |
| 2. upstairs bathroom | estimated completion date by 6/30/23 |
| 3. kitchen | estimated completion date by 12/31/23 |

They would like to create a capital campaign fund including the remodels, church and parsonage roofs and parking lot. Estimated cost for the projects:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. church roof | estimated | \$100,000 |
| 2. downstairs bath | | 25,000 |
| 3. upstairs bath | | 25,000 |
| 4. kitchen | | 50,000 |

Prices and time lines can be rearranged. Members are encouraged to come forward to donate their time and talents. The parking lot needs to be done but is not a priority at this time. There is already \$70,000.00 set aside for the church roof and \$25,000.00 in donations available for projects. The goal is to hopefully have the projects completed for the church's 100th anniversary in 2025.

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

Respectfully Submitted.

Judy Josefek
Secretary

SCRIP



SCRIP orders are taken on Sunday,
January 8th after Service.

Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094

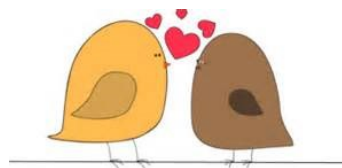
From the Women's Club

The Women's Club will be on hiatus for two months. Hoping everyone stays warm and safe this winter; see you in March.



January Birthdays!

Connor Blessman	1/4
Glen Hass	1/13
Carol Hassel	1/13
Leah Picek	1/13
Samuel Keeler	1/21
Gary Clausen	1/24
Bob Blessman	1/26
CJ Brown	1/29
Chris Dame	1/30
Carlos Lazaro	1/30
Jack Fitzgerald	1/31



January Anniversaries!

Tracy & Jerry Cohen 1/24/1987
Meaghan & Chris Krohe 1/26/2013

Altar Flower Sign-ups

Altar Guild has just learned the price of our weekly flowers is going up from \$30.00 to \$47.00. This includes two bouquets and delivery. Please note you can still sign-up for flowers, it's just going to be more expensive. The sign-up sheet for 2023 will be in the Narthex. For the Sundays when there isn't someone signed-up, the altar guild will decorate the altar with seasonal silk flowers. Thank you in advance to all those who sign-up & to everyone in the past who have helped to make the altar look more beautiful!



HOUSEKEEPING UPDATE

Please keep in mind that garbage & recycling is only taken out once a week after the church is cleaned. So if you ever see the garbage full or if you're cooking in the kitchen & put leftover food in the garbage, please take the garbage out to the trash bins outside. This way it will not sit there all week waiting (and stinking) to be put out. New bags are in the boiler room. Thank you-it's really appreciated!!!



Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca

Terese Barron, friend of Mark Rehn

Laura Blanford, granddaughter of Sue & Tony Napolitano

Bob Blessman

Ross Butusov, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton

Ann Cannon, friend of Doris Svec

Dan Christian, friend of Christopher Krohe

Nancy & Kent Cloninger

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

Bea Dahl

Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood

John Donegan, friend of Lois & John Flood

Jim Donovan, uncle of Meg Krohe

Richard Donovan, father of Meg Krohe

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

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

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

Ken Fuller

Jerry Gajda, brother-in-law of Linda McGuire

Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak

Emily Hall, friend of the Rehn family

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

Doris Jacobson

John Jones, friend of Chris & Bob Dame

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

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

McDuffee Family, relatives of the Stetler family

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mary Claire MoDrak, friend of Lisa Mullarkey

Ellen Morgan, friend of the Stetler Family

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

Megan Nicholson & Unborn Child, daughter & grandchild of Don & Gayle Steele

Rachel Novak, friend of the Stetler Family

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

Rose Sirois, grandmother of Jacob Corzine

Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Kimmey Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Elizabeth & Aaron Snater, sister & brother-in-law of Chris Krohe

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

Don & Gayle Steele

Judy & Kurt Steiner, family of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Vanessa Stetler, sister of Chris Stetler

Ted, Megan & Gideynn Torreson, family of Chris Krohe

Noah (Picek) Tovar, g.granddaughter of Lois & John Flood

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

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert



Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers
Karla Bergenthal - Eleanor Kulaga - Suzette Olszewski