

Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Matthew Zickler

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Dear Saints of Grace,

As I have been writing these articles for almost nine (!) years now for our Newsletters at Grace, I have periodically dedicated them to talking about saints in the history of the Church. I have dedicated one to Saint Nicholas, and another to Saint Valentine, and have certainly mentioned Saint Martin (that is Martin Luther, not his namesake St. Martin of Tour) on multiple occasions, however, as we are coming upon March this year, I thought it would be good to look at the most famous of saints who is celebrated in March: St. Patrick. This seemed especially pertinent since Lent began in February and Easter is in April, and both of those are good to dedicate space to for discussion.

So, what do we know about St. Patrick? First of all, we probably associate him with Ireland, and with that, the shamrock and green. Is this fair? Or we might associate him with having driven out the snakes from the island of Ireland. Is that true?

The reality is that there is a lot about St. Patrick we do not know. This is true even of precisely when he lived. For example, the site Biography.com lists his life as being from ~386 AD until ~461 AD. However, if you look elsewhere on Wikipedia, no dates are listed because there is dispute. What is certain is that he did go to Ireland and evangelize the people there with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is also fairly certain that this occurred after he had been kidnapped by Irish pirates from his home in Britain at the age of 16 and enslaved for six years. At the end of those six years, he escaped and was able to return to Britain. However, during his enslavement, he became very devoted to the Christian Faith. With that devotion, a number of years after his escape, he determined that God was calling him back to bring that faith to the Irish. It seems he spent the rest of his life doing this task to the extent where the Irish church has held him in high esteem ever since. As a side note, however, ironically the first St. Patrick day parades were held in the Americas, in what is now St. Augustine, Florida, in the 1600's and later in other cities, eventually in the 1800 and 1900's coming to cities like New York and Chicago where they are so well known.

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As for other stories, did he actually purge the island of its snakes? This does not seem likely, as it appears the island has not had snakes since the Ice Age. Is the association with the shamrock appropriate? That is unclear. The stories about Patrick using the shamrock as an explanation for the Trinity did not appear in writing until much later, but it is unknown if those were passed down orally before that and so were true or not.

No matter the veracity of what we have associated with this Irish saint, what we do know is commendable, and we give thanks for the willingness of this man to bring the message of our Lord's salvation to the people of Ireland despite the dangers that could have come along with that work. Most of all, we give thanks who have brought that Gospel to our hearing and that we may live in the Name of Jesus. As we keep that in mind, may we celebrate the saint's feast in the joy of that life!

Soli Deo Gloria!



Pastor Zickler



Sign-up sheets for Easter lilies are in the Narthex & the kitchen.

They are \$14. The lilies will decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday & after the service, you can take them home.

Last day to order is Sunday, April 2

From the Women's Club

The Women's Club will be starting back up on:
Monday, March 27th at 1:00pm

We're looking forward to seeing all of you!!!



Garbage Duty

Please keep in mind that garbage & recycling are only taken out once a week after the church is cleaned on Fridays. 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 directly out to the trash bins in the parking lot right away. 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!!!

SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken
on Sunday, **March 12th** after the Service.

Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca

Terese Barron, friend of Mark Rehn

Jim Beutjer, father of Denise Stetler

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

Tiia Corzine & Unborn Child

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

Shirley Doyle, friend of Doris Svec

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

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Allison Leininger, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

John Fred MacLean, friend of the Stetler Family

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mary Claire MoDrak, friend of Lisa Mullarkey

Ellen Morgan, friend of the Stetler Family

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

Rachel Novak, friend of the Stetler Family

Joyce Oberst, sister of Sue Napolitano

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Jamie Pestien, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Emerson & Jackson Picek, grandchildren of Rachel & John Picek

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Cluster

Caitlin Place, granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Bill Raysa, friend of Paul Sulak

Doug Rogers, friend of the Stetler Family

Kurt Seehofer, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Rose Sirois, grandmother of Jacob Corzine

Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Kimmy 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

Keelia Sulak & Unborn Child, daughter-in-law of Paul Sulak

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

Allen Washburn, uncle of Christopher Krohe

Jim Williams, friend of Doris Svec

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

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
Voter's Assembly
February 19, 2023**

Our meeting opened with prayer and reading of the December minutes.

Pastor's Report: Ash Wednesday will be 2/22/23 beginning at 6:45pm with the imposition of ashes. The Lenten theme this year is "Crucified King." Pastor and family are planning a vacation to Florida the last week of March. Pastor Otten and Pastor Ortiz Lugo will be filling in. Also thanks to Pastor Corzine for filling in last Sunday in Pastor's absence.

Financial Secretary: December 2022 receipts totaled \$59,643.08 and January receipts totaled \$17,882.00. We are under budget at the end of January by \$3,260.50.

Treasurer's Report: Total receipts through 2022 were \$276,950.51 and total disbursements were \$311,250.99. We received approximately \$7,500.00 in donations for the boiler replacement and \$19,395.08 from the Dave Haffner estate. Everyone stayed within their budget except Trustees who paid for sewer repair work on the parsonage.

Elders' Report: At their last meeting, elders started working to make sure all congregants have an assigned elder and working with the youth on an acolyte program. Also, the offering basket will remain in the narthex at the beginning of the service and taken to the altar during the offertory.

Trustees' Report: In January there were two fire inspections. It was discovered that one exit light was out. The battery was replaced and the light is now operational. The state fire marshall came to inspect the boiler and we failed the inspection. First, we needed a carbon monoxide detector installed. This has been done. Second, we need to have an emergency shut down switch installed. Third, we need to have a lockable/disconnect. Heat engineering has been notified and is looking in to what is needed to pass the inspection.

As for the parsonage, a new stove and a new dishwasher were both purchased and installed. Thank you to Glen Hass for painting the church kitchen cabinets.

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Walther High School: We received a thank you letter for our monetary gift.

Grace Christian Academy: The school had its annual pancake breakfast last Sunday to support the 7/8th grade trip to Washington D.C.

Planning Committee: The group has been working on a capital campaign for maintaining the church building and grounds and the parsonage. They have also been reviewing the yearly calendar of activities. As for the parsonage campaign, funds for the first floor bathroom are already secured and partial funds are available for the second floor bathroom.

Old Business: nothing at this time

New Business: Chris presented the two proposals recommended by the Planning Committee – Aldana and True. Discussion followed showing the differences between the proposals plus noting the offer of free labor from Ryan Enright and Glen Hass.

MOTION: To accept the True proposal bid for the construction on the parsonage.

PASSED True will work on getting the permits for the first floor bathroom this week.

The congregation needs to submit its vote for the Synod's president and officers by February 28. **MOTION:** for the position of President, we nominate Rev. Matthew Harrison and Peter Lange. For the position of Vice-president, we nominate Rev. John Wohlrabe. **PASSED**

The next order of business was a resolution regarding how some are confusing the large catechism with interpretations on the critical race theory. **MOTION:** to forward said resolution to the Secretary of the Synod. **PASSED**

Also, should anyone be interested in investing in the LCMS Foundation, Pastor has brochures with information.

With no further business at hand, a motion was made and passed to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Josefek, Secretary

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
December 31, 2022

	OPERATING FUNDS	LEGACY FUNDS	ROOF AND BUILDING FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Balance - January 1, 2022	85,140.94	85,654.90	85,450.03	256,245.87
<u>Receipts - January 1 through December 31, 2022</u>				
Weekly collections	225,079.39			225,079.39
Other receipts	1,126.93			1,126.93
Building Fund	855.00			855.00
Roof Building Fund			0.00	0.00
Interest Income	97.70	415.23	378.51	891.44
Net scripts revenue (1,580.00 less 1,552.33)	27.67			27.67
Boiler replacement donations	7,510.00			7,510.00
Parsonage repair capital campaign	13,050.00			13,050.00
Dave Haffner estate	19,395.08			19,395.08
Other donations	5,500.00			5,500.00
Other memorials received	3,215.00			3,215.00
Landscaping Fund	300.00			300.00
Total	276,156.77	415.23	378.51	276,950.51
<u>Disbursements - January 1 through December 31, 2022</u>				
Budget				
Elders	170,550.00			170,550.00
Trustees	45,150.00			45,150.00
Education	4,900.00			4,900.00
District & other missions	9,000.00			9,000.00
Other agencies and non budget expenses		3.00		3.00
New boiler room door	130.29			130.29
Payments for new boiler	2,980.00			2,980.00
Total	229,600.00	78,646.00		78,646.00
	(232,601.99)	(78,649.00)		(311,250.99)
Transfers to Edward Jones	(7,150.00)	7,150.00		
Decrease in valuation of mutual fund		(1,178.32)		(1,178.32)
Balance - December 31, 2022	121,545.72	13,392.81	85,828.54	220,767.07
<u>Detail of Account Balance</u>				
Checking accounts	89,100.64			89,100.64
Designated for parsonage renovation	32,445.08			32,445.08
Certificates of deposit held by Edward Jones		6,050.30	58,985.83	58,985.83
Money Market account at Edward Jones		7,342.51	26,842.71	32,883.01
American Balanced Fund - mutual fund				7,342.51
Total	121,545.72	13,392.81	85,828.54	220,767.07

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
REVENUES (Regular)*	175,830	199,148	197,598	237,994	213,552	221,616	232,006
EXPENSES							
Elders	140,628	142,548	145,640	150,613	153,282	161,497	169,083
Trustees	31,571	30,318	41,090	36,905	37,698	39,845	48,674
Education	4,062	3,886	3,377	4,306	2,280	3,194	3,234
Evangelism	486						
District & other agencies	8,432	7,557	8,639	18,704	8,463	10,389	8,638
Parsonage repairs & new copier		9,754					
Total	185,179	194,063	198,746	210,528	201,723	214,925	229,629
OVERAGE (SHORTFALL)	(9,349)	5,085	(1,148)	27,466	11,829	6,691	2,377
Bequest income not included in above revenue	40,720		5,000	50,660	5,000		19,395
* Does not include memorials, building, roof, boiler or parsonage capital campaign fund receipts.							
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				
Organ maintenance (paid from memorials collected)				5,863			
New boiler (paid from legacy fund and donations)							78,646
new boiler door (paid from Seeger funds)							2,980
			29,783	5,863		3,056	81,656