

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

July/August 2023

Dear Saints of Grace,

As we are in the depths of summer (and with it this year, that added element of wildfire smoke—Lord have mercy!), we are at that point where we are combining our July and August Newsletters. This is in view of the limited activities that we have at Grace in these summer months. However, before long, we'll be coming upon Fall once again, and so will have all of our usual yearly activities ramping back up once again.

This year, however, we'll be adding something new—or perhaps we could understand it as bringing back something old: acolytes. In the past, you may remember Grace having its youth serve in that capacity, and they will be once again. Beginning after Labor Day, as we'll be starting Sunday School and Confirmation back up, we'll be inviting our confirmands and post-confirmands to act in this role as they like (or as their parents like). In view of that there will be training for the acolytes on Sunday August 27th immediately following the service (this will also be the morning after the picnic, so mark your calendars).

As we do this, there will be some differences compared to before. Those differences originate in a preference I would like to emphasize. Often the utilization of youth as acolytes stems from a good desire to engage them in the Divine Service in a way that gives them a sense of inclusion in it. However, something I think that is extremely important for us all to remember is that the Divine Service is not first and foremost our action. We don't come to the Divine Service first and foremost to give something to God. This is because the reality is that we can't. What can we give to the God who created and sustains all things that He doesn't already have? Food? Shelter? Good Works? Obviously, none of those are needed. Even our sacrifices of thanks and praise aren't necessary—He has a whole host (Sabaoth) of angels which can offer that, and do so—though even they are not needed for His existence either. Now, to be clear, we do offer the sacrifice of thanks and praise in the Divine Service. But that is secondary. First and foremost, the Divine Service is just that, the Divine God serving us. He comes to us and serves us with the forgiveness of sins, and thereby with life and salvation.

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As I said, because of the desire to emphasize this, the acolytes will actually perform their work—lighting and putting out the candles—before and after the service, respectively. This will be before the opening hymn, and at its conclusion. This will, hopefully, help to teach them and remind us all that the work is not ours but God's. The service is not ours, but God's. Such a reminder is a good thing in order to emphasize that our relationship to our Lord is always grounded in His mercy and goodness to us—first in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, then in the distribution of His forgiveness won in that work to us in Word and Sacrament; Him always coming to us, not us to Him.

As far as other considerations go, as I said, the recruiting of acolytes will be voluntary as parents see fit. But should parents seek to enlist their confirmand or post-confirmand for the role, there will be a sign up in the Narthex akin to the flower sign up (and located by it). I will let the families know when it is posted. Additionally, we will have a dress code for the youth to follow. They will not be wearing robes, but they will need to dress in an appropriate way for their presentation in the chancel in front of the congregation. That dress code will be distributed at the training.

All of that being said, I look forward to having our youth connected in this way and look forward to the opportunity to teach them more about the work of our Lord for us in His death and resurrection! I also look forward to enjoying the remainder of the summer and our Lord's gifts to us in that!

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler



Church Picnic

Mark Your Calendars for the Church Picnic!!!

Saturday, August 26th—4:00PM
Including a concert at 5:30pm by the
West Suburban Community Concert Band

Let's celebrate the summer together!!!

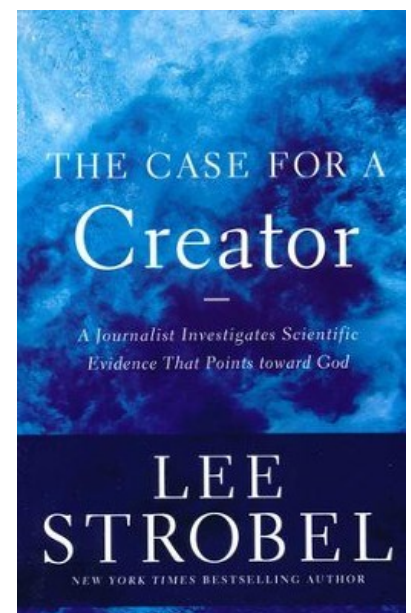
SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken on
Sunday, **July 9 & August 13**
after the Service. Questions?
Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094

Summer Book Discussion Wednesdays at 7:00pm

July 26 (chapters 5, 6, & 7)
August 30 (chapters 8-11)



July Birthdays!

Anastasia Brown	7/2
Robert Kulat	7/11
Mae Harris	7/13
Judy Latman	7/13
Lois Flood	7/16
Noel Sheldon	7/17
Ruth Reid	7/25
Joey Keeler	7/28

July Anniversaries!

Judy & Steve Latman
7/8/1989

Ruth & Jim Reid
7/11/1953

Sue & Tony Napolitano
7/15/1961

Evelyn & Del Hermann
7/27/1975

Rosemary & Bob Blessman
7/28/2001

**August Birthdays!**

Amanda Lazaro	8/9
Danica Brown	8/11
Lin Johnson	8/12
Mateo Tovar	8/19
Ian Fitzgerald	8/22
Lillian Winkelman	8/23
Brian Brown	8/26
Roy Harris	8/27

August Anniversaries!

Jessica & Pastor Zickler
8/9/2003

Rachel & John Picek
8/12/1989

Betty & Bill Tanzer
8/23/1997

Laurie & Mark Ulrich
8/26/2000



Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Lesley Arca

Terese Barron, friend of Mark Rehn

Walt Bergenthal

Bob Blessman

Ross Butusov, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton

Ann Cannon, friend of Doris Svec

Nancy & Kent Cloninger

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

Tiia Corzine & Unborn Child

Joe DiStazio, friend of the Stetler Family

Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood

John Donegan, friend of Lois & John Flood

Sarah Figueroa, friend of the Claster Family

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

Cash Foster, grand nephew of Donna Perkowski

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

Laurel Karlo, friend of Donna Perkowski

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Chris Lange, son of Cheryl Dore

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Allison Leininger, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Edward Lopez, friend of Linda McGuire

John Fred MacLean, friend of the Stetler Family

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Ellen Morgan, friend of the Stetler Family

Lisa Mullarkey

Tom Mullarkey, brother of John Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman Family

Benjamin Napolitano, g.grandson of Sue & Tony Napolitano

Frank Napolitano, brother of Tony Napolitano

Dorothy Neugebauer, friend of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Rachel Novak, friend of the Stetler Family

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Jamie Pestien, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

Leah Picek

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

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

Kimmey Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler

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

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

Athey Ulrich

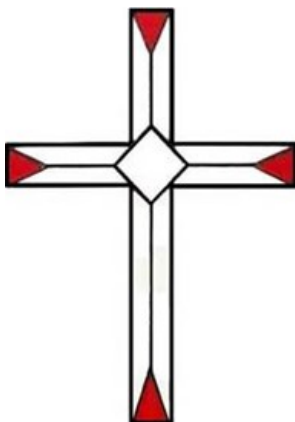
Ryan & Janelle Vanderploeg, sister & brother-in-law of Chris Krohe

Amelia Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Jim & Pat Williams, friend of Doris Svec

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert



*Please remember our shut-ins in your
prayers*

Eleanor Kulaga

Suzette Olszewski