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# October 2023



Dear Saints of Grace,

As I was thinking about what to write this month, I was reflecting on possible topics and not having anything jump out at me. So, I thought of connections to this time of year—fall, leaves, October, Halloween, etc. Then, for whatever reason my brain turned to pumpkin spice. As you probably see, pumpkin spice has become ubiquitous this time of year. You cannot go to a restaurant, coffee shop, or even many grocery stores without being confronted with pumpkin spice flavored food and drinks. So, then, because I am a nerd, and especially a nerd about theology, I wondered if I could come up with a theological connection to pumpkin spice. Challenge accepted!

To my surprise, it was not all that hard. You see, in searching about pumpkin spice on the internet, I found that someone had done a study on why people enjoy the flavoring so much. The answer: because there are neurological connections which tend to associate the flavor with home. It seems in particular that this blend of tastes and smells tends to remind people of their experiences growing up and with things they find very comfortable and comforting. This brought up a thought to me: why is that a phenomenon? Why are we so attracted to things which are comfortable and comforting, especially with association to home?

Well, I don't think that it's overly complex to understand why we like what is comfortable. There is pleasure in that. It is pleasing to enjoy the things that don't push on us or cause us to be challenged or experience pain and distress. So that doesn't seem all that insightful. But why the attraction to home? In fact, I have found very commonly that those who are forced to move from their homes for whatever reason often are very upset with that. Again, that doesn't seem shocking because of the comfort level we have with being at home, generally. But I think we can see something about our nature in this.

I would argue that this draw is related to how God has created us to yearn for perfect comfort and for the home that is His presence where all distress and pain will be swallowed up. He has written into our hearts a yearning for the perfection that He is and that His Kingdom gives. That is why we are always desiring comfort and peace. That is why we yearn for utopia. God has made us for it. Of course, the reality is that all of the earthly comforts will fall short. This world is fallen and so, as St. Augustine said, our hearts are restless until they find their rest in the Lord. But in His graciousness He has provided that rest in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He has baptized you into that rest, and feeds it to you in His body and blood. And in all of this promises you the eternal home of His presence where you will know the ultimate comfort of seeing Him face to face. What a glorious hope! Hopefully next time you have pumpkin spice, you'll then be reminded not of your earthly home, but your eternal one with Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Zickler".

Pastor Zickler

**Grace Lutheran Church  
Voters Assembly  
September 17, 2023**

Pastor opened our meeting with prayer followed by the reading of the minutes from July and August. Motion made and passed to accept the minutes as written.

**Pastor's Report:** The youth conference, "Higher Things," was a great experience. Next year's conference will be June 25-28 in Mequon, Wisconsin. All post confirmands are encouraged to attend. There are also several other options for summer youth programs such as Walcamp and Camp Luther. The main topic of conversation at the convention was concerning the Concordia system. Concordia, Texas, desires sole control over the university and even rejected the newly elected regents for the school. Proceedings have now started in the court.

**Financial Secretary Report:** nothing at this time

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance on hand as of 8/31/2023, in the checking account was \$123,775.00. This includes the second deposit from the Dave Haffner estate which has been designated to Phase 2 of the parsonage renovation project, mainly the upstairs bathroom. Balance in the Legacy Fund is \$13,984.00 and the Building/Roof Fund of \$86,026.00. The balance in cash for Phase 2/2<sup>nd</sup> bathroom is \$26,808.65. Two checks were issued in September for parsonage renovation: one being the final payment on bathroom 1 of \$3,682.76 and the second being the deposit on the contract for bathroom 2 of \$7,800.00.

**Trustees' Report:** The new roof project will start Monday, 9/18/23 and is to last 5 days. MOTION: add to the current roof contract oversize gutters all around the building and new siding to the dormers, all not to exceed \$20,000.00. PASSED

**Elder's Report:** The acolyte program is now in place. The organ was recently tuned and Lois gives compliments to the company for a wonderful job. \$500.00 was donated to the Maui Relief Fund. Scheduling for Reformation: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday with communion; Thanksgiving: Wednesday evening service with Redeemer, Elmhurst; Christmas Eve: matins; Christmas Day: communion. Elders are looking

**Continued->**

for members willing to provide rides to shut-ins so they may attend church services.

**Walther High School/Grace Christian Academy:** no report at this time

**Board of Christian Education:** Classes started with a good teaching staff and 17 children. Practice for the Christmas Eve program will begin soon.

**Planning Committee:** next meeting will be in October.

**Budget and Nominating Committees:** will be coming up in November.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Possibly the church would consider changing out the current lighting system for something with better color temperature. MOTION: have trustees look into upgrading the fixtures in the sanctuary, fellowship hall and hallway to LED. PASSED Pass along any contacts to the trustees.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary



## WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

# SAVE THE DATE

The "famous" Chili Cook Off returns.

We are taking a break from our bake sale and hosting a chili cook off fundraiser. Details to follow but for now - mark your calendars

# SATURDAY, NOV. 18!!!



### 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, 2023**

SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, **October 8** after the Service. If you have any questions, Please call Sara Fitzgerald 708-822-8094 [swander05@hotmail.com](mailto: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*

**Karen Acup**, daughter of Doris & Arnie Svec  
**Lesley Arca**  
**Terese Barron**, friend of Mark Rehn  
**Walt Bergenthal**  
**Bob Blessman**  
**Joe Champion**, husband of Marybeth  
**Marybeth Champion**  
**Ann Cannon**, friend of Doris Svec  
**Nancy & Kent Cloninger**  
**Jerry Cohen**, husband of Tracy Cohen  
**Barbara Doherty**, aunt of Meg Krohe  
**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**  
**Cassie Gray**, cousin of Paul Sulak  
**Emily Hall**, friend of the Rehn family  
**Joanne Hass**, mother of Glen Hass  
**Doris Jacobson**  
**Kooy Family**, friends of Eleanor Kulaga  
**Chris Lange**, son of Cheryl Dore  
**Eleanor Kulaga & Family**  
**Allison, Rose, & Rachel**, nieces of Chris & Bob Dame  
**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  
**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  
**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**

