

Grace Lutheran Church
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January 2025





Dear Saints of Grace,

As we turn from the Christmas season, we return in our letter to the things in the church. Actually, Christmas does keep going through the 5th and finishes with Epiphany on the 6th, so don't turn from it just yet! And in view of that, in this article and later in the newsletter, we're going to look at something in the sanctuary that is unique to the Advent and Christmas season. That is what are called the "Chrismons" on the Christmas trees. These Chrismons are the ornaments that you see on the tree which are in various symbolic shapes. In fact the word "Chrismon" is a combination of "Christ" and "monogram."

To be sure, we have far too many Chrismons for me to dedicate time in this letter to describing all of them. If you would like more information on them, please note that we have a description of them assembled by Nancy Kolar in her days here which is on the table in the Narthex (the room between the sanctuary and the doors which open to Wolf Road). However, I would like to take time to talk about a couple of them.

First of all, many of the Chrismons are forms of cross shapes. I would assume that, while the specific meanings of the various crosses might be unknown, the fact that they are cross shapes would be obvious in the connection to the Christ child born in the manger who grew to carry our sins to the cross. There are also a number which relate to imagery like stars, which hopefully can be seen to connect to Christ as the Light of the World and the star at His birth which led the magi to worship Him. Others are things like anchors, which relate to Christ as the anchor of our life and faith in the unsure seas of this world. Those are pretty straightforward (although not all of them are necessarily obvious, I'll admit). So I'd like to focus the rest of this letter on some of those that come from Greek letters.

The most common image among the Chrismons relating to Greek letters is the "chi rho." That image looks like this  (an "X" with a "P" going through it). The meaning of that is "Christ." You see in Greek, Christ is ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (Christos), but hopefully you can see the XP which begin the word. This means anything that has that "chi rho" is connected to that. You'll also see a lot with XC. That is because the C is the form of Σ often used at the end of the word. So XC also means Christ. Another set of letters you'll often see in Chrismons are I, IHS, IHC, IC, and IS. All of those come from the Greek spelling of Jesus: ΙΗΣΟΥΣ (Iesous). That means they all reference Jesus. Sometimes, combining these two a bit, you'll see this: . That means "Jesus Christ." It is just the I over the X. Next, you'll also often see Α and Ω or α and ω. These are the letters "alpha" and "omega." You might remember that because Jesus calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega in Revelation. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Lastly, you'll see "NIKA." That means "Victor," as in Christ is the victor, has won victory, over our enemies of sin, death, and the devil.

Of course, that's what we're celebrating at Christmas with these Chrismons, isn't it? We're celebrating that Christ has entered this world at the first Christmas so that He could live the perfect life in our place and carry our sins to the cross on Good Friday. All of that, so that He could rise from the dead on the first Easter that we would have victory with Him. Thanks be to God!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 15, 2024**

After opening our meeting with prayer, the November minutes were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: Looking ahead to our Christmas Eve program at 5:00 pm with the Sunday School children and Christmas Day service at 10:00 am. Pastor and family will be out of town from December 26th to January 3rd with Pastor Steve Cornwell serving on Sunday, December 29th. Epiphany will be celebrated on January 5, 2025. The church trees will come down on January 11th, so help will be needed.

Treasurer's Report: nothing at this time

Financial Secretary's Report: November receipts were \$12,458.00 putting us under budget by (\$9,163.00).

Trustee's Report: Please remember to turn off the lights when you leave the building and, if you have anything in the refrigerator, please put your name on it or it will be thrown out. Fullers will be doing our snow removal this winter and have placed markers around the parking lot. Please take care. There is a bag of salt in the boiler room should the need arise. In the past couple weeks, the boiler has blown fuses and will be looked into.

Elders, Grace Academy, Board of Christian Education, Evangelism: no reports

Planning Committee Report: The committee talked about having some social events within the church – such as a family movie night, pizza night, game night, and something special for the teens. We would like your input. It was also suggested to look into getting an app for church to announce events and schedules. Also, NID now has grant opportunities available to help improve church growth and evangelism.

Budget Presentation: The proposed budget was presented with a couple minor changes and about a 3.7% increase which is presently current with inflation. MOTION: to accept the 2025 budget as presented. PASSED

(Continued->)

Nominations: The proposed ballot for officers and board members for 2025 was again presented. There were no changes, additions or questions from the floor. MOTION: to accept the proposed list of nominations for officers and boards for 2025. PASSED Please note that the installation of officers will be on January 12, 2025.

Old Business: none

New Business: Tracy Cohen is making an announcement about the church's 100th anniversary for future placement in the Lutheran Witness and the Reporter.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary



Thank you to the following trustees:

*Thank
You*

Del Hermann
Glen Hass
Ken Brandt
Judy Josefek
Ryan Enright

For all their time & hard work they gave to Grace to keep the church in the great shape it is in today!!!

APPROVEDGRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2024 ACTUAL 10 MONTHS	2024 PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	2024 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET
BOARD OF TRUSTEES				
Janitorial	7,250	8,700	8,700	9,200
Insurance	7,762	9,613	8,900	10,000
Organ, piano maintenance	589	975	800	900
Maintenance				
Parsonage	822	1,450	2,400	2,500
Church	4,788	4,925	4,000	4,000
Janitorial supplies	86	156	1,000	1,000
Grass cutting	1,365	1,765	2,200	2,200
Utilities - Church				
Electric	3,850	4,438	4,000	4,500
Gas	3,900	4,433	7,000	6,500
Scavenger	2,008	2,261	2,600	1,800
Water	1,443	1,684	1,100	1,700
Utilities - Parsonage				
Electric	1,415	1,651	1,600	1,700
Gas	612	860	1,400	1,300
Scavenger	366	366	500	600
Water	1,982	2,356	2,000	2,500
TOTAL TRUSTEES	38,238	45,633	48,200	50,400
BOARD OF EDUCATION				
Lessons and supplies	65	325	1,500	1,500
Holiday programs	160	190	200	200
Subscriptions	2,040	2,403	2,500	2,500
Youth programs			100	100
Adult education			100	100
Confirmation			250	250
Miscellaneous	48	150	250	250
TOTAL EDUCATION	2,313	3,068	4,900	4,900
YOUTH GROUP			1,000	1,000
EVANGELISM			500	500
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	199,916	247,372	259,450	269,100
CAPITAL REPLACEMENTS				
2023 Parsonage repairs and upgrade - final			1,313	
Parsonage flood cost - Paid from insurance payment			9,373	
Parking lot - Paid from Kiel Bequest			44,800	
Parsonage driveway			6,800	
New kitchen counters & sinks			7,695	
Additional mission payments - Paid from Keil Bequest			15,000	
100th ANNIVERSARY - Pay from Kiel Bequest				5,000

APPROVEDGRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

To be approved at the December 15, 2024 Voter's meeting.

	2024 ACTUAL 10 MONTHS	2024 PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	2024 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET
BOARD OF ELDERS				
Pastor				
Salary	63,750	76,500	76,500	78,000
Housing allowance	7,083	8,500	8,500	12,000
Substitute pastors	300	450	1,000	1,000
Pension/Disability	9,501	11,402	11,400	13,150
Medical (Welfare)	30,155	36,186	36,200	36,900
Health reimbursement	1,824	1,828	1,850	1,850
Conferences & convention	369	369	700	700
Car allowance	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000
Reimbursed expenses			500	500
Total	<u>115,482</u>	<u>138,235</u>	<u>139,650</u>	<u>147,100</u>
Music				
Organist salary	13,750	16,500	16,500	17,000
Substitute organist	250	400	500	500
Choir music				
Total	<u>14,000</u>	<u>16,900</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,500</u>
Office				
Secretary's salary	14,585	17,502	17,500	18,100
Postage, printing, supplies	1,422	1,772	2,000	2,000
Total	<u>16,007</u>	<u>19,274</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>20,100</u>
Other				
Social security	2,241	2,675	2,700	2,800
Bulletins & worship material			100	100
Worship supplies and expense	1,085	1,255	1,800	1,800
Food & refreshments			200	200
Fellowship and events	347	347	500	500
Other	539	3,039	2,500	2,500
Total	<u>4,212</u>	<u>7,316</u>	<u>7,800</u>	<u>7,900</u>
Information technology				
Telephone, fax, internet	1,363	1,637	3,400	1,800
Office equipment & maintenance			1,500	1,500
Computer software	1,159	1,425	1,500	1,800
Website	439	439	600	600
Office workstation	3,703	4,445	4,400	4,500
Other			1,500	1,500
Total	<u>6,664</u>	<u>7,946</u>	<u>12,900</u>	<u>11,700</u>
TOTAL ELDERS	<u>156,365</u>	<u>189,671</u>	<u>196,850</u>	<u>204,300</u>
DISTRICT AND OTHER PAYMENTS				
District funding		4,000	4,000	4,000
Walther High School		500	500	500
Grace Christian Academy		1,000	1,000	1,000
Issues, Etc.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other missions	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,000
TOTAL DISTRICT PAYMENTS	<u>3,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>9,500</u>

SCRIP



SCRIP orders are taken on Sunday,
January 12th after Service.

Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094

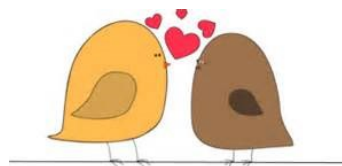
From the Women's Club

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
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

Did you know...

that the decorations on our chancel trees are not just “ornaments” but chrismons. The chrismons are symbols of Christianity from its earliest days. Our chrismons are white and gold – white meaning joy and purity and gold for the glory and majesty of Jesus christ.

Some of the letters are in Greek, some are written in a cipher or coded message such as Chi Rho, alpha and omega, INRI. Even daisies and lilies of the valley decorate some chrismons. Everything has a meaning. There are chrismons symbolizing Christ as the chief cornerstone, varieties of crosses and symbols meaning heaven, grace and earth. Butterflies, fish, sand dollars, lambs and doves represent the animal kingdom. There are also signs of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

All these chrismons were lovelingly made by several ladies of Grace some years ago and they still decorate our trees today. If you haven't picked up a chrismon folder in the narthex, please do so. Or visit the anniversary memory table for one and look at some chrismons close up. May these chrismons help remind you of the true meaning of Christmas.

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Sandy Barry, friend of Pastor Zickler
Bill Bien, friend of Linda McGuire
Linda Blane-Novak, friend of Pat Schlueter
Kate Borland, cousin of Bob Blessman
Marybeth Campion, member of Women's Club
Marlene Chaney, member of Women's Club
Megan Church, friend of the Stetler Family
Nancy & Kent Cloninger
Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen
Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood
John Donegan, friend of Lois & John Flood
Tyna Eggert
Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post
John Flood
Christine Fry, daughter-in-law of Betty & Bill Tanzer
Jerry Gajda, brother-in-law of Linda McGuire
Kate Gerlesits, friend of the Stetler Family
Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak
Marvin Griffin, friend of Pat Schlueter
Bruce Harken, Commander of WS VFW Post
Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass
Nancy Henry, friend of Paul Sulak
Marsha Johnson, friend of Linda McGuire
Dan Kaiser, friend of the Claster Family
Nancy & Ron Kolar
Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga
Eleanor Kulaga & Family
Revy Sabas Libatique, cousin of Lesley Arca-Blessman
Chris Lange, son of Cheryl Dore
Larry & Claire Latman, brother & sister-in-law of Steve Latman
Steve Latman
Allison, Rose, Rachel, Jamie & Robin, nieces of Chris & Bob Dame
Michael Martinez, step-nephew of Pastor Zickler
John Fred MacLean, friend of the Stetler Family
Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter
Dan Meier, friend of the Enright Family
Lisa Mullarkey
Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman Family
Benjamin Napolitano, g.grandson of Sue & Tony Napolitano
Frank Napolitano, brother of Tony Napolitano
Tony Napolitano
Noland Family, friends of Meg Krohe
Tracy Novak, niece of Pat Schlueter
Joyce Oberst, sister of Sue Napolitano
Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak
Rose Pankratz, friend of the Claster Family
Linda Parlin, sister of Carol Hassel
Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster
Caitlin Place, granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar
Regina Polistano, friend of Mark Rehn
Dorothea Rehn, mother of Mark Rehn
David Ridenour, cousin of Chris Stetler
Kristi Schmidt, sister of Lin Johnson
Kurt Seehofer, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler
Barbara & James Shumate, friends of Lois & John Flood
Rose Sirois, grandmother of Jacob Corzine
Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler
Kimmey Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler
Courtney & James Spina, sister & nephew of Carly Yocius
Don & Gayle Steele
Dave Stetler, father of Chris Stetler
Vanessa Stetler, sister of Chris Stetler
Doris Svec
Noah(Picek)Tovar, g.granddaughter of Lois & John Flood
Athey Ulrich
J.B. Weiffenbach, cousin of Jen Claster
John Weiffenbach, cousin of Pat Schlueter
Pat Williams, friend of Doris Svec
Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert



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