

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 2025

Dear Saints of Grace,

As summer and its heat make us weary, I continue again this month with the discussion of the things we see in church. Today, I want to draw our attention to the places where the Word of God is proclaimed. As you all surely have noticed we have two places that exalt the Word of God in our chancel (the part of the Sanctuary inside of the communion rail). As you are looking at the altar, there is the lectern on the left and the pulpit on the right.

First, I'll talk about the lectern. The lectern is where the lessons from the Scriptures are read. As you have probably noticed, these lessons each week usually follow a pattern. The first lesson is a reading from somewhere in the Old Testament. It pairs specifically with the Gospel lesson, which I'll come back to in a minute. In the Easter season, however, you maybe have noticed that this first lesson is changed from an Old Testament reading to one from the book of the Acts of the Apostles (which St. Luke wrote about the life of the Church after Jesus' ascension into heaven). The second reading is an "Epistle." That means that it is a letter. From the books of the New Testament, a large majority of the books are letters, with most of those letters having been written by the apostle Paul. However, there are also letters from Peter, James, and John, among others. Finally, the third reading is that Gospel Lesson, a reading from one of the Gospels which give an account of the life and death of Jesus. The lectern serves as a place set aside for this reading that we would honor this Word of God as the inerrant (without error) Word, given by God as it is.

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Second is the pulpit. The pulpit is where I preach the sermon. You may have noticed that the pulpit is larger than the lectern. You may also have wondered why that is the case considering the lectern is where we read the inspired and inerrant Word of God. There is a longstanding tradition in Lutheran churches that the pulpit be so large because this is where this inerrant Word of God is preached to God's people. While the words of Scripture are given by God and so thus, the Bible is inspired and inerrant, St. Paul notes that **"faith comes by hearing."** Luther and the Lutherans understood this to mean that while someone could read the Bible on their own and come to faith, there is a unique way in which preaching that Word brings it to the hearts of the people delivering to them the forgiveness of sin won by Jesus on the cross. So, while I, a broken sinner like you, get up into that pulpit to preach the Word, as that preaching is happening (and as I am faithful to that Word, not deviating from it), then it is promised that the Holy Spirit is there working in that Word sustaining you in faith to Life Everlasting. In other words, from the pulpit, there is the promise that Christ Himself is speaking and through that speaking sustaining you in the life that you have in Him.

With these promises, it's clear why the lectern and pulpit have such prominent places in the Sanctuary. Like the altar, they are where Christ promises to meet us and give to us His blessed gifts.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler

Did you know . . . Over the last 100 years, Grace Church has supported many missions. They were a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) for many years with support to many causes around the world.

Rev. Roehrs, during his short term with us, also helped serve the little mission start up church of Bethel, Westmont.

In 1927, the first VBS began as a mission outreach to the children of the area.

We observed our 40th anniversary by giving back for all our blessings to begin a people to people outreach to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hampton Park-Colonial Village near Joliet.

On our 50th anniversary, we began a mission goal to raise \$5000 for a chapel in India.

Around 2004, Walther Christian Academy became an outreach mission project and, for many years, we have also helped support Grace Academy.

And, as is our giving custom, funds have been sent to areas in the United States devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes and other forces of nature.

God has blessed Grace so much over these past 100 years, so, as it should be, we are blessed to help others.



**Grace Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly
June 22, 2025**

Our meeting was called to order by the chairman, followed with an opening prayer by Pastor. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: The first session for the summer book reading will be this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. This next Sunday, June 29, will be our special service commemorating the first worship service our founding members held in 1925. There will be a small reception afterwards. Starting June 30 Pastor and family will be on a two week vacation. They will be returning July 12. Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall will be serving on July 6. The office will be closed on July 3 for the holiday.

Financial Secretary's Report: Giving as of May 31, 2025, totaled \$14,542.00 leaving us under budget by \$8,383.00. Giving has slightly tapered off starting with these summer months.

Treasurer's Report: As of May 31, 2025, nothing unusual has come up and the boards are keeping to their budgets. Total receipts to date are \$76,938.61 and total disbursements totaled \$106,116.31. As you can see, income is not keeping up with outgo. So far, \$300.00 has been spent from the anniversary funds to thank the St. John's Choir for participating in our March service.

Trustees Report: The parsonage sewer was rodded out for \$400.00. Come fall, we will be needing a new humidifier which trustees are already getting quotes on. So far the two quotes received are for \$1800.00 and \$1693.00. Also, please everyone take some time if you can to water the church plants and/or pull some weeds or even trim bushes. A little help goes a long way.

Elders Report: At their last meeting, they worked on summer schedules.

Board of Christian Education: Sunday School will start up again the Sunday after Labor Day. Plans are already in the works for lessons. A big thank you to all the teachers!

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Planning Committee: Discussion at our last meeting was mostly on our capital improvements and how to move forward. It was recommended that we set up a Capital Improvement Campaign with the following items in mind: the parsonage kitchen, the new humidifier, new window coverings for fellowship hall, and a possible parsonage roof, plus the 100th anniversary. Volunteers are needed to spearhead this campaign. Also discussed was a future presentation by the LCMS Foundation to set up some sort of endowment fund to secure the church's future. Chris will get materials for everyone to look over prior to the September meeting. It was pointed out that we have done a lot in the last few years – a new roof, a new boiler, air conditioner, the parking lot, plus the parsonage bathrooms.

100th Anniversary Committee: Our next big event will be this Sunday, 6/29, where we will be recognizing our founding members' first service and also placing our new banner on display. All this followed by a cake and coffee reception. The next event will be the church picnic on Sunday, 8/24, after the 10am service. We are planning on a walking taco table and filling the time capsule. Suggestions are needed as to what should go into the capsule. After that is our final banquet in November. A great big thank you to everyone who has helped with events, the committee who has been meeting monthly and to Pastor for all his guidance and encouragement. Also, please make sure you check out the memory table.

Old Business: Thank you, Zeke, for all your work with the photos. Please, if you haven't had your photo taken yet, do so soon. The directory needs to go to press by September.

New Business: It was suggested that possibly our services could be recorded live so people can see things as they happen. That can be done, but first we need to find a way to include sound into the recording device. Please note, that services are on our web page the following day.

The "Window Covering Committee" is already at work getting quotes on new coverings for the windows in fellowship hall. It looks so far that draperies will cost twice as much as verticle blinds. More to come.

Finally, NID is planning another lay summit at Walther Academy this August. It is quite well attended, so anyone wanting to attend, needs to make a reservation soon.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
May 31, 2025

	OPERATING FUNDS	LEGACY FUNDS	BUILDING FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Balance - January 1, 2025	67,907.14	56,932.00	11,035.66	135,874.80
<u>Receipts - January 1 through May 31, 2025</u>				
Checking account deposits	74,321.00			74,321.00
Interest income	1,035.13	1,403.67	178.81	2,617.61
Total	75,356.13	1,403.67	178.81	76,938.61
<u>Disbursements - January 1 through May 31, 2025</u>				
Checking account disbursements	104,995.30			104,995.30
District and other missions	2,000.00			2,000.00
Total	(106,995.30)			(106,995.30)
Transfers to checking account				
Increase in valuation of mutual fund		298.20		298.20
Balance - May 31, 2025	36,267.97	58,633.87	11,214.47	106,116.31
<u>Detail of Account Balance</u>				
Checking account	19,267.97			19,267.97
Certificates of deposit	17,000.00	20,000.00		37,000.00
Money Market accounts at Edward Jones		28,682.51	11,214.47	39,896.98
American Balanced Fund - mutual fund		9,951.36		9,951.36
Total	36,267.97	58,633.87	11,214.47	106,116.31

Comments

Certificates of Deposit mature in August 2025.

2024 Keil Bequest included in Legacy Fund balance.
Allocated to 100th anniversary
Balance - to be used as needed.

5,000.00
35,000.00



How about this for something different ---
our church picnic this year will be on

SUNDAY, August 24

immediately following the 10am service.
Plan on walking the taco table and cooling
off with ice cream desserts. There may be
some surprise entertainment from our
talented youth plus the filling of the
time capsule.

Games and fun for everyone!

A great day for Christian fellowship!

SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken on
Sunday, **July 13 & August 10**
after the Service. Questions?

Please call Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094



Summer Book Discussion
at 7:00pm

Monday, July 28th
(Chapters 4-6)

Wednesday, August 27th
(Chapters 7-Conclusion)

July Birthdays!

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

**August Birthdays!**

Amanda Lazaro	8/9
Annabelle Enright	8/10
Kimberly Kalata	8/11
Danica Brown	8/11
Lin Johnson	8/12
Mateo Tovar	8/19
Ian Fitzgerald	8/22
Lillian Winkelman	8/23
Brian Brown	8/26

**July Anniversaries!**

Judy & Steve Latman	7/8/1989
Sue & Tony Napolitano	7/15/1961
Evelyn & Del Hermann	7/27/1975
Rosemary & Bob Blessman	7/28/2001
Cindy & Ken Brandt	7/29/1989

**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

Jean Albert, friend of Lois Flood

Sandy Barry, friend of Pastor Zickler

Bill Bien, friend of Linda McGuire

Linda Blane-Novak, friend of Pat Schlueter

Vince Bonamici, brother-in-law of Del Hermann

Kate Borland, cousin of Bob Blessman

Megan Church, friend of the Stetler Family

Bill Clausen, son of Marilyn & Gary Clausen

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

Tyna Eggert

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

Ernie Froemel, friend of Paul Sulak

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

Kate Gerlesits, friend of the Stetler Family

Arlene Gilbert, mother of Tracy Cohen

Marvin Griffin, friend of Pat Schlueter

Marilyn, Pam & Shawn Haslam, friends of The Floods

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

Dale Hemminger, friend of the Claster Family

Nancy Henry, friend of Paul Sulak

Carol Hubacek, friend of Donna Perkowski

Bonnie Jakubs, friend of Linda McGuire

Mary Jordan, cousin of Chris Sulak

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

Steve Latman

Allison, Rachel, Robin & Jamie, nieces of Chris & Bob Dame

John Fred MacLean, friend of the Stetler Family

Michael Martinez, step-nephew of Pastor Zickler

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Steve Miller, friend of John Mullarkey

Lisa Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman Family

Frank Napolitano, brother of Tony Napolitano

Tony Napolitano

Noland Family, friends of Meg Krohe

Tracy Novak, niece of Pat Schlueter

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Linda Parlin, sister of Carol Hassel

Mike Perkins, friend of Linda McGuire

Phyllis, friend of Pat Schlueter

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

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, Kimmey, & Adam, family of a friend of Pastor's

Dave Stetler, father of Chris Stetler

Vanessa Stetler, sister of Chris Stetler

Doris Svec

Bill Tanzer, husband of Betty Tanzer

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

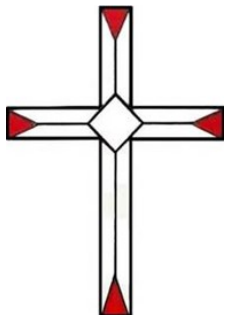
Athey Ulrich

Pat Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

JB, John & Johnny Weiffenbach, cousins of the Schlueter & Claster Families

Pat Williams, friend of Doris Svec

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert



Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

Eleanor Kulaga

Suzette Olszewski