

Grace Lutheran Church
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October 2025



Dear Saints of Grace,

This month, I'll be starting with pointing out the invitation for the Anniversary Banquet Dinner. Please make sure to RSVP for that by the November 2nd deadline (you'll also be seeing a reminder in the November newsletter, but don't let that dissuade you from responding early!).

As for other things, I'll continue my discussion of the elements of things in the church. I think I have touched on the major components of the sanctuary in terms of its furniture and the like. So, I will continue with some other elements. This month, I'll start with elements of the service itself. The first thing to know about the service is that it has two main components: the Liturgy or Service of the Word and the Liturgy or Service of the Sacrament. These two components reflect the promise of Christ to come into our presence through the means of the Word and the Sacrament. That is to say that Jesus meets us in a unique way in the Divine Service. If you've been to the Narrative Service, you've heard me talk about this, as I usually ask where Jesus is. Where is Jesus? Everywhere? Yes. In heaven? Yes. In our hearts by faith? Yes. But where does He promise to meet us for our benefit, that is to bless us? He does this in His Word, in the Word in Scripture, and in the Word as it is preached. I noted that when I talked about the pulpit and lectern a few months ago. He also promises to meet us as that Word is connected to the bread and wine of his Holy Supper. We can see these promises as He says about preaching "He who hears you hears me" (Luke 10:16), and in the Supper as He says "This is my body" (Matthew 26:26).

Continued->

What the Liturgy does is point us to these promises. There is a flow and a buildup within each part such that it culminates with the promise. Christ promises to meet us in the Word, the Gospel proclaiming that Word with Jesus' own preaching, the pulpit housing that Word with the preaching of the called pastor. Jesus there, bringing His forgiveness, and with that forgiveness, His merciful presence. The same is true with the Supper. In the bread and wine, give us His own body and blood for our forgiveness. There He meets us, present with us in His grace. The Liturgy flows and builds up to these high points.

But it must also be said that all of this gives us a foretaste of heaven. We often think of heaven as being with those we love and getting to enjoy good things without having to experience the hard things that we do now. But the greatest gift is to be in the presence of our God face to face. In the Liturgy, this happens, but only in a way that can be seen with the eyes of faith. This makes the Divine Service heaven on earth. What an awesome thought! Here God is with us! God grant us those eyes of faith to see this glorious promise week in and week out!

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler



Grace Lutheran Church Voters Assembly September 7, 2025

After opening our meeting with prayer, we unanimously welcomed new members, David and Val Villegas and Bev Kopplin, as voting members.

The minutes of last June's meeting were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: Thanks to the Anniversary Committee for all their hard work this past year in planning events. The annual picnic was well attended possibly due to it being on Sunday after church. Since some of the items we want to put into the capsule are in November, we have decided to wait to present the capsule at the banquet. Our big finale is the banquet on November 16 with Dr. Rast as speaker. The divine service will be at 3:00 pm followed with a dinner in the church at 5:00 pm. An evite will be going out this week on the website and invites to members will be in the bulletins and newsletter.

Sunday school began today and confirmation will start today also. Adult bible class will start this Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 9:00 am and we will take up where we left off in the book of Esther. Sunday bible class will begin next Sunday and was supposed to have a representative from the LCMS Foundation to discuss estate planning for you and your family and also how that can still benefit the church. Unfortunately, the representative is no longer with the Foundation and we are looking for someone else. Instead, Pastor would like to have a discussion regarding funeral planning. Even though it may be hard to talk about, funerals give us closure and help us recognize our faith in Christ. He has a speaker in mind but the discussion would probably have to be some evening.

Lastly, we need to elect our delegates for the Circuit Forum and the District Convention. The convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, in July 2026.

Financial Secretary's Report: Receipts for August totaled \$11,270.00. We received \$130.00 from the sale of food at the picnic. We are under budget by \$11,155.00.

Treasurer's Report: Giving is starting to improve. Items yet to be paid are the picnic, the humidifier and the new office computer. Balance on hand as of August 31, 2025, is \$117,570.18. Looking over the past eight months, receipts have totaled \$179,400.00 and expenses totaled \$166,141.00 leaving us under budget.

Elders Report: They will be meeting soon to discuss the fall activities.

Continued->

Trustees Report: The humidifier has been purchased for \$1693.00 and will be installed this Tuesday. We really need this for all the wood in the building and the organ. Thanks to those who helped pull weeds and trim bushes this past season. It really helped beautify the building. Yuritzy has been contracted to do the fall clean up. Glenn has cleaned and refinished all the exterior doors – thank you. Ryan has a plan to straighten the mail box and thanks to Bob Dame for the new storage cabinet and mounting the speakers.

Board of Christian Education: Children are in session today.

Evangelism: No report

Planning Committee: We are looking for a new district contact for our LCMS Foundation discussion. We feel it is a good way to continue a solid future for Grace starting its 101st year. We are waiting on permits from the village in order to continue progress on the parsonage egress. And the directory deadline is Sept. 12 in order to have it printed in time for the banquet. There are still several families who still need their photos taken. Good work, Zeke, and thank you.

Old Business: The committee looking into new windows coverings has interviewed about 5 vendors. They discussed roller shades, blinds and draperies. Overall the lowest cost would be the shades at about \$3000, verticle blinds would be about \$7800 and draperies could go from \$12,000 to \$14,000. After much discussion, shades and blinds have big drawbacks. Draperies seem to be the most durable and longlasting. The committee would recommend the draperies but the voters need to decide on funding.

Chris Krohe attended the August lay summit at Walther. He reported there were about 400 to 500 people in attendance. There were sessions on interchurch ideas, building projects for your church and how to interact with the community. It was well worth the time.

New Business: Next followed discussion on selection of delegates for the Circuit Forum. As for the pastoral delegate, the following motion was made:
MOTION: that Pastor Zickler be nominated as our church's pastoral delegate. PASSED

As for the lay delegate and the alternate, Chris Krohe and Bob Dame agreed to become delegates. Per vote by ballot: Bob Dame was elected lay delegate and Chris Krohe was elected alternate lay delegate. At this time, Pastor did not know the date for the forum.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary

2025 GRACE WOMEN'S CLUB
BAKE SALE ORDER FORM

Please complete the order form and return with cash payment or check (made out to Grace Women's Club) to Judy Latman or Donna Perkowski no later than November 2nd. All items will come frozen. Your order will be ready for pick up after church on Sunday, November 23rd. Questions? Call Donna 708-955-4818.

All items \$15 per order

12 - 2" Cookies for \$15

____ (12) Mexican Hot Chocolate Cookies

Total \$

Each 9"x 5" loaf for \$15

____ Apple Fritter Bread

____ Loaded Corn Bread

____ Zucchini Chocolate Chip Bread



12 Scones for \$15

Your choice:

____ 6 ea. Dried Craisin/Chocolate Chip

____ (12) Dried Craisin

____ (12) Chocolate Chip



Your choice of 12 - 2" Bars for \$15

____ (12) Pecan Pie Bars

____ (12) Apricot Bars

Name _____

Phone # _____

Total Order – Paid by Cash or Check _____

Did you know.....

Grace loves to celebrate! We celebrate baptisms, confirmations, new members and each week when we worship together. In the last 100 years, Grace has celebrated a first year anniversary; 10 and 15 year anniversaries; 25, 50, 75 and 90 year anniversaries. And now we will celebrate 100 years!

Each celebration brought special joy to members of our family. Maybe you were even able to attend some of the events. The celebrations included special services, maybe a guest speaker and possibly a banquet. Let us now look forward to our years to come with celebration also as we start our 101st year of

God's Grace upon Grace!



October Birthdays!!!

Matthew Ayers	2
Sara Fitzgerald	3
Del Hermann	5
Kathy Hass	7
Gavin Claster	8
David Claster	9
Ruby Enright	9
Jim Blessman	14
Bea Dahl	17
Chris Stetler	18
Rosemary Blessman	19
Sophia Schmidt	21
Brian Hass	24
Eliana Zickler	24
Tom Josefek	26

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
Cheryl & Kerry Mikkelsen	October 29, 2022



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 BlaneK-Novak, friend of Pat Schlueter

Kate Borland, cousin of Bill Blessman

Bill Clausen, son of Marilyn & Gary Clausen

Nancy & Kent Clonger

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

Bea Dahl

Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood

John Donegan, friend of Lois & John Flood

Gary Domzalski, friend of Pat Schlueter

Tyna Eggert

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

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 Haslam, friend of Lois & John Flood

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

Dale Hemminger, friend of the Claster Family

Nancy Henry, friend of Paul Sulak

Bonnie Jakubs, 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

Steve Latman

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

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

Kristi Schmidt, sister of Lin Johnson

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

Vanessa Stetler, sister of Chris Stetler

Keelia Sulak and Unborn Child

Doris Svec

Jeff Thorne, friend of the Stetler Family

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



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
August 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 August 31, 2025</u>				
Checking account deposits	144,960.00			144,960.00
Interest Income	1,377.18	1,967.98	287.16	3,632.32
Total	146,337.18	1,967.98	287.16	148,592.32
<u>Disbursements - January 1 through August 31, 2025</u>				
Checking account disbursements	164,141.30			164,141.30
100th Anniversary payments made	1,680.00			1,680.00
District and other missions	2,000.00			2,000.00
Total	(167,821.30)			(167,821.30)
Transfers to checking account	1,600.00	(1,600.00)		
Increase in valuation of mutual fund		924.36		924.36
Balance - August 31, 2025	48,023.02	58,224.34	11,322.82	117,570.18
<u>Detail of Account Balance</u>				
Checking account	30,689.26			30,689.26
Certificates of deposit	17,333.76			17,333.76
Money Market accounts at Edward Jones		47,561.08	11,322.82	58,883.90
American Balanced Fund - mutual fund		10,663.26		10,663.26
Total	48,023.02	58,224.34	11,322.82	117,570.18

Comments

Certificate of Deposit matures in March 2026.

17,333.76

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

3,400.00
35,000.00

**SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, October 12 after the Service. If you have any questions,
Please call Sara Fitzgerald 708-822-8094 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



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Dear Saints of Grace, and also dear Friends of Grace,

What a testimony to the grace of God and the joy that He has in giving to His people the forgiveness of sins won for the world on the cross of our Savior Jesus Christ! This year we celebrate 100 years of that generosity of our Lord here at Grace Lutheran Church in Western Springs, IL. Throughout this time we have been blessed to hear the connection of the Word of God and song in the talents of the choir from St. John Lutheran Church in La Grange. We have reflected on the first service of the congregation in June of 1925 with the voices of our own choir. We celebrated the Sunday School and the children present with our picnic (with the additional blessing of perfect weather!).

The culmination of our celebration, however, will come Sunday November 16th. On that afternoon, we will have a festival service at 3:00 P.M. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President Emeritus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Immediately following the service we will host a catered dinner in the parish hall.

We hope you will join us for this joyful occasion and celebrate these blessed gifts of God with us on that day. If you are able to participate, we ask that you **RSVP so that we can get a headcount for the necessary planning. In order to plan accordingly, please submit your response by November 1st.**

Likewise, as we reflect on these past 100 years, we look with gladness the hope for 100 more years of God's Grace upon Grace!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler and the Anniversary Committee of Grace Lutheran Church.

Please RSVP by returning this portion to the Church Office **OR** by doing so on the punchbowl site using the QR Code below (**PLEASE DO NOT DO BOTH!**)

_____ Yes, I/we will be attending the Worship Service Sunday November 16th.

_____ Number attending

_____ Yes, I/we will be attending the dinner to follow

_____ Number attending

Name: _____

Additional Comments: _____



