

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

March 2026



Dear Saints of Grace,

This year we have Palm Sunday on the last Sunday of the month. This means that Holy Week starts in March, but Easter is in April. You probably notice that for most years with my newsletter articles, I focus the article for the month Easter falls into on Easter itself. With Holy Week beginning in March, but Easter being in April, I thought I could take a minute to reflect on Holy Week a bit.

First, I think we all know this, but to review, Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday. On that day, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey and the people shouted “Hosanna!” which means “save us!” Traditionally, there are things it is presumed that Jesus did each day. Monday is observed as the turning over the tables of the Temple. Tuesday is associated with Jesus teaching in Jerusalem, and Wednesday with Judas’ betrayal. Thursday, then is when Jesus and His disciples enter into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Meal, in which Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. After the meal, He and His disciples traveled to the Garden of Gethsemane, east of Jerusalem, where He was arrested by soldiers under command of the High Priest. He was then taken to the High Priest’s house. Once Friday morning came, He was taken to Pontius Pilate, then to Herod, then back to Pontius Pilate. Upon the sentence of death by Pilate, He was led to Mount Calvary where He was crucified, then laid in the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea.

The events of the week obviously went quickly, and it’s hard to imagine what that must have been like for the Lord and His disciples. The week from the joyous celebration of the crowds on Palm Sunday to the horrifying darkness of the cross on Friday. It began, however, with the Lord and His humility. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey” (Matthew 21:5). It ended with the humility of the death of a criminal on the cross.

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As we meditate on this cross this Lenten season, reflect on the humility of our God. He left the glories of heaven, to dwell in the body of a man. He left the sinless beauty of heaven to carry the hideousness of sin to the cross. Your sin. My sin. God so loved the world. That really is awesome to think about, isn't it? This Lenten season, reflect on what this love is. Despite the fact that we are conceived as those bearing the image of the hideousness of sin, the beauty of God has manifested itself in Him taking sin upon Himself and bearing the cost of death it deserves. And He has done this to restore the beauty of His creation, of humanity, of the world as He will come again to being that New Heavens and New Earth. This is, however, who God shows Himself to be in Christ. It's who He showed Himself to be when He met you in the waters of baptism and cleansed you of your sin in the flood of His forgiveness. It's who He shows Himself to be to you as He continually meets you in His Word and Supper forgiving your sins week in and week out, day in and day out. His mercy, and love for you. God serving you in His mercy. It still comes back to this humility. Yes there is glory. There is the eternal glory of this Divine Nature. But there is the humility of a King riding a donkey, dying a criminal's death. And all for you, His beloved.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Zickler



From the Women's Club

Women's Club is back! Ladies, mark your calendars for Monday, March 16th, 1:00 pm. We will start the meeting with some delectable treats, followed by a run down of our official business, and winding up with some wonderful fun time! New members and guests are always welcome. See you there!



March Birthdays!

Brittany Briscoe	3/2
Mike Giacomo	3/7
Judy Josefek	3/9
Hope Stetler	3/10
Hope Perri	3/11
Matthew Stetler	3/13
Elijah Zickler	3/13
Chris Arata	3/17
Owen Yocius	3/21
Tyna Eggert	3/22
Ezekiel Johnson	3/26
Becky Josefek	3/28



SCRIP



SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, **March 8th** after the Service. Please leave any contributions in the offering plates. Questions?

Please call
Sara Fitzgerald
708-822-8094

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

Jean Albert, friend of Lois Flood

Anderson Family, friends of the Stetler Family

Sandy Barry, friend of Pastor Zickler

Bill Bien, friend of Linda McGuire

Linda BlaneK-Novak, friend of Pat Schlueter

Kate Borland, cousin of Bob Blessman

Chrisman Family, friends of the Stetler Family

Nancy & Kent Cloninger

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

DiStazio Family, friends of the Stetler Family

Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood

John Donegan, friend of Lois & John Flood

Gary Domzalski, friend of Pat Schlueter

Tyna Eggert

Flanagan Family, friends of the Stetler Family

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

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

Arlene Gilbert, mother of Tracy Cohen

Gorline Family, family of Bob Dame

Marvin Griffin, friend of Pat Schlueter

Esther Harrison, g.mother of Chris Enright & Angie Schlie

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

Bob & Peggy Keeler

Nancy & Ron Kolar

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

Eleanor Kulaga & Family

Chris Lange, son of Cheryl Dore

Scott Latman, nephew of Judy & Steve Latman

Steve Latman

Revy Sabas Libatique, cousin of Lesley Arca-Blessman

Lim Family, friends of the Stetler Family

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

Rich McLaughlin, friend of Marilyn & Gary Clausen

Steve Miller, friend of John Mullarkey

Larry Miskow, brother-in-law of Bob Dame

Lisa Mullarkey

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

Keelia Sulak and unborn daughter

Doris Svec

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

Athey Ulrich

Pat Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

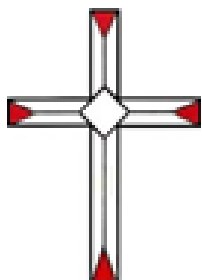
Tina Weaver, friend of Mark Rehn

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

Pat Williams, friend of Doris Svec

Sara Wilson, friend of Chris Enright

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert



Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

Eleanor Kulaga • Suzette Olszewski

**Grace Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly
February 22, 2026**

We began by opening the meeting with prayer after which the minutes of the December meeting were approved with one correction. Chris then read a letter from District President Busse updating us on the continued mission we have in Belize. There are three mission trips scheduled in the next months. For those interested in joining, you may contact the district for more information.

Pastor's Report: Wednesday Lenten services started with Ash Wednesday on 2/18 and will continue every Wednesday for the next six weeks at 7:00 pm. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday followed with services at 7:00 pm on Maunday Thursday and Good Friday. The Easter breakfast will be at 9:00 am followed by the Easter service at 10:00 am. This year confirmation will be on May 10. Those being confirmed are Jacob Enright, Faith Stetler and CJ Brown.

Financial Secretary's Report: Total receipts for January 2026 were \$13,023.00.

Treasurer's Report: Recapping the year 2025, the total funds including the legacy and building funds was \$232,888.56. Disbursements for the year 2025 totaled \$265,335.19. Funds of \$3,850.00 were transferred from the legacy fund to the checking account as well as \$2,500.00 transferred from the building fund. The end of year balances totaled \$104,425.47 which includes \$38,065.67 checkbook, \$57,302.88 legacy funds and \$8,956.92 building fund. The attached chart shows giving as increasing from 2020 through 2025. The chart also lists several non budgeted items such as boiler repairs, parking lot repaving, purchasing a new air conditioner and humidifier, and remodeling the the parsonage bathrooms to name a few. It was also noted that the total expenses for our anniversary were just over \$4,000.00, less than anticipated. It was suggested that the current bookkeeping methods be reviewed to update and/or simplify the reporting.

Elders Report: Elders wish to thank Bob Blessman for his many years of service to Grace, but will remain as elder emeritus should the need arise. They also wish to welcome Tim Schlie as the new elder to the board. At their last meeting, they discussed looking into a platform for online giving or possibly something on our Webpage. There was a suggestion presented that bibles be placed in each pew for use during services.

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Discussion followed ending with the following:

MOTION: Elders prepare and offer a plan at the next voters meeting to use bibles in the pews. PASSED

Trustees Report: Thanks to all the Zickler children for picking up the tree branches and litter in the front church yard.

Board of Education: Nothing at this time.

Evangelism Report: A committee has been formed and should be having their initial meeting sometime soon.

Planning Committee: They have been discussing an alternate music program should the need arise and have received one proposal. To bring our organ up to the technical data needed would cost about \$53,000.00. It was also suggested that our organ be refurbished for an additional \$30,000.00. This idea is only in the discussion stage!

Old Business: The pictorial directory is still in process at the printers. Terry has copies of our new directory in the narthex. The Grace Academy car wash will be on May 9th.

New Business: Our National Convention is in July this year. MOTION: Bob Dame has agreed to be our lay delegate to elect the synod president. PASSED Also, MOTION: Pastor Zickler will be our pastoral delegate to elect the synod president. PASSED
April 12 will be a reception to conclude our Anniversary Celebration with the presentation and dedication of the new time capsule.

Finally, this is the first time we have used the TV screen for our presentations. Please, all boards and committees, continue to give Chris Krohe your reports prior to the next meetings so he can prepare them for the screen. Thank you, Chris, for getting this all together.

With no further business at hand, we closed our meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
December 31, 2025

	OPERATING FUNDS	LEGACY FUNDS	ROOF AND BUILDING FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Balance - January 1, 2024	67,907.14	56,932.00	11,035.66	135,874.80
<u>Receipts - January 1 through December 31, 2025</u>				
Weekly collections	216,110.00			216,110.00
Other receipts	2,234.00			2,234.00
Building Fund	320.00			320.00
Interest income	1,608.53	3,323.57	421.26	5,353.36
Net scripts revenue (1,010.00 less 933.81)	16.19			16.19
Parsonage repairs (QCD)	6,000.00			6,000.00
Other donations	1,000.00			1,000.00
Other memorials received	1,555.00			1,555.00
Landscaping Fund	300.00			300.00
Total	<u>229,143.72</u>	<u>3,323.57</u>	<u>421.26</u>	<u>232,888.55</u>
<u>Disbursements - January 1 through December 31, 2025</u>				
	Budget			
Elders	196,871.95			196,871.95
Trustees	47,850.94			47,850.94
Education	2,750.69			2,750.69
District & other missions	8,000.00			8,000.00
Evangelism and youth group	800.00			800.00
Other agencies and non budget expenses	4,009.11			4,009.11
100th Anniversary expenses	1,693.00			1,693.00
Humidifier	2,584.50			2,584.50
Replacement of furnace pump	775.00			775.00
Pictorial directory deposit	(265,335.19)			(265,335.19)
Total	<u>270,600.00</u>			
Transfers to checking account	6,350.00	(3,850.00)	(2,500.00)	
Increase in valuation of mutual fund		897.31		897.31
Balance - December 31, 2025	<u>38,065.67</u>	<u>57,302.88</u>	<u>8,956.92</u>	<u>104,325.47</u>
Detail of Account Balance				
Checking account	(14,014.00)			(14,014.00)
Designated for parsonage repairs and renovation	34,525.71			34,525.71
Certificates of deposit	17,553.96			17,553.96
Money Market accounts at Edward Jones		45,903.33	8,956.92	54,860.25
American Balanced Fund - mutual fund		11,399.55		11,399.55
Total	<u>38,065.67</u>	<u>57,302.88</u>	<u>8,956.92</u>	<u>104,325.47</u>

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
REVENUES (Regular)*	<u>213,552</u>	<u>221,616</u>	<u>232,006</u>	<u>242,204</u>	<u>199,866</u>	<u>219,644</u>
EXPENSES						
Elders	153,282	161,497	169,083	183,708	190,715	196,872
Trustees	37,698	39,845	48,674	44,527	46,357	47,851
Education	2,280	3,194	3,234	3,225	3,566	2,751
Evangelism						
District & other agencies	8,463	10,389	8,638	9,062	9,928	8,800
Total	<u>201,723</u>	<u>214,925</u>	<u>229,629</u>	<u>240,522</u>	<u>250,566</u>	<u>256,274</u>
OVERAGE (SHORTFALL)	<u>11,829</u>	<u>6,691</u>	<u>2,377</u>	<u>1,682</u>	<u>(50,700)</u>	<u>(36,630)</u>
Bequest income not included in above revenue	<u>5,000</u>		<u>19,395</u>	<u>19,308</u>	<u>100,000</u>	
* Does not include memorials, building, roof, boiler or parsonage capital campaign fund receipts.						
Other non budget expenses not included above						
Boiler repair (paid from building fund)		3,056				
Air conditioner unit (paid from Legacy Fund)				11,218		
Parking lot and parsonage driveway					51,600	
New boiler (paid from legacy fund and donations)			78,646	781		
new boiler door (paid from Seeger funds)			2,980			
Parsonage bathrooms renovation (paid from Hafflner bequest and donations)				34,275	1,313	
New church roof and siding (paid from roof fund)				59,980	7,695	
Kitchen countertops					871	
new coffee maker						1,693
Humidifier						2,585
Replacement of furnace pump			3,056	106,254	61,479	1,693