Grace Lutheran Church
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October 2026

Dear Saints of Grace,

First of all this month, I'd like to begin by thanking you all for all of your prayers as we have been navigating Jessica's Breast Cancer diagnosis. Your encouragement and support has been so comforting and humbling. Thankfully, the prognosis is good, but we still have some days ahead with radiation and hormone therapy that could be a bit challenging so to know you all are praying for us brings immense peace. Thank you.

As we come to October, then, I thought I'd revisit the Reformation once more. It's been a few years since I've talked about it my newsletter article, so why not come back to it again? After all, the Reformation and its beginning on October 31, 1517 has had huge ramifications for the church, for history, and for us as Lutherans—that last part being probably most obvious.

To review, though, what the Reformation was, you might recall that at the time of Luther, the Roman Catholic Church was selling indulgences—pieces of paper signed by the Pope which claimed to give the purchaser the ability to get themselves or a loved one out of purgatory. The sales phrase from John Tetzel, who sold these indulgences near where Luther was in Wittenberg, was "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." This extraction of money from the people caused Luther great indignation. He saw the poorest of the poor, who did not have two coins to rub together giving their last penny for the souls of their loved ones, and it burdened him.

In light of this concern, he penned 95 Theses on the topic of indulgences. The first and perhaps most memorable of them is "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent', he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." What Luther was addressing was the Latin translation of Matthew 4:17 which had said, "Do penance." It was clear this mislead people into thinking that they had to do something to earn God's forgiveness. It resulted in a whole system of indulgences and penance which made them think the giving of these coins could merit a release from purgatory. With this in mind, Luther also noted in the theses that this practice would cause people to ask why the Pope would charge for this forgiveness rather than releasing people for the sake of love itself.

Ultimately, Luther sent this list to his Archbishop, Albrecht of Mainz, and the story goes (scholars are not totally sure whether it really happened) that on the day of October 31, 1517 he also nailed them to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg for discussion. Discussion and disputation spread like wildfire. And from there Luther began writing about the understanding that we are not saved by indulgences, but strictly by the blood of Christ shed on the cross, the benefit of which work is received by faith. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, by Christ alone. Thanks be to God!

To God alone be the glory (Soli Deo Gloria),

Pastor Zickler

Grace Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly
September 13, 2026

Our meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the reading of the June minutes. Minutes were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: At the convention there was discussion on adding new routes to ordination. Although this may be convenient for some, most felt the residential seminary program was very important for ministerial study. Thanks to everyone for the well wishes and prayers for Jessica's recovery. At this point she is doing very well. And thanks go to Leslie Arca for the write-up in the neighborhood magazine about our 100th anniversary. We even got the front cover! Extra copies are available for those who would like one. On another note, member Bea Dahl passed away this week and her memorial service is planned for either October 3rd or the 24th.

Financial Secretary's Report: nothing at this time

Treasurer's Report: $5,000.00 was transferred from the Legacy Fund to pay for some of the summer expenses.

Elder's Report: nothing at this time
Trustees Report: nothing at this time
Board of Christian Education: Sunday School has started today
Planning Committee: nothing at this time

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Evangelism Committee: Thanks to everyone who helped out at the picnic, to the person who handled the banners and to Jessica and Ellie who walked the neighborhood passing out fliers. We did have a couple guests and the West Suburban Concert Band once again out did themselves.

Old Business: On October 4th, the representative from LCEF will give a presentation during bible class hour. The hope is to find a way to continue church growth for the next 100 years. We have finally received the proof for our photo directory. Regarding the draperies, the committee believes they can purchase draperies and rods for about $500.00. They will not be professionally made, but are room darkening, made from a linen material and can be machine washed. Volunteers are available to put up the rods to hang them.

It was agreed to have the committee go ahead and purchase the draperies. It was also noted that there is about $4,000.00 in the drapery account. It was suggested that the remainder of the account be spent for updating some church landscaping or the doners can make other suggestions where the funds could be placed.

New Business: An article from the Tower Topics about the tower Christmas trees was passed on to Evangelism. Hopefully, Grace can present a tree this year.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Josefek, Secretary

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

BEDS PLUS UPDATE

Thank you to all those who generously gave to our September collection drive.
We were able to donate three huge boxes full of new underwear and socks and were assured that all items would be well received by those in need.
Coming up in November will be coat and glove month. New and/or gently used children, youth and adult coats and jackets plus all sizes of waterproof gloves.
Photos of our progress are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Check it out!

Again, thank you!

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
Chris Stetler	18
Rosemary Blessman	19
Sophia Schmidt	21
Brian Hass	24
Eliana Zickler	24
Tom Josefek	26
Angie Schlie	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
Bill Bien, friend of Linda McGuire
Ann Bissell, friend of the Stetler Family
Kate Borland, cousin of Bob Blessman
Nancy & Kent Cloninger
Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen
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
Arlene Gilbert, mother of Tracy Cohen
Marvin Griffin, friend of Pat Schlueter
Carol Hager, mother-in-law of Kerry Mikkelsen
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
Joe Kish, friend of the Stetler Family
Nancy & Ron Kolar
Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga
Eleanor Kulaga & Family
Chris Lange, son of Cheryl Dore
Steve Latman
Josh Long, family member of Jessica Zickler
Allison, Rachel, Robin, Jamie, & Rose, 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
Melucci Family, friends of the Krohe Family
Mabel Charlotte Mercer, grand-niece of Kerry Mikkelsen
Shannon Miller, friend of Lesley Arca-Blessman
Steve Miller, friend of John Mullarkey
Lisa Mullarkey
Frank Napolitano, brother of Tony Napolitano
Tony Napolitano
Noland Family, friends of Meg Krohe
Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak
Linda Parlin, sister of Carol Hassel
Ron Pencek, cousin of Linda McGuire
Mike Perkins, friend of Linda McGuire
Phyliss, friend of Pat Schlueter
Rachel Picek
Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster
Quintin Family, friends of the Stetler Family
Dorothea Rehn, mother of Mark Rehn
Christopher Rinchiuso, friend of the Schlueter & Claster Families
Bonnie Robinson, friend of Chris Dame
Kurt, Kimmey, & Adam, family of a friend of Pastor's
Brian Stetler, brother of Chris Stetler
Dave Stetler, father of Chris Stetler
Kathy Strankowski, friend of Pat Schlueter
Lynn Sullivan, friend of Marilyn & Gary Clausen
Doris Svec
Noah (Picek)Tovar, g.granddaughter of Lois & John Flood
Athey Ulrich
Tina Weaver, friend of Mark Rehn
JB, John & Johnny Weiffenbach,cousins of the Schlueter Family
Pat Williams, friend of Doris Svec
Sara Wilson, friend of Chris Enright
Alison Witte, friend of Pastor Zickler
Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert
Jessica Zickler

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers

Eleanor Kuluga - Suzette Olszewski

Thank You!

To Everyone who has helped out at the church- from changing light fixtures, gardening, refinishing floors, setting up events, etc.—your "behind–the-scenes" contributions are so greatly appreciated!

We couldn't do this without you!!!

SCRIP orders will be taken on Sunday, October 11 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.

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