

GRACE NOTES

December 2022



Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!
through

-  Meaningful
Worship
-  Caring
Community
-  Inspirational
Learning
-  Loving
Service
-  Gracious
Invitation

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A Note FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Saints of Grace:



As we move into a new Church Year, beginning with the First Sunday in Advent, which this year falls on November 27, we are reminded of beginnings and endings. It is fitting that December includes our anniversary as a congregation (63 YEARS!). All those years ago, our Charter Members, very few of whom are still among us, had a vision of a new congregation, centered in Word and Sacrament and with Social Ministry as part of the congregation's DNA. Excellent worship and active participation in Church and Society were the hallmarks of the Augustana Synod, which was our original denomination. Through the years, the Augustana Synod (including Grace) became a part of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) which in 1988 became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Throughout the decades and throughout the mergers, the "old Augustana" tradition of worship linked with community service was carried on.

Remembering and celebrating our past also gives us a great opportunity to look at our present church life and gaze into the future. Grace today is not the church it was 60, 45, 30 or 15 years ago. In each era we have changed to meet new circumstance and new challenges. And, we have always maintained our center in worship which leads directly to active engagement in the world around us.

And, that tradition continues. As we (hopefully!) emerge from the Covid 19 Pandemic, our in-person worship attendance has continued to grow. We are almost back to pre-pandemic worship attendance; when you include folks who join us by Zoom, I think we are there! And, through thick and thin, our congregation's response to social needs at home and around the world is still noteworthy!

In December we will have several opportunities to affirm and celebrate the best of Grace, past, present and future.

On Wednesday, December 14, at 7:30pm, we will gather (in person and by Zoom) for **Advent Evening Prayer** featuring the Grace Choir. Take time out during the rush of this season to breath; to sense God's presence among us; to feel the comfort of Christian fellowship.

On the **Third Thursday** (December 15) EVERYONE is invited to our Christmas Luncheon beginning with social time at 11:30 followed by dinner served by Kathie Bender Schwich and me along with contributions from other members. A free will offering will be received to support our local food pantries. We will be serenaded by a barbershop quartet featuring our own Jules Kasten. There will also be games and prizes. Invite your neighbors and friends!

On Wednesday, December 21, at 6:00pm we are all invited to attend the 50th (almost annual) **Grace Preschool Christmas Program**. Come and delight in the music of our

preschool kids as they celebrate the magic of the Christmas season. In addition to holiday songs, the program will feature songs that are part of the weekly preschool chapel times throughout the year. Special thanks to “Ranger Jim” Bataille for his guitar-playing at our weekly chapel services! Come and see why so many people consider our Preschool to be one of the “crown jewels” of Grace Lutheran Church and our service to our local community!

As we head into a new church year and a new calendar year, we do so from a position of strength and hope. And, as always, faith in God’s amazing grace!

In Christ’s love, joy, peace and hope!
Pastor Daniel Schwick

Council **HIGHLIGHTS**

Council Highlights from the October 25 meeting

- Council November meeting moved to November 29
- Council December meeting moved to January 10. Discussion will be limited to the budget and nominating committee recommendations
- January 24 will be regular Council meeting.
- Annual Congregational meeting will be held February 5 after the Sunday Church service.
- Approved \$1125 to replace faucets in the north bathrooms and small bath in the preschool with touchless faucets
- Approved the paving by the park district of the bicycle rut which connects our parking lot to their bike path.
- Park District asked to move their paper recycling bin to our parking lot. This matter was tabled for further study.
- Green plants will be placed in the sanctuary after the Christmas season. The plants are being purchased and maintained by Pastor Schwick.
- Approved the concept to have T-Shirts and sweat shirts with Grace logo. These will be offered to the congregation at cost.
- December 18 will be the Cookie Walk

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Zoom Worship Service: Join us on Sundays at 10am for worship.

THE ALL GRACE ALL THE TIME CONNECTION INFORMATION IS:

Grace Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect
All worship services, Bible Study and Meetings

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86543729643> Meeting ID: 865 4372 9643

One tap mobile: +13126266799, 86543729643#

Dial (audio connection only) +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 865 4372 9643

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Third Thursday: Join us on December 15 for our Christmas luncheon at 11:30am. In addition to lunch, there will be games and prizes and we will be serenaded by a barbershop quartet featuring our own Jules Kasten.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Wired Word (in person or by Zoom) Wednesdays at 1:00pm. We look at an item from a recent headline and ask ourselves what our faith brings to that issue. There are not usually right or wrong answers. There is always a lively and respectful discussion. New participants are always welcome. A preparatory study guide is available on the Sunday before each session and can be picked up on the shelf near the church office. If you would like an electronic copy, please contact the church office and a packet will be emailed to you.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

La Trinidad Community Dinner: Once each month a group of Grace members gather at La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park for worship together with La Trinidad members and then to partake in a community meal that is part of the service ministry of La Trinidad. Grace's contribution to the meal is made possible by your support for our Social Ministry fundraising campaign. Our next dinner is December 18, 2022.

Winter Coats: The Social Ministry Committee is collecting winter coats for La Trinidad. Watch for the box in the Atrium for your donation. Men's coats are greatly needed. The drive starts now and will go through the winter. Thanks for your support.

District 21 Special Request: School District 21 is working hard to assimilate the busload of asylees that arrived two months ago. They received a grant to purchase winter coats for the children, but still need to get snow pants, winter boots, hats and gloves. There will be a box in the atrium to collect new or gently used items. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Gifts: This year, School Districts 21 and 26 are asking for Walmart or Target gift cards in \$25 denominations so that families can purchase gifts for their children. The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting gift cards or monetary

donations to buy gift cards starting Thanksgiving Eve and running through December 11. Watch for the Christmas tree with ornaments for your donations. Thank you.

Mallternative: is just around the corner. On December 4 and 11, the Social Ministry Committee will have a table set up in the Atrium so that you can purchase a gift for that hard to shop for family member or friend. Items on the list from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog include:

- Chicks \$10
- Bees \$20
- Goat \$50
- Clinic Visit for a Child \$10
- Hygiene Kit \$25
- Nutrition for a Child \$25
- Personal Protective Equipment \$25
- One day of Trauma Counseling \$25
- Day's supply of necessities for a disaster survivor \$30
- Vaccination for a Child \$30
- Water Filter \$30
- Feed a Refugee Family for a Week \$50
- Stock a Health Clinic for a Week \$75

Food Pantries: Local food pantries are receiving donations of food products as well as cash. Place food items in the grocery cart provided at the east entry and/or mark your check for "food pantry" and the Social Ministry Committee will see that they receive your cash donations. Thank you! A special thank you to David Hanson for delivering the food to the food pantries.

AROUND the Parish

Saints of Grace



Name: Luann Lewis

D.O.B: April 12, 1953

Member: Since September 18, 2022.

Grew Up: Huntington, New York

Currently live: Glenview

Schooling: Huntington High School and a school in Evanston for business.

Siblings: 2 Brothers, both older.

Spouse: Brian Lewis

Children: 3 Children (50, 46, 33) and 3 grandchildren (23 and twins that are 14.)

Favorite Memory of Grace Lutheran: Halloween before last when we came to Grace for the preschool Halloween party.

Just the ambience felt very inviting, welcoming and peaceful.

Occupation: I work as a paralegal (estate planning) and work as a writer. My webpage

is Frommindtopen.com.

Greatest Accomplishment: Getting my books published.

Phobias/Fears: I am terrified of bees and wasps.

Favorite Season: Fall, but that means winter is coming so now I think my favorite is Spring.

Favorite Scent: Maple Pecan

Favorite Sound: World music. I find it very peaceful.

Favorite Book: Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard

Favorite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Sports Team: Cubs

Pets: A little dog named StarBaby, a Ratcha

Dream Vacation: The train ride through Switzerland where you go through the mountains.

Favorite Movie: Once Upon a Time in the West

Color: Pink

Ice Cream: Butter Pecan

Candy: You name it, I love it but candy Kisses are my favorite.

Meal: Indian food, I like their butter chicken.

Favorite Quote: C.S. Lewis. "I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

Subject in School: English

Dinner with: Dallas Willard and Patrick McGoohan. But if I had to pick someone that is alive I can't think of anyone other than my husband.

Fun Fact: I am a super obsessive fan of "The Prisoner."

Dear Saints of Grace,

As we anticipate the season of Advent and Christmas here at Grace, we are again reminded of the many wonderful Grace traditions which lead up to the celebration of Christ's birth. Among them are the preparation of music by our Grace Choir, soloists and instrumentalists, and the Hanging of the Greens.

Regarding the preparation of Advent/Christmas music, anyone is welcome to join our Grace Choir on Sunday mornings at 9:15, prior to 10:00am worship and for rehearsals following worship on selected Sundays, as yet to be determined, even if you don't otherwise sing in the choir. In addition, anyone wishing to share other musical gifts that lend themselves to the festiveness of this time of year is invited to be a part of this musical preparation. If this sounds interesting to you, please be in touch with our Director of Music, Susan Nelson for more information and to sign up.

As for the Hanging of the Greens, we know that the lovely decorations that adorn our church during Advent and Christmas, don't hang themselves. Therefore, we invite you to meet up at Grace on Saturday, November 26, at 9:00am, to join in the fun of preparing our building for the Advent and Christmas season. While no advanced sign-up is necessary, should you need additional information, feel free to be in touch with the

Chair of the Worship & Music Committee, Terry-Ann Saurmann. As a reward for your time and hard work, doughnuts, coffee and juice will be served that morning.

Terry-Ann Saurmann, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

Congratulations to Amy Pracko on participating in and finishing the New York City marathon.

Cookie Walk: Come share your Christmas sweetness at this year’s Jayne Boom Holiday Cookie Walk. This happy yule-tide tradition will be taking place on Sunday, December 18 in Charter Hall following the worship service. Help make this event even better by bringing a bunch of your favorite homemade delights to church on that day. All cookie donations will be merrily and happily appreciated.

Set up for the Cookie Walk: Calling kids of all ages – Santa’s helpers need you to come to church on Saturday, December 17 to help get ready for the cookie walk. Come to Grace on that day any time between 8:30am and noon to help set up Charter Hall and to help make, bake, and decorate bunches of cookies. It’ll be a lot of messy fun. Can’t wait to see you there.

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending October 31, 2022

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 251,250	\$ 234,406	\$ (16,844)
Special Income	28,468	30,104	1,636
Prepaid Income	8,333	9,333	1,000
Total Income	\$ 288,051	\$ 273,843	\$ (14,208)
Expenses thru October	324,034	283,725	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (9,882)	
<i>General Fund Balance 1/1/22</i>		47,829	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (9,882)	
General Fund Balance 10/31/22		\$ 37,947	

It is the “season” when we consider what our financial commitment to Grace will be for 2023. It is also when your finance committee considers budget requirements for 2023. Your responses have kept your Church in a very strong financial position even with Zoom services. Let us continue to work together as we approach the New Year. The RMD to QCD for those who do qualify is an excellent idea to provide a little additional for Gods Work.

Notes of THANKS

Now that “Project Day” has come to an end: Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the ladies who worked on “Project Day” to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and stuffed animals for the Chicago Police Department.

Thanks to all those who donated the yard goods, bed pads, and blankets we used to put the quilts together.

Thanks also to the Reimann’s for delivering the last 38 quilts to the LWR warehouse in Minnesota and to Joanne Coy for her many years of leadership, fellowship, and friendship that these “project” day brought to all of us.

Our Hands; God’s Work, Lynne Dixon and the WELCA Board

Dear Friends at Grace, My name is Michael Semanic and my grandparents, Jim and Judie Bataille, go to Grace Lutheran Church, and I just thought I would pass along my heartfelt gratitude for the box full of candy you guys sent me for Halloween! It’s so much appreciated and is going to keep me happy for a long while.

Thank you so very much! With love, Michael Semanic

Thanks to everyone for the Halloween package. It was really appreciated (by me and my friends). Samantha Nickl

Dear Saints of Grace, Thank you so much for the Halloween candy! It was helpful to munch on while I studied for my midterms! I’m really enjoying college life and doing super well!

Thanks, Andrew Stutheit

Dear Members of Grace, I am very grateful for receiving a box of Halloween candy on behalf of the congregation. I shared the candy with my friends and they all enjoyed it as well as I did. Thank you again for the sweet treats.

-Amy Drelicharz

Thank you all for the Halloween candy! My friends and I have really been enjoying it!

Thanks, Danielle Drelicharz

SPECIAL *Events*

- **The First Sunday in Advent:** Sunday, November 27, Worship at 10:00am
- **The Second Sunday in Advent:** Sunday, December 4, Worship at 10:00am
- **The Third Sunday in Advent:** Sunday, December 11, Worship at 10:00am
- **Advent Evening Prayer:** Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30pm

- **Friendship Group Christmas Luncheon:** Thursday, December 15 at 11:30am
- **The Fourth Sunday in Advent:** Sunday, December 18, Worship at 10:00am
- **Jayne Boom Cookie Walk:** Sunday, December 18 following the worship service
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, December 18, leaving church at 9:00am
- **Grace Preschool Christmas Program:** Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30pm
- **Christmas Eve:** Saturday, December 24, Worship at 4:30pm
- **Christmas Day:** Sunday, December 25, Worship at 10:00am
- **New Year's Day:** Sunday, January 1, 2023, Worship at 10:00am



Birthday LIST

December

4	Joanne Schulze		Jennifer Roth
6	Colton Kochanski	21	AJ Mueller
8	Barb Carlson Daniel Garza	22	Carol Victor
12	Jeremiah Austin Nicole Soukup	23	Sandy Johnson Michael Pirron
13	Amy Pracko	28	Brady Bell
14	Kari Nickl	29	Veronica Grimpe
		...	



CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

Funerals and Memorials

We support one another in our grief through mutual support and the assurance of our faith in Christ's promise of everlasting life.

We extend our sympathy to Mike Drelicharz and family on the death of his sister, Kathy, on October 22, 2022.



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A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America (ELCA)

OUR *Mission AND Vision*

Our mission is to tell the good news of Jesus and touch people with his love.

Our vision is to joyfully praise and serve God, committed to being a church of friendship, openness and diversity.

Staff **DIRECTORY**

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* December 18

