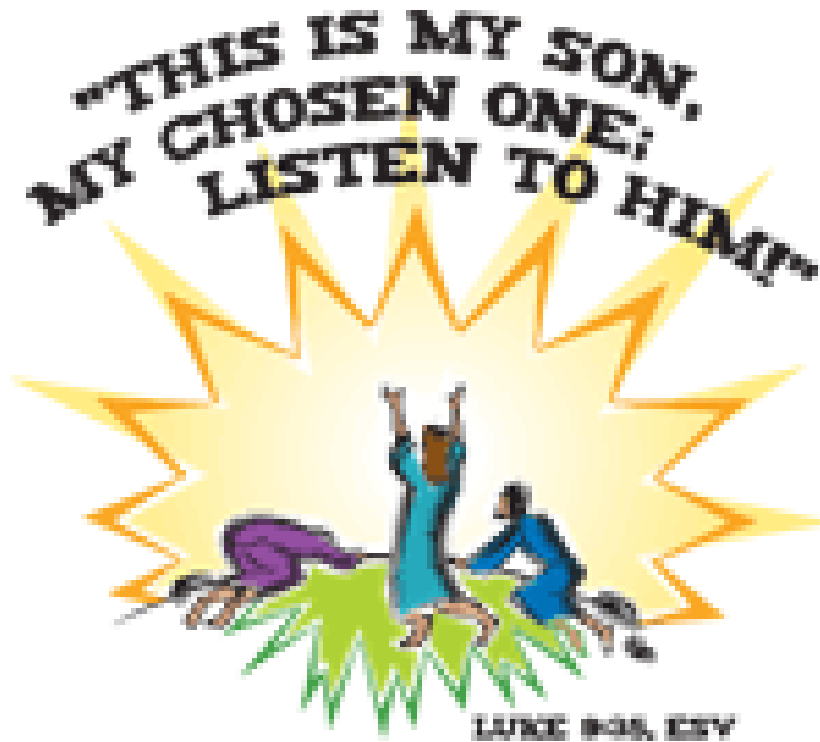


# GRACE NOTES

February 2023



*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 seem to be emerging from a Covid-dominated world to a more “normal” world, I look forward to re-establishing practices that had fallen by the wayside because of various health precautions. Larger fellowship—think Sunday Coffee Hour—and smaller group activities help us to grow together.

In February, we will have two significant occasions: the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5, shortly after worship; and our Ash Wednesday services on February 22. I hope that each of those events—very different from each other—will help us experience the refreshment of living in God’s amazing grace.

At the Congregational Meeting we will have the opportunity to review all the various ministries of Grace over the past year. It’s also a time to rally around a common vision of what our ministry needs to be in the years ahead. I am grateful to council members who are stepping down. And grateful to members who said yes when asked by our Nominating Committee to serve in a leadership role at Grace.

At our two Ash Wednesday services, you will have an opportunity to reflect deeply on your sins, all those times when you failed to do “the next right thing” as some of my friends phrase it. Why focus on our shortcomings? To make new resolutions. To begin a good discipline, like prayer or meditation. Or just mindful breathing. Lent is a great time to give something up. It’s also a good time to add a new habit, if even just for the forty days of Lent. This year we will have a 1:00pm Spoken Ash Wednesday Liturgy with (optional) imposition of Ashes. The Service will be preceded by a potluck luncheon in Charter Hall beginning at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome, even if you don’t have a dish to share. In the evening, at 7:00, we will gather in person and by Zoom for the sung Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Following that service, there will be refreshments in the Parlor and Atrium. All are welcome.

[Scheduling Note: The Third Thursday Fellowship Group will be moved from February 16 to Ash Wednesday, February 22. See above.]

Two very different events, Congregational Meeting and Ash Wednesday. The first raises the question what will Grace do in the coming year to show God’s grace? Ash Wednesday challenges us individually to be intentional about doing our part in sharing God’s abundant grace. Us only works when it’s made up of a whole lot of I’s.

In the love, joy, peace and hope of Jesus,

Pastor Daniel Schwick

P.S. Thanks you for the many cards, texts and e-mail messages supporting me during the week I had Covid. Thanks especially to Michael Pirron and to Pastor Paul Pfeffer who jumped in with only a few days' notice. Kathie and I participated that Sunday by Zoom. I was very impressed by our Zoom presentation and I'm glad we continue to have that resource available to our members and friends who can't be with us physically.

### *Council* **HIGHLIGHTS**

Council Highlights from the January 10, 2023 meeting

- Approved and recommended for Congregational approval the transfer ownership of land located between the creek and Wolf Road to the Park District for \$1. Members will vote on the motion at the February 5 Congregation Meeting.
- Background
  - River Trails Park District (RTPD) would be better stewards of the land east of the creek than Grace. The land will be added to Woodland Trails Park
  - RTPD has an existing relationship with the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Grace has concerns about the erosion of the creek bank on our property. The relationship between RTPD and the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District will be a positive step for discussion of our erosion concerns.
  - Grace has been relying on RTPD for the care and maintenance of the land east of the creek for many years.
  - Grace has no plans for the use of the land east of the creek
  - Church Council, Property Committee, Green Team and Finance Committee support this decision.
  - RTPD did not ask to purchase this property, but its board is interested in this property for \$1.

### *Annual Congregational Meeting*

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 5, 2023 following the worship service at 11:15am. The Annual Reports packet including the proposed 2023 budget will be available on January 29.

## 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*

**The Third Thursday Fellowship Group:** is moving to Wednesday, February 22. We will have a potluck luncheon at 11:30am in Charter Hall. There will be a Spoken Ash Wednesday service following the luncheon at 1:00pm. Watch the bulletin for more details.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

**Bible Study:** The lively and informative study of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) has been extended into the first three Wednesdays in February. We are exploring the significant differences among the four Gospels. They're all telling the most important story ever told. Why so many differences? Does it make a difference? No prior Bible Study experience is necessary. Just curious minds! The Wednesday Night Bible Study is at 7pm by Zoom. Even if you haven't participated in a prior session, feel free to join us ANY Wednesday evening.

**Wired Word:** We meet on 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 lively and respectful discussion. New participants are always welcome. To prepare for each session, just pick up the Wired Word packet from the shelf outside the church office or ask Barb to e-mail you the packet.

## 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. Future dates are February 26, 2023 and March 19, 2023.

**Valentine Care Packages:** The Social Ministry Committee is once again collecting treats for our college kids. They enjoy both sweet and salty treats. Bring your donations to church by Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee will pack the treats for delivery. If you'd like to donate money to pay for goodies or the shipping, please send your donation to church marked "College Care Packages". Thanks for your continued support.

**A Season of Hope:** This Lent, we're putting God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Across the globe, families have been suffering from compounding crises such as war, violence, natural disasters, disease and extreme weather. We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: a **Season of Hope**. The Social Ministry Committee is excited to ask your help in this project as a community during our Lenten journey this year. We are asking for enough materials to make 20 kits.

- Bath Towels – light-weight, maximum 52" x 27" in dark colors
- Toothbrushes – adult size, in original packaging
- Nail Clippers – metal, attached file optional
- Bars of Soap – 4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- Combs – sturdy, wide-toothed

The Committee would like all items to church by April 2, 2023. Look for the collection baskets in the East entryway starting February 26, 2023. Thanks for your support.

**Food Pantries:** The local food pantries are having trouble keeping up with the demand. Please help by placing food items in the basket provided at the east entry and/or marking your check for "food pantry" and the Social Ministry Committee will see that they receive the funds. Thank you!

**AROUND** *the Parish*

**Saints of Grace**



Name: Barb Willis

D.O.B: February 10

Member: I am a Charter Member and was on the planning committee for the first service.

Favorite Memory of Grace: Too many to have a specific favorite one but I would say that one of my favorite things about the church is the friendships that I have made here.

Pastors I've worked with: 7 pastors and 2 interim.

Favorite Part of the Service: The music.

Favorite Part of the church: My messy office.

Currently live: Mt. Prospect

Spouse: Harvey Willis (RIP)

Children: Margit (64), Mike (60), Matt (58), Kari (55). 4 grandchildren, LaRee (30), Alex (22), Samantha (21), Megan (17).

Siblings: 2 sisters and a brother who passed.

Occupation: Secretary of Grace Lutheran for 63 years. At the very beginning I didn't even have an office. I was in a corner in the youth room, then I was in the corner of Charter Hall. I got into the interim office just before I moved into the office that we have now.

College: Augustana in Rock Island and majored in Secretarial Science.

Favorite Season: Spring

Pets: Had cats and dogs when the kids were growing up. Harvey loved animals.

Favorite Book: I really enjoy reading but to pick out a favorite would be hard. Right now I am reading a World War 2 based fiction. I read a lot of heavy novels and in between I will pick an easy read like a romance novel.

Favorite Bible Verse: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118, Verse 24.

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Hobbies: Reading, singing (I sing in the church choir), and word games like crosswords and word seeks.

Favorite Car: A chevy van that I used to have that fit everyone. Otherwise, I feel that a car is a car.

Favorite Sound: Music. I like light classics.

Best Vacation: Harvey and I went to Hawaii a few times, so one of those trips.

Movie: I am not a big movie person but I did go to the movie theater to see "It's a Wonderful Life" for the very first time.

Color: Light Blue

Ice Cream: Butter Pecan and I love the ice cream shop Whitey's in Moline where I grew up.

Candy: Caramels

Meal: Teriyaki Chicken from Jameson's in Mt. Prospect.

Dinner with: I would like to have dinner with my husband again.  
If I won the lottery: I would share it with my kids.

**From the Des Plaines Journal. 1/4/23:** The Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) recently released the names of students who earned ILMEA All-State honors. One of the students honored is Addison Stutheit. Congratulations, Addison!

**Special Birthdays:** Joanne Coy turns 92 on February 23. Please send her birthday greetings at 1624 Greenwood Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Happy Birthday, Joanne!

**Did You Order** your Saints of Grace Spirit Wear yet? Orders are due now. Contact Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine at 847-917-3636 (texts are okay) for more information or to place your order.

### *Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank You** from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and support of the students and families of District 21. We are so thankful of our partnership with you and Grace Lutheran Church. From backpacks, to school supplies to gift cards, you have supported our students in a tremendous way. I hope you and everyone at Grace Lutheran Church have a wonderful and happy holiday and New Year!

Lauren Schmidt, LCSW, Community Consolidated School District 21

**Thank You** for your support of Mallternative. With your gifts we were able to purchase:

- 11 sets of 10 chicks
- 19 hives of honey bees
- 4 piglets (by special request, they were not on our order list)
- 5 goats
- 15 health clinic visits for a child
- 6 days of trauma counseling
- 4 hygiene kits
- 4 kits of personal protective equipment
- 7 vaccines for a child
- 2 stocked health clinics
- 13 months of nutrition for a child
- 6 water filters
- 7 weeks of meals for a refugee family
- 4 weeks of supplies for a disaster survivor

That's a total of \$2,775 in donations.

Dear Grace Lutheran Church

Thank you for your gift of \$1,472.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters here in the

United States and across the globe. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

In Christ, Amanda White, Director, Congregational Generosity, ELCA

## *Birthday* LIST

### **February**

3	Winston Nirmal	15	Dorothy Martinson Cindy Menelle
6	Dan Kjeldbjerg	18	Elyse Bell Dan Sacco
7	Rachael Rogers	21	Karen Gretz Jordan Nagle
8	Jenna Swiatkiewicz	22	Amy Hammond Daniel Schwick
9	Viola Wiebe	23	Joanne Coy
10	Cheryl Ellertson Barbara Willis	24	Carolyn Garza
11	Max Schulze	29	Thomas Roth
13	Dee Randmark		
14	Kerri Cordier David Hanson		





## CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

### ***Weddings***

Couples promise their faithfulness to one another as we surround them with our prayers for God's blessings in their marriage.

Congratulations to Mallory Volocyk and Tom Rawski who were married at Grace on December 31, 2022.

### ***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 Judy Bataille and family on the death of her husband "Ranger" Jim Bataille on December 21, 2022

We extend our sympathy to Michael Pirron and family on the death of his mother Georgia Pirron on January 3, 2023.

We extend our sympathy to the family of founding pastor The Rev. Albert Weidlich who died on January 13, 2023 in Decatur, IL. Funeral services were held in Decatur on January 20, 2023. Pastor Al was 93 years old.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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## 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.

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## Staff **DIRECTORY**

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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* February 12