

GRACE NOTES

January 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**

Starting anew. Again!



Dear Saints of Grace,

Yes, the seasons come and the seasons go. One year flows into another. And another. And another. Only one thing remains from season to season, from year to year, from generation to generation, and from age to age: GOD'S LOVE!

In the sequence of our Scripture reading on Christmas Eve we heard story after story of God's faithfulness to Israel even in the face of their unfaithfulness. We read these ancient stories not to relive ancient unfaithfulness but to be reminded of our own. And to be reminded that despite our unfaithfulness, God's faithfulness to God's promises continues. God loved us in the beginning. God loves us now. God promises to love us through all eternity. Some things never change.

But some things DO change. Sometimes we are leery of change. Sometimes we leap at the opportunity to do new things. In every time and every place and every age since the beginning of the Church, we have evolved how we express the unchanging gospel of God's love. The Church, at its best, has always embraced the challenges of new times and new ways of understanding the world. We are currently challenged to bring a word of hope and promise to an age that is filled with anxiety and foreboding. More people are migrating from their homelands all around the globe. More parts of the Earth are threatened by climate change. We sense a growing global trend toward authoritarian governments.

But God has not given up on this God-beloved world. And neither will we! We—the Church as a whole and individual Christians - can be beacons of hope, love, justice and compassion. We can proclaim our gospel-centered values **IN WORD AND DEED**.

Let this year, 2023, be the year that we at Grace take a hard look at our story—past, present and future. Let this be the year that we lead with the Gospel, letting all around us know that they - like us - are loved by a loving and forgiving God, a God who longs to embrace all creation in that love.

What's your new year's resolution? How will you let your light shine?

In Christ's love, joy, peace and hope.

Pastor Daniel Schwick

Council HIGHLIGHTS

Council Highlights from the November 29, 2022 meeting

- Announcements at end of Church Service should be limited to 30 seconds
- Advent Offering sent in equal amounts to Wheeling Township Food Pantry and Mount Prospect Food Pantry
- Two Council Member are stepping off Church Council - Our thanks to Margit Willis for serving for six years and Amy Pracko for three years on Church Council. Sharyl Hanna has agreed to be nominated for 2nd three-year term
- Audit Committee for 2022 finances – Greg Linwood, Scott Pracko and Jennifer Stutheit
- Approved moving forward with La Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana Mount Prospect use of Grace Church if requirement of insurance policy met – use will start on Sunday December 18
- Living Green II - Saturday May 20th – Green Team will lead with help from committees and church members
- Preschool continues to look for a substitute teacher to cover for a pregnancy leave
- Next Church Council meeting January 10th - – focus on 2023 budget and Nominations for Congregation Meeting
- Annual Congregation Meeting – Sunday February 5, 2023 - 11:15 am – In person - Charter Hall

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 Seniors Fellowship in January will take place on—you guessed it—the **Third Thursday** of January. That's the 19th. We'll gather for fellowship and refreshments at 12:30 and will begin our "program" at 1:00. There will be two major foci

for the gathering. First, is learning why “Care for Creation” is a key theme in the life and ministry of Grace. Part of that discussion will be simple ways that we consumers can help protect the environment. The second focus will be on the sustainability of the monthly seniors fellowship meetings without the staff, Pam Walger, who used to organize them. Can we rely on volunteers? Can we rely on you?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on January 4th when we will begin a four-week study of the significant differences among the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They’re all telling the most important story ever told. Why so many differences? Does it make a difference? No prior Bible Study experience necessary. Just curious minds! The Wednesday Night Bible Study is by Zoom only and begins at 7:00pm.

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 January 22, 2023. Future dates are February 26, 2023 and March 19, 2023.

Food Pantries: Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantries. The need is still great. Both non-perishable food items and paper goods are needed. The grocery cart is in the east entry way for your donations. Or, monetary donations to Grace will be used to get gift certificates for the pantries to distribute.

AROUND *the Parish*

Saints of Grace

Name: Curt Carlson

D.O.B: March 12, 1937

Member: Since 1968 (maybe)

Grew Up: Chicago and then Norwood Park Township

Currently live: Mt. Prospect

Schooling: St. Paul Lutheran school in Norwood Park Township, then to Penoyer, and then Maine Township High school which is now Maine East. And North Park college.

College of Advanced Traffic downtown and took courses in transportation and distribution.

Siblings: Only child

Spouse: Betty
 Children: 2 sons. Chris (50) and David (47)
 Favorite Memory of GL: The people and what the church is providing for us.
 Occupation: Retired. I used to work for Avon Products and then to John Crane Packing Company for 35 years. Then for a short while I worked for San Fillipo as their Assistant Traffic Manager. Lastly as a claims manager for New Age.
 Greatest Accomplishment: Becoming an ICC practitioner
 Favorite Pastime: Hunting, fishing, golf and bowling.
 Favorite Season: Fall
 Favorite Scent: Chocolate
 Favorite Sound: Country Music
 Favorite Book: Any good detective mystery book
 Favorite Bible Verse: They are all good.
 Favorite Holiday: Christmas
 Sports Team: I loved the Cubs until they gave everyone away. Bears fan until they got rid of Mike Ditka so now I'm a Packers fan. (It physically hurt me to type this.) Went to a golf outing and was told to go to cart 3 and my golf partner was Gordy Howe from the Detroit Red Wings. Received 2 signed autographed books for my sons.
 Pets: A dog named Rocky (16 1/2) Jack Russell Terrier
 Dream Vacation: Our safari in Africa
 Dream Car: Chevy Blazers
 Movie: Any cowboy western
 Favorite Song: Canadian Sunset
 Color: Turquoise Blue
 Ice Cream: Chocolate Sundae or Moosetracks
 Candy: Hershey bars and Milky Way, Nestle Crunch and Reece's Peanut Butter Cups
 Meal: 20 ounce Prime Rib dinner, baked potato, salad and ice cream for dessert.
 Subject in School: Economics and Chemistry
 Dinner with: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln
 Fun Fact: Senior year of high school I joined the Illinois air national guard unit 126 fighter interceptor group, March 1955.

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending November 30, 2022

Weekly Envelope Income	\$276,375	\$ 273,132	\$ (3,243)
Special Income	31,314	32,769	1,455
Prepaid Income	9,167	10,167	1,000
Total Income	\$316,856	\$ 316,068	\$ (788)
Expenses thru November	356,425	315,431	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 637	
<i>General Fund Balance 1/1/22</i>		47,829	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 637	
General Fund Balance 11/30/22		\$ 48,466	

We approach the end of another year in very good financial position. Christmas reminds us of the new beginning for Christians with the birth of Jesus. Let us finish the year with Thanks for all we have been provided and given. Let us start the New Year with renewed Faith as we celebrate His birth.

Attention! Online Givers

As we enter the New Year, we will have a new provider for our Online Giving Service. This is required as our previous provider is discontinuing their services. The new provider will be Vanco Services whom we have had before. This new service appears on Grace's website under the Give page as well as the cover page. Also, below is the direct link to the Grace donation page to set up your user ID and password for your Online giving.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8FN/home>

This will take you direct to our donation page. If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact Jerry Sharlog at 847-253-0636 for assistance. We thank you for your support and this will hopefully make it easier for you.

Notes of **THANKS**

Dear Grace, I would like to say thank you for the Scholarship and the Halloween box. Both have great to me here at school.

Thanks, Connor Dietrich

A big thank you to everyone who brought, baked and decorated for this year's Jayne Boom cookie walk. A special thanks to Daniel, Connor and Derrick Ellertson; Addison and Andrew Stuttheit; Tom, Jen, Thomas, Noah and Hannah Roth and Megan Nickl for getting together on Saturday and baking hundreds of beautiful holiday cookies. It was lots of fun. Thanks also to Debbie Bodett, Betty Carlson, Sandy, Danielle and Amy Drelicharz and Steve and Sharyl Hanna for helping to set up and run the walk on Sunday. And thank you to everyone who donated cookies or came to the walk. Your kindness and generosity helped the kid's ministries raise over 600 dollars.

Thanks, Margit Willis

Thank You from the staff of Grace for your Christmas gifts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

2022 Holiday Greetings from Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry --- We wish you a Blessed, Beautiful and Bountiful Holiday Season! May the Lord bless you and may His light shine upon you – all year long! Thank you, friends, for your support and collaboration with LCC Pantry – all year long! Sincerely, Debbie, Lori, Julie – LCC Pantry Co-Directors, Arlington Heights.

Birthday **LIST**

January

3	Don Linder		Jeanne Weidner
4	Greg Linwood	24	Julie Walger
10	Ryoko Howell	25	Judith Bataille
12	Anita Taylor	26	Lori Drodz Alec Garza
16	Bob Holzer		
19	Bernadette Dalton	31	Harmon Loeb





Nonprofit

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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*

Pastor: Daniel Schwick
d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org

Church Secretary: Barbara Willis
b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Music: Susan Nelson
sopranosusannelson@gmail.com

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Gracedirector1624@gmail.com

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* January 15