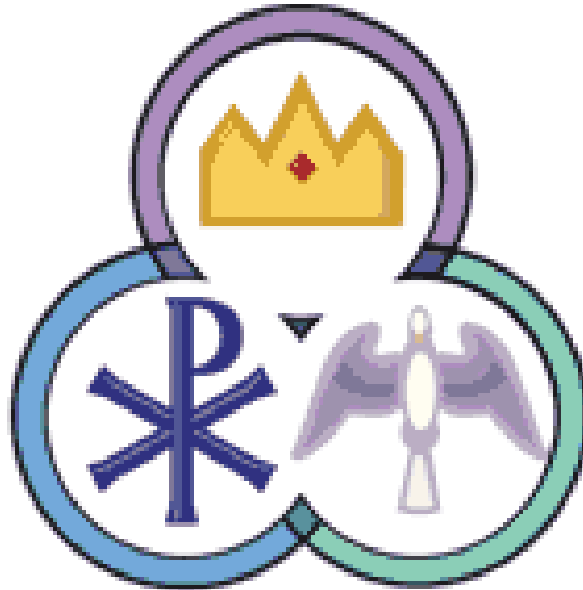


GRACE NOTES

June 2023



THREE IN ONE

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

through

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

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and Learning
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A Note FROM THE PASTOR

A Green Season that Lasts a Long Time



Dear Saints of Grace,

You may be aware that the Church Calendar is different from the twelve-month calendar that we use in our everyday lives. The Church Calendar is divided into several seasons--Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. That only takes up half of a calendar year. The second half of the Church Calendar begins the Sunday after Pentecost (this year, June 4). For the next five months, we will be in the Green Season of the Church. During this time of growth and rooting and flowering and fruiting in our Grace Garden, our Scripture readings will point us in the direction of intentional and sustainable stewardship of our own bodies, our families, our communities and our planet.

This is not some new thing in Christianity. The commitment to personal growth and living in community were signs of the early Christian community as we will read in Scripture.

Our Living Green Expo is a hands-on, shout-it-out-loud-to-our-community event that proclaims our fundamental values—Care of People and the rest of God’s good creation. We have successfully connected the dots between our small garden effort and the actual women, men and children who receive the vegetables from our garden. And we have connected care of nature to care of humans. That’s a great statement to make!

Now the follow up begins. It’s obvious that throughout the growing and harvesting season, many hands will be needed to weed, water, prune, stake, etc. our garden. We hope that throughout the summer, our preschool kids and others who planted a bean plant at the Expo will stop by to see the growth. To encourage that, our Council has approved the return of **Wednesday Night Live** on three evenings this summer—the last Wednesday of June, July and August. Plan to join us—outdoors, weather permitting—for song, scripture, meditation, prayer and an activity for children. And there will, of course, be snacks. Details will be in the weekly pink sheet.

Also, in keeping with the theme of caring for ourselves and the Earth, everyone is invited to a four-week study of the national bestseller ***BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants***, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book study will be on four consecutive Thursday nights in June (8, 15, 22, 29) at 7:00 and will be by Zoom only. Pastor Kathie Bender Schwich will be the discussion leader. If you would like to participate but need help getting a copy of the book, please let Barb know so we can make accommodation.

The Wednesday Night Bible Study in June will also focus on stewardship and conservation themes in the Old and New Testaments. You might be surprised how important a theme it is in Scripture! Wednesday Night Bible Study is by Zoom only. It

begins at 7:00pm. The Wednesday Night Bible Study is usually recorded and available on our beautifully update website the following day. That way, even if you have to miss a particular session, you can “catch up,” just like we do with “Succession” and our other favorite shows!

Very shortly, you will see a new banner in front of our church. It proclaims: LOVE GROWS HERE!

Love grows here because we nurture it, we tend to each other and to the world. I encourage you, throughout this growing season, to feed yourself. To stretch. To grow.

In the love, joy, peace and hope of Jesus,
Pastor Daniel Schwick

P.S. The plants that now festoon our worship space, are my gift to Grace in honor of our more than five years of partnership in ministry. The Council authorized the gift last fall. It is intended as a pilot project lasting six months. During that time, I will care for the plants. (Any “green thumbs” out there that want to help would be appreciated.) At the end of six months, the Council—with input from the congregation—will decide whether to continue to use plants extensively in our worship space and, if so, how to accomplish that. One possibility would be to organize a reliable group in the congregation to care for the plants. Another possibility would be to contract with a vendor for the care of the plants. Your input will be appreciated!

COUNCIL *Highlights*

Council Highlights from the April 25, 2023 meeting:

- Ad hoc committee of Jerry Sharlog, Bill Rovani, Pastor Dan Schwick, and Iris Notto will review the Grace property covered by the insurance policy before renewing the property policy.
- After demonstration of the draft website, Council approved going live with Grace’s new website.
- Easter breakfast went well with 65 people attending. The vibe in the room was really good. New dishwasher was used and required 2 hours to complete the wash cycle.
- Approved an ad hoc group to explore Reconciling in Christ. This is the process of creating a place of acceptance and safety for all and affirming such. Michael Pirron has agreed to lead the group.
- Volunteers are needed for the May 20 Living Green Expo 10:00am to 2:00pm. Training sessions will be provided for the volunteers.
- Discussed the need for ushers and greeters. Training session scheduled for May 7 after the church service.
- Wednesday Night Live will be the last Wednesday of the month for June, July and August.
- Preschool hired a third teacher for the next school year.

- Next meeting 05-23-2023 at 7:00pm.

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

Wednesday Night Live: Koin us on the last Wednesday of June, July and August for an outdoor (weather permitting) worship service and fellowship. There will be crafts and activities for the children. Watch the bulletin for more information and times.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Wired Word: Wired Word is our weekly discussion group in which we focus on a particular current event and look at it from a Christian perspective. An optional weekly reading assignment helps to focus the discussion. Materials are available on the shelf outside the church office or ask Barb to email you the packet. We meet on Wednesdays at 1:00pm either in person or on Zoom.

Bible Study: Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm on Zoom for insights into the scriptures we share. The June focus is on stewardship and conservation themes in the Bible.

June Book Discussion: In keeping with Grace's focus on Caring for Creation, and as we head into gardening season, please join Pastor Kathie Bender Schwich for a discussion of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will meet via Zoom from 7:00-8:00pm on Thursday evenings in June. A national bestseller, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, has been described by author Jane Goodall as "showing how factual, objective approach of science can be enriched by the ancient knowledge of indigenous people" and by author Elizabeth Gilbert as "a description of the natural world from a place of such abundant passion that one can never quite see the world that same way after seeing it through Kimmerer's eyes." Chapter titles include "The Gift of

Strawberries,” “Epiphany in the beans,” and “People of Corn, People of Light.” The book is available in both written and audio format.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Volunteers Needed: So much of the work of Grace goes on “behind the scenes.” None of that happens automatically. It all relies on volunteers, each doing his or her small or large task on behalf of us all. Please consider signing up for any of the areas of service noted on the charts in the Atrium. If you’re curious about a particular area of service but want more information, please speak with Pastor Dan or any member of the Church Council. We’re in this together!

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. The next dinner is June 25, 2023.

Hygiene Kits: The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting items to fill Hygiene Kits that LSSI distributes to women leaving the prison system in Illinois. The kits include the following items assembled in a one-gallon Ziploc bag:

- Toothpaste, 6 ounces
- Toothbrush
- Deodorant, 2.6 ounces
- Feminine wipes, 20-count box
- Moisturizing lotion, 2.5 – 2.7 ounces
- Small nail clippers
- Small wide-toothed comb
- 10 band-aid (in a small plastic bag, for packing)

Please bring your donations to church by June 25th and place them in the collection box in the Atrium.

School Supplies: The Social Ministry Committee is asking for your help to fill backpacks for local students and for students on the Rosebud Reservation. District 21 got a grant to cover school supplies except for backpacks. We would like to donate 10 backpacks to them. We would like to fill 10 backpacks for each School District 26 and Rosebud. If it’s easier for you, monetary donations would be graciously accepted. They are asking for backpacks, crayons (24 in a pack), markers (10 in a pack), colored pencils (12 in a pack), child-sized scissors, Elmer’s glue, pink erasers, #2 pencils (12 in a pack), 12-inch rulers, 2-pocket folders, highlighters, pencil cases and blue or black pens. Items can be brought to church through July 30, 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 grocery cart 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: Scott Pracko

D.O.B: April 2, 1967

Member: From about 22 years.

Favorite Memory of Grace: Both my kids' baptisms.

Spouse: Amy

Currently live: Mt. Prospect and grew up there, too.

Children: Matthew(20) and Samantha(22)

Siblings: 1 brother Bryan(58)

Related to: Curt and Betty Carlson (My aunt and uncle) and that is how we got associated with Grace.

Occupation: I am a production and logistics manager for Hose Monster.

College: University of Illinois

Degree: Engineering

Favorite Season: I like them all. I like a nice 100 degree day and I don't mind a foot of snow.

Pets: 2 dogs: Alli(8) Shepherd beagle and a yellow lab hound mix named Cooper(4).

Favorite Scent: The smell of the swimming pool in my backyard.

Favorite Holiday: Christmas, without a doubt. I love the food, the decorations.

Biggest Accomplishment: Having and raising a family. I also feel graduating from college was a big accomplishment.

Favorite Sports Team: Cubs, Bulls, Bears, Blackhawks

Hobbies: Collecting baseball cards. A few years ago I was doing softball, gymnastics in high school, volleyball and I go on a golf trip every year with my friends from college.

Favorite Car: A 67 convertible mustang

Favorite Sound: A nice full orchestra or a big band

Favorite Song: I love all the old Christmas Songs and I like to listen to rock music, like Styxx and Boston.

Best Vacation: Our honeymoon to Hawaii

Movie: History of the World Part 1 and A Few Good Men

Color: Cubbie Blue

Ice Cream: Rainbow Sherbet

Candy: Chocolate

Meal: My mom's homemade Beef Stroganoff.

Dinner with: Ernie Banks and Walter Payton

If I won the lottery: I would not work another day in my life. I would do things that I enjoy

more. I would be able to donate my time more to things I care about.

Motto: A sound mind and a sound body.

Fun Fact: I have over 100,000 baseball cards and Amy and I met on a blind date.

Special Birthday: Jackie Pracko turns 91 on June 2nd. Please send her birthday greetings at 207 N Straton Ln, Mt Prospect, IL 60056-2619. Happy Birthday, Jackie!

Proclamation: The Village of Mount Prospect recently acknowledged the contributions of Richard Rogers for his thirty-three years of public service to the Village. Rich recently retired as trustee, an elected position he held since 2015. Rich held positions on the Sign Review Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Noise Review Committee of the Chicago Executive Airport, and the Northwest Municipal Conference's Finance Committee. Congratulations, Rich, and thank you for your serve.

Safety Committee Reminder: With severe weather predictions this time of year (thunderstorms, tornados, flooding, earthquakes), it is important that when at church we follow the directions of the ushers and members of the safety committee on the actions to be taken to avoid injury.

Tornadoes & severe thunderstorms

Move to areas of building away from windows - bathrooms, storage room, west hallway avoiding windows as much as possible.

Earthquakes

Drop, cover, and hold. Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to exit. (Under the pews is a safe place to take cover.)

College Scholarships: At this point, finals have concluded and most graduation ceremonies are over. Now, the graduation celebrations are on-going! It is also time to start planning for those going to college in the fall. Whether you are a freshman leaving home for the first time or a seasoned veteran, Grace Lutheran Church is again awarding scholarships to the college bound members of Grace. If you are interested in being considered for a scholarship, the application has been attached to the electronic version of Grace Notes (the church office has printed versions of the application, as well). The applications can be returned via US Mail to the Church office, emailed or dropped off in person to the church office. The due date for the applications is Noon on Sunday, June 25th. Interviews will be scheduled during the month of July. We plan to conduct the interviews in person and via Zoom, as needed. Any Grace members attending post-secondary school is eligible for the Grace Scholarship for up to 5 years.

FINANCIAL *Report*

Financial Report ending April 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 98,668	\$ 94,403	\$ (4,265)
Special Income	16,000	18,186	(2,186)
Prepaid Income	3,332	3,333	1
Total Income	\$ 118,000	\$ 115,922	\$ (2,078)
Expenses thru April	133,311	123,355	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (7,433)	
<i>General Fund Balance 1/1/23</i>		46,296	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (7,433)	
General Fund Balance 4/30//23		\$ 38,863	

The Lenten and Easter seasons are past. How fast the years go by, and the people of Grace have continued their strong support of their Church. We enter the “Summer Months” with renewed faith that God will continue to provide for our needs as its people have done. Again, we adopted a very ambitious budget at our annual meeting in February and will require that we all maintain a strong giving pattern. Thank you for your support.

As always, “God Loves the Cheerful Giver!”

Notes of THANKS

Thank you to David and Cindy Hanson who have been delivering our collection of food items to the various food pantries we support.

Wow! The Social Ministry Committee asked for your help to assemble 20 *A Season of Hope* kits. We received enough items to assemble 46 kits. Thank you for your generosity. In this time of crisis overseas, the kits are really needed.

Thank you for all the baked goods you donated for the Social Ministry Committee’s Mother’s Day Bake Sale. Most of the baked goods sold. Those cookies left were frozen and will be used at the Living Green Expo. As of this writing, \$563.00 was received. The funds will be used to support District 21 summer programs and the River Trails Park District Foundation (for pool passes or classes at the park district).

Thank You from the Social Ministry Committee for your generous donations to Buck-a-Chick. \$151.00 will be sent to ELCA World Hunger to buy chicks for a family in need who will get eggs to eat and sell at the market.

Greetings in Christ,

I am writing to thank the generous folks of Mt. Prospect for their generous gifts to the ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Your generosity is certainly worth celebrating! Thank you.

ELCA World Hunger works in partnership with a vast network of partners across the globe. It is because of this sustained trust that the ELCA is able to accompany those who are hungry due to conflict, climate change, and unjust systems, and show up to help those who suffer when disaster strikes. Thank you for being part of the body of Christ's work in the world.

Amanda White, Director, Congregational Generosity
Office of the Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Dear Friends of the Pantry,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. You are helping local residents who are food insecure and as a result, strengthening our community.

As costs for everyday items continue to rise, we are committed to ensuring that no one in our township has to make the difficult choice between paying rent or utilities or buying gas or food. This is made possible by the generosity of people just like you.

No matter what challenges our residents face, your support ensures that we can provide food, personal hygiene items, household products and gift cards to those in need today and in the future.

On behalf of our neighbors who benefit from your compassion, thank you for your dedication to our community. Together we are making a difference.

Kind regards, Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Township Supervisor

Dear Grace,

Thank you for supporting the Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry with your generous check of \$250 in March! Your donation helps us to service the food insecure folks in our area who rely on us for assistance during these trying times. We are so appreciative – you help enable us to continue to serve others throughout the year when we are open weekly on Tuesdays.

Sincerely, Debbie Paddack, Lori Becker, Julie Malin, Co-Directors,
Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry

Thank You. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) would like to thank the congregation for participating in LSSI's Good Shepherd Sunday. You are an important part of our work and ministry, and we appreciate all that you do to help us serve our neighbors in Illinois.

Birthday LIST

June

2	Marge Hagemann Jackie Pracko	12	Laura Bell
4	Peggy Gosell Michael Hanson	14	Betty Carlson Connor Dietrich
5	Alan Rogers	15	Amy Drelicharz
7	Tom Roth Jerry Sharlog	19	Bill Rovani
9	Jennifer Josten	20	Jerry Riordan
11	Pete Varley	25	Suzanne Walger
		29	Nick Kochanski ...





EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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www.gracemtprospect.org
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in America (ELCA)

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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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ARTICLE *Deadline:* June 18