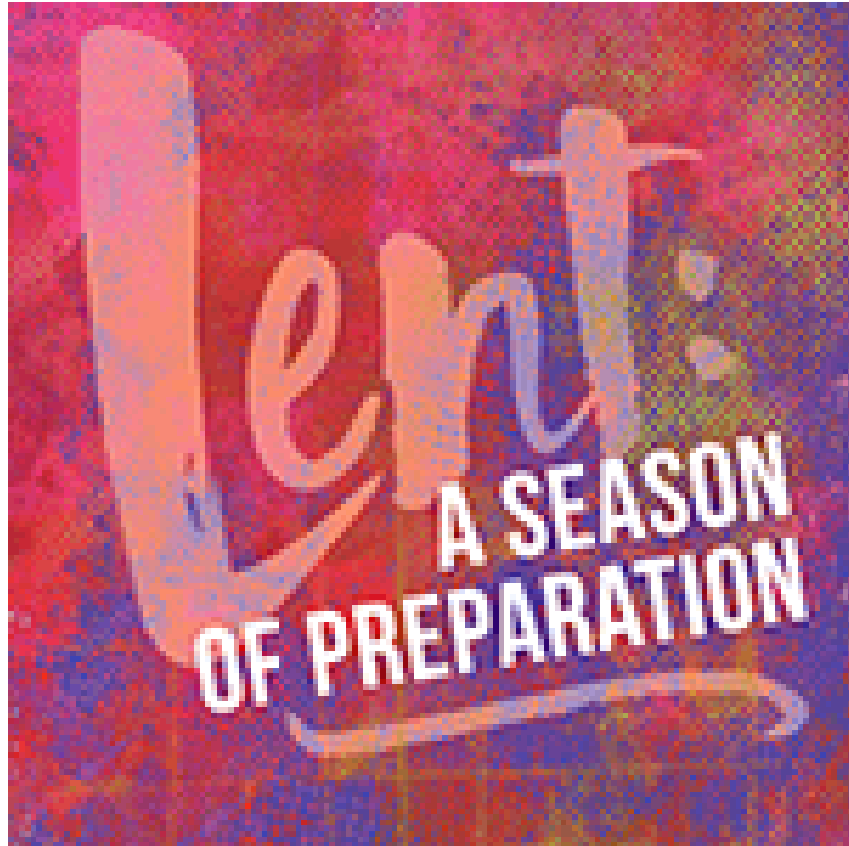


GRACE NOTES

March 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:



First, I want to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers for my family and me at the death of my brother, Rob. He, like all of us who have been baptized, heard God's promise never to abandon us, not even in death. I believe that Rob now lives in the fulfillment of that promise.

Lent, this year, falls almost entirely in the month of March. It starts on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and concludes with Holy Week in the first week of April. All of this is in preparation for our annual celebration of the heart of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God!

The old English word from which we get "Lent," originally meant "spring." The month of March is well-known as a time of transition from winter to spring. Here in the Midwest, we know that the threat of cold weather and even snow continues into April and even sometimes into May. By the end of March, we are ready to celebrate that winter is (mostly) behind us!

Lent is also a time of transition and even new growth. We look forward to the Easter celebration that is coming but we also know that we aren't there yet. We can't get to Easter until we have "walked with Jesus" to the cross and the tomb.

Since the early years of Christianity, Lent has been seen as a time for new growth, a deeper understanding of God's will, and a renewed commitment on our part to actively participate in God's plan to redeem the whole creation.

This Lent, in addition to regular Sunday worship—in-person or by Zoom—Grace will offer two opportunities for personal growth. On Wednesday evenings, we will meet virtually (by Zoom) to focus on one of the greatest "gems" in all of Scripture, the 23rd Psalm ("The Lord is my Shepherd...") During each of our Lenten midweek services, we'll use Holden Evening Prayer with reflections on sections of the psalm. Yes, you will hear the whole psalm at every service. Perhaps by Holy Week, you will have memorized it!

For the final Lenten Midweek Service we will gather in-person and by Zoom at 7:30pm. A pot luck supper will precede the service, beginning at 6:30. You are invited but not required to bring a dish to share. If for any reason, that doesn't work for you, please plan to come to dinner anyway!

The second midweek offering this Lent will be on four consecutive Thursdays in March (9, 16, 23 and 30). It will be a book discussion group by Zoom only, beginning at 7:00 pm. The book to be discussed this Lent is *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*, by the Reverend Otis Moss III, pastor of Trinity United

Church of Christ on the South side of Chicago. Renowned Christian writer and organizer, Jim Wallis says about the book: "Moss takes the words from our Scriptures and prophetically applies them to our most urgent moral battles and choices in ways that make the Bible come alive again." The book is just over a hundred pages and is available from Amazon and other booksellers. I look forward to our discussion!

May YOUR Lenten journey be filled with grace and hope. And above all, LOVE!

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

ANNUAL MEETING *Highlights*

The 65th Annual Meeting of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was held on February 5, 2023.

- Sharyl Hanna, Dan Reimann and Scott Pracko were elected to church council.
- Tom Carlson and Terry Saurmann were elected to the Endowment Committee.
- Minda Josten, Greg Linwood, Scott Pracko, Bill Rovani, Pete Varley and Margit Willis were appointed to the Nominating Committee.
- The reports of all the standing committees were approved.
- The proposed budget for 2023 was approved as presented.
- The congregation approved a motion to sell the property owned east of the creek to the River Trails Park District for \$1.00.
- The congregation approved a motion presented by Michael Pirron to have the council to start the process of looking into the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) initiative from the ELCA.
- There is a new member portal for Grace members to log into to update contact information and post pictures for a pictorial directory. Information will be sent out to members with more details and instructions.

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 *Learning*

Illinois Pathways to Health by AgeOptions offers free health and wellness classes for seniors. The classes include self-management, falls prevention, wellness, and caregiver support. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/3pd65jd5>.

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*

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.

Buck-a-Chick: There will be flyers at church on Palm Sunday and Easter for donations to the Buck-a-Chick program of the ELCA. If you will not be at church on one of those Sundays, please consider making a donation to help a family raise chicks for sale and for food for their table. Donations may be sent to church and marked for Buck-a-Chick. Thank you for your continued support.

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 March 19, 2023.

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

Birthday Card Shower: In honor of our members who are 90 or older, we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes to brighten their special day. On March 9 Martha Jasniowski will celebrate her 91st birthday. Birthday greetings can be sent to Martha at 1280 Village Drive, Apt. 121A, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. On March 12 Arlene Kieffer celebrates her 92nd birthday. Greetings can be sent to Arlene at Aspired Living, 708 N Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. On March 23 Mary Jo Menelle celebrates her 90th birthday. Send greetings to Mary Jo at 1907 Kiowa Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Happy Birthday Martha, Arlene, Mary Jo!!!

Saints of Grace



Name: Jane Hartfelder

D.O.B: November 8

Member: Around 15 years, I used to be a part of the Greek Orthodox church St. Andrew's.

Grew Up: In Wisconsin until I was 4 then moved to Evanston.

Currently live: Wheeling

Schooling: Graduated from ETS and went to college for one year and then got married.

Siblings: Mathew (RIP) and an older sister named Pat

Spouse: George W. Hartelder (RIP)

Children: Jeff, Chrissy, Julie and 6 grandchildren.

Favorite Memory of GL: The people. I miss the people that left during the pandemic that never came back.

Occupation: I worked at a store named Edgar A. Stevens. After that I started working for an independent lumber company in Mt. Prospect. Then I went to a Presbyterian home and I was in charge of activities for the residents. Now I am retired.

Greatest Accomplishment: Being married to George and raising these wonderful children and grandchildren.

Favorite Pastime: Helping anyone that I can.

Favorite Season: Summer and Fall

Favorite Scent: Gardenia

Favorite Sound: Piano

Favorite Book: Jane's Fighter Combat in the Jet Age by David C. Isby

Favorite Animal: my Dalmatian, Links, that had to be put to sleep

Favorite Holiday: Ash Wednesday and Christmas

Sports Team: Blackhawks

Dream Vacation: Greece, I have been there but I would like to go back.

Dream Car: Ford Mustang

Movie: Elvis

Favorite Song: Any of Elvis's gospel songs

Color: Blue

Ice Cream: Sundae Shop Ice cream bars

Candy: Voortman Bakery chocolate and vanilla wafers

Meal: Any chicken dish they have at Jameson's

Subject in School: I enjoyed learning about the Bible in class at my old church.

If I won the lottery: I would give the money to my children, grandchildren and friends.

Dinner with: Elvis Presley

Fun Fact: I have taught some Greek dancing and also imitating Elvis Presley's dance moves!

Notes of **THANKS**

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 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

Thank you from Dick and Gloria Ohman for the altar flowers which were delivered to their home, and from Judy Bataille for all the cards and greeting sent to her following Jim's death on December 22nd.

Dear Friends,

I am sorry for the delay in sending this note. On behalf of River Trails School District 26, I want to thank you for your church's donation of \$525 in gift cards to the RTSD26 Food and Gift Card Drive.

I appreciate the efforts of your church, your committee and Nancy Greaves in coordinating and supporting this local event. Thank you for your generosity and care. I believe it makes a real difference to our families and community.

Thank you again and best wishes for 2023!

Jeffrey P. Prostko, RTSD26 Holiday Pantry

Birthday LIST**March**

3	Shayanne Martinez	14	Todd Soukup
4	Nancy Dembkowski Sharyl Hanna Noah Roth Landon Walger	15	Kathie Bender-Schwich Samntha Rude
5	Margit Willis	16	Danielle Drelicharz Gloria Ohman
6	Derek Ellertson Dennis Ellertson Nacio Martinez	17	Katherine Holzer
9	Martha Jasniowski	18	Bridget Doerner Matthew Pracko
10	Cory Olson	23	Mary Jo Menelle
12	Curt Carlson Bill Grimpe Arlene Kieffer	24	Michael Drelicharz
13	Ruth Dolson	26	Tori Austin Becky Menelle
		27	Cynthia Rogers
		30	Addison Stutheit

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 Dolores Randmark and family on the death of her husband of 53 years, Clyde Randmark on January 29, 2023. A celebration of his life was held on February 25, 2023 at Grace.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Lorida Nauert who died on January 31, 2023. Lorida and her family joined Grace in April 1973.

We extend our sympathy to Pastor Dan Schwick and family on the death of his brother Robert Schwich on February 6, 2023 in Los Angeles, CA.

We extend our sympathy to Sandy Johnson and family on the death of her husband Rick Johnson on February 9, 2023 in Arizona.



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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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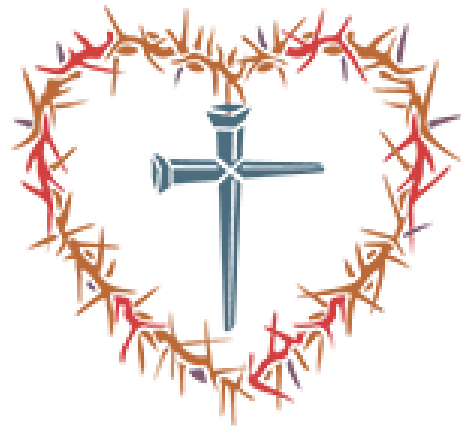
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ARTICLE *Deadline:* March 19