

GRACE NOTES

October 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:



Many of us in the Grace community were shocked by the sudden and untimely death of Karen Pfeffer. There is no way of explaining such a loss for Pastor Paul, for their sons, and for us. Let us continue to hold Paul in our prayers.

Even in the midst of shock and sadness, the work of the church goes on. We continue to gather each week—whether in person or by Zoom—to celebrate God’s gifts to us in Word and Sacrament. We revel in the warmth of our community. And the many ways that our church touches the lives of our neighbors.

The work of the church goes on through the countless hours that our members spend engaging with one or more of our committees or other working groups or by serving on Church Council. It is my hope that these church leaders and others still to come, understand that through God’s grace, each of us has been gifted with skills that can be used for the church. In the months ahead, there will be several openings in key leadership positions. How might you serve?

One of the dynamics that is challenging for us, but also offers great opportunities for us, is our sharing our building with two other Christian congregations. And our summer hosting of the Park District Preschool Camp complicates things even more. We have very good working relationship with both of our guest congregations. And we look forward to expanding our work together. One issue that continues to challenge us is providing adequate and accessible storage space for the three congregations and other groups that use our building on a regular basis. AS A FIRST STEP toward creating of inventory of all possible storage spaces in our building, our Property Committee is sponsoring a “Sort and Toss” party at church on Saturday, October 21, from 8:30am to noon. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome! The Committee would particularly like a representative from every group (Committees, WELCA, Stephen Ministry, Quilters, etc.). That person should be empowered to speak for the group he or she represents and to make decisions about what to save, where to save it or what to pitch. As a result of this process, we will be able to reprioritize our storage to serve us for the foreseeable future. As we make way for our future use of our space, we will also take care to preserve and archive documents and other items important to our heritage as a congregation. In fact, maybe we’ll even uncover some new gems that we want to display!

In Christ’s love, joy, peace and hope!

Pastor Daniel Schwick

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*

Fifth Friday - A new quarterly event for fun and fellowship. On months that have five Fridays, meet for a simple supper at 6:00pm followed by a variety of games and entertainments. Sign up on the sheet in the atrium. The dinner on September 29 will be catered by Panera Bread (free will offering) as part of the fundraising for Grace Preschool. The next event will be December 29, 2023.

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.

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 October 22, 2023.

Halloween Care Packages: The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting goodies (both sweet and salty) for our college kids from October 1 to October 22. Watch for the

poster in the Atrium with the collection box. A note to college students and their parents: Please be sure the church office has your new address. We can't assume last year's address is still valid. We wouldn't want to miss anyone

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: Sandy Johnson
Date of Birth: December 23, 1946
Member: Since 1970
Grew Up: Mt. Prospect
Currently live: Prospect Heights
Schooling: Prospect High School and took secretarial classes afterward and got into the field right away.
Spouse: Rick Johnson (may he rest in peace)
Children: 3. Susan (53), Rick (51), Martha (46)
Favorite Memory of Grace: I did a lot of service work there but my favorite thing I did there was being a Stephen Minister. I did that for

10 years.

Occupation: Retired. I worked for Gould, an electric company where I was the receptionist. After I got married, and all the kids were in school, I got a job at OCC as the main secretary until I retired when I was 55.

Greatest Accomplishment: Raising 3 kids and having grandchildren

Favorite Pastime: Swimming, reading and biking although I don't do much biking anymore.

Phobia/Fear: Bees and wasps

Favorite Season: Summer. In Arizona it was summer every day.

Favorite Sound: Cow sounds. When they moo.

Favorite Scent: Oregano and Lilacs

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Sports Team: Cubs and Bears

Dream Vacation: Aruba with Rick. We were there for 11 days. It's called the happy island.

Favorite Movie: West Side Story

Favorite Tv Show/Series: Wheel of Fortune

Best Place to eat out: Outback Steakhouse and Jamesons

Meal: Roast Beef. I was married to a butcher.

Ice Cream: Mint Chocolate Chip

Favorite Color: Orange

Dream Car: I like Mustangs even though I never owned one. It would have to be a convertible and it would have to be orange.

Dinner with: Neil Diamond and Elvis Presley

If I won the Lottery: I would donate it to different charities and help out all my kids and give some to Grace.

Fun Fact: I love cows!

Special Birthdays: Jules Kastens turns 95 on October 17th. Please send Jules birthday greetings at 5 West Central Road, #503, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Eleanor Kehr turns 96 on October 19th. Please send birthday greetings to Eleanor at 800 W. Oakton Street, #2457, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. Melba Panhorst turns 90 on October 22nd. Please send birthday greeting to Melba at 1280 Village Drive, #247A, Arlington Heights, IL 60004-4506. Happy Birthday, Jules, Eleanor, and Melba!

"Created to Be" is the theme for next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering and it is guaranteed to be a great and exciting time. Over 40,000 Lutheran youth from around the world will be meeting in New Orleans from July 16-20 for a week of concerts, service, zip-lining, worship and a whole lot of fun-and great food. Grace will be teaming up with Trinity, Messiah and St. Mark to prepare for this once in a life time experience. If you are in 8th grade through high school or if you are out of school, but are interested in attending the Young Adult Gathering which will be taking place at the same time, please call Margit Willis at (312) 607-2684 or email her at nu2335@msn.com.

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending August 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 197,336	\$ 184,579	\$ (12,757)
Special Income	32,000	28,461	(3,539)
Prepaid Income	6,664	6,667	3
Total Income	\$ 236,000	\$ 219,707	\$ (16,293)
Expenses thru July	266,623	257,246	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (37,539)	
<i>General Fund Balance 1/1/23</i>		<i>\$ 46,296</i>	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (37,539)	
General Fund Balance 8/31//23		\$ 8,757	

Eight months into 2023, the summer lull has ended and with Rally Day the 10th of September, we resume full activity schedules. If you have fallen behind on your commitment to Grace, we say this is the time to make up. The above shows a sizable deficit for the year thru August. As programs of Grace resume, let us also make every effort to reduce some of this deficit.

God is always with us and HE will provide.

Notes of **THANKS**

Dear Saints of Grace,

I am very appreciative to have received the church scholarship from the congregation. Many thanks for supporting me again in my studies this year at Western Michigan. – Andrew Stutheit

Birthday **LIST**

October

9	Carl Storz		Grayson Walger
12	Diane Isenberg Ralph Martinson	23	Jacki Kochanski Samantha Pracko Jennifer Stutheit
13	Darlene Sacco		
16	Kim Kintzle	24	Kiki Garza Cathy Hoffman
17	Jules Kastens	27	Sandy Drelicharz Karen Rude
19	Eleanor Kehr		
21	Iris Notto	29	Karen Spiezia
22	Melba Panhorst	31	Kendall Grimpe Cynthia Hanson

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 Pastor Paul Pfeffer, Andrew and family and Mark on the death of wife and mother, Karen Pfeffer, on September 19, 2023. Funeral services were held at Grace on September 29, 2023.



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A congregation of the
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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:* October 15