

GRACE NOTES

September 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 begin our sixth year together as pastor and people, we are gearing up for an energetic seasonal re-launch of our various ministries—Preschool, Outreach programs, new worship experiences and new opportunities to live and grow together!

On Sunday, September 10, we will join with our tenant congregations to celebrate RALLY DAY as a kick off to our new program year. Weather-permitting, that service will be held outside and will include Grace, Petra Church, and La Iglesia (the Spanish-language congregation that uses our building). There will be food, fun, fellowship and worship for all!

Rally Day is also the tenth annual “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Congregations have been challenged to offer some kind of community service project as part of the observance of GWOH Sunday. At Grace, we have chosen to launch what we hope will be an ongoing effort to collect qualified Styrofoam to be recycled through the new Mount Prospect Village initiative. As you may know, Styrofoam is usually not recyclable and so ends up in landfills. Mount Prospect has invested in technology to compact and reuse many kinds of Styrofoam. Watch the weekly announcements for more details.

September will also see the re-launch of our Wednesday Night Bible Study at 7:00pm on Zoom. Our focus in September will be the Biblical references that have made it into our worship life. All are welcome.

On Sunday, September 24, the congregation is invited to stay after church for a luncheon hosted by our local Thrivent representative. Learn how Thrivent can help you and your family thrive. And learn how Thrivent is able to help support Grace ministries.

At the end of September, on the Fifth Friday of the month (September 29) we will launch a new quarterly event just for fun and fellowship. On any month that has five Fridays, we will have a simple supper at 6pm followed by a variety of games and entertainments. **NO AGENDA!** A sign-up sheet will be in the atrium by mid-September. Free will offering will be received to cover food expenses. [Does anyone have a karaoke machine?!] The second Fifth Friday event will be on December 29. We hope to feature students who are home on Winter Break. Stay tuned for details.

One more addition to our September calendar: On MOST Tuesdays and Thursdays, and alternating Saturdays, I’m planning once again to host “Coffee and with Pastor Dan” in my office. This is simply a regular and informal opportunity for conversation and, perhaps, prayer. No reservations are necessary. I will have water on for coffee, tea or other beverages.

One thing that is NOT starting up in September is THIRD THURSDAY, our monthly midweek fellowship gathering. Third Thursday will resume on October 19 with a focus on Wellness.

I look forward to growing with you in this new season of mission and ministry!

In Christ's love joy, peace and hope!
Pastor Daniel Schwick

COUNCIL *Highlights*

Council Highlights from the August 22, 2023 meeting

- Joy Medrano proposed that Grace consider volunteering as a Red Cross shelter. Charter Hall would be used as the temporary shelter for 2 weeks or less. Red Cross would provide staff and everything used for the shelter. Would only be used if there is a disaster in the local area such as a fire, tornado, or flood. Since the church is used by other churches, the preschool, and RTPD summer camp, we need to consider how they will be impacted. Pastor will follow up on how DCFS will view this. He will coordinate this aspect with preschool board and staff.
- Wednesday Night Live August 30 will be purposed to build our relationships with the other churches attending the event
- Rally Day September 10 will be outdoors with food provided. The butterfly garden will be dedicated. The Harmon and Delores Loeb family will be invited to attend. A video about the garden will be made and shared with the Loeb family.
- Grace will start September 10 as a collection point for Styrofoam. The Styrofoam will be transported to Mt. Prospect public works on the designated drop off day as warranted.
- Thrivent was invited to make a presentation to the congregation on September 24.
- Reconciling in Christ – process will be moving ahead with a 2-3-year time frame.
- Property committee is looking for a chairperson. Long-time chair Cory Olson is stepping down. Air conditioner has been replaced at a cost of \$5750. Painting of Charter Hall, Youth room and the hallway between them has been completed.
- Motion to turn over the intern office to the preschool was approved.
- Motion to install a rubberized sports floor in 1/3 of the youth room (where the floor is unfinished) for \$1800 was approved.
- Approved the Endowment Committee's distribution from the Grace Mission Endowment Fund.
 - \$3,840 Grace Capital Improvements fund
 - \$500 to LSSI
 - \$800 to MP food pantry
 - \$800 to Connections to care
 - \$800 to La Trinidad
 - \$1,440 Refugee One
 - \$1,440 Disaster Relief
- Discussed the request to raise funds for the retirement of the Trinidad mortgage.

- Referred to finance committee for review.
- Jaime Wright, former preschool director, has filed a claim for \$2800 back pay. Pastor Dan, Dan R., and Tom Carlson will respond to the claim. A hearing is scheduled for September 5.

Scholarship **RECIPIENTS**

Scholarships were awarded to the following students on August 6, 2023:

Amy Drelicharz
Connor Dietrich
Gianna Lauletta
Matthew Pracko
Andrew Stutheit

Our thanks to the scholarship committee (Cindy Rogers, Bill Grimpe, Sue Buerger, Mike Drelicharz) for interviewing the applicants and awarding the scholarships on behalf of Grace.

The Cross of *Grace*

Designed by Grace member (at the time) Gloria Rees Hansen

The cross over our altar is intended to be striking and thought provoking. Made of bronze, there are 63 separate pieces attached to the surface of the Cross. 30 of the pieces have a silver affect finish. These remind us of the betrayal – Matthew 26:14-16 “And they paid Judas thirty pieces of silver --- to betray him”.

33 remaining pieces represent the number generally accepted as the life of Christ upon earth from his birth thru his ascension. John 1:14. “And the word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

We encourage you to meditate upon the cross – to reflect upon the many experiences of Christ – to consider his message teachings – to be aware of man’s greed and sin which brought on the cross – to remember the promise of scripture – 1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the world of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but it is to us who are being saved the power of God.”

May God bless and strengthen you thru your worship at Grace. May the cross of Christ draw you to Him forever.

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*

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*

Lutheran Disaster Response is asking for our help for the people of Lahaina who lost everything in the fire that swept through their town on the island of Maui, Hawaii. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacific Synod and other partners to assess the needs of the people impacted by the wildfires. They are working with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Donations can be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response at PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Be sure to mark your check Maui wildfires.

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 September 24, 2023.

Hygiene Supplies for District 21: The school district has asked us for hygiene items for the families with children enrolled in the district. Watch for the poster on September 17 and the collection box. Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, baby lotion, deodorant for both men and women, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and body wash. We ask that all donations be brought to church by October 1, 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: Jerry Sharlog
Date of Birth: June 7, 1940
Member: Since 1975
Grew Up: Chicago, Des Plaines and Park Ridge
Currently live: Mt. Prospect
Schooling: Maine East High school and then to University of Illinois at Navy Pier
Degree: Finance and Accounting
Spouse: Darlene for 63 years this October
Children: 3. Christine (60), Keith (58), Dorene (53)
Favorite Memory of Grace: Back when we had roofing problems over the altar, the Property Committee presented Pastor Granquist with an umbrella.

Occupation: Retired. I worked for an independent insurance agency and then I started my own business with a friend and ran that for the next 20 years. So, I have been in the insurance business for 50 years before I retired.

Greatest Accomplishment: Raising 3 kids and getting them all educated. And, they all turned out reasonably well.

Favorite Pastime: Gambling at Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, Michigan.

Favorite Season: Approaching Easter, just on the edge of Spring.

Favorite Sound: Soft music

Favorite Bible Quote: "The Lord loves the tearful giver."

Favorite Holiday: Easter

Sports Team: Chicago Cubs, Bears, Blackhawks

Dream Vacation: Going to Scandinavia

Favorite Movie: E.T.

Favorite Tv Show/Series: Blue Bloods

Best Place to eat out: Giacomo

Meal: Prime rib or Crab legs

Ice Cream: Raspberry Chocolate

Favorite Color: Blue

Dream Car: Older model yellow Mercedes 300 convertible

Dinner with: Henry Kinsinger

If I won the Lottery: A lot would be set up in a trust. I would like to share it with Grace and to share it with the kids and grandkids.

Mantra: Always be a very straightforward and honest person and if you are wrong, admit it.

Special Birthdays: Dick Herman turns 91 on September 15th. Please send Dick birthday greetings at 1511 Sequioa, Glenview, IL 60025. John Pracko turns 90 on September 22nd. Please send John birthday greetings at 207 N. Stratton Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-2619. LaVonne Cook turns 90 on September 23rd. Please send Lavonne birthday greetings at 700 A Burr Oak Lane, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Happy Birthday, Dick, John and LaVonne!

"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.

The Group Confirmation Class which brings together people from Grace, Trinity, Messiah and St. Mark Lutheran churches will be starting up again in September. All kids from grades 3-8 are invited to come together from 4:30 until 6 on Mondays for snacks, games, movies and the chance to learn about Luther and the Lutheran church and get ready for confirmation. This is the third year for the program and it has been a great success for everyone involved. An information session for kids and parents will take place at Trinity Lutheran in Des Plaines on Aug 28 at 6pm. For more information, please contact Margit Willis at 312-607-2684 or email her at nu2335@msn.com.

Thrivent Invitation: Please join Laura DiVietro & Katie Garber from Thrivent who will be speaking on September 24th after the 10:00am service. You may be familiar with Katie and Laura. They have attended our Living Green Expo for the last two years. They will be providing a light lunch and will share information about Thrivent membership and how Thrivent helps communities and churches.

FINANCIAL *Report*

Financial Report ending July 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 172,669	\$ 165,652	\$ (7,017)
Special Income	28,000	25,459	(2,541)
Prepaid Income	5,831	5,833	2
Total Income	\$ 206,500	\$ 196,945	\$ (9,556)
Expenses thru July	233,295	223,920	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (26,975)	

<i>General Fund Balance 1/1/23</i>	46,296
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (26,975)
General Fund Balance 7/31//23	\$ 19,321

Seven months into 2023 and though the current years status doesn't look good, it is almost exactly where we expected to be when looking at the approved budget against the estimated income. We need you to consider your support for the rest of the year so we can carry some surplus into 2024. We show we are \$7,000 below estimated income through July. If we can simply make that amount up by year end, it will allow us to enter 2024 with some surplus.

Thank you for your continuing generous support.

Notes of THANKS

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,102.36 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As a church we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings up peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

Amanda White, Director, Congregational Generosity

Thank You:

Thank you for the Church Scholarship. I will apply it to my upcoming college expenses.

Thanks, Connor Dietrich

Dear Members of Grace,

I am very grateful for receiving a scholarship on behalf of the congregation. Thank you for always supporting me and my educational ventures.

-Amy Drelicharz

Thank You to Sue Buerger, Carolynn White, Sharyl Hanna and Steve Hanna for organizing and running the game at this year's Boxwood Bash. Grace has been participating in this back-to-school event for over 25 years. It's been a great mission outreach program for Grace.

Thank You to everyone who contributed items to make 20 hygiene kits for women leaving prison. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated.

Thank You to everyone who contributed school supplies for Rosebud Reservation, School District 21 and School District 26, We were able to order the supplies for Rosebud online and have them shipped directly. The supplies for the school districts were dropped off for them at the start of the school year.

Bunco Fest was a success! Thanks to all who donated white elephant prizes. Also, many thanks to my kitchen helpers especially Chris Rogers, Sue Buerger, and Kathie Bender-Schwich. Hope we can make this an annual summer event.

Carolynn White

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Euclid Elementary School I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your generous donation of ten student backpacks each filled with school supplies

Many of our families greatly benefit from donations of annual school supplies. We are able to give dozens of students backpacks filled with new supplies to help start their learning each year with one less worry. We also save a few of the backpacks to give to students who are new to Euclid during the school year and don't yet have the things they need.

Thank you for partnering with us in a way that truly makes a difference in children's lives.

Karen Daly, Euclid School Principal

GRACE Garden



Birthday LIST

September

2	Connor Riordan James Riordan	17	Marcia Rovani
6	Taylor Greaves Olivia Nagle	20	Marge Martinez
13	Mike Menelle Pr. Paul Pfeffer	22	John Pracko
14	Bill Dietrich Minda Josten Samantha Nickl	23	G. LaVonne Cook
14	Bill Dietrich Minda Josten Samantha Nickl	26	Greg Hammond Terry Saurmann
15	Dick Herman	29	Rachel Cacchione

CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

Baptisms

Receiving Christ's gifts of grace with water and word, we are welcomed into God's family of the church.

On August 20, 2023 we welcomed Cooper Grace Sundstrom as a child of God and a member of the Church. Her parents are Paul and Laura Sundstrom.



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www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect



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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ARTICLE *Deadline:* September 17