

GRACE NOTES

April 2017



Just as the darkness of winter days gives way to the longer light in spring time, so are our lives more and more enlightened by renewal of faith as we move from the season of Lent to the celebration of Easter. Celebrate real renewal. Jesus makes everything new!

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*

Celebrate Real Renewal!



Oh, how I wish things were different! If people could just get along, and not kill each other or argue. If politicians could fix our country's problems, and get everyone a comfortable middle class life without constant worries. If I could be more organized and helpful at home, and better balance how to live more healthy but also get chores done.

But wait! I can wish all I want, and not do anything about it. I may want to change things in my life, but it doesn't happen on its own. I have to actually make choices and put them into action. And that is hard. I may run into real difficulties. Some of the challenges may be out of my control, and others are my own limitations. But change is possible if I believe in it and take steps toward it.

Do you also wish for change in your life, improvements in our society, or hope for the future of the earth? Perhaps you doubt that it is possible. You may wish God could just remove all the obstacles. And you may not think that you can make any difference in saving the world, let alone have an impact on complicated social issues, or overcoming personal hang-ups.

Martin Luther was struggling with his own hang-ups. He felt that God was displeased about his failures and would punish him. But Luther's life changed dramatically when he discovered the good news that Jesus died for our sins and gives us eternal life. With this renewed understanding of God's grace, Luther went to work to change his own life, the church, and even the lives of people like you and me.

 **“[Jesus] saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”**
(Titus 3:5)

The Reformation of the church by Martin Luther took place 500 years ago, but our work of celebrating, living and sharing the gospel of real renewal is not done. Just as we need the good news of forgiveness to live with hope, so others can be empowered by the experience of God's amazing grace.

>> This Easter, let's celebrate Real Renewal. Jesus died to change our lives through forgiveness, and he was raised to give us hope for change. Jesus changes everything!

Yours with joy and hope, *Pastor Stefan Munker*

WHAT IS ... a Paschal Candle?

Also known as the Christ Candle

We use a variety of symbols in our worship. The cross is the most central and widely recognized symbol of Christian faith. But candles also have played a significant role in conveying what we believe about God. When we light candles in worship we signify that God who created light is present with us. A large candle which is often prominently placed near the baptismal font reminds us that Jesus said he is the light of the world.

The name for the Paschal Candle comes from its connection to the Jewish Passover festival to which our Christian Easter celebration is tied. This Christ candle is lit anew each Easter and for special occasions like baptisms and funerals during the year, to remind us of Jesus' victory over death since he is the Paschal lamb that rose to new life and reigns with God and the Holy Spirit forever.

>> Thanks to generous givers who have donated this year's new Paschal Candle to celebrate the good news of Easter.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR Worship

Midweek Services: "Reforming Faith" is the theme at our Holden Evening services during Lent until April 5. Join Wednesdays after 6:00pm dinners for brief worship time at 7:00pm to be blessed with rest for your soul and inspiration for your intellect.

Palm Sunday: Holy Week begins with a procession of Palms from the Atrium into the sanctuary at both 9 and 10:45am services on April 9.

Maundy Thursday: The first service of the three Great Days during Holy Week includes a Commandment Rite that recalls Jesus' foot washing, and First Communion as we celebrate the institution of the sacrament at 7:00pm on April 13.

Good Friday: We will hear Jesus' last Words from the cross during a Tenebrae service of darkness at 7:00pm on April 14.

Easter Sunday: On April 16, celebrate real renewal with (*free-will*) breakfast starting at 8:15am, and festive services with Holy Communion and a gift for children at 9 and 10:45am. Hear, experience and live the good news that Jesus makes everything new!



Holy Humor Sunday: As we continue to celebrate the joy of the resurrection you will be surprised how God makes us laugh at death and the devil during worship on April 23.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Easter Breakfast: join with family and friends for a famous breakfast buffet prepared by youth and their families, 8:15-11:00am on April 16.

“Young At Heart:” Save Saturday, April 8th for the Women’s Gathering “Young At Heart.” Take a humorous look at the process of aging with local author Nancy Stacy who is “Young at Heart, but older in other places.” Learn some tips so you can grow young. Come join us at 9:30am for coffee and coffee cake. The program will be followed by a light lunch. Bring a friend. And, bring the oldest thing you own. Maybe some interesting and fun items will appear!

April Friendship Group Outing: On April 26, 2017 the Friendship Group and friends will travel to Prospect High School to see a production of “*Big Fish*.” Join the group for a pleasant afternoon. If you are interested in attending, watch the “pink” sheet for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Easter in Europe Video: ELCA member and public television host Rick Steves has shared his special about Easter traditions in honor of the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation. See places, people and celebrations at 2:00pm on Monday, May 1, or 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 2.

Dealing with Change in Our Lives: If you are interested in getting together with a small group of people to discuss topics related to “life's changes” and to encourage each other through prayer and conversation, please contact Pam Walger via e-mail at p.walger@gracemtprospect.org, at 847/824-7408. Please consider joining us. Our next meeting is Monday, March 27th at 1:00pm.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Attend Synod Assembly: Each year, three members from Grace are selected to attend our Metro Chicago Synod assembly for worship, learning, fellowship, resolutions, and elections. Please let Pastor Munker or council president Greg Linwood know if you have questions or are interested attending June 9-10 at the Convention Center in Tinley Park. Lay volunteers will be selected at the April 25 council meeting.

Volunteers for the Homeless Needed: Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd is looking for anyone who would like to help them start a PADS homeless shelter. If you would like to know more about organizing, checking in, night shifts, or cooking, contact their church office at 847-537-4353.

Summer Mission Trip: Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd is planning and inviting others to join their 4th annual Mission trip July 30-August 3. Anyone entering High School or older may attend. Participants will help with flood recovery in the Greater St.

Louis area which was hit by a massive flash flood in December 2015. If you are interested contact Pastor Eric Schlichting, 847-537-4353 or lcgspastor@gmail.com.

Donate a Coffee Cake to the Easter Breakfast: The church youth and their families will be our hosts for the annual Easter Breakfast. Please lend a helping hand by donating a cake to be served. Cakes should be brought to church on Saturday morning April 15th.

Deliver Easter Altar Flowers: After Easter deliver a potted flower to someone who is hospitalized, convalescing or is a shut-in. They will love the delivery – contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

Send Easter Greetings to our Shut Ins: Look for the poster near the East Entry and pick up a list of addresses for our homebound friends and send them a much appreciated Easter greeting.

Wanted: Green Thumbs to Enhance our Curb Appeal: If you enjoy gardening-planting/watering - how about adopting one of the flower garden areas around the church building this spring/summer. Please express your interest in helping with this project by contacting Cory Olson at 847/909-5509.

Grace Rummage Sale: We Need You!

Please join our crew and help us make the rummage sale a success!

*Donate your gently used rummage

*Bake your favorite tasty treats

*Help out with the Set-up, Sale, or Take-down hours

Set-up: Monday thru Thursday, 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sale: Friday, April 28, 9:00am to 6:00pm, Bake Sale

Saturday, April 29, 9:00am to 1:00pm, \$5 Bag Sale

Take-down: Saturday, 1:00pm to 4:00pm (or when we finish)

Many thanks, Minda Josten & Margit Willis

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Share Renewal Hope: Invite family and friends to experience how Jesus makes everything new during Holy Week services with Palm Sunday's procession, Maundy Thursday's celebration of Communion, Good Friday's meditations on the cross, and Easter Sunday's gift of new life.

Buck-A-Chick: You have an opportunity to purchase a chick (or two) for a rural family in an underdeveloped country. This Palm Sunday and Easter there will be Buck-A-Chick flyers in the bulletins. Simply fold a dollar into the flyer and put it in the collection plate. The money will be distributed through the ELCA World Hunger Program. Think of all the cute, fluffy chicks we can give. What a great way to celebrate Easter!

“Feed My Starving Children” – A Friendly Reminder: Just a reminder that our next chance to go as a group from Grace to the Schaumburg location of Feed My Starving Children, 1072 National Parkway, will be Tuesday, April 18th, from 6:00pm. to 7:30pm. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, April 2. But, if you want to reserve your spot right away, access the website www.fmssc.org and follow the prompts to “join” the group named Grace Lutheran Church (group leader Greg Linwood). Or, another way of volunteering now is to contact me directly, either at 847-502-7744, or via e-mail at gregorylinwood@sbcglobal.net, and I will add you to our group.

Thanks for your continuing enthusiastic support of this ministry!

Mother’s Day Bake Sale: Help us make your Mother’s Day complete by purchasing a sweet treat for her at our bake sale on May 14th. (Perhaps you’ll find something for yourself or the rest of the family, too!)

Proceeds from the sale will make summer swim passes affordable for some needy families in River Trails District 26 and also make summer programs affordable for some needy children at Robert Frost School in District 21.

With your generous help – by donating baked goods (bring them to church the morning of May 14) and/or buying some yummy treats – you will again help make a few families very happy this summer. Thanks from your Social Ministry Committee.

A Few New Food Pantry Shopping Suggestions: The food pantry welcomes a wide variety of items for donation. Beans, dried or refried, canned beef stew, canned chicken, ham, or spam, cereal, (cheerios, cornflakes or oatmeal), cooking oil (plastic container), garbanzo beans, lentil beans, pasta/spaghetti and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, potatoes (canned & instant), corn, peas, ravioli and Spaghetti’Os, white rice, salmon, sprats (Russian canned fish), stuffing mix, canned pumpkin, cake mix, Jell-O, and canned fruit. If you don't have time to shop, why not donate money toward a grocery store gift certificate this month. Place your donation in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry Certificates". THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

COUNCIL *Update*

Current Congregation Council Membership: I wanted to provide you an update as to the current membership of the Congregation Council. As reported at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sue Buerger, Curt Carlson and Rachael Rogers concluded their terms on the Council, and have been replaced by Peggy Gosell, Margit Willis, and Jack Dietrich. At the February 28th Council meeting, the officers elected were Greg Linwood, President, Cindy Menelle, Vice President, Bill Grimpe, Secretary, Tom Roth, Financial Secretary, and Wendy Thompson, Treasurer (replacing Dick Herman, after his many distinguished years serving Grace in that position). We also learned at that

meeting that Sandy Doran has submitted her resignation as a Council member to the Council.

After all suggestions for possible replacements were considered, Jennifer Stutheit was asked if she was willing to accept this position, and she graciously agreed. Per the Grace Constitution, it is the Council's job to appoint a replacement for any member who resigns during their term prior to the next Congregational Annual Meeting. The replacement's term expires at the time of the next Congregational Annual Meeting, at which time the congregation will elect a person to fill the time remaining on the term for which the vacancy occurred.

Greg Linwood, Council President

FINANCIAL Update

Members of Grace: You will recall at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 5th, the congregation approved a budget for 2017 in the same amount as 2016 which was \$331,863. This would allow Grace to continue with its current staffing and not result in any cuts in staff. BUT, it was also far in excess of the projected income for 2017. Thus, a followup appeal was made for additional financial support. Many stepped forward in a combination of different ways. Some made revised pledges for 2017, some stepped up their weekly or monthly giving without a new pledge, some who hadn't made a commitment for 2017 made a new pledge. Overall, as of this writing, it appears that we have received a response of approximately \$17,500 in additional support. It is not important how you added to your support for Grace, it is only important that you did. A big THANK YOU to all who responded already and a THANK YOU to all who will respond in their way for the balance of the year.

Current year financial status thru February 28, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 46,054	\$ 46,063	+9
Special Income	5,340	4,122	(1,218)
Prepaid Budget Income	1,975	1,950	(25)
Total Budget Income	\$ 53,369	\$ 52,135	(\$1,234))
Operating Expenses thru Feb	<u>55,315</u>	<u>52,503</u>	
Surplus or (Deficit)		(\$ 368)	

Notes of THANKS

Did you get to enjoy learning about the Fruits of God's Spirit as you enjoyed a round of indoor Mini Golf at Grace last month? Thank Barb Nagle for sharing this creative idea for fun, fellowship and spiritual education. Hopefully her hard work and beautiful creations can be used again for reaching out to people in our community and introducing them to our congregation and God's blessings.

The PAR-TEE is over, but I cannot thank those enough who so graciously gave their time, talents, and gifts to the First Annual Golf Tournament. Thank you to: Chris Rogers whose enthusiasm and chili was as delicious as the centerpieces and posters she developed along with the donation of gifts, golf balls and clubs; Ray McCollim for his outstanding photography including a timed picture frame every 15 minutes during set up; Mike Pirron for his industrial tools; Sharyl Hanna for baked goodies; Cindy and Rachael Rogers for moral support, guidance and help with the food; Mark Kraegel for gifts of golf balls and working with Ray on the golf course layout; Pastor Munker for his trust and faith that God would provide me some creativity when I needed it; and to all who participated. There were no broken clubs! Improvements for next time will include more information so I know who to contact for winners. If your name is Kendall, please call me to receive your gift. 847/800-6674. Her scorecard read 24!! Congratulations! 'Till next tournament, Barb Nagle.

Thank you to the CMT Committee for preparing and serving the Sunday School Pancake Breakfast. The meal was delicious!

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,715.00 to support the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through ELCA Good Gifts.

Because of donors like you these good gifts and the good news of Jesus Christ will touch the lives of many. Your gift helps us care for our neighbors here at home and around the world by providing basic necessity items, tools for education, skills and instruments for meal preparation and self-care, resources for new congregations and their leaders – and much more. Your gift provides tangible witness through our actions, encouraging hope, healing and reconciliation in congregations and communities.

Thank you for responding to God's call to walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ's name. Your generosity is making a big difference.
God's grace ,Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement

Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day package with lots of treats. My roommate and I were happy to receive a package and enjoy the treats. It was a nice reminder about those back at home. Thanks again!
Payton Chantry

Dear Grace Lutheran Church, On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff and residents of Wheeling Township, we would like to express our gratitude for your thoughtful donation of 8 Aldi gift cards totaling \$200.00 on February 21, 2017. Your contribution will make sure that residents in need will be assisted.

Your commitment and generosity to our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for assisting us in fulfilling our mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors".

Sincerely, Kathleen M. Penner, Supervisor; Julie Villarreal, MA, Director of General Assistance

Dear Parishioners of Grace Lutheran Church, We would like to thank you for your generous donation of eight \$25.00 Aldi gift cards to the Mount Prospect Emergency

Food Pantry and Financial Assistance program. This program assists residents of Mount Prospect who are experiencing a financial hardship and struggling with every day needs such as food, housing, utilities and medications.

This program is not supported by tax dollars. Throughout the year, we are able to assist individuals and families due to generous donations made by local churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations and individuals.

Sincerely Julie Kane, LCSW, Human Services Director

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran Church, We gratefully acknowledge your recent donation of eight \$25.00 gift cards to Northwest Compass. Our programs provide much needed help to our neighbors.

Your gift empowers our neighbors in the northwest suburbs to survive in difficult times. Sadly, the number of our people whose income falls at or below the poverty level has increased. As the need for our services grows, it is your generosity that allows us to serve our neighbors in need.

On behalf of everyone at Northwest Compass and our neighbors in need, thank you for showing compassion. Your gift changes lives.

Sincerely, LeRoy Messenger, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends: Thank you for being a supporter of WINGS Program, Inc.

With your help, WINGS has been able to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling and life skills training to victims of domestic violence since 1985.

Our goal as an agency is to help victims permanently change the landscape of their lives – a way from violence, abuse, and fear and to a place of peace, strength and stability.

On behalf of all the survivors we serve, thank you.

Rebecca A Darr, CEO

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Midweek Lenten Service:** Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00pm following dinner at 6:00pm.
- **"Young At Heart:"** Saturday, April 8, 9:30am
- **Palm Sunday:** Sunday, April 9, Worship at 9 and 10:45am
- **Maundy Thursday:** April 13, Worship at 7:00pm
- **Good Friday:** April 14, Worship at 7:00pm
- **Easter Sunday:** April 16, Breakfast at 8:15am, Worship at 9 and 10:45am
- **Feed My Starving Children:** Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00pm
- **Holy Humor Sunday:** April 23
- **Friendship Group Outing:** Wednesday, April 26
- **Grace Rummage Sale:** Friday & Saturday, April 28 and April 29
- **Easter in Europe Video:** Monday, May 1 at 2:00pm or Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00pm
- **Synod Assembly:** June 9 and June 10

WELCOME *New Members*

Please join us in welcoming our new members received on March 5::

Winston and Hannah Nirmal
Jonas
1579 S Wolf Rd
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
847-749-9705

EASTER *Blessings*

Grace's staff: Pastor Munker, Barb Willis, Pam Walger, Susan Nelson and Becka Chantry, wish you a blessed celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

We rejoice in God's amazing grace as we work together with the people of Grace to share the good news that Jesus's gift of resurrection hope makes everything new..

Birthday LIST**April**

3	Gus Grimes	16	Sandra Fink Alex Nickl
4	Beverly Storz Pam Walger	17	Keith LeFevre
6	Zoe Stephanie	19	Chu Lee
7	Eloise DeCarlo Lisa Harley Jonathon Bouris Andrew Stutheit	20	Christina Rogers Stefan Munker
9	Colton Young	21	Lindsay Jozefat
10	Shanna Martinez	22	Stephanie Wilm
12	James R Shaffer	26	Carolynn White Christopher Trunda Jeff Stutheit Erin Steffey
14	Sandra Karnatz	30	Kevin Trunda
15	Debera Bodett		
	...		

CELEBRATIONS OF *Life****Baptisms***

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

Eli Martinez, son of Adam and Stephanie, was baptized on February 26, 2017. Proud grandparents are Margaret and Ignacio Martinez.

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 Karen Rude and family on the death of her mother Joanne Hohns on February 18, 2017.

We extend our sympathy to Ardell Mueller and family on the death of his mother Ileen Mueller on February 20, 2017.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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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.

Staff **DIRECTORY**

Pastor: Stefan A. Munker
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ARTICLE *Deadline:* April 16