

# GRACE NOTES

APRIL 2018



*Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!*  
through

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

## **TABLE OF Contents**

- 2 A Note from the Pastor
- 3 Council Highlights
- 4 Opportunities for Worship,  
Fellowship, and Service
- 5 Opportunities for Outreach
- 6 Youth Gathering, Financial Update
- 7 Notes of Thanks
- 8 Special Events
- 9 Birthday List  
Life Celebrations

## *A Note* FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Saints of Grace,



I want you to know how much I appreciate the many messages of support and encouragement I receive throughout the week here at Grace. I feel privileged to serve as your pastor. I hope that when my tenure is over, whether that be at the end of this year or years from now, you and I will look back on the work we did together and be proud of our stewardship of the congregation.

I continue to be impressed by the strength of the various working groups (Council, standing committees, altar guild, ad hoc committees, WELCA, etc.) here at Grace. And I'm impressed by the number of "roll up our sleeves and get the job done" people there are at Grace. We are gifted and blessed. That again, is an example of good stewardship. The leaders of the congregation know that we do not own the church. We are the care givers or stewards of the church for this generation.

I hope that as the work of our Growing Grace Roundtable continues to unfold, the concept of stewardship will be a lens through which we view all our work. We are not trying to come up with a fifty year plan for Grace—what will we be in 2068? We are working on a plan for growth in the next three to five years.

I have suggested several "pillars" or foundational understandings on which to build our intentional outreach strategy:

Worship and Music (Sunday morning is our central gathering as a community; perhaps alternative styles and times of worship should be considered to attract a millennial crowd)

Care of Members (Small groups, Youth Ministry Children and Adult Education, Stephen Ministers, fellowship events, etc.)

Grace Preschool (connection with preschool families and increased chapel opportunities)

Intentional New Member Recruitment (events designed to draw community members into our space and give us an opportunity to make a positive impression on them; follow up with guests and visitors. Examples could include an annual Earth Day celebration, a mid-summer party, and a harvest-time pet blessing)

Social Engagement (continuing Grace's long tradition of engaging in society through study and action, both direct, such as partnering with La Trinidad, or indirectly, such as providing money for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.)

Participants in the March Roundtable also emphasized the need for a comprehensive communications strategy. A part of that—our outdoor signage—is being diligently pursued by a working group created by the February Roundtable. They have currently prioritized outdoor signage for Grace Preschool.

The next meeting of the Growing Grace Roundtable will be Sunday, April 15, beginning after coffee hour. Lunch is provided. We aim to end by 1:00 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME! Even if you haven't participated so far, please feel free to join us in April. There's always room for more at our Roundtable!

In the peace of Christ!  
Pastor Dan Schwick

### **Council Highlights**

#### ***Current Council Officers and Status of the Pastoral Call Process***

I wanted to provide you an update as to the current officers of the Congregation Council, as elected at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The officers elected were Greg Linwood, President, Ardell Mueller, Vice President, Bill Grimpe, Secretary, Tom Roth, Financial Secretary, and Wendy Thompson, Treasurer.

The Council also continued its review of Grace's Ministry Site Profile, which was prepared by a committee. The members of that committee were Tom Carlson, Diane Isenberg, Jerry Sharlog (chairman), Jennifer Stutheit, and Margit Willis. Our thanks to them for their hard work. With a few small changes, the Ministry Site Profile was approved, and by the time you read this has been sent to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for distribution to potential future pastoral candidates.

The Council took up the issue of appointing a Pastoral Call Committee. After vigorous discussion, the decision was made not to appoint a call committee at this time. The Growing Grace Roundtable process will continue to work for the next several months, with a goal of preparing a vision for Grace's future for the next few years. At that time, as Pastor Schwick has stated, we should be able to more clearly identify what attributes we would want in our next pastor, and be able to appoint a call committee at that time.

Our next pastor could be Pastor Schwick. Or, he and the congregation might mutually agree it would need to be someone else. Pastor Schwick assured us in the Council meeting if that were the case he was willing to continue as interim pastor until our next permanent pastor was called.

If you have any questions about the pastoral call process, please do not hesitate to contact any Council member to discuss.

Greg Linwood, Council President

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Service:** Wednesday, April 4, 7:00pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, AH. This is in commemoration of the assassination of Dr. King 50 years ago. All are invited to gather as beloved community to worship, remember, and commit to fulfilling God's vision and Dr. King's dream!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

**Friendship Group Outing:** On April 24<sup>th</sup> the Friendship Group and friends will travel to Prospect High School to see a production of "9 to 5". Join the group for a pleasant afternoon. We will carpool from church at 3:30pm. If you are interested in attending, watch the "pink" sheet for more information.

**Zumba Gold:** Join the group for some fun exercise each Thursday morning at 10:00am in the Youth Room..

**Chicagoland Friends of Lutheran World Relief:** The Spring Luncheon is on Friday, April 20, 2018 at Avalon Banquets, 1905 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village. The doors open at 11:00am with lunch served at noon. Cost is \$25. The guest speaker is The Rev. Dr. Stephen Paul Bouman, executive director of the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit. Reservations are due by April 7 to Olinda Fink, 215 Marengo Ave, #2F, Forest Park, IL 60130-1611, 708-366-3585. Make checks payable to Friends of Lutheran World Relief.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

**Help Needed:** We need a reliable person(s) to help keep our gardens weeded and looking nice this spring and summer as we try to sell our Mt. Prospect home. We are about ½ mile from church on Greenwood Drive. We also need someone to wash our windows inside and outside when we return in late May. It would be helpful to have a list of handymen or handywomen who could help us occasionally as we prepare to sell and move. Please email me with your name if you are interested at [rncwhite@comcast.net](mailto:rncwhite@comcast.net). Thank you,Carolynn White

**Wanted - Green Thumbs to Enhance 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.

**Rummage Sale:** Let us know if you would be willing to help organize and work at the annual Grace Rummage Sale. We would like to continue our tradition of having a rummage sale here at Grace, but we can't do it without faithful people who are willing to commit to helping organize all of the logistics of the sale. Please contact the church office, Pam Walger, Minda Josten, or Margit Willis if you can help. The sale will be held on April 26, 27, and 28.

**Attention Bakers:** - Please work your magic and bake a delicious treat to be sold at the Rummage Sale. Bring your items to church by Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. If you can package it for easy selling that would be a great help.

**Donations Needed:** It's that time of year to look around your home to collect items for the Grace Rummage Sale. Let's all get all of our unused items out of the house and bring them to church for the sale. Please remember that we appreciate clean usable items for donation. Watch the Pink Sheet for dates when you can bring in your treasures. THANKS!

**Attend the Synod Assembly:** – Please let Pastor Dan or Greg Linwood know if you are interested in attending this year's Synod Assembly. The dates for the assembly are Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the convention center in Tinley Park.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

**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” – Our Latest Contribution:** A heartfelt thank you to all of you who were able to volunteer and come out to work at the Feed My Starving Children location in Schaumburg on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We had about twenty volunteers from Grace, and were joined by many additional volunteers! Altogether we packed a total of 131 boxes, totaling 28,296 meals, enough to feed 78 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Jamaica and Haiti.

Our next group packing opportunity is Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up begins at Grace on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Or you can go to [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) now and join the group.

God's work. Our hands. Indeed.

**La Trinidad:** Reconstruction has begun to repair the damage from the burst pipes. The congregation is worshiping at the nearby community center. La Trinidad will be able to host their monthly community dinner at this facility. The next dinner is scheduled for March 25. The April dinner is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Libby Reimann, Nancy Greaves or Greg Linwood. We carpool, leaving church at 9am.

**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 13<sup>th</sup>. (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 13) and/or buying some yummy treats – you will again help make a few families very happy this summer. Thanks from your Social Ministry Committee.

**Shop for the Food Pantry:** 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!

## YOUTH GATHERING 2018

As the trip to Houston approaches, the plans are coming together, the kids are getting excited and, thanks to your generosity, the funds needed for the trip are accumulating!

Our Dinner/Silent Auction was extremely well attended and everyone had a great time. The Spaghetti was awesome, the donated Silent Auction items were varied and amazing. After covering the expenses for the evening, we raised nearly \$3,000, which certainly gets us much closer to our goal. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Next up – Easter Breakfast -- Please join us Easter Sunday for breakfast starting at 8:30am allowing plenty of time to enjoy a great meal before worship services at 10:00am.

## FINANCIAL Update

Financial Report ending February 28, 2018

|                              | Budget           | Actual             | Difference        |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Envelope Income       | \$ 44,000        | \$ 41,412          | (\$ 2,588)        |
| Special Income               | 5,340            | 3,682              | ( 1,658)          |
| Prepaid Income               | 3,320            | 3,416              | + 96              |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b>\$ 52,660</b> | <b>\$ 48,510</b>   | <b>(\$ 4,150)</b> |
| <b>Expenses thru January</b> | <b>55,856</b>    | <b>58,968</b>      |                   |
| <b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>  |                  | <b>(\$ 10,458)</b> |                   |

The second month of the New Year saw the expenses soar with a \$3,040 SNOWPLOWING bill (you remember February weather), along with quarter payments on the Church insurance coverage and the maintenance contract for the HVAC system, totaling \$7,185. These are not regular monthly expenses, but we certainly hope the snowplowing is over. As a reminder, with all staff positions being filled, we cannot anticipate expenses continuing below budget. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated and necessary to fulfill our commitments in 2018.

Thank you to those who have made additional donations towards the completion of the debt for the rebuilding of the Parking Lot. The balance owed at the end of 2017 was \$6,100. With the donations received thru February, the debt is reduced to \$3,500. Can we complete the task by Easter??

### *Notes of* **THANKS**

**A HUGE Thank You** to everyone who delivered Easter gifts to our homebound members. They are: Judith Bataille, Betty Benson, Betty Carlson, Linda Courtice, Eloise DeCarlo, Cynthia Fontaine, Karen Gretz, Jon Keasling, Nick Lovdjieff, Mary Jo Menelle, Jerry Sakover, Lynn Sivertsen, The Stutheit Family, Pete Varley, Chris Vasanth and Pam Walger.

Grace WELCA

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church:** Thank you so much for your incredible school supply donation. We are so grateful and appreciative for your continued support of our students, families, staff and district.

Our families are so tremendously grateful to have supplies provided to their children. In addition, our staff are so thankful to have access to materials for students throughout the school year. Students are always excited to have supplies for school! We could not meet the needs of so many families without your kindness and generosity.

Our parents, students, administrators, staff, and teachers are incredibly thankful for your generosity and kindness. Our students will continue to benefit throughout the year from your donations. Your donations throughout the years have meant so much to our students and staff. Not only are we able to provide students with supplies on the first day of school, but we are also able to support students and staff throughout the school year with your donations.

Thank you again on behalf on the students and staff. I look forward to hearing from you again in the summer.

Sincerely,

Naomi Rubin, School Social Worker, Community Consolidated School District 21

***Dear Grace Family,***

Thank you so much for the scholarship money. I plan on using it on tuition. I am humbled by the support I have received. Thanks again, Taylor Greaves

**SPECIAL *Events***

- ***La Trinidad Community Meal:*** Sunday, March 25, 2018, leaving church at 9:00am
- ***Maundy Thursday:*** Thursday, March 29, worship at 7:00pm
- ***Good Friday:*** Friday, March 30. Tenebrae service at 7:00pm
- ***Easter Sunday:*** Sunday, April 1, Easter Breakfast beginning at 8:30am, worship at 10:00am
- ***Growing Grace Roundtable:*** Sunday, April 15, after coffee hour
- ***La Trinidad Community Meal:*** Sunday, April 22, leaving church at 9:00am
- ***Rummage Sale:*** April, 26, 27 & 28
- ***Mother's Day Bake Sale:*** Sunday, May 13
- ***Youth Gathering 2018:*** June 27 – July 1 in Houston





## Birthday LIST

### April

- |    |                                   |    |                                 |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 4  | Beverly Storz<br>Pamela Walger    | 15 | Debbie Bodett<br>Alex Nickl     |
| 6  | Zoe Stephanie                     | 20 | Christine Rogers                |
| 7  | Eloise DeCarlo<br>Andrew Stutheit | 22 | Stephanie Wilm                  |
| 9  | Colton Young                      | 26 | Carolynn White<br>Jeff Stutheit |
| 10 | Shanna Martinez                   | 30 | Kevin Trunda                    |
| 12 | James R. Shaffer                  |    |                                 |



## CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

### Ordinations

Kyle Seibert, Grace's MIC (Ministry in Context) 2015-2016, was ordained on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at Zion Lutheran Church in Muscatine, IA. He has accepted a call to Our Savior Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, Hanover, New Hampshire.



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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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## Staff **DIRECTORY**

**Pastor:** Daniel Schwick  
[d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org)

**Church Secretary:** Barbara Willis  
[b.willis@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:b.willis@gracemtprospect.org)

**Director of Lay Ministry:** Pam Walger  
[p.walger@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:p.walger@gracemtprospect.org)

**Director of Music:** Susan Nelson  
[sopranosusannelson@gmail.com](mailto:sopranosusannelson@gmail.com)

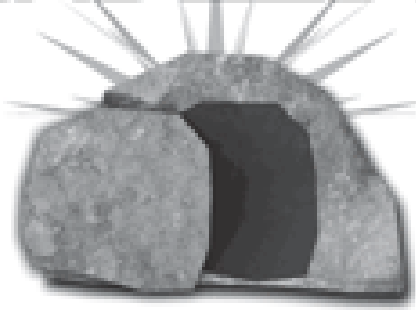
**Organist:** Erik Matson  
[erikjmatson@gmail.com](mailto:erikjmatson@gmail.com)

**Pre-school Director:** Christa Grabske  
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He Is  
**RISEN**  
**INDEED!**



**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* April 15