

GRACE NOTES

April 2019



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:



THINK SPRING!

Did you know that the word “Lent” comes from an ancient word that meant spring? Sometimes we think of Lent as representing the empty and sometimes frozen wilderness of our lives. And then we act surprised when, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the triumph of life over death.

In reality, Lent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the central events—and teachings—of our faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again!** In these days leading up to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded that those long-ago events continue to resonate in our lives. We don’t just celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as a historic event. We celebrate it as a present and life-giving “event” in our lives. It provides meaning and purpose for the here and now.

St. Paul teaches us and Martin Luther reminds us that through baptism we are somehow mysteriously connected to the death and resurrection of Jesus. So now, just as he was raised from the dead by the power of God’s love, so we have the promise of resurrection as well.

In the coming weeks, as the earth in our hemisphere begins to put on the colorful display of new life we call spring, let every flower, every bird, every greening tree remind us of the Easter Promise of new and eternal life with God.

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

Pastor Dan

Growing Green with GRACE

Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 1:00 to 5:00pm

Our Growing Grace Roundtable is moving along with great energy to create an event for our church and people in the surrounding community to celebrate the wonders of God’s creation and to learn about ways that we as individuals, as households, as a church and as part of our wider community can take better care of our natural resources. The centerpiece of the Growing Green with Grace spring event will be a celebration of many of the wonders of creation and to give thanks to God the Creator of all things. We are in the process of inviting a wide range of organizations and groups that share our commitment to “caring for creation.”

The Growing Grace Roundtable meets once a month. The next meeting is Sunday, April 7. Even if you have not participated in a roundtable meeting in the past, please consider adding your ideas and energy to the work of this group. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Lunch is served!

Lutheran Day in Springfield

"Ten Good Reasons to Participate in Lutheran Day in Springfield"

Lutherans from across Illinois and denominational lines trek to Springfield each spring to speak to their legislators in support of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois, and other Lutheran social ministry agencies. On Thursday, May 9, they will do the same once again—and you can be one of them.

Here are ten good reasons to help you decide whether you should be part of the a group going to Springfield this year from Lutheran congregations in the northwest suburbs:

1. Legislators want to hear from you. They really do.
2. You will receive training how to approach legislators. You won't be alone.
3. Rather than complain about state government, you will help bring change.
4. The most vulnerable citizens of our state, served by LSSI, are depending on you.
5. It's fun going as part of a group!
6. You will get to see the capitol and rotunda from the inside. They are impressive!
7. You will meet concerned Lutherans from across Illinois.
8. It will energize you to continue working for the common good.
9. You will gain a sense accomplishment and personal satisfaction.
- 10. You will keep your baptismal promise to "let your light shine before others."**

Lutheran Day on May 9 begins at 10am. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, and ends by 4pm. The afternoon is spent at the capitol. In order to arrive in time, transportation will depart at 6a.m. from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, and will return by 8:30pm.

To register for Lutheran Day, go to the Web site of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois: www.lssi.org and click on "Lutheran Day 2019." A \$10 registration fee includes lunch.

If you would like to go and need transportation, you may sign up by going to the Web site of Our Saviour's, Arlington Heights: www.oursaviours.org

At the top of the homepage, click on "Get Involved." On the drop-down menu, click on "Sign-Ups" and then scroll to "Upcoming Event Sign-Ups."

Pastor Dan and Kathie are planning to attend. Won't you join them?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Palm Sunday: April 14, 10:00am Blessing of Palms and the Passion According to St. Luke

Maundy Thursday: April 18, 7:00pm Two New Commandments I Give You

Good Friday: April 19, 7:00pm Seven Words from the Cross

Easter Sunday: April 21, 10:00am FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Do You Believe in the Power of Prayer? Come and join those who do. Come for a visit and pray with the prayer group on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday morning of the month at 9:30am. Begin your Tuesday's with prayer and reflection. If you have questions or want more information please contact Karen Gretz . Why not give it a try during Lent.

Lenten Dinners: Please join us on Wednesdays, March 27th through April 10th at 6:00pm. All are welcome. If you would be willing to help with any of these dinners, please contact Pam Walger 847-824-7408. Lenten worship will follow the dinners.

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

Friendship Group: The April Friendship Group meeting is on April 3rd at 12:30pm. Pastor Schwick will present a program entitled "Planting Seeds of Hope". Please plan to attend and invite a friend to join you. Sign up on Pam Walger's office door so she knows how many people to plan for.

Donate a Coffee Cake: The church youth and their families will be our hosts for the annual Easter Breakfast. Please lend a helping hand by donating a coffee cake to be served. Cakes should be brought to church on Saturday morning, April 20th.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Special Rehearsal Announced for Participants in Holy Week Services: If you are assigned to serve in any assisting role in worship services on Palm Sunday (April 14), Maundy Thursday (April 18) or Good Friday (April 19), you are invited and strongly encouraged to attend a brief rehearsal for each service on Saturday, April 13, from 10:00 to 11:30am. If you are not signed up or assigned to serve, but are interested, please let Pastor Dan know and plan to attend the rehearsal. All ages are invited.

Grace Rummage Sale: It's that time of year to look around your home and collect items for the annual 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 for the sale on May 31 and June 1. Also, we need faithful people who are willing to commit to helping with the organization, set up, sale, and clean up. Please contact the church office, Pam Walger, Minda Josten or Margit Willis if you can help. Thanks.

Volunteer Opportunities: Would you like to be a greeter, lector, usher, or communion assistant on Sunday mornings? If you are interested in helping with one of these ministries please contact the church office and speak with Barb at 847-824-7408.

Coffee Servers: We would like some new people to consider signing up to serve coffee on Sunday mornings after the services. We all enjoy the fellowship during this time - why not offer to serve the treats. Let Pam Walger or Barb Willis know if you'd like to volunteer.

Ushers: We are in need of ushers for our Sunday service. Please let us know if you'd like to serve. Contact the church office at 847-824-7408.

Synod Assembly: Please let Pastor Dan or Ardell Mueller (847-394-0851) know if you are interested in attending this year's Synod Assembly. The dates for the assembly are Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th at the convention center in Tinley Park. It's a wonderful experience.

Mission Trip: During the week of July 15, 2019 people from churches and synagogues around the northwest suburbs will be traveling to southern Illinois for the 5th annual Interfaith Council Mission Trip. If you are looking for an exciting week of service to others, fun times with an amazing group of people, and really, really good food, talk to Margit Willis at 312/607-2684 or Terry-Ann Saurmann at 847/404-3042.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Feed My Starving Children: The next packing event is on Tuesday, April 2nd from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Sign-up sheets are available outside the church office. Please note their new location of 740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg - just a short three blocks from their old location. Please use Google Maps or MapQuest for directions. Contact Greg Linwood at gregorylinwood@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

A Season of Hope: This Lent the Social Ministry Committee is asking the members and friends of Grace to join Lutheran World Relief's **A Season of Hope** appeal. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. **Our goal is to assemble at least 20 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.**

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

March 31 – Combs (sturdy)

April 7 –Nail Clippers (metal, attached file is optional)

April 14 (Palm Sunday) – Bars of Soap

There will be baskets in the east entryway area to collect your donated items. Thank you so much for your support.

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!

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 12th. (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 families in River Trails District 26 and also make summer programs affordable for some children at Robert Frost School in District 21.

With your generous help – by donating baked goods (bring them to church the morning of May 12) 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: Items needed include cans of tuna, chili, Spam, stew, corn, green beans, peaches, pears, spaghetti, chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup, beef vegetable soup, Spaghetti O's, pork and beans, and tomatoes. Also needed are boxes of Tuna Helper, macaroni and cheese, potato mixes, and rice mixes. Other food items requested are cake mixes, frosting mixes or cans of frosting, birthday candles, cookies and crackers. Non-perishable items needed include toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, dish soap and fabric softeners.. Thanks for your continued support of this mission project. If you can't shop, why not donate money in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry" and food gift cards will be purchased for donation to the food pantry.

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending February 28, 2019

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 47,333	\$ 40,976	(\$ 6,357)
Special Income	6,000	2,904	(3,096)
Prepaid Income	1,741	2,579	838
Total Income	\$ 55,074	\$ 46,459	(\$ 8,615)
Expenses thru February	57,295	63,429	
Surplus or (Deficit)		(\$ 16,970)	
<i>2018 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		38,696	

Remaining Surplus \$ 21,726

Snow! Snow! Snow & Ice! Hopefully, it's over for this season. The blessings we had of the lack of those events the last few years have taken a toll on expenses this year. We have paid \$6,470 for snow and ice control since the first of the year driving up the expense category. Combined with lower income (some of which can be accounted for with the foul weather in January and February with many on Sundays) leaves us with a sizable current year deficit. But the temperature is rising and the Lord is smiling through the sunshine towards Easter.

Notes of THANKS

I would like to thank all the people that sent cards, prayers, and came to visit me in and out of the hospital. They all helped me to get through some rough times. I really enjoyed Pastor Dan's talks and visits. By the way, if anyone out there needs a hug, just ask Pastor Dan. He can help you.

Veronica Grimpe

Thank you for the goodies and making sure I get enough sweets to eat.

Alex Nickl

Thank You to everyone who collected Campbell Soup "Labels for Education" over the years. Campbell Soup has discontinued this program so we will no longer be accepting labels. Thanks for all your help in the past.

Joanne Coy

Thank You from Nicaragua! At last year's Grace rummage sale, Cory Olson purchased baseball equipment. He recently returned from a trip to Nicaragua to visit his daughter and deliver the baseball equipment to the children she works with. This is the first time they have had baseballs, gloves and bats to actually play a game.



Dear Grace Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

With your Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response make possible short- and long-term recovery and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!

With you in the Spirit, The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Grace Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,040.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

In this season of Epiphany, your gift shines with the light and blessing of Christ, accompanying people and communities here and in 60 countries around the world. You're right there, shining in so many places all at once, as we work together – church to church – to provide what is needed to end hunger and poverty: access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice.

Blessed are you for sharing your blessings with others.

With the light and hope of Christ, The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Friends of Northwest Compass:

We gratefully acknowledge your recent donation of 25 gift cards totaling \$625.00 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.

Thank you so much for your support! You are making a difference.

Sincerely, Sonia Ivanov, Active Executive Director

SPECIAL *Events*

- **FMSC:** Tuesday, April 2, at 6:00pm
- **April Friendship Group:** Wednesday, April 3 at 12:30pm
- **Lenten Dinner:** Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00pm
- **Midweek Lenten Service:** Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00pm
- **Growing Grace Roundtable:** Sunday, April 7 following the service in Charter Hall
- **Lenten Dinner:** Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00pm
- **Midweek Lenten Service:** Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00pm
- **Palm Sunday:** Worship service at 10:00am
- **Maundy Thursday:** Communion Worship service at 7:00pm
- **Good Friday:** Worship service at 7:00pm
- **Easter Breakfast:** Sunday, April 21 in Charter Hall from 8:30 – 9:45am (free will offering)
- **Easter Worship:** Sunday, April 21 at 10:00am
- **Mother's Day Bake Sale:** Sunday, May 12 after the service in the Atrium
- **Growing Green with Grace:** Saturday, May 18, 1:00 to 5:00pm
- **Grace Rummage Sale:** May 31 and June 1

Birthday LIST

April

3	Gus Grimes	12	James Shaffer
4	Beverly Storz Pam Walger	15	Debbie Bodett
6	Zoe Stephanie	16	Alex Nickl
7	Eloise DeCarlo Jonathon Bouris Andrew Stutheit	20	Christina Rogers
9	Colton Young	22	Stephanie Wilm
10	Shanna Martinez	26	Carolyn White Jeffery Stutheit
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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**

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* April 14