

GRACE NOTES

April 2021



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:



Yes, it finally seems that we are seeing light at the end of this horrific pandemic. But we are still not there. We still need to be cautious and careful of each other. I think we are slowly growing what has been called hybrid style of worship that we can also extend to other areas of ministry. Already, as spring starts unfolding, our Property Committee, Green Team and Grace Garden team have been in fruitful conversations about how to bring greater synergy to their efforts. Watch for some exciting new ways that we can show our neighbors how we value God's good creation.

For God so loved the world. We heard that famous passage in worship recently. You notice that statement is in the past tense. God loved. God did that already. God shows his love for the world most powerfully by sacrificing his own son for the sake of the whole world. That's at the core of our observances this Holy Week. We begin on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion on March 28. This year, of course, most of us on Zoom will not have palms to wave. But we will "gather" to hear about the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and the subsequent betrayal of Jesus by both the people and even his own disciples.

On Maundy (Or Commandment) Thursday, April 1, at 7:00pm., we will experience a dramatic reenactment of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Then we will join in mystically sharing in that same blessed meal. This will be an all Zoom service, no in person worship. Normal Zoom log in.

On Good Friday, April 2, at 7:00pm, we will "gather" with many others from our Metropolitan Chicago Synod to share a virtual Stations of the Cross. This will be an all Zoom event. Normal Zoom log in.

We will celebrate EASTER SUNDAY, April 4, at 10:00am with a hybrid service (on Zoom and in-person with appropriate restrictions in place). Normal Zoom log in.

Beginning on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00pm we will have a seven-session **Wednesday Evening Not Bible Study**. The theme is "STEWARDS OF CREATION." We will study the pending threats to our planet and also investigate solutions. We will use God's commitment to the world as a pattern for the way we do our part to further God's work in the world. I hope that many members of our congregation, including—no, especially—our youth will participate. I look forward to a lively discussion. Every Wednesday evening at 7:00, April 7- May 19. Normal Zoom log in.

Yes, Saints of Grace, we are emerging from a dark time for so many of us and for our nation and our global neighbors. Let us emerge stronger, more centered in our mission, more focused on showing God's light and love shining through us. We have a great heritage. Now let's build a great future!

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

Special Congregational Meeting

Notice: Special Congregation Meeting scheduled for Sunday May 2nd at 11:15 am via Zoom

Single Agenda: Recommendation from Church Council to the Congregation to approve by a two-thirds majority the changes in the Grace Constitution and Bylaws. The Congregation Meeting requires a quorum of 38 Grace members to be present for this vote. Please plan to attend.

Recommendation: The Grace Church Council approved the following changes at a Council meeting on February 23, 2021. The Church Council recommends that the Congregation approve the following four groups of changes in the Constitution and Bylaws as described in the Summary of Changes. Note: Continuing Resolutions have been approved by the Church Council and do not require additional approval by the Congregation.

2021 Grace Constitution - Summary of Changes

The Church Council is recommending that the Congregation approve the following four changes in the Grace Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Updates to the Grace Constitution to incorporate the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These changes were made to the Model Constitution based on recommendations made by the Churchwide Assembly.
 - a. In coordination with the following amendments, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:
 - b. strike "synodical" and replace with "synod" (17 times)
 - c. strike "the congregation" and replace with "this congregation" where appropriate (59 times)
 - d. make editorial changes so that the *Model Constitution for Congregations* follows the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the *Constitution for Synods*.
 - e. In addition, two Sections were added in the Constitution:
 - i. **C10.08.** This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
 - ii. ***C18.03.** _Adopted or amended continuing resolutions shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.
2. A Bylaw change to define the additional responsibility of the Council Secretary to keep accurate records of all approved Continuing Resolutions by the Congregational Council:

- a. **C11.01.a.01 (4):** Shall keep an accurate list of all Continuing Resolutions approved by the Congregation Council to be provided to the Constitution Review Committee each time the Constitution of this church is being updated. This list shall include all additions, modifications, and deletions as well as the effective date of each, the text of the Continuing Resolution, and the codified number of the affected Continuing Resolutions.
3. A Bylaw change and a change to a section in the Constitution to codify Grace's practice of having Youth Council member(s) serving a one-year term:
 - a. **C12.01.01.** The Congregation Council shall consist of up to twelve adult voting members and up to 2 voting youth members elected by the congregation, in addition to the pastor(s).
 - b. **C12.02.** The adult members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for three (3) years or until their successors are elected. Adult members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. The youth members of the Congregation Council shall be elected by written ballot to serve for one (1) year. Youth members will not be eligible to serve more than one consecutive term. The terms of all Congregation Council members shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
4. Two Bylaws were added to allow Council and Committee meetings to be conducted by remote communication:
 - a. **C12.11.01.** The Congregational Council may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
 - b. **C13.06.02.** The Committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

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

Palm Sunday: Join us for worship at 10:00am via Zoom on Sunday, March 28, 2021 as we hear about the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday: Join us on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom for a reenactment of Jesus' Last Supper.

Good Friday: Join us on Friday, April 2, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom as we share a virtual Stations of the Cross.

Easter: Join us on Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Fellowship

On-line Chats with Pastor, Tuesdays at 11:00am: Throughout the month on April, Pastor Dan will continue to be available by ZOOM (video or audio only) every Tuesday morning from 11:00 to noon. Drop by for a chat. Connect to share important information about people in the congregation. No agenda. Just conversation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Learning

Wednesday Evening Not Bible Study: Join us April 7 through May 18 at 7:00pm as we discuss the "Stewards of Creation," a look at the pending threats to our planet and possible solutions. Log-in using Zoom.

Wired Word Returning After Easter: After a year in hibernation our weekly daytime discussion group, WIRED WORD, is returning to Grace. There will be a new time (10:30am on Thursdays) and a new format (all Zoom for April, hybrid or all in-person beginning in May).

WIRED WORD is a highly participatory discussion group that looks at current events from a Christian perspective and raises questions about how we live in the world. Participants will receive a one-page discussion started a day before the session. We will "gather" by Zoom at first, at 10:30am and plan to end our conversation at noon. The log in is the same as for Sunday morning worship.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

La Trinidad: The next community dinner is Sunday, April 11, 2021. Because of your support, the Social Ministry Committee will be able to bring chickens, fruit, drinks, protein bars and cookies. La Trinidad is still accepting donations of coats, hoodies, and sweaters. They have asked for donations of socks. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann's house.

Buck-a-Chick: There will be flyers at church on Palm Sunday and Easter for donations to the Buck-a-Chick program of the ELCA. If you will not be at church on one of those Sundays, please consider making a donation to help a family raise chicks for sale and for food for their table. Donations may be sent to church and marked for Buck-a-Chick. Thank you for your continued support.

Seasons of Hope: Last year before Covid-19 closed the church building, The Social Ministry Committee had put out baskets to collect items to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. We saved the items collected last year and would like your support in collecting items this Lent to complete kits to be sent worldwide. Items still needed are dark-colored bath towels, wrapped bars of soap, and nail clippers. Items can be dropped off weekday mornings at church or at Libby Reimann's house. We would like to assemble the kits the week after Easter. Thanks for your support.

Mother's Day No Bake Sale: Because of Covid-19, the Social Ministry Committee decided it would be safer to not bake this year. We are asking for monetary donations that will be used to support River Trails and Robert Frost summer programs. Please send your donations marker "Bake Sale" to church. Thanks for your generosity.

Food Pantries: The needs of the pantries are changing as we continue to struggle through Covid-19. To make things easier, we are asking that you send monetary donations to church, marking it for the food pantry, and the Social Ministry Committee will make arrangements for the funds to be sent to the pantries we support. Thank you for your generosity.

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery: Veterans groups that oppose a massive truck warehousing proposal for Joliet are calling on all veterans to oppose it. Truck traffic is already a major concern for those travelling along Route 53 near the Cemetery, but if the North Point project is built, thousands more trucks per day are expected. Trucks have been using the cemetery as a turn around and have damaged grave markers and backed over graves.

Veterans and those interested in speaking out against the truck warehouse can contact Andrew Tangen, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County, or the Allen Lynch Foundation, or Pastor Paul Pfeffer for more information.

AROUND the Parish

Saints of Grace

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)

Name: Sandy Drelicharz



D.O.B: October 27

Member: Since 2001 (Mike and Sandy had gone to China to adopt their daughter Nicole. She was 11 months old when she got sick and passed away the day before they were set to come home to the States. At the time Mike was Catholic and they searched for a church to do a service for Nicole. None of the churches they reached out to would do a service for her because she wasn't baptized. That's when Sandy suggested they call Grace. They did and Grace agreed to have a service for their daughter. They have been members ever since!)

Grew Up: Glen Ellyn

Currently live: Mt. Prospect

Siblings: 4 sisters

Spouse: Mike

Children: Danielle, 20 in March and Amy, 17.

Favorite Memory of GL: The church collected toys for Mike and Sandy to bring to China when they went to go adopt their second daughter Danielle.

Favorite Holiday: Between Christmas and Halloween

Occupation: Works at Euclid School as the Lunch Supervisor but now works packing and passing out food for the hungry, supervise kids who are eLearning at the Park District and whatever else is needed to be done between Euclid, River Trails and the Park District.

Phobia: Snakes

Sports Team: Cubs, Blackhawks, Bear and Bulls.

Pets: Zoe – a miniature schnauzer that does not bark because the first owner cut her vocal cords.

Dream Vacation: Take my kids back to China to see where they came from.

Dream Car: 1967 Ford Mustang

Movie: Gone with the Wind

Color: Purple

Favorite Number: 7

Ice Cream: Breyers Lactose free Chocolate

Candy: Hershey Bars and M&M's

Meal: Pizza

Subject: Algebra

Fun Fact: Mike and I took up curling for a couple years. We won a second-place pin.

If I won the lottery: Give some to church and some to the adoption agency. Pay off all our bills and our kids would want for nothing.

Dinner with: My dad who passed away 3/17/2015. I miss him a lot and no longer a fan of St. Patrick's Day.

Showcasing Grace's Committees: The Stewardship Education Committee will be showcasing the various committees and groups at Grace. Each month a different committee will be featured. In April we feature the **Green Team and the Garden Team.**

Showcasing the Green Team

The Green Team is one of the newest committees that has formed at Grace. Our goal is to introduce Green ideas to Grace incrementally. Areas of focus are Charter Hall and the Kitchen, the Building and the Outside Property.

During the pandemic, the Green Team has not met because a significant focus of our team are Green initiatives inside our building. The Team looks forward to meeting again once the building is opened for committee meetings.

Prior to the pandemic, the Team had ideas on how to phase out the use of Styrofoam and single use plastic utensils, and instead use paper plates and cups. Another idea is to use regular utensils that can be washed for community meals and coffee hour. In addition, we would also like to use pitchers of water and lemonade instead of single use water bottles and soda cans. We are also exploring composting options and could move to compostable plates and cups if possible. We are also considering switching to sustainably sourced coffee.

Other ideas include sharing Green ideas with the congregation and replacing our commercial dishwasher. Longer term ideas include an energy audit of the building, solar panel options and prairie restoration.

Once the building is fully opened, the Green Team plans to meet every other month, and all are welcome to attend. Meetings will be announced in Grace Notes and the Grace Worship Bulletin. If you cannot make a full-time commitment to the Team but are interested in helping on one of the initiatives or have other Green ideas please reach out to one of the Green Team members: Dan Reimann (chair), Mike Drelicharz, Nancy Greaves, Sharyl Hanna, Greg Linwood, Ardell Mueller, Libby Reimann, Kathie Schwich, Pastor Dan Schwick, and Margit Willis.

Showcasing the Garden Team

The Grace Garden Committee worked diligently throughout the 2020 Spring and Summer to prepare, plant, water, maintain and harvest the produce grown in our garden. We have 5 beds, each measuring approximately 25 feet long. This year we planted Green Beans, Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers and Carrots. Many hands made quick work of the project. Our little garden grew approximately 300 pounds of produce in 2020 with all of the vegetables donated to a variety of Food Pantry's in the area including Northwest Compass and Wheeling Township. All of the recipients were very appreciative of the produce they received from our garden. Thank you to all that participated in the activities related to supporting our garden. We will plant again in the

Spring and always looking for willing volunteers to join in any aspect of the on-going project. Experience is not required. We will meet early Spring to clean the beds and prep the soil prior to planting, planting typically occurs mid-May and there will be plenty of work throughout the Summer. A common question raised has been related to mobility needed to work in the garden. There are plenty of activities available that do not require crawling on the ground including watering of the garden, harvesting the produce and delivery of the produce to the Food Pantry's. Please reach out to Michael Drelicharz at michael@drelicharz.com with any questions or to express an interest in participating in the 2021 Grace Garden. All are welcome.

Church Directories: Copies of a 2021 Directory of Members and Friends are available on the table in the east entry. To receive a copy by email, call the church office (847-824-7408) Monday thru Friday from 8 until noon to request one.

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending February 28,2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 48,900	\$ 54,211	\$ 5,311
Special Income	5,996	3,046	(2,950)
Prepaid Income	1,771	2,771	1,000
Total Income	\$ 56,667	\$ 60,028	\$ 3,361
Expenses thru February	60,153	58,185	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 1,843	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>38,620</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 40,463	

Because of two major gifts received in January designated for 2020 income, we start 2021 with operating surplus. Low February income and higher expenses created a sizable deficit for the month.

We thank all for your continuing contributions to your church, GLC, and look forward to the time, with God's grace and blessings, that GLC will completely reopen with a new spirit of faith. It is coming!

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank you to the congregation for the Valentine's Day box! I appreciate the generosity very much. School is going well. Appreciate it!

Jack Dietrich

Grace Family, Debbie and I have greatly appreciated all of the support that we have received from so many of you. Thanks so much for the kind words of support via your cards, emails and phone calls. We also appreciate those of you who have chosen to honor Bob with memorials to Hope Parkinson Program, FGCU Scholarship Endowed Fund in memory of our Kevin, or Grace Church. Bob loved our church and its members so much as evidenced by the things he did there; ushering, church council, committee work, Stephen Ministry, regular attendee, and making/building things from his workshop for use at Grace.

Carolynn White

Many thanks for the great Valentine's Day treats.

Alex Nickl

Thank you for thinking of me and sending all of the delicious valentines treats!! They were all so good and my roommates and I enjoyed them.

Samantha Nickl

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,148.32 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

This season, we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But, we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA, you are sharing the everlasting joy of that transformation with your neighbors around the world.

With your gifts, you are putting God's love into action. Your generosity allows this church to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and sharing the love of a faithful and abiding God.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now, you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, Mission Advancement

Birthday LIST

April

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 3 Gus Grimes | 15 Debbie Bodett |
| 4 Beverly Storz
Pam Walger | 16 Alex Nickl |
| 6 Zoe Stephanie | 20 Chris Rogers |
| 7 Jonathon Bouris
Eloise DeCarlo
Andrew Stutheit | 22 Stephanie Wilm |
| 10 Shanna Martinez | 26 Jeff Stutheit
Carolynn White |

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 Carolynn White and family on the death of her husband Robert "Bob" White on February 22, 2021. Bob and Carolynn joined Grace in 1978. Bob was active in Stephen Ministers. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Florida.



1624 E. Euclid Ave.
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Phone 847-824-7408
www.gracemtprospect.org
www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect



A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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.

Staff **DIRECTORY**

Pastor: Daniel Schwick
d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org

Church Secretary: Barbara Willis
b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Lay Ministry: Pam Walger
p.walger@gracemtprospect.org

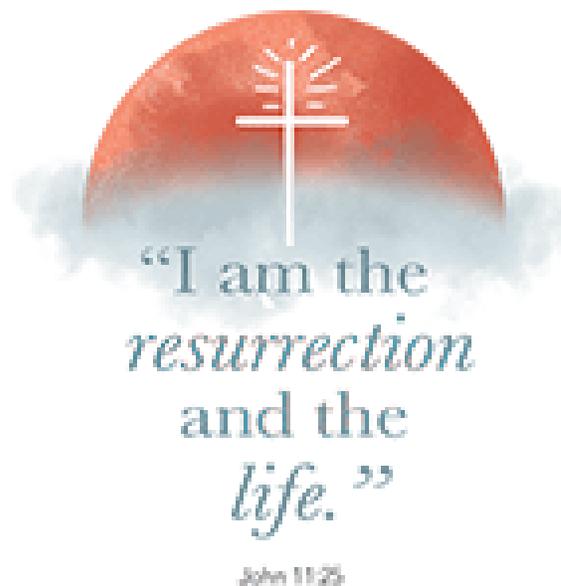
Director of Music: Susan Nelson
sopranosusannelson@gmail.com

Organist:

Pre-school Director: Jaime Wright
preschool@gracemtprospect.org

Mission Partner: Rev. Carrie Smith
carrie.smith@elca.org

Grace Notes Editor: Debbie Bodett
bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net



ARTICLE *Deadline:* April 18