

GRACE NOTES

August 2017



Volunteers from Grace help cook and serve the monthly community dinner at La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park.

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

through

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

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COUNCIL *Highlights*

Council Highlights and Status of Search for an Interim Pastor

Just a note to provide everyone the highlights of the June 25th Council meeting, and to keep you informed of the latest progress of our search for an interim pastor.

Besides normal Council business, the Council was advised by the Music Director Search committee that we are continuing to pursue the interview process with some candidates for the permanent organist position, and we hope for eventual success in this area. We were also provided an update from the ad-hoc website committee, who is looking into the possibility of revising and modernizing our current website to make it even more accessible and friendlier to visitors checking us out online. Since there are no web designers on this committee, we will be enlisting some outside professional assistance. The Council earmarked the church's share of the Rummage Sale proceeds to pay for any expenses incurred in this area by the committee.

There was substantive discussion about the scholarships that we award each year to Grace members attending college. After thorough discussion of the sources of the funds for these scholarships (interest accrued from the Ziebell, Felten as well as earnings from the Gudrun Schultz fund) the Council agreed to set a targeted minimum amount for each scholarship of \$250 and a targeted maximum amount for each scholarship of \$750. The average amount of scholarships awarded from 2001 through 2016 is just a little less than \$475.

As to the pastoral search, the Executive Committee and the Council are continuing to work with the Synod on the process of finding the right interim pastor for us. We continue to receive names of candidates for our consideration and review. Please keep us and this process in your prayers.

Greg Linwood, Council President

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Grace Book Club: 2017 – 2018 Selections

September 2017 – *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

October 2017 – *Camino Island* by John Grisham

November 2017 – *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly

January 2018 – *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

February 2018 – *Ape House* by Sara Gruen

March 2018 – *White Truffles in Winter* by N.M. Kelby

April 2018 – *Destiny of the Republic* by Candace Millard

May 2018 – *My Grandma Told Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman

June 2018 – *Home Front* by Kristen Hanna

Zumba Gold is held in the Youth Room every Thursday morning at 10am. Come and Zumba your summer away with some fun exercise and fellowship.

Birthday Card Shower: To distinguish our members who are 90 or better we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes (cards and postcards) to brighten their special day. On July 29th we have one special birthday to celebrate - Alice Johnson will celebrate her 92nd birthday. Please shower her with good wishes at 800 West Oakton Street, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALICE!

Another Birthday to Celebrate: Evelyn Brandeau, a charter member of Grace, will be celebrating her 90th birthday on August 14th. Please shower her with wishes. Send to: Evelyn Brandeau c/o Autumn Leaves of Arlington Heights, 1625 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVELYN!

Bingo Prizes: Please donate prizes for our annual fall Bingo game. Prizes can be left in Pam's office.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Super Summer Sunday School: Each week all children are invited to attend after the Children's Sermon. There will be crafts, games, movies, Bible lessons and lots of fun. Super Summer Sundays will run through August.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Volunteers Needed to Serve on the Grace Pre-School Board: When Becka Chantry resigned her position as Grace Pre-School Director effective June 30, 2017, Betty Dietrich and Jean Imburgia also decided to step down from their positions as members of the Pre-School Board of Directors. As a result, we are in urgent need of two eager, energetic people who like to be involved helping children get a good start in life to serve on this board. The Pre-School is staffed and ready for business starting this fall, but we still need members on the Board to oversee what's happening. Anyone interested should contact Greg Linwood or any Council member. Thanks in advance for your willingness to help out.

Interested in Helping Choose Our Next Pastor? Although we have not yet selected an interim pastor for Grace (your Council is working hard to find one), we will eventually need a Call Committee to conduct the search, interviews, vetting and prayerful consideration as to who our next permanent pastor will be. Accordingly, we are encouraging all members of Grace to consider whether or not they feel called at this time to participate in such a committee. If you feel such a call, please contact Greg Linwood or any Council member to express your interest. Your Council will make the final selection of the make-up of this committee.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Resettlement SummerFest: Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 11am-3pm at Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, 600 W Golf Road, Mount Prospect.

Food: Grilled chicken, Sides and Desserts (please sign up to bring a side or dessert)

Fun: Bounce House, Face Painting, Relay Races, and more

Fellowship: Get to know our partners in our Mount Prospect Resettlement Team: Grace Lutheran, Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, St. Mark Lutheran, and the Turkish American Society of Chicago.

Family: We are inviting Mahmoud, Wafaa, Dalai, Malak, and Hala (the family from Syria that we co-sponsored). We are hopeful that they will attend so that you will have a chance to meet them.

RefugeeOne: Check out the information table and watch a short video on RefugeeOne's work.

Back to School: Supplies Needed: The Social Ministry Committee is collecting supplies for local school children and children on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. We are hoping to collect enough supplies to fill 30 backpacks. There will be tear-off tabs on a poster starting July 9. People can take tabs for the supplies they would like to donate. A collection box will be set up by the poster. We would like all the supplies to church by August 6 so we have time to ship the backpacks to Rosebud before school starts. We're hoping the timing of the school supply drive will coordinate with the back-to-school sales at the local stores. We are looking for the following items:

- 12-inch rulers marked with inches and centimeters
- Boxes of colored pencils
- Pencil boxes
- Highlighters (in sets of two)
- Rolls of scotch tape
- Boxes of washable markers, thin or thick, classic colors (8 or 10 in a box)
- Large glue sticks in sets of four
- Single-subject ruled spiral notebooks in sets of three (each a different color, not college ruled)
- #2 pencils in sets of 48
- Backpacks (solid colors preferred)
- 2-pocket folders in sets of 6 (each a different color)

Thanks so much for your support.

“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, August 15th from 6pm to 7:30pm. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, July 30. 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!

Lutherans in a Lather: It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There is a washtub in the East entryway just waiting for your contribution of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 oz.) that are not overly scented or perfumed. The soap that is collected will be distributed by LWR to people in need of pride and cleanliness in refugee camps, hospitals and disaster sites around the world. The washtub will be out through Sunday, September 24, 2017.

Mosquito Invasion: Watch out for the mosquitoes buzzing around Grace in August. Although the official ELCA Malaria campaign ended, the threat of malaria is still all too real. Help us swat mosquitoes and help wipe out this horrible disease. Swatters will be available the last two weeks in August.

Food Pantry: Don't forget to shop for the food pantry this summer. There are a lot of hungry children home from school with big appetites. 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, 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!

La Trinidad: Once a month members of the Social Ministry Committee and other members of Grace go to La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park to help cook, serve and clean up after the monthly community dinner. For the past several months, we have been asked to bring roasted chickens and salads. There is a poster in the Atrium with the date of the next community dinner and contact information for anyone who would like to join the group going or would like to contribute funds to offset the cost of the food items we provide. If you would like more information about our visits, please contact anyone on the Social Ministry Committee (Greg Linwood, Greg Hammond, Sue Buerger, Nancy Greaves, Libby Reimann, or Debbie Bodett).

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending June 30, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$138,162	\$128,809	(\$ 9,353)
Special Income	16,020	25,091	+ 9,071
Prepaid Income	5,975	5,975	0
Total Income	\$160,157	\$159,875	(\$ 282)
Expenses thru June	165,946	150,223	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+ 9,652	

Above reflects our current year financial status thru the first six months. Of concern is the deficit in weekly envelope income. Though we are showing a surplus of income over expenses to date, we need to remember that some expenses have gone down only temporarily as we enter a period of transition in pastoral leadership but at the same time, we have lost income with the Salem Korean Church ceasing their use of our premises for their service. It is important that we keep our financial picture strong in the current year as we move forward in this transition period. Place your faith in HIM as we go forward.

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, phone calls and flowers I received after my recent surgery. I am so blessed to be part of this Grace family. Your caring and support are very much appreciated. Eileen Clark

With heartfelt thanks I want to express my gratitude to the staff and members of Grace who reached out to Evelyn and me and my family during her long ordeal with Alzheimer's which thankfully has come to an end. Many continued to send cards to her long after she was no longer able to read and understand them. Many of our newer members of Grace never had the opportunity to meet the volunteer hostess that I met by chance at the USO in Minneapolis on Halloween, 1944. I was dazzled by the beautiful Norwegian dressed in her mother's Norwegian dress, the 6th child of Norwegian Lutheran missionaries in China. When we married in November 1946, she was an Executive Secretary for Hubert H. Humphrey, Mayor of Minneapolis. When I accepted an editorial position with Scott, Foresman and Company, we moved to Mt. Prospect in the summer of 1962 and became members of Grace. Evelyn served on many committees at Grace: Chairwoman of WELCA, Social Ministry, Lay Ministry, Secretary of the Property Committee, the only woman on the Building Committee when our sanctuary was built, chaired one of the women's circles, and filled in as secretary when Barbara Willis was on vacation. A few "old timers" will remember her Swedish Cringler baked fresh for the coffee hour. Your cards and greetings and support have meant a great deal to our family. Nick Lovdjieff

Thank You. The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank you for your donations for the hygiene kits. The ELCA has a large prison ministry program and these hygiene kits help women leaving the system to have a few personal items to help them as they make the transition to their new lives. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Grace Lutheran Church: Thank you for your years of food donations and the Aldi \$25 gift cards. The gift cards have helped several families that are truly in need. When we are out of the cards....I am aware of one of our volunteers that helps one family that is truly in need.

Faith Based financial giving, Churches, Individuals, Senior Housing, Organizations, is 85% of our annual income.

Blessings and Thank You, Walker R. Reach, LCC Food Pantry



Birthday LIST

August

1	Suzanne Rovani	18	Ken Adams Margaret Reed
2	Zachary Schulze		
5	Nancy Greaves	20	Jon Walger
7	Teri Hamilton Hannah Roth	22	Julie Eschbach
9	Dick Ohman Janet Gaiser Cynthia Lauletta	23	Lynn Moskaluk
10	Christine Rovani	25	Lois Hauge John Moskaluk
11	Glenn Grimpe Karen Pfeffer Justin Walger	26	Joann Volocyk
14	Evelyn Brandeau Jonai Nirmal	27	Alan Clark Eileen Clark
16	Marilyn Stark	28	Robert Kaulfuss Bonnie Radtke Beth Stone Dana Olson Michelle Nauert
17	Libby Reimann	29	Evelyn Linwood Austin Greaves
		30	Dianne Kovack

CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

Weddings

Couples promise their faithfulness to one another as we surround them with our prayers for God's blessings in their marriage.

Congratulations to Ellen Blunk and Stephen Carlson who were married on July 1, 2017.

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 Nick Lovdjieff and his family on the death of Evelyn Lovdjieff on June 25, 2017. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Grace on September 30, 2017 at 10:30am.



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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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ARTICLE *Deadline:* August 20