

GRACE NOTES

August 2020



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:



You have probably heard me make comparisons between the first disciples as we hear about them in the Book of Acts and our way of following Jesus. One of our fundamental beliefs is that the God who raised Jesus from the dead, continues to work, with and without our help, to heal a broken creation. Today we live in a whole new world. Even the oldest among us has never seen what we are seeing. We may want to sit back and just see what emerges as the new normal. But I hope that as we open up our doors again, we will also open our minds and our hearts to some of the harsh realities that surround us.

Let's not just rebuild Grace. Let's rebuild Grace better.

Below this letter you will see the very carefully considered reopening plan for Grace. The plan was drafted by a task force appointed by the Council. The task force met three times by Zoom meeting and adopted the draft plan. That draft plan was forwarded to the Church Council for consideration at its July 21st meeting. At that meeting the Council received the draft plan and made a few amendments. It was then put into place by a number of persons taking responsibility for preparing our building to hold our services. I think it is true to say that our pandemic worship is not going to be much like our "old" worship. There will be social distancing by households; everyone over 2 years old will be wearing masks; there will be no in-person singing. There's one more thing: a very large number of our very faithful members are advanced in years and may have one or more medical conditions that make them more susceptible to the COVID-19 virus. PLEASE STAY HOME FROM CHURCH UNTIL THERE IS A VACCINE. We are committed to continuing and even enhancing our Zoom worship experience, which so many people have found so meaningful over the past three months.

I want to make a challenge to our members and friends: Join with me at 1:00pm or 7:00pm on the five Mondays in August to discuss the myriad of questions surrounding the notion of racial privilege. I would like participants in the study group to commit to reading the book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. It is a provocative and thought-provoking examination of structural racism. I don't expect to agree with every idea in the book. Both study groups will take place exclusively on Zoom. Use the same sign in process that you use for church. The first session, Monday, August 3, will be an introductory session. That should give you time to find the book in a store or online and read some of the book before the August 10 session. It is my expectation that we will have a wide variety of responses to the issues we will discuss. I welcome that, just as long as we are all respectful of one another. We can resolve not only to re-open our doors but also reopen or awaken our minds to realities that have surrounded us forever—racial inequality, sexism, poverty. We can take a hard and sometimes uncomfortable look into our own exercise of privilege. I think that in itself is a sign of Grace. Coming back better!

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

Reopening PLAN

The Grace Reopening Task Force and the Grace Church Council have developed the following plan in order for Grace to safely reopen to our members. For the safety of all of our members, everyone wanting to attend in person church services will have to follow each step of this Reopening Plan. Services will continue to be offered via Zoom for those wanting to worship remotely.

The building will only be used by four (4) groups. Each group will be limited to a specific area of the building. The congregation will be limited to the sanctuary – the parlor and corridors on either side of the sanctuary are not to be used except in the case of an emergency. Preschool students and teachers will be limited to the classroom hallway, classrooms and restrooms. Petra is limited to Charter Hall. AA is limited to the Youth Room. Quarantining each group is essential to limiting exposure among the groups and making deep cleaning easier. No committees will meet in person at this time.

1. Prescreening – Members must self-assess based on IL Dept. of Public Health and CDC Guidelines and should participate remotely if they exhibit any symptoms or have any “at risk” or pre-existing conditions.
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
2. Protective measures.
 - a) Hand sanitizers – Members must disinfect hands upon entering the church. Touchless hand sanitizer dispensers are located at the church entrances.
 - b) Masks – Members should bring their masks and wear them before entering the building. Masks need to remain on the entire time you are in the building. Masks are required for all persons over 2 years old. Grace will provide masks as needed.
 - c) Cleaning and disinfecting the church will be done weekly.
 - d) Kitchen will be closed and off limits until further notice.
3. Social distancing - Members must maintain 6 feet social distance at all times.
 - a) Grace members will enter and exit the church by way of the east and west entrances ONLY.
 - b) Worshipers will enter the sanctuary using the side aisles as directed by the ushers.
 - c) Every other pew will be roped off and is not to be used for seating.
 - d) Each member will move toward the front of the sanctuary and sit in front-most open pew, filling the seats first by the center aisle, then the side aisle. Social distancing guidelines dictate that a pew may not hold more than 4 members. EXCEPTION: if people are residing in the same house.
 - e) Per state of Illinois guidelines, we are limited to no more than a total of 50 people – which includes worship leaders.
4. Church bulletins will be placed in pew for members with minimal contact. Members will take all materials from the pews as they leave for disposal.
5. Collection plates will be placed at the rear of the church at each side aisle. Offerings can be dropped off as you enter or leave the sanctuary.
6. Communion will be by prepackaged individual communion elements. The packs

will be placed on a table at the back of the church to be picked up as people enter the sanctuary. Please dispose of packaging as you leave.

7. Kneelers should not be used at any point during the service.
8. Restrooms will be kept open for emergency use and limited to one person at a time.
9. There will not be any live singing in the church building by the congregation or soloist. Music will be pre-recorded or performed remotely.
10. Communal prayers may be spoken by congregants, while still wearing their mask, in a low voice.
11. Announcements – Members should submit all announcements to pastor prior to the day of the service via email at d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org
12. Sunday School will not be conducted at this time.
13. Once service concludes, congregants should exit the sanctuary starting with the rear of the sanctuary, as directed by the ushers.
14. Congregants should exit the building leaving doorways open so remaining members can exit safely. Coffee Hour will not be conducted. Virtual Coffee Hour will continue via Zoom.

The safety of our church family is our top priority. Thank you for your patience and understanding of this plan as we all adapt to this ever-changing reality.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

In an effort to minimize confusion, we have now identified a single on-line address or phone number to access ALL Grace worship services, Bible Study, committee and Council meetings. If you are part of a group that would like to make use of the church Zoom account for an on-line “gathering,” please let Pastor Schwick know and he can make the arrangements.

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Bible Study: We continue to have **Bible Study on Wednesdays** at 7:00pm. (Bring your own Bible). We are studying the Acts of the Apostles, the stories of the very first Christians and their struggle to do ministry in a changing and often hostile environment. Connect using the Zoom information under Opportunities for Worship.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Storeroom Clean Up: The Committees are asked to send a representative to church on Saturday, August 1st at 10am to assist with emptying out the storeroom so that it can be used to store items from the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Corey Olson or Ardell Mueller.

Zoom Readers Schedule: A new Zoom readers schedule will be available this week. We would like a few more people who will be watching the Sunday services from home to sign up to be readers in the next couple of weeks. Kindly give Pam Walger a call ASAP at home 847-827-7431 to let her know if you would be willing to participate.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

School Supply Donations: Major decisions about what school will look like in the fall are being made now. Until those decisions are finalized, we do not know exactly what schools need most. We are asking congregational members who can make a financial donation to do so, earmarking it for “school supplies” and sending it to church by August 2nd. At that time the Social Ministry Committee will purchase and deliver whatever supplies are in greatest need. 10 sets of supplies will be shipped to the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Meals on Wheels: Volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels in September. The meals will be delivered safely using social distancing guidelines. Please sign up for a day or two of deliveries in September. The days available for delivery are Thursdays and Fridays. Pick up the food at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights at 11:00am. It will take about 1 ½ hours to deliver the food. Contact Betty Carlson at 847-803-9646 for more information and to volunteer.

Food Pantry: On line donations can be made to the **Mount Prospect** Human Services Department, for the Emergency Assistance Fund via PayPal at <https://www.mountprospect.org/departments/human-services/online-donations>. You may request that your donation go to a specific cause like the **food pantry**.

On line donations can be made to the **Northfield Township Food Pantry** with a credit card or PayPal at <https://twp.northfield.il.us/pantry/#>. Check donations can be mailed to the Northfield Township Food Pantry at 2550 Waukegan Road, Suite 100, Glenview, IL 60025.

On line donations can be made to **Compass Northwest** with a credit card or PayPal at <http://northwestcompass.org/how-we-help/food-connection/> Please note that donations go to Compass Northwest in general, rather than just to the food pantry. Besides providing food, donations may be used for counseling clients about additional sources of food and benefits.

AROUND *The Parish*

On August 14th Evelyn Brandeau, a charter member of Grace, will be celebrating her 93rd birthday. Please shower her with wishes to Evelyn Brandeau c/o The Reserve at Arlington Heights, 1625 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVELYN!

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending June 30, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 146,700	\$ 134,242	\$ (12,458)
Special Income	19,020	14,627	(4,393)
Prepaid Income	5,461	9,641	4,000
Total Income	\$ 171,181	\$ 158,330	\$ (12,851)
Expenses thru June	179,067	163,707	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (5377)	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>40,001</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 33,624	

It has often been said "Birds of a feather flock together". No truer words have ever been spoken as over the last four months you stay at home. You have many extra hours to watch God's creations in the air and in the trees tending to their nests. And, to the nest of Grace Lutheran Church, your church home, you hold it in your hearts with your contributions. We thank you as we all work together towards continuing His work virtually as a new experience. May God bless us all and keep us healthy throughout.

Notes of **THANKS**

Dear Grace Lutheran Church, Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,376.68 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

With your gifts, you are putting God's love into action – living faithfully, witnessing boldly, serving joyfully and giving abundantly. 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.

Thank you for your generous gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

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

GRACE Garden



The garden is growing. Pastor picked cucumbers and delivered them to a local food pantry.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have stopped by to weed, water and keep the garden healthy and growing.

Birthday LIST

August

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Suzanne Rovani | 17 | Libby Reimann |
| 2 | Zachary Schulze | 18 | Ken Adams
Margaret Reed |
| 5 | Nancy Greaves | 20 | Jon Walger |
| 7 | Hannah Roth | 25 | Lois Hauge |
| 9 | Dick Ohman
Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine | 26 | Joann Volocyk |
| 10 | Christine Lunardini | 27 | Alan Clark
Eileen Clark |
| 11 | Glenn Grimpe
Karen Pfeffer | 28 | Rob Kaulfuss
Bonnie Radtke |
| 14 | Evelyn Brandeau
Jonal Nirmal | 29 | Evelyn Linwood
Austin Greaves |
| 16 | Marilyn Stark | | |

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 former member Russell DeCaluwe (Phyllis Begun's grandson) and Nyssa Beckwith on their marriage June 13.

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 the family of Beth Argall Stone who died in late June in the United Kingdom where she has lived since her marriage to Philip Stone in March of 2004. She retained her membership with Grace.



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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
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b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* August 16