

# GRACE NOTES

August 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,**



What a glorious outdoor worship service we had on July 18! Thanks to all who assisted with preparation, thanks to the Grace Choir and special thanks to Susan Nelson. We are blessed! Speaking of blessings...

Pam Walger, who has been a blessing to countless members and friends of Grace for literally a generation, has announced her retirement, effective August 1. Reprinted below, with Pam's permission, is her very grace-filled letter. For all those touched by her caring ministry among us, THANK YOU, PAM!

**We will have an opportunity to more formally thank Pam for her ministry on Sunday, August 8, in worship and at a reception following worship.**

Pam, thankfully, is not leaving us. She is stepping down from her professional ministry at Grace to become a willing worker, like so many of our members. Our Church Council Executive Committee and the Council itself will consider ways to continue tasks and responsibilities that Pam has shouldered for so many years.

In an effort to continue two key areas that Pam was devoted to, I am pleased to announce the formation of a monthly **THIRD THURSDAY gathering for seniors**. The **PREVIEW EVENT** will be on **Thursday, August 26, at 10:30am**. (Yes, I am aware that the 26<sup>th</sup> is the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in August. Just keeping everyone alert!) Gather for "Coffee and. . ." at 10:30. Program and discussion will be from 11:00 to noon. Those who wish to, may bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages will be available. The topic for discussion on August 26 will be "Coping with Change." We will not be seeking right and wrong answers. Rather we will seek to share the wisdom gained by our experience. The August **PREVIEW EVENT** will also introduce a new **grief support group** that will be starting up in September. Many years ago, I received training in facilitating a grief support group for widows and widowers. I found it to be a very meaningful ministry in which those who have been recently widowed or experience another significant loss are able to learn from the experiences of others who have experienced loss. No two losses are identical. But there are often some common themes. We will explore those together in a safe and caring environment. The grief support group will be called **FIRST TUESDAY** and will meet on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of September, October, November and December. Meetings will be from 10:30 to noon. No registration required.

Also in August, perhaps as part of our **Wednesday Night Live on August 18**, we will have an **OPEN HOUSE for Grace Preschool** to introduce our new Director and Teacher. **This will be the 50<sup>th</sup> year for Grace Preschool** not including last school year when we did not open because of health concerns related to the Covid pandemic.

Also in August, I will introduce a weekly "**Adult Forum**" that will fill the timeslot on Wednesday mornings and Wednesday evenings previously devoted to "Bible Study." In

our Adult Forum series, we will broaden the lens beyond the Scriptures to look at fundamental issues facing individuals, families, the church and society as a whole. We will use the tools of Scripture, tradition, science and experience to think about our place in God's on-going work of caring for and redeeming the whole creation. **Adult Forum will be on Wednesdays at 10:30am and 7:00pm in person at church.** Zoom connections may be available by prior request to the church office.

Throughout August, I am continuing to designate several times each week when I am available **for chat the way we used to do it, face to face.** Typically, my availability is **Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00 and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00.** No RSVP is necessary. Just feel free to drop in! There will be no chat session on August 24 in the evening or August 26 in the morning.

Finally, and to finish with the same theme that I started with, **BEGINNING SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, WE WILL RESTORE THE COMPLETE LITURGY INCLUDING THE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING OF THE HYMNS AND OTHER PARTS OF THE LITURGY!** There will be a few adaptations to some of our common practices such as the sharing of the peace and the distribution of Holy Communion. We plan to continue to "broadcast" our service live on Zoom for the foreseeable future but as more people return to in-person worship, it becomes more difficult to "broadcast" discreetly. We continue to evolve.

Living in Christ, love, joy, peace and hope!  
Pastor Daniel Schwick

## **Council** *Notes*

July 12, 2021

Dear Church Council,

After much thought and consideration, I have decided to retire from my position as the Director of Lay Ministry as of August 1, 2021.

I began this job in the fall of 1995 after experiencing weeks of chemotherapy and radiation for breast cancer. I was encouraged to try this newly developed position by Peter Hellstedt. My plan was to work for about a year until my hair and my strength came back again. Little did I know that this adventure would continue for 26 years.

This adventure has provided me with endearing friendships that I hope have provided us all with lots of smile and "Fabulous" prizes. I have hosted and planned many events, small groups meetings and celebrations during this time. I invented and have written 100's of weekly pink sheets and newsletter articles to keep the congregation informed

with current events and activities. I have also spent a good deal of time providing support and a listening ear to many.

I have decided to retire because after four months of various health problems I don't feel like I have the energy or the eyesight to continue. I hate to bring this relationship to an end, however there is a time for everything, both happy and sad, to come to an end.

Thank you for all of the support through the years. Wishing God's best for Grace church and for all of you.

Peace and Joy,

Pam Walger

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Worship*

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination:** The Rev. Bishop Yehiel Curry will visit Grace Lutheran for the first time on Sunday, August 29 at 10am to serve as the preacher for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ordination of Pastor Paul Pfeffer. Pastor Daniel Schwick will be the celebrant assisted by Pastor Pfeffer.

Pastor Pfeffer served at Zion, Philo, IL & Faith, Chicago retiring in 2005. He joined the US Army Chaplain Corp on 1 Feb. 1974 serving IL Guard moving in 1999 to the Transportation Group serving until his retirement on 1 Oct. 2001.

He was appointed to serve as the Metro-Chicago Centurion representative and is an advisor to parishes wanting to do some type of military ministry.

**Worship Update:** Beginning Sunday, August 1, we will restore the complete liturgy, including the congregational singing of the hymns and other parts of the liturgy. We will continue Zoom for the foreseeable future.

**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**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR Fellowship

**Friendship Group Preview Event:** Join us on Thursday, August 26 at 10:30am. More information is in Pastor's article on page 2.

**Chat with Pastor:** Pastor will be available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00am and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00pm for anyone who would like to drop by to chat. No RSVP necessary.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR Learning

**Adult Forum:** This series will look beyond the scriptures to look at the fundamental issues facing individuals, families, the church and society. Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00am or 7:00pm in person at church.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR Service

**Altar Guild:** As Grace reopens, the Altar Guild needs to get back to work. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Atrium for those willing to help set up on Saturdays and clean up on Sundays. Altar Guild takes care of communion, the paraments, flowers, and other tasks assigned by pastor or the Worship and Music Committee. For more information, please contact Betty Carlson at 847/803/9646.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

**Birthday Box Project:** Would you like to help make a Mount Prospect child's birthday special? The Mount Prospect Human Services Department is looking for volunteers to pull together boxes (really gift bags) filled with the following items:

- A cake mix
- Frosting
- Candles
- Cake pan (can be aluminum)
- Party supplies like themed plates, napkins, hats, blowers, banner or anything else you want to contribute to help a child celebrate
- And don't forget the gift bag to put everything in!

Grace has volunteered to contribute 10 of these bags. If you (or you and a friend, it will be fun to pull this together!) would like to fill a gift bag, let Libby Reimann know at [Libby.Reimann65@gmail.com](mailto:Libby.Reimann65@gmail.com).

We would like all bags turned in at church by August 29th.

**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 Wednesdays, 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.

**Shirley Koenig Memorial Soap Drive:** It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a washtub in the east entryway from July 11 through September 26 waiting for your contribution of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 ounces) 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.

**School Supplies:** The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting school supplies for District 21 and 26. We also continue to support Rosebud Indian Reservation but have found it more cost effect to order the supplies online and have them shipped directly to the reservation. The school districts are asking for backpacks, spiral notebooks (wide ruled), pencils and two-pocket folders. We would like to supply each district with 10 filled backpacks. Funds to purchase supplies for Rosebud or the school districts can be sent to the church and marked "school supplies." Donations are needed by August 1. Watch for a box in the Atrium for the school supplies.

**Food Pantries:** The need of the food pantries is changing as we continue to struggle through Covid-19. To make things easier, we are asking for monetary donations to church, marking it for the food pantry, and the Social Ministry Committee will make sure the donations are sent to the food pantries so they can purchase the items most needed at their sites, Thank you for your generosity.

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** The next community dinner is August 22, 2021. Because of your support, the Social Ministry Committee will be able to bring chickens, fruit, drinks, protein bars and cookies. They have asked for donations of socks. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann's house.

## **AROUND** *the Parish*

### **Saints of Grace**

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)

Name: Christina Rogers (Chris)

D.O.B.: April 20, 1943

Marital Status: married to Rich Rogers for 58 years.

Children: 2. Cynthia, who is a member and Mitchell who passed away 8 years ago.

Siblings: 2 brothers. One older, one younger.

Grew Up: Chicago

Member since: 1973

Currently Reside: Mt. Prospect

Favorite Memory of Grace: I think my first impression of Grace through River Trails pre-school. They rented out Charter Hall and I thought it looked like a nice place.

Favorite Bible Passage: The Golden Rule...treat everyone how you want to be treated.

Not sure if that's a passage or not.

Occupation: Retired. Background in food service, industrial and schools. I was the Food Service Director. I ran federally funded national lunch programs.

Biggest Fear: The world self -destructing by the environment and humans.

Biggest Accomplishment: Raising Cindy to become a mother. She has been a diabetic since she was 4, so making sure I raised her to be healthy and eat the right foods.

Favorite Season: Winter

Favorite Holiday: Easter

Favorite Pastime: I enjoy being a homemaker and a teacher. I enjoyed my professional life and I love to clean house.

Favorite Sports Team: I don't have one but I loved Michael Jordan.

Pets: Sparky and he is a cross between a Rat Terrier and Jack Russell.

Dream Vacation: My favorite place to go is Mackinac Island.

Person to Have Dinner With: My whole family...

Favorite Color: Black, white and red

Favorite Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

Favorite Book: Not in particular, but I enjoy reading biographies. Currently reading, American Oz.

Favorite Number: 782

Favorite Sound: Elevator music

Favorite Texture: Flannel and Down

Favorite Ice Cream: Vanilla with whip cream nuts and a cherry.

Favorite Candy: Fannie May chocolate covered cherries.

Favorite Meal: Roasted Chicken with stuffing

Favorite Subjects: Food

Fun Fact: I like to have fun. I enjoy a good party.

If I won the Lottery: Put it in the bank and then I would make sure my 2 grandchildren and my daughter would be financially sound and then donate a chunk to our church.

**Congratulations:** to Pam Walger who is retiring as Director of Lay Ministry on August 1 after 26 years. We will miss hanging out in her office visiting and bringing in fabulous prizes for her many activities. A special celebration of her ministry will be held on Sunday, August 8, 2021. Wish Pam all the best as we see her around church.

**Congratulations:** to Michael and Brooke Kintzle on the birth of Kyler Michael on July 13, 2021. Proud grandparents are Kim and Jeff Kintzle. Prouder great grandparents are Nancy and Gordon Greaves.

**Congratulations:** to former member John Hellstedt and wife Kim on the birth of Logan Bradley Russell Hellstedt on July 12, 2021. Proud grandparents are Pastor Peter and Cheryl Hellstedt.

**Grief Support Group:** There has been interest expressed in putting together a Grief Support Group. The group will be open to both members and friends of Grace. If you are interested in joining a group like this or if you know someone who would be interested, please contact the church office. The group will be called First Tuesday and meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 until noon.

**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 August we feature the Technology Committee.

### **Technology Committee**



The name of the committee is the Technology Committee and the purpose of this committee is to provide the IT services and technology needs of Grace Church.

The Technology Committee is an ad-hoc group of church members having various ongoing roles and responsibilities in providing leadership, planning, and coordination for the congregation's technology needs. These activities include but are not limited to:

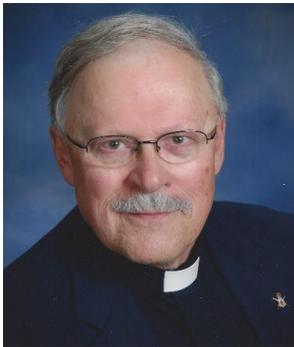
- Computers and printer hardware maintenance and updating for church staff.
- Church website maintenance to provide up-to-date information on church current events and future plans.
- Weekly worship recording & uploading in media for church members and others to view at a later time.
- Telecommunication equipment maintenance and possible future replacement.
- Extending the church Wi-Fi network to all parts of the property.
- Provide additional building security by installing surveillance cameras at all entrances.
- Investigate and recommend upgrades to video/audio hardware for Zoom services.

Re-examine feasibility of permanent video screen(s) in sanctuary.

Currently the Technology Committee is a small group of Grace Church members. We always welcome interested members to inquire and possibly join us in one or more projects. Some familiarity with technology is helpful.

Because we are an ad-hoc committee, there are no formal meetings. All communication is done on an informal and as-needed basis via email, text, phone, or face-to-face.

For more information on the Technology Committee please contact Bill Rovani, Christopher Vasanth, Dan Reimann or Mike Drelicharz.



**Congratulations:** to The Reverend Paul D. Pfeffer who is celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on August 29, 2021. Paul was born in Young, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was baptized and confirmed by his father, the Reverend Walter G. Pfeffer. The family moved to Lost Nation, Iowa. He attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and graduated from Wisconsin State University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Paul graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary in May 1971. His first call was to Zion Lutheran Church in Philo, Illinois.

## FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending June 30, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 146,700	\$ 149,828	\$ 3,128
Special Income	17,988	15,875	( 2,113)
Prepaid Income	5,313	8,337	3,024
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 170,001</b>	<b>\$ 174,040</b>	<b>\$ 4,039</b>
<b>Expenses thru June</b>	<b>180,460</b>	<b>167,149</b>	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 6,891	
<i>2020 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>38,620</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 45,511	

After a while it becomes difficult to continue to write words of praise. A simple "Thank You" reflects that which you deserve for your continuing financial support to Grace. The above represents our financial status through June, the first half of the year. We see movement toward normalcy but must still be vigilant. Your diligence in the support of your Church during these unsettled times is truly a blessing from above. "God loves the cheerful giver".

*Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank you** so much for your recent generous donation (\$500) to Northwest Compass. How kind of you to make a donation that directly benefits your neighbors in the Northwest Suburbs as they navigate through difficult times!

On behalf of everyone at Northwest Compass and our neighbors in need, again, THANK YOU for showing support and compassion! Your gift changes lives and gives hope!

Sincerely, Sonia Ivanov, Executive Director

**Dear Friends,**

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 to the Mount Prospect Emergency Food Pantry and Financial Assistance program. This program assists residents of Mount Prospect who are experiencing a financial hardship and struggling with every day needs such as food, housing, utilities and medications.

This program is not supported by tax dollars. Throughout the year, we are able to assist individuals and families due to generous donations made by local churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations and individuals.

Sincerely, Julie Kane, LCSW, Human Services Director

## Birthday LIST

### August

- |    |  |     |                                  |
|----|--|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | Suzanne Rovani                                 | 17  | Libby Reimann                    |
| 2  | Zach Schulze                                   | 18  | Ken Adams<br>Margaret Reed       |
| 5  | Nancy Greaves                                  | 19  | Christine Lunardini              |
| 7  | Hannah Roth                                    | 20  | Jon Walger                       |
| 9  | Cynthia Lauletta<br>Dick Ohman                 | 25  | Lois Hauge                       |
| 11 | Glenn Grimpe<br>Karen Pfeffer<br>Justin Walger | 28  | Joann Volocyk                    |
| 14 | Jonal Nirmal                                   | 27  | Eileen Clark<br>Alan Clark       |
| 16 | Marilyn Stark                                  | 28  | Robert Kaulfuss<br>Bonnie Radtke |
|    |  | ... |                                  |





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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:**

**Pre-school Director:**  
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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* August 15