

GRACE NOTES

December 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,



I think it was the poet William Butler Yeats who wrote a very moving poem in which he traced the eternal power of God, moving relentlessly through time and now “slouching toward Bethlehem.” This outstanding example of God’s work to overcome and heal a broken world, was not announced to kings and emperors. It did not come into the world in a display of “shock and awe.” When the time had come, God’s love slouched into the world, carried by a mortal maid, nurtured by a simple carpenter.

The message of God’s love for the whole creation is not a message that can be communicated by proofs or by reason. In fact, it is counterintuitive. Why would the CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE show up as a babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger? It’s not reasonable. It defies logic.

In the same way, God’s decision to entrust the ministry of Jesus to the rag tag collection of folks identified as the first disciples, seems like an odd choice. Where were the rollers and shakers, the successful politicians, the real influencers of their day? Instead, Jesus chose some fishermen, a tax collector, and perhaps a woman with a questionable past. Through the centuries, the church has struggled with issues of power and powerlessness. We were once an underground, persecuted minority. After the Roman Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and Emperor Justinian established Christianity as the official religion of the vast Roman Empire, the church grew tremendously in earthly power. But that often meant the church went along with practices and policies desired by political rulers. For centuries, the church was for the most part a department of the government. In the Middle Ages, with the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Roman Catholic Church was easily the most powerful institution in the Western world. The Church took on the trappings of power and wealth. And in so doing, the Church often abandoned any sense of servanthood.

With the Protestant Reformation, the church was called to return to its roots as a community of servants, the “priesthood” or ministry of all the baptized people of God. We are no longer the leading or dominant voice in Western society. Capitalism long ago won out over our message of compassion for all people. So what should we do? Throw in the towel? Accept our role as “a voice crying in the wilderness? I hope not!

Now is the time for us to learn anew how to SHOW the world signs of God’s love. Now is the time for us to embody God’s commitment to the whole creation. Now is the time for the love of God to show up in the everyday lives of everyday saints like you and me. Through us, the love of God that once slouched toward Bethlehem, moves ever-so-slowly but ever-so-relentlessly toward that time when all the world will know God’s love!

May the spirit of Christ dwell in you richly throughout this Advent and Christmas season and throughout the new year!

In Christ's love, joy, peace and hope!

Pastor Daniel Schwick

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

One Service on Christmas Eve: Due to the very sparse attendance at the late night Christmas Eve service for the past several years, the Church Council has decided that this year we will have one service that will begin at 4:30. As always there will be very special music and the traditional candlelit signing of Silent Night, Holy Night.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Advent Midweek Dinners and Evening Prayer: Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. This year, recognizing the loss that many have felt with the lack of fellowship opportunities because of COVID, we are going to have four Midweek Advent fellowship and worship opportunities. On Wednesday evenings, folks are invited to come to church for a light meal between 6:00 and 6:45pm. Then, at 7:00 we will gather in the Worship space to sing Holden Evening Prayer, a text that has become dear to so many people. The first gathering, on December 1, will be hosted by the Church Council. Meal sponsors for the following three Wednesdays will be solicited at the first supper. Perhaps a few families or friends could volunteer for each week.

Third Thursday Holiday Party: Our new seniors' group will celebrate the holidays together on the third Thursday, December 16 from 10:00 to 11:30am. Our celebration will focus on the wide variety of family and folk traditions surrounding Christmas.

Did/does your family have some unique holiday traditions? We will, of course, also share some holiday music, both carols and secular favorites.

College Reunion: If you are a college student, whether you go to school locally or somewhere else, we would like to welcome students “home” during the service on Sunday, December 26, and at special holiday homecoming gathering on Wednesday, December 29, from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

If you are available to do one of the speaking parts in the Sunday service, please contact the church office to let us know that you are available. You can participate in person (preferred) or by Zoom.

On Wednesday evening, in addition to our college students, we will invite our current high school students for a time of fellowship and fun.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

La Trinidad Community Dinners: The next community dinner is December 19, 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, winter coats and hoodies. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann’s house.

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. 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. As Covid restrictions begin to be lifted, the grocery cart will again be in the hallway for donations of non-perishable food and paper products. Thank you for your continued support.

Mall-ternative: will be conducted both at church (12/5 and 12/12) as well as by mail this year. Print out or tear out the attached order form and bring or mail it to Church with your check before Christmas.

Please consider “shopping” generously.

The idea behind Mall-ternative is that the members of Grace Lutheran are blessed with an abundance of faith, good will and possessions. For many families throughout the world, one, two or all three of these things are missing. Your gifts can help bridge that gap.

You make a donation.

The gift goes to someone in need.

If you would like, you can tell a loved one that a donation was made in their honor. The Social Ministry Committee will have cards available at church. You can pick them up and send them to family and friends explaining you are giving a gift in their honor.

Gifts to Help Farmers in Developing Countries

- 1 hive of Honeybees for \$20
- 1 Piglet for \$30
- 1 Goat for \$50
- 1 Share of a Fish Farm for \$50

Gifts Helping Those in Need

- Blanket for natural disaster survivors for \$10
- Support LSSI's "Project Room at the Inn" giving Foster Children Holiday Gifts for \$15
- Ten Warm Meals at a soup kitchen for \$20
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for \$25
- Solar Lantern for \$30
- Seeds and Garden Tools for \$50
- Feed a Refugee Family for a week for \$50

All gifts are through the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog.

The Giving Tree: The Social Ministry Committee has been in contact with Districts 21 and 26 about Christmas gifts. Both school districts are struggling with getting students back into the classroom and have not given much thought to gifts for the children. The school districts are asking for monetary donations so families can be given gift cards to Walmart that sells both toys and food. In order to fulfill this request, the committee is asking for monetary donations which will go towards Walmart gift cards. Please make your donation to church and mark it Christmas gifts. We will need the donations by December 12th

La Trinidad is asking for items that they can give children to keep them occupied during the worship service. Social Ministry thought it would be nice to assemble activity bags similar to the ones we used to use at Grace. The bags would contain a coloring book, crayons, and possibly a snack. If you would like to contribute to this project, please make a donation to church and mark it La Trinidad gift bags. We would like the donations by the end of the year. Thank you so much for your support.

MALL-TERNATIVE ORDER FORM

Help for Farmers

___	1 Hive of Honeybees	\$20
___	1 Piglet	\$30
___	1 Goat	\$50
___	1 Share of a Fish Farm	\$50

Help for those in Need

___	Blanket for Natural Disaster Survivors	\$10
___	Support LSSI's "Project Room at the Inn" giving Foster Children Holiday gifts	\$15
___	Ten Warm Meals at a Soup Kitchen	\$20
___	Personal Protective Equipment for Frontline Workers	\$25
___	Solar Lantern	\$30
___	Seeds & Garden Tools	\$50
___	Feed a Refugee Family for a Week	\$50

TOTAL _____

Gifts procured through the ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue.

Name: _____

Envelope Number: _____ (not required)

AROUND *the Parish*

Saints of Grace

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)

Name: June Brickwood



D.O.B: June 17, 1924 (Oldest Member)
Member: Since the beginning
Grew Up: Northwest side of Chicago
Currently live: Arlington Heights
Schooling: Von Steuben High School in Chicago
Siblings: Brother Rodger, 90
Spouse: John Brickwood (deceased in 2006)
Children: Kelley, Lynne, Jan, John and Lance
Favorite Memory of GL: Making new friends and the first Christmas there. I made homemade candles for the candelabra and they burned down immediately.
Occupation: Illinois Bell operator from 1943 -1983.
Greatest Accomplishment: Living this long!
Favorite Season: Fall
Favorite Sound: Spirit of Life choir.
Favorite Book: Where Magic Lives (Walt Disney)

Favorite Bible Verse: John 3:16

Favorite Holiday: Halloween

Sports Team: Cubs and Bears

Pets: Cider and Unde (Cats). Unde was a feral cat and couldn't decide where he wanted to go next in my house when I welcomed him in. Hence, his name is short for undecided.

Dream Vacation: Walt Disney World

Dream Car: A Cadillac

Movie: Holiday Inn with Bing Crosby

Color: Blue

Ice Cream: Vanilla

Candy: Candy Corn, Milky Way and Mr. Goodbar

Meal: Green beans and rolls from Bob Chinn's and Cream of Wheat.

Dinner with: Bob Hope. I sent him a birthday card every year and he sent back an autographed picture of himself and it is framed and on my piano.

Fun Fact: I have a great sense of humor. I also have never been carded my whole life. The drinking age was 18 and everyone knew who you were at the taverns.

Stewardship Education Committee's Showcasing Articles: Between December, 2020, and November, 2021, the Stewardship Education Committee showcased 15 committees and groups at Grace in *Grace Notes*. We then compiled the articles from the 12 issues of *Grace Notes* into a Resource Booklet, entitled "Stewardship

Opportunities at Grace." The Booklet plus an addendum of the Property Committee article have already been sent out via Constant Contact. A hardcopy of these two items will be sent via regular mail this week, starting Nov. 15, 2021, to all members. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to the writing of the showcase articles and to the preparation and distribution of the Booklet. We hope that you will find it helpful.

Lynn Sivertsen Stewardship Education Committee Chairperson

CHRISTMAS TREE QUILT RAFFLE -- Buy raffle tickets to win a Christmas Tree Quilt! Tickets are \$2 each or three tickets for \$5. All proceeds go toward next summer's Youth Gathering. The quilt measures 62" by 78" and was made by Jennifer Stutheit. Purchase tickets via mail or in person before or after in person worship services. The raffle drawing will be on December 19th.



Giving from the Grace Mission Endowment Fund:

Grace Mission Endowment Fund (GMEF) is our church's main endowment fund. Over the last three years, Grace has distributed GMEF income to the following areas. Through the GMEF, we are fulfilling our mission to "Touch People with His Love".

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Total</u>
Grace (Capital Improvements)	\$5,000	\$3,600	\$4,050	\$12,650
Lutheran Social Services of IL	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,750	\$5,150
La Trinidad (Mortgage Grant)			\$1,000	\$1,000
La Trinidad (Grant)	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$2,000
Connections to Care (formerly Northwest Transportation Services)	\$500	\$500		\$1,000
Mt. Prospect Human Services Dept (Food)	\$200	\$200		\$400

Pantry)

Refuge One	\$750	\$900		\$1,650
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$700		\$2,000	\$2,700
ELCA World Hunger	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$900</u>		<u>\$1,650</u>
	<u>\$10,600</u>	<u>\$8,800</u>	<u>\$8,800</u>	<u>\$28,200</u>

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending October 31, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 244,500	\$ 245,568	\$ 1,068
Special Income	29,979	25,957	(4,022)
Prepaid Income	8,854	13,953	5,099
Total Income	<u>\$ 283,333</u>	<u>\$ 285,478</u>	<u>\$ 2,145</u>
Expenses thru October	<u>300,767</u>	<u>276,023</u>	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 9,455	
<u>2020 Operating Surplus Carryover</u>		<u>38,620</u>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 48,075	

His star still shines on the people of Grace. We are \$2,145 over budgeted income for the year thru October. And \$23,000 under budgeted expenses. The ongoing restricted church operations continues to keep us below expected expenses with not having an organist, inactivity of committees, even the lack of need for flowers a good portion of the year. BUT, we are slowly moving out of these restrictive times. May the Good Lord continue to shire upon Grace and its people.

THANK YOU for your continued support!!!

Notes of THANKS

I would like to say thank you for box of snacks and candy for Halloween. I will definitely enjoy the candy and snacks from the box over the next couple of weeks. Thanks again for thinking of me during this time.

-Amy Drelicharz

Thank you so much for the Halloween candy! My friends and I have been enjoying them. See you all very soon,

Danielle Drelicharz

Thanks for the Halloween box of treats! I always appreciate them around this time of year.

Thanks, Jack Dietrich

My name is Michael Semanic and my grandparents, Jim and Judie Bataille, go to Grace Lutheran Church. I'm a student at Berklee College of Music in Boston and just before Halloween I received a package filled with candy from you guys, so I just wanted to ask if you could please pass along my heartfelt thanks to whoever went through the effort to send me this! I was very much appreciative to have a box of fitting snacks for the holiday occasion.

Hope you are all doing well! With love, Michael Semanic

I received the box of Halloween treats. My friends and I enjoyed them!!! Thank you so much.

Samantha Nickl

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the great treats.

Alex Nickl

Thank you to Evelyn Linwood for her donation of gloves, hats, scarves and socks to La Trinidad. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Dear Pastor, Staff & Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Cross Pantry would like to thank you again for your thoughtfulness this past year and in previous years in helping out our pantry!

Debbie Paddack, Lori Becker, Julie Malin, Co-Directors, LCC Pantry, Arlington Heights, IL

Birthday LIST

December

2	Allison Gharagozlou	Jennifer Roth
4	Joanne Schulze	21 AJ Mueller
6	Colton Kochanski	22 Kaitlin Eschbach Carol Victor
8	Barb Carlson Daniel Garza Lynda Weiss	23 Michael Pirron
10	Teddy Reimann	26 Holly Schirmer
12	Nicole Soukup	28 Brady Bell
13	Amy Pracko	29 Veronica Grimpe
14	Kari Nickl	31 Allison Eschbach

CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

Baptisms

Receiving Christ's gifts of grace with water and word, we are welcomed into God's family of the church.

Axel Joseph and Waylon Michael, sons of Joseph and Sarah Pirron were baptized on October 23, 2021. Grandparents are Michael and Cindy Pirron.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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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

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b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

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sopranosusannelson@gmail.com

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bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net



ARTICLE *Deadline:* December 19