

GRACE NOTES

February 2018

Ash Wednesday

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

Growing Grace Roundtable Launches!



On Sunday, January 14, the Church council sponsored an orientation meeting for all Grace members who are interested in the work of the new Growing Grace Roundtable created by the Council in November. Pastor Schwick led the introductory session at which he outlined the purpose and mandate of the new “supercommittee:” to develop a comprehensive and intentional set of strategies intended to grow our congregation in the next three to five years.

The first regular meeting of the Roundtable will take place on Sunday, February 11, following worship. Everyone interested in being a part of this effort is invited to bring outreach and growth ideas to that meeting. All of the suggestions brought forward will be divided into clusters of related ideas. For instance, there will probably be a number of suggestions related to our exterior signage. Another cluster may relate to ideas for making our building and grounds more visitor-friendly and inviting. Another group of ideas will probably relate to our Grace website and a broader question of our use of social media. Another cluster will probably relate to how we connect with families that enroll their children in Grace Preschool. Yet another cluster may deal with possible events intended to invite our neighbors to Grace. It is likely that the whole Roundtable will break into smaller working groups, each one focused on the cluster of ideas relating to that particular part of our outreach strategy.

Ultimately, we hope to have a comprehensive plan for mission to present to the Church Council in the fall of this year and, if approved, to present to a special congregational meeting before Thanksgiving. If adopted by the congregation, the plan for mission would be the foundation for moving into a formal pastoral call process. A decision will then be made by the congregation about extending a formal call to (interim) Pastor Schwick or seeking guidance from our bishop about other potential candidates to become pastor of Grace. *There are no assumptions that Pastor Schwick will receive the regular call.*

If you are interested in participating on the Growing Grace Roundtable, please let Pastor Schwick know or simply plan to attend the Feb. 11 kickoff. **EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!**

“GOTCHA DAY” - Remembering our Baptisms

Beginning immediately, we will be recognizing baptismal anniversaries during the Prayers of Intercession each Sunday morning. If you are not sure whether or not the Grace Church office has an accurate record of your baptismal date, please speak with Barb Willis. If you **KNOW** your baptismal anniversary, please let Barb know. We will list baptismal anniversaries in the monthly Grace Notes (along with birthdays and wedding anniversaries) and in the weekly bulletin.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Plan to Attend Grace's Lenten Experience: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on February 14th (yah, Valentine's Day!). On that day we will have a spoken service at 1:00pm and Sung Liturgy at 7:00pm. Both services will include an extended confession, the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

On the following five Wednesdays in Lent, we will gather as follows:

- 6:00pm Light Supper
- 6:30pm Lenten Reflection (video presentation with discussion)
- 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer

Choir rehearsal will be moved to approximately 7:45pm.

Every effort is going to be made to provide transportation to and from the Wednesday evening Lenten experiences so our whole church community can be together. If you would like to get a ride to and from church, please speak with Pam Walger. If you would like to provide transportation on Lenten Wednesdays, please also speak to Pam.

Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Bible Studies will NOT take place during Lent. Sunday morning Bible Study will continue to meet at 9:00am.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Birthday Card Showers: To distinguish our members who are 90 or better we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes (cards or postcards) to brighten their special day. Harmon Loeb will celebrate his 91st birthday on January 31, 2018. Please shower him with good wishes at: 2024 Wintergreen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-4827.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Meal, reports, elections and approval of proposed budget following 10:00am worship on Sunday, February 4 – all completed way before the big game starts.

Send a Valentine: Look for the poster in the atrium with the big red heart on it to find the names and addresses of people who would enjoy receiving a Valentine wish from you. Take home a list and send a card soon.

Sunday School Pancake Breakfast: Everyone is invited to the Sunday School Pancake Breakfast at 9:00am on Sunday, February 11, 2018. Please come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and friendly fellowship before the church service.

Friendship Group: The Friendship Group Ash Wednesday Potluck Luncheon and worship service is on Wednesday, February 14th at 11:30am. Bring your favorite dish to pass for lunch. Following lunch there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service at 1:00pm. Look for the sign-up sheet on Pam Walger's office door in a few weeks. If you are able to help with the set-up and serving that day, please let Pam Walger know.

Women's Gathering: "Little Words Mean a Lot" so, watch what you say. Learn about the origin of sayings, how to use words to bring joy to others, and find out if you are a flibbertigibbet. Explore the wonderful world of words with local author Nancy Hanewall Stacy.

Join us on Saturday, March 10th at 9:30am for coffee and coffee cake. The program will be followed with a light lunch. The Grace WELCA Board invites all women and their friends to come for this entertaining event. Watch for ticket sales in February.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Would You Like to Be a Greeter, Lector, Usher or Communion Assistant on Sunday mornings? If you are interested in helping with one of these ministries, please contact the church office and speak with Barb at 847-824-7408.

Bakers & Helping Hands Needed: The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held in conjunction with our Souper Bowl Lunch on Sunday, February 4, 2018. If you would be willing to help serve food on that day or bake a dessert, please let Pam Walger know at 847-824-7408.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Once again we will participate in the nationwide food drive on Super Bowl Sunday. On February 4, bring nonperishable items and monetary donations for local food pantries to be collected by Grace youth after 10:00am worship.

Offering Counters: A few new volunteers are wanted to become offering counters. Please consider being a part of a counter team. If you would like to volunteer or receive more information on the process, please contact Jerry Sharlog at 847-253-0636.

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild is in need of some helping hands, especially for the months ahead. Please speak with Betty Carlson at 847/803-9646. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Valentine Care Packages: The Social Ministry Committee is once again collecting treats for our college kids. They enjoy both sweet and salty treats. Bring your donations to church by Sunday, February 4th and have them in the collection box by 10am. The committee will pack the treats that day for delivery. If you'd like to donate money to pay for the shipping, please place your donation in a pink pew envelope marked "College Care Packages".

La Trinidad: Please keep our sister congregation in your prayers as they recover from a frozen water pipe which burst and flooded their church. The community dinners are on hold until they can work with the insurance company on getting repairs done. In the

interim, they are looking for a place for Sunday worship services. Watch the Sunday bulletin for updates on repairs and rescheduling of community dinners.

Baskets of Promise: This Lent the Social Ministry Committee is asking the members and friends of Grace to join Lutheran World Relief's **Basket of Promise** appeal. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble at least 20 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

February 18 – Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz.), any brand, in original wrapping

February 25 – Bath Towels (light-weight bath- size towel between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27", dark color recommended)

March 4 – Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

March 11 – Combs (sturdy)

March 18 –Nail Clippers (metal, attached file is optional)

March 25 (Palm Sunday) – Bars of Soap

There will be baskets in the east entryway area to collect your donated items. Thank you 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, March 13th, from 6pm to 7:30pm. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, February 25th. 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!

Shop for the Food Pantry: The following items are always needed: juice, small cans coffee, tea, tomato products, condiments/seasonings like ketchup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper, detergent, dried beans/peas, canned fruit, fruit/vegetable juice, oil, pancake mix and syrup, pasta, paper products, dry milk, rice, soap, shampoo, soup, snacks, and toilet paper. If you forget to shop you can also choose to donate money in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry" and food gift cards will be purchased for the pantry.

YOUTH GATHERING 2018

The Youth Group is busy working a variety of activities to raise funds for the trip to Houston this summer.

Parents Night Out –

On Saturday, January, 27th from 5pm – 9pm you can drop off your kids (up to 12 years old) and enjoy the evening! Your kids will eat dinner, watch movies, play games and have fun with crafts. Did we mention they will all have a lot of FUN!

The fee of \$20 per child or \$30 per family will support the upcoming Youth Group Trip to Houston. Responsible adults and youth will supervise all children's activities throughout the evening.

Most important...Parent's Night Out is NOT restricted to Grace families. Invite your neighbors, friends and relatives. All Are Welcome. Please Call Barb Nagel with any questions at 847-800-6674

Coffee Cake For Sale –

The Youth Group will be selling Dave's Coffee Cake's starting during lunch on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4 just prior to the Annual Meeting. Sample cakes will be served so you have a chance to taste before you purchase. There are 12 varieties available for ordering. Full details will be available starting February 4th. The profit from the Coffee Cake Sale will support the Youth Group trip.

Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction --

On Saturday, February 24th from 5pm – 9pm the Youth Group will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction.

We are currently seeking donated items for the Silent Auction. Do you or anyone you know own a business and would like some extra publicity? In return for donated items, the donating company would receive recognition for their donation during the night of the event.

Did you receive any gift cards for Christmas that you don't need or want? If so, please consider a donation. The gift cards can help complete gift baskets for the Silent Auction.

Mark your calendars for a fun night of great food, awesome Silent Auction items and great entertainment!

If you have any questions, please call Margit Willis at 312-607-2684 or at the church office at 847-824-7408. And, don't forget to *Mark Your Calendar* for Feb 24th and to tell your friends and neighbors!

FINANCIAL Update

Current year financial status thru December 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$276,324	\$267,617	(\$ 8,707)
Special Income	32,040	42,757	+ 10,717
Prepaid Income	11,975	11,975	0
Total Income	\$320,339	\$322,349	\$ 2,010
Expenses thru December	331,894	304,588	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+17,761	

The year was a success based on the numbers shown and thanks to the members of Grace. Expenses were \$27,000 under budget with \$23,000 of that amount from pastoral costs. That position will be filled all of 2018 so caution is the word. However, thanks go to the members of Grace who increased their giving by \$10,000 total over 2016. Be sure to attend the annual meeting and read the Finance Committee report for further details.

PARKING LOT Update

The car no longer bounces, our teeth no longer rattle and the ride is now smooth. We all know the new parking lot resurfacing job is complete. Total cost came out to \$117,550 and all has been paid except for \$6,150. Knowing many of you have already contributed to this project, it is awkward to ask for help to eliminate this shortage of funds to cover the full cost. It has long been said you won't receive unless you ask. Consider it and let's see if we can eliminate this balance by Easter.

Notes of THANKS

Thank You to All: We are so grateful to the congregation for once again remembering us with a generous Christmas gift. Your generosity over the years has been a blessing to us as has the support and encouragement that you give us all year through. Looking forward to a fabulous 2018!

Peace, Pam Walger and Barb Willis

Thanks to the following who helped take down the Christmas decorations: Rich Buerger, Curt and Betty Carlson, Tom Carlson, Danielle and Sandy Drelicharz, Lori Drozd, Gordon Greaves, Bill Grimpe, Steve and Sharyl Hanna, Carl Imburgia, Don Linder, Ray and Joanne McCollim, Mary Jo Menelle, Ardell Mueller, Cory Olson, Mike and Cindy Pirron, Bill, Marcia and Christine Rovani, Pastor Schwick, Pam Walger, and Barb Willis.

Dear Friends of Grace, I want to thank you for all the cards, phone calls, and visits I received while I was getting my chemo treatments. God heard all your prayers and I'm now in remission. Hope to be in church soon. Bev Storz

Dear Grace, Thank you for all of your support over the last semester from the scholarship to the Halloween candy to the Advent calendar. The scholarship money was especially appreciated. I used a portion of it to buy parts necessary to build projects for some of my classes which included a candy dispenser and a PVC pipe climber. The Advent calendar was also especially handy. I didn't have one down at school and was missing it.

Thank you again, Teddy Reimann

Dear Pastor, I want to thank you and the people of your church for donating wrapped gifts for the River Trains District 26 Holiday Pantry. The good works of your church were part of the reason that almost 200 children and their families had a brighter Christmas.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been a part of the Holiday Pantry for many years and the generous spirit of your church is what inspires me.

Finally, I especially want to thank Nancy Greaves for her help and support in making the Holiday Pantry a success.

Best wishes for 2018. God bless Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Jeff Prostko, Holiday Pantry Coordinator

Dear Grace Lutheran Church: Thank you for your generous support for our LCC Food Pantry – money, food and the generous Aldi Gift Cards. The Aldi Gift Cards are a unique and wonderful addition to what we can provide to service our needy pantry recipients throughout the year.

You, Grace Lutheran, are a gift for the needy families of our community.

Walker R. Reach, Semi-retired Director

Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry, Arlington Heights

Whether You volunteered your time, graciously donated food or provided monetary support to LCC Food Pantry, we thank you. We truly appreciate the ALDI gift cards you provide yearly. They are a unique and wonderful addition to what we can provide to service our needy pantry recipients throughout the year! Thank you.

Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry

Thank You. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response help support work in communities in the United States and more than 60 countries around the world. Thanks to you, together we are working for justice and peace in the United States and around the world. May God bless you always, even as you and your generosity are a blessing to others.

With gratitude.

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response

Thank You for your support of Mallternative. \$1930.00 was donated to help farmers, help children, and offer assistance after a disaster.

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Annual Meeting:** Sunday, February 4, 2018
- **Sunday School Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 9:00am.
- **Growing Grace Roundtable:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 after the service.
- **Friendship Group Potluck Luncheon:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 11:30am.
- **Ash Wednesday:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Worship services at 1:00pm and 7:00pm.
- **Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner:** Saturday, February 24, 2018
- **Women's Gathering:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 starting at 9:30am
- **Feed My Starving Children:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 6:00pm.

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 the family of member Robert Boros who died in in late November.

We extend our sympathy to Jerry Sharlog and family in the death of his nephew Brad Bush on December 24

We extend our sympathy to Viola Wiebe and family on the death of her husband Tom Wiebe on December 25, 2017. A memorial service was held at Grace on December 29th.

We extend our sympathy to Sue Buerger and family in the death of her sister Betty Behrens on January 11, 2018.

Birthday **LIST**

February

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Sandy Doran | Tom Eschbach
Kerri Cordier |
| 3 | Winston Nirmal | |
| 5 | Kurt Aspen | 15 Dorothy Martinson
Cynthia Menelle |
| 6 | Dan Kjeldbjerg
Kelley Berlin
Salvador Mejia | 16 Margit Kjeldbjerg |
| 7 | Rachael Rogers | 18 Daniel Sacco
Anna Stephanie |
| 8 | Betty Kopke | 21 Karen Gretz
Michelle Simons |
| 9 | Viola Wiebe
Danielle LeFevre
Carissa Carlson | 22 Daniel Schwick
Amy Hammond |
| 10 | Barbara Willis
Cheryl Ellertson | 23 Joanne Coy
Joann Kuklinski |
| 11 | Max Schulze | 24 Carolyn Garza |
| 13 | Dolores Randmark
Darcy Sowle | 25 Daniel Polfuss |
| 14 | David Hanson | 27 Lisa Peltekian |
| | | 29 Thomas Roth |

WELCOME *New Members*

Welcome to new members received on Sunday, December 3:

David & Cindy Hanson

Michael Hanson

1965 Bordeaux Court, Wheeling 60090

224-248-8825



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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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ARTICLE *Deadline:* February 11