

GRACE NOTES

February 2019



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,



As you know, we at Grace have begun an outreach strategy called "Growing in Grace" which seeks to focus our outreach to our surrounding community in an effort to invite more of our neighbors into our Christian fellowship. The first step in that process is not directly about our outreach strategy but rather about our internal growth strategy. Those of us who are current members of Grace must grow together in our sense of common mission and ministry.

Throughout the month of February we will be holding a series of small group gatherings at church to help me as your pastor get to know our members better. I hope you have seen the sign-up poster in the Atrium and have chosen a time to attend one of the small gatherings. I promise that you will learn something new and delightful about your fellow Grace members. Part of the purpose of these gatherings is to give everyone an opportunity to share their personal hopes and dreams for the future of Grace and to give everyone an opportunity to make their own personal commitment to our growth strategy. If you care about Grace--past, present and future--I look forward to hearing your ideas.

The external component of our Growing in Grace strategy is being undertaken by our monthly Growing in Grace Roundtables under the oversight of our Church Council. We are currently focusing on the first part of a year-long strategy to attract visitors to Grace and to demonstrate to them the breadth and depth of our commitment to "the common good." We have determined to focus on four approximately quarterly events that together will demonstrate our commitment to our community. The first of these events will take place over the weekend of May 18 and 19. Our intent is to create a community celebration of the goodness of God's creation and our common commitment to be good stewards of the gifts of creation that God has entrusted to us.

The second event will be our active participation in the Mount Prospect Block Party on a Saturday in July. We intend to figure out some creative ways to showcase what we all love about Grace and to invite our neighbors to "come and see!"

The third movement in our community outreach strategy will be a fall festival of some kind, perhaps again focusing on care of creation during the time of harvest. It's likely that this event will include our annual Pet Blessing.

And our fourth celebration will be our Christmas Eve service. We intend to be aggressive in inviting our neighbors to come and celebrate the birth of the Lord of Creation.

In all of these events, our intent is to demonstrate to our neighbors some of the fundamental values that bind us together as the people of God at Grace--values such as celebrating both our unity and our diversity as children of God; accepting

responsibility for the care of our planet and all its inhabitants, human and non-human; living with a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving; and celebrating the mystery of God made flesh in the life of Jesus.

This is an exciting time to be a part of Grace. Many of you can look back fondly on the way Grace "used to be." Most of us share a sense of the continuing "special-ness" of Grace. I hope all of us will join together in thinking about and praying about how God is calling us to be and to act in the years ahead.

As we move from a time of interim ministry into a time of growth in our mission and ministry, we need the whole congregation to step up. Instead of a few people doing a whole lot to support our life together, we need to grow the notion that we are all in this together. Everyone has gifts to share: this is our SHARED ministry!

This is Grace at its best!

In Christ's joy, peace and hope,

Pastor Dan Schwick

Special Congregation **MEETING**

There will be a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, March 3, after the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the changes to our constitution that are required to include the Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations as approved by the 2016 Church-wide Assembly. The congregation council has reviewed and approved these amendments.

Copies of these amendments will be available for viewing in the atrium for those wishing to review them.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Vespers Service of Healing and Light: Grace will be doing a joint vespers service with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg on March 23 at 7:30pm. The choir directors are meeting to finalize details on the anthems and hymns for this special event. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details as they become available.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Birthday Card Shower: 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 92nd birthday on January 31, 2019. Please shower him with good wishes at: 2024 Wintergreen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-4827. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARMON!

Tell Us about Your Favorite Hymn: Have a favorite hymn? Haven't heard or sung it in a while? Here's your chance! Tell us your favorite hymn (and why you love it) and on February 17, we may use it as a part of our prelude! We will select 3 hymns from all submissions and then sing selected verses prior to the service. Fill out a form on the table in the parlor. Leave your completed forms on the table and Susan will pick them up. Thanks!

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.

February Friendship Group: On February 13th the Friendship Group will go out for an early Valentine Luncheon to La Presa Mexican Restaurant on Euclid. Meet at church at 11:30am and carpool to the restaurant. Come for some fun conversation and maybe try out some new dishes. Look for a sign-up sheet on Pam Walger's office door soon so she is able to make a reservation. Hope to see you there!

March Friendship Group: The annual Ash Wednesday potluck luncheon and worship service will be on March 6 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: Save Saturday, March 30 for the annual Women's Gathering "Singing in the Rain." Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Midweek Bible Study: Our midweek Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Thursdays. The year-long series deals with the most important stories in the Old and New Testaments. All are welcome.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Have You Turned in Your Time and Talent Sheet for 2019? Many of our regular volunteers have not signed up to help with the many activities they've done in the past. Please let us know if you are still interested in volunteering for your usual activities so that new volunteer lists can be made. THANKS!

Helping Hands Needed: The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held in conjunction with our Souper Bowl Lunch on Sunday, February 3, 2019. If you would be willing to help make or serve food on that day or to bake a dessert, please let Pam Walger know at 847-824-7408.

Annual Rummage Sale: We would like to continue our tradition of having a rummage sale here at Grace but we can't do it without faithful people who are willing to commit to helping organize all of the logistics of the sale. Please contact the church office, Pam Walger, Minda Josten, or Margit Willis if you can help

Coffee Servers: We would like some new people to consider signing up to serve coffee on Sunday mornings after the service. We all enjoy the fellowship during this time - why not offer to serve the treats. Let Pam Walger or Barb Willis know if you'd like to volunteer.

Ushers: We are in need of ushers for our Sunday service. Please let us know if you'd like to serve. Contact the church office at 847-824-7408.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

La Trinidad: Each month members of the Social Ministry Committee travel to Humboldt Park to cook, serve and clean up after an amazing community dinner for members of La Trinidad and needy residents of the community. The first dinner of 2019 was on January 6. Community dinners are planned for February 24, March 17, April 28, May 19 and June 23. You are always welcome to join us. We meet at church at 9am to carpool to La Trinidad. We attend their 10am worship service before serving the meal. If you can't make the dinners but would like to help offset the cost of the meals, please consider signing up with Shop with Scrip. Gift cards purchased through Shop with Scrip earn Grace rebate dollars. \$42.00 was received in 2018 after only a few months with committee members trying out the program.

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 3rd 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".

A Season of Hope: This Lent the Social Ministry Committee is asking the members and friends of Grace to join Lutheran World Relief's **A Season of Hope** 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:

March 10 – Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz.), any brand, in original wrapping

March 17 – Bath Towels (light-weight bath- size towel between 20” x 40” and 52” x 27”, dark color recommended)

March 24 – Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

March 31 – Combs (sturdy)

April 7 –Nail Clippers (metal, attached file is optional)

April 14 (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.

Shop for the Food Pantry: Cans of tuna, chili, Spam, stew, corn, green beans, peaches, pears, spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle or rice soup, vegetable and vegetable beef soups, Spaghetti O’s, pork & beans,. Boxes of Tuna Helper, macaroni & cheese, boxed potato mixes, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, hand soap, cookies, facial tissue, crackers, cake mix, frosting & candles. Thanks for your generosity. If you don’t have time to shop, why not donate money toward the purchase of grocery store gift certificates. Place your donation in a pink pew envelope and mark it “Food Pantry Certificates.”

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank You for your generous donations to Mallternative. \$2,202.00 was raised to send to farmers and those needing health care in underdeveloped countries. The children of Sunday School raised \$260.00 towards animals. The special campaign within Mallternative for Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem raised \$1,040.00.

Thank You to Mary & Mark Kraegel, Cory Olson, Joanne McCollim, Sandy & Amy Drelicharz, Libby & Andy Reimann and Margit Willis for braving the cold and the dark on Christmas Eve to set up and light the luminaries. They were really beautiful.

Thank You to everybody who brought delicious cookies to the 2018 Jayne Boom Cookie Walk. Also, thank you to Addison Stutheit, Shyanne Martinez, Jordan, Tess, Olivia, Marilee & Barb Nagel, Adam Majczan, Bill, Kendall & Presley Grimpe and friends, Terry-Ann Saurmann, Sharyl & Steve Hanna, Cindy Hanson, Joanne McCollim, Cory Olson, Sandy, Danielle & Amy Drelicharz, Matthew Pracko, and Betty & Curt Carlson for helping to bake, decorate and set up for the cookie walk. Everyone’s hard work made the 2018 walk a sweet success!

Thank you to the congregation for the bonus gifts to the staff received this past Christmas Eve. We all appreciate it very much.

Susan Nelson, Pam Walger, Barb Willis and Jeremy Zimmer

Thanks to the following who helped take down the Christmas decorations on January 5: Curt & Betty Carlson, Alan Clark, Joanne Coy, Mike & Sandy Drelicharz, Bill Grimpe, Gordon Greaves, Steve & Sharyl Hanna, Mary Jo Menelle, Ardell Mueller, Cory Olson,

Michael & Cindy Pirron, Bill & Marcia Rovani, Jerry Sakover, Lynn Sivertsen, Bev Storz, Carol Victor, Pam Walger, Barb Willis & Margit Willis. Apologies to anyone we may have missed.

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Annual Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 after the service
- **Friendship Group:** Wednesday, February 13 at 11:30am
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, February 24, leaving church at 9am
- **Special Congregation Meeting:** Sunday, March 3 following the service
- **Friendship Group:** Ash Wednesday, March 6, potluck luncheon 11:30am
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, March 17, leaving church at 9am
- **Vesper Service of Healing and Light:** Saturday, March 23, 7:30pm at Prince of Peace, Schaumburg
- **Women's Gathering:** Saturday, March 30

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 Terry Ann Saurmann and family on the death of her brother Fred on December 17, 2018.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bob Crampton who died on December 20, 2018.

We extend our sympathy to Melba Panhorst and family on the death of her brother Philip Leege on December 24, 2018.

We extend our sympathy to Cathy Hoffman in the death of her brother Paul Cernia in January.

We extend our sympathy to the family of former member Bartella Nysten who died on January 9.

We extend our sympathy to the family of former member Dolores Haugh, a charter member of Grace, who died on January 10, 2019.

Birthday LIST

February

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Sandy Doran | Kerri Cordier |
| 3 Winston Nirmal | 15 Dorothy Martinson
Cindy Menelle
Margit Kjeldbjerg |
| 5 Kurt Aspen | |
| 6 Dan Kjeldbjerg | 18 Daniel Sacco
Anna Stephanie |
| 7 Rachael Rogers | |
| 8 Betty Kopke | 21 Karen Gretz
Jordan Nagle |
| 9 Viola Wiebe
Danielle Knopoff | 22 Daniel Schwick
Amy Hammond |
| 10 Barbara Willis
Cheryl Ellertson | 23 Joanne Coy |
| 11 Max Schulze | 24 Carolyn Garza |
| 13 Dolores Randmark | 25 Daniel Polfus |
| 14 David Hanson
Tom Eschbach | (29) Thomas Roth |





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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**

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* February 17