

GRACE NOTES

February 2020



Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!
through

-  Meaningful
Worship
-  Caring
Community
-  Inspirational
Learning
-  Loving
Service
-  Gracious
Invitation

TABLE OF Contents

- 2 A Note from the Pastor
- 3 Opportunities for Worship,
Fellowship, Learning
- 4 Opportunities for Service,
Outreach
- 5 Around the Parish
Financial Report
- 6 Notes of Thanks
Special Events
- 7 Birthday List
Life Celebrations

A Note **FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Grace Folks:



Last month I wrote about January being kind of a chill month, in more ways than one. Now we enter February, hold our annual meeting (after church on Feb. 2) and launch ourselves into another year of planning and execution. A major focus on our ministry in the next few months needs to be to ensure that our May 16 Spring Event is a success. That would then set us up for a follow up event in the fall.

You may recall that more than a year ago, I recommended that the Church Council authorize and convene a Growing Grace Roundtable to develop a comprehensive strategy to grow our congregation. In its first year, the Roundtable, with the permission of the Church Council and in close consultation with the Property Committee, established the Grace Garden pilot project. That project proved to be a success and Council has approved continuing it in 2020. Similarly, the Roundtable identified environmental stewardship or Care of Creation as an appropriate theme to build our outreach strategy around. At the suggestion of the Roundtable, the Council has now created two working groups—a Green Team to propose short and long term green projects and the Spring Event planning group. Given the closely connected and overlapping nature of those several working groups, I am recommending that the Growing in Grace Roundtable be in recess for the time being.

What we need right now are more volunteers to step forward with an idea or a suggestion and then a willingness to follow through. What we are looking at is having numerous exhibits and booths from organizations that are experts in the field of environmental stewardship. The next meeting of the Spring Event planning team is after church on Sunday, February 9. Everyone is welcome!

You notice that I suggested above that the Roundtable be in recess, not dismissed. It is my hope that, increasingly, the visioning and long-range planning for the future of our ministry will take place in our Church Council. But I do want to hold on to the model of a larger, town hall type gathering to foster conversation about our long range mission strategy.

I look forward to growing with you as we grow together in Grace.

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

PS Starting in February, I am setting aside time in my calendar for small, informal conversations with Grace members. I will have water boiling for whatever hot beverage you choose. These informal, non-agenda driven "Coffee and with Pastor Dan" sessions will be from 60 to 90 minutes. Typically they will be just around six people but that will vary. Sessions will be in my office. In February, I have set aside the following times:

Monday, February 10, 1:00pm

Wednesday, February 12, 7:00pm

Saturday, February 15, 1:00pm

Sunday, February 23, 12:00pm

Tuesday, February 25, 1:00pm

Thursday, February 27, 2:00pm

If you would like to bring a snack to share, please feel free to do so. No expectations though.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Ash Wednesday Worship Services: Join us on February 26 at either 1:00m or 7:00pm for our Ash Wednesday services.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Friendship Group: The Friendship Group Ash Wednesday potluck luncheon and worship service is on February 26th 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. ALL ARE WELCOME!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Three Week Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew is the Gospel we read the most this year. Ever wonder what makes each of the Gospels different? Aren't they telling the same story? Aren't they all "inspired" by the Holy Spirit? Spend just three sessions in February—Tuesdays at 1:00 or Thursdays at 7:00—to explore these and many other questions we have about our ancient scriptures. Geography, global politics, economics, population migration and many other features of the ancient middle east influenced early Christianity. Let's do some exploring and investigating together! We'll meet Tuesdays, February 4, 11 and 18 at 1:00pm; Thursdays, February 6, 13 and 20 at 7:00pm.

Wired Word Bible Study: This weekly Bible study meets on Thursdays at 12:30pm. Watch the bulletin for the weekly topic. Join us for a lively discussion.

CPR Classes: Are you interested in getting certified in CPR or learning how to operate an AED? The Safety Committee has found a number of classes being offered in the area.

Mt. Prospect will be offering CPR classes on March 10 and May 12. Classes take place from 6-9pm at the firehouse at 2000 E Kensington. Cost is \$45. For more information, go to the Mt. Prospect Fire Department website.

Arlington Heights has classes coming up on March 2, May 4, July 6 and September 28. Classes are held at the Arlington Heights Fire Department Administration Building at 1150 N, Arlington Heights Road from 6-9:30pm. Cost is \$20 for Arlington Heights residents and \$50 for non-residents.

The Prospect Heights Fire Department offers classes on a monthly basis. Call 847-253-8060 for more information. Classes are \$30.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Annual Meeting/Souper Bowl Sunday: Bakers and Helping Hands are needed for the Annual Meeting/Souper Bowl Sunday on February 2, 2020. The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held in conjunction with our Souper Bowl Lunch. 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.

Lenten Dinners: During the season of Lent there will be weekly dinners served prior to the midweek Lenten service. The dinner will be prepared by the following committees: March 4th – Worship & Music, March 11th – Social Ministry, March 18th – The Nightingale Circle, March 25th – Children’s Ministry and Stewardship, and for the final dinner on April 1st we still need a committee to commit to this date.

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 9th 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, we’re joining Lutheran World Relief in **A Season of Hope** to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ. 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.

Here’s our collection schedule:

- March 1 – Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)
- March 8 – Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52” x 27”, dark color)
- March 15 – Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- March 22 – Combs
- March 29 – Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)
- April 5 (Palm Sunday) – Bars of Soap

Watch for the collection baskets in the east entryway starting March 10.

La Trinidad Community Dinners: February 23, March 22, April 19 and May 17, 2020 have been set for the community dinners at La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park. Members of the Social Ministry Committee leave Grace at 9am and participate in the worship service before serving the dinners. We enjoy the fellowship of these dinners and have many new friends. The Committee usually brings chicken, salad, breadsticks and desserts for each meal. We are in need of help not only to serve the meals, but also to help fund the cost of the food. Look for the poster in the Atrium or speak to a member of the committee if you would like to join us for this rewarding ministry. Monetary donations may be placed in a pink pew envelope and marked "La Trinidad Dinners."

AROUND The Parish

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 93rd birthday on January 31, 2020. Please shower him with good wishes at: 2024 Wintergreen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-4827. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARMON!

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.

WELCA Women's Gathering: Save Saturday, March 14th for the WELCA Women's Gathering. Our guest speaker Jennifer de Leon will present the program.

FINANCIAL Update

Financial Report ending December 31, 2019

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$284,000	\$303,340	\$ 19,340
Special Income	36,000	40,574	4,574
Prepaid Income	10,449	10,449	00
Total Income	\$330,449	\$354,363	\$ 23,914
Expenses thru December	343,770	340,157	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 14,206	
<u>2018 Operating Surplus Carryover</u>		<u>38,696</u>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 52,902	

The above financial numbers are preliminary to year end 2019 and are subject to some adjustments. Needless to say, it indicates Grace has had a very good year. It needs to be said that there was one sizable special gift during the year which reflects in the above. The people of Grace deserve a great big and heart felt THANK YOU. May we continue to show the growth in income experienced in 2019 and carry that into 2020.

Notes of THANKS

Dear Grace Congregation: Thank you so much to all *the* very special folks who sent me Christmas cards this year. It really has made the holiday extra wonderful. Your kindness is really appreciated. Bless you all.

Phyllis Begun

Bob and I would like to thank the entire Grace Family for their prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during these last 3 months of his recoveries from falls, his Parkinson's disease and his recent surgery. He is now recovering at Brookdale, almost next door to Grace, in the skilled nursing section for rehab.

Carolynn White

Thank you for your donation to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. Your contribution will be put to good use, and the people who will benefit from this assistance appreciate your thoughtfulness. On their behalf, we thank you for your generosity

Jill A. Brickman, Supervisor, Northfield Township Food Pantry

Hunger is Unacceptable in Our Community

Dear Friends at Grace, Thank you so much for the generous gift at Christmas, and for the gift certificates from the Anniversary celebration. Also, many thanks for all the birthday cards sent to Harv on his 91st birthday. We appreciate it all.

Barb & Harvey Willis

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped put up (and take down) the Christmas decorations.

Thank You to everyone who made, set up, lit and picked up the luminaries for the Christmas Eve services. They were really beautiful!!!

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Annual Meeting/Souper Bowl Sunday:** February 2
- **Spring Event Planning Committee:** Sunday, February 9
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, February 23, leaving church at 9am
- **Friendship Group:** Ash Wednesday Potluck Lunch at 11:30am
- **Ash Wednesday:** February 26 with worship at 1:00pm and 7:00pm
- **WELCA Women's Gathering:** Saturday, March 14

Birthday LIST

February

3	Winston Nirmal	Kerri Cordier
5	Kurt Aspen	15 Dorothy Martinson Cindy Menelle
6	Dan Kjeldbjerg Salvador Mejia	16 Margit Kjeldbjerg
7	Rachael Rogers	18 Daniel Sacco Anna Stephanie Elyse Bell
8	Betty Kopke Jenna Swiatkiewicz	21 Karen Gretz Jordan Nagle
9	Viola Wiebe Danielle Knopoff	22 Dan Schwick Amy Hammnd
10	Barbara Willis Cheryl Ellertson	23 Joanne Coy
11	Max Schulze	24 Carolyn Garza
13	Dolores Randmark	25 Daniel Polfull
14	David Hanson Tom Eschbach	29 Thomas Roth

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 Walger family on the death of Pam's brother Ed. Dietz on December 31, 2019. A funeral service was held on January 4, 2020.



1624 E. Euclid Ave.
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Phone 847-824-7408
www.gracemtprospect.org
www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect



A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America (ELCA)

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2215
Palatine, IL

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

Church Secretary: Barbara Willis
b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Lay Ministry: Pam Walger
p.walger@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Music: Susan Nelson
sopranosusannelson@gmail.com

Organist: Jeremy Zimmer
jeremyzimmer@gmail.com

Pre-school Director: Jaime Wright
preschool@gracemtprospect.org

Mission Partner: Rev. Carrie Smith
carrie.smith@elca.org

Grace Notes Editor: Debbie Bodett
bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net



ARTICLE *Deadline:* February 16