

# GRACE NOTES

February 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:***



While we continue to journey our way in the midst of the pandemic, we must be willing to be patient. The end of this nightmare is coming; yet we continue to live in the worst times for the pandemic. More people are dying from COVID *EACH DAY* in America than died on 9-11. We are approaching more American lives lost to COVID than in all of World War II.

But the end is in sight. We just NEED to hold on to our public hygiene practices for a few months more, until most of us can get vaccinated.

**PLEASE DO YOUR PART!**

As we continue in this in-between time, we will also have an opportunity throughout Lent to celebrate the HOPE of Christ that is in us. Each Wednesday night in Lent, we will gather by Zoom to celebrate hope in our midst. On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will “gather” by Zoom at 7:00pm for our Ash Wednesday liturgy. On the next five Wednesdays, we will gather by Zoom at 7:00pm to celebrate signs of hope in our midst. Each week, we will have a presentation by one or more of our regular partners in ministry such as Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the ELCA Hunger Fund, ELCA Disaster Response, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park. Each week’s brief presentation will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer.

Please plan to make the Lenten Midweek services part of your personal discipline throughout Lent. As we draw closer to the cross of Good Friday, we are also anticipating the bursting forth of new life and new hope at Easter.

Join us for the journey.

In Christ’s love, joy, peace and hope.

Pastor Daniel Schwick

PS. I am so grateful for the generous Christmas check that was presented to me on Christmas Eve. Thank you for your on-going support for our mission and ministry together.

## 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

**Ash Wednesday Service:** February 17, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey. Lenten midweek services will be held on the following five Wednesdays via zoom at 7:00pm.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Join us at 7pm for a six-week study of the most important teachings of our Christian faith: the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, the Commandments, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Origins of the Bible.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

**Sunday Morning Zoom Readers:** Pam Walger is working on a new schedule. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Pam Walger at 847-827-7431 to be added.

## 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. Drop your donations at church on weekday mornings or at Nancy Greaves' house by Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee will pack the treats for delivery on February 8<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to donate money to pay for goodies or the shipping, please send your donation to church marked "College Care Packages". Thanks for your continued support.

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** The scheduled dates for the dinners are: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 16 and June 13. The Social Ministry Committee will drop off chickens, desserts, beverages and fruit. If you would like to help cover the cost of these food items, please send a check to church marking it for “La Trinidad Dinners.” Thanks for your continued support.

**Food Pantries:** The needs of the pantries are changing as we continue to struggle through Covid-19. To make things easier, we are asking that you send monetary donations to church, marking it for the food pantry, and the Social Ministry Committee will purchase gift cards to deliver to the food pantries that we support. Thank you for your generosity.

**Seasons of Hope:** Last year before Covid-19 closed the church building, The Social Ministry Committee had put out baskets to collect items to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. We saved the items collected last year and would like your support in collecting items this Lent to complete kits to be sent worldwide. Items still needed are dark-colored bath towels, wrapped bars of soap, and nail clippers. Items can be dropped off weekday mornings at church or at Libby Reimann’s house. We would like to assemble the kits the week after Easter. Thanks for your support.

## **AROUND** *the Parish*

**Cloth Face Masks Available:** Chris Rogers has been busy making reusable filtered masks and she is happy to share them with the congregation. If you would like a mask please contact Chris at 847-840-0929 OR Chris will happily meet you in the Grace church parking lot on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00am. Please call Chris if you need some sooner. They are free of charge. THANKS

**2021 Offering Envelopes:** are available to be picked up at church weekday mornings before noon. Help us save on postage by picking yours up.

**Send a Valentine:** Please consider sending a Valentine to one of our shut-in members or a member that you don’t know. Help make someone’s day special in this difficult time of isolation due to Covid-19.

## **Saints of Grace**

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)



Name: Pete Varley

D.O.B.: June 11, 1946

Siblings: 2 Half sisters and one half brother

Children: Allison. 2 grandchildren, Connor and Parker

Member since: 2005 (ish)

Grew Up: NW side of Chicago

Born: General Booth hospital of Unwed Mothers in Chicago

Currently Reside: Buffalo Grove

Favorite Memory of Grace: Being accepted by the congregation.

Favorite Bible Passage: "The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?"

Occupation: Retired VP of Humans Resources for many companies and a retired 2nd class Damage Controlman for the US Navy.

Favorite Holiday: Veteran's Day

Favorite Pastime: Listening to music.

Greatest Accomplishment: Starting as a supply clerk and ending up as VP at a bank. Also, raising my daughter.

Biggest Fear: Democracy will not prevail in this country.

Phobias: None.

Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Bears

Nickname: El Tigre (The Tiger)

Pets: Brooke - a mix but mostly Blue Heeler

Dream Vacation: Palma de Mallorca

Person to have dinner with, living and dead: Abraham Lincoln (personal hero) and the Dali Lama.

Dream Car: 1970 SS Chevelle 454

Favorite Movie: Casablanca and The Maltese Falcon

Favorite Book: The Lord of the Rings trilogy and The Hobbit.

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite #: 3

Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate Moose Tracks

Favorite Candy: Heath Bar

Favorite Meal: Baked ham with sweet potatoes and green bean casserole.

Favorite Subjects: Orchestra (played the Violin) and Civics

Fun Fact: Member of the Baker's Street Irregulars and a member of Mensa.

If he won the lottery: I would give a lot to charity. I would give mostly to the Salvation Army since they provided the hospital where I was born and Veteran's Charities.

**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 February we feature the **Finance Committee**.

We start each year with a review of the previous couple of years. This gives us an indication of trending in both income and expenses. Following the annual financial appeal and reviewing the responses, we need to estimate the income for the coming year and then review the expenses which would be necessary to keep the church running for the year and also maintaining the property.

After this is completed, it is now time to establish a budget recommendation to be submitted to the Council and then to the congregation for their approval. Once this is done, the means to meet the budgeted expenses fall to you, the congregation as a whole.

We meet on a monthly basis reviewing the progress on both an income and expense basis making sure we are on target for the year. We will also consider requests from various other committees or persons for funds for special projects some of which involve major maintenance expense or long-term improvements. Many of these matters are the result of long-term planning and reserving such as the parking lot.

We are home to the two financial officers of the congregation, one who pays the bills and the other who accounts for the income. We also recruit people in 2 person teams to count your donations on a weekly basis. This routine has been suspended for this past year due to the pandemic, but it still has to be done. Thanks, Ardell.

We have recently installed remote access to a new software system for maintaining our member, friends and other database and for tracking member contributions. This program is called Servant Keeper 8 and will allow members access to their own data records, post their individual or family photo and review their own giving record. We will, during this year, be sending invitations to you to access your records and review and correct anything on the database that might be incomplete or inaccurate. Contact Jerry Sharlog, 847-253-0636 for more information.

Anyone who has an interest in the financial aspects of the Church and how things are done can contact any member. The committee members are Wendy Thompson (Treasurer), Tom Roth (Financial Secretary) Greg Linwood, Rich Rogers, Cindy Rogers, Bill Rovani and Jerry Sharlog .

**FINANCIAL** *Report*

Financial Report ending December 31, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 293,400	\$ 281,322	\$ (12,078)
Special Income	38,040	26,382	(11,658)
Prepaid Income	10,923	17,173	6,250
Total Income	\$ 342,363	\$ 324,877	\$ ( 17,486)
Expenses thru December	358,133	329,298	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$( 4,421)	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>40,001</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 35,580	

Another year has passed and an extraordinary year it has been. Never in our lifetime would we have expected a pandemic. What should we expect was the question? But Grace's members knew God was with us and you knew we needed to step up as there would be many needing help to navigate the different world we would be living in. You did your job and did it well. The above review is not final yet for the end of the year, but close.

Thank You for your Faith and Sharing.

*Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank You** to everyone who participated in Mallternative. \$2,090 was raised for the ELCA Good Gifts program.

**Thank You** for your generous Christmas gift. I truly thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this gift and for all of the prayers and caring that you have shared with me this past year. Pam Walger

**Thank You** so much for your most generous Christmas gift. It means a lot to me.  
Barb Willis

**Dear Pastor** Dan, and my Grace Family:

Thank you very much for all your thoughts in calls, comforting cards, prayers, and memorial gifts in honor of Jack.

Your support of us at this time is so greatly appreciated.

Peace, and Gods Blessings to you,

Eloise De Carlo and Family

**Thank You** so very much for the generous gift that you have provided for Christmas for the families at Frost Elementary School. Your thoughtfulness and generosity in these times is incredibly heartwarming and appreciated. Have a blessed Christmas season and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely, Timothy Prikkel, Principal, Frost Elementary School

***I want to thank*** Grace Evangelical Lutheran church for donating \$900 in gift cards to the River Trails District 26 Holiday Pantry.

Because of the pandemic, we were unable to give wrapped gifts to the children of families in need. Instead, we had to distribute gift cards based on the recommendations of RTSD26 social workers and administration. Your church was a part of over \$8,000 in gift cards that were distributed to these families.

Finally, I especially want to thank Nancy Greaves for her help and support in making the Holiday Pantry a success. She has helped me for 15 years and been a part of this program for many more.

Best wishes for 2021! God bless Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church!  
Jeff Prostko, Holiday Pantry Coordinator, River Trails School District 26

### **SPECIAL** *Events*

- ***Annual Congregational Meeting:*** Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 11:00am via Zoom
- ***Ash Wednesday Worship:*** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom
- ***Lenten Midweek Services:*** Wednesdays in February and March at 7:00pm via Zoom

## Birthday LIST

### February

3 Winston Nirmal	David Hanson
5 Kurt Aspen	15 Dorothy Martinson Cindy Menelle
6 Dan Kjeldbjerg Salvador Mejia	16 Margit Kjeldbjerg
7 Rachael Rogers	L8 Elyse Bell Dan Sacco Anna Stephanie
8 Betty Kopke Jenna Swiatkiewicz	21 Karen Gretz Jordan Nagle
9 Danielle Knopoff Viola Wiebe	22 Amy Hammond Daniel Schwick
10 Cheryl Ellertson Barbara Willis	23 Joanne Coy
11 Max Schulze	24 Carolyn Garza
13 Dee Randmark	25 Daniel Polfuss
14 Kerri Cordier 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 Lynda and Scott Weiss and family on the death of their father Lou Weiss on December 28, 2020. Lou and his family joined Grace in April of 1965. Lou and his wife Lill were very active members of Grace from participating in Friendship Group to assembling the monthly Grace Notes.

We extend our sympathy to Paul and his children Dan, Annette, and Alan and families on the death of Margit Kjeldbjerg on January 9, 2021. Paul and Margit joined Grace in May of 1964.



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[www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect](http://www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect)



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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.

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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:** Jaime Wright  
[preschool@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:preschool@gracemtprospect.org)

**Mission Partner:** Rev. Carrie Smith  
[carrie.smith@elca.org](mailto:carrie.smith@elca.org)

**Grace Notes Editor:** Debbie Bodett  
[bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net)

A graphic with the word "Lent" in a large, green, cursive font. Below it, the word "BEGINS" is written in a smaller, purple, sans-serif font, with each letter spaced out.

**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* February 14