

GRACE NOTES

January 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 we enter 2019, we enter the 60th anniversary of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! Those few of you who remember the organizing and chartering of Grace can testify better than anyone else that Grace has always been a changing and evolving congregation. Yes, we have had ebbs and flows of excitement for ministry. And yes, our membership now is a lot less than a generation ago. But I sincerely believe that if we pay close attention to our environment in 2019 and beyond, and listen to the people in the communities surrounding us, we will develop new and renewed waves of serving our neighbors, and drawing them into the fellowship of Grace.

For us to hear the needs of our neighbors, we first need to be in relationship with them. That's the purpose of creating community events that will draw our neighbors. Once we have them in our space, it is up to us to engage them in such a grace-filled way that they are drawn to this community of faith. The Roundtable in January (January 13th, following my installation!) will focus on planning for a May 18 and 19 Spring Celebration with themed around Care of Creation. If you have ideas for nature-related activities for children and adults, please plan to attend the January 13th Roundtable. One idea that has been proposed is to give all children who attend, a container containing a butterfly caterpillar. Perhaps we can have a "reunion" when the butterflies emerge from their cocoons and are ready to be released. There are several community resources that manage such activities. It has also been suggested that we consider some kind of community garden. Lots of good ideas. Please help us sort them out. Please contribute your own ideas!

Speaking of my installation, the official Rite of Installation of a Minister of Word and Sacrament (aka a pastor) will take place during the regular worship service on Sunday, January 13. Metropolitan Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller will preside at the installation. Petra Church has been invited to participate.

As I have expressed before, now that "interim" has been removed from my job title, there are two very large and on-going tasks that I need to be engaged in as "permanent pastor" of Grace.

The first big shift is that it is now important that I build long-term relationships with you. To be the best pastor I can be, I need to know the people I am providing pastoral care to and for. Beginning in January, I will be gathering small groups of Grace members and friends just for the opportunity to build relationships. There will be a sign-up sheet in the atrium on which you can indicate a group that you choose to attend. There will be weekday morning, afternoon and evening opportunities as well as some on Saturdays and Sundays. A Tuesday evening group will include our two wonderful confirmands. Each small group will be about ten people and will be held at church. Small group

meetings will be 90 minutes. I hope you will use this opportunity to get to know your pastor better and to help me get to know you better.

The second big change from interim pastor to pastor is the desirability of building strong relationships with leaders in our surrounding community and to increase the visibility of Grace and all that we do in our community. Responding to my call, two members of the Grace community have stepped forward to volunteer to help coordinate my numerous community visits. Once again, if you have contacts with community leaders—government, educations, commerce, etc., please “hook me up!”

Lastly, as we move into our anniversary year, I will be asking the Church Council in January to create a 60th anniversary working group. Please let me or any member of the Council know if you would be interested in serving on the working group. Our actual anniversary is not until the very end of 2019.

In Christ, love, joy, peace and hope.

Pastor Daniel Schwick

Rainbow Hospice

In addition to individual and family counseling, Rainbow Grief and Loss Services offer workshops offering a variety of ways to find support and healing, Children, Teen and Family programs. specialty groups and support groups for people who have experienced the death of a loved one. They are located in Park Ridge. Programs are offered throughout the area. For more information, call 847-653-3141 or visit their website at <https://rainbowhospice.org>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Installation: Pastor Schwick’s official installation as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church will be during the regular 10:00am worship service on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Metropolitan Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller will preside.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Friendship Group: Will meet on January 23, 2019 at 12:30pm. Watch the pink sheet for program details.

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 day. Harmon Loeb will celebrate his 92nd birthday on January 31st. Please shower him

with good wishes at: 2024 Wintergreen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-4827. Happy Birthday, Harmon!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Grace Emergency Plan: There will be a presentation on Sunday, January 6 following the worship service. Everyone is encouraged to attend this discussion of what to do in an emergency situation.

Midweek Bible Study: Our midweek Bible Study is Thursday nights at 7:00pm. We are doing a year-long series on the most important stories in the Old and New Testaments. All are welcome!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Unhanging of the Greens: Please save the date and join us on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 9:00am to take down the Christmas decorations.

Growing Grace Roundtable: The first Roundtable of 2019 will be on Sunday, January 13 following the installation service. The focus of the Roundtable will be developing plans for our Spring Event, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. If you have ideas to share, please plan to attend. Lunch is served.

Coffee Servers: We would like some new people to consider signing up to serve coffee on Sunday mornings. 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.

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

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

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

Deliver Altar Flowers: Please consider making someone's day a little brighter by delivering altar flowers to them. We need a few more people to volunteer to deliver the altar flowers on Sunday afternoon or on Monday to someone who is sick or who can't attend church for some reason. You will benefit from the visit as much as the person who receives the flowers. Contact Eileen Clark at 847-296-5840 and volunteer today. You won't have to do it that often so why not consider it?

Grace Sermons on YouTube: If you miss a Sunday, why not tune into recent Grace sermons on YouTube. Go to Grace’s website at www.gracemtprospect.org and click on Sunday Worship. Then click on the link Grace Lutheran Church – Mount Prospect You Tube Channel and *Watch and Listen*. We extend a special thank you to Ray McCollim for doing this ministry for Grace.

Time and Talent Forms: There is still time to turn in your Time and Talent form for 2019. Don’t Delay!

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 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”.

FINANCIAL Update

Financial Report ending November 30, 2018

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$242,000	\$240,820	(\$ 1,180)
Special Income	29,370	30,639	1,269
Prepaid Income	18,257	18,366	109
Total Income	\$289,627	\$289,825	\$ 198
Expenses thru November	307,206	296,828	
Surplus or (Deficit)		(\$ 7,003)	

With only one month to go in 2018, and the Christmas season being the season of giving, Grace looks to finish this year with little if any current year deficit. Your continued strong support in this last month will make this possible. Any church is dependent on the support of its members and friends. Grace looks to you all for a strong finish to this year of 2018.

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank You to our Sunday School children who did a noisy can collection and used the \$260 raised to purchase 30 chicks, 2 roosters, 2 bee hives, 2 pigs and 2 goats through the Mallternative program. These gifts are being donated through the ELCA Good Gifts program.

Many thanks to the following who helped with church decorating on December 1: Curt & Betty Carlson, Kendall, Presley & Bill Grimpe; Steve & Sharyl Hanna, Carl Imburgia, Mark Mary Kraegel, Greg Linwood, Scott & Christine Lunardini, Mary Jo Menelle, Ardell Mueller, Tess, Jordan, Olivia & Barb Nagle, Cory Olson, Michael & Cindy Pirron, Dan Reimann, Thomas, Noah & Tom Roth, Bill & Marsha Rovani. Lynn Sivertsen, Bev Storz, Pastor Schwick, Christopher Vasanth,, Carol Victor, Pam Walger, Barb & Margit Willis.

Thank you for all the cards and greetings and helping me to celebrate my 90th birthday. Harvey Willis

Thank you to all the elves who delivered a WELCA Christmas treat package to one or two of our homebound or "just because" members of Grace. They are: Judith Bataille, Betty Benson, Betty Carlson, Eloise DeCarlo, Jane Hartfelder, Jon Keasling, Nick Lovdijeff, Mary Meschbach, Ray McCollim, Barb Nagle, Chris Rogers, Jerry Sakover, Pastor Schwick, Lynn Sivertsen, Jennifer & Addison Stutheit, Carol Victor, Christopher Vasanth, Pam Walger, and Barb Willis. Grace WELCA

Thank You to all the cookie bakers and buyers at the 11th Annual Jayne Boom Cookie Walk. \$850 was raised which will be used for youth programs.

Your generosity is amazing! At the October La Trinidad Community Dinner, Jennifer de Leon asked if Grace Lutheran could put together 100 hygiene kits to distribute at the December 23 community dinner. The Social Ministry Committee assembled the kits on December 16. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the kits.

Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas gifts for children in District 21 and District 26 and who brought hats, scarves, and gloves for the people at La Trinidad.

Dear Friends, We have good news to report. With your support, we are making strides against hunger in Northfield Township. This year we have seen a slight decrease in clientele and have been able to increase our monthly food distributions to clients. You ARE making a difference and we hope you will continue to do so. We're so grateful for your help and appreciate your willingness to step up and help our neighbors in need.

Jill A. Brickman, Supervisor, Northfield Township Food Pantry

Dear Friends, During this season of harvest and thanksgiving, we are filled with gratitude for you.

It's a privilege to be able to do the work of the ELCA World Hunger together. Filled with thanks, we declare that we have plenty – not because of anything we could do, but because of God's overwhelming grace and abundance. We link arms and walk alongside our neighbors who are facing hunger and poverty,

Thank you again for your partnership, prayers and commitment. Your leadership in this work is so valuable and we surely don't take it for granted. May your holiday season be filled with joy, warmth, fellowship and community. We look forward to working together in the new year.

The Rev. Daniel Roth, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

SPECIAL Events

- **Unhanging of the Greens:** Saturday, January 5, 9am
- **Grace Emergency Plan:** Sunday, January 6, following the service
- **Installation:** Sunday, January 13, 10am worship service
- **Grace Roundtable:** Sunday, January 13, following the service
- **Annual Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, February 3, after the service

The children of Grace Lutheran and Petra Churches shared the Christmas story at worship on December 9. Thank you.



Birthday LIST

January

3	Don Linder	Oliver Mejia Sofie Young
4	Greg Linwood Janet Bouris	19 Jeannie Weidner Bernadette Dalton
10	Ryoko Howell Presley Grimpe	20 Molly Mejia
11	Heather Polfuss	21 Paul Kjeldbjert Marilyn Behnke
12:	Anita Taylor Sally Riordan	24 Julie Walger Elise Kjeldbjerg
13	Eric Adams	25 Judith Bataille
15	Stephen Carlson	26 Lora Drozd
16	Robert Holzer	28 Virginia Mock Alec Garza
18	Barb Nagle Matt Menelle	31 Harmon Loeb
	...	

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 Cathy & Natalie Hoffman in the death of husband & father Wally Hoffman on November 21.

We extend our sympathy to Carol Fey and family in the death of Bob Fey on December 13.



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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**

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* January 20