

# GRACE NOTES

January 2020



## KEEP SEEKING HIM

*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 Fellowship &  
Service
- 4 Opportunities for Outreach  
Around the Parish  
Notes of Thanks
- 6 Special Events
- 7 Birthday List  
Life Celebrations

## A Note FROM THE PASTOR

### *Dear Saints of Grace:*



January is a time to slow down. A time to exhale. A time to snuggle a loved one, be that a person, a pet or a beloved book.

In our rhythms at Grace, January is also looking to be a chill month after a very busy December, including our outstanding anniversary celebration! January is a time for a lot of “behind the scenes” work by our gifted parish leaders in preparation for our annual meeting that will take place on Sunday, FEBRUARY 2.

Midweek Bible study will be in “recess” throughout January, resuming in February with a study of the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel that we read the most this year in our three year rotation of Bible readings for Sunday mornings. It’s always a fascinating challenge to identify the connections and the disconnections between first century Christianity and the church as we experience it today. Confirmation instruction will also be in recess in January, although our confirmands and others will participate in the Synod-wide Youth “Lock-in” on the weekend of the Martin Luther King holiday.

I myself am practicing what I preach by spending the first week of January visiting my mother in Washington State. And spending the last week of January at a sunny place in the Caribbean!

But fear not! Grace is not going into hibernation in January! Several committees and other working groups will continue to chug along. Of special note is the Growing Grace Roundtable, an informal gathering of Grace members and friends working to come up with strategies to grow the congregation. They are currently focused on the Spring Event that we have scheduled for May 16. What can we do to attract our neighbors? How can we use that event to communicate the core values here at Grace? The next meeting of the Roundtable is **Sunday, January 12, after coffee hour. Everyone is welcome!** Previously, with the approval of the Church Council, the Roundtable proposed the Grace Garden pilot project that we implemented this past growing season. The Council has now approved continuing the Grace Garden and has spun off a garden working group to develop plans for the 2020 garden and to recruit volunteers to make the work more manageable.

Another newly emerging ministry at Grace is our Green Team, led by Dan Reimann. They have identified a large variety of projects—large and small—that would help Grace be a more responsible consumer of resources. Ideas range from solar panels on our roof, to reducing our use of throw-aways at church events. One of their emphases is going to be to have a very practical demonstration at the Spring Event about simple ways that all of us can adopt “green” practices in our homes. **The next meeting of the Green Team is Monday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!**

As we move into a new year of ministry, my hope is that we will continue to Grow in Grace—to be faithful representatives of the love that God has for all people. And for the whole creation!

In Christ's love, joy, peace and hope,

Pastor Daniel Schwick

PS. A very special thank you to all the people who stepped forward in a wide variety of capacities to put together our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon.

Also, a very special thank you to Mike Pirron who designed and constructed the beautiful stable that "housed" our Holy Family figures in front of the church.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Fellowship*

**Friendship Group:** We will meet on January 22 2020 at 12:30pm. Watch the pink sheet for program details.

**Annual Meeting:** Please mark Sunday, February 2, 2020 on your calendar for Grace's Annual Meeting. The meeting will follow the worship service in Charter Hall. Watch the bulletin for details.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Service*

**"Unhanging of the Greens":** Join us on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 9:00am to help take down the Christmas decorations.

**Items Needed:** The Youth Group is collecting clean used sweaters and t-shirts for a service project at this year's Lock In. These will be used to make mittens, hot pads, etc. If you have any that you would like to donate, please bring them to church and place them in the box provided. This and other projects will benefit world and local charities. Watch for more information in the bulletin.

**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:** We need a few new volunteers 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.

**Altar Guild Volunteers:** The Altar Guild needs some more 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?

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** January 26, 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. 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.

## 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 day. Harmon Loeb will celebrate his 93rd birthday on January 31st. Please shower him with good wishes at: 2024 Wintergreen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-4827. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARMON!

**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](http://www.gracemtprospect.org) and click on Sunday Worship. Then click on the link Grace Lutheran Church – Mount Prospect YouTube Channel and watch and listen to the sermon. We extend a special thank you to Ray McCollim for doing this ministry for Grace.

**Time and Talent Sheets:** There is still time to turn in your 2020 Time and Talent Sheet. If you don't have one, please contact Pam Walger or Barb Willis. We want to include everyone's gifts as we plan activities for 2020.

## *Notes of* THANKS

**Thank You** to Shyanne Martinez and Addison Stutheit for writing this year's Children's Christmas Program. The children and adults who presented the program did an excellent job of sharing the Christmas message with the congregation.

**Thank You** to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, chaired by Amy Pracko, and all the volunteers who gave us a wonderful luncheon celebration of this important milestone at Grace.

**Thank You** from the Social Ministry Committee for your donations of 76 gifts for the children in School Districts 21 and 26 and for the gloves, scarves and hats for the people of La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park.

**Thank You** to Cindy and Mike Pirron for making the stable for Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus out on our lawn. It is good for them to have a stable home!

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church,** My Grandparents, Jim and Judy Bataille, go to your church, and through their recommendation you sent me a box of Halloween candy during midterm week at the college I go to in Boston. I just wanted to say thank you so much for your immense thoughtfulness and generosity. It meant so much to me!

Love, Michael Semanic

**On November 27** Grace joined with 40 other people from Trinity, Des Plaines, and Martha and Mary, Mount Prospect, traveled to Feed My Starving Children where they packed and labeled over 240 boxes of food for this worthy cause. Thank you to Amy Drelicharz, Terry-Ann Saurmann and Megan Nickl for their help.

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church,** I want to thank the church for donating wrapped gifts for the River Trails District 26 Holiday Pantry. The good works of your church were part of the reason that many children and their families had a brighter Christmas.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate Grace Lutheran Church on their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I can conservatively guess that over 1000 gifts have been donated from Grace during our times together. Think of all the joy, Christmas spirit and memories that were created.

For sixty years, Grace has been a cornerstone and focal point for the community. Whether their children attended preschool or they shopped for great bargains at your annual garage sale, Grace has been part of the many families in the community.

Finally, I especially want to thank Nancy Greaves for the 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 2020! God bless Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church!

Jeff Prostko, Holiday Pantry Coordinator

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church:** We would like to thank you for your generous donation of seventeen \$25 Aldi gift cards to the Mount Prospect Emergency Food Pantry and

Financial Assistance program. This program assists residents of Mount Prospect who are experiencing a financial hardship and struggling with every day needs such as food, housing, utilities, and medications.

This program is not supported by tax dollars. Throughout the year, we are able to assist individuals and families due to the generous donations made by local churches, schools, businesses, civic organization and individuals.

Julie Kane, LCSW, Human Services Director

### **SPECIAL** *Events*

- ***Unhanging of the Greens:*** Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 9:00am
- ***Church Council:*** Rescheduled meeting at 7:00pm January 7
- ***Growing Grace Roundtable:*** Sunday, January 12, 2020 after the service
- ***Youth Lock In:*** Friday, January 17-Saturday, January 18
- ***Friendship Group:*** Wednesday, January 22 at 12:30pm
- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, January 26, 2020 leaving church at 9:00am
- ***Church Council:*** Meeting at 7:00pm January 28
- ***Annual Meeting:*** Sunday, February 2, 2020 following the service
- ***Installation of Church Council:*** Sunday, February 9 at the worship service
- ***Ash Wednesday:*** Wednesday, February 26 with Service of Ashes at 1:00pm and 7:00pm
- ***Midweek Lenten Suppers and Holden Evening Prayers:*** Wednesdays in Lent
- ***Palm Sunday:*** Sunday, April 5 with worship at 10:00am
- ***Maundy Thursday:*** Thursday, April 8
- ***Good Friday:*** Friday, April 10
- ***Easter:*** Sunday, April 12 with an Easter Breakfast and Worship at 10:00am
- ***Spring Event:*** Saturday, May 16

## Birthday LIST

### January

3	Don Linder	19	Jeanne Weidner Bernadette Dalton
4	Greg Linwood Janet Bouris	20	Molly Mejia
10	Ryoko Howell Presley Grimpe	21	Paul Kjeldbjerg
11	Heather Polfuss	24	Julie Walger Elise Kjeldbjerg
12	Anita Taylor Sally Riordan Kaytlin Swiakiewicz	25	Judy Bataille
15	Stephen Carlson	26	Lora Drozd
16	Bob Holzer	28	Joyce Schwarz Ginny Mock Alec Garza
18	Barb Nagle Matt Menelle Oliver Mejia Sofie Young	31	Harmon Loeb Erwin Hagemann

## 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 Frank Doran and family on the death of his wife, Sandra Doran, on December 1, 2019. Services were held on December 11 at the chapel at Memory Gardens Cemetery.



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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  
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# EPIPHANY

**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* January 19