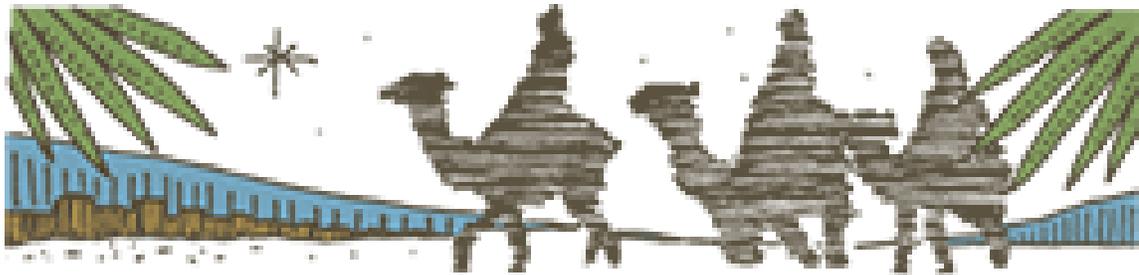


# GRACE NOTES

January 2021



## KEEP SEEKING HIM

*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:***



Is it possible that, just as we are seeing more daylight each day, we are also seeing the first glimmer of hope that the Covid plague is finally retreating? With the advent of the Covid vaccine, we may be approaching the end of the pandemic. But we are not there yet! Until MOST of us have received the vaccine, we all need to stay vigilant about maintaining of recently-acquired habits of social distancing, hand-washing and wearing masks in public. Anything less is playing with fire.

As we say “good riddance” to 2020 and begin to embrace the new opportunities that 2021 will bring, we need to practice the patience that we focused on in Advent. We will not be back to “business as usual” for several more months. It’s also possible that our new normal will be different from the former times. We will need to live into the new realities that will face us.

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to “gather” for worship via Zoom. We don’t know yet when we will be able to resume in person worship. Even when we can return to having a limited number of people physically present at worship, we will continue to live stream our services so that those who cannot be physically present will still be able to be virtually connected to our worship service—the central act of our community. In the months ahead, we may be able to move toward holding limited in-person fellowship and community-building events, but not yet.

In the meantime, I’m suggesting two separate approaches:

1. During January, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am and 7:00pm, we will have renewed opportunities to share some informal fellowship time just to chat with each other via Zoom. The log in information will be the same as for Sunday worship. Why not reach out to a few of your friends and plan to “meet” on line at a time of your choosing? (Note: there will not be a Zoom chat on Tuesday evening, January 12 or 26 because of previously scheduled Church Council meetings.)
2. Each week in January I urge you to reach out to a member of Grace by sending them a personal greeting. I have asked Barb Willis to send out by mail and e-mail our current member directory. Why not reach out to someone you know as well as someone you don’t know so well? No, it won’t be the same as face-to-face communication as we normally have it at church and during coffee hour. But, for now, this may be the best way to keep in touch with other members of our community.

In addition, you are invited to join with other Grace members and friends on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for “Bible Study” that will really be a six-week study of the most important teachings of our Christian faith. We will study the Creeds, the Lord’s Prayer,

the Commandments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the Origins of the Bible. No prior Bible Study experience is required.

One more thing: our Zoom call for High School youth and college-aged Young Adults that was scheduled for mid-December was marred by significant technical difficulties. We will try again on Monday, January 11 at 7:00pm. The log in for that "gathering" will be the same as for Sunday morning.

So many things in the world seem to be changing so quickly. But so many other things remain the same. We are children of one gracious heavenly Father and therefore siblings to each other. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities—in addition to Sunday worship—to experience and share a sense of community among us even when we cannot congregate.

Emmanuel means God with Us. Let's multiply the opportunities to experience God's continuing presence in and among us!

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

Pastor Daniel Schwick

### **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**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

**Zoom Fellowship:** Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays in January at 11am and 7pm to share some informal fellowship time just to chat with each other via Zoom. The log in information is the same as for Sunday worship.

## 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. Bring your donations to church by Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee will pack the treats for delivery. 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.

**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. The Social Ministry Committee will purchase gift cards to deliver to the food pantries that we support. Thank you for your generosity.

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** Grace will be delivering food that will be packaged by members of La Trinidad for guests to pick up. If you would like to donate funds to help cover that cost of this food, please send your donations to church and mark it for La Trinidad. The next dinner is January 10, 2021. Your support is appreciated.

**La Trinidad Wish List:** La Trinidad is asking for new or gently used men's hoodies, sweaters or jackets. They can be dropped off at church in the mornings while the building is open. Thank you for your support.

## AROUND the Parish

**Special January Birthdays:** We wish them both much health and wellbeing.

Paul Kjeldbjerg will celebrate his 91st birthday on January 21, 2021. Please shower him with birthday blessings at The Danish Home, 5636 Newcastle Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631. Happy Birthday, Paul!

Harmon Loeb will celebrate his 94th birthday on January 21, 2021. Send him birthday blessings to 2024 Wintergreen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Happy Birthday, Red!

**Cloth Face Masks Available:** Chris Rogers has been busy making reusable 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 be happy to meet you in the church parking lot on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am. If you need some sooner, give her a call. They are free of charge.

**Offering Envelopes:** The 2021 offering envelopes are now available at church on tables in the EAST entryway. The church will be open from 8am until noon for pickup. If you happen to know someone who is having trouble getting out and about, please pick up their envelopes and deliver them. It would be greatly appreciated. Remember we are all in this together

## Saints of Grace

(a new monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)

Name: Dan Schwick  
D.O.B. February 22  
Member of Grace: September 15, 2017  
Spouse: Kathie (married almost 27 years!)  
Children: Pete 35, Andy 31, Jerome 25.  
Nickname: My kids call me Pop.  
Siblings: Middle child of 5  
Occupation: Pastor for 40 years. Before that, a server at Mellow Yellow, campaign helper and a page for the US Senate.  
Favorite Memory at Grace: When we received 20 new members.  
Favorite Bible Passage: "And I, when I am lifted up, will draw the whole world to myself."  
Favorite Holiday: All Saints Day

Favorite Pastime: Caring for and improving my koi pond.  
Pet Peeves: Litterbugs and bad drivers.  
Greatest Accomplishments: My children.  
Biggest Fear: Getting Covid and the country won't have political will to make choices to save the planet.  
Phobia: Clowns  
Favorite Sports Team: Cubs  
Pets: 2 Dogs, Pau and Dexter.  
Person to have dinner with, living and dead: Jimmy Carter and his wife & Thomas Jefferson.  
Dream Vacation: Jamaica  
Favorite Movie: The Graduate  
Favorite Book: Where the Red Fern Grows  
Favorite color: Green

Favorite Number: 13  
Dream Car: All electric Mustang  
Living: Park Ridge  
Grew Up: Nebraska (born), Southern California & Salt Lake City.  
Favorite Ice Cream: Rocky Road  
Favorite Subject in School: Social Studies

Favorite Candy: Snickers  
Favorite Meal: Lasagna  
If I Won the Lottery: I'd have a whole lot of fun giving it away.  
Fun Fact: I had a momentary part in the 1972 Robert Redford movie *The Candidate*. (Ask him about it, it's a great story!)

**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 January we feature the Social Ministry Committee.

The **Social Ministry Committee** is responsible for providing opportunities for ministry. We do this with international efforts, national efforts, local efforts and congregational efforts.

The Social Ministry Committee invites the congregation to participate in:

#### International Efforts

Missionary Support – to provide sponsorship via funding for an ELCA missionary. We are currently supporting The Reverend Carrie Smith in Jerusalem.

Mallalternative – to provide an opportunity for members to purchase a “gift” for a friend, teacher or family member from a list of items from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. The “gift” goes to the ELCA and the recipient gets a card telling them a gift was given in their name.

Feed My Starving Children – to provide opportunities for members to join a packing event at FMSC which sends the food packages to needy children around the world.

Buck-a-Chick – to provide funds for the ELCA program that buys chicks for families in underdeveloped countries to raise and market in order to support their families.

Baskets of Promise – to collect hygiene items to make kits for distribution through Lutheran World Relief.

Shirley Koenig Memorial Soap Drive – to collect bars of soap that are distributed through Lutheran World Relief around the world including in the USA.

ELCA Malaria – to collect funds for the ELCA Malaria program which buys medicine and mosquito netting for families in Africa.

#### National Efforts

Rosebud Indian Reservation – to provide school supplies for children on the reservation

#### Local Efforts.

Food Pantry – to provide support to 4 local food pantries through the collection of non-perishable food and paper products and monetary donations used to purchase Aldi gift cards.

La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park – to provide food and volunteer services for their monthly community dinners, donations of hats, scarves, gloves, men's clothing and gifts for children on Three Kings Day.

Christmas Gifts – to provide Christmas gifts for children in School Districts 21 and 26. Members choose children and purchase and wrap gifts for the children which the schools distribute.

School Supplies – to provide backpacks filled with school supplies for children in School Districts 21 and 26.

Higher Up Ministries – to provide support for families living on Boxwood Drive in Mount Prospect at their annual Boxwood Bash and with financial assistance.

Hygiene Kits – to provide hygiene kits to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for women being released from prison.

Mother's Day Bake Sale – to provide funds for pool passes for children in District 26.

### Congregation Efforts

"We Care" Packages – to provide goodie boxes to our college kids for Valentine's Day and Halloween. Members donate goodies or funds to ship the boxes to our students.

Helping Hands – a program to provide rides to medical appointments or other errands for congregation members.

Due to the pandemic and the inability to use the church building, the Social Ministry Committee has relied on member donations to support many of our projects. Other projects were put on hold or suspended until members can come to services and bring items for donation to our collection boxes.

The Social Ministry Committee is very appreciative of the outpouring of support to all the projects we present. Whenever our Committee asks for donations of time, talent, supplies or money, the members of Grace generously respond. The Committee is always looking for new members and new ideas for ways to minister beyond the walls of our church.

The Social Ministry Committee has been meeting via Zoom on Saturday mornings. Libby Reimann organizes the meeting and is happy to provide the link to anyone who would like to join our meetings.

For more information on the Committee, contact Libby Reimann, Greg Linwood, Debbie Bodett, Nancy Greaves, Sue Buerger, Greg Hammond or Kathie Bender-Schwich.

## FINANCIAL *Report*

Financial Report ending September 30, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 268,950	\$ 248,035	\$ (20,915)
Special Income	34,870	19,687	(15,003)
Prepaid Income	10,013	16,263	6,250
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 313,833</b>	<b>\$ 283,985</b>	<b>\$ (29,848)</b>
<b>Expenses thru November</b>	<b>328,289</b>	<b>300,699</b>	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$( 16,714)	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>40,001</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 23,287	

11 down, 1 to go in this most unusual year. It has been 9 months since we gathered in our building, but God, in his infinite wisdom, granted Man the wisdom to continue meeting in absentia thru Zoom. We need to thank Him for all He has provided. Let us thank him with gifts celebrating the birth of His only son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you all for your continued support of Grace.

### *Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank You** from the Social Ministry Committee for you generous donations to La Trinidad. We were able to provide 30 \$25 gift cards for Thanksgiving. And, the Reimann car was packed with men's hoodies, sweaters and jackets when food was delivered for the December Community Dinner. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### **Dear "Our Grace Family"**

Rick and I are so grateful for so many cards, phone calls, emails and texts and just normal letters of love, concern, prayers for my Rick's illness. We're hanging in there with the Lord's strength and all your love.

And we are very saddened by so many Grace Sisters and Brothers we have lost since our 2018 move. It's so terribly heart breaking and we just have to remember to be stronger in our faith.

God bless you all. We love you. Rick and Sandi Johnson

**Thanks** for all the cards sent to Bob and me during this very difficult time in our lives. I also appreciate the phone calls to me inquiring about Bob and his current condition. He survived COVID but now has to regain his strength and, hopefully, some of his cognition.  
Carolynn White

***Dear Christian friends at Grace.***

Wishing you a joy-filled Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

We were so sorry to miss Grace's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. We wish all of you blessings of love, peace and hope this Christmas and throughout 2021.

Pastor Marta Poling Schmitt & Stefan Schmitt

***From ELCA Presiding Bishop*** Elizabeth Eaton and the church-wide staff:

Look in AWE to our Savior, born that holy night in Bethlehem. May we TREASURE the wondrous MIRACLE of Christ's birth and PONDER the HOPE Christ brings. Merry Christmas!

And from Robin Brown, ELCA Mission Funding:

Thank you for all your generous gifts. Merry Christmas!

***Dear Friends:*** Our work at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) would not be possible without the generous and faithful support of donors and friends like you, especially during a year that brought us all unprecedented challenges and uncertainty.

At a time when we have not had opportunities to be together, I want to offer my personal gratitude and reflection of this blessed Advent and Christmas season.

We remain grateful for the impact your support has on more than 43,000 children, adults, and seniors across Illinois,

In Faith, Mark A. Stutrud, President and Chief Executive Officer

***During this most sacred season,*** Lutheran Church of the Cross (LCC) Food Pantry would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supports us throughout the year - surrounding churches and organizations, neighbors in the area, and our selfless volunteers! So many people have stepped forward month after month—whether it be with food donations, monetary gifts or a gift of your time to help with weekly pantry operations—all of this, along with our affiliation with the Greater Chicago Food Depository that services all of Cook County, enables LCC Pantry to continue its work of assisting food insecure folks in the northwest suburbs as it has for 45 years.

The Pantry thanks you and prays for blessings upon you, your families, congregations, friends and co-workers. We send wishes for your health now and in the coming months as we continue to battle the Covid-19 pandemic during these unusual times. Let us all remember the reason for the season—the Christ child was born! God Bless Everyone!

Debbie Paddack, Lori Becker, Julie Malin, Co-Directors, Lutheran Church of the Cross Pantry, Arlington Heights.

## *Birthday* LIST

### **January**

3	Don Linder	Barbara Nagle Sofie Young
4	Janet Bouris Greg Linwood	19 Bernadette Dalton Jeanne Weidner
10	Presley Grimpe Ryoko Howell	20 Molly Mejia
11	Heather Polfuss	21 Paul Kjeldbjerg
12	Sally Riordan Kaytlin Swiatkiewicz Anita Taylor	24 Elise Kjeldbjerg Julie Walger
13	Eric Adams	25 Judith Bataille
15	Stephen Carlson	26 Lora Drozd
16	Robert Holzer	28 Alec Garza Joyce Schwarz
18	Oliver Mejia Matthew Menelle	31 Erwin Hagemann 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 Eloise DeCarlo and family on the death of her husband Jack DeCarlo on December 2, 2020. Jack was a member of Grace since November 1970.



1624 E. Euclid Ave.  
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[www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect](https://www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect)



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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*

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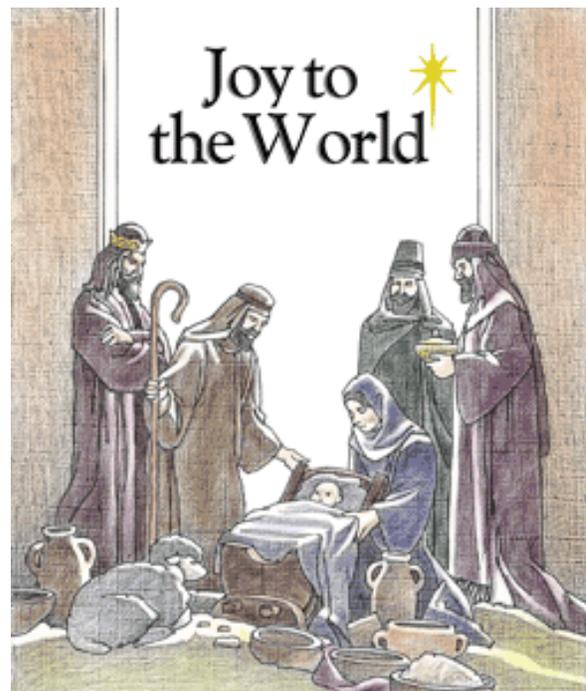
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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* January 17