

GRACE NOTES

July 2017

GOOD NEWS

Go tell it ... EVERYWHERE!

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!
through



Meaningful
Worship



Caring
Community



Inspirational
Learning



Loving
Service



Gracious
Invitation

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COUNCIL *Highlights*

Council Highlights and Status of Search For an Interim Pastor

I thought it was important to advise everyone of the highlights of the May 23rd Council meeting, and to keep you informed of the latest progress in our search for an interim pastor.

Besides normal Council business, the Council was advised by the Music Director Search committee that we have received several resumes for candidates for the position of permanent organist, and so we can hope for possible success in that search. We were also given a brief report on the status of an ad-hoc website committee, who is looking into the possibility of revising and modernizing our current website to make it even more accessible and friendlier to visitors checking us out online.

As to the pastoral search, the Council approved some small changes to the standard Interim Covenant provided by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and forwarded the revised covenant to the synod so that they could distribute it to potential candidates. I am pleased to announce that we have been provided with the name of one candidate, and the Executive Committee, who was appointed by Council to be the interview team for pastoral candidates, has had the chance to have an interview/conversation with her.

The Executive Committee and the Council are continuing to work with the Synod on the process of finding the right interim pastor for us. Please keep us and this process in your prayers.

Greg Linwood, Council President

Special *Article*

Salem United Methodist Church Ends Agreement to Share Space at Grace

I am disappointed to announce that, as of June 4th, 2017, our agreement to provide space to the Salem Korean United Methodist Church has ended.

Pastor TJ Kim of their congregation informed me on May 27th that this new service for them had not attracted the number of new members to their congregation that they had hoped, and as a result their Board voted to discontinue the arrangement.

We are grateful to Pastor Kim and his congregants for sharing our space, and we wish them well in the future.

Greg Linwood, Council President

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Birthday Card Shower: To distinguish our members who are 90 or better, we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes (cards & postcards) to brighten their special day. Rand Burdette will celebrate his 99th birthday on July 7, 2017. Please shower him with good wishes at 250 West Parliament Place, Mount Prospect, IL 60056 – *Happy Birthday, Rand!*

Zumba Gold is held in the Youth Room every Thursday at 10:00am. If you have missed the opportunity to try the Zumba Gold class, join the group for some fun exercise each Thursday morning at 10:00am.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Super Summer Sunday School: Each week all children are invited to attend after the Children's Sermon. There will be crafts, games, movies, Bible lessons and lots of fun. Super Summer Sundays will run through August.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Altar Guild Sign Up Sheets are on the round table in the parlor. Sign up for a Sunday or two this summer and then for a month of service the rest of the year.

Help Prepare for a New Refugee Family: We hope to co-sponsor a refugee family in November. Grace will be partnering again with Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, St. Mark Lutheran Church, and the Turkish American Society of Chicago. Donations can be made through the offering here at Grace or online at www.refugeeone.org/mountprospectresettlementteam. Thanks for your support.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Volunteer for "Meals on Wheels:" Each September volunteers from Grace deliver meals to people in our area who are unable to make meals for themselves. The meals are delivered Monday through Friday. The food is picked up at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights at 11:30am and then delivered. If you are able to help with this program please contact Betty Carlson at 847-803-9646.

Lutherans in a Lather: It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a washtub in the East entryway starting in June just waiting for your contribution of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 oz.) that are not overly scented or perfumed. The soap that is collected will be distributed by LWR to people in need of pride and cleanliness in refugee camps, hospitals and disaster sites around the world. The washtub will be out through Sunday, September 24, 2016.

Back to School: Supplies Needed: The Social Ministry Committee is collecting supplies for local school children and children on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. We are hoping to collect enough supplies to fill 30 backpacks. There will be tear-off tabs on a poster starting July 9. People can take tabs for the supplies they would like to donate. A collection box will be set up by the poster. We would like all the supplies to church by August 6 so we have time to ship the backpacks to Rosebud before school starts. We're hoping the timing of the school supply drive will coordinate with the back-to-school sales at the local stores. We are looking for the following items:

- 12-inch rulers marked with inches and centimeters
- Boxes of colored pencils
- Pencil boxes
- Highlighters (in sets of two)
- Rolls of scotch tape
- Boxes of washable markers, thin or thick, classic colors (8 or 10 in a box)
- Large glue sticks in sets of four
- Single-subject ruled spiral notebooks in sets of three (each a different color, not college ruled)
- #2 pencils in sets of 48
- Backpacks (solid colors preferred)
- 2-pocket folders in sets of 6 (each a different color)

Thanks so much for your support.

“Feed My Starving Children” – Our Latest Contribution: A heartfelt thank you to all of you who were able to volunteer and come out to work at the Feed My Starving Children location in Schaumburg on Tuesday, June 20th. We had almost thirty volunteers from Grace, joined by many other volunteers for that shift. We packed an amazing total of 167 boxes, totaling 36,072 meals, enough to feed 98 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Guatemala.

Our next group packing date will be Tuesday, August 15th, from 6 to 7:30pm. Save the date! Sign-up will be available starting Sunday, July 30th, or by going to fmsc.org and joining the group “Grace Lutheran Church” with me (Greg Linwood) as the group leader.

God's work. Our hands. Indeed.

GRACE PRESCHOOL *News*

I am retiring from Grace Preschool effective June 30, 2017. I am grateful for the blessings and experiences that came from being a teacher and director for Grace Preschool since 2004.

I have spent the last few years reflecting on my time and what God is calling me to do. This reflection has led me to the realization that it is time for new life at Grace

Preschool. Sometimes we stay with or in something because it is comfortable and all we have known, but I feel that this comfort has made me stagnant. I could stay for many years, but that is not in the best interest of the program. Other opportunities have presented themselves to me and I feel this is the time to explore those options.

Our current staff will remain. Christa Grabske will assume the interim director position for the 2017-2018 school year, and can be reached at preschool@gracemtprospect.org after July 1st. I will offer her any administrative support that she needs during the year.

The Board will need to make decisions in the fall of 2017 regarding the future of the program and the 2018-2019 school year, as Christa Grabske, Lindsay Meyers, and Susan Alonzo will end their time with the preschool at the close of school in May of 2018. If the program is to continue, an entire new staff will need to be in place for the fall of 2018.

Again, I thank you for the opportunities and support over the years.

Best regards, Becka Chantry

Congratulations **TO OUR GRADUATES**

College: Stephen Carlson, Austin Greaves, Samantha Rude

High School: Daniel Garza, Taylor Greaves, Jenni Josten, Connor Riordan, James Riordan

Middle School: Amy Drelicharz, Matthew Pracko, Maddy Stephanie

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending May 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$115,135	\$109,639	(\$ 5,496)
Special Income	13,350	24,519	+ 11,169
Prepaid Income	4,975	4,975	0
Total Income	\$133,460	\$139,133	+\$ 5,673
Expenses thru May	138,288	133,084	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+ 6,049	

The above represents our current year status thru May 31 ,2017. Though weekly envelope income continues below budget, special income continues over budget. This has been boosted to date by receipts from the rummage sale of \$1,500 and \$5,500 from the Salem Korean Church. Unfortunately, Salem has decided to discontinue their service at Grace so that income will stop as of now. We need to be diligent in our support of Grace as we move forward to new beginnings. Thank you for your support.

Notes of **THANKS**

Dear People of Grace Lutheran Church, Your kindness is appreciated very much. I was deeply touched to receive your very generous gift, and enjoyed the farewell reception on my last Sunday.

Yours truly, Pastor Stefan Munker

Dear Grace Family, Thank you all so much for the birthday cards and those who wished me a Happy Birthday. I loved it all! I had a wonderful 93rd party.

Love, June Brickwood

To Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Thank you so very much for your generous donation to our Haiti Disaster Relief Mission Team. We were able to provide medical care, food, and the Word to many of those affected by Hurricane Matthew...plus 400 pounds of tarps for temporary roofing! Please know that your funds went to buy items that were very much needed and appreciated by the Haitians.

Sincerely, Gayle Reese, Missions, Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary

Thank you for your generous gift of \$636 in support of the Mount Prospect Resettlement team co-sponsorship. Through your generosity, you've helped ensure that refugees are resettled into a life of safety, dignity and, ultimately, self-reliance.

Refugees come to the United States having survived persecution, human rights violations, and years of waiting for resettlement. Whether they've lived in camps or in cities, they were rarely given opportunities to lead full lives.

Sara Spoonheim, Director of Development, RefugeeOne

Thank you for your recent gift of \$283 to support the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America through ELCA Good Gifts.

Because of donors like you, these good gifts and the good news of Jesus Christ will touch the lives of many. Your gift helps us care for our neighbors here at home and around the world by providing basic-necessity items, tools for education, skills and instruments for meal preparation and self-care, resources for new congregations and their leaders – and much more. Your gift provides tangible witness through our actions, encouraging hope, healing and reconciliation in congregations and communities.

Thank you for responding to God's call to walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ's name.

In God's grace, Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement

Dear Parishioners, You are a lifesaver – literally. And I thank you for believing in someone you don't even know.

Your generous donation of \$616.00 will provide life-saving housing and services to the homeless and abused women and children who seek help from WINGS. These women enter WINGS with little or no money, scared and totally overwhelmed with their traumatic life situations. Because of you they are able to experience a life without violence and a sense of accomplishment. Their children are able to grow up in a loving and supportive home that nourishes instead of depletes, and they carry with them the

gift of well-being rather than fear and disillusionment. In the past fiscal year WINGS opened its newest Safe House on the southwest side of Chicago, which means we are now able to help hundreds more individuals each year with safety and security. With the addition of this new shelter, WINGS has the ability to house 239 men, women and children each night. We are able to do this because of wonderful people like yourself, who thought about helping individuals they didn't know – women and children in need – and invested in WINGS programs.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity, compassion and willingness to give. You have truly made life better in our community.

With gratitude, Terri Channer, Sr. Director of Development, WINGS

SPECIAL Events

- **Sundays through Rally Day** – one worship service at 10:00am followed by a Coffee Hour
- **Super Summer Sunday School** – each Sunday through August following the Children's Sermon



Birthday LIST

July

1	Michael Kintzle Stefanie Kintzle	17	Gordon Greaves Sue Buerger Andy Reimann
2	Tom Carlson	18	Dorothy Olson
4	Lynne Dixon James R. Shaffer	19	Wendy Thompson
5	Jerry Sakover	21	Adam Rude Rachael Thompson
6	Bob Fey	23	Diane LeFevre Andrew Pfeffer
7	Rand Burdette	25	Rich Rogers Megan Nickl
10	Frank Doran	26	Christine Solans
12	Amanda Jannush	29	Alice Johnson Susan Garfinkle Rachel Godlewski
13	Jeannine Ellertson	30	Dorothy Johnston Darlene Sharlog
14	Andy DeCaluwe		
15	Molly Ryan		
16	Joan Russell		

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 Minda Josten and Margaret Reed and family in the death of their father John Hanson (former member of Grace) on May 26 in Green Valley, AZ. A memorial service was held at Grace on June 24, 2017.

New **MEMBER**

Lynn Sivertsen was received into membership at Grace on May 21, 2017. Her address is 201 Rob Roy Lane, Unit A, Prospect Heights, IL 60070.



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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**

Pastor:

pastor@gracemtprospect.org

Church Secretary: Barbara Willis

b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Lay Ministry: Pam Walger

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Director of Music: Susan Nelson

sopranosusannelson@gmail.com

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preschool@gracemtprospect.org

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* July 16