

GRACE NOTES

July 2018



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

A Season of Growth



This is the time of year that, if I don't stay on top of things, my garden becomes a jungle of vines and thistles. More than once in my life, I have gone on vacation only to come home to a garden I could no longer manage to get into!

My goal each year is to get better at getting rid of the weeds early and often. This year I'm doing pretty well!

There's a good reason that Jesus chose so many parables about planting and pruning and weeding and caring for gardens or fields or vineyards. The abundance of creation is itself a parable about God's overwhelming, gracious love.

We at Grace are in a season of growth—growth in unity, growth in mutual respect, growth in continuing and enhancing current ministries, growth in envisioning new ways of doing ministry. I am impressed and inspired by the large number of people spanning at least a couple of generations who share responsibility for doing various parts of our ministry, from worship leaders, to property volunteers, to choir members, to altar guild, to WELCA, to the quilting group, to Sunday school teachers, to sound, video and other tech services. It's not just a few people doing everything. It's lots of people doing some things. This is a sign of good stewardship. As I've suggested before, we need to pay attention to making sure that the wisdom of the elders in the church is appropriately passed down to a new generation. And, that we take seriously the recruiting of a new generation of church members who can be mentored into becoming strong leaders.

This is also a season of discernment at Grace. A call committee has been created. They will meet with Pastor Cynthia Hileman from our Bishop's office in the near future. At this time, it is my understanding that they will decide whether or not they want to interview me for the potential permanent call. If they choose to interview me, we will proceed as a normal call process but with just one candidate (me). If the call committee recommends to the Church Council that Grace call me, the Council will decide whether to call a congregational meeting to extend a call to me. In that case, I would have thirty days to decide whether or not to accept your call. If the call committee decides *not* to interview me for the call, they would receive the names and profiles of up to three candidates. In that case, I expect to stay on as your interim pastor until your next pastor is called and in place.

We are clearly in a time of transition, one way or another. Pray for members of the Call Committee and the Church Council. Pray for me.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Daniel Schwick

COUNCIL *Highlights*

Current Status of the Pastoral Call Process

At our May 22nd meeting, the Council once again took up the issue of appointing a Pastoral Call Committee. Since Pastor Schwick had advised us that he was willing at this time to be interviewed for the position of permanent pastor, and the Council had completed our Ministry Site Profile and submitted it to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the Council agreed to appoint the Pastoral Call Committee at this meeting.

A total of eleven candidates had stepped forward to be considered to be appointed to this committee. The Council determined that a committee of seven people seemed to be the right size. After careful consideration, and discussion of the various candidates who had volunteered, the Council appointed the following people to the Pastoral Call Committee: Sharyl Hanna, Jules Kastens, Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine, Ardell Mueller, Gloria Ohman, Rich Rogers and Jerry Sakover.

The Call Committee will be meeting to get organized, make contact with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (Associate to the Bishop Cynthia Hileman) and proceed with the call process. Stay tuned to this space for updates on their progress!

If you have any questions about the pastoral call process, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Call Committee to discuss.

Greg Linwood, Council President

STEPHEN MINISTERS: *The After People*

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People. Stephen Ministers are there...

- ...after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ...after the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ...after the funeral when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ...after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ...after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ...after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ...after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” They are ready to come along side you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long as needed.

For more information about the Stephen Ministers at Grace, see their kiosk in the Atrium or call the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Fellowship

Three Fabulous Birthdays to Celebrate in July!

Please send birthday greetings to the following people celebrating special birthdays in July. Please send them a card or postcard to express your wishes.

On July 7, 2018 Rand Burdette will celebrate 100 years. What a special occasion! Send him wishes at 250 W Parliament, #101, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056.

On July 16, 2018 Joan Russell will celebrate her 90th birthday. Send her wishes to 350 West Schaumburg Road, #1325, Schaumburg, IL 60194

On July 29th Alice Johnson will celebrate her 93rd birthday. Send her wishes to 800 West Oakton #340, Arlington Hts., IL 60004.

Meet our Missionary to Jerusalem: Did you know that Grace and St. Mark Lutheran Church in downtown Mount Prospect both support the work of Pastor Carrie Smith, an ELCA missionary in Jerusalem? On Sunday, July 15, our two congregations will have an opportunity to meet our missionary and to find out more about her work. Pr. Smith will preach at St. Mark’s 8:30 service and then come to Grace for our 10:00 service which, if the technology works out, will be simulcast to St. Mark’s 10:00 service as well. Immediately following our worship at Grace, we are invited to a luncheon at St. Mark which will feature Pr. Smith.

Interested in Becoming a Member of Grace? The Outreach and Welcome Committee invites all those considering membership at Grace as well as recent new members to an “on boarding” dinner at church on Sunday, July 29 beginning at 5:30pm. Other members of Grace who are interested in welcoming newer members are invited to join the dinner as well. If you’re interested, please speak with Pastor Schwick or with Outreach and Welcome Chair, Mike Pirron.

Grace to Participate in Mount Prospect Block Party on Saturday, July 28: Please plan to participate in the Block Party by signing up on the easel in the Atrium. The Block Party, which runs from 11am to 5pm, will be a great opportunity to invite our neighbors to come to Grace. It will also be an opportunity to recruit more students for our expanded preschool in the fall. Thanks to the Outreach and Welcome Committee for spearheading our participation in the Party!

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Sermons on You Tube: Did you know that recent sermons were taped and uploaded to You Tube? You can watch them by going to Grace's website at www.gracemtprospect.org and clicking on Sunday Worship. Then click on the link Grace Lutheran Church – Mount Prospect You Tube Channel to view recent sermons. Your feedback to this ministry will help decide if it should be continued.

Congregational Forum on “Justice for Women:” Our Social Ministry Committee and WELCA women's group are sponsoring a forum on the draft of the ELCA social statement that is the culmination of almost 10 yrs. of listening and studying by a task force created by ELCA in 2009. The task force is asking for feedback from congregations and individuals by the end of September as they prepare a final draft of the statement. All women, men and youth of the congregation are invited to join in the discussion on Monday, June 25 at 7:00pm.

Midweek Bible Study in July and August: *The Voice of the Prophets*

You are encouraged to participate in our summer Midweek Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00am. at 7:00pm. In July and August, we will focus on the Old Testament prophets, a strange lot of folks who used a variety of stories and what we might call performance art to call the Israelites to greater faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The role of the prophets was not to predict the future but to diagnose the present in light of God's gracious covenant with the Israelites. Even if you can't make it to every Wednesday session, feel free to join us when you can. On July 25, Mike Pirron will lead the Bible Study while Pastor Dan is on vacation. Thank you, Mike!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Altar Guild: The sign-up sheet for July and August is on the table in the Parlor. Current Altar Guild members and anyone interested in volunteering to help the Altar Guild are asked to please sign-up for a week or weeks to help with the altar guild duties this summer. If you have any questions, please speak with Betty Carlson at 847-803-9646.

Ushers: We are in need of ushers for Sunday services. Please consider volunteering.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Grace Church Welcomes Petra Church, July 1: On Sunday, July 1, we will begin our partnership with Petra Church, a non-denominational multi-ethnic church originally organized in Glenview. Petra Church will primarily be using our worship and fellowship spaces on Sunday afternoons. Please make them feel welcomed in the name of Jesus!

La Trinidad Community Dinners: Please join members of the Social Ministry Committee at the upcoming Community Dinners at La Trinidad. We leave church at

9am so that we can join in their 10am worship service before helping serve and clean up after the monthly meal. We usually take roasted chickens, salads, breadsticks and desserts. If you cannot make the trip to La Trinidad but would like to help, please consider donating funds to cover the costs of the food items we bring. Please use a pink pew envelope and mark it "La Trinidad meals."

"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 5th. We had about ten volunteers from Grace, and were joined by many additional volunteers! Altogether we packed a total of 122 boxes, totaling 26,352 meals, enough to feed 72 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Our next group packing opportunity is Tuesday, August 7th, from 6 to 7:30pm. Sign-up begins at Grace on Sunday, July 22nd. Or you can go to www.fmssc.org now and join the group.

God's work. Our hands. Indeed.

Submitted by Greg Linwood

Donate Items for Hygiene Kits: The Social Ministry Committee is assembling hygiene kits for women re-entering the community from prison through a program of Lutheran Social Services. Check the poster in the Atrium to see what you can provide. PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to donate funds to offset the shipping costs for the hygiene kits, please place your donation in a pink pew envelope and mark it "*Shipping Costs*".

Lutheran Disaster Response is collecting funds for the flood victims in Maryland (& on the east coast). If you can, please donate using a pink pew envelope and mark it "U.S. Spring Flood". Thanks!

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 8. 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)
- Elmer's Glue in 8 ounce bottles

- Rolls of scotch tape
- Boxes of washable markers, thin or thick, classic colors (8 or 10 in a box)
- Pink erasers in sets of 2
- 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)

If you don't have time to shop but would still like to help, please use a pink pew envelope to donate funds to offset the cost of shipping the school supplies to Rosebud. Thanks so much for your support.

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 30, 2018.

Mission Trip: From August 1st through August 5th, the Interfaith Council, which includes members of areas churches (including Grace) and synagogues, will be in Detroit helping to rebuild and restore areas of the city on their annual mission trip. If you would like to be part of this rewarding experience, contact Margit Willis at 312-607-2684 or Terry-Ann Saurmann at 847-392-3042.

Shop for the Food Pantry: Paper Products, Personal Essentials and Pantry Pairs: Peanut Butter & Jelly, Rice & Beans, Soup & Crackers, Pasta & Sauce, Granola Bars & Juice, Cake Mix & Frosting, Cereal & Powdered Milk, Fruit & Nuts, Coffee & Tea, Ketchup & Mustard, Flour & Sugar, Mayonnaise & Salad Dressing, Toilet Paper & Kleenex, Shampoo & Conditioner, Soap & Deodorant, Detergent & Fabric Softener, Paper Towels & Cleaning Products, Toothpaste & Mouth Wash, Razors & Shaving Cream, and Diapers & Wipes. If you'd like to make a cash donation toward a grocery store gift certificate, please place your donation in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry Certificates." The food pantry has empty shelves during the summer months but hunger doesn't take a summer vacation. Thanks for your generosity!

YOUTH GATHERING 2018

Youth Trip to Houston: On Sunday, June 24th we will send off a delegation of nearly a dozen youth and chaperones on their way to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. Our youth will join with literally tens of thousands of other youth from across

the country to worship, learn, pray, recreate and serve. We anticipate a Sunday in July or August when our youth can report to all of us about their time in Houston!

Since Pastor Dan Schwick will be with our youth in Houston on July 1, Pastor Kathie Bender Schwick, will be our “guest” preacher and presider on that Sunday. Pastor Kathie is the Senior Vice President for Spiritual Care at Advocate Aurora Healthcare, a two-state network of hospitals, clinics and doctors.

FINANCIAL Update

Financial Report ending May 31, 2018

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$110,000	\$107,824	(\$ 2,176)
Special Income	13,350	18,311	4,961
Prepaid Income	8,298	8,406	108
Total Income	\$ 131,648	\$134,541	\$ 2,893
Expenses thru May	139,639	133,289	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 1,252	

Income for the month includes \$800 from the Bake Sale which will be given for Pool Passes and \$1376 as our portion of the Rummage Sale. \$1,000 additional received toward the Parking Lot Fund reducing the remaining balance to \$1,500. Expenses are under budget thru May. However we have a \$6,000 expense coming in June for the A/C repair. Think of your summer comfort during services. We thank you for your continuing support as we move forward in our mission to spread His word.

Around THE PARISH

Congratulations Graduates:

College: Joanna Josten, Jack Kintzle, Emma Riordan

High School: Taylor Chantry, Samantha Pracko

Middle School: Cory Cordier, Connor Dietrich, Gianna Lauletta, Andrew Stutheit

Preschool: Presley Grimpe

Notes of THANKS

Thank you to everyone who donated funds for gift cards for the food pantries we support. 92 gift cards (face value \$25) were recently purchased and distributed to the food pantries.

This Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you for your gift of \$9,369 to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod’s Million Dollar ELCA World Hunger Challenge. Your gifts support ELCA World Hunger’s work to address hunger

and poverty through education, advocacy, relief and development in the United States and around the world.

Together we work for a just world in which all are fed.

The Rev. David Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran, Mount Prospect,

Thank you for your continued generous support to TRINIDAD!

Your Lent offering and your recent WELCA group donations are blessings for our on-going ministry. We thank you for your donations of money and prayers and presence at our monthly community meals!

The love we receive from you gives us the strength to keep going.

GRACIAS DE TODO CORAZON

Iglesia Luterana de la Trinidad!

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran Church,

We gratefully acknowledge your recent donation of Aldi gift cards worth \$550.00 to Northwest Compass. Our programs provide much needed help to our neighbors.

Your gift empowers our neighbors in the northwest suburbs to survive in difficult times. Sadly, the number of our people whose income falls at or below the poverty level has increased. As the need for our services grows, it is your generosity that allows us to serve our neighbors in need.

On behalf of everyone at Northwest Compass and our neighbors in need, thank you for showing compassion. Your gift changes lives.

Sonia Ivanov, Acting Executive Director

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$158.00 to ELCA World Hunger. Acts 6 tells the story of the birth and expansion of the church at Pentecost: When the disciples were increasing in number, they selected from among themselves people full of the Spirit and of wisdom and appointed them to feed people who were hungry. They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

With your generosity to ELCA World Hunger, you stand full of the Spirit and of wisdom in the church's 2,000 year tradition of caring for neighbors in need. Thank you for your strong commitment to this signature ministry of the church. Receive in return our prayers for your ministry and our hands stretched out to you in blessing. Together we can go farther; together we will be transformed in the Spirit and in relationship with each other, our partners and communities around the world.

Until all are fed, The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Friends of the Pantry,

Thank you for your donation of 22 Aldi gift cards totaling \$550.00 to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. Your generous gift will help provide for Township residents who are unable to provide enough food for themselves and their families.

Hundreds of local families are eligible to visit the Pantry each month. Without the support of our community we would not be able to provide this much-needed assistance to our neighbors in need.

Ours is truly a community pantry, entirely dependent on contributions like yours for everything we distribute. Thanks to the generosity of financial and food donors and a dedicated corps of volunteers, the Pantry provides essential support to residents who are experiencing hard times.

On behalf of our neighbors who are benefitting from your support, thank you for your generosity and commitment to the belief that ***Hunger is Unacceptable in Our Community***. Together we are making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Sincerely, Jill A. Brickman, Supervisor, Northfield Township Food Pantry

SPECIAL *Events*

- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, June 24
- ***Congregational Forum on “Justice for Women:”*** Monday, June 25, 7:00pm
- ***Youth Gathering 2018:*** June 27 – July 1 in Houston
- ***Growing in Grace Roundtable:*** Sunday, July 8 following the service
- ***Missionary Visit:*** Sunday, July 15
- ***Mt. Prospect Block Party:*** Saturday, July 28
- ***New Member “Onboarding Dinner:”*** Sunday, July 29
- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, July 29
- ***Feed My Starving Children Packing:*** Tuesday, August 7, 6-7:30pm
- ***Thanksgiving & Farewell to Erik Matson:*** Sunday, August 12
- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, August 19
- ***Preparedness Training:*** Sunday, August 26 following the service
- ***Rally Day:*** Sunday, September 9
- ***Pet Blessing:*** Saturday, October 6

Birthday LIST

July

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Stefanie Kintzle
Michael Kintzle | 16 | Joan Russell |
| 2 | Tom Carlson | 17 | Gordon Greaves
Sue Buerger
Andy Reimann |
| 4 | Lynne Dixon
James Shaffer | 18 | Dorothy Olson |
| 5 | Jerry Sakover | 19 | Wendy Thompson |
| 6 | Bob Fey | 21 | Adam Rude
Rachel Thompson |
| 7 | Rand Burdette | 23 | Andrew Pfeffer |
| 10 | Frank Doran | 25 | Rich Rogers |
| 12 | Amanda Jannusch | 29 | Alice Johnson
Susann Garfinkle |
| 13 | Jeannine Ellertson | 30 | Darlene Sharlog |
| 15 | Molly Ryan | | |

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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.

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* July 15