

GRACE NOTES

June 2017



With the celebration of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God's power in our lives renews us by grace to live with faith, hope and love.

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

through

-  Meaningful
Worship
-  Caring
Community
-  Inspirational
Learning
-  Loving
Service
-  Gracious
Invitation

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A FAREWELL NOTE *from former Pastor Munker*

Parting Words

As I am writing this note, I am preparing for my final week of farewells at Grace, and getting ready to pack my office for moving to St. Paul's. This has been my second call, and the first as solo senior pastor. I am leaving for a new call away from the big city and to a small rural town.

I love the people of Grace – all of you. I will miss you, and remember you forever as part of life and ministry. I am thanking God for your faith and your dedication to tell the good news and touch people with the love of Jesus. Some experiences were truly enjoyable blessings, and others were hard for us to deal with. You and I have been faced with the challenges of being the church in this day and age. But together we have celebrated God's grace together.

Easter is the celebration of the good news that God makes all things new. In baptism we are thankfully renewed by dying to sin and rising to everlasting life. And Jesus' gift of the Spirit on Pentecost continually guides, encourages and sustains the church in its life, service and witness. I am following the Holy Spirit's call to serve God's people in Hillsboro with my gifts. And I pray that this church will continue to serve God's purposes in tried and in new ways here in Mount Prospect.



“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”
(Romans 8:28)

While the end of my ministry is going to be difficult for you, I believe it is also an opportunity for exciting renewal with another pastor. I wish all my hopes had been fulfilled and I am sorry for your disappointments. Thank you for sharing joys, and helping me grow. I am reminded that we live and serve by grace alone.

>> Let us pray for one another in the name of Jesus, asking for the Holy Spirit to renew and guide our faith, hope and love according to God's purpose.

Yours always in Christ, *Pastor Stefan Munker*



Pastor Munker's New Call:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Office: 217-532-2353

Council Update

I write to you today to share with you the latest thinking of the Grace Council on how we are going to proceed in light of Pastor Stefan Munker's decision to resign his call here, effective May 31st, with his last Sunday among us scheduled for May 21st.

Before talking about our future plans, I must notify you that, by synod rules, after May 31st, when Pastor Munker's call with us is terminated, he may NOT perform word and sacrament ministry at Grace, or perform wedding or funeral services for any members of Grace. This is to ensure fair treatment of all the pastoral people involved, both Pastor Munker in discharging his obligations to his new congregation, and to the future interim and permanent pastors serving here at Grace.

The Council met with Rev. Cynthia K. Hileman, Associate to Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, on Monday, May 8th. Pastor Hileman explained to us the options before us, the resources available on the Synod's website, and pledged her continued support for us through this transition process.

As a result, the Council will be reviewing our options for preparing an Interim Covenant document, outlining our expectations for what an interim pastor should provide us while we embark on the lengthier process of identifying a call committee, completing a Ministry Site Profile to provide potential pastoral candidates a detailed description of our congregation, and interviewing candidates to fill the pastoral position on a permanent basis.

The Council anticipates finalizing the Interim Covenant from our perspective at the May 23rd Council meeting. We will then forward this to Pastor Hileman, who will then begin supplying us with candidates to fill our vacancy on an interim basis. On Pastor Hileman's advice, we anticipate using pastors from the supply list provided by the Synod for several weeks, beginning June 4th, until the Council determines that we have identified the correct person to fill the interim pastor position.

Finally, I want you all to know that there will be a reception for Pastor Munker between services on Sunday, May 21st. Please plan to join us in wishing him and his wife Cynthia God's blessings in the next chapter of their lives. In addition, you may leave him a written message in the book that will be available in the narthex for just that purpose.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Linwood
Council President

Congratulations TO OUR GRADUATES

We celebrate the accomplishments of our congregation's graduates and wish you God's blessings in your future endeavors!

God provides true wisdom beyond knowledge and gives real purpose for our lives. Seek and follow the way of the Lord, and you will find meaning and fulfillment.



“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Fellowship

May Friendship Group: BUNCOFEST will make a return on Wednesday, May 31st at 11:30am. We will have a “BUNCHO” FUN along with a delicious lunch with dessert and beverages. There will also be prizes and tons of laughs. Tickets are available for \$10.00 per person. Invite your friends to this fun event. Don't miss it! Contact Pam Walger at 847-824-7408 with questions.

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

College Scholarship Applications will be available in the Information Center in front of the church office beginning May 28, 2017. If you are attending a post-secondary school in the fall you are eligible to apply. Completed applications are due back to the church office by July 3rd. Questions? Contact the church office at 847-824-7408.

Sunday School Party: JOIN IN THE FUN! On June 4th make sure to come to the end of the year party for some special activities and a fabulous treat! Also, watch for information to come on a Summer Bonfire with s'mores and fun. This fun activity is for all ages so invite your parents and friends.

Become a Leader for Christ: Heard of the ELCA Leadership LAB? There is one for ADULTS! Leadership Lab is designed to assist you acquire skills for ministry in your church, community, and the world by helping you grow in your awareness of God, self, and others. Leadership Lab is an intense week of study, worship and building relationships July 24-29 at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. Get info and register at leadershiplab.net.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Wanted: Green Thumbs to Enhance Our Curb Appeal: If you enjoy gardening-planting/watering, how about adopting one of the flower garden areas around the church building this spring/summer. Please express your interest in helping by signing up for an area on the poster in the Atrium or by speaking with Cory Olson at 847/909-5509. We look forward to the lovely flowers adorning the church property again this year. Hurry and pick your favorite spot.

Attention Altar Guild Members and All Interested Volunteers: The sign-up sheet for the upcoming year will be on the table in the Parlor soon. Please sign-up for the months/weeks that you are available to help with the altar guild duties. If you have any questions, please speak with Betty Carlson at 847-803-9646.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

“Feed My Starving Children” – A Friendly Reminder: Just a reminder that our next chance to go as a group from Grace to the Schaumburg location of Feed My Starving Children, 1072 National Parkway, will be Tuesday, June 20th, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, June 4. But, if you want to reserve your spot right away, access the website www.fmssc.org and follow the prompts to “join” the group named Grace Lutheran Church (group leader Greg Linwood). Or, another way of volunteering now is to contact me directly, either at 847-502-7744, or via e-mail at gregorylinwood@sbcglobal.net, and I will add you to our group.

Thanks for your continuing enthusiastic support of this ministry! Greg Linwood

Mission Trip: There are still a few openings for the July 30-August 3 mission trip to St. Louis being co-sponsored by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. People from many different congregations and faiths in the Northwest Suburban area, including some Grace members, will be going to St. Louis to help rebuild homes destroyed by recent floods in the area. This is the fourth year that Good Shepherd has sponsored a highly successful mission trip and it promise to be a fun and fulfilling adventure and one in which your help is greatly needed. See or call Margit Willis, 773-886-8788 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Hygiene Kits: The Social Ministry Committee is asking for your help to assemble 20 hygiene kits for women re-entering the community from prison. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is in great need of hygiene kits for previously incarcerated women. Many of these women have no homes to return to and are placed in shelters, which do not provide these necessities.

The kits include the following items assembled in a one-gallon Ziploc bag:

- Toothpaste, 6 ounces
- Deodorant, 2.6 ounces
- Panty liners, 22 count (in a small plastic bag, for packing)
- Tampons, 18 count (in a small plastic bag, for packing)
- Moisturizing lotion, 2.5 – 2.7 ounces
- Feminine wipes, 20-count box
- Small nail clippers
- Small wide-tooth comb
- 10 band-aids (in a small plastic bag, for packing)

Watch for a poster in the Atrium on June 4th. To help us get 20 of each item on the above list, the poster will contain 20 tear-offs for each item. There will also be a collection box for the items which should be brought to church by July 2nd.

Thank you for your support of this project.

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
- 24-count boxes of crayons
- Highlighters (in sets of two)

- Elmer's Glue in 8 ounce bottles
- Rolls of scotch tape
- Kid-sized pointed scissors (preferably Fiskars brand, 5 inches long)
- Boxes of washable markers, thin or thick, classic colors (8 or 10 in a box)
- Large glue sticks in sets of four
- 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)

Thanks so much for your support.

Food Pantry Shopping Suggestions: Please try to pick up a few items for our food pantry delivery while shopping this week. Buy: paper products, baking products, peanut butter/jellies, Jell-O/puddings, condiments, rice (small bag), canned meats, potato mixes, salad dressing, pasta & sauces, coffee (small), cleaning products, powdered milk, canned vegetables, bottled juices, canned fruit, cooking oil, diapers and cereals. 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."

RUMMAGE SALE 2017

"It's done, over, phew, boy am I tired!" Those were my first thoughts as I headed home on Saturday, but by the evening I was feeling better and thinking, "It wasn't so bad, it's over!"

THANK YOU rummage sale volunteers! You are an amazing, dedicated group of hard workers. I am always so amazed by the number of volunteers who show up each day and help make this sale a success. We are impressive, especially since most of us are over 50 years old, many over 75! It is a busy, but fun week with lots of shared laughs. We got the job done!

This year the Rummage Sale took in over \$3,000.00. If you helped in any way; whether by donating items, sorting and pricing items, cleaning up, baking, even shopping, pat yourself on the back, smile and know you were appreciated! It takes many hands to make it successful. Special thanks to Margit for taking this event on with me.

Awesome Volunteers...Thank you! Joanne & Ray, Eloise & Jack, Betty & Curt, Eileen & Alan, Arlene, Leni & Rebecca, Sue, Jane, Sandy, Bev, Dawn, Sally, Rich, Jerry, Karen, Nancy, Marcia, Betty, Mary, Lori, Joyce, Lynne, Steve, Don, Mark, Mary Jo,

Cindy, Terry, Judy, Marilyn, Pam and Barb. If for some reason I am missing someone, my apologies☺ God Bless you all.....Minda

FINANCIAL Update

The numbers below show Grace's current year financial status thru 4/30/17. God is leading us to do wondrous things. Having just completed the Lenten/Easter season of the year with the additional income that the season generates, what a pleasure to look at these numbers. We are all aware of the designation of the Lenten Self Denial receipts going to LSSI and Refugee One ministry. Well, the total receipts to be distributed accordingly came to \$1,287, one the largest amounts in recent memory. It is all possible due to your support. Thank you and do keep up the good works. Not to dampen this report, we have been warned that we will be facing a healthy roofing and tuck-pointing expense near \$6,000 to try to eliminate the strategic placement of "buckets" when it rains.

Financial Report ending April 30, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 92,108	\$ 90,533	(\$ 1,575)
Special Income	10,680	19,640	+ 8,960
Prepaid Income	3,975	3,975	0
<hr/>			
Total Income	\$106,763	\$114,148	+\$ 7,385
Expenses thru April	110,631	104,462	
<hr/>			
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+ 9,686	

Notes of THANKS

Thank you: to everyone who contributed to the Buck-A-Chick campaign. \$283.00 was raised.

Thank you: to everyone who baked or bought items at the Mother's Day Bake Sale. Close to \$700 was raised for pool passes for River Trails families and summer programs in District 21.

Thank You: The two words "thank you" just don't seem like enough expression for the warmth and caring that Grace has extended to me and my family during the serious surgery I underwent in March 2017.

Pastor Munker was at the hospital to pray with us all before I went into the 8 hour surgery. Pastor also visited me after surgery even on my bad hair days at the hospital. With his and all the prayers of our Grace Family everything went according to God's plan. I am doing remarkably well.

“Thank You“ Grace members for all your prayers, cards and hospital visits. I have been truly blessed with all these wonderful loving thoughts, caring prayers and pastor’s regular phone calls ‘just to check’.

Grace is the BEST! Chris Rogers

Thank you for sending me off with a special reception on my final Sunday at Grace. I have been touched by your many kind words and notes to share your gratitude for my ministry and wish me and my wife Cindy well in our move and new calls. I am grateful for all your love and faithfulness as we shared in service to Christ and his church. God be with you always, *Pastor Stefan Munker*

Dear Grace Lutheran Church: Thank you for your gift of \$115.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. One of the descriptions of the early Christian community to which we hold fast is “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:44-45).

Thank you for faithfully joining together with the whole church to distribute your gifts and tithes to people whose lives and communities have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world, giving thanks that, even after the dust has settled and the headlines have changed, the church stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Thank you for making possible long-term recovery for neighbors and strangers this Easter season. Thank you for responding to the life-giving miracle of the resurrection with your gifts!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Summer Worship Schedule:** Beginning Sunday, June 4, 2017 there will be only one worship service at 10:00am.
- **Sunday School Party:** Sunday, June 4, 2017

Birthday LIST

June

1	Stan Russell Eloise Trsar	15	Amy Drelicharz
2	Jackie Pracko	16	Justin Lorenz
4	Peggy Gossell	18	Jack Kintzle
5	Alan Chambers	19	William Rovani Toni Solans Jillian Larsen
7	Jerry Sharlog Tom Roth	20	Bill Jacoby Jerry Riordan
8	James Rude	22	Jared Polfuss
9	Jennifer Josten	23	Brian Jozefat
11	John Gaiser Pete Varley	24	Carol Fey
13	Matt Adams Emily Hammer	25	Suzanne Walger
14	Betty Carlson Connor Dietrich	28	Jack DeCarlo
		29	Michael Nauert Nick Kochanski

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 Colleen Adams and family in the death of her mother, Lois O'Donnell, recently in Iowa.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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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: Stefan A. Munker
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ARTICLE *Deadline:* June 18