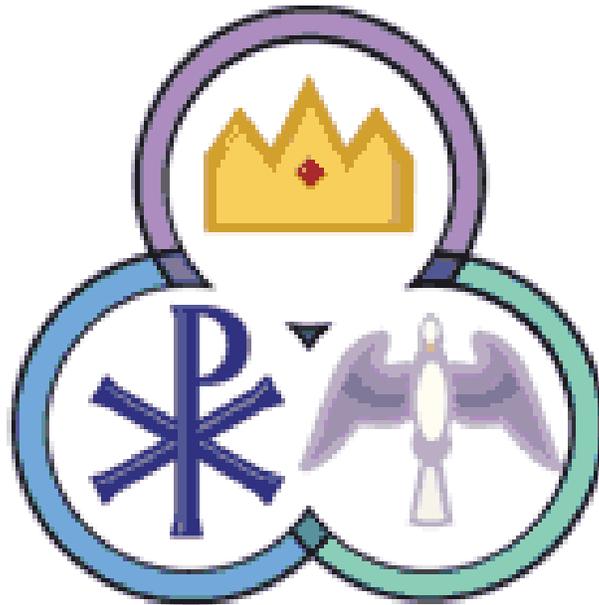


GRACE NOTES

June 2020



THREE IN ONE

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,



With Pentecost Sunday, on May 31st this year, we move out of the first half of the church year and into the long “green season” that makes up most of the second half of the liturgical calendar. The First half of the Church year, from Advent through Pentecost, has focused our attention on the life and ministry of Jesus himself. We have been challenged to look closely at how and with whom Jesus carried out his ministry. Now, in the second half of the church year, our focus turns not AWAY from Jesus, but BEYOND his earthly ministry. We

will, over and over, face the challenges of how we in 21st century suburban Chicago continue a ministry that began with Jesus.

This green season reminds us of growth and new life. It reminds us that when Jesus left us, he did not leave us alone. On Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had promised. The Spirit gave the hapless disciples of Jesus the power to stand up to religious and civil authorities to proclaim a new way of living—really a new life itself, in Christ.

As has been said many times before, there is no roadmap for how the church does ministry in the midst of a pandemic and the resulting stay at home directives. I strongly disagree that our constitutional right to the free exercise of our religious freedom is more important than the public health concerns of our leaders. It is irresponsible and potentially deadly to pit freedom of religion against a world-wide medical emergency. At Grace, our leadership has pledged to abide by recommendations coming from the State Department of Public Health. This fight is not—or should not be—in any way a partisan political dispute. There is very widespread acceptance among Americans that we need to curtail some of our freedoms right now FOR THE COMMON GOOD. Isn't that the goal of politics in the first place?

But what will our life and ministry look like in the “new normal”? When will we be able to gather again as the people of Grace? Will we EVER share the peace again or distribute communion the way we used to? At this stage we still have many more questions than answers. Our Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are providing regular update and guidance to congregations and other expressions of the church—camps, refugee programs, colleges, etc.—about considerations regarding “reopening.” It is my sense that we will continue to have our PRIMARY “gathering” each week by ZOOM. Especially given the average age of members of our congregation, I don't anticipate that we will rush into live worship services for at least another couple of months. And even then, we will need to be careful and restrictive of who can come to corporate worship. This of course, flies in the face of everything the church has ever said about “ALL ARE WELCOME.”

As we journey together into this new phase in our ministry, we need to remind ourselves over and over again that this is not our church. This is Christ's church. We carry out HIS ministry EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit!

Just as Jesus promised!

In Christ's love, joy, peace and hope!
Pastor Daniel Schwick

SPECIAL INFORMATION

SIMPLIFIED CONNECTION TO ZOOM FOR GRACE GATHERINGS

In an effort to minimize confusion, we have now identified a single on-line address or phone number to access ALL Grace worship services, Bible Study, committee and Council meetings. If you are part of a group that would like to make use of the church ZOOM account for an on-line "gathering," please let Pastor Schwick know and he can make the arrangements.

Also, please note that Pastor Schwick continues to be available for informal ZOOM conversations:

Coffee and with Pastor Dan on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am and 1:00pm.

Happy Hour with Pastor Dan on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00pm. (Bring your own beverage)

In addition, we continue to have **Bible Study on Wednesdays** at 7:00pm. (Bring your own Bible). We are studying the Acts of the Apostles, the stories of the very first Christians and their struggle to do ministry in a changing and often hostile environment.

THE NEW ALL GRACE ALL THE TIMES 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

Music NOTES

Dear Friends and Family of Grace,

Saying that we are living in a weird time seems like a cliché but musically, we truly are!

It has been said (although misattributed to St. Augustine) that, “he who sings, prays twice” For me, song is a way that I find myself closer to my faith and my God. Congregational singing is especially formative for our denomination, and not being able to hear your voices each Sunday as we join in hymns and liturgy is terribly difficult. I hope that all of you are singing louder at home than you would in the pews, knowing that now you don’t have anyone to judge if you can’t carry a tune in a bucket!

I look forward to the day that we can all be back together in the sanctuary. However, with the current information that we have, it doesn’t seem like singing together will happen anytime soon. I hope that the musical offerings that I’m giving within our Facebook page as well as during the services are helping to tide you over until the time that we can be together again.

I’m thinking about ways that maybe we can help raise funds for social organizations to help others during this time. One idea is a hymn marathon, where I would sing as long as I could from the selections in our hymnal, and folks could pledge a small amount per minute which would go to a group like LSSI. Another is a hymn request recording donation where I would send requested hymn recordings to you for a donation to an organization. I’ll be in touch soon with more details!

If you do have a special request during this time for certain musical selections, please send me an email or a Facebook message. Happy to try to oblige you with any thing that may help us get us through this time. In the meantime, you are welcome to subscribe to my YouTube page, where you can find both sacred and secular pieces.

Love to all of you from my one bedroom apartment in Lincoln Square!
Susan

CONGRATULATIONS *2020 Graduates*

University
Taylor Greaves

High School
Jack Dietrich
Samantha Nickl

If we missed anyone, please let us know.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Sunday Worship: Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am via ZOOM, cell phone or land line. Contact information can be found in the Special Information article above.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

The Lawn Chair Meeting: People have expressed concern over May 27th being too early to have our Lawn Chair meeting in the parking lot at Grace. Hopefully some of the restrictions will be released by the first of June. So we'll try to re-schedule for Wednesday, June 3rd at 12:30pm. We will stay socially distant and wear masks if that makes people feel comfortable. I hope that we will have some fun conversation and smiles to pass the afternoon. Please attend if you are able. I look forward to seeing you all without a little square box around your smiling faces.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Bible Study: We are studying the Book of Acts of the Apostles on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Please join us via ZOOM, cell phone or land line. See the information above on how to connect.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

La Trinidad: We continue to support the mission and ministry of La Trinidad with our support of their monthly community meals. The following is an excerpt from an article written by Jennifer de Leon for the synod newsletter "Metro Word May 2020:

"One of the reasons we are able to do this is because of the long term reciprocal relationship we have with Grace Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect. Members of Grace Lutheran social ministry committee prepare part of the meal and bring it to our once-a-month bilingual service. We worship together, asking for God's blessing and guidance to provide not just nourishment, but also fellowship. What started out as Grace's goal of providing support to La Trinidad has turned into a familia that bestows blessings on everyone involved. Each congregation, as well as the Humboldt Park community, minister to each other. The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged but not broken the teamwork in an attempt to follow sound distancing requirements. Grace Lutheran is still providing meals, but committee members now drop off the food to La Trinidad volunteers who then distribute meals "to go" along with essentials, such as hand sanitizers. According to Libby Reimann of Grace Lutheran Church, 'While the partnership had to evolve in light of the current crises, Grace remains committed to meals at La Trinidad whether we are breaking bread together or sitting six feet apart.'"

AROUND *The Parish*

Congratulations to our former organist Jeremy Zimmer and his fiancée Evelyn who were married on Friday, May 15, 2020.

Birthdays 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. On June 17th we celebrate June Brickwood's 96th birthday. June is a charter member of Grace. Please shower her with birthday wishes at 420 S. Dale, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JUNE!

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending April 30, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 97,800	\$ 90,166	\$ (7,634)
Special Income	12,680	12,230	(450)
Prepaid Income	3,641	3,641	0
Total Income	\$114,121	\$106,037	\$ (8,084)
Expenses thru April	119,378	108,394	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (2,357)	
<u>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</u>		<u>40,001</u>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 37,644	

It's month number 2 of this new experience and new learning. We've learned some new words (ZOOM, virtual church, etc.) and even some familiar ones with new meanings. What has been consistent is the people of Grace showing their faith and dedication to continue their support of the ministry of Grace. It is most appreciated and a show of community that we ARE all in this together. We all look forward to the day when this shall pass. Let's continue to ask for God's assistance to keep us safe and healthy. Remember that the expenses continue though we are not physically together but united in prayer.

May God, our ever present Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with us all during this time and keep us in good health until we meet again at Our Church.

Notes of THANKS

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$926.00 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

On the very first Easter, there was fear, confusion and doubt before there was unreserved joy. But hope and new life triumphed. That is what we, as Christians, celebrate now. This Easter season, you are sharing that hope with your neighbors around the world through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA.

With your gifts you are putting God's love into action – living faithfully, witnessing boldly, serving joyfully and giving abundantly. Your generosity allows this church to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and sharing the love of a faithful and abiding God.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, Mission Advancement

Birthday LIST

June

2	Jackie Pracko Marge Hagemann	Connor Dietrich
4	Peggy Gosell Michael Hanson	15 Amy Drelicharz
5	Alan Rogers	17 June Brickwood
7	Jerry Sharlog Tom Roth	18 Jack Kintzle
8	James Rude	19 Bill Rovani
9	Jenny Josten	20 Jerry Riordan
11	Pete Varley	22 Jaren Polfuss
12	Laura Bell	25 Suzanne Walger
14	Betty Carlson	28 Jack DeCarlo
		29 Mike 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.

Please keep Susan Nelson and her family in your prayers on the death of her aunt Phyllis Johnson on May 8.



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www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect



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.

Staff **DIRECTORY**

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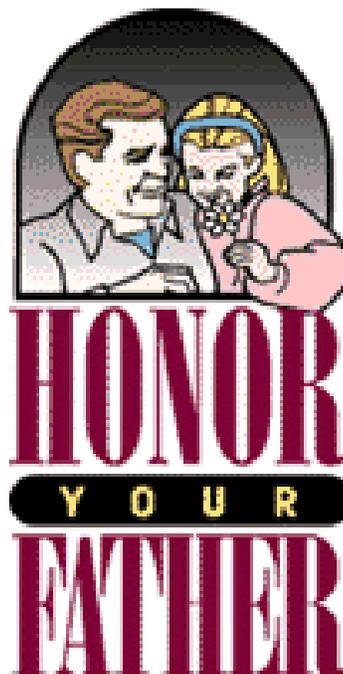
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ARTICLE *Deadline:* June 14