

GRACE NOTES

June 2021



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,



The time has FINALLY come for us to carefully emerge from our many months of major restrictions on our ability to do our ministry in all the ways we used to do it—starting with our public gatherings for worship!

At the May 25 meeting of our Church Council, we adopted a summer-long “Ramp Up Strategy” that will culminate in the full “relaunching” of our ministry in mid-September. I know that September still seems like a long way off. Our plan lays out incremental steps that we will take to get us to our “new normal.”

THE BIGGEST CHANGE BEGINS ALREADY ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6, WHEN VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK IN WORSHIP! We will continue to ask people to practice appropriate distancing and to refrain from singing or speaking the liturgy out loud. We expect to be able to add live music by mid-summer and to resume congregational singing by the fall. Please note that, while we encourage our members and friends to return to in-person worship as soon as they feel comfortable doing so, we also intend to maintain a Zoom option for the foreseeable future for those who cannot come to worship.

Beginning in June, we will also return to in-person meetings such as Bible Studies, Committee meetings and other small group meetings. All small group meetings will be held in the Atrium. We will attempt to have a Zoom option for such meetings as well. The overall Ramp Up Strategy has nine major goals (between now and the end of 2021):

1. Return to “normal” worship and fellowship as soon as practical
2. Prepare groundwork for a major “relaunch event” in September (see more details below)
3. Affirm congregational commitment to using “Care of Creation” as a common theme and “human care” (e.g. anti-Hunger) as a major subtheme for our re-emerging ministry.
4. Use our Building and Grounds to express our core value of stewardship.
5. Consolidate and prioritize our capital investment “wish list” with priority given to items that enhance our hospitality and stewardship of creation.
6. Explore the feasibility of a capital campaign or other funding options for 2022.
7. Consider a targeted social media and/or mail campaign targeting families in our area.
8. Stabilize Grace Preschool for a sustainable future.
9. Create an ALLSAINTS service on Monday, November 1, or Saturday, November 6, to celebrate the lives of those whom we have lost since the beginning of 2020.

Our Church Council, the Renewing Grace working group and our various committees will be working on developing detailed plans for each of these goals. NOW would be a great time for YOU—YES, YOU!! To step forward to work with one or more of these groups!

One more thing: Throughout this summer, we in the church office will be reaching out to all our members to help update our new church administration software with current information for all our members. This process will also offer an opportunity for in-active members to re-activate their membership, to indicate they would like to end their membership at Grace, or they would like to be transferred to a different church. This process will also lay the groundwork for a new pictorial directory that could come out around the beginning of 2022. Your response to an outreach letter that you will receive over the summer will be much appreciated.

As we look forward to returning to old ways, we also want to be open to new ways of doing church. The church of Christ in every age and in every circumstance rises anew to the challenge of proclaiming the gospel in ways that our neighbors can understand. That's still our challenge!

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

P.S. On a personal note, thanks for the on-going prayers for my 94-year-old mother, Mildred, who recently moved into a skilled nursing unit at the Lutheran Home. She seems to be adjusting to her new home quite well!

Announcing WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Beginning on Wednesday, June 16, Grace Church and Petra Church will premiere a monthly outdoors midweek worship and fellowship opportunity! Folks are invited to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on the lawn. We will gather in the circle near the garden. We will gather for song, prayer and inspiration. We will invite our neighbors. In June we will invite folks to come back in July and August (dates to be determined) and to plan to join us for our "re-launch event" in September.

As you can imagine, this initiative will take a great deal of planning. Please volunteer to help out by participating in the Renewing Grace working group that meets by Zoom after church, every other Sunday. The June meetings will be June 13 and 27. Everyone is welcome!

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 *Service*

Green Thumbs: Sign-up to plant and maintain a green thumb plot around the church. There are still plots available for planting and beautification. Call Barb in the church office at 847/824-7408.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers are once again available for purchase. Contact the church office or look for the altar flower chart in the hall near the east entrance to see what dates are available. The cost is \$15 per vase.

Garden Committee Update: The Garden Committee has met and the garden is planted. This year we planted Roma Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Green Beans, Carrots and Peppers.

Many efforts are required to yield a successful garden again this year.

- On-going Maintenance (Weeding Event slated for Saturday June 12th)
- Regular watering – Depending on the weather throughout this summer will dictate the amount of watering needed.
- On-going harvesting of produce. We will be tracking the amount of produce donated to the Mount Prospect Food Pantry, Compass Food Pantry etc.
- Planter boxes around the garden – There are four planter boxes installed on the four corners of the garden. In previous years Sunflowers and other flowers have been planted in these planters, which provided a nice accent to the vegetable garden.

Additional help is welcomed for anyone willing to contribute to this year's garden. Please know that experience is not required and there are many tasks that do not require kneeling on the ground. Some of the tasks available include the following:

- Occasional Watering
- Regular Weeding (typically requires kneeling on the ground)
- Harvesting some of the produce (some produce does require kneeling, but some does not)
- Logging and documenting produce prior delivery to Food Pantries
- Delivery of produce to Food Pantries
- Planting of flower planters in the four boxes around garden

If you are interested in participating, please let Barb know in the Church Office. Any participation would be welcomed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

La Trinidad Community Dinners: The next community dinner is June 13, 2021. .Because of your support, the Social Ministry Committee will be able to bring chickens, fruit, drinks, protein bars and cookies. They have asked for donations of socks. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann's house.

Hygiene Kits: The Social Ministry Committee is asking for your help to assemble 20 hygiene kits for women who find themselves in shelters. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is in great need of hygiene kits. The shelters do not provide these necessities.

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

- Toothpaste, 6 ounces
- Toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Deodorant, 2.6 ounces
- Feminine wipes, 20-count box
- Moisturizing lotion, 2.5 – 2.7 ounces
- Small nail clippers
- 10 band-aids (in a small plastic bag, for packing)

We would like to assemble 20 kits. A collection tub will be in the Atrium from June 6 through June 27. Thank you for your support of this project.

Shirley Koenig Memorial Soap Drive: It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a washtub in the east entryway from July 11 through September 26 waiting for your contribution of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 ounces) 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.

Food Pantries: The need of the food pantries is changing as we continue to struggle through Covid-19. To make things easier, we are asking for monetary donations to church, marking it for the food pantry, and the Social Ministry Committee will make sure the donations are sent to the food pantries so they can purchase the items most needed at their sites, Thank you for your generosity.

AROUND the Parish

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. On June 17th we celebrate June Brickwood's 97th 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!

Congratulations, Graduates:

High School: Amy Drelicharz, Matthew Pracko, and Madelein Stephanie

College: Daniel Garza, Jenni Josten, Alan Rogers, Rachael Rogers

We wish them all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives. If we missed anyone, please let the church office know.

Congratulations: to Erwin & Marge Hagemann in the birth of great-grandson, Logan.

College Scholarships: As schools are wrapping up Finals and Graduation Ceremonies continue, it is also time to start planning for those going to college in the fall. Grace Lutheran Church is again awarding scholarships to the college bound members of Grace. If you are interested in being considered for a scholarship, the application has been attached to the electronic version of Grace Notes (Barb has printed versions of the application, as well). The applications can be returned via US Mail to the Church office, emailed or dropped off in person to Barb. The due date for the applications is Noon on Sunday, June 27th. Interviews will be scheduled during the month of July. We plan to conduct the interviews via Zoom. We will also consider meeting in person, as the guidelines fluctuate. Any Grace members attending post-secondary school is eligible for the Grace Scholarship for up to 5 years.

Saints of Grace

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)



Name: Greg Linwood

D.O.B.: January 4, 1948

Marital Status: Married to Evelyn for 47 years.

Children: One son, David (21) who is now deceased. RIP.

Siblings: A brother, Bruce.

Grew Up: Oak Park, Illinois

Member since: 2010

Currently Reside: Des Plaines

Favorite Memory of Grace: We were church shopping and the welcoming attitude of the congregation to us as strangers was a pleasant surprise and the reason we chose Grace.

Favorite Bible Passage: Micah Chapter 6 Verse 8 - He has shown you, oh man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Occupation: Retired. I used to be in the IT department at Illinois Bell, Ameritek, AT&T, and SBC. I also was their service manager.

Phobias: Clowns

Biggest Fear: Drowning and fear of losing our way as a country.

Favorite Season: Fall

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Favorite Pastime: Watching sports, particularly basketball.

Greatest Accomplishment: I stopped drinking in 1999.

Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Bulls

Pets: 2 cats. Holly and Blue.

Dream Vacation: To go to the family cottage that we used to own in Assembly Park in Delavan, Wisconsin.

Person to have dinner with: Stacey Abrams and John Lewis.

Favorite Movie: Selma

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Number: 23

Favorite Sound: Organ Music

Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate

Favorite Candy: M&M's

Favorite Meal: Steak and potatoes

Favorite Subjects: Political Science

Fun Fact: Addicted to peanut butter and crackers as a snack.

If I won the Lottery: I would give most of it to charity including to Grace.

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 June we feature WELCA.

The name of this group is **WELCA** (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

Our Purpose Statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

What WELCA does—its roles and responsibilities.

We have sponsored the Women's Gatherings that provided a delightful program and a delicious luncheon.

Chaired many successful rummage sales. The monies are then donated to many local charities and provide us with the funds we need for our numerous projects.

Held a WELCA Sunday every year to bring attention to Grace WELCA and what we do.

We have one evening circle (Nightingale Circle) that meets monthly and provides faith, fun, and fellowship for the women of Grace.

We send birthday cards to our senior members and make up gift bags for Easter and Christmas that Grace members deliver to our homebound members.

Hold Project Day the second Tuesday of the month where we make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Another project is the stuffed animals that we make that are given to kids in need.

Due to the pandemic we have been unable to have our monthly board meetings, have circle meetings, have the rummage sale, hold the Women's Gathering, meet for Project Day, and our members have been unable to deliver the Easter and Christmas gifts to our homebound members.

During the pandemic we did give donations to several charities.

Ways that Grace Members can help or get involved.

When we are able to meet again, we would love to have people help set up for special events, help with the rummage sale, join a circle, come to Project Day (no experience needed), or remember our homebound members with cards or phone calls. Members are always welcome to attend/join our monthly board meetings.

Before the pandemic, our board meetings were the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. During the pandemic we have not met.

For more information about WELCA, people can contact any of our board members: Cindy Pirron, Bev Storz, Eileen Clark, Nancy Greaves, Mary Jo Menelle, Lynne Dixon, Joanne Coy and Peggy Gosell

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending April 30, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 97,800	\$ 104,791	\$ 6,991
Special Income	11,992	11,679	(313)
Prepaid Income	3,542	5,542	2,000
Total Income	\$ 113,334	\$ 122,012	\$ 8,678
Expenses thru April	120,306	107,822	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 14,190	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>38,620</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 52,810	

Because of two major gifts received in January designated for 2020 income, we still have a 2021 operating surplus. Actual expenses through April are below budget by \$12,484 which also helps. Absence of an organist, flowers and other ordinary worship service supplies is a major contributor to that along with reduced cleaning services.

As we slowly progress towards a full reopening, please continue with your contributions to your church. Surely there will be certain expenses that will be necessary for that reopening. Let's begin looking forward to that time. And remember that we are already at a 50-person capacity. We do have room for more should you wish to come in person again. With God's hand and His grace watching over GLC many things will happen sooner rather than later. He will always be welcoming us all to His house again.

Notes of THANKS

Thank You to everyone who donated items for the *Season of Hope* drive. 31 kits were assembled for drop off at Lutheran World Relief. The Social Ministry Committee is truly grateful for your support.

Birthday LIST

June

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

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 former members Dorothea Lotter and family on the death of her husband Raimund Lotter on May 9, 2021.



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A congregation of the
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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:* June 13