

# GRACE NOTES

March 2018



## Holy Week

*Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!*  
through

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

### TABLE OF Contents

- 2 A Note from the Pastor
- 3 Council Highlights
- 4 Opportunities for Worship,  
Fellowship, and Service
- 5 Opportunities for Outreach
- 6 Youth Gathering, Financial Update
- 7 Notes of Thanks
- 8 Special Events
- 9 Birthday List  
Life Celebrations

*A Note* **FROM THE PASTOR**

***Dear Saints at Grace,***



At our February 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting, I shared my belief that Grace is a relatively healthy and relatively strong congregation in our 60<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. I continue to be impressed by the faithful and very responsible leadership at Grace. I also suggested that one of the current challenges facing Grace is the generational change of leadership. Those elders who helped to establish Grace and to give it such a strong foundation, cannot lead the congregation forever. A new generation of “future elders” is in the process of assuming important leadership roles in the congregation.

It is important that this generation mentor an even younger generation of potential leaders. That’s what happens in healthy congregations.

Another thing that happens in healthy congregations is that they connect directly and intentionally with the community around them. They are diligent about attracting visitors—to worship or to special events. They are intentional about showing gracious hospitality to visitors, making personal connections with them, and then making timely and appropriate outreach to them after they visit.

I am very pleased that nearly two dozen Grace members came to the first meeting of the Growing in Grace “Roundtable” on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Several others expressed interest in and support for the effort but were unable to be present. The mandate of the Roundtable is to investigate numerous possibilities for new member recruitment and to recommend to the Church Council and the whole congregation a comprehensive strategy for congregational growth. At the initial meeting all participants were invited to offer suggestions related to five areas of our life and ministry: Worship, Care of Members, Grace Pre School, New Member Recruitment, Communications Strategy (including signage and social media), Community Events. The suggestions related to Worship and Grace Pre School will be referred to our standing worship committee and the Pre School Board, respectively, for further consideration and feedback. It was noted that some ideas may surface that we decide to implement along the way, rather than waiting for a comprehensive plan. It should also be noted that everyone is always welcome to attend and contribute to meetings of the Roundtable. In addition, it is likely that the Roundtable will spin off numerous working groups. At the February 11<sup>th</sup> Roundtable, a Communications working group was formed, and Dan Reimann volunteered to lead it. Other members include Mike Drelicharz, Rich Rogers, Steve Hanna, Cindy Menelle and Greg Linwood. Additional members of the working group are invited—just talk to Dan or any other member of the group.

The next meeting of the Roundtable will be after worship on Sunday, March 18. As always, everyone is invited—even if you did not attend the first meeting!

It is very exciting for me to see a good-hearted and faithful group of disciples come together to strategize about how to get our message out to the world more effectively. I look forward to helping to Grow Grace!

In Christ's peace,

Daniel Schwick

### **COUNCIL** *Highlights*

**Highlights of the Fifty-Ninth Annual Congregational Meeting:** I wanted to provide you some brief highlights of the fifty-ninth Annual Congregational Meeting, held on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Eighty-five members of the congregation attended the meeting, well in excess of the number required for a quorum. Our accomplishments as a congregation were highlighted and celebrated in the reports of the various standing committees, auxiliaries, organizations, staff members, and officers of the congregation.

In addition, the congregation elected the following people to various positions in the congregation:

Three-year terms on the Congregation Council

Bill Grimpe

Ardell Mueller

Wendy Thompson

Christopher Vasanth

Two-year term on the Congregation Council (replacing Peggy Gosell)

Kim Kintzle

One-year term on the Congregation Council (replacing Sandy Doran)

Sue Garfinkle

Youth Representative on the Congregation Council

Danielle Drelicharz

Three-year term on the Endowment Committee

Sharyl Hanna

2019 Nominating Committee

Mike Drelicharz

Sue Garfinkle

Greg Linwood

Cindy Menelle

Cindy Rogers

Marcia Rovani

In addition, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the proposed 2018 budget.

Greg Linwood, Council President

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

**Attend Grace's Lenten Experience:** During the five Wednesdays in Lent we will gather for a light supper at 6:00pm followed by a Lenten Reflection (video presentation with discussion) at 6:30pm and then at 7:00pm the Holden Evening Prayer service. Choir rehearsal will begin at approximately 7:45pm. Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Bible studies will not take place during Lent.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

**Women's Gathering:** "Little Words Mean a Lot" so, watch what you say. Learn about the origin of sayings, how to use words to bring joy to others, and find out if you are a flibbertigibbet. Explore the wonderful world of words with local author Nancy Hanewall Stacy.

Join us on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am for coffee and coffee cake. The program will be followed with a light lunch. The Grace WELCA Board invites all women and their friends to come for this entertaining event. Watch for ticket sales in February.

**Lenten Dinners:** Wednesdays February 21 through March 21 at 6:00pm. All are welcome.. If you would be willing to help with any of these dinners, please contact Pam Walger 847-824-7408. Lenten worship will follow the dinners.

**Zumba Gold:** is held in the Youth Room every Thursday at 10:00am. Join the group for some fun exercise each Thursday morning.

**Send Easter Greetings to our Shut-Ins:** Look for the Easter poster in the Atrium and pick up a new revised list of addresses for our homebound friends and send them a much appreciated Easter greeting.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

**Rummage Sale:** Let us know if you would be willing to help organize and work at the annual Grace rummage sale. We would like to continue our tradition of having a rummage sale here at Grace but we can't do it without faithful people who are willing to commit to helping organize all of the logistics of the sale. Please contact the church office, Pam Walger, Minda Josten, or Margit Willis if you can help.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

**La Trinidad:** Although they are still waiting for the insurance company before they can begin repairs on the water damage from the burst pipes, the congregation is worshipping at a facility nearby. La Trinidad will be able to host their monthly community dinner at this facility. The first dinner was scheduled for February 25. We will keep you posted as future community meal dates are scheduled.

**A Season of Hope (formerly Baskets of Promise):** This Lent the Social Ministry Committee is asking the members and friends of Grace to join Lutheran World Relief in **A Season of Hope** to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

**Our goal is to assemble at least 20 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.**

### HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

**February 18** – Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz.), any brand, in original wrapping

**February 25** – Bath Towels (light-weight bath- size towel between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27", dark color recommended)

**March 4** – Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

**March 11** – Combs (sturdy)

**March 18** – Nail Clippers (metal, attached file is optional)

**March 25 (Palm Sunday)** – Bars of Soap

There will be baskets in the east entryway area to collect your donated items. Thank you so much for your support.

**"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, March 13th, from 6pm to 7:30pm. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, February 25th. But, if you want to reserve your spot right away, access the website [www.fmssc.org](http://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](mailto:gregorylinwood@sbcglobal.net), and I will add you to our group.

Thanks for your continuing enthusiastic support of this ministry!

**Shop for the Food Pantry:** The following items are always needed: juice, small cans coffee, tea, tomato products, dried beans/peas, canned fruits, vegetable juice, oil, pancake mix and syrup, pasta, dry milk, rice, soup, snacks and paper products including paper plates and toilet paper. If you forget to shop you can also choose to donate money in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry" and food gift cards will be purchased for the pantry.

## YOUTH GATHERING 2018

The countdown to Houston has begun. Members of our Youth Group will be joining 30,000 others June 27 to July 1. In order to make the trip, they have another fundraiser planned.

### Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction --

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 9pm the Youth Group will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction.

We are currently seeking donated items for the Silent Auction. Do you or anyone you know own a business and would like some extra publicity? In return for donated items, the donating company would receive recognition for their donation during the night of the event.

Did you receive any gift cards for Christmas that you don't need or want? If so, please consider a donation. The gift cards can help complete gift baskets for the Silent Auction.

Mark your calendars for a fun night of great food, awesome Silent Auction items and great entertainment!

If you have any questions, please call Margit Willis at 312-607-2684 or at the church office at 847-824-7408. And, don't forget to *Mark Your Calendar* for Feb 24<sup>th</sup> and to tell your friends and neighbors!

## FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending January 31, 2018

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,098	\$ + 98
Special Income	2,670	1,415	( 1,255)
Prepaid Income	1,660	1,766	+ 106
Total Income	\$ 26,330	\$ 25,279	(\$ 1,051)
Expenses thru January	27,928	27,804	
Surplus or (Deficit)		(\$ 2,525)	

The first month of the New Year started out with SNOWPLOWING, at a cost of \$1,615 plus the annual cleaning and waxing of the tile floor at \$1,400. Snowplowing costs will continue for a while yet. As was mentioned entering 2018, with all staff positions being filled, we cannot anticipate expenses continuing below budget. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated and necessary to fulfill our commitments in 2018.

## *Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank You** from your Social Ministry Committee for your generous donations that helped fill the Valentine Care Packages that were mailed to our college students. 12 students are enjoying the goodies you supplied.

**Dear friends in Christ,** Thank you for your recent gift of \$348.50 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). We are grateful to your congregation for investing in the wellbeing of all Illinois citizens, offering people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential.

Your generosity helps bring health, healing and wholeness to thousands of people across the state. Over 60% of LSSI's clients have an income of under \$15,000 per year. The faithfulness of congregations like Grace is critically important in this work.

In 2017, LSSI celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 150 years of service and ministry! We could not have served this long without dear friends like you. Please know how much we value your support and partnership in this work.

Peace and prayers, David P. Novak, JD, Vice President, Advancement

**Dear Friends,** Thank you for your generous gift of \$558.50, given on 1/12/2018, and \$100 given on 2/1/2018 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.

Upon arrival in America, refugees have minimal material or monetary resources at their disposal. Refugees are resilient, but they need help navigating a new society while coming to terms with the loss and trauma they have experienced. The first in a rapid succession of adjustments is the establishment of a home. Your gift will go towards making a stable, comfortable home possible.

While it will take many years for a refugee family to fully rebuild their lives in Chicago, your co-sponsorship will help add a sense of normalcy and community. It is only through the dedication of individuals such as yourself that this family's hope for a permanent, safe home can truly take root.

Sincerely, Sara Spoonheim Amit, Director of Development, RefugeeONE

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church:** Thank you for your gift of \$2,748 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you for joining with the whole church in this season of unprecedented generosity as, together, we support communities hard-hit by hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help provide supplies needed immediately, such as water and generators, and support for long-term recovery: disaster case management, volunteer team placement, community development and professional care for daily and continuing challenges.

Thank you for your trust in this work we do as church here and around the world. Through your generosity, you are sharing with neighbors near and far, revealing God's holy promises of peace and hope, shelter and safety, restoration and abundance.

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. / Let the first of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, / and the world is about to turn.  
- Canticle of the Turning, ELW 723*

In the light and life of Christ, The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church:** Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,370 in support of the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

With generosity and imagination, you have made a gift that will change lives. Through the programs supported by your generous “Good Gifts”, you are reaching out with a tangible symbol of Christ’s love – a microloan for an entrepreneur, a scholarship for an emerging leader, a response kit for a household affected by a disaster, ongoing meal support for a family in crisis, a gift of livestock to help a family become self-sufficient.

Thank you for equipping others to live lives of abundance and witnessing to the healing and hope we share in Christ Jesus. Your generosity is making a difference.

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

### **SPECIAL** *Events*

- **Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction:** Saturday, February 24 at 5:00pm
- **La Trinidad Community Meal:** Sunday, February 25, leaving church at 9:00am
- **Women’s Gathering:** Saturday, March 10 at 9:30am
- **Daylight Saving Time Begins:** Sunday, March 11 at 2:00am
- **Feed My Starving Children:** Tuesday, March 13 at 6pm
- **Palm Sunday:** Sunday, March 25, worship at 10:00am
- **Maundy Thursday:** Thursday, March 29, worship at 7:00pm
- **Good Friday:** Friday, March 30. Tenebrae service at 7:00pm
- **La Trinidad Community Meal:** Sunday, March 25, leaving church at 9:00am
- **Easter Sunday:** Sunday, April 1, Easter Breakfast beginning at 8:30am, worship at 10:00am

**Birthday LIST****March**

1	Cheryl Trunda		Samantha Rude
2	Marilyn Lonigro Darlene Aspen	16	Gloria Ohman Danielle Drelicharz
3	Shyanne Martinez	17	Kay Holzer
4	Sharyl Hanna Nancy Dembkowski Joseph Trsar Landon Walger Noah Roth	18	Matthew Pracko
		20	Deanna Carlson
		21	Jim Bataille
5	Margit Willis	22	Rich Buerger
6	Dennis Ellertsen Ignacio Mrtinez Derek Ellertson	23	Mary Jo Menelle
		24	Jon Keasling Mike Drelicharz
9	Martha Jasniowski Fiona Pirron	25	Jean Imburgia Sarah Young
10	Cory Olson		
		26	Tori Menelle Rebecca Menelle
12	Arlene Kieffer Curt Carlson Bill Grimpe	27	Cynthia Rogers
13	Ruth Dolson	29	Jack Ferguson
15	Natalie Hoffman	30	Addison Stutheit
	...		

**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 the family of Loretta Horigan who died on February 3, 2018 at the age of 95. A celebration of her life was held at Grace on February 9.



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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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## Staff **DIRECTORY**

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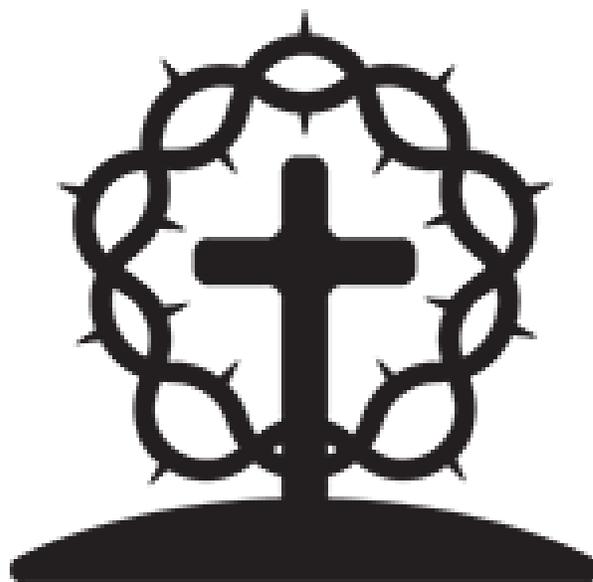
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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* March 18