

# GRACE NOTES

March 2019

## Ash Wednesday

*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 People of Grace:***



I have been very encouraged by the response to my invitation/insistence that all members of the Grace community sign up for one of the dozens of small group gatherings I planned for February. Because of a number of groups that had to be canceled due to dangerous weather, I am adding some more small groups in March. If you haven't yet signed up, please see the sign up board in the Atrium. These small groups have proven to be a very effective way for people to get to know me better as I get to know you better. I am so amazed by the variety of individual stories that are somehow woven together into this marvelous tapestry we call Grace!

As I look forward, I have great hope that we are beginning a time of renewal and renewed growth at Grace. Already we have welcomed back a number of formerly-active members who kind of moved to the sidelines while Grace experienced internal challenges. I think the spirit of our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, was one of anticipation and hope.

Our emerging outreach strategy, I hope, will lead the way in our renewal. As we reach out more intentionally to our neighbors, we need to focus on hospitality and openness to new ideas. I hope that our monthly Roundtable gatherings will continue to be a place where anyone in the congregation who wants to help grow Grace, has a place at the table. Together we will learn, strategize and discern the best ways to express the gospel of Jesus to new generations. Elsewhere in this edition of Grace Notes, you will see the latest update from the February Roundtable. I look forward to continuing to develop the theme of Care of Creation for our May 18 and 19 community events. I am hopeful that our spring event will "put us on the map" for something unique and important to our surrounding community, and especially to families with young children.

In March we enter in the solemn season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 6. For the following five Wednesdays, I invite you to a special Lenten Growing in Grace experience that will be for all ages and will include food, fellowship, Bible Study, and Evening Prayer. A light meal will be served each evening from 6:00 to 7:00pm. Show up when you can! From 7:00 to 7:30 we will participate in a video-based examination of the deeper meaning of Lent and of Christianity itself. At 8:00 we will gather around the baptismal font to sing Holden Evening Prayer. If you need transportation to and from the Midweek Lenten Dinners, please call the church office.

Finally for this month, I am delighted to welcome Jaime Wright as the new Director of Grace Preschool. We are very blessed to have her at the helm of this ministry and to have her son, Jameson, as part of Grace Preschool!

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

## Grace ROUNDTABLE

At the February 17 Roundtable the discussion and planning continued for our May 18 & 19 event. The main focus was described as “us as stewards of a broken creation, and our mission to heal the world.” This is probably too secular and does not make clear the motivation we have because of our Christian faith. A suggestion was made that the theme could be expressed as “God so loves the world...and so do we!” to emphasize that we are approaching our view of stewardship of God’s creation from a Christian perspective.

“Green Mount Prospect” is a project involving the village, the park district and the library. It might be possible to connect our event to this village-wide project. There is also a convention in Rosemont that deals with conservation. Several people are planning to attend that and report back at the next Roundtable on the seminars and the vendors present as a possible tie in to our event.

The next Roundtable meeting will be held on March 10 in Charter Hall about noon.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

**Ash Wednesday:** Join us for worship on Wednesday, March 6. One service will be held in conjunction with the Friendship Group monthly meeting. The service will be at 1:00pm. An evening service will be held at 7:00pm.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

**Sunday School Pancake Breakfast:** Please join us on Sunday, March 3 at 9am to enjoy a great breakfast and network with our Sunday School children and families.

**Friendship Group:** Please join us for our Ash Wednesday Potluck Luncheon and Worship Service on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Bring your favorite dish to pass for lunch. Following lunch there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service at 1:00pm. Look for the sign-up sheet on Pam Walger's office door. If you are able to help with the set-up and serving that day please let Pam Walger know.

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

**Do You Believe in the Power of Prayer?:** Come and join those who do. Come for a visit and pray with the prayer group on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday morning of the month at 9:30am. Begin your Tuesdays with prayer and reflection. If you have questions or want more information please contact Karen Gretz. Why not give it a try during Lent.

**Women’s Gathering:** Please join us on Saturday, March 30, 2019 for “Singing In The Rain” presented by pianist and vocalist Carolyn Wehner. Come for an enjoyable time

starting at 11:00am. Brunch/Lunch will be served at 11:30am. The musical program begins at 12:30pm. Bring a friend or two. Ticket donation is \$10.00. See you there!

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Learning*

**Midweek Bible Study:** Our Bible Study is on Thursdays at 7:00pm. We are doing a year-long series on the most important stories in the Old and New Testaments. All are welcome!

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Service*

**Lenten Dinners:** Lenten Dinners will be held on Wednesdays March 13<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Rummage Sale:** Let us know if you'd be willing to help organize and work at the annual Grace Rummage Sale on May 31 and June 1. 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.

**Would You Like to be a Greeter, Lector, Usher or Communion Assistant?** If you are interested in helping with one of these ministries on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office and speak with Barb at 847-824-7408.

**Deliver Altar Flowers:** Please consider making someone's day a little brighter by delivering altar flowers to them. We need a few more people to volunteer to deliver the altar flowers on Sunday afternoon or on Monday to someone who is sick or who can't attend church for some reason. You will benefit from the visit as much as the person who receives the flowers. Contact Eileen Clark at 847-296-5840 and volunteer today. You won't have to do it that often so why not consider it?

**Coffee Servers:** We would like some new people to consider signing up to serve coffee on Sunday mornings after the services. We all enjoy the fellowship during this time - why not offer to serve the treats. Let Pam Walger or Barb Willis know if you'd like to volunteer.

**Ushers:** We are in need of ushers for our Sunday service. Please let us know if you'd like to serve. Contact the church office at 847-824-7408.

**Mission Trip:** During the week of July 15, 2019 people from churches and synagogues around the northwest suburbs will be traveling to Des Moines, Iowa for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Interfaith Council Mission Trip. If you are looking for an exciting week of service to

others, fun times with an amazing group of people, and really, really good food, talk to Margit Willis at 312/607-2684 or Terry-Ann Saurmann at 847/404-3042.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

**La Trinidad Community Dinner:** The Social Ministry Committee invites you to join them for the March Community Dinner on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. We carpool, leaving church at 9am. We attend the 10am worship service at La Trinidad before heading to the kitchen. We are responsible for bringing roasted chickens, salads, and desserts. Please let Greg Linwood, Sue Buerger or Libby Reimann know if you would like to join us in March.

**A Season of Hope:** This Lent the Social Ministry Committee is asking the members and friends of Grace to join Lutheran World Relief's **A Season of Hope** appeal. 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:

**March 10** – Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz.), any brand, in original wrapping

**March 17** – Bath Towels (light-weight bath- size towel between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27", dark color recommended)

**March 24** – Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

**March 31** – Combs (sturdy)

**April 7** – Nail Clippers (metal, attached file is optional)

**April 14 (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" – Our Next Opportunity:***

Our first chance in 2019 to go as a group from Grace to the Schaumburg location of Feed My Starving Children will be Tuesday, April 2, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please note that the Schaumburg location has changed since the last time we were there! Feed My Starving Children is now located at 740 Wiley Farm Court. This is farther west than the old location on National Parkway, but only two or three blocks further down Golf Road. Please use Google Maps or MapQuest for directions to the new location.

There are twenty-five spots reserved for our group. Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, March 17. 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:** Items needed include cans of tuna, chili, Spam, stew, corn, green beans, peaches, pears, spaghetti, chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup, beef vegetable soup, Spaghetti O's, pork and beans, and tomatoes. Also needed are boxes of Tuna Helper, macaroni and cheese, potato mixes, and rice mixes. Other food items requested are cake mixes, frosting mixes or cans of frosting, birthday candles, cookies and crackers. Non-perishable items needed include toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, dish soap and fabric softeners.. Thanks for your continued support of this mission project. If you can't shop why not donate money in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry" and food gift cards will be purchased for donation to the food pantry.

### *Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank You** for your generous donations of candy and other goodies for the Valentine Packages that were sent to our college students. Thank you to Bill Grimpe and Sue Buerger for packing the boxes before the annual meeting.

**I just wanted to thank you** and the congregation for the Valentine's Day care package. The tea has warmed me up on these cold days and I'm shocked I haven't eaten all the candy yet! I really appreciate Grace Lutheran reaching out and making sure I felt loved this season.

I hope all is well! Thank you, Elly Kjeldbjerg

**Thank you** for your donation of \$625.00 in Aldi gift cards to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. Your generous gift will help provide food and grocery store cards to 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 benefiting 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. we are very grateful for you continued generosity.

Jill A. Brickman, Supervisor

***Dear Friends at Grace,***

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of twenty-five \$25 Aldi gift cards to the Mount Prospect Emergency Food Pantry and Financial Assistance program. This program assists residents of Mount Prospect who are experiencing a financial hardship and struggling with every day needs such as food housing, utilities, and medications.

This program is not supported by tax dollars. Throughout the year, we are able to assist individuals and families due to generous donations made by local churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations and individuals.

Sincerely, Julie Kane, LCSW, Human Services Director, Village of Mount Prospect

***Dear Pastor Schwick*** and Grace Lutheran Staff & Congregation,

Lutheran Church of the Cross Pantry is so very grateful for your recent donation of Aldi gift cards -- we give them out sparingly to those we deem the very most in need depending on their circumstances. We thank you for helping us so that we are better able to help those in the area in extreme need.

Thank you again and may God bless all at Grace Lutheran!

Sincerely, *Debbie Paddack, Lori Becker, Julie Malin, Co-Directors*

*Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry, Arlington Heights IL*

**SPECIAL *Events***

- ***Sunday School Pancake Breakfast:*** Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 9:00am
- ***Special Congregation Meeting:*** Sunday, March 3, 2019 after the service to approve the changes to the constitution.
- ***Friendship Group:*** Ash Wednesday Potluck Luncheon and Worship Service starting at 11:30am on March 6
- ***Ash Wednesday Worship Service:*** March 6 at 7:00pm
- ***Midweek Lenten Service and Supper:*** Wednesday, March 13 at 6pm
- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, March 17 leaving church at 9am
- ***Midweek Lenten Service and Supper:*** Wednesday, March 20 at 6pm
- ***Vesper Service of Healing and Light:*** Saturday, March 23, 7:30pm at Prince of Peace, Schaumburg
- ***Midweek Lenten Service and Supper:*** Wednesday, March 27 at 6pm
- ***Women's Gathering:*** Saturday, March 30 starting at 11:00am
- ***Annual Grace Rummage Sale:*** May 31 and June 1

## *Birthday* LIST

### **March**

2	Marilyn Lonigro Darlene Aspen		Samantha Rude
3	Shyanne Martinez	16	Gloria Ohman Danielle Drelicharz
4	Sharyl Hanna Nancy Dembkowski Landon Walger Noah Roth	17	Kay Holzer
		18	Matt Pracko
5	Margit Willis	20	Deanna Carlson
		21	Jim Bataille
6	Dennis Ellertson Ignacio Martinez Derek Martinez	22	Richard Buerger
		23	Mary Jo Menelle
9	Martha Jasniowski Fiona Pirron	24	Jon Keasling Mike Drelicharz
10	Cory Olson	25	Jean Imburgia
12	Arlene Kieffer Curt Carlson Bill Grimpe	26	Tori Austin Becky Menelle Zoe Bouris
13	Ruth Dolson	29	Jack Ferguson
15	Natalie Hoffman	30	Addison Stutheit

## CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

### ***Funerals and Memorials***

We extend our sympathy to the family of Marilyn Behnke who died on January 28, 2019.

We extend our sympathy to Rich Rogers and family on the death of his sister-in-law Pat Rogers on February 10, 2019.

We extend our sympathy to Eileen Clark and family on the death of her brother-in-law George Wallace on February 13, 2019.





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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**

**Pastor:** Daniel Schwick  
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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* March 17

