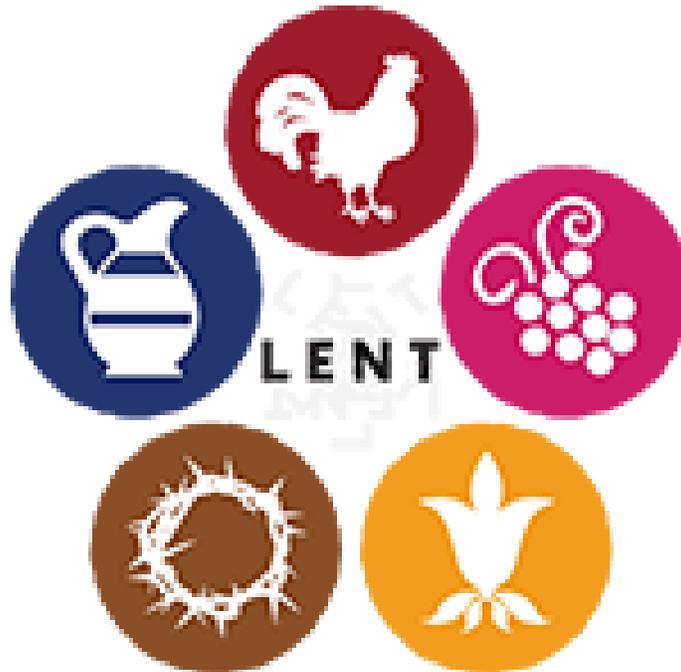


# GRACE NOTES

March 2020



*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:***



Once again, our annual congregational meeting was uneventful—no real controversies, lots of celebration of our on-going and yet evolving ministry!

Thanks to the many folks—officers, Council and committee members and others-- who make our ministry together “click.”

Now we move into the heart of our Christian story and experience: Lent and Holy Week. During this intense yet subdued season, we focus on the cost of discipleship. We remember the cost Jesus paid for our redemption and we challenge ourselves individually and as a community to live out our calling to be disciple of Jesus. Over and over again, we have to ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?”

In our Lenten Midweek Services we will focus our attention on the Second Reading from the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Philippians 2: 5-11:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on the cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Each Wednesday’s Midweek Lenten experience will begin with a light supper from 6:00 to 6:45 provided by one of the standing committees in the congregation. At 7:00pm we will gather in the worship space for Holden Evening Prayer which will conclude at approximately 7:45. Each week will have a different theme:

- March 4: Christ emptied and humiliated himself
- March 11: Christ became obedient
- March 18: At the name of Jesus all knees should bow
- March 25: Every tongue confesses Jesus
- April 1: Let the same mind be in you

I hope to see many of you at our Lenten Midweek Gatherings! They promise to be a time of fellowship, spiritual growth and beautiful worship experiences.

In the love, joy, peace and hope of Christ,

Pastor Daniel Schwick

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

**Ash Wednesday:** Join the Friendship Group for worship at 1:00pm or join us at 7:00pm for the Service of Ashes in the sanctuary.

**Midweek Lenten Services:** Join us on the Wednesdays of Lent in the sanctuary at 7:00pm for Holden Evening Prayer and reflection.

### **Holy Week 2020 Services:**

- April 5 – Palm Sunday
- April 9 – Maundy Thursday
- April 10 – Good Friday
- April 12 - EASTER

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

**Friendship Group Ash Wednesday Potluck:** Join us on February 26 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.

**Lenten Dinners:** During the season of Lent there will be weekly dinners at 6pm served prior to the midweek Lenten service. The dinner will be prepared by the following committees: March 4<sup>th</sup> – Worship & Music, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Social Ministry, March 18<sup>th</sup> – The Nightingale Circle, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Children's Ministry and Stewardship. We need a committee for the final dinner on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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 Tuesday's with prayer and reflection. If you have questions or want more information please contact Karen Gretz.

**Spring Creation Celebration:** Save Saturday, May 16, 3:00 to 5:00pm for the Spring Creation Celebration followed by a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Grace Preschool (the goal is to raise \$3000!) from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

**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 service. 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.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

**“Feed My Starving Children” – Our Next Opportunity:** Our first chance in 2020 to go as a group from Grace to the Schaumburg location of Feed My Starving Children at 740 Wiley Farm Court will be Tuesday, March 31, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

There are twenty-five spots reserved for our group. Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, March 15. 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!

**A Season of Hope:** This Lent we're joining 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.

Here's our collection schedule:

- March 1 – Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)
- March 8 – Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color)
- March 15 – Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- March 22 – Combs
- March 29 – Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)
- April 5 (Palm Sunday) – Bars of Soap

Watch for the collection baskets in the east entryway starting March 1.

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** March 22, April 19 and May 17, 2020 have been set for the community dinners at La Trinidad Lutheran Church in Humboldt Park. Members of the Social Ministry Committee leave Grace at 9am and participate in the worship service before serving the dinners. We enjoy the fellowship of these dinners and have many new friends. The Committee usually brings chicken, salad, breadsticks and desserts for each meal. We are in need of help not only to serve the meals, but also to help fund the cost of the food. Look for the poster in the Atrium or speak to a member

of the committee if you would like to join us for this rewarding ministry. Monetary donations may be placed in a pink pew envelope and marked "La Trinidad Dinners."



**Drop off items to church by March 10th**

**Thanks for your generosity!**

Gently used or new items

- Dish sets (4 dinner plates, 4 salad plates, 4 bowls)
- Drinking glasses (set of 6)
- Silverware
- Silverware divider
- Steak knives (set of 4)
- Chef knives
- Coffee mugs (set of 4 or 6)
- Stovetop tea kettles
- Serving bowls and platters
- Can openers/bottle openers
- Dish drying racks with trays
- Rice cookers (6 cup or larger)
- Umbrellas
- Collapsible umbrella strollers

**New items only, please**

- Brooms with dust pans
- Mops and buckets
- Small food storage containers (set of 4)
- Large food storage containers (set of 4)
- Kitchen towels (set of 2)
- Pot holders (set of 2)
- Cutting boards
- Colanders
- Kitchen trash cans with lids (13gallon/50L)
- Garbage bags (13 gallon)

Any of the above items are accepted. They will be used for several families, so it's ok to have duplicates. You don't need to sign up for a specific item, just drop something off. See Jennifer Stutheit with any questions.

## AROUND *The Parish*

### **WELCA Women's Gathering 2020:**

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

*Faith in Action* presented by Jennifer DeLeon of La Trinidad Lutheran Church.

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30am - Coffee

Program at 10:00am

A light lunch will follow the program!

Sponsored by Grace W/ELCA. See you there!

Tickets for sale on Sundays: March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Ticket donation \$10.00.

## FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending January 31, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 24,450	\$ 21,231	\$ ( 3,219)
Special Income	3,170	1,371	( 1,799)
Prepaid Income	910	910	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 28,530</b>	<b>\$ 23,512</b>	<b>\$ ( 5,018)</b>
<b>Expenses thru January</b>	<b>29,844</b>	<b>27,173</b>	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ ( 3,661)	
<u>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</u>		<u>40,001</u>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 36,340	

The first month of the new year is completed. The above numbers reflect our first month's finances of the new year against the budget approved at the annual meeting on 2/1/2020. With your support and the continued blessings of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, may we have another year of strong financial support, allowing us to reach out from our own four walls.

## *Notes of* THANKS

**Dear Members of Grace,** The Mount Prospect Neighbors Help for the Holidays would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your donation provided 20 families with an Aldi gift card to feed their families Christmas dinner. We cannot begin to describe how thankful our neighbors were when receiving these gifts.

Thank you again for your generosity. Amy Pracko

**A belated thank you** to the following people who delivered the Christmas gifts from WELCA to our homebound members: Curt and Betty Carlson, Peggy Gosell, Minda Josten, Nick Lovdjieff, Barbara Nagle, Jerry Sakover, Pr. Schwick, the Stutheit family, Chris Vasanth, Pam Walger, Barb Willis and Margit Willis.

**Thank you** for your generous gift of \$1,360 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bible and blankets, you're equipping God's people 00 around the world and around the corner -- with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you, friends at Grace!  
Rachel Wind, Executive for Development

**Thank you** for the Valentine's Day package! I appreciate all the work that goes into sending out the packages. I hope all is well back at home.

Thanks again, Taylor Greaves

**Dear Grace Congregation**, Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day candy! My friends and I have been enjoying it since the box arrived. Thank you for thinking of me!

Many thanks, Danielle Drelicharz

**Dear Friends of the Food Depository**, On behalf of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, thank you for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church's generous gift of \$245. In support of the organization's hunger relief initiatives throughout Cook County in Fiscal Year 2020. Your investment will fuel our efforts to provide healthy food today while working to eliminate the root causes of hunger for a stronger, shared future.

On any given day, one in eight people in Cook County faces hunger—hundreds of thousands of people do over the course of a year. But even one is too many. With your support, the Food Depository is taking food insecurity off the table, bringing together more than 700 partners to provide access to nutritious food and resources that help people grow and thrive.

We are sincerely grateful for your partnership. Thank you again for supporting the organization's mission. By working together to help those most in need go from hungry to hopeful, we truly become a Greater Chicago.

Sincerely, Kate R. Maehr, Executive Director & CEO

**Dear Friends**, Thank you for your group's generous donation of \$375. In Aldi gift cards to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. Your support makes it possible for the pantry to distribute perishable and non-perishable foods, household and personal items and grocery store gift cards to hundreds of families who are food insecure.

Since the pantry depends entirely on contributions to support its distribution programs, your gift plays a crucial role in helping our neighbors in need.

On behalf of the thousands of local residents who benefit from your generosity, thank you for sharing our belief that **Hunger is Unacceptable in Our Community**. We're always so grateful for your support.

Sincerely, Jill Brickman, Supervisor

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church** God's boundless grace propels us to share abundantly in faith and love. Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,500 to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the ministries of ELCA Global Church.

Your support enables ELCA Global Mission to send more than 200 missionaries including Young Adults in Global Mission, to serve in over 40 countries. It also provides scholarships to 27 International Women Leaders responding to God's call to ministry and funds investments in evangelism, education and church expansion, including Global Ministry projects such as the Reconciliation Lutheran Church Community Center and Primary Health Care Clinic in South Sudan. To learn more about the impact of your gift, visit [ELCA.org/globalchurch](http://ELCA.org/globalchurch). Again, thank you for your incredible generosity.

With gratitude, Rahel Mwitula Williams, Director, ELCA Global Mission Funding

### **Received from Carolynn Granquist for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

To the people of Grace Lutheran  
Mount Prospect, Illinois

Dear Friends:

Along with my whole family, I would like to send my most sincere greetings to all of you on the occasion of Grace's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I dearly wish that I could be there with you all to celebrate, but I will be thinking about you today and hoping that you have a wonderful celebration together.

All of us remember our time at Grace with great affection. Your congregation was a great blessing to us for the time we spent with you, and also for the many friendships we have had from the congregation that continue with us even down to the present day. It was our pleasure and privilege to do good ministry with you and among you for many years. My late husband Ken would also surely join me in thanking you for all your kindnesses and for all the ways that together we served our Lord Christ Jesus. We wish you nothing but God's full blessings for your future ahead as you continue faithfully to grow and serve God's people in Mount Prospect and the surrounding areas.

God's richest blessings on all of you.

Carolynn Granquist and family

### **SPECIAL *Events***

- **Lenten Dinner and Service:** Wednesday, March 4 starting at 6pm
- **Lenten Dinner and Service:** Wednesday, March 11 starting at 6pm
- **WELCA Women's Gathering:** Saturday, March 14, 9:30am
- **Lenten Dinner and Service:** Wednesday, March 18 starting at 6pm
- **Lenten Dinner and Service:** Wednesday, March 25 starting at 6pm
- **FMSC:** Tuesday, March 31 at 6pm

## Birthday LIST

### March

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Lorraine Beidler<br>Cheryl Trunda                              | 16 | Gloria Ohman<br>Danielle Drelicharz        |
| 2  | Marilyn Lonigro<br>Darlene Aspen                               | 17 | Kay Holzer                                 |
| 3  | Shyanne Martinez   | 18 | Bridget Doerner<br>Matthew Pracko          |
| 4  | Sharyl Hanna<br>Nancy Dembkowski<br>Landon Walger<br>Noah Roth | 20 | Deanna Carlson                             |
| 5  | Margit Willis  | 21 | Jim Bataille                               |
| 6  | Dennis Ellertson<br>Nacio Martinez<br>Derek Ellertson          | 22 | Richard Buerger                            |
| 8  | Martha Jasniowski  | 23 | Mary Jo Menelle                            |
| 10 | Cory Olson   | 24 | Jon Keasling<br>Mike Drelicharz            |
| 12 | Arlene Kieffer<br>Curt Carlson<br>William Grimpe               | 25 | Jean Imburgia<br>Sarah Young               |
| 13 | Ruth Dolson  | 26 | Tori Austin<br>Becky Menelle<br>Zoe Bouris |
| 14 | Todd Soukup  | 27 | Cynthia Rogers                             |
| 15 | Samantha Rude  | 29 | Jack Ferguson                              |
|    |  | 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 former member Gloria Dembinski who died on February 1, 2020.



1624 E. Euclid Ave.  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Phone 847-824-7408  
[www.gracemtprospect.org](http://www.gracemtprospect.org)  
[www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect](https://www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect)



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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  
[d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org)

**Church Secretary:** Barbara Willis  
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**Director of Lay Ministry:** Pam Walger  
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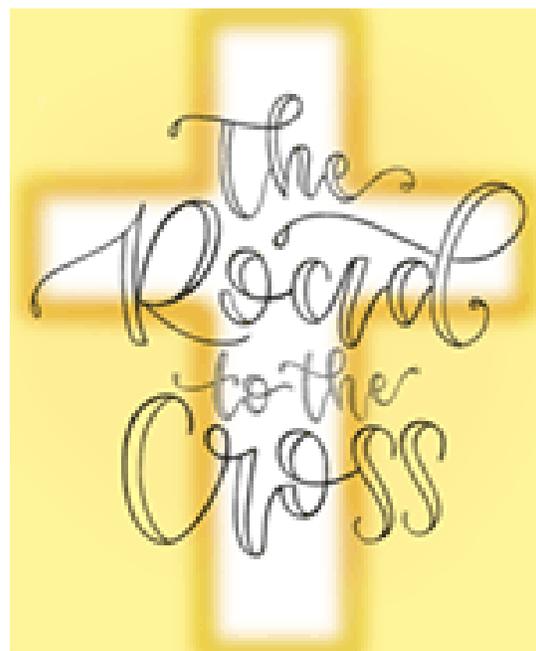
**Director of Music:** Susan Nelson  
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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* March 15