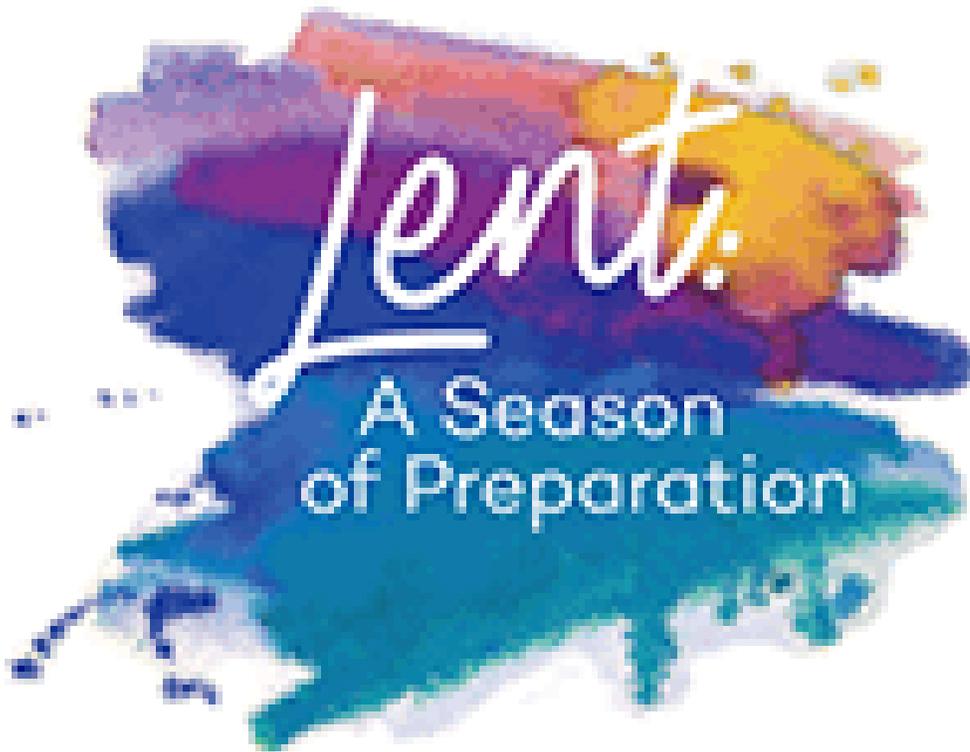


# GRACE NOTES

March 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**

***Signs of Life. Signs of Hope. Signs of Grace.***

Dear Saints of Grace,



Although we seem to be on the downward curve with the Corona virus, we are clearly not out of the woods yet. We still do not yet have a clear idea when we will be able to gather for worship again or with what restrictions. That will emerge in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, I join with so many of you who have expressed appreciation for our Zoom services and especially for the work of Susan Nelson and Mike Drelicharz to make them happen. We will continue to stream our service by Zoom even after we are able to return to in-person worship to accommodate those who cannot come

to worship.

Meanwhile, after a cold and snowy February, is it too soon to be thinking about spring?! When can we start looking for crocuses and daffodils to start popping their heads up, even through the last snow of the winter? Is it too soon to plan for our Grace Garden 2021 or to think about other ways that our building and grounds can celebrate the gifts of God's creation? Is it too soon to think about what we may be able to do in the summer or fall to invite our neighbors to experience the gracious hospitality of Grace?

As I've said before, Grace is not going to suddenly "be back" to where we were when we "shut down" in March of 2020. In fact, as many of you have attested, Grace never actually shut down. We, like so many other organizations and businesses, pivoted to new ways of doing ministry, such as on-line worship and Bible Study. No one is going to flip a switch and make everything the way it used to be. I believe that we will slowly emerge into the next stage of our ministry, like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. We will be the same church, but different. I don't know what that "different" will look like. At my request, our Church Council has created a RENEWING GRACE working group to study our context and emerging trends in other churches. That group will then propose to the Church Council and ultimately to the whole congregation, a comprehensive plan for moving us into Grace 2.0. At least four members of the Church Council have volunteered to serve on the RENEWING GRACE working group. We are looking for more members who want to help shape our future ministry. Meetings of the RENEWING GRACE working group will be on Sunday mornings following our regular Zoom worship service. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO SERVE ON THE WORKING GROUP.** Just speak with me or any member of the Church Council if you'd like to join the group.

One more thing. Because we have lost so many long-time members over the past year and because in most cases the families were not able to have a traditional church funeral for their loved one, I have proposed that we plan a large celebrative ALL SAINTS service on Monday evening, November 1, of this year. It is my hope that by then we will be able to have a crowd of worshippers gathering to give thanks for all the saints and especially for the saints of Grace who have died in the past year or so. I will speak individually with family members to gauge their comfort level with a joint service

and also to reassure them that if they would prefer a separate service for their loved one, we can also do that. I'm interested in receiving feedback from other members of the congregation. Do you like the idea? Do you have any suggestions for how to make the All Saints celebration particularly meaningful? Let me know. Call me, text me, e-mail me or send me a note. I'd love to hear from you!

Living in the love joy, peace and hope of Jesus,

Pastor Daniel Schwick

P.S. Thanks to the many of you who sent best wishes to me on my recent 66<sup>th</sup> birthday!

### **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

**Lenten Midweek Services:** Join us on the five Wednesdays in Lent, February 24 through March 24, for our midweek service at 7pm via zoom.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Outreach*

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** The scheduled dates for the dinners are: March 14, April 11, May 16 and June 13. The Social Ministry Committee will drop off chickens, desserts, beverages and fruit. If you would like to help cover the cost of these food items, please send a check to church marking it for "La Trinidad Dinners." Thanks for your continued support.

**Food Pantries:** The needs of the pantries are changing as we continue to struggle through Covid-19. To make things easier, we are asking that you send monetary donations to church, marking it for the food pantry, and the Social Ministry Committee will make arrangements for the funds to be sent to the pantries we support. Thank you for your generosity.

**Seasons of Hope:** Last year before Covid-19 closed the church building, The Social Ministry Committee had put out baskets to collect items to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. We saved the items collected last year and would like your support in collecting items this Lent to complete kits to be sent worldwide. Items still needed are dark-colored bath towels, wrapped bars of soap, and nail clippers. Items can be dropped off weekday mornings at church or at Libby Reimann's house. We would like to assemble the kits the week after Easter. Thanks for your support.

## AROUND the Parish

**Cloth Face Masks Available:** Chris Rogers has been busy making reusable filtered masks and she is happy to share them with the congregation. If you would like a mask please contact Chris at 847-840-0929 OR Chris will happily meet you in the Grace church parking lot on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00am. Please call Chris if you need some sooner. They are free of charge. THANKS

**Congratulations** to Sue and Ardell Mueller on the birth of grandson Archer Ardell Falco on January 31, 2021. He is the son of daughter Jill and Brad Falco.

## Saints of Grace

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)

Name: Iris Notto



D.O.B.: October 21, 1939

Siblings: 4 Sisters

Spouse: Donald. 41 years.

Children: George (61), Daniel (60), Phillip (deceased at 26), IrisAnn (56)

Member since: September 2019

Currently Reside: Mt. Prospect

Favorite Memory of Grace: Everyone being so friendly, kind, nice and accepting when I joined.

Favorite Bible Passage: Roman Chapter 6, Verse 21 "I've discovered the truth. Evil is present with me even when I want to do what God's standards say is good."

Occupation: Nurse at Holy Family Hospital in the oncology department and then in private practice.

Favorite Holiday: Thanksgiving

Favorite Pastime: Making cards and quilting.

Greatest Accomplishment: Graduating from Nursing School at 53 years old.

Biggest Fear: Heights

Phobias: None.

Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Bears and Blackhawks

Nickname: Sissy

Pets: Otto - a rescue. Pomeranian, Lhasa Apso, Terrier mix.

Dream Vacation: Tahiti and Paris (She's been to both!)  
Person to have dinner with, living or dead, Jesus and Albert Einstein  
Dream Car: Red Mercedes SL 360. (She owns one)  
Favorite Movie: Dr. Zhivago and The Greatest Showman  
Favorite Book: Siddhartha by Herman Hesse  
Favorite Color: Red  
Favorite #: 7  
Favorite Ice Cream: A hot fudge sundae  
Favorite Candy: Dark Chocolate  
Favorite Meal: Thanksgiving dinner, formerly lasagna.  
Favorite Subjects: English  
Fun Fact: Part of the Red Hat Society  
If I won the Lottery: I would give more than half to charity, one being the French Camp.  
Also give some to Grace Lutheran and pay off my children's debt.

**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 March we feature the **Property Committee**.

The Church Property Committee is responsible for maintaining the church building, equipment, and grounds. It is responsible for planning for future maintenance and equipment needs.

The three primary projects of 2020 were: 1. the new Ecobee wireless thermostats; 2. completion of the church LED lighting conversion; and 3. the church tuckpointing/applied roofing repairs. Other minor projects included reworking the parking lot drainage system and major trimming of four trees on the southeast and southwest portions of our property. The Committee's 2020 budget was \$70,300. We managed to accomplish all our non-capital projects for \$66,655, saving the church \$3,645. Snow totals were low, which positively impacted our performance against budget. The LED lighting and wireless thermostats were capital projects, as building upgrades, and therefore not included in the 2020 Maintenance budget.

Due to the pandemic, the Property Committee has had to hold its monthly Saturday morning meetings remotely, via Zoom. Due to CDC guidelines, we are handling our normal Work Day projects on an as needed basis with fewer people, maintaining masking and social distancing requirements.

This year, 2021, could be an active one for the Property Committee with the hopeful reopening of the church and removal of the two large dying poplars along the creek. We are also investigating the cost for bathroom upgrades beginning with the south bathrooms. The LED lighting and wireless automated thermostat system are proving to be effective in the reduction of our ongoing lighting and HVAC costs.

We invite new members to the Property Committee. If you are interested, please contact Cory Olson, Chairperson, or one of the other members for more information. Members are: Ardell Mueller, Carl Imburgia, Winston Nirmal, Iris Notto, Ray McCollim, Don Linder, Curt Carlson, and Bill Grimpe, and Cory Olson.

*Notes of* **THANKS**

**Thank you** to my worship family of GRACE CHURCH for the overwhelming number of prayers, birthday cards, phone calls, notes, and Facebook greetings in celebration of my birthday. I take great pleasure in receiving them, especially from my sisters and brothers in Christ at Grace Church.

The peace of the Lord be with you,  
Harmon

**Thank you** for the Valentine's Day treats! I have been enjoying them with my roommate and friends. Thank you for thinking of me and I can't wait to see everyone soon!

Danielle Drelicharz

**Heartfelt thanks** to everyone from Grace who called or sent messages to my mother Irene Berg over the years. Special thanks to all who sent condolences to our family on her passing. I truly appreciate your kindnesses.

Sue Garfinkle

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church,**

Thank you for your generous donation to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. Your support during this challenging time is helping us meet the increased need for food in our community. We have already served hundreds of new people since the pandemic began, and our list of clients now exceeds 925 households.

We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of support we have received since the first of the year. It is heartwarming to see our community come together to help each other. Because of contributions like yours, we've been able to serve everyone who's come in for food. Thank you for sharing our belief that **Hunger is Unacceptable in Our Community.**

Sincerely, Jill A. Brickman, Supervisor

**Dear Grace Lutheran Church,**

Thank you for your gift of \$220.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

This season, we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But, we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing the everlasting joy of that transformation with your neighbors around the world.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now, you are invited countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

In Christ, The Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations

## Birthday LIST

### March

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Lorraine Beidler   | 14 | Todd Soukup                                |
| 2  | Darlene Aspen  | 15 | Samantha Rude                              |
| 3  | Shyanne Martinez   | 16 | Danielle Drelicharz<br>Gloria Ohman        |
| 4  | Nancy Dembkowski<br>Sharyl Hanna<br>Noah Roth<br>Landon Walger | 17 | Kay Holzer                                 |
| 5  | Margit Willis  | 18 | Bridget Doerner<br>Matthew Pracko          |
| 6  | Derek Ellertson<br>Dennis Ellertson<br>Nacio Martinez          | 21 | Jim Bataille                               |
| 9  | Martha Jasniowski  | 23 | Mary Jo Menelle                            |
| 10 | Cory Olson   | 24 | Mike Drelicharz<br>Jon Keasling            |
| 12 | Curt Carlson<br>Bill Grimpe<br>Arlene Kieffer                  | 25 | Jean Imburgia                              |
| 13 | Ruth Dolson  | 26 | Tori Austin<br>Zoe Bouris<br>Becky Menelle |
|    |  | 27 | Cynthia Rogers                             |
|    |  | 30 | Addison Stutheit                           |



## **CELEBRATIONS OF** *Life*

### ***Baptisms***

Receiving Christ's gifts of grace with water and word, we are welcomed into God's family of the church.

Jaxson Joe Rude was baptized on January 23, 2021. Jaxson is the son of Adam and Jacqueline Rude and grandson of Karen Rude.

### ***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 Susie Garfinkle and family on the death of her mother Irene Berg on January 23, 2021. Irene and her husband Don were members of Grace since 2004.

We extend our sympathy to Marilee, Olivia, Jordan and Barb Nagle on the death of daughter, sister and granddaughter Tess Nagle on February 2, 2021.



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[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  
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**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* March 14