

GRACE NOTES

May 2017



Good Friday seemed like an ending. But God had the last laugh! We continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus during the Easter season. Filled with joy and hope we live renewed.

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

The Gift of Peace!



Here we are in May. Christmas seems a distant memory. Lent seems is long gone. And pretty soon, Easter will also fade. Seasons and holidays come and go quickly. And so we quickly forget their significance for each day.

Even such a special event as the resurrection of Jesus is easily lost among all the drudgery or chaos of our daily lives. And yet, **the message of Easter is especially needed when we feel tired or overwhelmed.**

That is why the church actually takes an entire season to celebrate the good news of Easter morning. During 50 days we hear in Sunday readings in our worship how the risen Lord appeared to his followers and people like you and me. Jesus is risen, and gives you peace.



**“Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
... Do not let your hearts
be troubled, and do not
let them be afraid.”**
(John 14:27)

Yes, peace is what we need in the midst of ups and downs. We need hope when we feel like we are faced with a dead end situation. Easter shows that endings can be new beginnings with God. We may be afraid of change or the unknown. But **with Jesus’ Easter gift of peace, we can live renewed and with hope.**

>> This Easter season, as you slide back into routines, or wonder what will happen when we change our worship schedule for the summer, or deal with other difficult surprises, keep remembering Christ’s gift of peace that is greater than our human understanding.

Peace of Christ, *Pastor Stefan Munker*

New **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Inspiring – Community – Celebration

After several years of serious contemplation about worship attendance and recent discussion of options, council has come to a carefully made decision to change the schedule of services this year:

>> June 4 through Rally Sunday on September 10, there will be only one Sunday service of worship at **10:00am**. Refreshments will be served following worship.

A change of worship times is going to be an adjustment for everyone. But this schedule also can increase our sense of unity. Average attendance is low enough to come together, and it has become more difficult to find enough volunteers.



This is also not the first time Grace has had only one service. Please share your questions or thoughts with Pastor Munker or a member of the congregational council.

Let's try this new schedule during the summer months. At least we will be able to confirm benefits or discover drawbacks. Council will review the change and adjust it as necessary. May God continue to inspire our community for celebrating amazing grace!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Lay Sunday: All believers are called to be priests, according to Jesus and Martin Luther. So we will have more non-pastors involved in our services than usual, including for the sermon. Join us as we worship God equally together on April 30.

Good Shepherd Sunday: On May 7, we will praise God for the care provided for people in need in our state through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). This organization which is one of the oldest and largest providers in the state is celebrating 150 years and is asking for our support to care for Jesus' lambs.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

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. This month we have two special birthdays to celebrate. Florence Browder will celebrate her 93rd birthday on MAY 12, 2017. Please shower her with good wishes at The Lutheran Home, 800 W. Oakton, Arlington Hts., IL 60004 – *Happy Birthday, Florence!* And, Irene Berg will celebrate her 92nd birthday on May 16, 2017. Please shower her with good wishes at: 511 Prestwick Lane, #502, Wheeling, IL 60090. *Happy Birthday, Irene!*

May Friendship Group: BUNCOFEST will make a return on Wednesday, May 31st at 11:30am. We will have a "BUNCHO" fun. Stay tuned for details. Tickets will be available on May 7th. Clear your calendars and invite your friends. Don't miss it!

Zumba Gold is held in the Youth Room every Thursday at 10:00am. If you have missed the opportunity to try the Zumba Gold class, join the group for some fun exercise each Thursday morning at 10:00am.

Dealing with Change in Our Lives: If you are interested in getting together with a small group of people to discuss topics related to "life's changes" and to encourage each other through prayer and conversation, please contact Pam Walger via e-mail at p.walger@gracemtprospect.org, at 847/824-7408. Please consider joining us. Our next meeting is Monday, May 1st at 1:00pm.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Easter in Europe Video: ELCA member and public television host Rick Steves has shared his special about Easter traditions in honor of the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation. See places, people and celebrations at 2:00pm on Monday, May 1, or 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 2.

College Scholarship Applications will be available in the Information Center in front of the Church Office beginning May 30th. If you are attending a post-secondary school in the fall you are eligible to apply. Completed applications are due back to the church office by July 2nd. Questions? Contact the church office at 847-824-7408.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Volunteers for Summer Homeless Shelter: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is looking for anyone who would like to help start a PADS homeless shelter during the summer months. If you would like to know more about organizing, checking in, night shifts, or cooking, contact their church office at 847-537-4353.

Wanted: Green Thumbs to enhance our curb appeal. If you enjoy gardening/planting/watering - how about adopting one of the flower garden areas around the church building this spring/summer. Please express your interest in helping with this project by contacting Cory Olson at 847/909-5509.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Mom wants to go to Church: Believe it or not, Mother's Day is a perfect occasion for inviting unchurched, de-churched, or inactive members to worship. Because it's a family day chances are mom wants her kids, young or old, to feel connected. So ask, suggest, invite. They may all come with mom on May 14.

Mother's Day Bake Sale: Help us make your Mother's Day complete by purchasing a sweet treat for her at our bake sale on May 14th. (Perhaps you'll find something for yourself or the rest of the family, too!)

Proceeds from the sale will make summer swim passes affordable for some needy families in River Trails District 26 and also make summer programs affordable for some needy children at Robert Frost School in District 21.

With your generous help – by donating baked goods (bring them to church the morning of May 14) and/or buying some yummy treats – you will again help make a few families very happy this summer. Thanks from your Social Ministry Committee.

Hygiene Kits: The Social Ministry Committee is asking for your help to assemble 20 hygiene kits for women re-entering the community from prison. Connections, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' Prisoner and Family Ministry, is in great need of hygiene kits for previously incarcerated women. Many of these women have no homes to return to and are placed in shelters, which do not provide these necessities.

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

- Toothpaste, 6 ounces
- Deodorant, 2.6 ounces
- Panty liners, 22 count (in a small plastic bag, for packing)
- Tampons, 18 count (in a small plastic bag, for packing)
- Moisturizing lotion, 2.5 – 2.7 ounces
- Feminine wipes, 20-count box
- Small nail clippers
- Small wide-tooth comb
- 10 band-aids (in a small plastic bag, for packing)

Watch for a poster in the Atrium on June 4th. To help us get 20 of each item on the above list, the poster will contain 20 tear-offs for each item. There will also be a collection box for the items which should be brought to church by July 2nd.

Thank you for your support of this project.

Lutherans in a Lather: It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a washtub in the East entryway starting in June just waiting for your contribution of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 oz.) 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. The washtub will be out through Sunday, September 24, 2016.

A Few Food Pantry Shopping Suggestions: The food pantry welcomes a wide variety of items for donation. Beans, dried or refried, canned beef stew, canned chicken, ham, or spam, cereal, (cheerios, cornflakes or oatmeal), cooking oil (plastic container), garbanzo beans, lentil beans, pasta/spaghetti and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, potatoes (canned & instant), corn, peas, ravioli and Spaghetti'Os, white rice, salmon, sprats (Russian canned fish), stuffing mix, canned pumpkin, cake mix, Jell-O, and canned fruit. If you don't have time to shop, why not donate money toward a grocery store gift certificate this month. Place your donation in a pink pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry Certificates". THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Volunteer for “Meals on Wheels:” Each September volunteers from Grace deliver meals to people in our area who are unable to make meals for themselves. The meals are delivered Monday through Friday. The food is picked up at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights at 11:30am and then delivered. If you are able to help with this program please contact Betty Carlson at 847-803-9646.

“Feed My Starving Children” – Our Latest Contribution: A heartfelt thank you to all of you who were able to volunteer and come out to work at the Feed My Starving Children location in Schaumburg on Tuesday, April 18th. We had about twenty volunteers from Grace, joined by many other volunteers for that shift. We packed an amazing total of 167 boxes, totaling 36,072 meals, enough to feed 98 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Somalia.

Our next group packing date will be Tuesday, June 20th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Save the date! Sign-up will be available starting Sunday, June 4th, or by going to fmsc.org and joining the group “Grace Lutheran Church” with me as the group leader.

God’s work. Our hands. Indeed. Submitted by Greg Linwood

FINANCIAL *Update*

Below is a review of Grace’s current year financial numbers. Though Weekly Envelope Income has fallen below that required to meet budget, the Special Income is showing an excess thanks to the Lenten and Easter Season. Just a reminder: the Easter celebratory season ended 4/16/17. After the month of April we become heavily dependent on Weekly Envelope Income to stay financially healthy. Encouragement is given to all to continue to be faithful in your attendance and giving to Grace’s mission so we can meet our obligations as approved at the annual congregational meeting. We THANK YOU for your continuing support!

Current year financial status thru March 31,, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 69,081	\$ 65,984	(3,097)
Special Income	8,010	10,297	+2,287
Prepaid Budget Income	<u>2,975</u>	<u>2,,975</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Budget Income	\$ 80,066	\$ 79,256	(\$ 810))
Operating Expenses thru Mar	<u>82,973</u>	<u>79,138</u>	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ +118	

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Baskets of Promise. Enough items were donated to create 33 kits. The Social Ministry Committee is so proud of everyone at Grace who helped us on this special project.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Palm Sunday and Easter Buck-a-Chick appeal. The funds will purchase cute, fluffy chicks through the ELCA World Hunger Program for a rural family in an underdeveloped country.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Lenten fellowship and services. Meals were tasty, conversations were enjoyable, and worship experiences were filled with beautiful music and meaningful reflections.

Thanks to the many people, behind and on the scene, who made the celebration of Holy Week and Easter festive and joyful. Thanks to Confirmation and other Youth families for the delicious Easter breakfast and the beautiful flower cross.

On behalf of our homebound members and their families we thank Eileen Clark and Grace Women of the ELCA for Easter gifts, and everyone who delivered them to bring greetings, love and joy from our congregation.

Our congregation and staff thank Barb Willis in celebration of Administrative Professionals Day, April 25. Your office help and dedication for Grace's ministry are immensely valuable and truly appreciated throughout the year.

To the Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church, Thank you for the twelve \$25 Aldi gift vouchers for our LCC Food Pantry. You have been a long time loyal supporter of our Community Outreach Ministry. Our community's needy families are blessed to live in this caring, generous community.

Blessed to have you helping us to share God's love,
Walker R. Reach, Director, LCC Food Pantry
Lutheran Church of the Cross

Thank you for your church's donation of \$200 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. In fact, today we were able to purchase a large amount of cereal at Aldi to replenish our breakfast food supply.

Currently over 750 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. Your congregation is always so generous. Thank you!

Jill Brickman, Supervisor, Northfield Township Food Pantry

Birthday LIST

May

2	Mark Pfeffer Russell DeCaluwe Meagan Volocyk	16	Irene Berg Laura Ashbrook Mariah Fontaine
2	Hanna Ashbrook Hannah Nirmal	17	Mary Ryan
3	Julie Josten	18	Phyllis Begun Nicholas Caraba
4	Lorida Nauert Carl Imburgia	19	Fiona Kochanski
5	Suzanne Beer	21	Hanna Kjeldbjerg
6	Richard Panzer Betty Dietrich	23	Richard Johnson Susan Mueller Andrew Gharagozlou
10	Charlotte Bogdan	24	Mary Kaye Martin Rebecca Ornoff
12	Florence Browder Suzanne Grimes	26	Gunda Hirth Phil Walger Colleen Adams D.J. Godlewski
14	Emma Riordan	31	Geri Keasling



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 Louis Leone who died on March 20, 2017. A member of Grace since 2002, Lou had recently been living in Geneva. His funeral service was held at Grace on March 24..

We extend our sympathy to Jack Ferguson and family on the death of his grandfather in March.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Elin Nelson who died on March 26, 2017. A member of Grace since 1961, she had recently been residing at Sunrise Nursing Home, Park Ridge.

We extend our sympathy to Marilyn Behnke and family on the death of her husband, Alfred Behnke, Jr. on April 10, 2017. A member of Grace since 1968, AL had recently lived at Glenview Terrace in Glenview.

We extend our sympathy to former member Gloria Gutman (now of Twinsburg, Ohio) on the death of her husband Ted in late March.





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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: May 14*