

GRACE NOTES

May 2018



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,



As I begin my eighth month as your interim pastor, I am so pleased with the spirit within Grace. There is a joy that is contagious!

As you may be aware, many Lutheran and other mainline protestant churches are teetering on the edge of non-viability: they simply no longer have the resource and/or the will to continue to do ministry. Not so for Grace! We have the financial resources and, more importantly, the “people power” to sustain and even expand or deepen our ministries in the months and years to come.

Our Grace Preschool is one example. Under the leadership of Preschool Board Chairman Tom Carlson along with Preschool Board members Jen Roth, Joanne Mc Collim, Bev Storz, Wendy Thompson, current Preschool Director, Christa Grabske and in-coming Preschool Director Donna Ruth, Grace is now looking forward to once-again expanding our preschool ministry with the addition of another classroom. In this way we hope not simply to preserve this gem of a ministry in and for our community. We are planning to grow it!

Our relationship with La Trinidad, our sister ELCA congregation in Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood is another example. Increasingly we are asking questions about how to strengthen the ministry and mutuality between our two congregations. Ours should not be a one-way relationship in which the well-resourced suburban church “subsidizes” the inner city congregation. Instead we are looking at ways in which each congregation can celebrate and share its particular gifts for ministry in ways that strengthen both congregations. Can you imagine an occasional Spanish language or bilingual service here at Grace? We know we have many Spanish-speaking neighbors. Can the people of Trinidad help us connect with our neighbors in more meaningful ways?

Our Growing Grace Roundtable also shows great potential for expansion and growth in our ministry. At the April 15th meeting of the Roundtable, attended by more than two dozen folks, we identified more than thirty potential areas for growth and outreach in the coming years—from serving hot chocolate at the nearby sled hill, to offering an ice cream social for the many, many neighbors who use the park facilities and walking paths adjacent to our property, to developing parent support programs with the families of our Preschool, to making our presence known in downtown Mount Prospect—especially in the midst of the “stroller brigade” that makes up much of the pedestrian traffic downtown. There was a wonderful combination of ideas intended to bring “outsiders” into our space and initiatives that would take “us” out into public spaces more intentionally, such as participating in the annual Mount Prospect Block Party on July 28.

All of these activities and initiatives are going on side-by side with our existing ministries. There is something for everyone to do. No one at Grace needs to sit on the sidelines. This points to a major theme and image that I intend to keep before us for the foreseeable future: the image of the steward. The steward is entrusted with things that he or she does not own. The resources belong to the Master and are placed in our hands to be cared for. Even though we still have a few members who helped to start Grace's ministry nearly 60 years ago, it was not and is not "their church." It is and always has been God's church entrusted to one generation after another to nurture, to grow and to adapt to ever-changing conditions in our world and culture.

Grace in 2018 is not the Grace of 1959, or 1969, or even 2009. What will Grace be in 2020 and beyond? We're working on that right now!

Thanks for your partnership in this stewardship of Grace!

Pastor Daniel Schwick

PASTOR'S *Office Hours*

Pastor Schwick's *Normal* Office Hours

Mondays: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Tuesdays-Thursdays: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Fridays: Off

Other times including evening and weekends by appointment.

Because of hospital and shut-in calls and other meetings away from the church, it is best to call the church office to verify that Pastor Schwick is available rather than just "popping in." On the other hand, if you are ever at church during the week and Pastor Schwick is in his office, please feel free to stop by to say hello!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Good Shepherd/LSSI Sunday, May 13: On Mother's Day, May 13, Grace will celebrate Good Shepherd/ LSSI Sunday, focusing on our ministry through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Although it is not yet confirmed, we hope to have a representative from LSSI to share stories about the many ways in which OUR statewide social ministry organization touches the lives of thousands and thousands of people across our state. "bringing healing justice and wholeness to people and communities." A special freewill offering in support of LSSI will be a part of our worship on that Sunday.

FYI, from February 1998 to May 2015, Pastor Schwick served as Director of Government Relations for LSSI.

Pentecost is Sunday, May 20: Plan to wear red to church that Sunday.

Do you speak/read a language other than English? On that Sunday, in remembrance of the Spirit-induced cacophony of the apostles on the first Pentecost, we would like to feature a variety of languages in worship. Please let Pastor Schwick know if you would like to participate.

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 94th birthday on May 12, 2018. Please shower her with good wishes at The Lutheran Home, 800 W. Oakton, Room #312H, Arlington Hts., IL 60004 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY FLORENCE! AND, Irene Berg will celebrate her 93rd birthday on May 16, 2018. Please shower her with good wishes at: 511 Prestwick Lane, #502, Wheeling, IL 60090. HAPPY BIRTHDAY IRENE!

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Lectionary Study: Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00am to preview the scripture readings for the day.

Summer-long Midweek Bible Study Coming in June: Under the theme, “The Growing Season” members and friends of Grace will gather every Wednesday morning or evening in June, July and August to engage in Bible Study that is intended to better equip all of us to witness to God’s grace at work in the world. Weekly sessions will be held from 10:00am to 11:30am and from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. NO PRIOR BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED!

College Scholarship Applications will be available in the Information Center in front of the church office beginning May 27th. You are eligible to apply if you are attending a post-secondary school in the fall. Completed applications are due back to the church office by July 1st. Questions? Contact the church office at 847-824-7408.

Town Hall Meeting: On Sunday, June 3rd following the worship service, the Social Ministry Committee invites you to join them for a discussion on the draft ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice. The ELCA is asking congregations for feedback on this social statement before it is presented to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The statement deals with the issues of patriarchy and sexism and for a call to justice and equity for women and girls and others who experience oppression due to sexism and patriarchy. Copies of the social statement are available by calling 800-638-3522 or check with the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Grace Preschool Lawn Signs: Please take a sign from the Atrium and put it in your front lawn to help us advertise for fall enrollment. Your help is gratefully appreciated.

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.

Interested in Working on a Habitat Project? Contact Cory Olson at 847/909-5509 or at CORYGERARD@gmail.com for more information.

Attend the Synod Assemble: Please let Pastor Dan or Greg Linwood know if you are interested in attending this year's Synod Assembly. The dates for the assembly are Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th at the convention center in Tinley Park.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Mother's Day Bake Sale: Help us make your Mother's Day complete by purchasing a sweet treat for her at our bake sale after the service on May 13th. (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 13) and/or buying some yummy treats – you will again help make a few families very happy this summer. Thanks from your Social Ministry Committee.

Mission Trip: From August 1st through August 5th, the Interfaith Council, which includes members of areas churches (including Grace) and synagogues, will be in Detroit helping to rebuild and restore areas of the city on their annual mission trip. If you would like to be part of this rewarding experience, contact Margit Willis at 312-807-2684 or Terry-Ann Saurmann at 847-392-3042.

Feed My Starving Children: 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, June 5th, from 6pm to 7:30pm. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, May 20th. But, if you want to reserve your spot right away, access the website 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, and I will add you to our group.

Thanks for your continuing enthusiastic support of this ministry!

Refugee Ministry Update: We are around half-way through our six months of weekly visits. The Egahle family is adjusting well to life in Chicago. Kedija has a job. Khalid, Raga and Ali like school and Yasmin has adjusted to day-care. They are all getting better with their English speaking skills. Please continue to pray for the Egahle family.

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:

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

Watch for a poster in the Atrium. 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 we would like to collect by June 30. Thank you for your support of this project.

A Few New 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!

YOUTH GATHERING 2018

As the trip to Houston approaches, the plans are coming together, the kids are getting excited and, thanks to your generosity, the funds needed for the trip are accumulating!

On Easter Sunday, the youth of the congregation and their parents woke up extra early to serve a hearty Easter breakfast to our members and guests. 125 people were served scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash browns and sausage along with an assortment of fruit and juices. We collected \$431.00 in a Free Will Offering which all will be added with the other fundraising to send 12 of our youth and chaperones to Houston later in June. We thank Thrivent for their generous contribution to our Church aiding us with the purchase of the food required for the Easter Breakfast.

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank You So Much: Grace Lutheran Church. With sincerest thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Thank you so much for your blessings.

The members of Iglesia Trinidad (signed by over 25 members)

Thank You for your generosity. Because of your donations to the *A Season of Hope* campaign during Lent, we're shipping 30 personal care kits (towel, soap, toothbrush, comb and nail clipper) to Lutheran World Relief. The Social Ministry Committee appreciates your continued support of this project.

Thank You for your donations to Buck-a-chick. \$156.00 will be distributed through ELCA World Hunger to buy cute, fluffy chicks to help rural families in an underdeveloped country.

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Mother's Day Bake Sale:** Sunday, May 13 following the worship service
- **Good Shepherd/LSSI Sunday:** Sunday, May 13th
- **Pentecost Sunday:** Sunday, May 20th
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, May 20, leaving church at 9:00am
- **Town Hall Meeting on ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice:** Sunday, June 3 following the worship service
- **Feed My Starving Children:** Tuesday, June 5 at 6pm
- **Metro Chicago Synod Assembly:** June 8 & 9 in Tinley Park
- **Youth Gathering 2018:** June 27 – July 1 in Houston

Birthday LIST

May

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Mark Pfeffer
Russell DeCaluwe
Meagan Volocyk | 17 | Mary Ryan |
| 2. | Hanna Ashbrook
Hannah Nirmal | 18 | Phyllis Begun
Nicholas Caraba |
| 3 | Julie Josten | 19 | Fiona Kochanski |
| 4 | Lorida Nauert
Carl Imburgia | 21 | Hanna Kjeldberg |
| 6 | Richard Panzer
Betty Dietrich | 23 | Rick Johnson
Susan Mueller
Andrew Gharagozlou |
| 10 | Char Bogdan | 24 | Mary Kaye Martin
Rebecca Ornoff |
| 12 | Florence Browder
Suzanne Grimes | 26 | Gunda Hirgh
Phil Walger
Colleen Adams |
| 14 | Emma Riordan | 29 | Lynn Sivertsen |
| 16 | Irene Berg
Laura Ashbrook
Mariah Fontaine | 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.

On We extend our sympathy to Lori Drozd in the death of her brother James Drozd on March 31.

We extend our sympathy to Dan Reimann and family on the death of his mother, Margaret Alt Reimann Lueker, age 95, on April 4 in St. Louis.



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in America (ELCA)

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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 13