

GRACE NOTES

May 2019

Jesus' ASCENSION

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**



So spring has sprung! (although as I write this we are awaiting that “final” snow of the season.)

Along with Mother Nature, our lives have a new birth in the light of Easter. Jesus is risen. And because he is, I can live without fear!

Here at Grace, we are emerging into a new way of “being the church.” We cannot try to be the church we were twenty, or thirty or forty years ago. We are working to figure out how to be the church for today and for tomorrow. We can be very glad and yes, even proud, that for generations, the stewards of this ministry have been faithful. They have provided a strong and secure base from which we can operate as we adapt to our changing environment.

It is my solemn belief that for us to have a real impact in our community—and to attract new members!—we need to show the people in our immediate community that we do indeed care—for them, for our community, for the wider community, including the Earth itself. Before we can be totally comfortable inviting new people into our congregational community, we need to look carefully at our own “home turf.” How does the care of our building and our grounds and our use of consumable resources, demonstrate our respect for the creation, and more importantly, for the Creator?

Care of Creation or Stewardship of Creation is NOT a political issue or slogan. It is a stance in the world that recognizes that we must adopt new ways of living and consuming for the sake not only of our own health but for the sake of the whole planet. No one person can solve the problems caused by the degradation of our environment over the past few centuries. No one country can solve the problem alone. But everyone can do something. And all of us can do an amazing amount of work healing God’s good creation.

On Saturday, May 18, beginning at 3:00pm. we will have a very special CREATION CELEBRATION. There will be food, fun, fellowship and music. At 4:30 we will join in a closing worship service. Weather permitting, the whole celebration will be outside. Details are still being developed by our Growing Grace Roundtable. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details.

I also want to encourage EVERYONE to participate in the midweek Bible Study that resumes on Thursday, May 2, at 7:00pm. Throughout the spring and summer growing season we will be studying the way the first generation of disciples interacted with a skeptical and even hostile environment, and consider what we can learn from them about facing our cultural context. No prior Bible study is necessary.

Let’s make this spring and summer a season of growth in grace. Together!

In Christ’s love, joy, peace and hope,
Pastor Dan Schwick

PS: Personal Challenge for Green Thumbs

Do you have thriving indoor plants? Why not take a few minutes right now to make cuttings of your plants and start the rooting. We can all bring our baby plants to be sold at the rummage sale! I have six jars of Swedish ivy cuttings that are rooting right now, ready to be planted. And I have even more spider plants! What can you put together before the rummage sale at the end of May?!! --ds

OPEN Forum

OPEN FORUM on Building Changes, Wednesday, May 15, 7:00pm

All members of the Church Council, Property Committee, Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, Preschool Board, **as well as any other interested members of the congregation**, are invited to an open forum intended to START the process of considering what, if any, changes to our building and grounds could enhance our ministry. Mr. David Schultz, a local church architecture consultant, will provide feedback to us based on his recent visits. No plan for the building will be presented. No decisions about possible renovations will be made. In the event that, over time, we develop a consensus that we want to pursue some updates, we would most likely invite multiple contractors to develop and present proposals for our formal consideration. *The forum on May 15 is for the purpose of getting the conversation started!*

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. Lorida Nauert is turning 90 on May 4th. Please shower her with good wishes at Autumn Leaves of Arlington Heights, 1625 S Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LORIDA! Irene Berg will celebrate her 94th birthday on May 16, 2019. 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

Midweek Bible Study Beginning May 2nd we will study the Book of Acts, the record of how the first generation of Christians developed their ministries. No prior Bible knowledge is required. All are welcome to join us on Thursdays at 7:00pm..

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Service

Green Thumbs: Do you like to garden? Would you be willing to adopt a plot around the church? We would like to enhance our curb appeal with flowers around the building.

Volunteers would plant flowers, water them, and weed the plot. Cory Olson has a poster up in the Atrium or you can contact him directly at 847/909-5509.

Preschool Yard Signs: If you still have a yard sign, now is the time to put it back in your front yard. Grace Preschool is registering children for the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like a sign, please check with the church office. Thanks for your help.

Stewardship Committee: Join our newly reformed Stewardship Committee. This small group welcomes new members to help plan activities and programs for members of the congregation to recognize their spiritual gifts and talents and use them to help grow our congregation and to connect their gifts to God's community. Please speak with Lynn Sivertsen or Margit Willis for more information. The next meeting of the committee is May 5, 2019 following the service.

Grace Rummage Sale: The Rummage Sale is coming Friday, May 31 from 9am-4pm and Saturday, June 1 from 9am until noon. Drop off dates are May 26, May 28 - May 30. Please donate your gently used treasures – toss the junk! Sing-up sheets to share your time and talents will be up soon in the Atrium. If you have any questions, please contact the church office, Pam Walger, Minda Josten or Margit Willis. Thanks.

Synod Assembly: Please let Pastor Dan or Ardell Mueller (847-394-0851) know if you are interested in attending this year's Synod Assembly. The dates for the assembly are Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th at the convention center in Tinley Park. It's a wonderful experience.

Mission Trip: During the week of July 15, 2019 people from churches and synagogues around the northwest suburbs will be traveling to southern Illinois for the 5th 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*

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 12th. (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 families in River Trails District 26 and also make summer programs affordable for some children at Robert Frost School in District 21.

With your generous help – by donating baked goods (bring them to church the morning of May 12) and/or buying some yummy treats – you will again help make a few families very happy this summer. Thanks from your Social Ministry Committee.

“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 2nd. We had about twenty volunteers from Grace, and were joined by many additional volunteers! Altogether we packed a total of 136 boxes, totaling 29,376 meals, enough to feed 80 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Haiti.

Our next group outing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th. Sign-up sheets will be available at church starting Sunday, May 19th. Or, alternatively, you can go to www.fmsc.org and sign up at the Grace Lutheran Church group, headed by me. Or you may contact me at gregorylinwood@sbcglobal.net or 847.502.7744 and I will add you to the list.

God’s work. Our hands. Indeed.

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
- 1 adult soft toothbrush
- Toothpaste, 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 on May 26. 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 23. Thank you for your support of this project.

Shop for the Food Pantry: Cans of chili, tuna, Spam, stew, corn, green beans, peaches, pears, spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle or chicken rice soup, vegetable beef soup, Spaghetti O’s, or pork & beans. Boxes of Tuna Helper, macaroni & cheese, boxed potato mixes, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, hand soap, cookies, facial tissue, crackers, cake mix, frosting and birthday candles. Thanks for your generosity. If you don’t have time to shop, consider donating towards the purchase of gift cards. Place your donation in a pink pew envelope and mark it “Food Pantry Certificates.”

Notes of THANKS

Dear Grace Church:

We would like thank you for your generous donation of food 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

Dear Grace Church Family:

I have never had the occasion to be on this side of the get well card getting before and never realized how uplifting, encouraging and wonderful it was to receive those get well, birthday, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Just Because prayers and greetings. I know it made my recovery easier and I thank you all so very much.

In Christian love, Mary Jo Menelle

Thank you Judith Bataille, Phillis Begun, Eileen Clark, Lori Drozd, Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine, Gordon Greaves, Karen Gretz, Jane Hartfelder, Arlene Kieffer, Lois Hauge, Nick Lovdjeeff, Lynn Sivertsen, Chris Rogers, the Stutheit family, Pam Walger and Pete Varley for offering to deliver one (or two) of the Easter gifts from WELCA. May you all be blessed for your willingness to help

Grace WELCA.

SPECIAL Events

- **Growing Grace Roundtable:** Sunday, May 5, 2019 after church
- **Lutheran Day in Springfield:** Thursday, May 9, 2019
- **Mother's Day Bake Sale:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 in the Atrium
- **Growing Green with Grace:** Saturday, May 18, 2019
- **Grace Rummage Sale:** Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1. 2019
- **Metro Chicago Synod Assembly:** June 7 & June 8, 2019

Birthday LIST

May

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Mark Pfeffer | 18 | Phyllis Begun |
| 2 | Hannah Nimal | 19 | Fiona Kochanski |
| 3 | Julie Josten | 21 | Hanna Kjeldbjerg |
| 4 | Lorida Nauert
Carl Imburgia | 23 | Richard Johnson
Susan Mueller
Andrew Gharagozlou |
| 6 | Richard Panzer
Betty Dietrich | 24 | Rebecca Ornoff |
| 10 | Char Bogdan | 26 | Gunda Hirth
Phil Walger
Colleen Adams |
| 14 | Emma Riordan | 29 | Lynn Sivertsen |
| 16 | Irene Berg
Laura Ashbrook
Mariah Fontaine | 31 | Geri Keasling |
| 17 | Mary Ryan | | |
| | ... | | |





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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.

Staff **DIRECTORY**

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ARTICLE *Deadline: May 19*