

# GRACE NOTES

May 2021



*Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!*

*through*



Meaningful  
Worship



Caring  
Community



Inspirational  
Learning



Loving  
Service



Gracious  
Invitation

## **TABLE OF Contents**

2	A Note from the Pastor
3	Opportunities for Worship, And Learning
4	Opportunities for Service and Outreach
5	Around the Parish
8	Notes of Thanks
9	Special Events
10	Birthday List Pentecost Garden Order Form

*A Note* **FROM THE PASTOR**

***Dear Saints of Grace,***



Do you remember last spring when I suggested that because of the “lockdown” that had then been imposed, our celebration of Easter might be postponed a few weeks?

I was wrong.

Here we are in the midst of a third—some say fourth—wave of rampant Covid infections, this time with more deadly variants of the original virus. Just when we thought the advent of the vaccine would lift us out of this pandemic, serious new infections are threatening our progress in Illinois and around the country.

I suggested last month that we might be able to lift some restrictions on in-person group activities in May. However, because of the resurgence of the virus in our area, we will delay additional in-person activities at church until at least June 1. So, throughout May, ZOOM “gatherings” will continue to be our primary way of “doing church together.”

The month of May will still provide numerous opportunities for worship, learning and fellowship;

Sunday Worship will continue according to our “hybrid” model with some folks in attendance at church (with appropriate health protocols in place) while the majority of folks continue to participate by ZOOM.

On Tuesday mornings from 11:00 to noon we have the opportunity for informal conversation via ZOOM. No agenda. Just chat.

On Wednesdays at 7:00 we have our adult study “Stewards of Creation” in which we explore our responsibility for the care of creation from a Biblical perspective.

On Thursdays, at 10:30am we have “Wired Word,” an informal conversation centered on current events as seen from a Christian perspective.

In addition, our Garden Team and our Green Team are gearing up for a new season of growth.

Yes, the progress toward a new normal is slow and includes setbacks as well as steps forward. As the old African American spiritual proclaims, “We’ve come this far by faith!!”

Let’s keep moving into our future, always trusting in God’s grace!

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

Pastor Daniel Schwick

PS: I want you to know that I have been fully vaccinated. If you would like to schedule a visit with me in my office or in your home, I would welcome the opportunity for in-person contact. I would simply ask that we observe the current public health guidelines that continue to advise us to wear masks. If you would like to arrange an in-person visit with me, please call me or (preferably) text me at 773-329-1232 to set up a time to meet.

### **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**

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR** *Learning*

**Wednesday Evening Not Bible Study:** Join us through May 18 at 7:00pm as we discuss the “Stewards of Creation,” a look at the pending threats to our planet and possible solutions. Log-in using Zoom.

**Wired Word:** After a year in hibernation our weekly daytime discussion group, Wired Word, is returning to Grace. There will be a new time (10:30am on Thursdays) and a new format (all Zoom for April, hybrid or all in-person beginning in May).

Wired Word is a highly participatory discussion group that looks at current events from a Christian perspective and raises questions about how we live in the world. Participants will receive a one-page discussion starter a day before the session. We will “gather” by Zoom at first, at 10:30am and plan to end our conversation at noon. The log in is the same as for Sunday morning worship.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

### **Grace Garden Committee Update**

The Garden Committee has met and is preparing to begin the planting season. Preparatory work was completed in late April. The official planting date is slated for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

This year we will be planting Roma Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Green Beans, Carrots and a variety of Peppers.

Many efforts are required to yield a successful garden again this year.

- Planting Garden on May 15<sup>th</sup>
- On-going Maintenance (Weeding Event slated for Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Regular watering – Depending on the weather throughout this summer will dictate the amount of watering needed.
- On-going harvesting of produce. We will be tracking the amount of produce donated to the Mount Prospect Food Pantry, Compass Food Pantry, etc.
- Planter boxes around the garden – There are four planter boxes installed on the four corners of the garden. In previous years Sunflowers and other flowers have been planted in these planters, which provided a nice accent to the vegetable garden.

Additional help is welcomed for anyone willing to contribute to this year's garden. Please know that experience is not required and there are many tasks that do not require kneeling on the ground. Some of the tasks available include the following:

- Occasional Watering
- Regular Weeding (typically requires kneeling on the ground)
- Harvesting some of the produce (some produce does require kneeling, but some does not)
- Logging and documenting produce prior to delivery to Food Pantries
- Delivery of produce to Food Pantries
- Planting of flower planters in the four boxes around garden

If you are interested in participating, please let Barb know in the Church Office. Any participation would be welcomed.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

**Mother's Day No-Bake Bake Sale:** Because of Covid-19, the Social Ministry Committee decided it would be safer to not bake this year. We are asking for monetary donations that will be used to support River Trails and Robert Frost summer programs. Please send your donations marked "Bake Sale" to church. Thanks for your generosity.

**La Trinidad:** The next community dinner is Sunday, May 16, 2021. Because of your support, the Social Ministry Committee will be able to bring chickens, fruit, drinks, protein bars and cookies. La Trinidad is still accepting donations of coats, hoodies, and sweaters. They have asked for donations of socks. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann's house.

**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.

### **AROUND** *the Parish*

**Birthday Card Shower:** To distinguish our members who are 90 or better we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes (cards or postcards) to brighten their day.

On May 4 we celebrate Lorida Nauert's 92nd birthday. Please shower her with best wishes at The Reserve Assisted Living, 1624 S Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights 60005. Happy Birthday, Lorida!

On May 18 we celebrate Phyllis Begun's 91st birthday. Please shower her with best wishes at 800 S River Rd, #325, Des Plaines 60016. Happy Birthday, Phyllis!

**Pentecost Garden:** Geraniums will be part of our Pentecost service (May 23) again this year. Plants are available for \$15.00 each. These may be given as a memorial or for other purposes. Call the church office (842-824-7408) between 8:00 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday to place an order or use the tear-off form on page 10 of this newsletter. Orders will be taken until May 16. A listing of donors will be included with the order of service for that day.

**Altar Flowers Have Returned:** If you would like to sponsor altar flowers for Sunday morning, please contact Barb Willis in the church office to reserve a date and to indicate a dedication or memorial. The cost of the two vases is \$30.

## **Saints of Grace**

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)



Name: Terry-Ann Saurmann  
D.O.B.: September 26, 1964  
Siblings: Brother, Frederick (RIP), and a sister, Linda  
Member since: 2000  
Currently Reside: Arlington Heights  
Favorite Memory of Grace: Singing in the choir with Kirstie  
Favorite Bible Passage: Psalm 23: Look it up!  
Occupation: Retired. My last job was a rehabilitation instructor teaching braille and adaptive technology and activities to people who were blind or visually impaired.

(She has been blind since birth, being born 3 months early, she suffered oxygen blindness that started in an incubator. She was only 2 ½ pounds when she was born.)

Favorite Holiday: Christmas because of all of the wonderful music that you can sing during the season.

Favorite Pastime: Singing

Greatest Accomplishment: I'm really proud that 11 out of 12 years I sang the National Anthem at the Cubs game.

Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Cubs

Pets: I had dogs growing up and had 3 dog guides. None right now.

Dream Vacation: Wants to travel back to the UK and to Canada.

Person to have dinner with: Betty White (Who is a huge supporter of the Guide Dogs for the Blind organization where I got my 3 dogs.)

Dream Car: If I had a car I would like any kind of convertible.

Favorite Movie: Sound of Music

Favorite Color: Blue, I don't necessarily know what it looks like but I know there are a lot of things that represent happiness and cheerfulness that I associate with blue. I also like red.

Favorite Sound: Wind Chimes

Favorite Scent: Roses

Favorite Texture: Velvet

Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chocolate Chip and then Chocolate

Favorite Candy: World's Finest Chocolate - Almond Bars

Favorite Meal: Angel hair pasta

Favorite Subjects: Science

Fun Fact: I had my own personal bottle of Granddad's Whiskey in my incubator!

If I won the Lottery: I would give half of it to charity and I would buy a small ranch house, then I could afford to pay people to help me take care of it.

**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 May we feature the Grace Mission Endowment Committee.

## **Showcasing the Mission Endowment Committee**

The Mission Endowment Committee is an elected five-member committee responsible for managing Grace's two Mission Endowment Funds: Grace Mission Endowment Fund (GMEF) and Gudrun Schultz Fund (GSF).

### **What is a Mission Endowment Fund?**

The purpose of a Mission Endowment Fund is to fund mission work at home and around the world above and beyond programs supported through regular giving. Commonly understood as a "perpetual" fund, the Mission Endowment Fund supports current and future ministry of the church. Distributions are based on income from the Mission Endowment Fund and the principal amount in the Fund is strategically planned not to be spent. A Mission Endowment Fund provides an additional option for a person or an estate in providing a legacy for church ministry.

### **Why does Grace have two Mission Endowment Funds?**

Grace Mission Endowment Fund (GMEF) is the main endowment fund for Grace Church. The GMEF provides funding, through income, for the following areas of church ministry: Grace capital improvements, outreach to the local community, and Synod and Worldwide Missions of the ELCA. In the past six years, GMEF income has provided close to \$50,900 of gifts given back to Grace Church improvements, local outreach, and ELCA world ministry. Over half of the gifts provided in these six years has gone to groups outside the walls of Grace.

Gudrun Schultz Fund (GSF) is a special purpose endowment fund for the support of the Grace Music Program and the Grace Undergraduate Scholarship Program. GSF income is distributed according to the wishes of Gudrun Schultz. In the past six years, the GSF income has provided \$41,600 in equally divided support for Grace's Music program and scholarships to Grace's youth attending undergraduate programs.

### **How are Grace's two Mission Endowment Funds Invested?**

Both of Grace's Mission Endowment funds are required to be invested in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. The benefit of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund is that it has a demonstrated track record of strong, stable investments and provides a lending institution for ELCA congregations and related ministries. It is a great additional benefit that Grace's two Mission Endowment Funds' principal balances help build, expand and renovate and restore Lutheran Churches through the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the Mission Endowment Committee**

The Mission Endowment Committee members are elected during the Grace Annual Congregational meeting for a three-year term. The committee members have

staggered terms so that no more than two members are elected each year. Committee members can be elected for no more than two consecutive full three-year terms.

The committee meets quarterly to review investment balances and actively plan for the care of the two endowment funds. In addition, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting, the committee determines income that can be disbursed from the two funds. The committee relies on income guidance provided by the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting, the committee recommends to the Church Council gift amounts from the GMEF and the GSF. The goal is that gifts from the GMEF and GSF are disbursed to the respective causes in the July/August timeframe.

The Mission Endowment Committee has continued to meet throughout the pandemic via Zoom. In 2020 gifts from income from of the two funds were disbursed in the planned timeframe.

### **How can I support the Mission Endowment Committee?**

Bring your ideas or question on the endowment funds or estate planning questions/guidance to the following committee members: Dan Reimann (chair), Bill Rovani (Treasurer), Sharyl Hanna (Recording Secretary), Ardell Mueller and Jennifer Stutheit. In addition, let Grace's Nominating Committee know if you are interested in being nominated to the Mission Endowment Committee.

### *Notes of* **THANKS**

**Dear Grace Family,** Thank you for all of your special caring with cards, phone calls, texts, and prayers. I am slowly improving and trying to regain a new normal. I have some procedures to go through in the next few weeks. Keep praying and I will continue to pray for all of you.

Pam

### **Dear Grace Lutheran Church,**

Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,090.00 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts (from Rachel Wind, Executive for Philanthropy); \$290.00 to ELCA Word Hunger (from Rachel Wind, Executive for Philanthropy); \$1,500.00 to ELCA Global Missions (from Rahel Mwitula Williams, Mission Funding Director and Director, ELCA Global Mission Funding).

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

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

**Thanks** to Dan and Wendy Kjeldbjerg for their generous donation of composted soil to replenish the Grace Garden for a new season of growth for the sake of our neighbors.

**SPECIAL** *Events*

- **Special Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 11:15am
- **Mother's Day:** Sunday, May 9, 2021
- **Grace Garden Planting:** Saturday, May 15, 2021
- **Pentecost:** Sunday, May 23, 2021
- **Memorial Day:** Monday, May 31, 2021



If we live by the  
**SPIRIT,**  
let us also keep  
in step with the  
**SPIRIT.**

**GALATIANS 5:25, ESV**

*Birthday* LIST

**May**

- |    |                                   |    |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| 1  | Mark Pfeffer<br>Megan Volocyk     | 17 | Mary Rayn   |
| 2  | Hannah Nirmal                     | 18 | Phyllis Begun                                       |
| 3  | Julie Josten                      | 19 | Fiona Kochanski                                     |
| 4  | Carl Imburgia<br>Lorida Nauert    | 21 | Hanna Kjeldbjerg                                    |
| 6  | Betty Dietrich<br>Richard Panzer  | 23 | Andrew Gharagozlou<br>Rick Johnson<br>Susan Mueller |
| 10 | Charlotte Bogdan                  | 24 | Rebecca Ornoff                                      |
| 12 | Sue Grimes                        | 26 | Colleen Adams<br>Gunda Hirth                        |
| 14 | Emma Riordan                      | 29 | Lynn Sivertsen                                      |
| 16 | Laura Ashbrook<br>Mariah Fontaine | 31 | Geri Keasling                                       |

**PENTECOST GARDEN**

**Geraniums are available for Pentecost Sunday, May 23**, the festival of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to donate a geranium (s) at the cost of \$15.00 per pot, please use the form below and place it in a pink pew envelope.

In memory  
of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Plants at \$15.00 each. Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Order must be received by Sunday, May 16..



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)



A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America (ELCA)

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 2215  
Palatine, IL

## 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**

**Pastor:** Daniel Schwick  
[d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org)

**Church Secretary:** Barbara Willis  
[b.willis@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:b.willis@gracemtprospect.org)

**Director of Lay Ministry:** Pam Walger  
[p.walger@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:p.walger@gracemtprospect.org)

**Director of Music:** Susan Nelson  
[sopranosusannelson@gmail.com](mailto:sopranosusannelson@gmail.com)

**Organist:**

**Pre-school Director:** Jaime Wright  
[preschool@gracemtprospect.org](mailto:preschool@gracemtprospect.org)

**Mission Partner:** Rev. Carrie Smith  
[carrie.smith@elca.org](mailto:carrie.smith@elca.org)

**Grace Notes Editor:** Debbie Bodett  
[bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net)



**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* May 16