

GRACE NOTES

November 2017

For All the Saints



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 God at Grace,

As I write this, huge machines are at work outside my office window, tearing up a parking lot that is almost as old as I am, and replacing it with a parking lot for the 21st century.

Also as I write this, I am surrounded by ads and posters recognizing the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation.

Also as I write this, I am settling into my new role as pastor of the Grace community.

What do the repaving of our parking lot, the Protestant Reformation and my new job have in common? All three are about renewing and revitalizing—giving new life. The old parking lot was increasingly hazardous and not very welcoming to the many visitors that use our lot. The late medieval Roman Catholic Church had grown so powerful and so corrupt, that the faithful were driven to confusion and despair. I am aware of conflict in Grace's recent past, although I have not yet come to understand the cause or causes of recent congregational strife.

And now we are moving into a new phase:

the new parking lot may challenge us to look hard at how else we express or fail to express a sense of welcome and gracious hospitality to our guests and visitors;

the Lutheran Church all across the world is asking the question, "What, in church and society, needs to be reformed today?"

we at Grace are in the beginning of a careful and prayerful process of figuring out how God wants to use us in the years ahead to proclaim the gospel, to proclaim GRACE.

I don't know, we don't know where this journey of discernment will take us. I don't and we don't know how long we will be on this journey together. I feel very privileged to be on this journey with you. And I believe and trust the promise of Jesus not to leave us as orphans, but to shower us with the Holy Spirit. Our challenge is to listen carefully to one another. The Spirit speaks through all of us, not just some of us. My challenge as pastoral leader of this journey is to make sure that our process of discernment about our future is highly participatory, transparent, and forward-looking. There will be disagreements. Part of my job will be to help people clearly understand the differing points of view, facilitate fair debate and work toward building a consensus that works for everyone involved. Nobody may be completely satisfied with every part of an emerging Plan for Mission, but my hope is that because everyone has a chance to help shape the eventual plan, everyone will eventually be able to rally around it.

On the road together!

Pastor Daniel Schwick

Music **NOTES**

Welcome Erik Matson as Our New Organist

I am pleased to announce that effective October 16, 2017 Erik Matson has accepted our offer of employment as Organist here at Grace.

Erik graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana in May of this year with a Bachelor of Music in Church Music and Organ, with a Minor in Mathematics. He has three years of experience in four different churches, three in Indiana and most recently St. John's UCC in Palatine, as well as organ experience at Valparaiso during his time there.

I must also, as Susan Nelson so eloquently expressed in our service on October 15, offer thanksgiving and praise for the service provided by Harriet Mueller during our "interim" period since Kirstie Felland left us. Although we periodically have had other guest organists, Harriet has faithfully served us for the vast majority of our time without a permanent organist. We are grateful that God brought her to us in our time of need.

Please join me in welcoming Erik as the newest member of our family at Grace.

Greg Linwood, Council President

COUNCIL *News*

Welcome Casa Italia

Your Council has recently reached agreement with Casa Italia, Inc. of Stone Park, who advertise themselves as the home of the Italian Cultural Center, to use Grace's facilities on a weekly basis. This use is for the purpose of providing weekly classes to children from kindergarten through eighth grade to help achieve Casa Italia's goal of preserving Italian customs, traditions, and language skills.

Currently there are approximately twelve children taking advantage of this opportunity, and the class is taught by two sisters who are both certified teachers. Although Casa Italia headquarters are in Stone Park, the children in these classes are from the Mount Prospect area. They were recently using another church as the location for the classes, but that option is no longer available to them.

They approached Pastor Schwick, who referred them to me. I conducted initial negotiations, and then brought the proposal to Council for their approval. Casa Italia will be using the Youth Room for approximately three hours a week on Saturday mornings, from October through the end of May or beginning of June. We will notify them of events at Grace scheduled for Saturdays, and work with them to find alternate locations within the church if a conflict arises. Their contract clearly states that Grace has priority to use its own space if a conflict cannot be resolved.

So, don't be surprised if you see a bunch of kids here on a Saturday morning!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Remember All the Saints: On Sunday, November 5th, we will again remember the saints from our congregation who have joined the church triumphant in God's presence, and give thanks for all the saints past, present and future who are giving a witness to our Christian faith in eternal life with God.

Thanksgiving Eve Service: Join us on November 22, 2017 at 7:00pm.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Mail Holiday Wishes: Please share Thanksgiving blessings by sending a card to those on our list of homebound members and "Just Because Friends." They will be cheered when receiving your greetings. An updated list of their names and addresses can be found on the poster with the large pumpkin.

Friendship Group: November 15, 2017 at 1:00pm is the next Friendship Group meeting. The program is yet to be announced. Please stay tuned.

Christmas Outing with Friends from Grace: On December 5, 2017 a group from Grace will attend the show "A CARPENTERS' CHRISTMAS" at the Metropolis Centre in Arlington Heights. Singer and playwright Lisa Rock and her 6 piece band are keeping The Carpenters' holiday traditions alive with spot-on renditions of their unforgettable Christmas tunes. The performance is at 3:00pm and, if we have a large enough group attending, the ticket price will be \$24.00. Please decide if you would like to participate in this outing ASAP so that Pam Walger can reserve tickets. Please sign-up today on the sheet on Pam's office door or call Pam at 847-824-7408.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Prepare and Deliver a Meal for a Grace member who lives near church on Monday evenings. We are hoping to get a list of volunteers who would frequently offer to bring a meal to Sandy Doran and her husband Frank. This family has experienced some serious medical struggles which make it difficult for them to shop and prepare meals. If you are willing to be added to the list of volunteers please contact Nancy Greaves at 847-259-7039 or Pam Walger at 847-824-7408.

We have set up a (CORRECTED) website for people to sign up to bring meals. Go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0549A82EA3FE3-grace.Thank-you to everyone who volunteers.

Bake for the Thanksgiving Eve Service: Volunteer to bake cookies to be served after the 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on Wednesday, November 22nd. Please let Pam Walger know if you will be baking.

Craft and Vendor Show with Bake Sale: Don't have any crafts to display at the craft show? How about showing off our baking talents and bring some homemade cookies, brownies, etc. to the craft show on Saturday, November 4th. Bring your "fabulous" treats to church on Saturday morning before 10:00am when the show opens. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the show will go to help get the youth group to Houston for the 2018 Gathering

More Craft Show: Do you have some crafts to donate to the sale on November 4th but you don't have quite enough for a whole table? Chris Rogers is putting together a Grace table to sell these donated crafts. If you'd like more information about this opportunity please call Chris at 847-840-0929.

Offering Counters: A few new volunteers are wanted to become offering counters. Please consider being a part of a counter team. If you would like to volunteer or receive more information on the process please contact Jerry Sharlog at 847-253-0636.

Deliver a Flock of Flamingos to a Friend for a Special Surprise: The youth are using flamingoes once again to help raise money for their trip to Houston in 2018. Do you know someone who would love to be surprised by a fly over visit? You can make this happen with a donation to the group. Please contact the church office and arrange for a flock today.

Hanging of the Greens: Save Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9:00am for the annual Hanging of the Greens. Help us decorate the church for Christmas.

Attention Bakers: Our 10th Annual Jayne Boom Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 17th after the service. We look forward to enjoying your homemade cookies so please plan to bake and bring them to church with you by 10:00am on that date. All proceeds for the cookie walk will be donated to the Youth Group trip in 2018.

Cans for Luminaria: We need lots and lots and lots of small tuna, crab meat or cat food cans for this project. Please save them and place these clean and washed cans in the box provided in the atrium. **HAVE SOME TUNA TONIGHT!** Thanks!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

Bring a Non-Perishable Food Item to Church on Thanksgiving Eve: The food brought to church for this service will be delivered to a food pantry in our area. Please remember those less fortunate during this season and throughout the year.

Food Pantry Donations: Here is a streamlined list of some of the more requested items at the Wheeling Township food pantry: coffee, cookies, dry milk, cereal, canned chicken, hash or ham, noodles and condiments, along with toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo. 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!

La Trinidad: Once a month members of the Social Ministry Committee and other volunteers travel to La Trinidad Lutheran Church in the city to help cook, serve and clean up after the monthly community dinner. There is a poster in the Atrium with the date of the next dinner (November 19) and contact information for anyone who would like to join the group going or would like to contribute funds to offset the cost of the food items. For more information about these visits, please contact Greg Linwood, Libby Reimann, Debbie Bodett, Nancy Greaves, Sue Buerger, or Greg Hammond.

Turkeys for La Trinidad: The Social Ministry Committee is collecting frozen turkeys (14-16 pounds), or the money to buy them, for the needy families of La Trinidad in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago.

Please bring your turkey to church by Sunday, November 19 or place a donation in a pink pew envelope marked TURKEYS in the offering plate by November 19th. The Committee will purchase the turkeys and deliver them to La Trinidad on Monday, November 20th. Your donations to this project are greatly appreciated.

Hygiene Kits for La Trinidad: Our contact at La Trinidad has asked our help in assembling hygiene kits that can be distributed to those in need in the community. They would like the kits to include a toothbrush, comb, and sample sizes of shampoo, toothpaste and soap. Watch for a poster and collection box in the Atrium. All items should be to church by November 12th. Thank you for your support.

The Giving Tree: A Grace tradition of collecting Christmas gifts for children in need begins on Thanksgiving Eve. Gift tags with the gender and age of the child in either School District 21 or School District 26 will be available. New, wrapped gifts of approximately \$15 should be brought to church by Sunday, December 17th and placed under the tree in the East entryway. Toys or games are especially welcomed. All other necessary details can be found on the tags.

On Sunday, December 3rd any tags not picked up on Thanksgiving Eve along with tags for La Trinidad will be available on the tree in the East entryway. La Trinidad is asking for hats, scarves and gloves. The unwrapped gifts for La Trinidad should be placed under the tree by Sunday, December 17th.

Thanks for your continuing support of this special holiday Social Ministry Committee project.

Mallternative: Soon the Christmas season will be upon us, which means it is time for Mallternative once again. Please consider buying a gift in honor of a friend or relative. This year you can purchase the ever popular farm animals, provide school kits or help hurricane victims right here in the United States.

Don't worry. After you buy one of these gifts, your friend won't have to worry about taking care of a pig or repairing electrical grids! Instead the gift will go to someone in

need in an underdeveloped country or here, and your friend will receive a card saying that you gave a gift in his or her honor. It is a wonderful way to share the bounty of our lives with those who are less fortunate. What better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Order forms will be in the Church bulletins after Thanksgiving. Orders will be accepted December 3rd and December 10th.

Update on the Grace Endowment Funds: An Endowment Fund is a fund where only the earnings of the Fund can be used while the principal of the Fund is preserved as a lasting investment for Grace Church.

Did you know that Grace has two Endowment Funds? One of the Funds is the Grace Mission Endowment Fund with just over \$210 thousand dollars and the second Endowment Fund is the Gudrun Shultz Fund with just over \$171 thousand Dollars. In June \$8,600 was designated from the earnings of the Grace Mission Endowment Fund for Pads, ELCA World Hunger, LSSI, Northwest Transportation Services and the Grace Parking Lot Fund. Also in June, \$7,000 was designated from the earnings of the Gudrun Schultz Fund for the use of Grace College Scholarships and the Grace Music Fund.

The Grace Mission Endowment Fund is a less a restrictive fund with the earnings used to further the ministries of Grace, including capital improvements, outreach to the local community, Synod and Worldwide Missions of the ELCA. The Gudrun Schultz Fund is a restrictive fund with earnings designated in equal value to Grace Music programs and college scholarships, in accordance with Gudrun Schultz's wishes.

As you consider ways to leave a legacy to Grace Church, consider the Grace Endowment Funds as an option to honor God for you or a loved one. Please discuss the Grace Endowment Funds with the Pastor or with members of the Grace Endowment Fund Committee: Karen Gretz, Joann Kuklinski, Ardell Mueller, Bill Rovani or Dan Reimann.

"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, October 17th. We had over twenty volunteers from Grace, and were joined by almost one hundred additional volunteers! Altogether we packed a total of 146 boxes, totaling 31,546 meals, enough to feed 86 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Kenya.

This is the last group packing date I have scheduled for calendar year 2017. We will resume group packing outings in the spring next year. Stay tuned to Grace Notes for details.

God's work. Our hands. Indeed.

Lions Club Collection Box: Just a reminder that we have a collection box in the East entry area for people to drop off their unused glasses. The glasses frames are then distributed by the Lions Club to those in need.

YOUTH GATHERING 2018

The Youth Group is busy working a variety of activities to raise funds for the upcoming trip to Houston next summer.

We would like to extend a big **Thank You** for all of the members that entrusted their vehicles to us to clean a few weeks ago. We washed a lot of cars in three hours and raised \$760! Thank you for your generosity.

Next up – **Craft/Vendor Fair** on **November 4th from 10am – 4pm**. We will have many vendors selling one of a kind items as well as your favorites such as jewelry, bags, stained glass and many others. If you have crafts to sell or you represent a company that sells a variety of home goods, there is still time to secure your table. Contact Rhonda Majczan at rtms.fr@gmail.com for more details.

If you like to browse and buy crafts etc., please join us on **Saturday November 4th from 10am – 4pm**.

Flamingos are migrating to the Mount Prospect area. Keep a look out for them! They are very friendly, won't mess your yard and will fly away after only a small donation. You can even select their next destination!

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending September 30, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$207,243	\$194,263	(\$ 12,980)
Special Income	24,030	33,219	+ 9,189
Prepaid Income	8,975	8,975	0
Total Income	\$240,248	\$236,457	(\$ 3,791)
Expenses thru Sept	248,919	217,380	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+19,077	

We continue to look good for the current calendar year and we have now embarked on the replacement of the parking lot, a long discussed, oft delayed, project. We ask you to continue your support of the above as our operating expense budget exclusive of the parking lot. See additional article for information pertaining to the handling of the expense for that project.

IT'S HERE!!! IT'S HERE!!! After many years of wanting, planning, praying, and saving, we have finally moved ahead with the replacement of the parking lot which is

the original parking surface with many patches and repairs. We “broke ground” with \$92,000 on hand to pay for the \$115,000 project. After advising of the apparent schedule on 10/8/17, we have received an additional \$7,300 bringing our total now to just under \$100,000. We ask all to consider a special donation designated for the parking lot in a pink pew envelope or other envelope of your choice in an effort to cover the remaining cost of approximately \$15,000. Let’s work this down between now and the end of the year. Thank You!

Notes of **THANKS**

A Big THANK YOU to the members of Grace who helped to deliver meals through the Wheeling Township Meals on Wheels program which delivers meals to people in our district who are unable to get out. We pick up the meals at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Height and then drop them off to the people who are on our route. This is a very rewarding experience and I would like to thank Chris and Rich Rogers, who are permanent drivers, Bob and Carolyn White, Jules and Martha Kastens and Curt and Betty Carlson. Thank you all very much.

We only deliver these meals during the month of September on Mondays through Fridays. Please feel free to speak with any of us and we will be very happy to share our enthusiasm in this very rewarding program. Maybe next year you will want to join us. Thank you!

2017 Shirley Koenig Memorial Soap Drive: We did it! We surpassed last year’s total by 60 pounds. 210 pounds of soap was collected and donated to Lutheran World Relief. That’s well over 700 bath-sized bars. Think of the cleanliness, comfort and dignity it brings to the people who receive it.

A big THANK YOU to the people of Grace who shared your blessings with those in great need in other countries as well as those dealing with natural disasters here in our country.

Halloween Care Packages: Thanks to everyone who donated candy and treats that filled the boxes to overflowing for our college kids. Also, thanks for the monetary gifts to help with the shipping costs. We have 11 college students on the list. Thank you for supporting the Social Ministry Committee in this project. The next planned sugar rush is the Valentine’s Day packages. Watch Grace Notes for details.

Dear Grace Lutheran Church, On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff and residents of Wheeling Township, we would like to express our gratitude for your thoughtful donation of Aldi gift cards totaling \$200.00 on September 5, 2017. Your contribution will make sure that residents in need will be assisted.

Your commitment and generosity to our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for assisting us in fulfilling our mission of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”.

Kathleen M. Penner, Supervisor; Julie Villarreal, MA, Director of General Assistance

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Craft Show/Bake Sale:** Saturday, November 4 from 10am – 4pm
- **All Saints Sunday:** Sunday, November 5 service at 10am
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, November 19 leaving church at 9am
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wednesday, November 22 at 7pm followed by refreshments
- **Hanging of the Greens:** Saturday, December 2 at 9am
- **Mallternative:** Sundays, December 3 and 10 after the service
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, December 17 leaving church at 9am
- **Jayne Boom Cookie Walk:** Sunday, December 17 after the service in Charter Hall



Feed My Starving Children packing event on October 17, 2017 with Greg Linwood leading devotions.

Birthday LIST

November

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Daniel Ellertson | 17 Bob Buehrle |
| 3 JoAnne Panzer | 18 Cindy Pirron |
| 5 Dan Reimann | 19 Robin Greaves
Sheri Weidner |
| 8 Jane Hartfelder
Kristin Grimpe | 21 Jeff Greaves |
| 9 Cory Cordier | 25 Betty Benson
Lynn Shaffer
Jill Stephanie
Christopher Vasanth |
| 10 Nancy Eschbach | 27 Wendy Kjeldbjerg
Elizabeth Gharagozlou |
| 11 Ashley Adams
William Trsar | 28 Tom Wiebe
Lisa Sayers |
| 14 Steve Hanna | 29 Joanna Josten |
| 15 Jack Dietrich
Samantha Knopoff | |
| 16 Gianna Lauletta | |

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 long-time member Bob Buehrle who died on October 10, 2017.



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A congregation of the
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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.

Staff **DIRECTORY**

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* November 12