

GRACE NOTES

November 2020



*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 Saints of Grace:



Eight or nine months into this COVID pandemic, it is clear that “business as usual” is just a pipe dream. Do you remember back in the early spring when, in Grace Notes, I suggested that if we just shut down Grace for a few weeks, we would be able to get back to normal, perhaps with Easter delayed by a few weeks? That’s not the first time I was wrong!

It seems to me that the challenge before us is not just to hold our breaths and hope this all passes. Rather, it is perhaps an opportunity for us to re-imagine what it means to be the church in a COVID era.

We cannot go back to business as usual. We need to create a new usual, a new way of acting together as the community of God’s people even when our ability to physically gather is still limited.

Here’s what I propose:

That we foster the virtual gathering of numerous “affinity groups” within the congregation for occasional Zoom meeting devoted to identifying their common experiences and issues. For instance, in November, I will convene a Zoom meeting devoted to:

Parents of High School Students—Thursday, November 5 at 7pm

Parents of Preschool Children—Tuesday, November 10 at 7pm

Parents of K-8 Students—Thursday, November 12 at 7pm

Grace Youth and Young Adults –Tuesday, November 17 at 7pm

In addition, I am proposing that we have an on-line meeting of our Sunday School children on Saturday, November 14 at 10am and Sunday, November 22 at 9am. The Saturday session will be a 30-minute informal conversation with me and our youngsters. The Sunday session will include a lesson and a song.

Throughout November we will also continue to gather on Monday evenings to consider what it would take for us to become “antiracists” and on Wednesday evenings we will continue our study of the Old Testament prophets.

Finally, on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25 at 7 pm, we will gather on Zoom to give thanks for all the blessings that God continues to shower on us, even in the midst of the pandemic.

ALL SESSIONS CAN BE ACCESSED BY USING THE REGULAR ZOOM LOG IN FOR Grace

Do you have suggestions for new affinity groups: Maybe Grandparents, or Dog Lovers, or Cat Lovers, or Craft Lovers, or Movie Lovers, or...

Yes, this is a new time for the church. We have to adapt to new circumstances. We've done that before in our almost 61-year history. And with God's grace, and our imagination, we will evolve into a new version of Grace.

In Christ' love, joy, peace and hope!

Pastor Daniel Schwick

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 *Fellowship*

Intergenerational Buddy System: Would you like to have a pen pal, an email or phone buddy? We're trying to set up an Intergenerational Buddy System. If you're interested in participating, please contact the church office. Let us know if you'd like to write letters, write emails, or phone your buddy. Please think it over and give this idea a try. You won't have to wear a mask to participate.

Thanksgiving Cards: At this time of year we usually put up a list of names for people to share Thanksgiving greeting cards with. Since we can't have any posters up with lists, why not think of someone in the congregation who would enjoy a greeting. Scan through your directory and find a few friends you haven't talked to in a while and send them cards. Wish them a Grateful Thanksgiving.

Zoom Coffee Hour: Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am for a chance to catch up and share with others.

Zoom BYOB Gathering: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00pm for fellowship.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Zoom Bible Study: Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm for a study on the Hebrew prophets.

Conversation about Race, Racism and Antiracism: Join us on Mondays at 7:00pm via Zoom to study how to become antiracist Christians.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Sunday Morning Zoom Readers: A new schedule for December will be available soon. If you would like to be added to the list please contact Pam Walger at 847-827-7431 ASAP to be added.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

Turkeys for La Trinidad: The Social Ministry Committee is requesting monetary donations this year to purchase \$25 Aldi gift cards to be given to families to purchase their own turkeys and fixings for Thanksgiving. La Trinidad has about 30 families they would like to help this year. Please make your checks payable to Grace and mark it for La Trinidad turkeys. The committee will purchase the gift cards and deliver them to La Trinidad. Thank you.

La Trinidad Community Dinners: Grace will be delivering food that will be packaged by members of La Trinidad for guests to pick up. If you would like to donate funds to help cover that cost of this food, please send your donations to church and mark it for La Trinidad. Future dates are November 15, December 20 and January 10, 2021. Your support is appreciated.

Food Pantry: On line donations can be made to the **Mount Prospect** Human Services Department, for the Emergency Assistance Fund via PayPal at <https://www.mountprospect.org/departments/human-services/online-donations>. You may request that your donation go to a specific cause like the **food pantry**.

On line donations can be made to the **Northfield Township Food Pantry** with a credit card or PayPal at <https://twp.northfield.il.us/pantry/#>. Check donations can be mailed to the Northfield Township Food Pantry at 2550 Waukegan Road, Suite 100, Glenview, IL 60025.

On line donations can be made to **Compass Northwest** with a credit card or PayPal at <http://northwestcompass.org/how-we-help/food-connection/> Please note that donations go to Compass Northwest in general, rather than just to the food pantry. Besides providing food, donations may be used for counseling clients about additional sources of food and benefits.

Donations can be made to **Lutheran Church of the Cross** by writing a check to the church and adding “food pantry” to the memo line of the check. Checks should be sent to 2025 South Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

AROUND *the Parish*

Cloth Face Masks Available: Chris Rogers has been busy making reusable filtered masks and she is happy to share them with the congregation. If you would like a mask, please contact Chris at 847-840-0929. The masks are free of charge. Thank you, Chris.

Grace Garden Update: The Grace Garden Committee worked diligently throughout the Spring and Summer to prepare, plant, water, maintain and harvest the produce grown in our garden. We have 5 beds, each measuring approximately 25 feet long. This year we planted Green Beans, Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers and Carrots. Many hands made quick work of the project. Our little garden grew approximately 300 pounds of produce this year with all of the vegetables donated to a variety of Food Pantry’s in the area including Northwest Compass and Wheeling Township. All of the recipients were very appreciative of the produce they received from our garden. Thank you to all that participated in the activities related to supporting our garden. We will plant again in the Spring and we’re always looking for willing volunteers to join in any aspect of the on-going project. Experience is not required.



Evelyn Brandeau, a charter member of Grace, passed away recently. She was a very talented craft person and artist who participated in many volunteer activities through her years of membership. In the early 2000's we realized most of the almost 50 year old Chrismons for our sanctuary tree were beginning to disintegrate. We formed a dedicated group of crafty volunteers to repair them. In the process of attempting the repairs we came to realize that the old Styrofoam that was used was too dry and fragile to repair. We did our best but Evelyn was convinced that a solution could be found. The type of Styrofoam used for the original project was no longer being produced. Evelyn took it upon herself to search out and locate a replacement. After many attempts to cut different samples into the necessary shapes she found a replacement. She used a special saw she owned and many hours of her time to recreate most of the Chrismons. Without her dedication and generous donation to this project we wouldn't have the beautiful Chrismon display on our sanctuary tree each year now. I don't know if we will be blessed to have our tree up in the sanctuary this year due to COVID. I do know that this tradition has now been safely preserved thanks to Evelyn, the dedication of the original crew and the repair crews over the years.

WE HAVE, AND HAVE HAD, MANY FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS HERE AT GRACE.

FINANCIAL *Report*

Financial Report ending September 30, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 220,050	\$ 206,062	\$ (13,988)
Special Income	28,530	18,035	(10,495)
Prepaid Income	8,192	12,192	4,000
Total Income	\$ 256,772	\$ 236,289	\$ (20,483)
Expenses thru September	268,600	243,536	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ (7,247)	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>40,001</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 32,754	

Words are words! Actions are actions! It has long been said actions speak louder than words!! The actions (or should we say reactions) of the Grace members since the onset of the pandemic are gratefully appreciated. That does lead to the words; Thank You for your continuing support for the ministries of your church. With God's help and assistance, we will get through this and be ready to move forward carrying His word.

Notes of THANKS

Thanks: I wanted to thank everyone at Grace that was involved in the college scholarship decision this year. The scholarship money has helped me out so much this year and I greatly appreciate everything that Grace has done for me. I look forward to seeing everyone in the future. Thank you. Best regards, Daniel Garza

Dear Friends at Grace,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of five \$25.00 Aldi gift cards 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 donation made by local churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations and individuals.

Sincerely, Julie Kane, LCSW, Human Services Director, Village of Mount Prospect

Thank You: The backpacks have arrived. Thank you so much. The kids are starting school September 8th. So, we have time to get them out to the school.

Blessings to all of you. Dorothy Peterson, Rosebud Indian Reservation



Dear Grace Lutheran Church;

Thanks for your generosity toward the refugee community in this time of need.

As the impact of COVID-19 is felt across the globe, refugees here in Chicago are facing a great deal of uncertainty. Many families—who were already working to overcome unimaginable difficulties—will need extra support with rent, utilities, and receiving essential information in the coming weeks and months.

Thanks to your support, RefugeeOne can help refugees navigate healthcare, mitigate loss of wages, and remain in their homes during this critical time. Meanwhile, we continue to offer our regular services to the fullest extent possible while staff are working remotely.

Your gift of \$900.00 is providing crucial support to give refugees safety and stability as we weather this storm together. Thanks again.

With gratitude, Sara Spoonheim Amit, Director of Development, RefugeeOne

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As a church we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people near and far feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you. In Christ, The Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations



Birthday LIST

November

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Daniel Ellertson | 19 Robin Greaves |
| 3 Joanne Panzer | 21 Jeff Greaves |
| 5 Dan Reimann | 24 Thomas Swiatkiewicz |
| 8 Kristin Grimpe
Jane Hartfelder | 25 Betty Benson
Lynn Shaffer
Jill Stephanie
Christopher Vasanth |
| 9 Cory Cordier | 27 Wendy Kjeldbjerg
Elizabeth Gharagozlou |
| 10 Nancy Eschbach | 28 Lisa Sayers
Ryan Bell |
| 14 Steve Hanna | 29 Mary Meschbach
Joanna Josten |
| 15 Jack Dietrich | |
| 16 Gianna Lauletta | |
| 18 Cindy Pirron | |

CELEBRATIONS OF *Life*

Baptisms

Receiving Christ's gifts of grace with water and word, we are welcomed into God's family of the church.

Grayson John Murray was baptized on September 27, 2020. Grayson is the child of Brenton Murray and Melissa Chirchirillo and the great-grandson of Gerald and Darlene Sharlog.

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 Evelyn Brandeau, a charter member of Grace, who died on October 9, 2020.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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A congregation of the
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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 15