

# GRACE NOTES

November 2021

## 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 Saints of Grace:***



By now you have heard that phrase—Saints of Grace—so many times that you may no longer even think about what I’m saying with that greeting. **SAINTS OF GRACE!**

Let’s take that phrase apart. What does it mean to be a saint and to recognize our whole church community to be made up of saints? It is not a recognition of personal righteousness, as if I am a saint because of my effort. I have not—we have not—achieved sainthood by anything we did or didn’t do. We are saints because **GOD** declares us to be saints. It is purely out of **GOD’s** astonishing **GRACE!**

So what do we mean when we say saints **OF GRACE**? It means being active in the community that shares our common understanding of saintliness and of grace. It means joining with others to proclaim—**IN WORDS AND IN ACTIONS**—the good news of **GOD’s** love for the whole world—the whole creation.

Throughout this past growing season—from May to October—our Garden Team has tended our Grace Garden. In the spring, they prepared the beds for planting. After the last frost, they planted, some seeds and some small plants. Roma tomatoes, green beans, peppers, cucumbers, and carrots we planted. Throughout June and July, the Garden Team members watered and weeded the garden. The first harvest, on July 31, yielded 67 pounds of cucumbers, green beans and peppers. A simple sign, visible from Euclid Ave. kept track of our food donations throughout the summer and into the fall. By the final harvest, on October 9, our Grace Garden had yielded **606 pounds** of fresh produce for our neighbors in need.

Our garden ministry, I believe, spoke volumes to our community—those who drive by on Euclid and especially the many cars that use our parking lot. They saw a very tangible, literally down to earth example of the people of **GOD** doing **GOD’s** work, right here, right now. I hope that we can grow this ministry in the future (pun intended).

As we improve both the esthetics and the sustainability of our church property, we proclaim to the community that we are care-givers. Caring for one another. Caring for others. Caring for the whole creation!

As we say at the conclusion of our baptismal liturgy: **LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE OTHERS THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

That’s what saints do. That’s what **WE** do. The saints of Grace!

In the love, joy, peace and hope of Jesus!  
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

### ***All Saints Eve Memorial Service: Saturday, November 6, 4:00pm***

We will remember and celebrate the lives of the saints of Grace who have left us during this time when we could not gather as a community to grieve, to remember and to be grateful for the ways these members touched our lives. Feel free to come early to see photos and other mementos from the people whose lives we celebrate. At present, we expect the indoor mask mandate to be in effect.

### ***All Saints Sunday: November 7, 10:00am***

We will remember and celebrate the “saints of every time and place.” We will again acknowledge the Grace members who died since last All Saints Sunday. In addition, members and friends are invited to bring candles (and appropriate candle stands) to place around the altar in memory of loved ones. You can retrieve your candles after the service. Candles will also be available for use in the service.

### ***Thanksgiving Eve Service: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 7:00pm***

Participants are invited to bring canned goods and other non-perishable foods to fill the table at the front of the church. Perhaps you or your family would like to donate a case of vegetables instead of a few cans. Donations of cash and checks will also be received. Proceeds will be distributed through local food pantries.

Thanks to Pastor Paul Pfeffer for leading this service.

***Advent Begins Sunday, November 28:*** This Advent Season, we are going to offer a midweek advent experience each Wednesday evening, similar to what we usually do in Lent. Each week a group of volunteers will offer a simple meal followed by Holden Evening Prayer. Each week we will gather around a theme: Love, Joy, Peace and Hope.

At this time, it is expected that the prayer service will be available by Zoom as well as in-person, but that is not yet certain.

***Christmas Eve Worship: One Service at 4:30 p.m.***

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

**Third Thursday**, our new seniors fellowship group, will meet on the Third Thursday of the month. We meet on **November 18, 10:00 to 11:30am**.

Participants in the October Third Thursday strongly suggested that the November gathering include an expert on the various Medicare options that are out there, confusing so many folks. We are currently on the hunt for such an expert and expect to be able to feature her or him at the November 18 gathering. Depending on the public health guidelines that will be in effect in November, we may be able to include a celebrative “homecoming” lunch at the conclusion of our meeting. And there may be a special guest for our morning and lunch. Stay tuned.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

**Wednesday Wired Word: 1:00 and 7:00pm by Zoom or in-person at church**

Wired Word is a church-based study resource that has been used for many years at Grace. It is intended as a discussion starter for lively interchanges among participants. Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has, of course, been inadvisable for us to gather people indoors if there is an alternative. In the many months of the pandemic, we have improved our use of technology, especially Zoom so that many experience Zoom as more desirable than masked, socially distanced sessions. As it is, we are able to offer both—in-person or by Zoom. The discussion starters for each session are available on the shelf outside the church office or by e-mail (contact Barb in the church office). No advanced preparation is required but there is quite a bit of background material in the weekly handout for those who want to dig deeper. Weekly participation is not necessary for the sake of continuity. Each session stands on its own based on the conversations among participants. The under-lying conviction of Wired Word is that we need to look at the challenges all around us and find ways to be part of the solutions. Our faith requires it! WIRED WORD! Give it a try!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

**Church Decorating Party: Saturday, November 27, 10:00 to Noonish**

There’s an appropriate task for EVERYONE—even if it’s just saying ooh and aah as the decorations transform our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Refreshments provided.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

**Turkeys for La Trinidad:** Because of the pandemic, La Trinidad would prefer gift cards instead of frozen turkeys this year. It makes it easier for us not to have to buy, store and transport frozen turkeys, but it also makes it easier for La Trinidad to disburse gift cards rather than finding freezer space and transportation to deliver the turkeys. The Social Ministry Committee asks that you donated to the church and mark your donation

“Turkeys.” Please make your donation by November 14, 2021. Thanks for your support.

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** The next community dinner is November 21, 2021. Because of your support, the Social Ministry Committee will be able to bring chickens, fruit, drinks, protein bars and cookies. They have asked for donations of sock, winter coats and hoodies. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann’s house.

**Food Pantries:** The need of the food pantries is changing as we continue to struggle through Covid-19. To make things easier, we are asking for monetary donations to church, marking it for the food pantry. The Social Ministry Committee will make sure the donations are sent to the food pantries so they can purchase the items most needed at their sites. Checks of \$250 each were mailed to the food pantries in early September. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mallternative:** Christmas is just around the corner and the Social Ministry Committee is gearing up for Mallternative. Watch for the order form in the December issue of Grace Notes and the table in the atrium on Sunday mornings in early December.

## **AROUND** *the Parish*

**Grief and Growth**, our support group for persons experiencing loss, is now meeting every Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:00pm in the church atrium. Feedback from participants continues to strengthen this ministry of mutual care and support. There is no “expert” to tell us about grief. But there is a process, facilitated by Pastor Dan, that helps participants identify common experiences and share the various ways they have dealt with it. The assumption of the process is that the collective and shared wisdom of others going through grief, is a treasure right here in our midst. Although the group meets every week and we encourage regular attendance, you can also join us when you’re able. We can always pull up another chair.

**Godspeed** to Christopher Vasanth as he moves to Atlanta to start a new job. Thank you for all your volunteer efforts here at Grace. We will miss you.

**Boundless** is the theme for next year’s ELCA Youth Gathering which will take place in Minneapolis from July 24-28. A group from Grace will be taking part in this exciting trip and are beginning to plan and fundraise to make this week of learning, service and lots of fun available for everyone who wants to go. If you’re in Grades 7-12 (or know someone who is), and are interested in taking part in this awesome adventure, please contact the church office or call Margit Willis at 312-607-2684

**The Flamingos Are on the Move:** Back by popular demand, the flamingos are ready to flock to your yard or a friend’s yard. As a fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2022 schedule the flamingos to bring joy to a yard near you. Please mark Youth Gathering on your donations and contact Jennifer Stutheit to schedule the flamingos.

Jennifer can be reached by texting or calling 773-355-8392 or emailing [stutheits@mac.com](mailto:stutheits@mac.com).

## ***Saints of Grace***

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)

Name: William Paul Grimpe (Bill)



D.O.B: March 12, 1973

Member: Since 2012

Grew Up: Elmwood Park

Currently live: Mt. Prospect

Schooling: Triton and Columbia College

Siblings: 2 Older brothers, Dave and Rich

Spouse: Kristin (married for 15 years)

Children: Kendall Faith (13), Preseley Hope (8)

Favorite Memory of GL: When Preseley was baptized.

Occupation: Buyer for websites that sell outdoor and tactical gear.

Greatest Accomplishment: How inclusive my daughters are with their friends. They are open to anyone.

Favorite Season: Fall

Favorite Smell: Fresh popcorn

Favorite Sound: My families laughter

Favorite Book: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Favorite Holiday: The 4th of July and Halloween because Kendall was born on that day.

Sports Team: Cubs

Pets: German Shepherd named Sara

Dream Vacation: A cruise to the Caribbean

Dream Car: A Jeep or a Pickup truck

Movie: Casablanca

Color: Blue

Ice Cream: Yellow Cake Batter

Candy: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Meal: Pot Roast and mashed potatoes and gravy (His folks make the best)

Favorite Quote: "Let them mold you as much as you mold them."

Subject in School: English

Dinner with: Either Walt Disney or my Grandfather (who passed away when I was 16.)

Fun Fact: Born and raised a city boy, I am a huge fan of country music.

***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 November we feature the Safety Committee.

The Safety Committee's purpose is to make Grace Lutheran Church a safe environment and to prepare for emergency situations. Formed a number of years ago, the committee has worked with other church committees, the Mt. Prospect Fire Department and the Mt. Prospect Emergency Management to create an emergency action plan for the church which can be rapidly implemented at the onset of any emergency. The plan can be found on the church website and is also posted in Charter Hall. The committee has also held training sessions for the emergency leadership team and the congregation to help in immediate responses to any emergency. For the past 18 months, the Safety committee has taken on the responsibility of dealing with issues and problems that have affected Grace due to the Covid-19 virus. By constantly reviewing and keeping up with CDC and synod recommendations and guidelines, the group has worked to put the proper precaution, protocols and best services in place to make our church a healthy, comfortable and welcoming place to worship.

The Safety committee meets periodically throughout the year. If interested in helping out, contact AJ Mueller.

**Preschool** is looking for teacher's aides. If you would like to act as an aide when one of our teachers is absent, please call Director Rebeka Russell at 847-824-7408 between 8:00am and 1:00pm Monday through Friday.

**Preschool Fund Raiser:** at Panera, 1065 North Elmhurst Road, Mount Prospect on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00pm. You can order online at panerabread.com and enter code **PRFUND** at checkout. You can also show a flyer (available at church) to the cashier when ordering at the café. This will ensure that the Preschool gets a portion of the proceeds.

**Remember when** we collected bottle caps for a School District 26 project. Here is a picture of the bench that our donations helped to build. It was recently dedicated by the School District and is located at Prairie Trails School.



## FINANCIAL *Report*

Financial Report ending September 30, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 220,050	\$ 222,740	\$ 2,690
Special Income	26,981	24,510	( 2,471 )
Prepaid Income	7,969	12,568	4,818
Total Income	\$ 255,000	\$ 259,818	\$ 5,037
Expenses thru August	270,690	254,143	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 5,675	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>38,620</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 44,295	

It is 9 months into 2021 and you still get a shining star. We have passed Rally Day, adopted some new programs at your option and gone to some services outside weather permitting. Things are slowly getting back to normal. What has remained consistent over this entire extraordinary time has been your financial support. You have shown this is truly Your Church.

Thank You!

## *Notes of* THANKS

**This note** is to say THANK YOU to the following members of Grace who volunteered for the month of September to deliver MEALS ON WHEELS to the people in need for Wheeling Township. We are committed to delivering meals every weekday for the month of September. Chris Rogers delivers meals every Monday year-round, which is a big commitment: The rest of us do one day a week for the whole month. I would like to thank Carolyn White and Cory Olson along with myself and Curt for helping in fulfilling this obligation. It is a very rewarding experience getting to interact with these people in a personal way. Just remember next August if this sounds like it would be something that you would like to participate in. Let the church office know; we would appreciate any additional help in September. Thank you. Betty Carlson.

**Thank you** for everything the congregation has done for me this year including scholarships. I wouldn't be able to get through this without you all! Hope all is well. Samantha Pracko

### **Dear Friends:**

Thank you for all the lovely greetings you sent me for my birthday. It was a wonderful birthday that was enriched by your thoughtfulness.

I may not see all of you in person so I am writing this note to tell you how much I appreciated your greetings.

Diane Isenberg

**Thank You** for your donations to the Shirley Koenig Memorial Soap Drive. Four boxes of soap were packed to deliver to Lutheran World Relief.

***Dear Grace,***

As RefugeeOne prepares for a huge increase of newly arriving refugees this fall, including Afghans who put their lives at risk by serving alongside the U.S. military, we're thankful for supporters like you helping these brave individuals rebuild their lives.

Refugees arrive to Chicago relieved to have a safe place to call home—and with dreams of a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Your generosity gives them a warm welcome and help every step of the way, through English classes, employment coaching, school support, mental healthcare, and more. Even as the pandemic continues to create unique challenges for refugees, your donation is helping families find safety and stability in times of uncertainty.

We're so grateful for your donation of \$750.00 from your Mission Endowment Fund. Thanks again for your help in making Chicago a welcoming place where refugees can succeed

Sincerely, Sara Spoonheim Amit, Director of Development

***Dear Grace Lutheran Church,***

Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,702.00 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

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 the ministries of the ELCA, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

With you gifts, you are putting God's love into action – living faithfully, witnessing boldly, serving joyfully and giving abundantly. Your generosity allows this church to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and sharing the love of a faithful and abiding God.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Philanthropy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***Dear Social Ministry Committee:***

I wanted to reach out to you to thank you and Grace Lutheran Church for the school supplies you donated to District 21. We are so incredibly grateful and appreciative for your church and congregation 's support of our students, families, staff, and district.

Our families continue to be affected by the uncertainty of the pandemic and they are continuously grateful for the support from their community. Your school supplies were able to help support families who are currently experiencing homelessness and were unable to acquire school supplies for this school year. Through your donation, we were able to ease a burden for our families as they continue to gain financial stability. Many parents voiced their gratitude and thanks as we have distributed your donation.

Thank you again on behalf of the students and staff! The District 21 community is extremely grateful for the support you have given us and want you to know how much

your donations help our families. I look forward to working with you again! Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely, Lauren Schmidt, McKinley-Vento Liaison School Social Worker



**Thank you.** The garden is done for 2021. Thank you to all the workers who gave their time tending the bounty God has provided through the Grace Garden for those in our community in need.

Let us keep filling our local pantries with food donations until the garden starts again in the spring.

Our God is an awesome God!

### **SPECIAL** Events

- **All Saints Eve Remembrance Service:** Saturday, November 6 at 4:00pm
- **All Saints Day Service:** Sunday, November 7 at 10:00am
- **Third Thursday:** Thursday, November 18 at 10:00am
- **La Trinidad Community Dinner:** Sunday, November 21, leaving church at 9am
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00pm
- **Church Decorating Party:** Saturday, November 27 at 10:00am
- **Christmas Eve Service:** Friday, December 24 at 4:30pm

## Birthday LIST

### November

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Daniel Ellertson                  | 19 Robin Greaves   |
| 3 JoAnne Panzer                     | 21 Jeff Greaves  |
| 5 Dan Reimann                       | 23 Thomas Swiatkiewicz   |
| 8 Kristin Grimpe<br>Jane Hartfelder | 25 Betty Benson<br>Lynn Shaffer<br>Jill Stephanie<br>Christopher Vasanth |
| 9 Cory Cordier                      | 27 Betsy Gharagozlou<br>Wendy Kjeldbjerg                                 |
| 10 Nancy Eschbach                   | 28 Ryan Bell<br>Lisa Sayers  |
| 14 Steve Hanna                      | 29 Joanna Josten<br>Mary Meschbach                                       |
| 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.

Charles Anderson-Soukop, son of Nicole and Todd, on October 10, 2021.

### **Weddings**

Couples promise their faithfulness to one another as we surround them with our prayers for God's blessings in their marriage.

Congratulations to Lisa Marie Peltekian and Phillip Joseph Skaff who were married at Grace on October 2.

### **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 Jack Ferguson whose mother, Janet, died on October 2.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!*

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Mount Prospect, IL 60056

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[www.gracemtprospect.org](http://www.gracemtprospect.org)  
[www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect](https://www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect)



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Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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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## 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:**

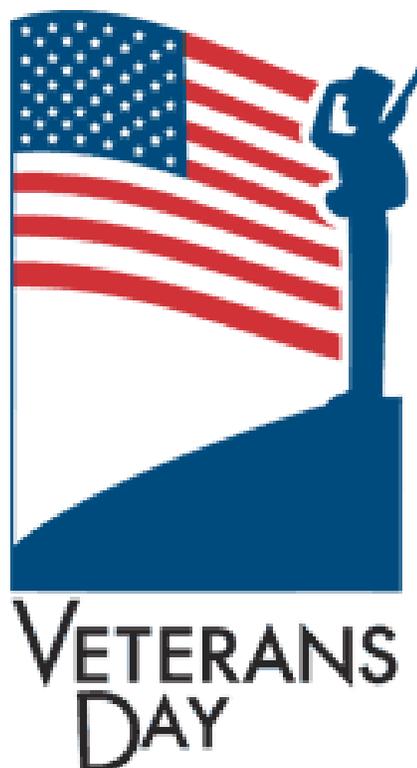
**Director of Music:** Susan Nelson  
[sopranosusannelson@gmail.com](mailto:sopranosusannelson@gmail.com)

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**Pre-school Director:** Rebeka Russell

**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:* November 14