

GRACE NOTES

October 2017

500TH Anniversary OF THE REFORMATION

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



What a joy it is to be pastor of a congregation that not only has grace at its core; we even have Grace in our name!

Grace is first and foremost how God looks at us. Because of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, God sees us not as the sinful, rebellious creatures that we know ourselves to be. Instead, God see us—every one of us—as God’s own precious and beloved children, adopted into the family of God by baptism. The challenge for us as children of God is not that we have to earn God’s love and acceptance.

That’s the starting point, and Jesus has already accomplished that for us. No, the challenge for us as individual Christians and as the church is to let our true identities as children of God shine through everything we do. Everyone around us should be able to see that God’s grace is powerfully alive and at the center of our life.

In my first days as the interim pastor at Grace, I have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you, and even of beginning to attach names to faces. Thanks in advance for your patience with me in that regard. I am overwhelmed with very positive first impressions of the life and ministry at Grace. Not that we don’t have challenges! We are struggling to make the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ relevant to new generations. Many, perhaps most of us, were raised in environments in which church membership was the norm. Now the church is sometimes seen as a relic left over from an earlier era. Christians are sometimes seen as overly judgmental, hostile to science, wary of people not like themselves. The multicultural “global village” is not always comfortable for those of us raised in what is often described as “simpler times.”

The challenge for us is to understand this increasingly complex world and to become increasingly effective in proclaiming the beauty and freedom of life in the family of God, to people who know the burdens and uncertainties of life in 21st century America. Our message—salvation through Christ—has not changed in over 2000 years. But how the church expresses that good news has evolved and evolved and evolved again. We are not the same as the first century church or the Lutheran Church of 500 years ago.

We are the Body of Christ! We are called together to experience the blessings of Christian fellowship. We are fed by Word and Sacrament. Then we are sent out to be the church that the world needs today.

I look forward to our growing together into an even stronger expression of God’s love for all people. I look forward to learning with you the ways to make real connections with real people living real lives in our fast-paced society. I look forward to our learning and embracing a good and healthy balance between work and fun in our church life. I look forward to the opportunity to be with some of you in very difficult or stressful or particularly joyful times in your lives.

I ask for your prayers for me and for the whole family of Grace as we respond to the gospel in new and exciting ways in the days, weeks and months to come!

In Christ's peace

Pastor Daniel Schwick

P.S. People have asked how I prefer to be addressed. Pastor Dan, Pastor Schwick, or Dan are all fine by me. What's comfortable for you?

CONGRATULATIONS *Confirmands*

Amy Drelicharz, Matthew Pracko and Madeleine Stephanie made their Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, September 24, 2017. They have made a huge commitment to follow Jesus and become adult members of our congregation. Please continue to support and encourage Amy, Matthew and Madeleine to be active in worship, learning, community, service and outreach at Grace.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

Pet Blessing: A pet is a blessing to many families. Why not bring your pet to church and have it blessed. The blessing will take place on Saturday, October 7 at 3:00pm. Hope to see you there. Arf! Meow!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

September Friendship Group Meeting: The Friendship Group is meeting on September 27 at 1:00pm. Join us for our kick-off meeting for the fall. Our guest will be Pastor Dan Schwick who will share a little bit about himself and what he's done in the past. Join us for coffee and fellowship. Get to know our new interim pastor. Call Pam Walger if you need a ride to this meeting. Please sign-up on Pam's office door so we know how many to expect.

Save the Date: Friendship Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25th. Watch the Pink Sheet for more information

Birthday Card Shower: To distinguish our members who are 90 or better, we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes (cards and postcards) to brighten their special day. On October 19 Eleanor Kehr will celebrate her 90th birthday. Please shower her with wishes at 804 S Owen Street. Mount Prospect, IL 60056-4340. Happy Birthday, Eleanor!

Mail Holiday Wishes: Share Halloween fun by sending a card to those on our list of homebound members and "Just Because Friends" who will be cheered by receiving

your greetings. An updated list of their names and addresses can be found on the poster with the large pumpkin in the communications area.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

What is Project Day? On Sunday, September 17, 2017 a few representative quilts and stuffed toy animals were displayed around the sanctuary. Pastor blessed them before we send them to their destinations.

At Project Day we make many quilts for Lutheran World Relief which are sent all over the world to people in need of comfort and warmth. The little stuffed toy animals are given to Ronald McDonald House in Chicago where they are warmly received and loved by the children.

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday from 9:30am until noon in Charter Hall. We have fun and fellowship while working. You're invited to join us to help with this most worthwhile mission. Sewing is not required as we have simple tasks for everyone.

For more information contact Joanne Coy at 847-699-0198.

Help with the Kitchen Clean-Up: on Wednesday, October 18th at 12:00. Bring a sack lunch and we'll enjoy some fellowship before cleaning up the kitchen at 1:00pm. Many hands will make the task a fun outing. Questions? Contact Cindy Pirron.

Deliver Altar Flowers: Please consider making someone's day a little brighter by delivering altar flowers to them. We need a few more people to volunteer to deliver the altar flowers on Sunday afternoon or on Monday to someone who is sick or who can't attend church for some reason. You will benefit from the visit as much as the person who receives the flowers. Contact Eileen Clark at 847-296-5840 and volunteer today. You won't have to do it that often so why not consider it?

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.

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 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.

Prepare and Deliver Meals: 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 also have a website set up at www.SignUpGenius.com/g0/30E0549A82EA3FE3-grace for people to sign up to bring meals. A special thank you to everyone who volunteers.

Please save cans for this year's luminaria. Kindly wash and save small tuna, crab meat, or cat food cans for this project. Place the cans in a bag on the kitchen counter and Margit Willis will collect them.

The Altar Guild Needs You! Several of our faithful volunteers who prepare the altar for communion each week are no longer able to be of assistance. We would like more volunteers who are willing to learn the process and help us be prepared to serve communion on Sunday mornings. If you can't commit to a whole month of helping, let us know when you are available and we'll work around your schedule. There are usually 2 people who help prepare each week. Please consider lending a helping hand. Contact Pam Walger at 847-824-7408 or Betty Carlson at 847-803-9646. THANKS!

Coffee Servers: We would like some new people to consider signing up to serve coffee on Sunday mornings after the service. We all enjoy the fellowship during this time - why not offer to serve the treats. Let Pam Walger or Barb Willis know if you'd like to volunteer.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

"Feed My Starving Children" – A Friendly Reminder: Just a reminder that our next chance to go as a group from Grace to the Schaumburg location of Feed My Starving Children, 1072 National Parkway, will be Tuesday, October 17 from 6pm to 7:30pm. There are thirty-three spots reserved for our group.

Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, October 1. But, if you want to reserve your spot right away, access the website www.fmssc.org and follow the prompts to "join" the group named Grace Lutheran Church (group leader Greg Linwood). Or, another way of volunteering now is to contact me directly, either at 847-502-7744, or via e-mail at gregorylinwood@sbcglobal.net, and I will add you to our group.

Thanks for your continuing enthusiastic support of this ministry!

Halloween Care Packages: The Social Ministry Committee is collecting treats to put into the care packages for our college kids. They enjoy both sweet and salty treats. Watch for the poster and donation box in the Atrium starting October 1. All donations need to be in the box by 10am on October 22 when the committee will pack the boxes for shipping. If you would like to donate money towards the cost of postage for the care packages, place your donation in a pink pew envelope marked "College Care Packages."

The church office will be printing labels for the packages. Please make sure that your college student's address is on file with the church office by October 15. We do not assume that last year's address is still valid. Let's make sure all our college kids get a box of goodies this year.

Refugee Ministry: We are preparing to welcome a refugee family in November. Please help us get ready by signing up for items to help furnish an apartment. This year we are collecting miscellaneous items. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Our next meeting is October 10th at 7:00pm at Grace and everyone is welcome to attend. The fundraising website is <http://www.refugeeone.org/mountprospectresettlementteam.html>. Thanks so much for your support of this ministry!

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!

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 and frames are then distributed by the Lions Club to those in need.

YOUTH GATHERING 2018

Every three years, 30,000 to 40,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. The trip consists of a variety of activities including Worship, Bible Study, Community Service and Fellowship. This trip is scheduled for Jun 27 - Jul 1, 2018 in a city that is very deserving of all our support. The event is scheduled in Houston, Texas. This event was scheduled long before Hurricane Harvey hit that area, but I cannot think of a better locale for our youth to participate in rebuilding.

The theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is "This Changes Everything." The primary scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*"

So, as we have done for previous trips, we will be hosting a series of events to raise funds to send the youth to Houston.

We have many activities scheduled:

1. The Flamingos are migrating...keep a look out, they may be landing in a yard near you!

2. At the Rally Day Picnic, Barb Nagel and the youth served Root Beer Floats for a Free Will Offering. \$173.00 was raised.
3. Sunday, September 17th was our Grace Car Wash. During the service, the youth washed cars and had them ready when the service was over. About \$750.00 was raised.
4. Saturday, November 4th will be the Craft Fair here throughout the church. If you are a crafter and would like to sell your items, that would be great. If you like to browse and purchase craft items, that would also be great. Please reach out to Margit Willis for more information.
5. The Annual Jayne Boom Memorial Cookie Walk will be held in December and the proceeds will go to support this trip.
6. We are planning a Parent's Night Out in December where the High School youth will be babysitting your children so you can go out to a dinner, as adults, complete some last minute Christmas shopping or just chillax at home while the kids are having a good time here at church.
7. We will have a Dinner/Silent Auction in the January/February timeframe. More details to follow along with a few additional activities between now and next June.

Most of us agree that Houston can certainly use our help. Our youth are ready and excited. On behalf of all of our youth and their families, I thank you in advance for your support. God Bless!

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending August 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$184,216	\$172,842	(\$ 11,374)
Special Income	21,360	32,507	+ 11,147
Prepaid Income	7,975	7,975	0
Total Income	\$213,551	\$213,324	(\$ 227)
Expenses thru August	221,261	194,520	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+18,804	

We are again positive as we move forward in our transition with the engaging of Pastor Dan Schwick as our interim Pastor. Our reduced expenses will be ending this month with this change. Your support to Grace will become ever more important at this time to maintain our strong financial position. Thank you for your support thus far. We encourage your continued support going forward.

Notes of THANKS

Dear Grace Lutheran Church & Scholarship Committee, I truly appreciate the educational scholarship. It feels great to be supported by Grace Lutheran Church even when I'm away at college. The money is very helpful in helping me pay for my textbooks and I am very appreciative!

Thanks, Julie Josten

Dear Scholarship Committee, Thank you so much for the scholarship, and the continued support from Grace. I really appreciate it and it helps so much every year when I need to buy books.

Thanks again, Joanna Josten

Grace, Thank you so much for giving me an academic scholarship for my journey at the University of Missouri. I'm so thankful for everything Grace has done for me and confident my faith will help me through this next chapter in my life. Can't wait till I'm home again and see you all at Grace Lutheran Church.

Love, Jenni Josten

Thank you for letting us use the church – (for an Indian Guides Car Wash)

Isabella A., Kate, Marissa A., Mollie B. Reagan B, Asher, Jude, Michaela, Sophie Kaitlyn & Kelsey, Gabi, Cathryn, Allie, Linnea Olsen, Marissa

Dear Grace: I received the two boxes of school supplies that you shipped to Rosebud. How timely is your gift because school is just starting. Thank you again for your wonderful gift to the Lakota children here.

Dorothy Peterson, Rosebud Indian Reservation

Thank you for helping us swat those pesky mosquitoes that invaded Grace the end of August. \$164.00 was raised to help fight malaria through the ELCA.

We would like to 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, Village of Mount Prospect

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Pet Blessing:** Saturday, October 7 at 3:00pm
- **Craft Fair:** Saturday, November 4, 2017

Birthday LIST

2	Zac Trunda	22	Melba Panhorst Laura Polfuss Grayson Walger
9	Carl Storz		
10	Becka Chantry Anthony Ryan	23	Pam Nauert Jennifer Stutheit Jacki Kochanski Samantha Pracko
11	Bob White		
12	Ralph Martinson Diane Isenberg	24	Cathy Hoffman Kiki Garza
13	Dsrlene Sacco	26	Laura Caraba Megan Miller
14	Ellie Ashbrook	27	Sandy Drelicharz Karen Rude Ehren Jannusch
15	Christopher Nauert		
16	Kim Kintzle	30	Carol Boros
17	Jules Kastens	31	Kendall Grimpe
19	Eleanor Kehr Clyde Randmark Adam Martinez		

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 Linda Hansen on the death of her husband David Hansen on September 8, 2017. A memorial service will be held at Grace on October 14, 2017.

We extend our sympathy to Joann Kuklinski on the death of her son Robert Kuklinski on August 30, 2017.



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

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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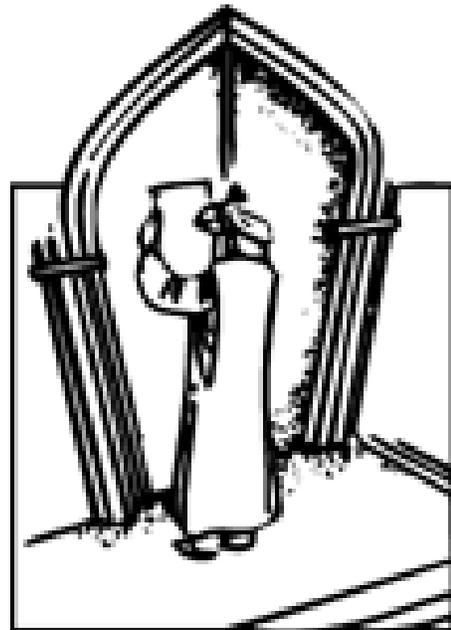
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ARTICLE *Deadline:* October 15