

GRACE NOTES

October 2019



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

Always Reforming



October is the month that brings us the annual celebration of the Lutheran Reformation. Two years ago, in 2017, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. But if our celebration of the Lutheran Reformation is backward looking—just looking back on the events of 500 years ago—we have really missed the boat. The celebration of the Lutheran Reformation must be a critical assessment of where we came from, what it means to be Lutheran today and where the Lutheran movement is going in the future.

First, our past. The saying, “The past is prolog” is true: who we are now and in the future is totally rooted in where we have come from. The Lutheran movement—not the organized Church that began to establish itself in the sixteenth century—but the effort of Roman Catholic priest, Martin Luther to call the religious and political authorities of his day to account for fundamental distortions in Christianity that benefited those in power in both the church and in emerging states, what we now call nations or countries. The Lutheran critique of the status quo was that it took the power of forgiving human sin away from God and made it a commodity controlled by the church. Luther’s study of scripture and his own zeal in “atoning” for his own sins eventually led him to the breakthrough and fundamental understanding of Scripture: we are made right with God PURELY by the work of God himself in the death and resurrection of God’s own Son. The church and political powers that benefited from the established penitential system tried to suppress Luther’s “heresy.” But the movement benefitted by the recent introduction of mass media, thanks to Guttenberg’s movable type printing press. Luther’s writings were “trending in London and elsewhere in Europe within weeks of their publication in Germany. In the end, as we know, Luther and his followers were not successful in convincing their leaders of the truth of their ideas. So, reluctantly, and by fits and starts, a new denomination—the Lutheran Church—emerges in Germany, Scandinavia and elsewhere and travels with its adherents to new lands, including North America. That’s our past.

Sixty years ago, descendants of those early Lutherans chose to organize a new Lutheran congregation in Mount Prospect, Illinois. For six decades now, children and adults have come here to learn about and even more importantly, experience God’s love. At the end of this year we will celebrate those who built Grace in its first decade of ministry. We hope to have the founding pastor or a member of his family here for our celebration.

Lutheranism in general and Grace Lutheran in particular have changed and evolved and emerged into something different from what they were, twenty, forty, sixty or 500 years ago. We have to keep doing that. Keep making our life and ministry relevant to the lives of individuals and families seeking a community in which to celebrate common values of compassion, justice, diversity, hospitality: LOVE!

Last year the Church Council created our Growing Grace Roundtable to serve as a common place for people across the congregation to brainstorm ideas that might lead to greater participation in the life and ministry of Grace. The Roundtable has no decision-making authority. That's still in the Church Council and the various committees and other accountable working groups. Recently, the Roundtable recommended to the Church Council that we create a Grace Green Team to study a variety of issues related to Grace's use of all our resources (land, building, equipment, etc.). The Green Team will bring recommendations to the Roundtable and ultimately to the Church Council. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the Grace Green Team, please speak with me or with Council President, Ardell Mueller.

No, the Lutheran Reformation is not just a distant historical event. It is an ongoing movement to look at the world through the lens of the gospel's fundamental message: that God so loves the world...

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Fellowship

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 5TH at 4:00pm. Feel free to bring pictures of pets that you can't easily transport. Hope to see you there. Arf! Meow!

October Friendship Group: Mark Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 12:30pm for the Friendship Group's Halloween Card Bingo Party. We will have potluck snacks and desserts to pass. Bring a deck of playing cards and \$2.00 worth of quarters to play the games. Please sign-up on Pam Walger's office door and let her know that you will attend and what snack or dessert you will bring to share.

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.

Harvest Fest and Halloween Activities: Join us on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 3-5pm for family fun and activities. Watch the bulletin for more details.

City Splash: Save Saturday, October 26 for a day of exploring Chicago for youth and adults. Watch the bulletin for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Baptized We Live: an eight-session adult study on what it means to be a Lutheran began on September 17. Sessions are on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and Thursdays at 7:00pm through October. Everyone is welcome. Let the church office know if you need a ride.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

"Feed My Starving Children" – Our Next Opportunity: Our last chance in 2019 to go as a group from Grace to the Schaumburg location of Feed My Starving Children will be Tuesday, November 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

There are twenty-five spots reserved for our group. Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, October 20. 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 6. All donations need to be in the box by 10am on October 27 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 13. 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.

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

Please bring your turkey to church by Sunday, November 10. In past years the Committee has accepted cash donations and we will again this year. We do, however, ask that if at all possible you purchase the turkey and take advantage of the many special deals available. It will make the dollars go further. If that's not possible, place a donation in a pink pew envelope marked TURKEYS and place in the offering plate by November 3. Your donations to this project are greatly appreciated.

Shop for the Food Pantry: Cans of tuna, chili, Spam, stew, corn, green beans, peaches, pears spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle/or rice soup, vegetable or vegetable beef soup, Spaghetti O's, or pork & beans. Boxes of Tuna Helper, macaroni & cheese, boxed potato mixes, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, hand soap, cookies, Kleenex, crackers, cake mix, frosting and birthday candles. Thanks for your generosity. 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"

"Living Lutheran" Reader Call: From Ruth and Naomi to Moses and Aaron, the Bible is rich with tales of friendship. How do friendships enrich your faith? By Oct. 30, send your 300-word story—subject line "Friendship"—to livinglutheran@elca.org for an opportunity to be published in "Living Lutheran."

An Invitation from Higher Up Ministries: For over 25 years, Grace has supported Higher Up Ministries at their annual Boxwood Bash in August. Grace members and friends have been invited to join Higher Up Ministries for a down home "*Auction and Celebration*" on Friday, November 8, 2019 starting at 5:30pm at The Bridge Randhurst, 302 E. Euclid Avenue, Prospect Heights. The cost per person is \$35 which includes beverages, dinner and Higher Up Entertainment and dessert. Reservations are due by October 31. For more information or to RSVP call 847-398-8094.

AROUND *The Parish*

October Birthdays to Celebrate: On October 17th Jules Kastens will celebrate his 91st birthday. Send celebratory wishes to him at 5 West Central #503, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. On October 19th Eleanor Kehr will celebrate her 92nd birthday. Send wishes to her at 804 S. Owen Street, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-4340 WISHING YOU BOTH THE HEALTHIEST OF BIRTHDAYS!

Notes of THANKS

I would like to acknowledge the following members for volunteering their time to deliver MEALS ON WHEELS to the people in our area who cannot go out to get food on their own. Grace members provide this service for the month of September on weekdays only. This is a very important service. Those volunteers are Jules and Martha Kastens, Bob and Carolyn White and Curt and Betty Carlson. We also want to acknowledge that Chris Rogers volunteers on a year round basis every Monday. This service is provided through Wheeling Township. Thank you all for your dedication to this worthy cause. Betty Carlson

Thank You Volunteers for a great Rally Day! Thanks to the Property Committee and all of the people who helped set up for the event on Saturday. Thanks to Barb Nagle and her helpers for all of the decorations. Thanks to everyone who shopped, cooked, served, baked and donated prizes. Special thanks to Amy and Matt Pracko and Margit Willis for providing activities for the children.

Dear Pastor Schwick, On behalf of the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross, I would like to thank your congregation for hosting the other member churches of the Northwest Lutheran Roundtable, for the Rally Day picnic. What a wonderful experience for all attendees.

The hard work by the men and women of your congregation did not go unnoticed. You were well prepared for the crowd and weather. The Grill Masters did a wonderful job cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers while being cooled by the constant drizzle. Kudos to them. And as is a given for any Lutheran gathering, the desserts were superb and in abundance.

We are also grateful to have shared in "God's Work -- Our Hands" day with the other member churches. Hopefully, this interaction between our congregations will continue to strengthen our faith and commitment to the community.

Yours in Christ, Greg Paddack, LCC Council President

Dear Friends in Christ: Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,750 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). Your congregation is investing in the wellbeing of all Illinois citizens, offering people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential.

Just as God sees each in their entirety, LSSI seeks to provide whole person care to those receiving our services. The faithfulness of congregations like Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is critically important in this work.

For more than 150 years, LSSI has made the love of God tangible for those in need. We could not have served this long without dear friends like you. Please know how much we value your support and partnership in this ministry.

Peace and prayers, David P. Novak JD, Vice President, Advancement
P.S. Please encourage your members to watch short videos about how they are helping to change lives. All they have to do is come to www.LSSI.org and click on the YouTube icon. We want everyone to know how your gifts are being put to work in response to the Gospel!

Dear Grace Lutheran Church: Thank you for your gift of \$2,800 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

With you Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to 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 make possible short- and long-term recovery and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods.

What an important difference you are making in the lives of those hard hit by disaster. Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!

And:

Thank you for your gift of \$858 to ELCA World Hunger.

Your generous gift is enabling transformative works of love here in the United States and in 60 countries around the world, providing what is needed to end hunger and poverty: access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Together, we are creatively and courageously working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world.

In Christ, The Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations

SPECIAL *Events*

- ***Pet Blessing:*** Saturday, October 5 at 4:00pm
- ***Project Days:*** Tuesday, October 8 at 9:15am
- ***Growing Grace Roundtable:*** Sunday, October 13 at noon
- ***Harvest Fest:*** Saturday, October 19 from 3-5pm
- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, October 20 - volunteers leave church at 9am
- ***City Splash:*** Saturday, October 26
- ***Reformation Sunday:*** Sunday, October 27
- ***Halloween Care Packages:*** help fill boxes on Sunday, October 27
- ***Grace Book Group:*** Monday, October 28 at 11:00am
- ***Friendship Group:*** Wednesday, October 30, 12:30pm
- ***Feed My Starving Children:*** Tuesday, November 5 from 6-7:30pm
- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, November 17 leaving church at 9am

- **Thanksgiving Service:** Tuesday, November 26
- **Children's Christmas Program:** Sunday, December 15 at 10:00am worship service
- **Grace's 60th Anniversary Celebration and Luncheon:** Sunday, December 15

Birthday LIST

October

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| 9 | Carl Storz | 21 | Iris Notto |
| 10 | Becka Chantry
Anthony Ryan | 22 | Melba Panhorst
Laura Polfuss
Grayson Walger |
| 11 | Bob White | 23 | Jennifer Stutheit
Jacki Kochanski
Samantha Pracko |
| 12 | Ralph Martinson
Diane Isenberg | 24 | Cathy Hoffman
Kiki Garza |
| 13 | Darlene Sacco | 27 | Sandy Drelicharz
Karen Rude
Ehren Jannusch |
| 18 | Kimberly Kintzle | 31 | Cynthia Hanson
Kendall Grimpe |
| 17 | Jules Kastens | | |
| 19 | Eleanor Kehr
Clyde Randmark | | |





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A congregation of the
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.

Staff *DIRECTORY*

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ARTICLE *Deadline:* October 20