

# GRACE NOTES

October 2021



*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:***



As we move into the fall, we are still, unfortunately, in something of a holding pattern. We do not know yet when the current state-wide indoor masking order will be lifted. Until that time, we will continue to gather for worship in person (with transmission mitigation protocols observed) AND by Zoom. We continue to be enriched by the experience of having members and friends who can't be physically present, still be seen and even heard from in our "gatherings." It is the intention of our Council to continue to offer the Zoom alternative while we increasingly pivot to a fuller in-person worship experience. A key unanswered question remains about when we will be able to return to in-person singing. While I don't know yet when that will be, I would anticipate that we may move gradually in that direction by having live music offered by a limited number of vocalists who are physically separated from the congregation, perhaps in the balcony. A second stage MAY be to invite the congregation to join in the musical parts of the service while remaining masked. In the final stage, we should be able to return to unmasked congregational singing. I, FOR ONE, CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT GLORIOUS DAY!

In the meantime, we continue to plan for a time when we will be able to gather more "normally." You will see by the attached calendar, that we are gradually starting up some normal and some new congregational ministries:

In-person Sunday School begins October 3 for children from Preschool to 6th grade. As in times past, I will gather the children at the front of the church for a brief reflection and "Children's Prayer" before dismissing them to go to their One Room Sunday School class. Many thanks to Minda Josten, Margit Willis and Dan Reiman for planning and implementing our '21-'22 Sunday School program.

The new grief support group held its first session in September. There was a suggestion that the group meet more often than once a month AND NOT ON TUESDAY MORNINGS! I am currently consulting with those who attended the first session as well as other who were interested by couldn't make the specified date and time. WATCH YOUR SUNDAY BULLETIN FOR AN UPDATE OF SELECTED DATES AND TIMES FOR THE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP IN OCTOBER.

THIRD THURSDAY, OUR NEW SENIORS GROUP, had its first gathering in September. Although the turnout was low, the participants found value in the time together. The next gathering will be Thursday, October 21 (The THIRD THURSDAY). We will gather for fellowship and light refreshments at 10:00am There will be an interactive program from 10:30 to 11:10, and then a game or other fun activity from 11:10 to our closing at 11:30. All are welcome. No RSVP required. BRING A FRIEND!

The RENEWING GRACE VISIONING GROUP continues to meet at least once a month to make recommendations to the Church Council about the renewal of our more public

ministry. High on their agenda is balancing the hope that the vast majority of our local members and friends will return to in-person worship in the near future and the desire to reach out to potential new members. Just doing everything that we used to do will not produce the results we want and need. We have to renew Grace for a new era and new environment. The Renewing Grace visioning group is now focusing on two events, one for the Grace community and one in May 2022, to which we hope to invite our surrounding community. The first event is coming next month:

On Saturday, November 6, at 4:00pm, the Grace community will gather for a special ALL SAINTS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE for all the Grace member who have died during the pandemic when “normal” funeral services were prohibited. This will be an opportunity for our community to gather both to grieve our loss and to celebrate the lives of our deceased members. The families of those who died will be invited to set up a small table or other display in the atrium in memory of their loved ones. This service will NOT replace our normal All Saints Sunday celebration on Sunday, November 7, at which we will commemorate all those of every time and every place who now rest in the Lord.

So, as you can see, as we wait patiently for the opportunity to get “back to normal,” we are not sitting idly by. There are lots of folks who continue to work and plan for the reemergence of our greater ministry. That hopefulness can only be sustained if all of us as members continue to do what we have done so well through this crisis. Your financial support for Grace’s mission has been phenomenal! That provides the security that we can rebuild with strength.

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

Pastor “Grandpa” 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*

**Third Thursday:** Join us on October 21 at 10am for fellowship, fun, music and refreshments. All seniors are invited to join us. Bring a friend.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

**Adult Forum:** This series will look beyond the scriptures to look at the fundamental issues facing individuals, families, the church and society. We will use the tools of the Scripture tradition, science and experience to think about our place in God's on-going work of caring for and redeeming the whole creation. Join us on Wednesdays starting October 6 at 10:00am or 7:00pm in person at church or via zoom.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

**Altar Guild, Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, Assisting Ministers Update:** As we anticipate getting back to a fuller worship service, we also will have the need for numerous volunteers in support of our worship. As it becomes clearer how we will return to fuller service, our Worship Committee will provide training for potential new servers as well as updates for veteran servers.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*

**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, and 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, Thank you for your generosity.

**La Trinidad Community Dinners:** The next community dinner is October 17, 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 socks. Items can be dropped off at church or at the Reimann's house.

**Halloween Care Packages:** The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting goodies (both sweet and salty) for our college kids from October 10 to October 24. Watch for the poster in the Atrium with the collection box. A note to college students and their parents: Please make sure the church office has your new address. We can't assume last year's address is still valid. We wouldn't want to miss anyone.

**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.

## AROUND the Parish

**Birthday Card Shower:** In honor of our members who are 90 or older, we ask the congregation to shower them with birthday wishes to brighten their special day. On October 17 Jules Kasten will celebrate his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. His address is 5 West Central, # 503, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Then, on October 19, Eleanor Kehr celebrates her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her address is 800 West Oakton, Rm. 343C, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. Happy Birthday to both Jules and Eleanor!



**Grace Garden:** Dan Reimann delivered the carrots to NW Compass (La Trinidad didn't want the carrots). He delivered all the other produce to La Trinidad on Sunday, September 19 when they helped out at the Community meal. As of September 16, 561 pounds of produce has been harvested and delivered to the food pantries and La Trinidad. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the garden.

**Invitation:** We would like to make an announcement of a celebration of life gathering for Margit Kjeldbjerg on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. Lunch and drinks will be served. It will be held at Half Day Brewing Company in Lincolnshire. The address is 200 Village Green. It is also adjacent to Vernon Cemetery where she is buried. If you can come, please RSVP to Dan Kjeldbjerg. Email address is [dan@pouls.com](mailto:dan@pouls.com). Phone contact is 847/949-6667 ext. 102.

**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 October we feature the Children and Youth Ministries Committee.

### **Children and Youth Ministries Committee**

Teaching the children of Grace about God and Jesus and their love for us and our world is the goal of the Children's Ministry Team. With the help of a group of dedicated teachers, the kids learn songs, read Bible stories, make crafts and form friendships with each other during weekly Sunday School classes which were kept going this year through Zoom. The kids also get to learn and share in other activities throughout the year. They celebrate Jesus' birthday by being shepherds and wisemen during the Christmas service every December; learn about the meaning of their Baptism at the annual Baptismal Birthday party (and have cake) and find out about the meaning of Lent

and share with the congregation at the yearly Pancake breakfast. They also honor the beauty of our world and what God has given us by getting together for a bonfire and nature walk (and smores) during the year. Grace is very lucky to have a wonderful, eager and exciting group of kids who bring a lot to our congregation. Being able to help them learn the good news is really rewarding and lots of fun. CMT is currently in need of additional teachers. If you are interested in teaching a couple of Sundays during the year, just contact Minda Josten, Dan Reimann or Margit Willis.

## FINANCIAL *Report*

Financial Report ending August 31, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 195,600	\$ 202,438	\$ 6,838
Special Income	23,983	23,355	( 628 )
Prepaid Income	7,083	11,158	4,075
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 226,666</b>	<b>\$ 236,951</b>	<b>\$ 10,285</b>
<b>Expenses thru August</b>	<b>240,614</b>	<b>229,143</b>	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 7,808	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<i>38,620</i>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 46,428	

It is 8 months into 2021 and you still get a shining star. Financial support has been extremely strong even with split services, with some in person attendance and some by Zoom. Your combined efforts have kept your church financially strong and you all deserve the simplest of a reward with a great big THANK YOU!

## *Notes of* THANKS

**Thank you** for your contributions to the Birthday Box Project. 8 boxes were delivered to Mount Prospect Human Services Department.

**Hi,**

I just wanted to give a big thanks to the congregation for the financial support in helping me pay for my tuition. It is much appreciated!

Jack Dietrich

## **Dear Community of Faith at Grace,**

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for making my 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Service on 29 August 2021, a very memorable experience. It was the exact same date I was ordained at Our Savior Lutheran, LaCrosse, WI in 1971.

Thanks to all who have offered various forms and gifts of gratitude to myself and my family. It was a blessing to have Bishop Curry with us, and thanks to Pastor Dan for his assistance and co-operative spirit in making this a great day. Also, thanks to Susan

who at my wife's request used hymns that were either sung at my Ordination or 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my Ordination. We have enjoyed being part of the Grace family since 2005. Thanks again and Christ's blessing to all.

Pastor Paul, Karen, Andrew & Mark Pfeffer

***Dear Friends:***

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$700.00 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

***Dear Friends in Christ,***

*Love your neighbor as yourself.* – Matthew 19:19

Your congregation has shared its blessings with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) and pledged to be a neighbor to the people across Illinois whom we serve, over 43,000 people annually. Thank you so much for your gift of \$1,700.00

Your generosity offers people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential, making the love of God tangible for those in need—our neighbors.

Just as God sees each person in their entirety, LSSI seeks to provide whole-person care to those receiving our services. We depend on the faithful support of congregations like Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to provide this healing ministry to our clients.

LSSI has served Illinois for over 150 years through several mass health crises and many other challenges, due in large part to 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](http://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 Congregation,***

This past 18 months has been difficult for everyone. This makes your donation of \$500.00 even more special. Thank you so much for your continued support. We are thrilled that we have been able to continue to serve the older adults in our community that need rides to their medical appointments as well as reach out to them to provide emotional support during this challenging time.

We hope everyone at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church remains healthy and safe. Thank you again for your support.

With gratitude,  
Dallas Ann Tomlin, Executive Director, Connections to Care (Formerly Escorted Transportation Service)

## *Birthday* LIST

### **October**

9	Carl Storz	22	Melba Panhorst Laura Polfuss Grayson Walger
10	Anthony Ryan		
12	Diane Isenberg Ralph Martinson	23	Jack Kochanski
13	Darlene Sacco	23	Pam Nauert Samantha Pracko
15	Christopher Nauert	23	Jennifer Stutheit
16	Kim Kintzle	24	Kiki Garza Cathy Hoffman
17	Jules Kastesn	27	Sandy Drelicharz Ehren Jannusch Karen Rude
19	Eleanor Kehr Clyde Randmark		
21	Iris Notto	30	Jaxson Rude
		31	Kendall Grimpe Cynthia Hanson
		...	

## **CELEBRATIONS OF** *Life*

### ***Baptisms***

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

Emily Christine Spiezia, daughter of Anthony and Natasha Spiezia, was baptized on September 5, 2021



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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**

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# REFORMATION

**ARTICLE** *Deadline:* October 17