

GRACE NOTES

September 2017



Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!
through

-  Meaningful
Worship
-  Caring
Community
-  Inspirational
Learning
-  Loving
Service
-  Gracious
Invitation

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COUNCIL *Highlights*

Council Highlights For August, 2017 Meeting

Just a note to provide everyone the highlights of the August 16th Council meeting.

In separate articles in this issue of Grace Notes, you will read about the decisions the Council made regarding the future worship time schedule at Grace, and the status of where we are in the search for a permanent pastor, now that we have entered into a covenant with Pastor Dan Schwick to be our interim pastor, beginning September 10, 2017.

In other Council business, I am pleased to report that the Council approved the appointment of three new members to the Pre-School Board, effective immediately. The people who graciously volunteered to take on this assignment are Tom Carlson, Joanne McCollim, and Jennifer Roth. Christa Grabske, the interim Director of the Pre-School, who attended the August Council meeting as a guest, is aware of these appointments. The Pre-School Board next meets on Monday, August 28th, 2017.

Also, the Council has approved a proposal from the Property Committee to undertake a removal and replacement project for the parking lot, not to exceed a budget of \$125,000. The Property Committee has already selected a vendor for this job, and is in final negotiation with the village of Mt. Prospect to obtain final approval and permits to undergo the work. If all goes well, we hope this project will be completed this year.

Any questions related to any Council matters, please contact any Council member to discuss what's on your mind.

Greg Linwood, Council President

Call **PROCESS**

The Council wanted to update all of you on the status of where we are in calling our next pastor. Now that Pastor Dan Schwick has agreed to become our interim pastor, starting September 10, a group of congregants (Council members and others) are working on preparing our Ministry Site Profile, a task that is required by the synod as part of the call process. This is essentially a resume about Grace that potential pastoral candidates can review in deciding their interest in becoming our pastor. Once that document is completed, reviewed by Council, and submitted to the synod to be published, we can get to the process of naming a Call Committee. I want to thank all of you who responded to our earlier "ad" and have expressed interest in serving on this committee. We will keep everyone notified as we progress through this process.

Questions? Contact Greg Linwood

WORSHIP *Schedule*

Fellow Members of Grace,

After careful deliberation and thorough discussion at the July and August meetings, your Council has arrived at a decision regarding the future worship time schedule at Grace. Based on input from many of you, analysis of attendance throughout the summer months over the last three years, and other considerations, the Council has decided to continue the current schedule of having one service at 10 a.m. on Sunday for the indefinite future.

I want to stress two things in light of this decision. One, nothing is ever permanent. While we do not anticipate changing our worship time schedule in the foreseeable future, the Pope did not anticipate changing anything significant in how the Christian (Catholic) Church was behaving on October 30, 1517. The next day, and the days and years after that, have brought monumental changes to the church. So if it's apparent in the future that circumstances warrant changing this decision, we will. Two, the fact that one Sunday service best fits our situation at this point in time does NOT in any way signify that our days as a congregation are numbered. We are still a vibrant, energetic and active part of God's kingdom, and I expect that to continue for a long time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk with any member of your Council.

Greg Linwood, Council President

Rally Day Worship + Picnic

Rally Day is Sunday, September 10, 2017. There will be one service at 10:00am led by our new interim Pastor Daniel Schwick. Come meet and greet him!

Following the service we will have a welcoming picnic for Pastor Schwick. The picnic will include food, fun, fellowship, games, and fabulous prizes. Don't miss it!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Send Birthday Wishes: to Lou Weiss who will celebrate his 92nd birthday on September 17, 2017. Send Lou a birthday card or postcard to help brighten his day to 4701 Larch Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025-1414. Happy Birthday, Lou!

Friendship Group: The Friendship group will meet on September 27, 2017 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 door so we know how many to expect.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Volunteer to bake a sweet treat for the Rally Day picnic. We have the lunch menu planned but we need dessert to make it complete. Please sign up on Pam Walger's office door and let her know if you will be bringing a sweet treat for the picnic.

Volunteer to help with the clean up after the fun of the Rally Day picnic. Please sign up on the sheet provided on Pam Walger's office door or by contacting her at 847-824-7408 or at p.walger@gracemtprospect.org. Many hands make light work!

Donate Prizes for Bingo and other games for the Rally Day picnic. Please place the fabulous prizes outside Pam Walger's office door.

Helping Hands: Prepare and deliver a meal on Monday evenings for a Grace family who lives near church. We are hoping to get a list of volunteers who would frequently offer to bring them a meal. This family has experienced some medical hardship which makes it difficult 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.

Cans Needed for the luminaria put out on Christmas Eve. 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. Thanks.

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!

"Feed My Starving Children" – Our Latest Contribution: A heartfelt thank you to all of you who were able to volunteer and come out to work at the Feed My Starving Children location in Schaumburg on Tuesday, August 15th. We had over twenty volunteers from Grace. We packed a total of 90 boxes, totaling 19,440 meals, enough to feed 53 children for an entire year! This food is being sent to Iraq.

Our next group packing date will be Tuesday, October 17th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Save the date! Sign-up will be available starting Sunday, October 1st, or by going to fmsc.org and joining the group "Grace Lutheran Church" with me, Greg Linwood, as the group leader.

God's work. Our hands. Indeed.

Attention Craft People: Grace will be hosting a crafter's and vendor's fair at church on Saturday, November 4, 2017. If you, or someone you know, would like to reserve a table to display and sell your work, pick up an application by the church office. For more information, contact Margit Willis at 312-607-2684. Proceeds from this event will be used to help the youth group get to Houston for next year's Youth Gathering.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Outreach

Missionary Support: The Rev. Carrie Smith, our current Mission Partner, has a blog at <http://knitpurlpraypreach.blogspot.com> which she updates regularly. Pastor Carrie's home base is Chicago and she will have a home assignment next summer. We are hoping to have the opportunity to meet her then.

Mosquito Invasion: Did you see all the mosquitoes around Grace the last few weeks of August? There is still time to donate to the ELCA to help fight malaria. The official challenge may be over, but not the cases of malaria appearing each day in Africa. Help us in our response to this cause.

Refugee Ministry Update: Our friends at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Prospect Heights donated \$600 to RefugeeOne in support of our resettlement project! This moves our fundraising up past \$2,000. Thanks for all of your donations and prayers for this ministry! Contributions can be made through the offering or online at <http://www.refugeeone.org/mountprospectresettlementteam.html>

During September and October, look for sign-up sheets on a poster in the Narthex for items to donate for the apartment for the new family that we hope to resettle in November

A good New Testament passage to study and pray about for Refugee Ministry is Matthew 25:37-40.

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.

Lutherans in a Lather: It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There is a washtub in the East entryway just waiting for your contribution

of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 oz.) that are not overly scented or perfumed. The soap that is collected will be distributed by LWR to people in need of pride and cleanliness in refugee camps, hospitals and disaster sites around the world. The washtub will be out through Sunday, September 24, 2017.

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.

Food Pantry Donations: Following is a list of some of the items the Wheeling Township Food Pantry could use: coffee, cookies, dry milk, cereal, canned chicken, hash or ham, noodles, condiments, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo. If you don't have time to shop, why not donate money toward a grocery store gift card this month. Place your donation in a pink envelope and mark it "Food Pantry Certificates." Thanks for your generosity.

FINANCIAL *Update*

Financial Report ending July 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$161,189	\$154,411	(\$ 6,778)
Special Income	18,690	26,134	+ 7,444
Prepaid Income	6,975	6,975	0
Total Income	\$186,854	\$187,520	+\$ 666
Expenses thru July	193,604	168,669	
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$+18,851	

As good as the above status is thru 7 months, view them with a guarded optimism. Note that actual expenses are almost \$25,000 under budget which is primarily due to the vacant pastoral position. The current surplus of \$18,850 will change when Pastor Schwick begins his service with us on 9/10/17. Thank you for your support thus far and your continuing support to keep us financially solid as we move thru this transition period.

Notes of THANKS

Thank You for your invitation to worship and preaching, and for your warm hospitality. We are so grateful for Grace's generosity and it was a joy to be with you all. Don't hesitate to be in touch if we can support your efforts.

Blessings, Pastor Robin Brown, Associate Director, Congregational Support, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Thank You for your generous donations of school supplies. 10 filled backpacks were shipped to the Rosebud Indian Reservation. 10 filled backpacks were delivered to River Trails. And, the remaining supplies (15 backpacks with more than enough items to fill them) were delivered to School District 21. The Social Ministry Committee can't thank you enough for the overwhelming support you give our service projects. Grace's members and friends are the best!

The Boxwood Bash Community Festival sponsored by Higher Up Ministries was held on August 12. We thank Sue Buerger for coordinating Grace's participation in this event for the 26th consecutive year. Sue sets up a game for the children to play and awards candy prizes.

Dear Grace family, Thank you very much for the scholarship money. I appreciate it and plan to use it on my textbooks. Anthony Ryan

Dear Grace Members, Thank you so much for the very generous college scholarship money. I plan to use it to put towards my books. I look forward to seeing everyone at Grace when I am home at Thanksgiving.

Love, Jack Kintzle

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran Church, We gratefully acknowledge your donation of eight Aldi gift cards valued at \$200 to Northwest Compass. Our programs provide much needed help to area families in need.

Your contribution benefits your neighbors in the Northwest Suburbs as they navigate through difficult times. Our mission is to enhance our community by providing supportive services, education and empowerment which foster personal responsibility.

On behalf of everyone at Northwest Compass and our neighbors in need, thank you for showing compassion. Your gift changes lives.

Sincerely, Leroy Messenger, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Grace Lutheran Church Parishioners, Thank you for the collection of \$490! As you know this great partnership between River Trails School District 26, Grace Lutheran Church and River Trails has existed for a long time. By having this partnership, all of us help to provide needy families in our community a fun way to spend the summer at the Woodland Trails Pool. This benefit offers socialization for the kids, to be outside, and to swim which is a health benefit. Together, we helped 67 families that were identified through the social workers at District 26.

Thank you for your commitment to help our community.

Sincerely, Patti Mitchell, Superintendent of Recreation, River Trails Park District

Dear Grace Lutheran Parishioners, On behalf of the Frost staff and students, I want to thank you for your continued support. We want to thank you for the generous donation of \$250.00.

We take great pride in the partnership that has developed between your church and our Frost families.

Thank you to all of the parishioners who sponsored. I hope that they realize how many lives they touched. Thank you again for brightening the spirits and lives of our students.

Jeffrey Brusso, Principal, Frost School

Dear Grace Lutheran Church, We would like to thank you for your generous donation of eight \$25 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 donations made by local churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations and individuals.

Sincerely, Julie Kane, LCSW, Human Services Director

SPECIAL *Events*

- **Rally Day:** Sunday, September 10, 2017, Worship at 10am, Picnic at 11:30am
- **WELCA Sunday:** September 17, 2017
- **Friendship Group:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 1:00pm



Birthay LIST**September**

2	Meg Torres James Riordan Connor Riordan	17	Lou Weiss Marcia Rovani Madeleine Stephanie
4	Bradley Schulze Alyssa Pearson	18	Quyen Lee
6	Michael A. Nauert Taylor Greaves	19	Laina Kjeldbjerg
8	Ward Schirmer	20	Marge Martinez
10	Natalie Jannusch	21	Taylor Chantry
11	Sharon Krahn Justin Schirmer	22	John Pracko
13	Paul Pfeffer Mike Menelle	26	Terry Ann Saurmann Cheryl Tyrcha Greg Hammond
14	Bill Dietrich Minda Josten Samantha Nickl	27	Tyler Anderson
15	Richard Herman	29	Rachel Cacchione
		30	Zachary Nauert

CELEBRATIONS OF *Life****Baptisms***

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

Gigi Frances, infant daughter of Joe & Sarah Pirron, was baptized on July 30. Her sponsors are Joshua Bialk and Shannon Pirron. Paternal grandparents are Mike and Cindy Pirron.

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 Sharyl Hanna in the death of her sister, Rhonda Wilkie in North Carolina



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

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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:* September 17