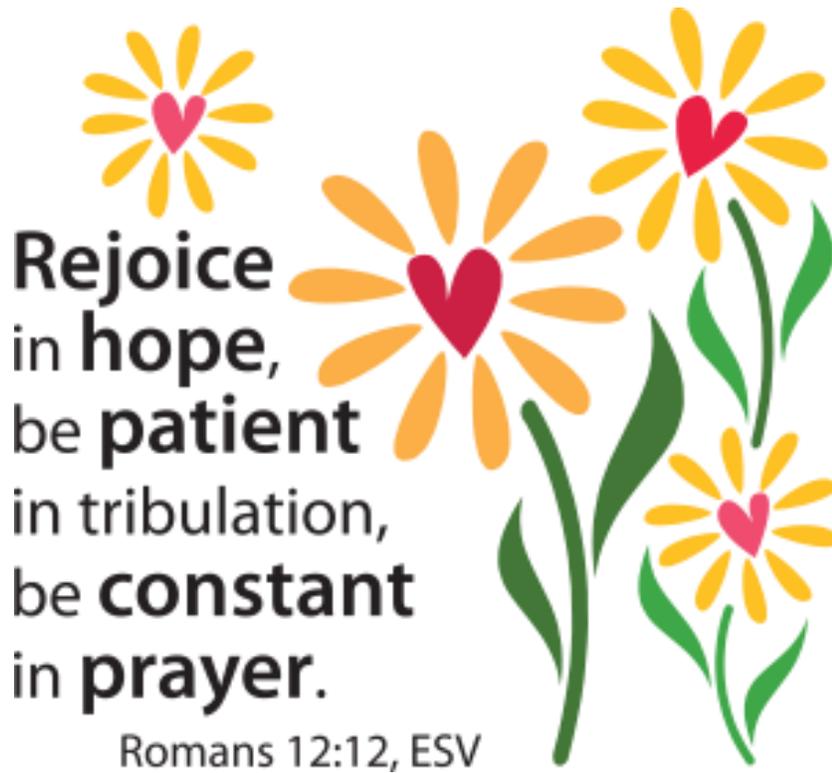


GRACE NOTES

September 2021



Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!
through

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

TABLE OF Contents

- 2 A Note from the Pastor
- 3 Opportunities for Worship and Fellowship
- 4 Opportunities for Learning, Service, and Outreach
- 5 Around the Parish
- 8 Financial Report
Notes of Thanks
- 11 Birthday List
Life Celebrations

A Note **FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Saints of Grace,



Have you ever called your doctor's office, or your school office, or the electric company, or your bank, or your car dealership, or...

Have you ever called anywhere and been put on HOLD?

How does it feel to be on hold? You don't know if you'll talk to a person in 15 seconds or 15 minutes. What do you DO when you're on hold? You probably don't start that batch of cookies you were planning to bake. You're probably not going to start that cleaning project or even that homework project while you're on hold.

In some significant ways—such as returning to our traditional worship—I'm afraid we are on hold. We don't know when the current public health advisory suggesting most people be masked in indoor public settings will be revised. I and other church leaders are aware that other churches, even other Lutheran churches and even churches much bigger than Grace, have returned to "worship as usual." We are also aware of the enormous public pressure to loosen restrictions. Public health matters cannot be addressed by popularity polls. The threat of this virus is a threat to each of us and therefore to all of us. We **MUST** do everything we can to mitigate the spread of this illness.

IN THE MEANTIME:

We are **CURRENTLY** planning to go forward with **RALLY DAY** on Sunday, September 12. We will launch a brand-new Sunday School for Pre-K to 6th grade (sixth graders are more helpers than students).

We are also planning to launch **FIRST TUESDAY**, our new support group for widows and widowers and others who have lost significant loved ones. The launch date is Tuesday, September 7 at 10:30am. I will be facilitating the grief support group based on amazing training I received early in my career. The **FIRST TUESDAY** grief support group will meet on the first Tuesday of September, October, November and December. The group will then determine its own schedule.

We are also **CURRENTLY** planning to launch **THIRD THURSDAY**, our new seniors' ministry for our members and friends. On the **THIRD THURSDAY** of each month we will gather from 10:00am to noon for fellowship, fun, learning, music and celebration. No RSVP necessary. Just show up!

We are also planning to send out a survey to **ALL** our members, asking them to, if possible, log onto our new congregational software package to create your own secure and password protected profile. For any of our members who cannot do that for themselves, they will have an opportunity to return a printed form to the church office.

As many of you know, although we distribute the Sunday bulletin primarily by Constant Contact, we also mail the bulletin to a handful of households who cannot download the service. We are aware that the timeliness of the postal service varies widely. Therefore, we are now sending the service portion of the bulletin TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. Thanks to Susan Nelson and Barb Willis for making this adjustment.

As Barb and I were preparing the September calendar, I joked that we should have a big red banner at the top saying something like ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

But we are going forward. Partly on hold. Partly planning our re-emerging ministry.

Stick with us, Saints of Grace! TOGETHER we will emerge prepared for the next chapter in our ministry.

In Christ's love, joy, peace and hope,
Pastor Daniel Schwick

P.S. I am so pleased to announce the arrival of Lucy Yemiko Schwich, who was born on August 17. She is the daughter of Pastor Peter and Jade Schwich. Lucy is Kathie's and my first grandchild!

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 September 16 from 10:00am until noon for fellowship, fun, learning, music and celebration. All seniors are invited to join us. No reservations required.

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 a redeeming the whole creation. Join us on Wednesdays starting September 8 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*

Shirley Koenig Memorial Soap Drive: It's that time of year again when we collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a washtub in the east entryway from July 11 through September 26 waiting for your contribution of new bars of soap. LWR would prefer bath-sized bars (4 to 5 ounces) 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.

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 August 22, 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.

AROUND *the Parish*

Saints of Grace

(a monthly column by Cynthia Lauletta-Fontaine)



Name: Elizabeth (Libby) Reimann

D.O.B: August 17, 1965

Member: Since 1998

Grew Up: Mt. Prospect

Currently live: Mt. Prospect

Siblings: 1 brother, Tom Meier

Spouse: Dan

Children: Teddy (24), Andy (21)

Favorite Memory of GL: When Dan and I were getting married my parents lived down the street from Nancy and Gordon Greaves. My father asked Gordon what kind of Lutheran he was. Once they talked, he found that he was

the right kind and he guided us to Grace. And that is where we got married and we became members after that.

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Occupation: Started a new job tutoring at Stevenson High School.

Biggest Fear: To be in a fire.

Phobia: Claustrophobia

Sports Team: Cubs

Pets: Yellow Lab named Daisy

Favorite Book: The Boys in the Boat

Dream Vacation: Our family went to Italy in 2008.

Dream Car: 2 seater BMW

Movie: Hotel Rwanda

Favorite Scent: Rosemary

Favorite Sound: Trumpet

Favorite Bible Passage: Philippians 4:4-9

Favorite Song: Don't Stop Me Now by Queen.

Color: Green

Greatest Accomplishment: Raising 2 kids

Ice Cream: Java Chip

Candy: Dark Chocolate

Meal: Dinner at a really good Italian restaurant

Subject: History

Fun Fact: I always wanted to be a ski instructor in winter and a whitewater rafting guide in the summer.

Dinner with anyone: The Obama's

If I won the lottery: I would set up a foundation that would help kids who don't have the means to go to college.

2021 Scholarship Recipients: Congratulations to the following students who received scholarships:

Amy Drelicharz
Danielle Drelicharz
Jack Dietrich
Matthew Pracko
Samantha Pracko
Andy Reimann
Samantha Rude

Grief Support Group: There has been interest expressed in putting together a Grief Support Group. The group will be open to both members and friends of Grace. If you are interested in joining a group like this or if you know someone who would be interested, please contact the church office. The group will be called First Tuesday and meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 until noon.

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 September we feature the Worship and Music Committee along with the choir and Altar Guild.

The purpose and responsibilities of the **Worship and Music Committee** are as follows:

1. together with the Pastor, oversees worship planning, selecting liturgies and liturgical materials for Sundays, festivals and seasons of the church year;
2. together with the Director of Music oversees the musical life of the congregation;
3. oversees worship volunteers: acolytes, altar guild, assisting ministers, lectors and ushers;
4. plans and carries out special events such as the pet blessing, Lenten family nights, and healing services;
5. is responsible for all worship supplies and equipment, flowers, and seasonal decorations.

The changes in Grace's worship services and music due to the pandemic were extensive. Our worship services were only online until this March, about one year. Worshipers participated through ZOOM or watched the service video afterward on Grace's website or one of the two Facebook pages. Music was prerecorded. The only persons at the church were Pastor and anyone doing the recording of the service.

Communion was taken remotely, e.g. at home, with participants providing their own bread and wine or grape juice. Offerings were given in a variety of ways, e.g. mailed in, delivered to the church, or made via automatic deductions from bank accounts.

After in-person services were resumed this past March, we had to adapt to modifications from our pre-pandemic routines. These changes included:

1. limiting the use of the building by us, PETRA, and AA to one designated room for each group;
2. limiting the number of people in the church to no more than 50;
3. wearing face masks;
4. sitting spaced out at 6 feet from one another;
5. hand sanitizer dispensers as we entered the church;
6. a prepackaged communion kit and bulletin were picked up at a table outside the sanctuary;
7. offerings were left in a collection plate on the above table;
8. no out loud speaking or singing.

As the CDC, state, local, and ELCA guidelines have relaxed, the above measures have become less restrictive. On Sunday, July 18, Grace celebrated its first post-pandemic outdoor worship service. Congregants sat near one another and without masks. There was joyful, out loud singing with the choir singing an anthem. This service was greatly appreciated by all who attended it.

The Committee, which usually meets quarterly, has not met since before the pandemic began in March, 2020. Now that the church is reopened, we plan to meet in-person again. We welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Jerry Sakover.

Grace Choir

Church choir is the volunteer-based vocal musical expression of our worship and praise for God. The choir assists in leading worship throughout the academic year. They usually rehearse once a week and sing two Sundays a month as well as major holidays. Any interested member of the congregation can join! Choir. We will meet at 8:45 am for rehearsal prior to the 10 am service. The first rehearsal date (unless changed due to the pandemic) will be either August 29 or September 5. Contact Susan Nelson at 773-220-0347 or email SopranoSusanNelson@gmail.com.

Altar Guild: As Grace reopens, the Altar Guild needs to get back to work. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Atrium for those willing to help set up on Saturdays and clean up on Sundays. Altar Guild takes care of communion, the paraments, flowers, and other tasks assigned by pastor or the Worship and Music Committee. For more information, please contact Betty Carlson at 847/803/9646.



Grace Garden: 283 pounds of produce has been harvested and donated to the local food pantries as of August 17, 2021. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped cultivate the garden. The output has been amazing!

FINANCIAL Report

Financial Report ending July 31, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$ 171,150	\$ 176,486	\$ 5,336
Special Income	20,985	17,896	(3,089)
Prepaid Income	6,198	9,748	3,600
Total Income	\$ 198,333	\$ 204,130	\$ 5,797
Expenses thru July	210,537	195,775	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 8,355	
<i>2019 Operating Surplus Carryover</i>		<u>38,620</u>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 46,975	

We continue to show positive results through July. It is the efforts of all that perpetrates this positive result. We have suffered a temporary hold on "back to action". with masks again required in service and no singing. But if we continue to abide to these new guidelines as temporary as we hope they will be, we will overcome this also.

HE is on this ride with us all the way through what is to come. Keep your faith strong, believe in what will come, and THANK YOU for your continuing support of Grace.

Notes of THANKS

Dear Friends at Grace,

I'm so grateful for the wonderful parade of birthday cards for my 93rd birthday that arrived in my mail at Friendship Village in the previous weeks. I miss you and being able to worship with you but I am content with my life and give thanks for my family and friends.

Joan Russell

Dear Members of Grace,

I am very grateful for receiving the Grace Scholarship on behalf of the congregation. I appreciate all of the support given to me from you all. The well wishes and encouragement always strengthens me, especially when entering this new chapter of my life. Thank you, always.

-Amy Drelicharz

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship to help me further my education. I really appreciate all your support.

- Danielle Drelicharz

Dear Grace Family,

I wanted to thank you for the generous college scholarship gift. I am entering my fifth year of teaching and I decided it was time to return to school to further my education. This gift will help me earn my Educational Technology Leadership Masters Degree from Concordia University. Just like our students, teachers also never stop learning! Your support in all aspects of my life, including my education, means a lot to me!

Thank you again, Samantha Rude

To the Grace Congregation, Thank you for the \$1000 scholarship that you gave me to help pay for my continuing college education. College is expensive and this money really helps to offset some of that cost. It helps me to continue to learn, and become a better instrument of God's grace.

Thanks again, Andy Reimann

A Huge Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts and "Happy Retirement" wishes to me. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and FABULOUS gifts. So many cool and thoughtful things were wrapped and put into the pretty pink laundry baskets. I have no idea who sent some of the gifts. Those secret friends will not receive a personal thank from me but please know my heartfelt thanks go out to you all here.

Such special sentiments were expressed by everyone in the cards and notes I received – WOW.

I was especially surprised by the bag of \$100,000 Candy Bars. What a Sweet Treat!

You're always in my heart.

Pam Walger

Thank You to all who contributed Birthday Bags for the Mount Prospect Human Services Department. Your originality and cleverness in putting the bags together should provide the recipient with a wonderful birthday celebration. The Social Ministry Committee appreciates your support of this project.

Thank You for your donations of school supplies and funds to purchase supplies. The Social Ministry Committee was able to send 10 filled backpacks to Rosebud Indian Reservation and 10 sets of supplies to District 21. We are still working to fulfill District 26's needs.

Dear Grace:

After a year of many video calls, RefugeeOne youth are buzzing with excitement about the upcoming summer—and even returning to in-person school next fall!

Thanks so much for joining with others in equipping youth for their next steps.

Your generous donation of 20 pairs of gym shoes valued at \$600.00 toward the RefugeeOne Active Learning Drive relieves refugee families of back-to-school expenses and ensures students they have what they need to approach the next school year.

We're grateful for your part in encouraging refugee youth. Your support makes a big difference as they build the foundation for a bright future.

Sincerely Joan Bosma Goodwin, Assistant Director of Development, RefugeeOne

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting the Northfield Township Food Pantry with your recent donation.

This past year has been unlike any other, here and in many communities. Demand for pantry services rose more than 50% and our client list has grown significantly. We have been able to meet that extra demand because of generous people like you. In fact, we have increased the amount of food distributed to each pantry client household. Your support ensures that we can provide food, personal hygiene items, household products and gift cards to those in need today and in the future.

On behalf of our neighbors who benefit from your compassion, thank you for your dedication to our community and helping us fulfill our promise that hunger is unacceptable in our community.

Kind regards, Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Supervisor, Northfield Township Food Pantry

Birthday LIST

September

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2 | Connor Riordan
James Riordan | Samantha Nickl |
| 4 | Bradley Schulze | 15 Richard Herman |
| 6 | Taylor Greaves
Olivia Nagle
Michael Nauert | 17 Marcia Rovani
Madeleine Stephanie |
| 8 | Ward Schirmer | 19 Laina Kjeldbjerg |
| 10 | Natalie Jannusch | 20 Marge Martinez |
| 11 | Justin Schirmer | 22 John Pracko |
| 13 | Mike Nauert
Paul Pfeffer | 23 LaVonne Cook |
| 14 | Bill Dietrich
Minda Josten | 26 Greg Hammond
Terry Saurmann |
| | | 30 Zachary Nauert |

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 express our sympathy to Betty Benson on the death of her sister Elly Wolatz on August 9, 2021.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing God's Amazing Grace!

1624 E. Euclid Ave.
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Phone 847-824-7408
www.gracemtprospect.org
www.facebook.com/gracemtprospect



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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2215
Palatine, IL

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**

Pastor: Daniel Schwick
d.schwick@gracemtprospect.org

Church Secretary: Barbara Willis
b.willis@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Lay Ministry: Pam Walger
p.walger@gracemtprospect.org

Director of Music: Susan Nelson
sopranosusannelson@gmail.com

Organist:

Pre-school Director: Rebeka Russell

Mission Partner: Rev. Carrie Smith
carrie.smith@elca.org

Grace Notes Editor: Debbie Bodett
bodettdeb@sbcglobal.net



**WE WILL
NEVER
FORGET**

PATRIOT DAY

ARTICLE *Deadline:* September 19