

GRACE NOTES

November 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

Dear Saints of Grace:



November brings us the closely related seasons of Stewardship and Thanksgiving.

This is a time to “take inventory” of all that we have and to be thankful for all God’s gifts

Stewardship asks the question, how are we taking care of the tremendous gifts that God has given to each of us—our time, our talent and our treasure? We know that we can never “repay” God for all our blessings. We can’t even adequately catalogue or count all our blessings. In fact, it is pretty normal for us to take some fundamental gifts—life itself, home, family, air to breath, food to sustain us—for granted. Stewardship is an attitude based on gratitude.

Thanksgiving is also an attitude. It is a recognition that in the midst of the many gifts that we have and enjoy, we also acknowledge the Source. God is good. God has been good to me. In response, I seek to live in the world with the freedom and the responsibility that God has given me.

In November we will have two big opportunities to express our stewardship and thanksgiving:

On All Saints Sunday, November 3, we will also observe Commitment Sunday. On that day, you will be invited to turn in your financial as well as your time and talent pledges for 2020.

Then later that month, on Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00pm, we will join with our friends from Petra Church to celebrate Thanksgiving Eve. Petra’s pastor, Pastor Christian Kim, will provide the message that evening. The Petra Praise Band along with the Grace Choir will provide music for the service.

Stewardship and Thanksgiving are both attitudes that one could practice alone. But how much better is it to celebrate our giftedness together and together to respond in joyful thanks-giving.

“Merciful Father, we offer WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING what you have first given us—ourselves, our time and our processions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

In Christ’s love, joy, peace and hope!

Pastor Dan

P.S. Kathie and I will be on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi as part of our professional continuing education from November 11-22. Pastor Paul Pfeffer will lead worship on Sunday, November 17.

GROWING GRACE ROUNDTABLE *Update*

A report is being prepared on our experience with the garden this summer. Everyone agreed that we should plan to do the garden next year. Feedback is needed on both the good things experienced and suggestions for how to do some things better.

Dan Reimann has agreed to chair the Grace Green Team. A May 16, 2020 event is being planned with Roundtable participants contacting the Mount Prospect Park District, the Water Reclamation District, the University of Illinois Conservation group, the River Trails Nature Center, Wheeling Township, Mount Prospect Public Works, and other area churches. The Grace Green Team will meet November 4th from 7-8:30pm.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Worship*

All Saints Sunday, November 3: Please bring a candle or candles to be placed on the altar in memory of your loved one who have died. Please make sure that your candle(s) are in a stand that will keep them from melting on the altar or carpet. You may place your candles on the altar during the Prelude that Sunday. After worship, you may take your candles with you.

(Don't forget to bring your stewardship pledge forms that Sunday as well.)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Fellowship*

Mail Holiday Wishes: Please share a Thanksgiving blessings by sending a card to those on our list of homebound members and "Just Because Friends." They will be cheered when receiving your greetings. An updated list of their names and addresses can be found on the poster with the large pumpkin.

November Group Outing: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 4:00pm. The group will be going to see the musical "MATILDA" at Hersey High School. Stay tuned for more information.

60th Anniversary: We will be having a catered luncheon on Sunday, December 15th to celebrate Grace's 60th anniversary. Please be on the lookout for more details in the coming weeks. If you have any questions you can reach Amy Pracko at apracko@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Learning*

Memory Loss Program: Plan to attend a program here at Grace on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The Lutheran Home will bring a program and luncheon to our church at noon on that day. The program is entitled "How to Recognize Memory Loss." This presentation will help you understand what is considered normal aging memory loss and when you should be concerned. LOOK FOR A SIGN-UP SHEET IN NOVEMBER.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Service*

Bake for the Thanksgiving Eve Service: Volunteer to bake cookies to be served after the 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on Wednesday, November 27th. Please let Pam Walger know if you will be baking.

Offering Counters Needed: 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.

Deliver Altar Flowers: 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?

Jayne Boom Cookie Walk: Our 12th annual Jayne Boom Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 8th following the service. We look forward to enjoying your homemade cookies, so please plan to bake and bring the cookies to church with you by 9:00am on that date. Proceeds will go to youth activities.

Altar Guild: Altar Guild members and anyone who is interested in volunteering to help Altar Guild are asked to sign-up on the sheet on the table in the Parlor. Please sign-up for a Sunday or a number of weeks to help with the altar guild duties.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Outreach*.

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 4. Your donations to this project are greatly appreciated.

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. We will be doing a Thanksgiving themed dinner on November 17 and a Christmas dinner on December 22. For more information about these visits, please contact Greg Linwood, Libby Reimann, Debbie Bodett, Nancy Greaves, Sue Buerger, or Greg Hammond.

Bring a Non-Perishable Food Item to the Thanksgiving Eve Service: The food brought to church for this service will be delivered to a food pantry in our area. Please remember those less fortunate during this season and throughout the year.

The Giving Tree: A Grace tradition of collecting Christmas gifts for children in need begins on Thanksgiving Eve. Gift tags with the gender and age of the child in either School District 21 or School District 26 will be available. New, wrapped gifts of approximately \$15 should be brought to church by Sunday, December 8th and placed under the tree in the East entryway. Toys or games are especially welcomed. All other necessary details can be found on the tags.

On Sunday, December 2nd any tags not picked up on Thanksgiving Eve along with tags for La Trinidad will be available on the tree in the East entryway. La Trinidad is asking for hats, scarves and gloves. The unwrapped gifts for La Trinidad should be placed under the tree by Sunday, December 15th.

Thanks for your continuing support of this special holiday Social Ministry Committee project.

Mallternative: Soon the Christmas season will be upon us, which means it is time for Mallternative once again. Please consider buying a gift in honor of a friend or relative. This year you can purchase the ever popular farm animals, provide school kits or help disaster victims right here in the United States.

Don't worry. After you buy one of these gifts, your friend won't have to worry about taking care of a pig or repairing electrical grids! Instead, the gift will go to someone in need in an underdeveloped country or here, and your friend will receive a card saying that you gave a gift in his or her honor. It is a wonderful way to share the bounty of our lives with those who are less fortunate. What better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Order forms will be in the Church bulletins after Thanksgiving. Orders will be accepted December 8th and December 15th.

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." 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.

AROUND *The Parish*

Congratulations: to Amy Pracko who ran in the Chicago Marathon on October 13th and finished the race in 7:44:32. Her next race is the New York City Marathon.

Congratulations: to Chaplain (LTC) Paul D. Pfeffer who was awarded The Order of the Holy Spirit by the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, Priory of Saint Patrick in the Hudson Valley of New York at the United States Military Academy, West Point. The Order is bestowed upon those members of the clergy who have performed their service to God and Humanity in an outstanding manner through their exemplary works and deeds. Chaplain Pfeffer has served as Chaplain of the Priory of St. Norbert for many years and has been instrumental in numerous charitable programs including "Water Well Construction" projects, Christian youth programs, support of future military chaplains, and support programs for local middle and high school youth. Pastor Pfeffer is only the 20th clergy to receive this award. The Order was presented by Brigadier General Sir John Digilio, Jr. a member of the Priory of St. Patrick, West Point on September 29, 2019.



FINANCIAL Update

Financial Report ending September 30, 2019

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Weekly Envelope Income	\$213,000	\$220,040	\$ 7,040
Special Income	27,000	24,980	(1,500)
Prepaid Income	7,836	8,752	916
Total Income	\$247,836	\$253,772	\$ 5,936
Expenses thru September	257,826	252,850	
Current Year Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 922	
<u>2018 Operating Surplus Carryover</u>		<u>38,696</u>	
Remaining Surplus		\$ 39,618	

We are still reflecting very favorable results through September. There are still 3 months left in the year and expenses are still trending closer to budget than in previous years. Your continuing support during the last quarter of the year will be greatly appreciated. We have been advised that we will have another major expense on our main heating boiler for the sanctuary so we can be comfortable this winter.

Notes of **THANKS**

Thank You to everyone who donated soap for Lutheran World Relief. Over 120 pounds of soap were given to LWR in our annual Shirley Koeinig Memorial Soap Drive. Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee.

Dear Congregation,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff and residents of Wheeling Township, we would like to express our gratitude for your thoughtful donation of **fresh produce** on August 15, 2019. Your contribution will make sure that residents in need will be assisted.

Your commitment and generosity to our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for assisting us in fulfilling our mission of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.”

Kathleen M. Penner, Supervisor; Julie Villarreal, MA, Director of General Assistance

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$318.00 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.
The Rev. Robin K. Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations

Dear Grace,

Thank you so much for the scholarship money. I so appreciate it. I can't thank you guys enough for supporting me and my academic career. I hope you guys are all doing well and can't wait to be back in a couple months!

Thank you, Jenni Josten

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 \$220.00.

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 supported your bake sale. I hope that they realize how many lives they touched. Thank you again for brightening the spirits and lives of our students.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Brusso, Principal, Frost School

SPECIAL *Events*

- ***Daylight Saving Time Ends:*** Sunday, November 3 at 2am
- ***All Saints Sunday:*** Sunday, November 3
- ***Stewardship Sunday:*** Sunday, November 3

- ***Feed My Starving Children:*** Tuesday, November 5 from 6-7:30pm
- ***Growing Grace Roundtable:*** Sunday, November 10 after the service

- ***Group Outing:*** to Hersey High School on Wednesday, November 13 at 4pm

- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, November 17, leaving church at 9am
- ***Memory Loss Program:*** Wednesday, November 20 at noon in Charter Hall

- ***Thanksgiving Eve Service:*** Wednesday, November 27, 7:00pm

- ***Hanging of the Greens:*** Saturday, November 30 at 9am

- ***Jayne Boom Cookie Walk:*** Sunday, December 8, 2019 following the service
- ***60th Anniversary Celebration:*** Sunday, December 15

- ***La Trinidad Community Dinner:*** Sunday, December 22, leaving church at 9am

- ***Christmas Eve Services:*** Family Celebration, 4:30pm, Caroling at 10:30pm, Candlelight Eucharist at 11:00pm

Birthday LIST

November

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Daniel Ellertson | 18 Cindy Pirron |
| 3 JoAnne Panzer | 19 Robin Greaves |
| 5 Daniel Reimann | 21 Jeff Greaves |
| 8 Jane Hartfelder
Kristin Grimpe | 23 Tom Swiatkiewicz |
| 9 Cory Cordier | 25 Betty Benson
Lynn Shaffer
Jill Stephanie
Chris Vasanth |
| 10 Nancy Eschbach | |
| 11 Nick Thompson | 27 Wendy Kjeldbjerg
Elizabeth Gharagozlou |
| 14 Steve Hanna | 28 Ryan Bell |
| 15 Jack Dietrich | |
| 16 Gianna Lauletta | 29 Mary Meschbach
Joanna Josten |

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 the family of Janet Gaiser who died on October 17, 2019. A memorial service is scheduled for November 2, 2019 at 10:00am at church.

We extend our sympathy to Marcia Rovani and family on the death of her nephew.



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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**

Pastor: Daniel Schwick
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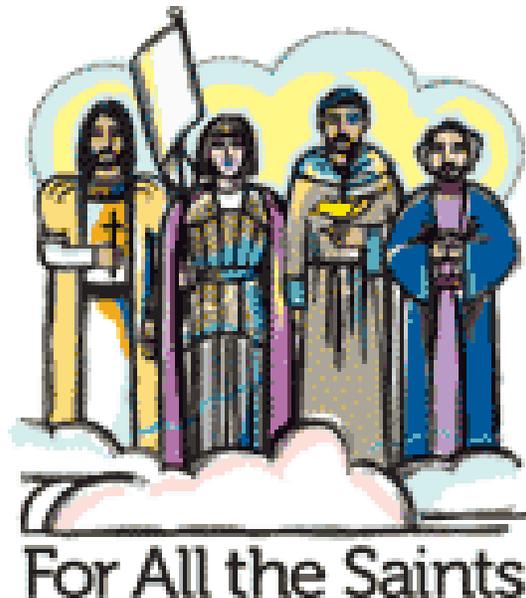
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ARTICLE *Deadline:* November 17