



Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

Fall Winter 2018

**Affirming,
Courageous, Caring**

**Grace Lutheran
Church of Evanston
1430 South Blvd.
847.475.2211**

**Grace Is An Open
And Affirming RIC
Congregation**

OUR MISSION:

To courageously live out our faith by sharing grace with each other and the communities we serve.

OUR VISION:

All God's people will feel accepted, challenged, and cared for by Grace Church.

SUNDAY:

9:00am & 11:00am

Worship Services

10:00am Education Hour

**Rev. Daniel Tallon Ruen
Pastor**

pd@graceevanston.org

**Mark Bowman
Music Director**

The Rev. Carmelo Alvarez,
The Rev. Erik Christensen,
The Rev. Abner Cunningham
The Rev. Eldon DeWeerth,
The Rev. Betty Landis,
The Rev. Elizabeth Palmer,
The Rev. Kaari Reiersen,
The Rev. Raquel Rodríguez,
and The Rev. Gordon Straw,
Colleagues in Ministry

Liz Laughlin, Youth and
Family Coordinator,

Marie O'Brien,
Parish Administrator

Jackson DeLeon Lopez and
Paola Galicia, Sextons

Stay Awake!



I look around at how Grace is humming these days, and I am amazed. We are slowly but surely realizing our vision of being a Jesus-inspired, Neighborhood Center for Action and Connection.

We sponsor a free, weekly community meal that continues to form lasting and powerful connections with our neighbors, giving young parents space and time to let their kids play while they get a needed break. We host numerous gatherings in the Fellowship Hall, whether they are family parties, non-profit meetings, workshops, or conferences.

Our Ice Cream Social was the biggest and best yet this last August, with over 100 neighbors stopping by to be served and to meet us. Our name is becoming known around our area and around the city of Evanston.

Our Sunday School program is growing in terms of new children and new adult volunteers. More parents are attending our Generations (Confirmation) program on Sunday mornings while their kids are in Sunday School. Our Generations program continues to draw full participation from the parents of our middle school kids. Our high-school youth and parents sent

nine young people and three adult chaperones to the National Youth Convention in Houston this last summer, and we are working to expand our regular High School programming.

And we now enter our third year as a Diakonia site, journeying with

adult Christians from around the Metro Chicago Synod to better understand the scriptures, theology, practical ministry, pastoral care, discipleship—and their own call in God's world.

We continue to partner with the Samaritan Counseling Center and Alternatives to Violence so they might work through important issues with their clients. Family Promise runs strong and deep here at Grace, hosting homeless families four times a year in partnership with St. Nick's Roman Catholic Church and St. James Armenian. We hope to establish a new relationship soon with another ministry partner who might fill the old Y.O.U. administrative space.

Grace is likewise active in terms of justice opportunities in our community, in Metro Chicago, and the State of Illinois. Whether it's attending Evanston Council

Continued on next page

Advent and Christmas at Grace, 2018

- Dec. 2: 9am & 11am** First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 5: 5:30pm** Las Posadas feast & neighborhood walk (*Meal starts at 5:30*)
- Dec. 9: 9am & 11am** Second Sunday of Advent;
New Member Sunday; Grace Budget Meeting 12:15
- Dec. 12: 7pm** Blue Christmas/Midweek Service
- Dec. 17: 9am & 11am** Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 19: 7pm** Midweek Vespers
- Dec. 23: 10am** Children's Pageant / cooperative service
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: 7pm Special Music, 7:30pm Service**
- Dec. 25: 10am Christmas Morning Worship**
- Dec. 30: 10am** Cooperative service



Stay Awake, continued

meetings to fight for mental health funding, affordable housing, and keeping Fire Station #4 open, working with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, or hosting our first Better Angels gathering to bring conservatives and liberals together across the political divide, we represent a neighborhood center yearning to act with love, courage, and care in the world.

Our in-house capital appeal has already raised over \$100,000.00, and we haven't borrowed a cent. We have a new roof, will soon have the heat fixed in the education building, and we hope to begin a re-build of the lift to keep Grace safe and accessible. We also hope to fix the windows, renovate the lounge, and deal with drainage issues and mold around the north side of the building, fix the flat roof, and perhaps install solar panels up above.

Finally, our two worship services are filled with great attendance, participation, music, and energy.

None of this is due to any one person's leadership or hard work. We have come to this place—this level of Neighborhood Action and Connection—because we have 'stayed awake,' (Mark 14:38) as a community. The Spirit of God has created, and continues to create, a welcome and a purpose for so many people in our small and scrappy church here in South Evanston.

I am astounded, mostly because I often have no idea what is happening how, when and where around the church. It is a Pastor's dream to witness a congregation taking charge of their own ministry, staying awake as a Body of Christ to attend to the needs and demands of their church and their world.

God knows we are not perfect. God knows we are a group of forgiven sinners who are in constant need of God's teaching and God's grace. All that I listed above was not because of our own power or our own personal need to achieve anything—I believe it came from the power of God's grace, a grace that finds its way into everyone's heart...if we just know how to get out of the way and let it do its work.

It was impossible for Jesus' disciples to stay awake before his crucifixion because they were frightened, anxious, and they were following Jesus selfishly; they weren't yet bonded by the Holy Spirit.

After the resurrection of Jesus, however, they realized they could stay awake forever as a community of joy, as a people who knew how to lay down their burdens and allow another sibling of God to pick them up.

And so to say to you all, 'Stay Awake!' should not send anyone into despair. The Spirit continues to keep us awake as a church, to spread around the work, to empower more and more people with God's gifts, and to bring out the individual gifts we have to offer.

Enjoy. Enjoy. Enjoy. I thank God for you, and for this unfolding experience together!

Pastor Daniel

Congratulations to Christine Collins



Christine Collins is a member of the Research and Development team at AbbVie that was recently nominated for the Prix Galien Award, a recognition of significant advances in research – the Oscars of the pharmaceutical industry.

Nominated for work on developing *Mavyret*, a cure for hepatitis C virus infections, the team did not ultimately win the award. But the nomination was an honor in itself, and the gala dinner and ceremony at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City was a great experience.

+ Don McCrary +



**1st Row: Jill Graham, Don McCrary, Marilyn Mason;
2nd Row: Dave & Carolyn Utech.**

This photo is all the more precious to those of us who knew Don since he died this past September.

High School Youth Events



Tree of Life vigil at Beth Emet Oct 29



Grace youth apple picking adventure in Woodstock, IL Nov 3.



Pumpkin carving was a youth evening hang out at Grace Oct 27.

The fire pit.



2019 Budget Information

Comments on what we've done in 2018.

- We sent 9 students plus chaperones to the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans, raising more money for the effort than was needed (meaning that there is still \$1870 designated for a youth mission trip).
- Through Wonderful Wednesdays, Ice Cream Social, (more?) we've expanded our social ministry outreach.
- We've initiated a capital appeal and come to understand many of the needs in our building so that we continue to use it to serve. Uses of the building include Family Promise, Samaritan Center, voting, community forums such as OPAL, ...
- Overall, we've spent about \$12,000 more than budgeted, and received about \$5,000 less. Consequently, our bank balance has dropped significantly.
- Although a minor cost, we've cleaned up the former YOU space in anticipation of making it available to future tenants.

Benevolences through September 30:

ELCA Metropolitan Synod	11,836.00
Emergency assistance.....	4,137.85
Interfaith Action	1,977.09
Night Ministry.....	500.00
Puerto Rico relief.....	1,500.00
Soup Kitchen	174.38
Lutheran World relief	714.08
Lutheran Immigration relief services	2,205.00
Community renewal society.....	250.00
Chicago Coalition of welcoming churches	250.00
YWCA	150.00
Open Communities	150.00
Haitian festival.....	350.00
Total	24,194.40

What's new or changed for 2019.

- Most items are close to or unchanged from 2018 in the proposed budget.
- We discussed last year making our staff raises equal dollars rather than equal percent. I've proposed a \$4,000 increase in salaries, \$800 to each (PD, Marie, Mark, Liz, Jackson) .
- Overall, roughly an increase of \$10,000 in proposed budget.
- We closed out the capital bank account and are retaining those funds in the reserve account. I believe that this still serves us adequately.

Time line for budget communication and meeting

- Note that I am trying to keep the budget and capital appeal processes separate in an effort to avoid confusion.
- Put proposed budget and benevolence spending information in Nov. Harbinger.
- Prepare budget meeting presentation during early Nov.
- Hold information sessions between/after church services during Nov to answer questions.
- Hold budget meeting Sunday, Dec. 9.

Graceful Gardeners Have a New Compost Tumbler

Just in time for winter, too!.

The old compost container by the alley finally fell apart so a new tumbler was purchased and assembled by Jim and Holly O'Connor (and anyone who thinks Ikea projects are hard to figure out, haha, try this!). The tumbler is close to the back door in the alley.

A tumbling composter is supposed to create compost more quickly than the pile method, so we shall see. We use the compost for the raised garden beds.



All Grace members are invited to bring their items to compost - veg scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, etc. (no meat, fish, chicken, bones, etc. - those attract "creatures"...) and put in the composter.

Directions: Unlock, open up, throw in the scraps, close back up. If you want to give it a spin, make sure the locks are secure, unlatch the pin on the side, and use the indent handles to turn.



2019 Proposed Grace Budget

Description:	2016	2017	2018	2018, Actual	2019, Proposed
Partners in Ministry:					
ELCA/Metropolitan Chicago Synod	15,100.00	16,000	17,000.00	11,836	18,000
Other Partners in Ministry:					
Emergency Assistance	3,000	3,000	3,000.00	4,138	3,000
Inspired Giving	0	10,000	10,000.00	8,221	10,000
Total:	18,100.00	29,000	30,00.00	24,194	31,000
Action Ministries:					
Communication (formerly Faith Development)	2,000	2,200.00	400	218	400
Education	0	0	2,000	963	2,000
Evangelism	0	0	200	0	200
Fellowship	0	0	800	19	800
Social ministry	0	0	6,000	5,932	7,000
Stewardship	0	0	500	0	200
Music	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1,517	1,500
Worship	2,600	2,600.00	2,600	2,502	2,700
Youth Trip	1,500	2,000.00	4,000	13,989	4,000
Total:	7,100.00	7,800.00	17,500	25,140	18,800
Operations:					
Mortgage	23,748	23,748.00	23,748	17,811	23,748
Property	22,500	22,500.00	24,000	18,861	25,000
Utilities	21,000	20,000.00	16,000	12,243	16,000
Insurance	11,000	12,100.00	10,000	6,022	10,000
Office Expenses	7,000	7,000.00	7,000	6,855	7,300
Total:	85,248.00	85,348.00	80,748	61,791	82,048
The Staff of Grace:					
Salaries & Housing Allowance & Employment Taxes: Pastor, Sexton, Music and Education Directors & Office Manager	125,284	130,030.00	143,697	107,191	147,697
Professional Fees: Guest ministers & musicians	0	0	0	0	0
Conferences & Assemblies	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	811	1,000
Pastor discretionary Expenses for Grace	0	0	1,000	928	1,000
Student Loan Repayment	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Pensions	47,600	50,100.00	53,040	40,004	55,110
Professional Development: Adult education, books, etc. to benefit professional career of Pastor & Music Director	1,200	1,300.00	1,000	545	1,000
Total:	175,084.00	182,430.00	199,737	149,479	205,807
Above the Beans:					
In-kind contributions					
Pass thru contributions					
Total					
Total Spending Plan:	285,532.00	304,578.00	327,985.00	260,604.00	337,655.00

+ Sydell Reeves +

1/31/1926 - 9/18/2018 • "Celebrate Good Times, Come On!"

Sydell "Sy" C. Reeves, Child of God, was born on January 31, 1926 in Chicago, Illinois. Sydell was a proud graduate of Carl Schurz High School (and loved singing the school song!) and Cornell College. Sydell started her career at Arthur Anderson Accounting Firm where she met her future husband. She married her best friend, Gilbert Reeves on May 26, 1951. Due to the cultural norms of the day, Gil and Sy could not work at the firm together after their marriage. Sydell moved into the advertising world but reminisced that her favorite role was working with Reverend Martin Marty at The Christian Century magazine.

Sydell was devoted to serving others and an active volunteer to numerous charitable and civic organizations including Gateway to Learning, Blind Service Association, Chicago Uptown Ministry and the Smithsonian Institution. Her lifelong passions included appreciation and participation in music and singing ... and the Cubs!

Sydell is survived by sister-in-law, Julie Reeves, loving nephews, nieces, adored great-nephews, great nieces, and great-great nephews and nieces, her church family and many dear friends. As one of her friends said, if you knew Gil and Sy, they became part of your family.

Sydell was preceded in death by her beloved Gil, her parents, brother-in-law Jean Reeves, sisters-in-law, Lenore Borup and Shirley Reeves, niece Laurie Brozowski.

Internment will be at Christ Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C. Memorial gifts in Sydell's name can be made to "Gateway to Learning" and sent in care of Sy's niece Linnea Thennes, 2912 Maryville Dr. McHenry, IL. 60051.

Spontaneous comments from Grace members to the email Pastor Daniel sent out informing the congregation of Sydell's fall and inevitable death:

We saw Sy on Tuesday [2 days before she fell]. She was very tired and could only tolerate a short visit. She told us, "Soon we will sing and dance — and we'll sing louder than anything — and then we will have dinner and Florentines for dessert and then we will play bridge." (I didn't tell her we don't play bridge.) She has plans. **Carolyn Utech**

Thank you for letting us know about Sy. May God take her in his arms and cradle her till the end of her stay on earth. **Pat Brunger**

I enjoyed the way Sy was such an avid Cubs fan. She said that one of the players was a particular favorite, many, many years ago. I believe she connected with some of the residents of Belmont Village by watching Cubs games there. Way, way, long ago, she and Gil used to give me a ride to church during a period when I didn't have a car, something I appreciated very much. **Marilyn Mason**

As many of you know, we always said that Sy was instrumental in getting Les and I together. She and Gil and I were in choir together and she invited me to the Gateway dance and told me to bring a date: Les. The rest is history. I will miss her deeply, but I am so thankful to have known her. We will be in Ireland for two weeks, and the funeral may be during that time. Please dance for me. **Rachel Inch**



Remember to play "Celebrate" during the service and in her honor dance in the aisles! **Les Inch**

Thank you for letting us know about Sy. I will forward this email to friends from St. John's Lincolnwood who were volunteer partners with Sy at Gateway to Learning and also to several Gateway staff and parents. I am thankful that this wonderful woman touched my life. **Ginny Ayers**

When Ron and I first came to Grace in 1979, Sy and Gil sat behind us in church every Sunday. The memories of Gil's wonderful singing voice and Sy's warmth and outgoing personality are still vivid in our minds. They were Grace personified. **Sue Graef**

Our Hearts are broken, but we rejoice that Sy can rest in the promise of eternal life in Christ and can finally join her beloved Gil.

Connie Wood and Nancy VanBrundt

Sy was my energetic ushering partner. I have missed her upbeat personality. May God bring her peacefully into eternity. **Janet Wright**

I too give thanks for the time that I've known Sy. May she dance and party in heaven, saving a spot for all of us. **Russ Kohnken**

I remember those birthday cards that she sent, those jokes and the kidding - That smile and her generosity! **Steve Albers**

I did not know Sy nearly as long as many of you did, but I do remember our joking arguments about baseball. She told me about hanging around Cubs ballpark waiting for ball players, to get their autographs. I could identify with that. I know her home going will be a relief to all who know her. **Claudia Perry**

I always enjoyed discussing political candidates with Sy. She usually favored one party....but was willing to hope for the best with the other!

Holly O'Connor

Heaven has just welcomed its latest angel. Sy, with her heart of gold, was an angel walking this earth. She gracefully and peacefully went home to be with her dear husband and her holy family. May God bless her soul. She will be missed, for we love this woman dearly, for countless reasons. Her tender smile, sweet laughter, her caring and loving attitude, and most of all her great sense of humor were a blessing to us that we'll cherish forever. We look forward to celebrating her life with our Grace family.

Dominique, Marjorie & Rools

Sy seemed to have a special, and individual, relationship with each of us. She had such a wonderful sense of fun and appreciation for all things. May God's peace and comfort be with her now. **Christine Collins**

It's been marvelous to read all these wonderful remembrances and impressions of dear Sy. As many of you know, Sy died peacefully on September 18, 2018 at 4:30am. **Pastor Daniel**

And YES: We did play Kool and the Gang's 'Celebration' at full volume for the final song of the memorial service. ;)

Bridges to Home Cabaret 2018 – A Great Success!

Bridges to Home (a project of the five Lutheran churches in Evanston with Connections for the Homeless, to help pay the rent for two young men beginning a new, independent life) just hosted the 3rd annual Cabaret of musical and culinary talent from the 5 churches to raise money for the Bridges to Home apartment. This year we collected almost \$2,600.00



At this time, we would like to give a big thank you to our Grace musical talent:

- Sally Schleker who performed “The Alto’s Lament” to many laughs and lots of applause
- Christine Collins and Russ Kohnken who led a sing-along of familiar Disney tunes
- Kerry Jenkins and Erik Christensen who closed the program with the moving “Imagine” by John Lennon

And our culinary talent this year:

- Steve Mosco
- Claudia Perry
- Jan Blackburn
- Dorothy Nagelbach

Supervisory Grace talent who kept the show rolling smoothly were:

- Pastor Daniel Ruen, Master of Ceremonies
- Jarrod Gaither, Stage Manager
- Nancy Schubert, Kitchen Queen

Although Dorothy Nagelbach and I are proud to represent Grace in Bridges to Home, we could use some more talent. Connections for the Homeless is ready for us to expand our support from financial to interaction with the young men who initially live in Our House and then move to an apartment sponsored by Bridges to Home. Their website at <https://www.connect2home.org/> lists many ways to serve. Please consider donating your time and talent. You will be rewarded many times over.

Thanks to all of you who attended the Cabaret. Don't miss it next year!

Ginny Ayers and Dorothy Nagelbach





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