

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

OUR MISSION: faith | family | community



APRIL 2021

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter. I'm so glad we were able to worship together this Easter. I also completely understand those that are just not ready to gather in person at church. We are still providing our online worship and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The ability for people to watch worship from a computer OR from their tablet or smartphone via our app offers so much. It has allowed us to continue worshipping together through this entire pandemic.

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APRIL 2021 ISSUE



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Welcome to Amazing Grace Connections,
Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake's
newsletter!

For article submissions and announcements,
please email your submission to
churchsec@graceoflilylake.com by the 15th of
each month to be included in the next
newsletter!

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday	4 PM - 7 PM
Tuesday	4 PM - 7 PM
Wednesday	4 PM - 7 PM
Thursday	4 PM - 7 PM
Friday	4 PM - 7 PM



Happy Spring Grace Lutheran Church.

By Nick Rex

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter. I'm so glad we were able to worship together this Easter. I also completely understand those that are just not ready to gather in person at church. We are still providing our online worship and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The ability for people to watch worship from a computer OR from their tablet or smartphone via our app offers so much. It has allowed us to continue worshipping together through this entire pandemic. It will allow those who can't be with us in person to worship with us from anywhere around the world! We've said this before, but the average churchgoer in recent years attends church once, maybe, twice a month. Schedules are busy, people work Sunday's, traveling and visiting family and friends, and even illness, have changed how people attend worship. But with a worship outlet available online, people can access our services any time after 9am every Sunday morning. This can also allow visitors to view how we worship and get a feel for it before actually coming to church. There can be a lot of anxiety around visiting a new congregation and this can help alleviate that.

Another item we are addressing as a congregation is finding a new pastor to lead us. At this time, Grace does not have the financial capability to pay a full-time pastor. We need to see growth in membership to do that. The vision team along with input from many of you on our Sunday morning Zoom Fellowship Hours in early March, determined our best course of action was to seek a part-time pastor who is currently serving another church. Each church then has a part-time pastor but it gives that pastor a full-time job between two congregations. So the synod is currently reaching out to some local pastors in our area to put together a possible talent pool. Once we have that, it will be up to our newly formed Call Committee to meet, observe, interview, and ultimately guide the decision making process on a new pastor. We have a team of 7 right now on the call committee, but there is always room for more. If you are interested, let me know.

With all of this taking place during Easter, I do not anticipate having more direction from the synod and for our Call Committee to get started for another couple of weeks. In the meantime, we have pulpit supply pastors booked through the first Sunday in May and I'll be working soon to get May booked.

This has been a rough year for us all and we thrived! Let's keep our strength in Christ, in each other, and in our community to push through 2021, find ourselves our new pastor, and continue to re-invent ourselves to be able to build on our strength to see our congregation thrive forever.

Sincerely

Nick Rex
President

Nick Rex, President
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Grace Needs Your Assistance - Where Can You Help?

~ Vision Team began discussions with our Synod in our search for a new Pastor. We are seeking 5 people to be on the Call Committee, and this needs to be formed as soon as possible. Please contact Nick Rex (president@graceoflilylake.com) for details - this is a short-term commitment - we need your assistance!

~ Do you like to work with computers and various areas of technology? We are seeking 2-3 people to assist in our church service recordings, or assisting in the Sunday morning indoor worship services. Your assistance could be weekly, bi-weekly or once a month - but we need your assistance. Please contact George Theros or Nick Rex for details.

~ Do you like to read? Do you like to critique or review or edit articles? We are looking for an 'editor' of sorts to review the monthly newsletter for Grace. Please contact Tricia Painter or Nick Rex for details.



Grace Bible Study



Coffee, Tea, Theology and Faithful Conversations Grace Bible Study to continue! Each 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, join the group at 9AM for faith-filled conversation. Currently the group meets via Zoom but will look forward to getting back to in-person at some point in 2021. Watch for the NEW ZOOM link in an upcoming eblast and via your email. It will be coming from either Nancy Corbige or Cathy Gjerde. Don't miss out on a new year of faith-filled conversation and prayers.





"Thank You" to all of the Thrivent members who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Grace - we have graciously received over \$600 from Thrivent.

Our PPP loan 2.0 (2nd round) application has been submitted to American Eagle Bank. We are hopeful for the same loan forgiveness as the first loan was. These funds will be allocated to offset our payroll expenses.

Thank you to the large donation, and 2 other donations, to cover the cost of a new TV monitor for Fellowship Hall. The previous TV monitor had been moved, and is in use in the sanctuary. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will keep us connected.

Tricia Painter, Treasurer



Thank you

to Cathy Whiteside and Margaret Swanson who printed, folded
and mailed out our Lenten Easter letter - appreciate your
expeditious efforts once again!



“You show your gratitude through your generous offerings – not just to your needy brothers and sisters – really toward everyone. And moved by the extravagant surpassing grace of God illustrated by your lives, your needs are undertaken in passionate prayer by those around you. 15 Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift of grace!” 2 Corinthians 9:11-15 (PPV)

God’s grace has been generously given and generously shared at Grace of Lily Lake. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and love throughout our ministry, and at our leaving-taking. Ken and I so appreciate the wonderful cards and best wishes sent our way. Five plus years went so quick, and the last few weeks were a blur. I regret that we were unable to share blessings and hugs together in person this whole final year. I am thankful for the farewell we shared at our final taping session together, and the notes that sweeten my mailbox. (Vincent and Theo are glad you appreciate them as well!) Ken and I will never forget the gift of God’s grace experienced and shown at Grace. May God continue to bless and guide you all.

Martin Luther wrote, “Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in the books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” Yes, The Easter season is upon us, and there are signs of the Lord’s handiwork and blessings everywhere, and our prayer is that you will see and know the Lord in clear and abundant ways as you move into the rising grace of his abundant love.

Pastor Dawn & Ken



Grace connection to Tim Polk: People of Grace have for several years been donating clothing from our Rummage sale items to Tim Polk (through Ginger & Rob) to give to the homeless of Elgin as he ministered to them. Tim's wife was killed on March 15, 2021 on Rt 20. As Kasia was helping a driver of car in an accident, a truck slid into them. Kasia was able to push her husband out of the way but not able to save herself. Many prayers for Tim as he grieves over the loss of his beloved wife, Kasia.

Obituary

Katarzyna "Kasia" Kurek Polk, age 38, of Elburn, passed away Monday, March 15, 2021 at Amita Presence St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin.

She was born January 10, 1983, in Poland, the daughter of Wladyslaw (Wesley) and Zofia (Zagata) Kurek.

Kasia was a remarkable young woman. At 17 she went to Naperville North High School and after she graduated she attended College of Dupage. She then went to Roosevelt University in Chicago where she achieved a Masters in Business Administration.

During her high school and college years, Kasia worked for a dear friend, Dominique, who owns a candy shop in Naperville. She demonstrated her skills, loyalty, and love for people as she eventually came to manage the store.

After graduation with her MBA in hand, she went to work for a placement company that helped process foreign professionals. She eventually found her dream job at Fermilab in the Accelerator Division in Batavia, Illinois in 2016. In 2019 she was promoted to Financial Analyst.

Kasia was extraordinary in countless ways. She had such a sweet spirit and deep love for people and we know that deep love stemmed from her unshakeable love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Her first hope and desire was to serve and reflect Christ. All of her friends, and there are many, remarked that they have never known anyone sweeter, more thoughtful, or sincere than Kasia.

So many friends, so many comments, and they all remark about her smile, her genuine joy and kindness, and the fact that she approached everything as a loving servant of the Lord.

Kasia met Tim Polk, the love of her life, serving food to the homeless on the streets of Chicago through a church ministry in 2016. As Tim continued to serve with Kasia, he could not help but be drawn by her faithfulness, her sweet presence, and the genuine love she showed to the broken and the hungry people in the city.

Tim said he watched her for a whole year before he had the nerve to ask her out!

When he was talking to some friends about Kasia, he said "I love her!" And they exclaimed...What, you haven't even had a date with her!

Kasia and Tim were married on November 3, 2018. They were drawn together not only by their common interests, but their mutual love for the Lord Jesus Christ. They had a burning desire to share the love of God with everyone they met. Their wedding was like none other. Beautiful and Christ centered.

Kasia's greatest desire was to simply be a loving servant of the Lord. All who knew her knew how giving, thoughtful and loving she was. She always went out of her way to help others. She loved animals and nature. She loved surrounding herself with pictures of her family and loved ones.

While there is great sadness, there is great joy in knowing that Kasia is now in the loving arms of her Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He has welcomed her home and proclaimed "Well done my good and faithful servant".

Kasia is survived by her loving husband Thomas "Tim" Polk, her parents Wladyslaw (Wesley) and Zofia of Poland, sister Dominika (Peter) Kondratko of Colorado; nieces and nephews Pawel, Dawid, and Jagoda; sister-in-law Linda Deskin, and brother-in-law David Polk, and many other dear relatives and friends





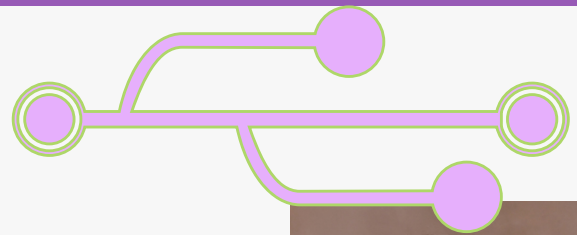
Now that warmer weather is here, this is a reminder that we have a beautiful path to walk around in the backyard of our church. John Verner has done a lot of work to clear the weeds from the path.

Thank you John. Also, Nancy Corbige had an idea to collect pinecones and fashioned a collector in the back of the grounds, past the Boy Scouts trailer, underneath the pine tree. So if you'd like to come out for a walk, park in the back lot, and walk the grounds, and if you're so inclined, pick up a few pine cones and add them to the collection. These pinecones can be used by others if you choose. They can be used to kindle your fires at home, they can be used for crafts, but they will also lend a hand to John Verner as he often cuts the ground's grass and will avoid having to mow over them. It's a win-win for all and something that can be enjoyable, useful and helpful. Happy Spring everyone!

If you should need to contact John Verner (cell # 630-485-0996) or Nancy Corbige (cell#847-212-0237) **Nancy's backyard is Grace's backyard)

Getting to Know You

PAUL AND KAY KINSEL



Paul & I are both from Ohio. The product of a blind date while we were in college. We married in 1962 and moved here. For eleven of the first twelve years we were married Paul went to IIT to finish his Industrial Engineering Degree. Kay has a degree in Elementary Education. I have been (and still am) a mother of 4, have taught, been a teacher's aide, an artist but the most rewarding job was to help raise our first two grandchildren.

We have worked our way west from a home in Lombard (1 bath and four kids) to Kaneville (2 baths and 0 kids). This is where Grace entered our lives. In 1997 I was diagnosed with Breast cancer and I learned the true meaning of community. Knowing that people of God whom you know are praying for you is uplifting and a source of strength. This is where I drew strength for the next 13 months to get through the cancer and our daughter's colon surgery and the reconstruction that followed. And JOY of JOY'S our first grandson was born during that chaotic year.

When Paul retired, we moved to Girard IL (about 40 miles south of Springfield) on a lake. We enjoyed all that living on water can bring and found another caring church community at Zion in Farmersville. A couple years after Paul's stroke we decided to move back north to be near family. We came back to Grace and Paul said we were home.

Our first apartment was over the marketplace in Mill Creek. It had a very large deck where we could do pot gardening and enjoy the outdoors. 6 months ago, we moved to Greenfields. This move was to take some of the load off me. People here are friendly and there are many things to do now that COVID restrictions have lessened. I still cook some due to my food allergies and the chefs are helpful. Paul loves being here and the Food.

Coming back to Grace there were some new faces and many "old" ones but all doing the same thing—caring for each other and giving to the community. This COVID pandemic has thrown all God's people for a loop but look how strong we have become. Paul's faith has been and always will be strong even if not in community, but Kay needs the strength coming from all of you to keep her on God's path.

Yes, we have come HOME with memories from the past and new ones being made now and in the future.

LOOKING FOR WHERE TO FIND US?

WORSHIP – on our website every week! Click the media tab to find every current and past service!

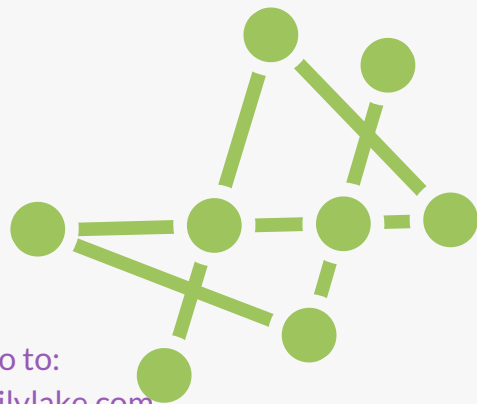
FELLOWSHIP – on Zoom - check weekly eblast for weekly particulars

BIBLE STUDY – Zoom the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 AM. Contact Nancy Corbige or Cathy Gjerde for details.

PRAYER - by appointment via e-mail
pastor@graceoflilylake.com or leaving a message on the church office voicemail

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

While we are apart and you have a need or a question, here is who to go to:
Financial questions or how to give – Tricia Painter treasurer@graceoflilylake.com
Building questions – Kurt Redemann 630-918-4509
Other questions - churchsec@graceoflilylake.com



DO YOU WANT YOUR ARTICLE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

**SUBMIT BY APRIL
15, 2021**

**YOUR ARTICLE WILL APPEAR IN OUR
MAY EDITION!**

Submit by emailing your article to
churchsec@graceoflilylake.com. All submissions
welcome. Share your voice with us!



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