

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

OUR MISSION: faith | family | community



“BEING THE CHURCH AMID CORONA VIRUS!”

AUGUST 2020

As a kid, I grew up with the rhyme:

“Here is the church, here is the steeple...Open the doors and see all the people.”

Yet, not NOW! What people? What has the church become? What can it become during covid? A year ago we celebrated our 125th Anniversary with grand plans, dreams and some excitement. And six months later we were holed up in our homes and not being in the church at all. We have been separated by the great wall known as the “novel Corona Virus” for 20 weeks as of this writing. That is almost half a year. It is something to be the church in seclusion. Confounding! Frankly, I find it tough. I know the church is not the building. There is significance being the body of Christ scattered about. But it seems so challenging not seeing you face to face. And preaching most often to my own lone face is boring. (BLAH!) Corona has men asking, “WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE CHURCH?” Or What does it mean NOW?

Read more on page 3

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

AUGUST 2020 ISSUE



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!

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OFFICE HOURS

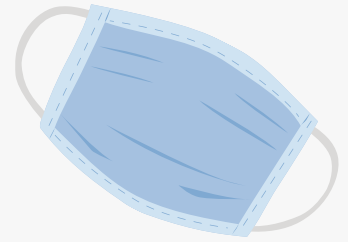
Monday	1 PM - 4 PM
Tuesday	1 PM - 4 PM
Wednesday	1 PM - 4 PM
Thursday	1 PM - 4 PM
Friday	1 PM - 4 PM

**FOR ARTICLE AND
ANNOUNCEMENT
SUBMISSIONS
CONTACT**

churchsec@graceoflilylake.com

THE MASKED BODY OF CHRIST, FACING COVID HEAD ON, BUT SCATTERED ABOUT

"For we are ... created anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Eph 2:10



WRITTEN BY PASTOR DAWN ROUCKA

Turning outward to one another as the coronavirus locks us down and reshapes us

During this time of Covid as I have struggled to BE THE CHURCH while scattered about, I have thought a lot about the early church and their struggle to maintain and grow a movement and a way of life amid persecution and disregard. The early church had benefits, we lack. They had small communities that they would meet or dwell with, while we are more isolated in our homes with just our own families. But we have a telephone and the internet, and tv and cars and air conditioning and so many blessings to convey good news and stay connected that the early church wouldn't have even imagined.

Early Christians, however, believed that God was revealed in Jesus Christ and claimed that this showed the world who God is as well as what kind of people humans were created to be. They did not see themselves primarily as consumers who "attended worship to hear a good sermon and sing a few familiar songs but as beholders of the unspeakable glory of God. Worship not only ushered them into the very presence of God but also prepared them to return to the ordinary life of market, home, and neighborhood as disciples of Jesus."¹

And it is certainly true that in the early centuries of the Christian Church from the Plagues of Atonine and Cyprian to the bubonic (Justin) / Black plague, Christianity grew in part because the followers of Jesus lived like his resurrected presence (aka his body aka the Church) doing the things he would have done, caring for the sick and dying even endangering their own lives.

In the 1527 bubonic resurgence in Wittenburg Germany, Martin Luther chose to stay to minister to the sick, literally living his life in the shadow of death as other fled. In a letter entitled, "Whether one may flee from a deadly plague," he explained the importance of caring for our neighbor. He wrote about the community and taking the necessary steps to protect others. And he emphasized the giftedness of serving.

So, I was thinking about this and what it means for us as the Church today out of our buildings, out of our comfort zones and hopefully out in our communities caring as we can for our neighbor. It is time to **BE THE CHURCH**. (And we need worship in our lives as well, which will be addressed at the end here.)

To BE THE CHURCH in the example of the early Christian's living struggle to be the Church might mean

- Allowing Jesus to reshape us – How do we respond to the joint pandemics of Covid and fear around us as Jesus would?
- Listening to the pulse of the community – Asking who our neighbor is, and truly hearing what makes them tick and how Jesus would love them as they are.
- Assessing what gifts we have - what shape is our body of Christ in so we can use our strength to make a difference?
- Not accommodating nor hiding from the culture - How can we be a part of renewing and transforming the world around us?
- Overturning and transforming the traditional social order – How do we, like Jesus, cross traditional cultural barriers and create new connections globally and locally?
- Challenging the political patronage system and culture of honor and shame – How do we care for, not the 1%, but the "least of these"?

WITNESS TO THE WORLD

What ways are you giving witness to God in the ordinary ways of life? What ways can the Church be the Church despite not being together, the primary way the last century has defined "church" (the building itself)? Now that you have left the building and are in the mission field, what is your mission?

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship” Romans 12:1

WORSHIP IN THE WORLD

During this time, it is easy to be very turned in on ourselves – or maybe I should just speak for myself – and serving and worship may not be first on our hearts and minds. This reminds me of something Martin Luther borrowed from St. Augustine: *incurvatus in se*. It says that sin is equivalent to being turned in on ourselves. If to sin is to be turned in on one’s self—a thoroughly modern idea—then worship is one obvious antidote. Church is where we go to be reminded it is not about us, that we are not god. Church is where we go to be reminded that the world is full of other people, and that their needs and desires are every bit as urgent and real as each of us, and not just of those gathered in the sanctuary but of those around the world. But how can we repent when we cannot worship together?

I was thinking hard about that and the promises of my baptism this week and came across this prayer piece from Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber (I added the parts in red) who captured it way better than I ever could have.

“I do not know when the whole congregation can gather together again in worship, Lord.
So, for now I just ask that:

- When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Stevie Wonder’s Songs in The Key of Life Album (to George Michael’s Faith album), that it be counted as praise. (Happy 70th Birthday, SW!)
- And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, may it be counted as a Kyrie. Or joining the acts of protest with Black Lives Matter or local teachers, may it be counted as confession and lament for the ways we have perpetuated injustice.
- And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier may it be counted as passing the peace.
- And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower may it be counted as remembering my baptism.
- And when I give a virtual hug or make a phone call to an ailing friend or to a church member may it be witnessed as living out my baptismal promises to “proclaim the Good News in word and deed.”
- And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, may it be counted as prayer.
- And that when I stumble upon a Tabitha Brown (Brene’ Brown) video and hear her grace and love of you may it be counted as a hearing a homily.
- And that as I sit at that table in my home, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, or bring food to the Elburn, or other local area Food pantry may it be counted as communion.”

And to that, God’s people say

Amen.

1 GERALD L. SITTSER “Resilient Faith: How the Early Christian “Third Way” Changed the World”

2 NADIA BOLZ-WEBER, from Facebook, RevGalPals page



GRACE'S REOPENING NEWS

Thank you to all who responded to our survey about when and how and who was able to consider returning to public worship at Grace. Our survey generated 41 responses. Below are tentative conclusions we are drawing on how to respond.

- WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADAPT AND BE FLEXIBLE AND AS OPEN AS WE CAN BE BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.
- CURRENTLY, WE DO NOT FORESEE WORSHIPING REGULARLY INDOORS THIS SUMMER.
- FOR NOW WILL REMAIN WORSHIPING ONLINE, EVEN WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO BE IN THE SANCTUARY SO WE CAN ACCOMMODATE
 - Those who may not otherwise join us by increasing our entry points.
 - Those who want to return slowly or stay home for safety/ health reasons.
- WE WILL ATTEMPT AN OUTDOOR SERVICE THIS SUMMER – WE NEED HELP TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. If you want to see it happen, please call/email/contact Pastor, George Theros or Nick Rex and let them know how you will help.

Again, we base our decisions on the best science and data before us, through consultation with the wider church body, and through the prayers, hope and love of our community.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance>

<https://www.elca.org/publichealth>

http://www.mcselca.org/congregation/covid-19_resourcesresources_for_being_and_doing_php/

The following are steps it will take for Grace to have an engaging in-person opportunities through the Covid crisis:

- More volunteers needed for cleaning crew shifts.
- Wider population of members contributing ideas for worship and even helping plan/ implement worship.
- Masks must be worn by all and minimum 6 ft distance kept.
- There will be no hand-shaking and no bulletins or hymnals. (the service will be shown on screen)
- There will be no communion at this time. (Unless we do a drive-in style worship)
- There will be no out loud singing.
- There will be no donuts or coffee (our sincerest apologies), and that space will be cordoned off.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well especially if you have a fever or symptoms concerning for respiratory illness
- Please use the main entrances (upper or lower) when entering or leaving church and sign in.

PROCEDURES FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO HOLD IT (Possibly late August/ early September)

- Service Leaders/ Worship leaders will be under the pavilion. Open seating on the grass with spacing 6 feet apart.
- Families or co-worshippers will be able to sit together in groups.
- Those groups will be seated six feet away from the next nearest group.
- All worshipers will be asked to wear masks (please bring your own)
- There will be no regular communion, we are working on some ideas TBA.
- Child-care will be unavailable/ no children's activity bags.
- There will be no donuts or coffee.
- There will be no singing, hand-shaking and no bulletins or hymnals (the service will be shown on screen)

Steps we're asking all people to take to ensure a safety and health:

- Please wear masks and abide by all of the social distancing guidelines, at church or elsewhere.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well especially if you have a fever or symptoms of respiratory illness

As always, we know you will take care for your own safety and the safety of others. If you are comfortable being present that's wonderful. If the time is not yet right for you, we will continue our online worship and invite you to invite and help others join us for worship.

Pastor Dawn Roucka

\$\$ FINANCIAL MATTERS

Giving Statements – have been emailed or mailed to your homes. You will note that this is a “2nd Qtr statement” – we were never able to send out a statement in March. ALSO - the cover letter that came with emailed statements is the OLD cover letter -- so it is NOT a year-end statement. Our sincere apologies on this mistake (Cara and Tricia were doing this without our (very missed) mentor Michele!! - we're still learning and we appreciate your patience).

Please look over your statement and contact Dottie/Paul Mantsch by email at financial.secretary@graceoflilylake.com or phone: 630-584-5388, if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries at Grace Lutheran Church, especially now during these difficult times! If you are receiving a paper (USMail) statement and would prefer it to be emailed, please send that request to Cara Turner at: clturner2063@yahoo.com ** Please Note: Back-up documentation is kept for 6 months after donation is recorded.**

Stay Well & Thank you for your continued support,

Tricia Painter, Cara Turner, Dottie & Paul Mantsch

FINANCE Team

STEWARDSHIP

“And now – especially now – faith, hope, and love abide...” 1 Corinthians 13:13

No one could have predicted we would be living through a pandemic in the spring of 2020, yet here we are. All of life looks very different than it did just a few months ago and none of us knows what the future holds. Even so, Grace continues to serve as a beacon of faith, hope, and love in the midst of great fear and uncertainty.

Faithful, Hope-filled, Loving will be Grace of Lily Lake's 2021 Stewardship Appeal. Without knowing what the future holds, we believe God is leading us forward with a clear vision for ministry in the year ahead. Won't you pray, consider and contribute and

**Out of abundance we will joyfully
celebrate God's grace and boldly
embrace and serve all.**

Watch this space for more in the weeks
and months ahead!



Grace offers several Faith-filled opportunities

1) Coffee, Tea (BYOB) and Theology Tuesday Bible Study – every second and fourth Tuesday

Join us for Coffee, Tea and Theology on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 Am – 10:00 AM on Zoom. The opportunity and experience is not new, but there is a new Zoom code to join - <https://zoom.us/j/95874078461?pwd=eWlhaWRoRVNSVHROeXRMTVTJCayswQT09>

Meeting ID: 958 7407 8461
Passcode: 236943

Recently, we began a new series, “A Church is Born! A study of the Book of Acts” focusing on the early Christians and their struggle to find their way as a new Church through all of life’s ups and downs. Pastor will send an outline and study questions for each week. Bring your Bible.

2) Faithful Friends Fellowship – every first and third Tuesday from 9:00 Am – 10:00 AM on Zoom. The new Zoom code is:

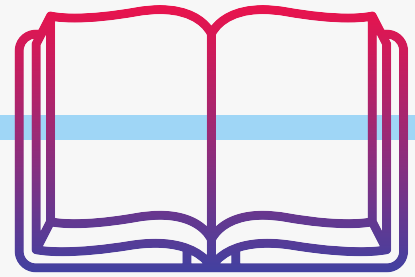
<https://zoom.us/j/93574526452?pwd=Uy93WG1JeDNZUINvdkJGZjVlZHc2QT09>

Meeting ID: 935 7452 6452
Passcode: 683854

This opportunity differs from our Bible Study time and is for all who want to catch up, share in faith and pray for one another.

Join us for one or both! Every week or just occasionally. We welcome all!

LOOKING FOR ALL FAITH STORY SHARERS



During Lent 2020 we were planning on hearing Faith Stories from those around us. We would like to do that throughout the Fall. And it has gotten easier too. We will now be doing them all by recording. You can record your story and send it to us, or we can schedule to meet – socially distant, of course – at the Grace pavilion or sanctuary and record it. Set this up with George or Pastor.

TAGGING GRACE OF LILY LAKE LUTHERAN ON FACEBOOK



Many of you have wonderful and creative ideas for ministry that would be worth sharing with all of us: things that we can initiate at our own at home for the good of others. And still others have gifts that can be shared: music or humor or a positive saying or thought that would be uplifting. We invite all of you who desire to do so, to share your stories, ideas and gifts via our Grace of Lily Lake Lutheran Church Facebook page. Here's how: Would you like to "tag" Grace Lutheran on your Facebook post? It is very simple, just include "@Grace of Lily lake" in the body of your text!

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Grace's community garden is blooming thanks to Linda Smykowski and others. If you would like to pick what's ready, we pick on Monday to hand out to the Meadows (senior housing) and then again on Thursday for the food pantry. Anybody is welcome to come and pick for themselves, but please pick what is ready to be picked.

All is welcome to join us. The garden is located in field in the back of the church, behind the pavilion.

NEW WEBSITE LOOK!

http://



Grace's website has a brand new look and feel! [Go to www.graceoflilylake.com to try it out!](http://www.graceoflilylake.com)

On our new website, you can watch services and view bulletins directly on the site. Just click on the Media tab and find the service you want to watch and you can view both the video and the bulletin on the same page! It's simple and easy to do. Additionally, you can find a lot of other new info on the website. Keep an eye on it for announcements and news!

PASTORAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Grace wants to assist to those in need during this difficult time. Is someone you know and love ill, hospitalized or just in need of some help or company? We will be offering outreach, resources, prayers and inspirational support to help cope during this time. Contact the church 630-365-6751 or Pastor Dawn at Pastor@graceoflilylake.com All inquiries will be confidential, always!

THANK YOU



For your friendship, kindness and compassion during our time of sorrow. Your cards, words, emails, texts and gifts at (Ken's) mom's death mean a lot to us and have helped us bear the weight of it. Sorrows shared is a 'sorrow halved'.

Donations have been made to the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Society and to Grace in Darlene's memory.

Pastor & Ken Roucka

Thank you also to the Rebecca Circle for making a gift in my step-dad, George Hanner's name. Your love is amazing Grace.

Procedures for Self-Quarantine under Covid-19

Self-quarantine is recommended for individuals who have been directly exposed to the new Coronavirus or have history of travel in infected or heavily populated areas.

Stay at home.

Limit all your non-essential travels.

Unless you're going out for food, medicines or other essentials.



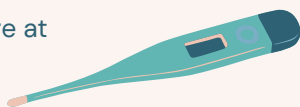
Wash your hands.

Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol or hand sanitizer.



Check your temperature.

Check your temperature at least two times a day.



Watch for other symptoms.

Aside from fever, Covid-19 symptoms include cough, difficulty breathing, and fatigue.



Stay in a specific room.

If you're sick or suspect yourself to be sick, it's best to stay in a designated room or area away from others.

If possible, have a designated toilet and bathroom as well.



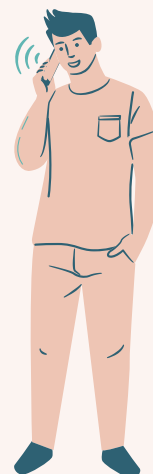
Practice social distancing.

If you need to go out, maintain at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance from others.



Call your doctor or hospital before visiting.

If you need to seek medical attention whether for viral symptoms or other medical care reasons, contact your doctor or hospital ahead of time so they can prepare and take precautions for your arrival.



DOTTIE AND PAUL MANTSCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Dottie and Paul Mantsch celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 4, where they renewed their marriage vows and reflected on their lives together. The event was unusual in that it was successfully held on Zoom with many family members in attendance.

Dottie was born in Philadelphia where her father was a Lutheran pastor. The young family moved frequently in response to parish needs. Dottie was educated in Lutheran schools and graduated from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois in 1967. She taught in Lutheran schools for two years and then in 1969 entered Master of Library Science degree program at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Paul was born and raised on a small, idyllic dairy farm in north-eastern Ohio where his father tended the farm, and his mother taught school. He graduated from Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio in 1963 and entered the University of Illinois that fall to pursue a PhD degree in elementary particle physics.

The two met at a party in October 1969 and, curiously, their first date was to an organ concert. Their relationship warmed quickly and by the spring of 1970 they were engaged and a few weeks later were wed in the Campus Lutheran Church in the company of many friends and relatives. The next few weeks were busy: a brief honeymoon, finishing their degrees, saying goodbyes, and heading to Hamburg, .

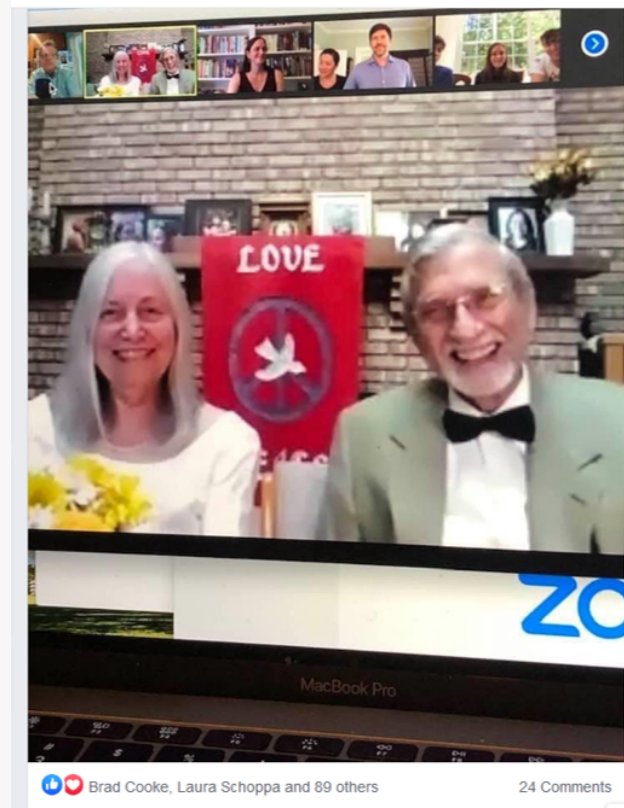
Germany where Paul had a research appointment at a particle physics laboratory and Dottie would teach at the International School. During their stay in Germany they had their first baby, Kai. After two years that included extensive travel around Europe in their limited spare time, Paul's research group was moved to MIT to build an experiment for the Brookhaven National Laboratory that would later make a discovery that would win the Nobel prize for the leader of the group.

When Paul received an offer from Fermilab, the family moved to West Chicago, Illinois where Krista and Tara became part of the family. Dottie held library positions in West Chicago Library, the Itasca Library, the Geneva public schools, and Valley Lutheran High School. As the family grew, they designed and built a passive solar home in St. Charles that featured a sunny music studio for Dottie's teaching that included a piano, a harpsichord, and a pipe organ. In 1985 Dottie was offered the job as organist and choir director at Grace in Lily Lake. While she later turned over directing the choir to others, she has been organist ever since. During her piano teaching career, she has enjoyed helping both kids and adults learn to enjoy making music.

During the last 20 years of his 42 year employment at Fermilab, Paul, as project manager, led the design, construction and early operation of the Pierre Auger Cosmic Ray Observatory in Malargüe, Argentina. During Paul's frequent visits to Argentina, Dottie started yet another career selling books, toys, and games on Amazon. To her surprise, the business has prospered during the pandemic.

Retiring in 2014, Paul remains engaged with Fermilab as a Scientist Emeritus, by organizing science outreach and writing. For therapy he tinkers with his 1929 Ford. Dottie continues piano lessons, Amazon sales, and playing organ at Grace. The couple are currently serving together as the *Grace Financial Secretary*.

Dottie and Paul now enjoy their extended family including three grandchildren in their teens. Their last fifty years of marriage have been wonderfully rewarding and the future is bright.



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 each Tuesday at 9 AM. Contact Pastor Dawn for details.

PRAYER - By appointment with Pastor Dawn 847-331-0373 or reach through Pastor@graceoflilylake.com or each Friday morning with and for others through Zoom meeting - *contact Pastor for details.*

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

While we are apart and you have a need or a question, here is where to go:

Financial questions or how to give – Tricia Painter

Building questions – Kurt redemann

Other questions - churchsec@graceoflilylake.com

DO YOU WANT YOUR ARTICLE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

**SUBMIT BY
AUGUST 15, 2020**

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

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

