

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

OUR MISSION: faith | family | community



*Hope, Love,
Joy, and peace*

DECEMBER 2021

“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving”
(2 Corinthians 8:7).

We are pleased to share with you that on October 24, 2021, we began a three-week stewardship program titled “Excel in the Grace of Giving.” This is an enriching time for our congregation. As we grow in the grace of giving, we will develop an even closer relationship with our Lord. Our faith will deepen, both as individuals and as a congregation. For some of us, the lack of faithful giving continues to be an obstacle to our spiritual growth. Growing in our giving deepens our trust in God.

Read more on page 3

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 2021 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!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace	3-4
Financial Matters	5
Congratulations	6
A Message	7
Congregational Meeting	8
Thank You	9
Getting to Know You	10
Upcoming Events	11
Where to Find Us	12-13

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

Hope, Love, Joy, and peace

By Nick Rex



Dear Grace Family,

We are approaching 2 years of uncertainty, cautiousness, and concern for our health. While this has been difficult, Grace has still managed to live Christ's calling of love for our neighbors. While our doors were shuttered, we managed to expand our online presence and capabilities. We learned how to better communicate as a church through those trying times. Thanks to the very hard work of our Worship Team, lead by George Theros, we were able to begin safely worshipping outdoors this past summer and slowly move to indoor worship services. This team has worked tirelessly to provide an online worship service on the website each week, in person worship Sunday morning, and to clean and sanitize after every worship.

Beyond worship, we had financial and operational uncertainty. Thanks to Tricia Painter leading the charge, we secured PPP loans with the help of American Eagle Bank to help us afford payroll during shut downs. We were able to get a grant from the synod to assist in reopening our doors in a safe way. Beyond the financial concerns, we still needed to operate and serve our membership, you. Thanks to the countless number of you that have volunteered time to keep the office in order, check phones, route mail, open doors for people, clean, and so many more small tasks that have to be done. I am not going to attempt to name names in fear of forgetting someone, but you know who you are.

In the midst of this all, we also had our pastor resign. This created additional challenges placed on everyone, but again we persevered. A call committee was formed and completed the daunting task of preparing our Ministry Site Profile for the synod. They along with the Vision Team worked with close guidance by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA to get everything set up to get our open position out there to be filled. It is a tall task to find a part-time pastor who fits in with Grace. We are hoping that God answers our prayers soon as we have had

promising advancements on that front over the last few weeks.

Thanksgiving just passed and as you can see, Grace has so much to be thankful for. We have now entered the season of advent, the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. We typically celebrate 4 specific themes during advent. Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Again, all things that Grace can reflect on as we prepare for our upcoming journey.

HOPE for the promising future in store for Grace through our strong membership, leaders, volunteers, and community outreach.

LOVE abounding for ourselves, our neighbors, and Jesus Christ

JOY in our ability to meet in person, grow as a congregation, and expand our footprint and membership in our community.

PEACE in knowing we are saved through Jesus Christ. Whose birth we celebrate on Christmas!

I ask that you remember who we are, whose we are, and why we do what we do as Grace Lutheran Church this season of Advent. We truly could not continue doing what we do without each and every one of you.

Thank you

Nick Rex – Vision Team President

Nick Rex, President

Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake

FINANCIAL MATTERS



We are thankful for your prayerful consideration in the Excel in the Grace of Giving. Faithful stewards returned commitment cards by mail, or carried to church on Commitment Sunday, Nov 14th. As of Nov. 20th, we have received 31 commitment cards, 29 of which were able to make a commitment. Throughout December, Cara Turner and Tricia Painter will be mailing letters indicating the receipt of these commitments; also mailing reminders to those that we have not heard from. With the submittal of these commitments, we are able to deepen our trust in God, as an individual and as a congregation, as we move into planning and budgeting in 2022. Please thank your Stewardship Team members for their efforts when you see them: Nancy Schnaitman, Cathy Swanson, Margaret Swanson, Kay Kinsel and John Verner.

On-Line shoppers !! Please remember AmazonSmiles is a program whereby Grace can capture some funds from your purchases on Amazon. Please sign onto www.AmazonSmiles to access your Amazon account and choose "Grace of Lily Lake" as your charity of choice. A direct link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2806605> . Note: Please ensure your charity designation appears as "St. Charles, IL" as there are many organizations that will be closely named to our's.

Grace is in the midst of further boiler maintenance for our heating systems (you may have experienced the chilly sanctuary!). We now have a maintenance agreement in place for autumn (heating) , but there have been extra parts replaced and repairs necessary to get our system into a running mode this fall. If you are able to make an extra contribution towards the "Keep the Church Warm" (fund of sorts), please indicate this on your contribution check. This will go into our General Fund and to date, we have received \$400 noted for the "Keep the Church Warm" tally (Note: as of 11/12/21 boiler/heating repairs costs are: \$3,688).

If you would like a copy of any monthly Treasurer's Report, please contact Tricia Painter. These are usually available by mid-month of the following month.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

The following students were confirmed on October 31st, Nathan Anderson, Evan Deutschmann, Milo Karner and Tillee Karner. They completed a two-year program of education and service. Due to Covid and Pastor Dawn's resignation, it was an interesting time. I was very happy with the way they hung in there through zoom meetings and the change in leadership. They were a great group to work with and offered their thoughts, questions and opinions generously. I was especially pleased with their ability to write prayers and confessions. They ended their confirmation program by providing a youth led worship service on September 19th. I hope you all had a chance to either be there or watch the video. In the last class, we completed a Gifts of the Spirit survey, to see where their current strengths lie. We have some gifted leaders there. It was my pleasure to be able to lead their class and to get to know them.

Blessings, Marty Bradley

Thankful Messages from our Confirmands "To: Marty"

"Confirmation was a very good time, we always had something to talk about each month and everything was always something new to talk about. After our previous pastor left us, Marty was able to keep the weekly meetups going. She was an amazing teacher to us and made sure that we actually learned things and that we always kept engaged. Covid didn't stop us either, we kept up with our talks each month by doing Zoom meetings each time. It worked out and after all of that we were able to actually see each other for our meetups. We all had a good time and this all helped us to gain a strong relationship with God in confirming our faith! "

~ Nathan

"Thank you for the time we had together and for the times to come. Over confirmation, I learned a lot about God and how I should act to God. I know now that I should come to him for help and guidance to overcome my problems. I also enjoyed learning about the past and why something's are important. I learned that knowing that something is important is much different than knowing why something is important. I thank you for coming and teaching us during the Covid Pandemic and working around our busy schedules. Thanks for being a great teacher and mentor."

Sincerely, Evan

"Dear Marty – it's been so fun these past 2 years. Thank for helping me and my sister come more close to God. The most fun thing we did was the clay, and when we wrote prayers on a piece of paper and folded them up and then threw them across the room. Thank you so much and I hope one day we will do this again."

~ Milo

"I am so grateful to Marty for being my teacher the past two years. Even though Covid hit, Marty found a way to make class as normal as possible. One of my favorite memories with her is when we got to do clay in class. I have become much closer to God through these past two years thanks to Marty. I had so much fun and I'm going to miss it!"

Tillee

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FRIENDS

To our friends at Grace Lutheran Church,

Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic as a community-owned clinic that serves the thousands of medically uninsured who live or work in Sevier County, Tennessee. We received a very kind donation from Pastor Arne Walker in celebration of his 60th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Ministry of the Lutheran Confessing Christian Church. His donation to the Clinic in your name was to show his gratitude for the privilege of serving in the "vineyards" with you as a partnership in the Gospel.

His donation is truly a tribute that will directly help medically uninsured residents and workers when they need us most. They may be a sick child or an adult who needs a medical home to can maintain his/her health, or need an unsalvageable infected tooth pulled that is causing excruciating pain.

Whether helping people procure their necessary medications, get their teeth cleaned, or provide university students enrolled in health fields a "real world" experience, the Clinic will be there thanks to his gift.

You and Pastor Walker are greatly appreciated!

In His Service,



Kayla Shubert

Marketing and Development Coordinator

312 Prince Street · Sevierville, TN 37862 · 865-774-0066
Mountainhope.org

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY 12/19/21

On Sunday 12/19 immediately following worship, we will be holding two consecutive congregational meetings.

One: to vote on approving costs to add heating to our sanctuary Air Handling Unit that is currently cooling only.

Two: to approve updates to our constitution per recommended ELCA constitution updates, including allowing for attendance and official voting be allowed online.

For more details of the proposed items, please ask a Vision Team member and they can get you printed copies or e-mail them to you. Or check our website for them as well.

Thank you
Nick Rex, President
Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake





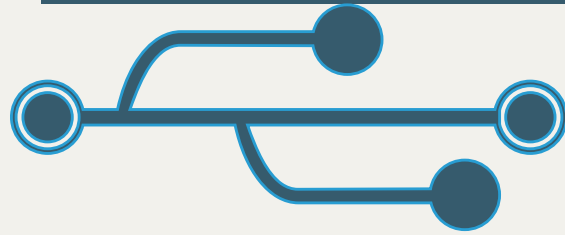
GRACE DID IT AGAIN! As October faded into November, we hosted another Versiti of Illinois Blood Bank drive here at Grace. **Many thanks to our hero donators who gave a total of 8 pints of blood to save 24 lives.** We had others who offered but had too recently given, but all said “next time”! The Versiti staff was kind, efficient, knowledgeable and even funny! It was a good day and as the blood shortages are so severe, they were very happy with “their take”. **Our next blood drive here at Grace will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2022.** So, if you are able to donate, write the date in your new 2022 datebook and start eating your spinach!

Thanks to all for considering this lifesaving gift.



Getting to Know You

MARTY & CRAIG BRADLEY



Craig and Marty Bradley

Craig and I were both born in the Minneapolis area. His family moved around some, but my family was in the same house for 31 years. We both grew up in Lutheran churches. Craig and I met on a ski train from Minneapolis to Whitefish, Montana (22 hours). I was with my father and Craig was with a group of friends. We spent a week skiing together and enjoying apres-ski activities. That's what started it all. We were married six months afterwards.

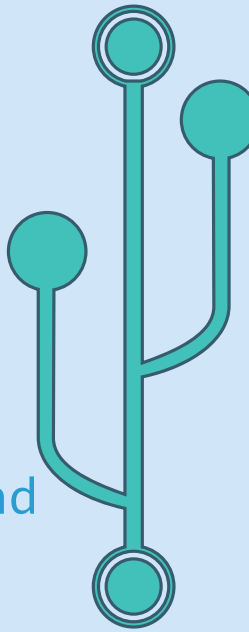
Craig has worked in the highway/heavy/building construction industry as a project manager, estimator and vice president his whole career. I spent ten years as a certified lay professional working in two churches, one in Minneapolis and one in Marietta, GA. We were married in my first church in 1981. Which means we just celebrated our fortieth anniversary. We have one son, John (wife, Brianne) and three wonderful grandkids, 8 ½, 7 and 4 who live in Sycamore.

We moved to Sycamore, Illinois in 1990. I then spent 16 years working as an administrative assistant to a Vice President at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb, IL. When we moved to Elburn, I began volunteering at the Elburn Food Pantry and met several Grace members who encouraged us to attend Grace, and the rest you know.

Craig and I are both retired now and pursue a variety of activities.

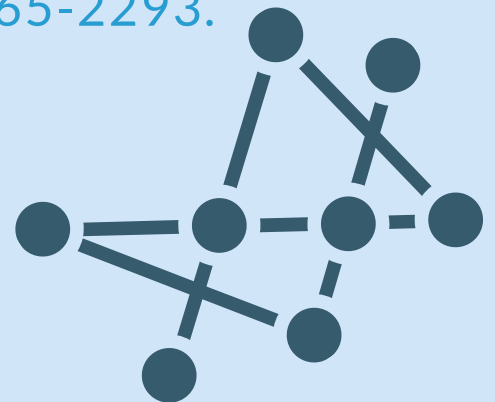


UPCOMING EVENTS



Coffee Hour after services began on November 7 and we plan to have this every 1st Sunday of the month (or other special occasions). Thank you Linda Smykowski and Cathy Lindquist for hosting in November; Kay Kinsel is December. Please see the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Coffee hour will be held in Fellowship Hall to allow more openness.

Rebecca Circle will hold its December meeting as a luncheon at Sorrento's on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at noon. Members and guests (including men) are welcome. For reservations, contact Jan Docherty (815) 901-0910 or Kathy Hooey (630) 365-2293.



LOOKING FOR WHERE TO FIND US?



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

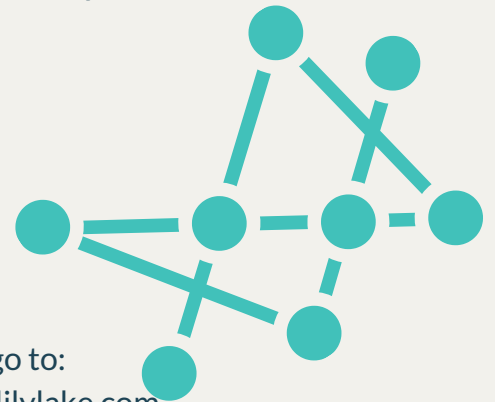
FELLOWSHIP – on Zoom - check weekly eblast for weekly particulars

BIBLE STUDY – At Luau Coffee in Wasco the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 AM. Contact Nancy Corbige at ncorbige@gmail.com for details.

PRAYER - For emergencies, call Nick Rex, our congregational president, at 630-742-5836

For prayer or other needs you can leave a message on Grace's answering machine (it is checked daily at 5pm), or call Kathy Hooey at 630-341-2293 or email her at kandkhooey@aol.com

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
DECEMBER 15,
2021**

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

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



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