

April 25, 2017

Dear Parent,

Tomorrow we will launch the 5th annual *Walk with Grace* walkathon! Last year's event was a huge success and we are working to make this year even more successful! Enclosed with this letter is a packet of materials about the event and details as to how your child can participate in the fundraiser.



- All students will participate in the *Walk with Grace* walkathon on **Friday, May 26, 2017**.
- We hope you will assist your child with contacting friends and family about supporting *Walk With Grace* through monetary pledges. There are many ways your child can collect pledges:
  - Once again we will use PledgeStar, a web-based system which allows you to email friends and family. The more people you send to, the more pledges you'll receive! (see info sheet attached)
  - Your child can send a request letter to collect pledges (one copy attached)
  - Or they can use the pledge form and ask friends and family directly (copy attached)

**\*\* These forms are also available in digital form on the Grace School home page.**

Grace pays fees on credit card payments, so cash and checks are preferable (even if a pledge is made on the PledgeStar website)
- Checks and pledge sheets should be turned into your child's classroom teacher by **Wed. May 24**.
- **Prizes** will be awarded to families for raising the most money or having the greatest number of donations (top 3 \$\$ earners and top 3 quantity of donations). Additionally, for every \$25 your family raises you will receive 1 entry into a **raffle for our top prize!**
- Our **goal** as a school is to raise **\$25,000!** Each family is encouraged to set their own goal. Every family that raises **\$100 or more** will receive a certificate (one per student in the family) for a free scoop at Brown Cow ice cream parlor in Forest Park. Last year 26 families raised \$250 or more. Can your family achieve that this year?
- Students will walk **varying routes and distances based on their grade level** ranging from one mile for pre-schoolers up to six miles for junior high students.
- **As the students walk** they will collect **non-perishable food** from the community to donate to local food pantries. We are partnering with Grace Church this year in order to make an even larger impact. Grace School families are encouraged to bring donations on **May 26**.
- The walkathon will be followed by a **lunch** and celebration, with the school day **ending early at 2:15**. (No need to pack a lunch for your child that day, unless your child has special dietary needs.) Lunch details will be provided later to students with food allergy issues.
- In the case of inclement **weather**, we will conduct the walk at Grace or Concordia.

As you can imagine, we need lots of volunteer help from parents before the event and especially on May 26. If you'd like to be a part of the team, contact committee member Tina Hynes by phone at 708-738-1723 or email [tina.hynes@cuchicago.edu](mailto:tina.hynes@cuchicago.edu). It is sure to be a fun day!

Money raised through *Walk with Grace* will directly support the educational program at Grace School. Fundraisers such as this, in combination with school family contributions and support from the congregation, make the strong Christian education provided at Grace possible. Thank you for supporting your child's participation in *Walk with Grace*.

Serving Grace,

Bill Koehne

# Grace Lutheran School *Walk With Grace* Fundraising System

**Fun** **Easy**



## Information on PledgeStar

- PledgeStar is a web based system that makes it easy to request pledges
  - Family and friends can make secure credit card donations online
  - People who use it typically raise twice as much as those who don't
- 
- Go to <http://pledgestar.com/grace>
  - Enter your name and email address, then click Register
  - Follow the instructions on-screen
- 
- When you finish, the system emails pledge requests to your family and friends.
  - You get notified each time a pledge is made.
  - You can track your pledge progress online.

We're encouraging every family to send out at least 10 emails using PledgeStar. Research shows that 60% of people who receive an email will make a donation – so the more people you send to, the more pledges you will receive. The system takes pledges by credit card and check. Grace pays fees on credit card payments, so cash and checks are preferable. We will continue to use paper pledge forms in addition to the web platform to encourage pledges in the neighborhood or at an event as well as accommodate people who don't have e-mail.

Call 1-888-598-7510 if you need help with anything related to the PledgeStar process.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

On Friday, May 26, I will be walking in the Grace School walkathon, *Walk with Grace*. It is a fun way to raise money for my school.

Our *Walk with Grace* also includes a food drive. As we walk, we will be collecting food items for local food pantries from houses along our route.

I hope that you will support my walk by making a donation to Grace School. My personal fundraising goal is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Your donation directly supports Grace School. Thank you for supporting my school!

Please send this sheet back to me with your check so that I can bring it to school by Wednesday, May 25. You can also donate online through our PledgeStar fundraising website. If you have not already been sent an email from me to donate through PledgeStar, please let me know you would like one. Thank you!

Love,

\_\_\_\_\_

I will donate  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other

Student supported: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed  I will donate online via PledgeStar (request email from student)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions are tax-deductible. You will receive a receipt for your tax records.*



# Walk With Grace - Pledge Form

The students of Grace Lutheran School will be participating in a walkathon on the morning of May 26 to raise funds for the school and to support local food pantries. Monetary donations will directly support the programs at Grace School which help to accomplish the excellent, well-rounded education that is offered. Would you be willing to support me as I walk for the school?

Participant:

Grade Level:

Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Pledge	Cash	Check #
<b>Total Pledged:</b>						<b>Total Collected in Checks:</b>	
<b>Total Collected Cash:</b>						<b>Total Collected in Checks:</b>	