

# Weekly Announcements

December 31, 2017

## *Today at Grace*

In our prayers this morning we remember the Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, which provides free legal services integrated with social work support to low-income Chicagoans.

## *Education hour at 9:45 a.m.*

There are no classes scheduled during the Education hour this morning.

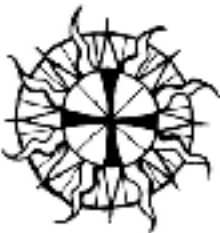
Next week: Sunday School and Pre-Confirmation students and their families will gather in the gym for Epiphany Festival activities on Sunday, January 7, at 9:45 a.m.

## **Adult Education on January 7: Christians Engaging Israel, with David Heim**

The term "Israel" refers to a land, a people, a religious tradition, and a nation state. Christians have often struggled to understand how these four realities are distinct yet intertwined. Two classes (January 7 and 14) will consider scriptural and historical texts that can help Christians better engage with contemporary Judaism and better understand the dynamics of contemporary Israel.

**Bible Study** resumes next Sunday morning, with a continuing discussion of 2 Kings.

## **Christmas season worship continues this week**



### **New Year's Eve, December 31**

Sunday morning worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Holy Communion, 7 p.m.

### **New Year's Day, January 1**

Holy Communion, 10 a.m.

### **Epiphany of Our Lord**

**Saturday, January 6**

Holy Communion, 4 p.m.

# End-of-December giving update



What a wonderful Christmas at Grace! In our worship we have been reminded of the grace of God that has come to us in Jesus. And thanks to your generous contributions we have significantly reduced our congregation's operating deficit for the first half of the 2017-18 fiscal year. Because of your gifts, we will meet the "impossible" goal of reducing our deficit to \$100,000 or less by the end of December. Thank you, and thanks be to God!

Your gifts empower Grace to continue to live out the story of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world. May the generosity of this season shape your giving in the months to come, too. Happy New Year!

Pastor Dave Lyle

## **Financial update — Grace Lutheran Church General Fund**

Church budgeted contributions, July 1–Dec. 25, 2017    \$ 988,000 (\$38,000 per week)

Church actual contributions, July 1–Dec. 25, 2017    \$ 968,000 (Last year at this time, \$911,000)

*Church giving is \$20,000 below budget and \$57,000 ahead of last year at this time.*

## **Grace News**

### **Congregation meeting and annual election on January 21**

There will be a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 21, after the 11 a.m. worship service. The meeting will include the election of officers, council members and members of elected boards and committees.

### **Please complete the wellness program survey**

Grace Church and the West Cook YMCA are collaborating to promote healthy aging by providing wellness programs to Grace members. To complete the online survey about needs and interests, go to [surveymonkey.com/r/28HFZMT](http://surveymonkey.com/r/28HFZMT). If you have questions or comments, contact Sue Ames, Parish Nurse (708-366-6900 ext. 219, [sames@graceriverforest.org](mailto:sames@graceriverforest.org)).

### **Cornerstones fellowship and Bible study**

Cornerstones will not meet on Wednesday, January 3. Cornerstones resumes on January 10, with treats and fellowship at 10 a.m. and Bible study at 10:30.

### **Conversation about grief on January 8**

Stephen Ministers are hosting a conversation about dying, death, and grief on Monday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. “So many people in our congregation have died this year,” says Stephen Minister Sue Allen, “and we as a group want to work through the grieving process and help others to do so.” Pastor Dave Wegner will provide some background information, but most of the time will be spent in open discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Donate new or gently used children's books for kids at Harmony**

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Tait Ferguson is collecting new or lightly used books for Harmony Community Church to distribute to kids age 3–10 in North Lawndale. Some books may go to older children who read below their grade level. Tait is seeking chapter and picture books for both boys and girls, especially books about sports, nature, animals and other interesting topics. Contact Tait and he will pick up books from your front porch on January 2. (Call Grace for more info.)

### **Slovak benefit dinner on January 27**

Grace’s second annual Slovak dinner on Saturday, January 27, 5:30 p.m., benefits our benevolence partner the Center for Christian Education (CCE) in Martin, Slovakia. The event will include an authentic Slovak dinner, a cash bar, entertainment, and a raffle of exciting items. The cost is \$50 per person. To reserve your space and pay online, go to [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) and click on the Slovak dinner. Tickets will also be available for purchase in the atrium between services on January 14, and 21.

### **Religion in Literature**

The book group meets on January 19 at 8 p.m. to discuss “The Diary of a Young Girl,” by Anne Frank. Barbara Hofmaier will lead the discussion, and Bill and Karen Clapp are the hosts.



**Here at Grace**

**Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Soups, jams, baked goods, salsas, meats, eggs, honey, winter-available produce, and more to support local farmers.

*Plus* fresh-roasted I Have a Bean coffee from Second Chance Coffee Company.



**Sponsored by Faith in Place**, which empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

**The event committee is looking for volunteers** to help with set-up on Friday evening, January 12, and on Saturday morning and early afternoon on January 13. Contact Laura Merwin if you'd like to help ([lamerwin86@gmail.com](mailto:lamerwin86@gmail.com); 760-608-3092).