

# Grace Notes



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 7300 W DIVISION • RIVER FOREST IL 60305 • 708-366-6900 • WWW.GRACERIVERFOREST.ORG



*One Spirit, many gifts  
in the body of Christ*

**by Pastor Dave Lyle**

*Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. Photo by Don Heimburger.*

On Pentecost Sunday, we will hear once more of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes to continue the work of Jesus, drawing all of us into the body of Christ. St. Paul writes, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone” (1 Corinthians 12:4).

Each Sunday as I stand before you, I look out and marvel at the multitude of gifts that the Holy Spirit has activated at Grace.

**“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:4**

I look at the body of Christ each Sunday. I see hands that knit prayer shawls that will bring comfort and hope. I see children’s feet running forward to the chancel to hear about God’s love. I see eyes that are on the lookout to welcome the newcomer and ears that are ready to listen to the joys and concerns of friends. I see arms that carry meals to the hungry and mouths that let loose songs of praise. I see hearts filled with God’s love for this world. The Spirit has blessed Grace with so many gifts!

*Continued on page 2*



# One Spirit, many gifts

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gifts in service to the gospel. How is God calling you to share your gifts? There are so many ways to serve God at Grace and beyond. A few spring readily to mind.

Perhaps God is calling you to serve on the Altar Guild or as an usher. God may have it in mind for you to bring Holy Communion to one of our homebound members or to provide a ride to someone who would otherwise be unable to attend worship. These ministries, and a multitude of others, are only possible when we respond to the Spirit's calling in our lives. If you are interested in these ministries or others, let me know. I'll connect you to the right person at Grace to help get you involved.

Along with the gifts of talent and time, God has abundantly blessed this community of faith with financial resources. As we

The summer is a good time to reflect on how the Spirit is calling each of us to make use of our

**Along with the gifts of talent and time, God has abundantly blessed this community of faith with financial resources.**

enter the final month of the fiscal year, God is calling each of us to respond with generous giving to ensure that our many ministries may continue to flourish. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to give to Grace. Erika and I join you in this work and we will be making a gift beyond our pledge to help Grace end the fiscal year on solid financial footing.

I give thanks to God daily that we have been called together in Christ at Grace Lutheran Church and School. Together, we can accomplish so much to the glory of God and for the sake of the gospel. This happens when we each prayerfully seek the Spirit's wisdom and joyfully respond to God's call. May the Body of Christ at Grace continue to work together, moving as one as the Spirit leads us.

Come, Holy Spirit!  
Pastor Lyle



**GRACE**  
STEWARDSHIP

## June giving

Grace Church's fiscal year ends on June 30. As June begins we have a noticeable gap between budgeted contributions and contributions received.

Please give generously in the weeks ahead. Please consider an additional financial gift, above and beyond your usual giving, in support of the ministries of Grace Church. Help us once again end the fiscal year in the black, as we did a year ago.

Each gift, no matter the size, helps our ministry flourish. Prayerfully seek the Spirit's wisdom, and give generously in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of God's work at Grace!

The Stewardship Committee

### Grace Lutheran Church and School General Fund

Annual <b>Church</b> contribution budget, Fiscal year 2016–17 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)	\$1,980,000
<b>Church</b> contributions, through May 23, 2017	\$1,509,000
Needed by June 30 to achieve a balanced church budget	\$ 471,000

# WORSHIP

June 4

## **DAY OF PENTECOST**

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23

June 11

## **THE HOLY TRINITY**

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Genesis 1:1--2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

June 18

## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35--10:23

June 25

## **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39.

## **Farewell to Laura Zimmer**

Laura Zimmer is leaving her position as Assistant Cantor at Grace after more than ten years of service as an organist and organizer of worship materials. Her last regular Sunday of service-playing will be on June 11, though she may return to Grace from time to time as a substitute organist.

Laura plans to spend more time with her family, especially her grandchildren, while continuing to work at Concordia University as Administrative Assistant in the Music Department.

Candidates are being interviewed for the position of Assistant Cantor, and Pastor Michael Costello hopes to fill the position soon.

## **St. Charles Singers sing American music at Grace on June 4**

The St. Charles Singers will present a concert at Grace on Sunday, June 4, at 3 p.m. The program, "American Reflection," focuses on music that speaks to the American spirit, including "Walden Pond" by Dominick Argento and works by Randall Thompson, Robert Shaw, Alice Parker, Morten Lauridsen and others. Tickets are available at [stcharlessingers.com](http://stcharlessingers.com). Grace members are invited to use the discount code F & F to receive half off the ticket price.



# ADULT EDUCATION

Come to Adult Education sessions at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings for thought-provoking presentations and discussions that build faith and fellowship. Look for more information about classes and locations on the signs in the atrium. If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton, chair of the Adult Education Committee ([tanton@depaul.edu](mailto:tanton@depaul.edu)).

## **"Living My Faith"**

We sometimes wonder how we can be "Sunday people" during the rest of the week. Come to hear our church leaders speak about how they live out their faith in daily life in a special series this summer presented by Grace Adult Education.

<b>June 11</b>	<b>Pastor Dave Lyle</b>
<b>June 18</b>	<b>Pastor Dave Wegner</b>
<b>June 25</b>	<b>Pastor Lauren Wegner</b>
<b>July 30</b>	<b>Pastor Michael Costello</b>

## **A Vision of Wellness and Health Ministry at Grace**

**July 16**

**Sue Ames, Parish Nurse**

Sue will talk about what Jesus had to say about wellness and how that vision is being carried forth at Grace.

## **Sunday Bible Study**

Led by Bob Jandeska in the conference room, the Bible study group meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room on the lower level. The group is currently studying books in the Old Testament. Bible Study will not meet on July 9 and 16.

# Come to the June 4 congregation meeting

There will be a regular meeting of our congregation on Sunday June 4, 2017, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. The agenda includes reports from Pastor Dave Lyle, school principal Bill Koehne, and Bill Kopper, congregation treasurer. We will also hear a report from Brian Becker, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Sexual Orientation Issues. A copy of this committee's report will be available at the meeting, or contact Karen Christopher to receive a copy by mail or email ([kchristopher@gracriverforest.org](mailto:kchristopher@gracriverforest.org)).

The primary piece of business for the June meeting will be the presentation of the budget for the fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2017. The budget process is an important act by our congregation as we set forth our priorities for the next fiscal year. The budget that will be presented at the meeting for your consideration is the result of three meetings of the Budget Committee, capably chaired by Bill Kopper, that were open to all members of the congregation. If you would like to see the proposed budget prior to the meeting, copies are available by

contacting Karen Christopher.

The congregation's bylaws call for three regular meetings each year, in January, June and September. Any member or invited guest may attend

congregation meetings. Members of the congregation or school parents may submit recommendations and participate in discussion of business. Members who are 18 years and older may introduce and vote on binding motions and resolutions.

Come to the meeting and learn more about our ministry together here at Grace Church and School!



## Help fellow members get to church on Sunday

The Board of Elders is working on plans to match willing drivers with those who need rides to church on Sunday. Members who cannot get to Grace on Sundays because of lack of transportation should call the Grace reception desk (708-366-6900) and let the receptionist know that you cannot get to Grace without transportation. Or simply add your name and contact information to the clipboard at the reception desk.

Members who are willing to help provide transportation on Sunday mornings are also asked to call or sign up at the reception desk.

The Elders hope to have a plan ready by September. Please make those phone calls so that we can welcome more Grace members to worship on a regular basis.

## Important information about online donations at The City



Grace Church currently offers two ways to make contributions online: through The City and through the Online Giving link on the Grace website. At the end of June, Grace is planning on discontinuing its subscription to

The City, to eliminate duplicate costs. If you currently use The City for scheduled donations, please plan on setting up an Online Giving account between now and June 30. Just click on the Online Giving link at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) and use the form to set up a recurring gift.

If you need assistance, contact Jim McClanahan in Grace's business office (708-366-6900, ext. 202). More detailed information will be available at Grace and online during the month of June.



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**Grace Notes** is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church and School, 7300 Division St., River Forest, Ill. It is mailed to Grace members, parents of students at Grace School, and friends of the congregation. The newsletter is online at [www.gracriverforest.org](http://www.gracriverforest.org). This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, May 26, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than June 2. Copies are also available at Grace.

**Deadlines and submissions.** The July-August issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, July 14. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, July 5; the issue covers events through the end of August. Please send news to [ggotsch@gracriverforest.org](mailto:ggotsch@gracriverforest.org). Please limit your submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.



# Keeping up with Grace's building

## Recent projects improve safety and efficiency

Grace's Property Manager Dan Muriello supervises the maintenance and repair of the Grace building. Here's his report on some recent projects and on some of the work that will be done over the summer.

**LED lighting.** Grace is taking advantage of a ComEd Energy Efficiency Program which offers cash incentives for energy-efficient lighting, including fixture replacements and retrofits. Fluorescent fixtures in the music office, the AV center (the room above the church library), and inside the elevator have been converted to LED lighting. LED light bulbs are significantly more efficient than fluorescents and last much longer.

**Kitchen stairs.** Go past the school and church office desks, through the Lamb door, down the stairs, and turn right. This is the much-used shortcut into Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. Grace member Ken Folgers recently rebuilt the stairs here. The new stairs have sturdy handrails and rubber treads to make them safe for all who hurry through this back way.

**Roof and masonry repairs.** Half of the Grace organ was recently removed to accommodate roof repairs above the organ chambers, followed by plastering and painting inside these spaces. The pipes were cleaned and reinstalled and will no longer be covered with falling plaster dust.

In the weeks ahead, various outside walls will receive new tuck-pointing, including the outside wall of the organ loft, the parapet



above the music office, and the wall over the Division Street door. Once the outside is fixed, plaster will be repaired and repainted on the interior. Ceilings in the music office and school's Learning Center will also get the plaster-and-paint treatment over the summer.

**New sconces outside the Bonnie Brae entrance.** The decorative fixtures at the main entrance to the atrium have been absent since they were vandalized in 2009. New ones have been installed that match the sconces in the Memorial Garden and Fellowship Hall.

**Safety issues.** Prompted by a state law regulating public school buildings, Dan plans to install carbon monoxide detectors in Grace's three boiler rooms and in the kitchen. These will provide an early warning system for the presence of carbon monoxide.

**Lead testing.** State law regarding school buildings mandates lead-testing of water from all faucets and fountains that could be used for drinking and cooking. If, after testing, the lead content is found to exceed the maximum allowable level as determined by the EPA, the most common response is replacement of the fixtures. Samples from approximately 40 fixtures throughout the building will be included in the testing.



# New books in the Grace Church library

The Grace Church library is constantly adding new books to the collection. Recent additions include a new title by the generous and funny essayist Anne Lamott; a copy of “Waking Up White,” the book on institutional racism discussed by small groups at Grace during Lent; and several new books and resources celebrating this year’s 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Look for these titles and more in the cabinet in the atrium as well as on display in the library.

Volunteers staff the library on Sunday mornings. Stop by to browse and meet other book-lovers. All are welcome to check out books. The library is also open for self-service during the week.

**Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy**, by Anne Lamott. Riverhead Books, 2017. [241 LAM]

**Mozart’s Sister: A Biographical Novel of Nannerl Mozart**, by Nancy Moser. Mustard Seed Press, 2016. [FIC MOS]

**Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race**, by Debby Irving. Elephant Room Press, 2014. [305 IRV]

**For the Beauty of the Earth**, by Folliot S. Pierpont. Sparkhouse Family, 2017. The poetry of this classic hymn, written in 1864, creates a picture book to be enjoyed by children and adults alike. [J 264 PIE]

## New books on the Reformation

**Rescuing the Gospel: The Story and Significance of the Reformation**, by Erwin W. Lutzer. Baker Books, 2016. [270.6 LUT]

**October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day That Changed the World**, by Martin Marty. Paraclete Press, 2016. [284.10 MAR]

**Papa Luther**, by Daniel D. Maurer. Augsburg Fortress, 2017. A graphic novel, as told through the eyes of Luther’s children Hans and Magda. ELCA 500th Anniversary Reformation Resource. [FIC MAU]

**Luther and the Reformation**, by Rick Steves. Rick Steves Europe Inc. Commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Includes Steves’ European Christmas and European Easter. 2017. [DVD 284.1 STE]

## Register for VBS, June 12–16

*Step back in time with the Apostle Paul and experience what life was like in first-century Rome!*

June 12–16  
8:30 a.m. – noon

Drop-off starts at 8 a.m.

For children age 3 through  
current 5th graders

Extended day available until 5 p.m.



**Save the date for the  
Church-School Picnic  
Sunday, August 27**

**Lunch, games, fellowship, fun**

*Photo by Ellie Beck*



# Annual Rummage Sale is June 9–10

Proceeds benefit Youth Ministry programs at Grace



**Donate.** The annual Youth Ministry Rummage Sale raises funds for mission trips and other special events. It also gives Grace members an opportunity to clean stuff out of their attics and basements. Items not sold at the Rummage Sale are donated to various benevolences.

**Volunteer.** Sorting and organizing for the sale is a big job. (It's also strangely fascinating!) Volunteers are always welcome. Click on the link at [gracecreekforest.org](http://gracecreekforest.org) to sign up for a time slot. Or just drop by and pitch in.

**Shop.** You never know—that odd table or crazy handbag that didn't suit its original owner may be just the thing for your lifestyle! Plus there are always bargains: kids' clothes, toys and bicycles, housewares, books, objets d'art and more.

## Rummage Sale Donations

### Bring boxed/bagged donations to the atrium bin

Tuesday, May 30	9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 31	9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 1	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Friday, June 2	9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5:30 - 8 p.m.

### Bring donations directly to the gym

Saturday, June 3	8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sunday, June 4	2 – 5 p.m.
Monday, June 5	9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Tuesday, June 6	9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Wednesday, June 7	9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5:30 – 8 p.m.

## Large item pick-up

### Saturday June 3

Volunteers will come to your home on Saturday, June 3, and pick up furniture and other large items you wish to donate to the Rummage Sale. **Call Julie Modrich (708-366-6900) to get on the pick-up schedule.**

## Shop at the Rummage Sale!

**Friday, June 9** 9 a.m.–6 p.m.  
**Saturday, June 10** 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

# Youth ministry activities continue over the summer

**June 11, 8:30 and 11 a.m.**

### Youth Sunday and blessing of new graduates

High school youth will be leading worship, and graduating senior Bjorn Vogen will preach the sermon at both services. We celebrate and give thanks for our youth and the gifts God has given them to share with our congregation! We will pray blessings upon our high school graduates as God goes with them on their next adventures. **Also on June 11:** Bring your bikes for the Bike Blessing and Ride, beginning at 9:30 a.m!

**June 4, June 25, July 2, July 9**

### Youth group dinners

High School youth gather on Sunday evenings for dinner in each other's homes. Meet at church at 4:45 p.m. for a ride; we return to church by 7:15 p.m.

**Friday, July 7**

### High school service day

Mark your calendar for this day of service in the Chicago community. More details soon.

**Friday, July 28**

### High school day trip to Indiana Dunes

A day of enjoying the outdoors together.

**Further ahead. . .**

**Retreat on September 8-10.** All high school youth are highly encouraged to attend this retreat, as we focus on team-building and connecting with each other and with God.

### ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas

**June 25-July 3, 2018**

We will register in September for this huge, exciting event that gathers high school youth from all over the country for service, worship, community-building, and faith formation.

# Get kids moving!

by Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

It's probably not a big surprise that the majority of children aren't meeting the national guidelines for physical activity. The Department of Health and Human Services' Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends 60 minutes of daily physical activity for children age 6–17.

In a bulletin insert published in July, 2016, by Advocate Health Care, Dr. Vipul Singla, a pediatrician on staff at Advocate Children's Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, says that kids are more likely to participate in exercise when they can choose an activity they enjoy. "Not everyone likes sports, and often, we think of sports as the only option for physical activity. Biking, walking your dog, roller skating or rollerblading are all great ways to be active," says Dr. Singla. He offers these tips:

**Make time for activity.** Parents want their kids to succeed and, understandably, schedule lots of study time, music classes and other extracurricular activities, but often don't do the same with exercise. Help them make time for physical activity by planning it.

**Turn off the screen(s).** The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children and teens should engage with entertainment media for no more than one or two hours per day.

**Lead by example.** Children who see their parents having fun being active are more likely to participate themselves. Play sports, ride bikes, be active with your child.

**Give the gift of activity.** For birthdays and holidays, suggest that family and friends bring gifts that encourage outdoor activities, such as balls, jump ropes and other active toys.

**Remind children to drink plenty of water** when they're active. Getting enough sleep is important, too.

Here are some fun and active ideas to try this summer:

- Go to the playground/park.
- Move to GoNoodle videos on YouTube (for that occasional rainy day).
- Walk with a pedometer and make counting steps a game with goals and rewards.
- Sign the whole family up for the Grace summer walking program
- Swim at the pool or beach.
- Roller skate.
- Dance-athon.
- Go on a nature walk.
- Take a walk at the zoo.
- Climb stairs—make it a competition.
- Have a scavenger hunt around your neighborhood.



- Ride bikes. Ride to church on Walk/Wheel to Worship Sundays.
- Chase lightning bugs and see how many you can catch in an hour.
- Climb a sand dune
- Plant a garden and care for it.

I'm sure that parents and kids together can think of many more fun ideas to add to the list! Summer is here and we are so blessed with long hours of warm sunshine. Explore the beauty God surrounds us with!

*Summer family fun and wellness:*

## **Wheel or Walk to Worship**

**June 11, July 9, August 14**

Park your wheels in the gym.

Come for a Pastoral Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday, June 11 at 9:45 a.m.

## **Walk to Rome with the Apostle Paul**

**June 11 through August 19**

VBS is going to Rome this summer and so is the Health Cabinet's Summer Walking Program! Track your daily steps as collectively we retrace Paul's journey to Rome.

Register at the table in the atrium on May 28, June 4, or June 11. You'll receive a weekly email with a link to report your steps online. (You can also report them on a paper form.) Pedometers will be available at the table. The \$10 registration fee supports the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia.



# Feedback from A Conversation on Racism



The small group conversations on racism at Grace were very successful. The first phase of the journey concluded at the end of April with a potluck dinner, discussion, and an opportunity for participants to offer their feedback. The Faith

Perspectives team would like to share a general summary of the feedback.

## The book

“Waking up White,” by Debby Irving, anchored the group discussions and was met with mixed reviews. Most found the author’s degree of candor and vulnerability helpful and permission-giving for their own journey; others found her overly broad assumptions distracting or even damaging to her case. Some participants said they would have preferred to read a book on racism with a specifically Christian lens.

*Response from Faith Perspectives team:* Indeed it was very difficult to choose just one book for the beginning of our conversation on racism here at Grace. There are many voices and many perspectives on the subject. We did not expect the book to land with everyone involved in the discussions. We are very thankful, however, that those who indicated their dissatisfaction were insistent that we continue the discussion with additional voices. We do intend to continue – both with additional voices and with opportunities to express our desire for reconciliation and social justice. This book and discussion were the first, even if awkward step in the conversation – not the last.

## The small groups

The small group setting for these conversations was a resounding success and was highly rated by everyone who participated.

Many people shared their gratitude for an opportunity to meet other Grace members with whom they weren’t acquainted. Citing various reasons, some respondents said that the groups fell short as a place for “open and honest conversation”; the book, study guide, or fragile interpersonal relationships were a barrier for them.

*Response from Pastor Dave Wegner:* A framework for small groups is critical for a congregation the size of Grace. We are thrilled that many participants built new and strengthened old relationships with other members of the community. There will always be factors at play that make intentional and open sharing difficult. Our challenge as a church community, then, is to continue living into our unity as the body of Christ while creating space for our diversity of opinions.

## Next steps

There are many recommendations from participants on how we can take the next steps on this journey: reaffirming relationships with Harmony Community Church, becoming better aware of community organizing and reconciliation opportunities, learning from additional books or speakers from various backgrounds, hearing from a specifically Christian perspective, and other ideas were lifted up.

The Faith Perspectives Team is currently considering other resources and events in which the Grace community may take part. We will use the quieter summer months to plan for next steps in our Conversation on Racism. You may read more about how to participate in local peace and justice events in the Weekly Announcements distributed on Sunday mornings.

*Please continue to share with us ways in which you see racism being discussed or addressed in your daily living*

## Learning and Advocacy Opportunities

### An opportunity to learn more about racism

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph in Oak Park, is hosting a workshop titled “Moving Beyond Diversity,” on Saturday, June 10, 1–8 p.m. The program is designed for people of all races to learn more about how racism is embedded in today’s world. More information and registration forms are available at the Grace reception desk and on the Good Shepherd website ([goodshepherdlc.org](http://goodshepherdlc.org)).

### “Let’s talk about whiteness”

In a conversation inspired by her New York Times essay “White Debt,” Eula Biss, professor of English at Northwestern University, spoke with On Being’s Krista Tippett. The program was broadcast on January 19, 2017. Listen to it in the archive at [www.onbeing.org/programs](http://www.onbeing.org/programs).



## Plan now to walk with the Harmony Community Church team at the Chicago Hunger Walk

Join Grace’s Social Ministry Committee, other Grace members and members of Harmony Community Church in North Lawndale at the annual Greater Chicago Food Depository Hunger Walk on Saturday, September 16, at Jackson Park. For every participating walker Harmony’s food pantry will receive a \$12 credit to shop at the Food Depository. It would be wonderful if Grace could send 30 walkers! Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on September 16.

## GRACE NEWS

**SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ.** Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, June 19, at 7 p.m. These lunches are given to people in need in the Austin community. Children and teens are welcome with their parents. Contact Kate Hogenson (hogenson@msn.com; 708-445-9687) to arrange a ride.

**KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP** meets on Tuesday, June 20, 1–2:30 p.m. in the church library. Contact Margaret Burke (mrburke42@gmail.com) for more information.

**LECTIO DIVINA** meets on Monday, June 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact MaryBeth Buschmann (312-802-5493; marybeth1942@sbcglobal.net).

**RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS** meet on Tuesday, June 13, 10 a.m., in the church library for a presentation from Jim Scherer on “The Church International.” Guests are welcome.

**GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW.** A lively crew of volunteers led by Marlene Hallman gathers monthly in the church library to prepare Grace Notes for mailing. They will be at work on the July-August newsletter on Thursday, July 13, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers!

**CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY.** Older adults gather weekly during the school year for fellowship and Bible study. The annual end-of-the-year picnic is on June 7 at 11:30 a.m. in Grace’s atrium. Watch for more information about summertime outings.

**FINDING HOPE,** the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, at 7:15 p.m.

**RELIGION IN LITERATURE.** The book discussion group is reading George Orwell’s “1984” over the summer, in preparation for their first meeting in September.

**VBS IN SLOVAKIA.** Teens, and adults, along with Grace staff members, will once again travel to Martin, Slovakia, this July to teach Vacation Bible School at the Center for Christian Education. They’ll be commissioned at worship services on Sunday, June 25. Those going include Bob and Kathryn Jandeska, Dan and Julie Lehmann, JoEllyn Dorsey, Ellie Schnack, Peter Modrich, Jake Van Santen, Katarina Modrich, Kaitlin Vogel, Ramona Koetke, Madeleine Koetke, Anna Modrich, Julie Modrich, Pastor Dave Wegner and Pastor Dave Lyle.

## PRAYERS

**WE PRAY** for those who mourn.

For Carl Zehnder, whose sister, Ada Nickel, died in early May.

For the Clauss family; Kevin’s mother, Lorraine Clauss, died on May 9.

For Bill and Marion Brown; Bill’s twin sister, Louise Whiteman, died on May 19.

**PRAYER LIST.** The weekly Prayer List can be found in the worship bulletin on Sunday. Contact Karen Christopher (kchristopher@gracriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext 207) to be included on the published prayer list.

**PRAYER CHAIN.** Contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) or Kathy Garness (708-366-7584; KMGfinearts@comcast.net) with confidential prayer chain requests.

## CELEBRATION

**WE CELEBRATE** with Annie Demas and Robert Dulski who will be married on June 3.

**WE GIVE THANKS** with Isabella Rose Patterson, daughter of Gary and Emily Patterson, and with Annika Laine Lindberg, daughter of Jane Wilcox Lindberg and Erik Lindberg. They will be baptized on June 11.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**Sign up** at the reception desk to donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary.

## PASTORAL CARE

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care on weekends, or when the Grace building is closed. Please include a return phone number if you leave a message or send a text.

### Young adult gathering at Exit Strategy



Join us for another gathering of young adults in their 20s and 30s on **Thursday, June 1, at 7 p.m.**

No agenda but fellowship and open conversation.

Meet at **Exit Strategy Brewing Company**, 7700 Madison Street, Forest Park. Come and go as you please, and feel free to bring friends along. Contact Pastor Lauren Wegner (lwegner@gracriverforest.org) with questions.



The girls 4 x 200 relay team made All-State with a seventh-place finish at the LSA track meet on Sunday, May 21, at Concordia University here in River Forest. Congratulations to coach Brian Schultz (above) and his team.

## Grace School track team rocks!

Grace School's track team qualified 21 athletes (of the 61 3rd-8th graders students on the team) to the Lutheran Sports Association's state meet at Concordia on May 20-21. The Vikings took home fourteen All-State Awards in the relays and individual events.

"Grace tracksters over-achieved through preliminary races and it carried on into the finals. This was the best experience I've had at State. I'm so proud of our kids." assessed Head Coach Rich Brooks. Assistant coaches are teachers Brian Schultz (sprints) and Kat Slechta (jumps), and parent Glen Steiner (throws).

## Eighth graders plant a tree at Grace

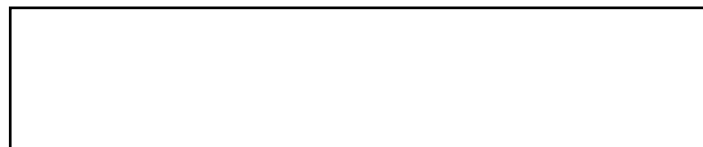
Grace School's Class of 2017 is busy preparing for graduation festivities. A few weeks ago they worked with congregation member Sandy Lentz to plant a new tree as their class gift. The new tree, planted just north of the wooden church doors, is an Amelanchier, more commonly called a Juneberry. Like other recent additions to Grace's landscaping, it is native to the eastern U. S. so it will thrive in its new setting. The eighth graders also made a gift to the Nature Conservancy, an international conservation organization. Their graduation service is on Thursday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. The traditional reception follows in Fellowship Hall.



# The Blessing of the Bikes Sunday, June 11

**Bring your bike (or your favorite summertime wheels) to church for a blessing and a ride around the block together to celebrate the start of summer!**

**Gather at 9:30 a.m. on the Bonnie Brae sidewalk. See you there!**



7300 Division St.  
River Forest, IL 60305

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