

Grace Notes



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

Divine multiplication



Ancient mosaic of the loaves and fishes from the floor of The Church of the Multiplication, at Tabgha, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee in Israel.

by Pastor Dave Lyle

The Feeding of the Five Thousand. It's the only one of Jesus' miracles that is included in each of the four gospels. That fact alone should tell us how important it is. Earlier this summer, Pastor Lauren preached a wonderful sermon on this text, reminding us that with God, there is always more than enough. Not long after hearing this sermon, I found myself standing on the site where many believe Jesus fed the multitudes. There is a beautiful Benedictine church there, delightfully named The Church of the Multiplication. (I looked for The Church of the Long Division, but couldn't find it.)

Jesus takes five loaves and two fish, which the disciples refer to as "nothing," and multiplies the food

through God's blessing so that it will be more than enough. The crowds eat their fill and still there are leftovers. It strikes me that each of the four evangelists includes this story not because it is so extraordinary, but because it demonstrates how God works in this world on a regular basis. The rules of multiplication don't even apply to God, for God can multiply something by nothing and end up with something; God can turn death into life.

The rules of multiplication don't even apply to God, for God can multiply something by nothing and end up with something.

God is a God of multiplication, taking the means and materials that seem so meager to us and making them into more than enough. God invites us to live within the divine multiplication. One way to begin doing so is by multiplying our relationships. This fall, we are launching a new fellowship

Multiplying the grace and love of God

Continued from page 1

ministry: FEAST (Fellowship, Education, and Spirit Together). There's more information in the pages that follow, but I want to encourage you to participate in a FEAST group this year. Whether you've been part of the Grace family for six months or sixty years, this is a great way to develop new connections and experience the deep grace that is multiplied when we gather together in Jesus' name.

We are also multiplying our adult education offerings this year. On Sunday mornings, there will now be two tracks: "Learning Faithfully" and "Living Faithfully." I am hopeful that you will dig deeply into these opportunities to learn, especially as we focus much of our education this fall on topics related to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

As we multiply our ministries, we remember that we don't do so just to enjoy fellowship or to learn information. We do so in order that the work of the gospel may be multiplied in our living, at Grace and beyond. As we cultivate the relationships with which God has blessed us, and as we dig deeply into the life of discipleship to which God has called us, we are able to more faithfully witness to the goodness and grace of Jesus Christ. His feast of abundance is open to all, and in these times of tension and dissension this hope is dearly needed. May we multiply the grace and love of God abundantly in all that we do.

In Christ,
Pastor Lyle



Interior of The Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. The modern church rests on the site of two earlier churches.

September Congregation Meeting

There will be a regular meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 17, following the 11 a.m. worship service.

According to the bylaws the September meeting includes a program review and a financial report.

New Members Class begins in October

The Fall New Members class begins on Sunday, October 1 and continues through November 19. The class will meet in Pastor Lyle's office. If you're interested in participating or if you know someone who might appreciate an invitation, please contact Karen Christopher (kchristopher@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext. 207).

Faith formation classes resume on September 10

Sunday School, Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes resume on Sunday, September 10, at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School students (preschool through fourth grade) meet for a kick-off Sunday in the gym. Pre-Confirmation (grades 5–6) and Confirmation (grades 7–8) students meet in their classrooms.

GraceRiverForest.org

An all-new edition of Grace's website went live in mid-August at GraceRiverForest.org. New navigation makes it easy to find information about Grace Church, Grace School and Bach Cantata Vespers. Communications Coordinator Gwen Gotsch is still tinkering with the site. If you have questions or comments, please let her know (ggotsch@graceriverforest.org).

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.graceriverforest.org. This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, September 1, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than September 8. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The October issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, September 29. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, September 20; the issue covers events through the end of October. Send news to ggotsch@graceriverforest.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.

You are invited to the FEAST

Come to the Feast!

FEAST is the name of a new fellowship project at Grace. It's an acronym for "fellowship, education and Spirit together." While there are plans for it to be all of those things, if you want to know what FEAST is really all about, think of all the good things associated with the actual word feast: abundant food (whether home-made or take-out), laughter, friendship, hospitality, celebration, ease, joy.

FEAST is simple. Grace members and friends who sign up to participate will be organized into groups of approximately 8–10 people. They'll meet together regularly—whenever, wherever, however they decide to do so.

A FEAST gathering doesn't have to be fancy or formal. It might mean ordering pizza together on a Sunday evening or meeting for coffee and bagels on a Saturday morning. It could be a traditional dinner party in the home of someone who likes to host dinner parties, or it could be an informal after-work get-together on a weekday evening, sitting on the floor eating take-out in someone's apartment. Groups might meet at the playground, in homes, in restaurants—there are many possibilities. The main thing is spending time with fellow Christians. Here's how Wendy Will, a member of the FEAST planning committee, explains it:

We pass the peace of Christ to one another during worship. Most people are comfortable with doing that. FEAST is the next step. We say "Yes, I'll spend some time with these people I know from church. I'll have a meal with them, get to know them." It's a powerful thing when we invite one another into our homes and our lives.

You don't have to feel obligated to host, if that's not a comfort zone for you. But if you're not there, not participating at all, you're missing—and we're missing you! We're all made in God's image—the community is complete only if we're all there.

Sometimes people can be shy about getting to know one another. We're not all 100 percent extroverts. But what centers us and brings us together is our love of Jesus. Jesus centers us and attends to us, and because of Jesus' acceptance, we want to show that same acceptance to one another.

Erika Lyle, another member of the FEAST committee, describes what a gathering might be like.

It can be structured however the group decides. People show up, there's some time to relax and chit-chat. The FEAST

committee will supply some kind of faith-related activity for the group to do together, before dinner, after the meal—whatever seems to work best. It's not a Bible study or book group—there's no reading or

preparation. It will be a devotion of some sort, perhaps an easy craft, or some discussion questions, remembering that we're all gathering together because we go to the same church. As we gather in Christ, we try to get to know each other a little bit better in a deeper way.

The FEAST committee will be asking if you would like to be in a group that includes families with young children. "If you really don't feel comfortable hosting little kids in your home, we understand," said Erika. Some people may seek out an inter-generational experience in FEAST. Others may prefer an adults-only group.

Sign-up information

The sign-up period will run from September 17 through October 8. You'll be able to sign up at church

on Sunday morning or sign up online. The first FEAST will be held on October 21 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone will meet at the home of Dave and Connie Zyer, 1321 William St., River Forest, for appetizers. You'll get your group assignment and move on to dinner at the home of your group's facilitator—your mystery host for the evening.

FEAST groups are replacing Supper Shuffles, a dinner-group activity that has been popular at Grace for almost 20 years. "Good friendships started in those Supper Shuffles," says Wendy. "People stayed friends and kept up with one another even when they were shuffled into a new group the next year. These friendships don't just happen from seeing one another at church. They happen when you share meals and time together."

FEAST is for everyone—not only couples and families, but also single people, old and young, long-time Grace members or folks new to our congregation. Many people will have to take a leap of faith for this to work! So sign up and make the commitment to be part of a FEAST group—to show up and be yourself. Invite others to sign up, too—just like Jesus who invites and welcomes all of us to his meal each Sunday morning.



It's a powerful thing when we invite one another into our lives.

WORSHIP

September 3

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 17

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Jonah 3:10--4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

October 1

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

September 24, prelude at 3:45 p.m.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort, BWV 126

Uphold us, Lord, by your word

Prelude: Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G, BWV 1048

Homilist: Lauren Dow Wegner

Preview lecture at 3: Mark Peters, Timothy Christian College, Palos Heights

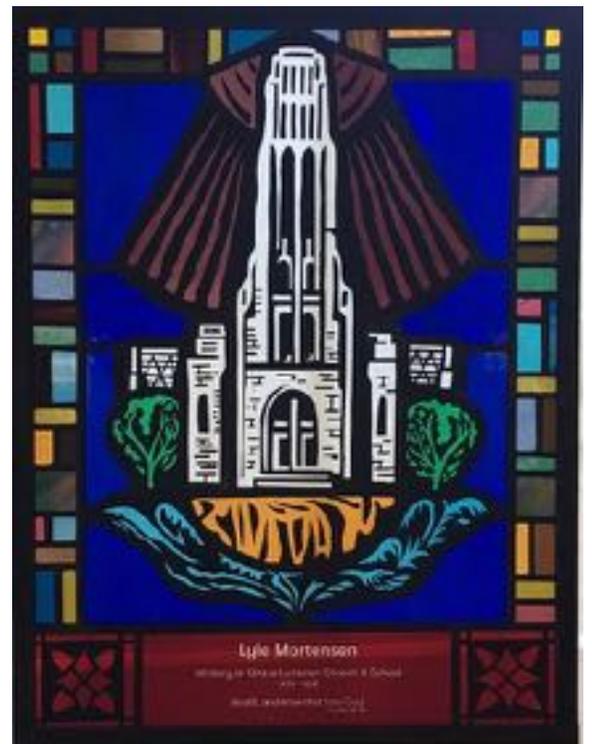
Reformation 500 music at Grace begins with an organ recital

Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello will play an organ recital on Sunday afternoon, September 10, at 4 p.m. at Grace. In observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the recital focuses on a wide range of music based on Reformation-era chorales.

The program spans several centuries, from J. S. Bach's Fugue on the Magnificat to more modern works, including *Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, O Herr* (Lord, thee I love with all my heart) by Johann Nepomuk David (1895–1977) and a partita on “Dear Christians, one and all rejoice” by Lionel Rogg (b. 1936). The 19th century is represented by Mendelssohn's Sonata in D minor, Op. 65, No. 6 (*Vater unser im Himmelreich*).

Two pieces on the program are based on “A mighty fortress is our God”—Max Reger's *Phantasie über den Choral: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* and a new partita on the hymn composed by Pastor Costello.

The concert is free and open to the public. You'll recognize familiar hymns of contemplation, comfort and rejoicing, and experience some magnificent music!



Thank you

Thank you to all who helped make last Sunday such a special day for me and my family. Thanks also to all who contributed to my retirement travel fund. The beautiful stained glass window will always find a prominent place in our home. I wish I could have thanked you all personally for your care and encouragement throughout my tenure at Grace. Jane and I look forward to continued participation in the Grace community as well as adventures around the world.

Lyle Mortensen

Stained glass (at right) presented to Lyle Mortensen as a retirement gift from the people of Grace Church on August 13, 2017. The piece was made by Grace member John Curran of Curran Glass Studio. The design was inspired by a window in the sanctuary depicting our church building.

ADULT EDUCATION



Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings at Grace. Classes in the Faithful Learning track focus on theology, scripture, church history, and other topics. Faithful Living topics include social justice issues, spirituality, family life, and vocation. On most Sundays classes are offered in both tracks. Many classes are part of multi-week series, but participants move from one track to another from week to week. Look for more details about classes and locations on the Grace web site, in the weekly e-newsletter Sunday Is Coming, and in the Weekly Announcements

If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton, chair of the Adult Education Committee (tanton@depaul.edu) or Pastor Dave Wegner (dwegner@gracriverforest.org).

LEARNING FAITHFULLY

September 10

The Living Universe

Grace Wolf-Chase, Adler Planetarium

The Adler Planetarium's Dr. Grace Wolf-Chase covers the newest cosmology discoveries while identifying more potentially habitable planets beyond our solar system. Adapting from her annual lecture at the Lutheran Zygon Center for Religion and Science at LSTC, Wolf-Chase addresses some theological reflections on what such discoveries may portend.

September 17

Life's Origins and Our Future on a Microbial Planet

Ted Anton, DePaul University

We are living through an unprecedented time of science insight into the origin of life. But to get the big picture, we must start small, very small. This talk by Grace member Ted Anton links astrobiology with a microbial revolution suggesting that our former enemies, microbes, can be allies in a drive for better health and a sustainable future. Based on his new book, "Planet of Microbes," this session offers a vision of a tiny living universe and what that might mean to spiritual understanding.

September 24

Reformation and Catholic Ecumenism

Hans Dumpys, Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lithuanian Lutheran Church

In the first of a seven-part, multi-speaker series celebrating the Reformation's 500th Anniversary, Grace member and bishop emeritus Hans Dumpys looks at the Reformation through the twin lenses of evangelical identity and catholic universality.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Led by Bob Jandeska 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 the Book of Kings.

LIVING FAITHFULLY

September 24

Living Faithfully: Slovakia Mission Trip Report

The Slovakia Mission Team for 2017

Come to hear and see reflections of Grace members who traveled to Martin, Slovakia, in our third summer leading VBS. We worked with 200 Slovak children, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in games and music, lessons and craft projects, helping lead youth camp, performing hands-on building renovations, and teaching conversational English at the Center for Christian Education.

Coming up in Adult Ed

More sessions on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (see p.6)

Living Faithfully: Continuing the Conversation on Racism

October 1: Anthony Clark, teacher at OPRF high school, founder of the advocacy group Suburban Unity Alliance, candidate for Congress in 2018.

October 22: Sherman Hicks, ELCA pastor, former Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, retired staff member at the ELCA Churchwide Office

October 29: "Serving in Harmony," Diane Carioscio, James Brooks and Grace members

Living Faithfully: Family and Vocation

October 8: Ramona and Chris Koetke

October 15: "Living Faithfully as a University Professor of Music and Conductor," Rich Fischer, Concordia University

November 12: "Living Faithfully: Parenting Children with Disabilities," Andy and Sara Chizzo, Mike and Chrissy Nelson

Religion and Society

A four-part series beginning on November 19



The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation at Grace Church

Lutheran churches around the world are observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which began with the publication of Martin Luther's 95 Theses on Oct. 31, 1517.

REFORMATION 500 IN MUSIC

September 10, 4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital on Reformation Chorales

Michael D. Costello, Grace Cantor.

Admission free

September 24, 3:45 p.m.

Bach Cantata Vespers

Cantata #126, Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

October 8, 4:00 p.m.

Heinrich Schütz's *Der Schwanengesang*

Chicago Choral Artists Kammerchor.

Tickets available at the door or at chicagochoralartists.com

October 15, 4:00 p.m.

Festival of Hymns: Around This Reformation Year

Senior Choir, Grace School Choir, Joyful Voices, Brass, percussion, and organ

October 29, 3:30 p.m.

Bach Cantata Vespers

Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony

Cantata #80, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

November 19, 3:45 p.m.

Bach Cantata Vespers

Cantata #19, Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

November 20, 7:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Boys Choir (Thomanerchor) from Leipzig, Germany, in concert

Thomaskantor Gotthold Schwarz, conducting

Tickets available at ticketor.com/grace or by calling 708-366-6900

REFORMATION 500 IN ADULT ED

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.

September 24

An Evangelical and Catholic Perspective

Hans Dumpys, Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lithuanian Lutheran Church

October 1

Katharina and Martin

Karl Reko

October 8

Luther the German

Karl Reko

October 8

Luther and the Reformation

Karl Reko

Oct. 22 and 29, November 5

Music and the Reformation

Carl Schalk

Nov. 5

Beer and the Reformation

Erika Lyle

Nov. 12

Women of the Reformation

Jennifer McNutt, Wheaton College

PBS film on Luther on Sept. 12, 8 p.m.

A new movie, filmed in historic locations across Europe, brings Luther's story to life with exquisite attention to detail. It will be broadcast on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 8 p.m. on WTTW, channel 11, and on other PBS stations.

Read more at www.newluthermovie.com.





Come to Grace's Annual Oktoberfest

Authentic German fun for the whole family!



Sunday, October 1, 2017

- **Traditional German menu.** Bratwurst, hot dogs, sauerkraut, red cabbage, green beans, German potato salad, apple cake —and fresh-baked pretzels.
- **Great beer** from Around the Bend Beer Company, where Grace member Dan Schedler is founder and brewer, and Kinslahger Brewing Company, co-founded by Grace member Neal Armstrong.
- **Silent auction** benefits Grace kitchen remodeling. Donations of silent auction items are welcome! Call Dan Krout or Don Heimbürger.
- **German oompah band**, sing-along, and Schnapps brigade.
- **Laterne parade** and face-painting for children.
- **German gifts** and Christmas decorations at the Erzgebirge booth.
- **Bring a friend, meet new friends!**

Tickets

Adults (12 and up)	\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door
Children (age 5–11)	\$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.
Children under 5	Free

The ticket price includes food and beverages.

Tickets are available in the atrium on Sunday mornings, at the reception desk during the week, and at the door.

Volunteer

The folks behind the scenes at Oktoberfest have a great time preparing for and hosting the event. If you'd like to help out, contact Dan Krout or Don Heimbürger.

Come and enjoy the relaxed, cozy gemütlich atmosphere of an authentic German Oktoberfest!

Women at Grace are making plans for 2017-18

Women at Grace had a busy year last year, and they are making plans for the ministry year ahead.

Recapping last year

Women at Grace began the 2016-17 ministry year with a service project in September, making 110 book bags and filling them with school supplies. The bags were delivered to children in Jordan by Lutheran World Relief. In October there was a program on "Train Travel in Europe" from Don Heimbürger. Women at Grace hosted the annual Advent Cookie Walk and the reception after the Grace Christmas concert in December.

In January, 100 women from Grace and Harmony Church shared a day of fellowship and learning at a Saturday retreat led by Phylis Kersten and Louise Williams. Women at Grace hosted a Lenten dinner in March and a very successful "Katie Luther" night out at Kinslahger Brewing Company in May. The June fundraiser raised \$4,200 for the ELCA International Women Leaders Program. Women at Grace also helped host a Sunday after-church luncheon at Grace for deaconesses attending the 2017 World Federation Assembly in Chicago in July.

Coming up this fall

Visit Ball Gardens in September. On Friday, September 15, Women at Grace will tour the award-winning Gardens at Ball Horticultural in West Chicago and enjoy lunch afterward. The bus leaves Grace at 9:30 a.m. Sign up and pay (\$35, plus \$10 for the bus) at the Grace reception desk by September 6.

Service project in October. Women at Grace will pack up the Grace kitchen before the planned remodeling project begins.

Shopping fundraiser in November. Drop in at Alioto's Gift Shop, 1118 Chicago Ave. in Oak Park on Friday, November 17, during an all-day fundraiser. Alioto's specializes in home decor, dinnerware, fine china, and other gifts. A percentage of your purchase benefits a Women at Grace benevolence project.

Cookies. The annual Sunday-morning cookie walk and the reception after the Grace Christmas concert are on Dec. 10.

Save the date for "Superstar"! Women at Grace are organizing a trip to the Saturday, May 5, matinee performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Lyric Opera. Mark your calendar!

Prevent Alzheimer's disease with the MIND diet

by Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

September is World Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

I attended a continuing education class last month on Alzheimer's given by Daniel Kuhn, MSW, and learned something new and thought I would share it with you.

There is a new research program going on at Rush University Medical Center related to nutrition and Alzheimer's prevention. It is called the MIND diet. The study results are showing as much as a 53 percent lowered risk of Alzheimer's with those who strictly adhered to the diet and a 35 percent lowered risk in those who moderately followed the diet.

The MIND diet was developed by Martha Clare Morris, ScD, a nutritional epidemiologist at Rush, and her colleagues. It is a hybrid of the Mediterranean and DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diets. Both diets have been found to help reduce the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke.

MIND stands for Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay.

The MIND approach specifically includes foods and nutrients that medical literature and data show to be good for the brain. "Blueberries are one of the more potent foods in terms of protecting the brain," Morris says in an online press release from Rush (see below for the URL), "and strawberries have also performed well in past studies of the effect of food on cognitive function."

On the MIND diet you eat things from these ten food groups:

- Green leafy vegetables (such as spinach and salad greens): At least six servings a week
- Other vegetables: At least one a day
- Nuts: Five servings a week
- Berries: Two or more servings a week
- Beans: At least three servings a week
- Whole grains: Three or more servings a day
- Fish: Once a week
- Poultry (chicken or turkey): Two times a week
- Olive oil: Use it as your main cooking oil
- Wine: One glass a day

You avoid:

- Red meat: Less than four servings a week
- Butter and margarine: Less than a tablespoon daily
- Cheese: Less than one serving a week
- Pastries and sweets: Less than five servings a week
- Fried or fast food: Less than one serving a week



Should you follow the MIND diet?

This eating plan focuses on nutritious whole foods, so it's good for your health, even if you don't have a family history or other risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. One of the best things about the MIND diet is that the research shows you don't have to stick to it perfectly to see benefits.

References

<http://www.webmd.com/alzheimers/features/mind-diet-alzheimers-disease#1>

<https://www.rush.edu/news/diet-may-help-prevent-alzheimers>

Finish Line for the Summer Walking Program

We are finished with our ten-week journey to Rome that ran from June 11 to August 19. We made it from River Forest to Rome (4,813 miles) and covered all of Paul's Journey from Jerusalem to Rome (2,130 miles). Fantastic effort and accomplishment—congratulations to all!

Here are our top five walkers:

- #1 Mike Cariscio walked 1,005,383 steps for 502.69 miles.
- #2 Tom Kay walked 837,029 steps for 418.51 miles.
- #3 Diane Cariscio walked 810,695 steps for 405.34 miles.
- #4 Ruth Reko walked 734,890 steps for 367.4 miles.
- #5 Jim McClanahan walked 705,201 steps for 352.6 miles.

Plan to sign up for the Health Cabinet's next walking challenge, "The Turkey Trot," beginning in October!

What's it like teaching VBS in Slovakia?

The Center for Christian Education (CCE) in Martin, Slovakia, has invited Grace Church to return in 2018 to again teach a week of Vacation Bible School. Are you wondering what that might be like? Here are some reactions from the 2017 Slovakia mission team.

Grace's Slovakia mission team left Chicago on Thursday, July 6, arriving in Budapest, Hungary, the following day. A representative of the Center for Christian Education (CCE) met them with a bus for the four-hour trip through the Slovak mountainside to the town of Martin.

What were your first impressions of Slovakia?

"Fields of sunflowers waving in the breeze."

"I was struck by how much it reminded me of the valley towns in North Carolina...it felt as if I was home."

"Very colorful; the old buildings have such character—very European!"

"The people are really hospitable."

On Saturday, the team toured popular Slovak sightseeing destinations. After worshipping Sunday at the Lutheran church on CCE's campus the team met the young Slovaks who would serve as classroom helpers and translators. Together they spent the afternoon readying their classrooms for Monday.

Describe your first day of VBS in three words.

"Exhausting, challenging, rewarding."

"Better than expected."

"Intense, crazy, fun."

If this wasn't your first trip to Slovakia, why did you want to return?

"Because of CCE itself. I wanted to see the people...and renew old acquaintances."

"I came back because it's awesome to meet the Slovaks. I



got to know two little kids pretty well; I put their picture on my screen saver now—I'll miss them!"

"For me, Martin is one of the places where I see God's work in my life and in the lives of others. It's energizing and restful at the same time."

"Experiencing the hospitality of these young Slovak Lutherans determined to bring Christianity back to their country teaches me so much. Their boldness is contagious and uplifting."

As the VBS week continued, we asked, "Where did you see God today?" The answers were insightful.

"In the smiles of the kids. They were telling us they liked being there."

"Playing games; everyone was having fun and no one was left out."

"In the children's faces."

"I saw God all around us."

One evening, the team visited the village of Istebne, where CCE director Bohdan Hrobon described the tiny wooden church, built during the Counter-Reformation. With Pastor Dave Wegner presiding, the team shared the Eucharist.

"I so cherish coming here to be connected with the people of the faith, whose story is different from our own."

Complete this sentence: "My Slovakia mission experience was..."

"...joyful, acutely meaningful, and I want to come back!"

"...eye-opening and life-giving."

"...uplifting, unforgettable, and life-changing."

"...refreshing. A huge contrast between the hectic life of Americans and the more 'basic' life in Slovakia. They're a happy, loving people."

"...wonderful. When can we return?"

If you'd like more information about the 2018 trip, talk with Pastor Lyle or Julie Modrich. No teaching experience is required to help with VBS. The full cost of the 2017 trip totaled under \$2,400 per person.

Join Harmony Church at the Chicago Hunger Walk in September

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 Care needs you!

Looking for an opportunity to join one of the many ministries at Grace, but your time is limited? Grace Care is for you! Once every nine weeks the Grace Care team you're assigned to brings meals to members just home from the hospital, with a new baby, or in a long recovery. You don't have to be a super cook—simple meals are usually the best. The visit and sharing matter most!

Contact Deb Braxton (dbbraxton31@gmail.com) or Sandy Lentz (sandylentz@gmail.com) for information or to sign up!

GRACE NEWS

SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ. Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, September 18, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson to arrange a ride.

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP will meet on Tuesday, September 19, at 1 p.m. in the church library. For more information, contact Margaret Burke (mrburke42@gmail.com).

LECTIO DIVINA meets on Monday, September 25 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact MaryBeth Buschmann.

RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS meet on Tuesday, September 12, 10 a.m., in the church library, for a presentation from Dean Lueking on “Gay Christians: Developing an Ethic.” Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW. A lively crew of volunteers prepares Grace Notes for mailing. They will be at work on the October newsletter on Thursday, September 28, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers!

CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY. Wednesday morning fellowship and Bible study for older adults resumes on September 6 in the church library. Come for treats and conversation at 10 a.m. and Bible study at 10:30. On September 20, there is Morning Prayer at 11:30, followed by lunch.

FINDING HOPE, the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, at 7:15 p.m.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book discussion group meets on Friday, September 15, 8 p.m., to discuss George Orwell’s “1984,” led by David Heim. Jill and Martin Baumgaertner are the hosts.

YOGA, led by Ackli Howell begins again on Thursday, Sept 7, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket or beach towel to sit on. Dress comfortably for movement. Questions? Contact Ackli.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone at Grace Church and School for your love and support during the three years my son, Kris Grahnke, lived with ALS, and in the weeks following his death. Kris’ wife, Michelle, Kurt, Eliza, and I have all been blessed by God’s grace through your presence with us—in meals, prayers, cards, messages, and at the memorial service in Rockford. Kris wrote in a blog post on July 10, “There have been days far into this experience where life has far exceeded my expectations for love and connection with Christ Jesus.” True for us, too. *Gwen Gotsch*

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.

PRAYERS

WE PRAY for friends and family who mourn the death of Kris Grahnke; and for Carolyn and Martin Becker and all who mourn the death of the Rev. Donald Becker.

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 James Joshua Hickey and Ingrid Scott Hickey, son and daughter of Barbara and Tim Hickey, baptized on August 6; with Connor Joseph Arseniadis, son of Rob and Megan Arseniadis, baptized on August 27; and with Linnea Easton, daughter of Jordan and Rob Easton, who will be baptized on September 17.

WE CELEBRATE with Tyler Marotz and Elizabeth Hartnett who will be married at Grace on September 30.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign up at the reception desk to donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary. Flower donations from late July through September:

July 30 — Dick and Susie Calhoun in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

August 6 — Mike and Roberta Gillespie in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary

August 13 — Jane and Lyle Mortensen in celebration of Lyle’s retirement and Jane’s birthday

August 27 — Pat and Sue Allen in celebration of the August 26 marriage of Jennifer Allen and Todd Wiltgen in Lincoln, Neb., and from Paul Bouman’s children in celebration of his 99th birthday

September 3 — Deb Schmidt-Rogers in memory of Stephen A. Schmidt

September 10 — Lance and Stephanie Wilkening in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary

September 24 — Anne-Marie and Steve Bogdan in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary; and Lynn and Tom Zurowski in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary

A new year begins at Grace Lutheran School



The now-traditional first-day-of-school mass selfie was taken by Pastor Dave Wegner after Grace School's opening worship service on Tuesday, August 22. The school year theme is "That's Grace," based on Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

Two new teachers have joined the Grace School staff: Corinne McKenna is the new fourth-grade teacher. She's a recent Concordia University graduate who student taught at Grace last fall. Kristi Underhill, a Grace School alum, is teaching P. E. classes, a math class, and a science class.

Walk With Grace, Grace School students' annual walkathon fundraiser takes place on Friday, October 6. This is a new time of year for this event; it was previously held in May. Donors support students with pledges. This year 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the ALS Association in memory of Grace grad Kris Grahnke (class of '01).

Scouting at Grace Kick-Off Night



Is your son looking to join Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts? Boys from 1st grade through 11th grade and their parents are invited to the Scout Kick-Off night on Friday, September 8, 7 p.m. From camping, hiking, and the Pinewood Derby to learning leadership skills—come see what it's all about!

Photo: "Liberty We Breathe" by Mohammed al-Kurd.
Matted prints of this photo and others in the exhibit
will be available for sale. Contact Sue Foran
708-267-1620; sforan4@comcast.net

Wine and cheese reception
Friday, September 8, 7-9 p.m.

September 1-28
sponsored by Bright Stars of Bethlehem.
Photography exhibition in Grace's atrium

Palastine: Unlimited



7300 Division St.
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