

Grace Notes



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

March 2018

As long as it takes



by Pastor Dave Wegner

The number forty is found frequently in Jewish and Christian scripture. When Moses led the Israelites out of bondage, they wandered in the desert for forty years before entering the Promised Land. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he was led up into the wilderness for forty days of prayer and fasting.

But why did the Israelites need to wander in the wilderness between Egypt and Israel for forty years? It certainly wouldn't take that long – even walking – to get from one place to the other. Wouldn't God want them to get to the promised land quickly? Wouldn't God want these former slaves to find and make a new, free home right away? Why would God let Jesus be tempted in

the wilderness for forty days? Wouldn't God want Jesus to get right down to kingdom work right away? Why the delay? Why the wait?

Because, in the scriptures, a timespan involving forty is often interpreted as an expression that means "as long as it takes."

When God busted the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, they were scared and spiritually empty. The chains around their feet and hands also bound their hearts – hardening them against anyone who would seek to "rule" their lives. They were slaves to an oppressive master. God appears to Moses and promises to reclaim the chosen and beloved people. Then God busts them out of Egypt and sets their faces to the promised land. It took the Israelites "as long as it took" in the wilderness to trust in God –

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Forty days — or as long as it takes

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their new master, one who rules with love and grace not oppression and death.

It took “as long as it took” for the people to understand that God fulfills God’s promise to them: manna for food, water from the rock, laws and ordinances that set forth healthy boundaries within community – all gifts they received in their wandering. All this was done so that the people finally entered the land promised to their ancestors with complete and profound trust that God was with them and would not let them go.

I am confident that many of us know what forty days or years feel like in our own lives. Perhaps we often feel that “as long as it takes” is much longer than we’d like, have plans for, or desire to endure. It seems that the haste with which the world moves around us demands that we follow suit – often resulting in exhaustion, depression, anxiety, meltdowns, or downward spirals when our bodies, minds, or spirits just can’t keep up. We get to the point where we want to echo the prophet’s words: “How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save?” (Habakkuk 1:2 NIV)

But that is not the end of the story – for the Israelites wandering the desert wilderness nor us wandering the urban and suburban wildernesses of modern life. For we are not the only ones who endure for as long as it takes. So, too, does God take as long as it takes to shape and reshape, create and recreate, our lives through grace. So too does Christ promise to dwell within us for as long as this life takes – bearing us up to our eternal home when, in our endurance, we have finished the race.

For as long as it takes us to recognize God’s unfailing mercy and love working in our lives, that is how long God continues to shower those very things upon us. God never abandons us to the wilderness. God never releases us to the unknown. God is near for as long as it takes us to join the prophet’s prayer again: “Yet

[despite these things] I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength.” (Habakkuk 3:18-19a NRSV)

Whether you feel as though your life is spiraling out of control or has come to a complete stop, God is with you for as long as it takes – as long as it takes for you to find hope, rebuild faith, regain trust, forgive or be forgiven, grow in love, exercise

hospitality, deepen devotion, practice stillness, practice action, and experience grace.

Blessings on your forty.

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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.graceriverforest.org. This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, March 2, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than March 9. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The April issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Wednesday, March 28. The deadline for copy is Monday, March 19; the issue covers events through early May. 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.

WORSHIP

LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21

Morning Prayer at 11:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. (Supper is served in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.)

Sunday, March 4

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19:1-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 11

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 18

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 25

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

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

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 15:1-39

Monday – Wednesday, March 26–28

HOLY WEEK

Responsive Prayer with the school children, 8:30 a.m.

THE THREE DAYS

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31-35

GOOD FRIDAY, March 30

Adoration of the Cross at 8:30 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.

Isaiah 52:13--53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

The St. John Passion is sung in a new setting

by Pastor Costello at noon and 7 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL, March 31, 7 p.m.

Old Testament readings, Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

EASTER SUNDAY

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, April 1

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

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

Bach Cantata Vespers on March 25 celebrates the Annunciation

In Johann Sebastian Bach's day German Lutheran churches celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation as a major church festival. It commemorates the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be the mother of Jesus and takes place on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas.

In 1725, March 25 fell on the Sunday before Easter—Palm Sunday, and the celebration of the Annunciation took precedence over the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem before his passion. Bach's cantata for the occasion is based on the hymn "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star," which we usually think of as an Advent or Epiphany hymn.

The Bach Cantata Vespers service here at Grace on March 25 features this cantata (*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, BWV 1) and other music suitable for the Annunciation, including "*Bogoroditse Devo*," a setting of a text about Mary by Sergei Rachmaninov. Eric Budzynski, Organist and Music Associate of Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University, plays the organ prelude at 3:45 p.m. The homilist is Matthew J. Marohl, College Pastor at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. Carl Schalk previews the cantata in the Seminar Room at 3 p.m.





ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings at Grace.

Classes in the Faithful Learning track meet in the Seminar Room on the lower level.

Classes in the Faithful Living track meet in the 7th grade/German classroom. Go through the Lamb Door next to the elevator, up half a flight of stairs, and turn left into the junior high classroom area.

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@graceriverforest.org).

FAITHFUL LEARNING

March 4 and 11

Ruth and Esther: Faith in Action

Dr. Michael Graves, Armerding Professor of Biblical Studies, Wheaton College

March 4: Ruth is a carefully crafted short story in which characters move from tragedy to redemption. God's faithful love motivates people to act with faithful love toward one another, which spreads from person to person until everything turns out right. We will focus on key dialogues in the book of Ruth and the text's ethical meaning.

March 11: Esther is a sensational narrative filled with extreme dangers and dramatic reversals. What does Esther have to say about what people should value, and how they should act? Where is God in this narrative? We will discuss these questions in the book of Esther and in our world today.

March 18 and 25

Frankenstein at 200: Remaining Human in a Post-Human World

Dr. Christina Bieber-Lake, Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English, Wheaton College

In 1818 a nineteen-year-old woman named Mary Shelley invented a new genre that would become known as science fiction. At the heart of her tale was a character so arrogant and destructive that his name has become synonymous with the monster he created. But in the 200 years since the publication of *Frankenstein*, have we learned anything? In the first session we will investigate how Victor Frankenstein's sins continue to propagate in our culture today. In the second we will discuss how to remain human in a post-human world.

FAITHFUL LIVING

February 25 and March 4

Living Faithfully, Dying Faithfully

Pastor Dave Lyle; Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

Faithful living includes being prepared financially, legally and spiritually for the end of life. These two sessions offer a guide to thinking about important issues and questions, with love and feeling, well ahead of time.

March 11 and 18

Questions We're Afraid to Ask

Gordon Straw, Associate Professor and Cornelsen Chair of Spiritual Formation and Coordinator of Candidacy, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

This conversational, participant-driven series will explore the nature of theology, why everyone is a theologian, and the "rules" of theology. This is an opportunity to ask those questions you might feel you should already know the "correct" answer to: What does it mean to be incarnated (in birth or death)? Can I have doubts? What about miracles? What if my prayers "don't work"? Do better people have more prosperous lives? Where do we go when we die? What is heaven? What is hell?

Coming in Adult Education in April

April 8 and 15

Liturgy and Language: Embracing Lutheran History and Expanding the Future through a Feminist Lens,

Dr. Katie Deaver, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

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.

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

CYFM

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

**Family
Fun
Friday**

5th Annual
All-school

**Chili
COOK
OFF**



FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd

6:00pm to 9:00pm

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Click on the link
at GraceRiverForest.org
for a night of food, family
and fun!



Bring a chili, side or dessert.

Prizes for Best Chili

Family Fun Activities
Family Craft • Open Gym

Email questions to
Julie Modrich at jmodrich@graceriverforest.org
Amanda Steelman at amanda.steelman@gmail.com

Children, Youth and Family Ministry news

See "Screenagers" here at Grace.

The award-winning documentary film "Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age" will be shown at Grace on Sunday afternoon, April 15, at 2:30 p.m., sponsored by Youth Ministry. The film explores families' struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to navigate the digital world. A discussion will follow the screening.

Communion instruction retreat for 4th grade students and parents.

All fourth graders and their parents are encouraged to attend the Communion Instruction Retreat on Friday, March 9, 5:30–9 p.m., and Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m.–noon. Communion instruction is an important part of our young people's growth in faith. Children who already receive communion are encouraged to attend along with their peers. If you have not already registered, please contact Julie Modrich (jmodrich@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext 229).

On Palm Sunday, March 25, students will receive Holy Communion during worship services. Also on that Sunday, they will share the story behind their white garment with other Sunday families in a presentation during the 9:45am Education Hour. Students decorate their garment with symbols of what's important to them in their lives and their faith.



Register now for Vacation Bible School

June 11-15, 8:30-12 p.m.

For children age 3 through current 5th graders

Register at GraceRiverForest.org

What do the Elders do?

Grace's Board of Elders is different from committees and boards such as the Adult Education Committee or the Board of Finance, which are responsible for specific church programs or management areas. The Elders are charged with holistic, "whole-church" responsibilities, with overseeing and responding to the spiritual needs of the church community.

At the congregation's annual elections in January, three Grace members, Ellie Anderson, Jennifer Brayton, and Val Stefanic, were elected to the Board of Elders. They join six others who are currently serving overlapping three-year terms. On a recent Sunday morning, the three sat down to talk with Gick Schmidt, who has served on the Board of Elders since 2016.

What are the responsibilities of the Board of Elders?

Gick read from Grace's bylaws:

"The Board of Elders shall be charged with providing for the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments; attending to the spiritual needs of the congregation ... and visiting the sick and those with special needs....The Board of Elders shall focus on the expectations, attitudes, and concerns of the congregation and the pastoral staff [and] serve as a listening post for pastoral staff and congregation."

Gick: At the Elders meeting it's always asked, "Are there any concerns from members?" Our job is to be listening, so that people know they can come to us with any concern they may have. We can act as a sounding board for the pastors, for concerns they have as they serve as resources for various boards and committees. They can feel free and supported as they talk with us.

What was your reaction to being asked to serve as an Elder?

Val: I had no idea what they were or what the role was. Once it was explained, that the job was to serve the church and the congregation directly, I liked the idea

of working with the pastors and being a liaison.

Jen: I asked some good questions, but I had a few surprises when I got to the first Elders meeting. I didn't know that visiting our members was on the to-do list.

Gick: I visit someone regularly who can't come to church. I've learned a lot. It strikes me every single time I go that bringing communion to people is very important. The whole demeanor of the person I visit changes when it's time for communion.

Ellie: It seems like almost all of our responsibilities have to do with spiritual care of the congregation. I guess I knew that, but I'm still looking for the answers of how to do that. I could visit people in the congregation, but how do you initiate those relationships? I'm a little bit nervous to approach someone who's been part of the church for *X* amount of years and I'm 29 and I say, how can I help you with your spiritual life? It's more like, how can you help me with mine?

Val: It's something I'm not all that comfortable with just yet. What's the difference between Elders visiting and Stephen Ministers?

Gick: We are visiting as part of our ministry to the congregation. It's a different role than a Stephen Minister. We're coming to talk about what is going on at Grace and ask about any concerns people may have. I usually bring a bulletin with me to share what's going on at church. Sometimes things come up very naturally. A visit helps people remain connected to the congregation, even if they're hardly ever able to come to church.

Jen: I was told [by the Nominations Committee] that they wanted to fill the open Elders positions with three women, because three women were leaving. It's great that Ellie is here, someone younger. Elders are often perceived as older. Some in the congregation don't know who the Elders are, what their role is. It took me

some time to say yes, because of the responsibilities I have on a personal level and even within my church life. But I felt strongly that it was a calling.

Gick: I think it's useful to have people with different backgrounds on the Board of Elders, because you bring useful perspectives from your own experiences.

Ellie: I knew who the Elders were and that it was an honor to be asked. I knew in my gut I wanted to say yes right away, but I did think about it—what the responsibilities were. My Grace duties have been pretty self-explanatory up till now. But this is like a glove—it really takes the shape of whoever's hand is in it. It's a responsibility because it's going to take some initiative. Being on Adult Ed or the Call Committee—I would just show up and give my two cents. I'm going to have to take the initiative to meet people and take responsibility.

What keeps you involved here at Grace?

Ellie: What keeps me here actually is being asked to do things like this. Being on the Call Committee [for the senior pastor] literally changed my adult life. It brought me back to a faith community and really anchored me in it. What keeps me here is being asked to participate. I have a deep appreciation for the history of Grace, but then I also have a mindset of "forward march." This church has supported me through my entire life. I'm eager to support it in turn. So if I'm asked to do something I'm going to try my best to do it.

Val: I'm a very new member to Grace. I didn't grow up Lutheran. I was baptized Baptist, and I attended Catholic school and church. What brought me to Grace was the community. Being a person of color, you kind of wonder what it will be like, will people really be accepting? People were just very friendly, very open, so that's why we stayed. We went to the New Members Class and there was this great open conversation, and the whole idea of learning more about the

A visit with new members of the Board of Elders

Lutheran faith was interesting. I wanted to be able to serve. I feel very blessed and very fortunate that I'm able to give back and meet more people in the congregation.

I've been involved with Youth and Family Ministry. My daughter was 13 or 14 when we joined. I feel when parents are involved at church, it keeps the kids involved. And I like teenagers. I feel I relate well to them. So far that's been great.

Jen: I've been here at Grace since I was in first grade. Once I had kids I tried to be actively a part of whatever might be going on at church with them. I work with high school ministry and the nursery. I'm in lots of different places and my history here includes being part of the school community. I feel those places circle back with each other. I have volunteered in lots of areas, but when you get a call, it's very meaningful. I felt like God is calling me in a new direction. I like that I can interface with lots of different people--with moms like Val, the high school youth, and the nursery. Intergenerational is crucial. All are part of Grace's community. Even the two-year-olds are active members. They're members of God's creation. I think God is calling us to do more sometimes, to be disciples.

Gick: What keeps me here is the Sunday worship. I can't imagine life without that Sunday morning hour. When we're singing a hymn I always look to see how old the hymn is. For me there's something wonderful about Christianity continuing through the ages, and hearing sermons, sitting with all these other Christians. I love the way communion and baptism are emphasized every Sunday.

What do you think are some of the challenges facing Grace?

Val: How do we keep youth involved in the church? They go to church with their parents—and come back years later with their own kids. How do you bridge that

span? How do you meld the church more with the students in the school? I like being part of youth and family ministry so that we can help to do that. We are helping to bring kids in and keep them engaged them in youth group so that they feel comfortable, they have fun.

Gick: People need to feel connected. I hear you [Val] talk about what a friendly congregation this is, yet some people feel we're not that friendly.

Val: People have to take ownership of their own part. How can you feel you're outside of things if you're not willing to get inside? When things go on here at Grace, you have to come be a part of that.

Ellie: How do you stay totally relevant? How do you stay relevant to even a 22-year-old's or a 25-year-old's life? Obviously God and Christ are always relevant, but in real day-to-day terms, how do you do that?



Val Stefanic, Ellie Anderson, Jen Brayton and Gick Schmidt, members of the Board of Elders at Grace.

Gick: To build on that—how do you keep elderly people understanding the world now? There are questions on both ends of the age spectrum. [Another challenge] is supporting the pastors, letting them know we understand what they really do. The challenge for elders is being ready to respond to concerns as they come up.

Ellie Anderson is a life-long member of Grace Church and a graduate of Grace School. She teaches junior high students in the Chicago Public Schools.

Jennifer Brayton is married to Mike. They have six children—all graduates, students, or future students of Grace School.

Val Stefanic has an independent sales firm in the advertising and promotional industry. She is married to Thomas and has two children. Son Davis Luckett is a college student, and daughter Camille Luckett, a high school junior, often serves as an Assisting Minister in worship services at Grace.

Gick Schmidt is a long-time Grace member, has served on several boards, and served as president of the congregation for two terms between 2004 and 2008.

Val, Ellie, Gick, and Jen agreed that it's important for the congregation to know who the Elders are. Their most public role is serving as deacons in Sunday worship services, assisting with Holy Communion. The Elders/Diacons are the people who refill the chalice and bring new trays of wine down the steps to those serving communion.

The other current members of the Board of Elders are Christa Krout, Andy Massmann, Markus Sleuwen, Ed Mason, and Al Swanson, who serves as chair.

Resources for Holy Week and Easter

As our Lenten journey continues toward Holy Week and Easter, here are some resources from the church library for learning and reflection in the weeks ahead. Look for these titles and many more in the church library and in the glass case in the atrium. All are welcome to check out books.

The library is open and staffed on Sunday mornings. Stop by, have a cookie, and browse the collection. The library is also open for self-service during the week.

The Mystery of Easter, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Crossroad, 1997. [232.96 BON]

Martin Luther's Easter Book, ed. Roland Bainton. Augsburg Fortress, 1997. [232.96 MAI]

Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter. Orbis Books, 2005. Meditations from a wide spectrum of classic and contemporary writers. [234.34 BRE]

The Three-Day Feast: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, by Gail Ramshaw. Augsburg Fortress, 2004. [242.34 RAM]

Before and After Easter: Activities and Ideas—Lent to Pentecost, by Debbie Trafton O'Neal. Augsburg, 2001. [263 ONE]

Hymns for All Saints: Lent, Easter, Pentecost. Concordia. 2007. [CD 782.27 HYM]

He is Alive! A Picture Book of the Last Week of Jesus' Life and His Resurrection, by Helen Haidle. Zonderkidz, 2001. [E 232.96 HAI]

The Very First Easter, by Paul L. Maier. Concordia, 1999. [E 394.2 MAI]

The Legend of the Easter Robin: An Easter Story of Compassion and Faith, by Dandi Daley Mackall. Zonderkidz, 2010. [FIC MAC]

An Easter Carol, Veggie Tales. Big Idea Productions, 2004. [J DVD 791.42 VEG]

Out and about with Women @ Grace

Join other Grace members for fun outings this spring

Fun and fellowship at Kinslahger

Join Women@Grace on Monday, April 16, 6:30–9 p.m., for an evening at Kinslahger Brewing Company's Taproom, 6806 Roosevelt Road in Oak Park. Enjoy Kinslahger's flagship beers (credit or debit card only). Your free will donation covers appetizers and dessert and benefits Harmony Community Church's tutoring program. All are welcome! Sign up at the front desk.

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

What's the buzz? We'll tell you what's happening! Women @ Grace has reserved a block of tickets to Lyric Opera's reimagined production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," the 1970s musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. We're offering tickets at four different price points for the 7 p.m. show on Friday, May 18. You must reserve your ticket and pay in full by April 10. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Grace front desk.

Transportation is on your own.

Treat yourself to an enchanted afternoon at Drury Lane

If you'd like to wash this winter right outa your hair, then sign up to see "South Pacific" at the Drury Lane Theatre-Oak Brook! Women @ Grace is sponsoring an outing to see this Pulitzer Prize-winning musical on Thursday, May 10, at 1:30 p.m. Bring your spouse and invite a friend—all are welcome. (Drury Lane recommends this production for people over age 12.) You'll enjoy an intriguing story with unforgettable music and a timeless theme. How far have we come since the 1940s in our thinking about racial prejudice? Come and see, then decide for yourself.

We need 15 attendees to get the group ticket rate of \$37.55. Lunch and transportation are on your own. Reserve your place by signing up and making full payment at the front desk by April 3. Please make your check payable to "Women @ Grace," with "South Pacific" in the memo line.

A Model for Healthy Living

Taking charge of the health of both body and spirit

By Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

The bulletin board by the church library is the future site for Grace Health Ministry information. It will be designed following the Model for Healthy Living tool, a strategy of whole person care by Dr. Scott Morris, published by The Church Health Reader. Look for this new display of information sometime in March.

The Model for Healthy Living

Faith life – Build your relationships with God, your neighbor, and yourself. This affirms we are body and spirit beings created and loved by God.

Medical care – Build a partnership with healthcare providers that lets you participate in managing your health care.

Movement – Discover ways to enjoy physical activity.

Work – Appreciate your skills, talents and gifts.

Emotional life – Through understanding your feelings it is possible to make changes to manage stress in healthier ways.

Nutrition – Make smart food choices and develop healthy eating habits.

Friends and family – Build support through healthy relationships. Coping with life is sometimes hard, but friends and family make it easier. Giving and receiving support through relationships contribute to our health.

A way to share resources

The Health Ministry bulletin board will highlight what is going on at Grace or in the community, listed under the above category headings. It would be wonderful to display your healthy living



tips or articles to share, as space allows. If you have something to share, please email Sue Ames, Parish Nurse, at sames@graceriverforest.org.

Reference

The Church Health Reader Healthy Living Model, by Dr. Scott Morris. <http://chreader.org/model-healthy-living2>

Financial update

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1–Feb. 28, 2018 \$ 1,330,000
(\$38,000 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1–Feb. 28, 2018 \$ 1,310,000
(Last year at this time, \$1,137,000)

Church giving is now \$20,000 below budget and \$173,000 ahead of last year at this time. We have fallen into a small deficit of \$22,000.

Clarification to January Grace Notes article on cholesterol

- For a lipid panel you do not have to fast from water and can take your medications as directed by your physician.
- Frequency of lipid panel testing or cholesterol screening should be directed by your physician.

Other Health Cabinet news

Welcome to Tom Kay as a new volunteer anointer.

Coming soon: News to share related to the recent “Healthy Aging Survey” and collaboration with the West Cook YMCA. Watch for information in the April issue of Grace Notes.

GRACE NEWS

SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ. Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson (708-445-9687; hogenson@msn.com) to arrange a ride.

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, March 20, at 1 p.m. in the church library.

LECTIO DIVINA meets on Monday, March 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact MaryBeth Buschmann for more information (marybeth1942@sbcglobal.net).

RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS meet on Tuesday, March 13, 10 a.m., in the church library. Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW will be at work on the April newsletter on Tuesday, March 27, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers.

CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY. Come for treats and conversation at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, followed by Bible study at 10:30. There is Morning Prayer at 11:30 a.m. on March 7, 14 and 21, with lunch on March 14. Cornerstones will not meet during Holy Week (March 28) or the week after Easter (April 4).

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

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book discussion group meets on Friday, March 16, 8 p.m. Amy Merrick leads the discussion of *Simon's Night*, by Jon Hassler. Jim Scherer and Liene Sorenson are the hosts.

YOGA, led by Ackli Howell, meets at Grace on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket or beach towel to sit on. Dress comfortably for movement. (No yoga on Maundy Thursday, March 29.)

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are no flowers on the altar during Lent, but you may donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary during the Easter season and into the summer and fall. Look for the sign-up sheet at the reception desk in the atrium.

BUILDING CLOSED

Grace will be closed on Good Friday, March 30, except during worship services, and on Easter Monday, April 2.

PRAYERS

WE PRAY for those who mourn the death of Fred Spurgat, husband of Eunice Spurgat and father of Valerie Crone

WE PRAY for Vic Brandt and all those who mourn the death of his wife, Irene Brandt.

WE PRAY for those who mourn the death of Eleanor Yager, mother of Theresa Daily, grandmother of Kylie and Conner.

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.

THANK YOU

Dear members of Grace,

Thank you for your kindness following the passing of our son Bob. We are so grateful for everything you have done to support us during this sad time. We appreciate the cards, prayers, little talks and phone calls. Thank you also for attending Bob's Celebration of Life; it meant a lot to us. Thank you for being such a loving church family.

Marge and John Sanger

Thank you to all of you who sent sympathy cards to our family. They were greatly appreciated. The Lord bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Eunice Spurgat and family

Dear friends and fellow members of Grace Church,

We want to thank all of you for all your thoughts, prayers and cards for a quick recovery of Ruth, and also a thank-you for the prayer shawl so lovingly fitted with prayers by skilled hands.

Sincerely,
Ruth and Jim Barker

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCY PHONE

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. (Consider storing this number in the contacts on your cell phone.)

Meet distinguished alum Mark Lamos



The recipient of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award at A Graceful Evening is Mark Lamos, a director of plays, musicals and opera. He is currently the artistic director of Westport Country Playhouse, a nationally recognized, not-for-profit, professional theater in Westport, Connecticut. The New York Times has called him "a poet of the theater."

Lamos graduated from Grace School in 1960 and attended Proviso East High School. He went to Northwestern University on a music scholarship and began his career in theater as an actor, first in Chicago and then on Broadway and in regional theater. He made his film acting debut in *Longtime Companion*.

Lamos spent 16 seasons as artistic director of Connecticut's Hartford Stage, where he directed acclaimed productions of many classics, including 14 Shakespeare plays. He received the 1989 Connecticut Medal for the Arts and three honorary doctorates for his work at Hartford. His directing credits include productions on Broadway, at Lincoln Center, and at regional theaters throughout the U. S. Lamos was the first American director to stage a play with a Russian company in the early days of "perestroika"-- O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* at Moscow's Pushkin Theater.

In the realm of opera, he directed Adriana Lecouvreur with Plácido Domingo for the Metropolitan Opera. His extensive work in opera includes new productions for the Metropolitan Opera, including the world premiere of John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby*, which was also seen at Lyric Opera of Chicago. New York City Opera won an Emmy Award for the Lamos-directed *Madama Butterfly*, televised on PBS "Great Performances." Lamos was named a Beinecke Fellow at Yale School of Drama in 2007 and was awarded the Stanford Chair at University of Miami in Coral Gables in 2011.

Paul Bouman remembers Mark Lamos:

"He came to Grace School as a third grader. We had an assembly one day and various grades were invited to recommend one of their new members to perform and to introduce themselves. I was at the piano and the 3rd grade teacher announced that we would have a violin solo from a new student named Mark Lamos. He came over to me on the side of the stage, bent over and handed me his violin and said, 'Would you please tune this?' When I was in high school I had played the bass fiddle briefly, so in my clumsy way, I think I managed to tune it. Anyway, we were all amazed at the talent of this third grader.

"In my class I would have children sign up to give a little talk about something they were interested in — it was amazing how much interest came from the children to do this. Mark would present part of an opera—once it was something do with "Carmen," a brief little presentation that made everyone sit up and wonder when we could get to see the whole opera.

"He sang in the high school choir at Grace, and one Sunday afternoon was part of a recital here. He played the Bach concerto for violin in A minor. You knew if he came to perform something it was thoroughly prepared.

"If a teacher is careful he will learn very much from his students, which I did from Mark. And now, a couple times a year, we're on the phone together. We often end up in shrieks of laughter over something that happened back then."

Paul Bouman was Director of Music and a teacher at Grace from 1953 to 1983.

News about A Graceful Evening

Purchase your tickets soon! Ticket sales for A Graceful Evening, the annual dinner-auction benefiting Grace School, close on Sunday, March 11, at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each, \$950 for a table of ten. Click on A Graceful Evening at GraceRiverForest.org to purchase tickets.

Fund-A-Need campaign supports a technology upgrade. This year's paddles-up Fund-A-Need auction supports a major technology upgrade at Grace School. The school plans to purchase new Lenovo N24 laptops for student use in grades 3-8. With laptops available one-on-one for student learning throughout the day, teachers will be able to integrate more online resources into their teaching and help students prepare to use computers in their day-to-day work in high school, college and beyond. The technology upgrade also includes LeapPad devices for the Early Childhood classrooms and a document camera for grades 1 and 2. You can donate to the Fund-A-Need any time by clicking on A Graceful Evening at GraceRiverForest.org.

Lutheran Schools Week and

Grandparents Day. Grace students will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week, March 12–16. There will be special events, silly costumes, service projects and more throughout the week leading up to Grandparents / Grand-Friends day on Friday. Students will welcome their guests to their classrooms and perform an all-school concert that morning at 10:30 a.m.

Save the date for Mrs. Reddel's

retirement celebration. Grace School's long-time first grade teacher, Paulette Reddel, is retiring at the end of the school year. There will be a luncheon in her honor on Sunday, May 20.

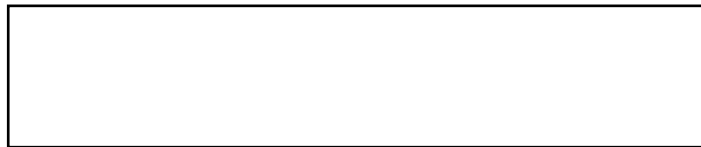
The school is currently looking for a first-grade teacher for the 2018-19

academic year. More information is available at GraceRiverForest.org.

A *Graceful*
Evening

**MARCH 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
OAK PARK COUNTRY CLUB**

*Click on the link at GraceRiverForest.org for
tickets and auction information.*



7300 Division St.
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