

Grace Notes



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

April 2018

Not there — here!

by Pastor Dave Lyle

Last month, Pastor Dave Wegner used this space to remind us that the journey, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual, takes as long as it takes. His words resonated with me. I've long felt that road trips with our children were something akin to the wandering of the Israelites. When we lived in South Carolina, we'd often drive straight through to visit family in Minnesota. "Are we there yet?" There yet? We're not even into the next Carolina yet! Kids, it takes as long as it takes

Thinking back over the past forty days of our journey through Lent, and especially during this past Holy Week, I think about what we've seen along the way. We have watched Jesus enter Jerusalem in triumph, only to have the crowds turn on him. We have seen him break bread with his friends, only to have one of them betray him. We have observed the sham trial and the shaming suffering, all culminating with Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

Some women who loved Jesus needed to make one final journey that Sunday morning, and they had no doubt about what they would find: their friend, Jesus, laid out in the tomb. After all, that's where life's journey ends. There's just one problem: Jesus is not there.

Gertrude Stein once wrote, "There is no there there." This captures the confusing reality of Easter Sunday. The women



Christ's resurrection changes the destination of our lives.

were looking for Jesus there – there in the tomb, contained by death and done in by this world's sin. It turns out, however, that Jesus was on a different journey all along. He was not moving to death, but through death. His resurrection changes the destination of our lives. There is no there there any longer, for the "there" of death has been destroyed. It's been wiped off the map of the Kingdom of God. If we are not to find Jesus there, in death, then where are we to look for him? Not there, but here! Here in the water and the Word, the bread and the wine. Here in fellowship, consolation, and care we share. Here, in this world, as we push back against

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WORSHIP

EASTER SUNDAY, April 1 **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

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

Sunday, April 8

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 15

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 22

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

April 29, 3:45 p.m.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt, BWV 112

The Lord is my faithful shepherd

Prelude: Kontras Quartet (Grace string quartet-in-residence)

Homilist: Sarah J. Stumme, Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA

Preview lecture: Mark P. Bangert, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Not there — here

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racism, work for justice and peace, and witness to the truth of the gospel. Jesus is here, alive, in our midst. Even now.

The inimitable Yogi Berra, a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, once quipped, “You can observe a lot by just watching.” As we move from the forty days of Lent into the fifty days of Easter, we are invited to watch, observing the world through Easter eyes. We are invited to see ourselves as people on a new journey. We no longer move toward death, but from death to new life. This changes how we see everything. By grace, we see one another as beloved, forgiven children of God. In faith, we see ourselves that way, too.

Are we there yet? It took a while, and the destination wasn’t what we were expecting, but yes. We’re here. Welcome home. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!



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 Thursday, March 29, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than April 6. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The May issue of *Grace Notes* will be mailed on Friday, April 27. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, April 18; the issue covers events through early June. 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.

Getting to know Kim Kernodle

Kim Kernodle was elected to a two-year term as congregation president in January 2018. She has been married to Carl, an architect, for 27 years. They have two daughters Jayne, a sophomore at Texas Christian University, and Carlee, a senior at OPRF. Kim recently started a new job as Director of Gift Administration at the ELCA Foundation

What brought you to Grace?

We moved to Oak Park from Austin, Texas, in the summer of 2008. We chose Oak Park because of its diversity, and the schools were good—for the reasons a lot of people move to Oak Park. We spent that summer going to a few different churches. Our daughters were 8 and 10 at the time, and we were thinking about confirmation coming up. We felt that the education and youth group opportunities were good here at Grace.

Carl and I met in college and lived in Memphis before moving to Austin. In Memphis we attended an Episcopal church down the street from our first house. The girls were baptized there. One of the things I really liked about the Episcopal church was they had the Eucharist every Sunday. And that was one of the things I really liked about Grace—that we celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday.

How did you become involved?

Slowly over time. I did some Sunday School teaching when the girls were in Sunday School. And then they asked me to be the secretary of the congregation three years ago. I had been on church council at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Austin.

You serve as an assisting minister.

I enjoy that. I like looking ahead and seeing what the readings are and crafting

the prayers. There's a different language in church, a different vocabulary. I try to combine words in a way that make the prayers attainable for everybody. For example, you hear the word "righteous," but what does righteous mean? What does it mean in the Bible. I thought about that from my kids' point of view. If they hear that, what do they think? Can I word things in a different way that's helpful to them?

What do you do for a living?

I am a lawyer by training and have done estate planning work since about 2002. A month ago I started work at the ELCA Foundation. I'm their Director of Gift Administration. While Carl was finishing up his architecture degree and interviewing, I worked as a high school English teacher before going to law school.

You knew Pastor Lauren in Texas.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Austin is where I was confirmed [and where our family went to church after moving to Austin from Memphis]. While we were there, Lauren came on as our youth director, until she left to go to seminary.

It's fun to see all the people I know from Texas who comment when Lauren posts on Facebook.

Why did you say yes when you were asked to serve as president?

I feel that this is one of the best times in my ten years here to be the president. I think with our leadership now in place, we are in a position to really push forward. We have had some tough



discussions around hiring, around gender identity and sexual orientation. We need to keep the conversation going about how we welcome and who we are, and we have to be open to people who have all kinds of different approaches if we're solid in our belief and our faith in Christ. To me it's about creating settings where people can actually get to know each other. It's not just "Hi" on Sunday mornings, "How's it going?" "Fine" and that's all I ever know. It's crazy to me, because church is one of the places where we should feel safest, and yet it's one of the places where we know people, but we don't *know* people. And yet when you read the Bible, especially the gospels, people came to Jesus as they were. Jesus was harsh with those who did not welcome the prostitutes, did not welcome

We need to keep the conversation going about how we welcome and who we are, and we have to be open to people who have all kinds of different approaches if we're solid in our belief and our faith in Christ.

the women, the small children, the ill. And yet somehow we hide those things from each other, in a fear that "I'm supposed to be good here." When in fact,

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Getting to know Kim Kernodle *continued from page 3*

I think the real strength comes when we show our vulnerabilities.

How can church leadership make these things happen?

I've shuffled up the council agenda. Pastor Lyle wanted to always do some visioning in meetings, but it was always at the end of the agenda. Now it's at the top. Council members are going to lead the devotion each month instead of the representative from the church committee whose turn it is to bring a report to council.

One of the things I think we have to be mindful of is this idea of everything [at church] needing to be excellent. Because I don't want someone who doesn't feel they can be excellent to think they can't come to church on Sunday or Wednesday. I tell a story of a gentleman at my church in Austin who was an assisting minister. If an assisting minister wanted to sing, all he had to do was ask and it was okay with the pastor. This man started to sing, but he was so off key. To be honest I was a little embarrassed for him. But then I looked

up, and you've never seen a more peaceful, faith-filled face. I saw someone who was literally singing for God and that was better than the notes being perfect. It was a good lesson for me.

I feel it is a really exciting time to be able to live into our faith here, rather than just administer a business.

Jesus' values were very much about community.

I'm a teacher at heart. I like

to help people understand why things happen this way and ask, is this the right way to do things? Is there a different way we can do this? That is the fun part—what would happen if—?

We're on a threshold of being able to become a little different. It's not like this is going to become a whole different church. There's something very comforting and quite beautiful about tradition, but there's something very beautiful about being open to change.

Reconciling the two can sometimes be a hard thing. I think that being open and prayerful and understanding about people's anxieties about something can open up a pathway and people can realize that we really are not that far apart. We are seeking the same things.

Because we come together around our shared faith we can actually listen with open hearts. I will sit and listen to you and I might learn something from you, learn something about you

that explains why you have a particular point of view. It makes it easier for us to live in this healthy tension. (Kim makes an arch with the fingers of both hands touching at the top.) Like you can make a curve out of stones—there's healthy tension on that headstone at the top. But without that, things are going to fall. With just one side, you don't have the beauty and the stability.

I feel it is a really exciting time to be able to live into our faith here, rather than just administer a business.

Bach Vespers, songs of peace: Music at Grace in April

Bach Cantata Vespers, April 29, prelude at 3:45 p.m.

Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt (The Lord is my faithful shepherd, BWV 112) is based on a hymn that is a paraphrase of Psalm 23. It was written in 1530 by Reformed theologian Wolfgang Meuslin and sung to a melody by Nikolaus Decius. The cantata was composed for the second Sunday after Easter in 1531. It is joyful in its praise of Christ, our Good Shepherd.

The prelude to the service, at 3:45 p.m., will be played by the Kontras Quartet, which is in residence this year at Grace. The quartet will play a concert at Grace on Friday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Choral Gems from England, April 5, with CCA

Chicago Choral Artists concludes their 2017-18 season at Grace on Sunday, April 8, at 4 p.m., with a program of music from England, featuring Ralph Vaughan Williams' Mass in G Minor for two unaccompanied choirs and soloists, conducted by Michael D. Costello. Tickets (\$25, \$20 seniors) are available at the door and online at chicagochoralartists.org.

Luther College Choir on April 14

The Luther College Collegiate Chorale will perform in concert at Grace on Saturday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. The performance is open to the public with no charge for admission. A freewill offering will be collected during the concert. The program, titled "Prayers for Peace," includes works by Kim André Arnesen, Moses Hogan, Craig Hella Johnson, Jake Runestad, Nancy Wertsch and more. Collegiate Chorale is conducted by Jennaya Robison, Luther assistant professor of music.

Oak Park Concert Chorale, Songs of Peace, April 22

The Prayer of the Children (in a time of war) by Kurt Bestor provides a unique emotional context to "Songs of Peace," presented by Oak Park Concert Chorale at Grace Church on Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m. The concert also features works by Carl Schalk and Paul Bouman. General admission is \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door; \$10/\$12 for students and seniors. Children age 12 and under are free. For more information visit OakParkConcertChorale.org.



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

April 8 and 15

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

Katie M. Deaver, PhD, Associate Director Admissions, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

These sessions will consider the use of gendered pronouns for God within the Lutheran liturgical tradition. How do we hold on to traditional liturgical practices while allowing the space for multiple understandings of God? Can we be more gender inclusive without sacrificing our connection to liturgical Lutheranism? In what other ways does gendered language create problems in our congregations and our churches? We know that language is important, how can we make sure that the language we use during worship reflects the type of Lutheran community that we want to embody?

April 22

Panel on Religious Journalism

John Wilson, Jan Long Harris, Dan Lehmann

April 29

The Hand, the Brain and God, Part 2

Jim Kerns

Grace member Jim Kerns continues an exploration of how the profound interconnections of the human hand and brain act as a mirror of the soul with respect to our body language (gestures), mood, and expression of empathy.

FAITHFUL LIVING

April 8

Engaging Faith in Place

Katie Maxwell, Winter Farmers Market Coordinator, Faith in Place

How can congregations tackle sustainability issues? Grace member Katie Maxwell works with Faith in Place, an organization that empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.



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.

Spring projects from Social Ministry

Third annual spring cards for Hines VA Hospital

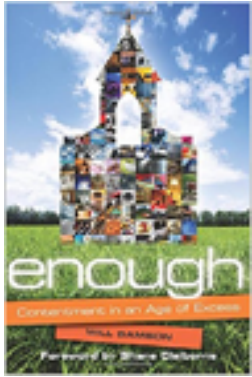
Please stop in the atrium on Sunday, April 22, to add a message of springtime encouragement to greeting cards for patients in the Hines VA Hospital's inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse treatment programs. The project is organized by the Social Ministry Committee to raise awareness of the mental health needs of veterans; the cards will be created by Youth and Family Ministry participants.

Food drive in May

The Social Ministry Committee and Grace School are working together on a food drive in May. A collection bin will be available in the atrium on Sunday, May 13 and 20.

Faithful, generous living in an affluent culture

As Christians we are called to share with those in need, living faithfully and generously. These selections from the church library offer ideas and inspiration for faithful stewardship and generous giving. These titles will be available for checkout from the atrium case or in the library in April.



Enough: Contentment in an Age of Success, by Will Samson. David Cook, 2009. [241 SAM]

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity, by Ronald J. Sider. W Pub Group, 1997. [261.8 SID]

How Much Is Enough: Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture, by Arthur A. Simon. Baker Books, 2003. [261.8 SIM]

Money Enough: Everyday Practices for Living Faithfully in the Global Economy, by Douglas A. Hicks. Jossey-Bass, 2010. [332.02 HIC]

Unpoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor, by Mark Lutz. Unpoverty Communications. [339.4 LUT]

Faithful with Much: Breaking Down the Barriers to Generous Giving, by Tony and Carin Amaradio. David Cook, 2009. [348 AMA]

Enough: True Measures of Money, Business, and Life, by John C. Bogle. Wiley, 2009. [650 BOG]

The Nature of Generosity, by William Kittredge. Knopf, 2000. [813 KIT]

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.

Women@Grace

New date at Kinslahger. Join Women@Grace on Monday, May 7, 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 donation covers appetizers and dessert and benefits Harmony Community Church's tutoring program. Sign up at the front desk.

"Jesus Christ Superstar." Women @ Grace has reserved a block of tickets to Lyric Opera's reimagined production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," with 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 is available at the Grace front desk. Transportation is on your own.

An enchanted afternoon at Drury Lane. 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.) 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.

Single Socrates Café

Singles of all ages at Grace are welcome to join us as we gather around food, fun, and thoughtful conversation. This is the first of what we hope will be many Singles Socrates Cafés at Grace so watch for more opportunities to come.

When? Sunday, May 27, after the 11 a.m. service (12:15-ish) in Fellowship Hall (by the coffee service end). Lunch will be provided. We are asking a \$10 donation to cover the costs of food. Beverages are BYOB so bring something to share.

What is a Socrates Café? A Socrates Café is simply a gathering of people for the sole purpose of inquiry and discussion. These cafés are geared toward inquiry and discussion that lead to the surprising, the novel, the unfamiliar — that open portals to new possibilities to who we might be as individuals and as a community. Our inquiries are based on the premise that people of all ages and walks of life count and that those often left out tend to be the most uncommonly perceptive, when given the opportunity. Most importantly, these inquiries include and value the wisdom of every member of the group.

Why a Socrates Café? In looking for a way to get singles of Grace together, it was thought this might be a fun way to meet, get to know each other, share, and start meaningful and fun conversation.

Please RSVP. To make sure we have enough food, please RSVP to Julie Hinz or to Diane Moses.

Relocating our hearts in the racism conversation

“A Time for Burning” is a 1966 American documentary film which explores the attempts of the pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, to persuade his all-white congregation to reach out to “negro” Lutherans in the city’s north side. The film chronicles the relationship between the pastor, the Rev. L. William Youngdahl, his white Lutheran parishioners, and black Lutheran parishioners and leaders in the community. The attempt to reach out does not succeed and Youngdahl resigns from his job as pastor of the church.

Fifty years after “A Time for Burning” was made, American Christians and American society still find themselves struggling with racism and racial injustice. Bigotry is no longer sanctioned by the law of the land, but racism still pervades American life, and for many reasons, the call for racial justice has intensified.

A year ago Grace members embarked on a series of conversations about racism, organized by the Faith Perspectives Committee. During Lent of 2017 participants met in small groups to discuss the book “Waking Up White,” by Debbie Irving. Feedback from those sessions suggested that these conversations were only a first step in a process of learning about racism and responding to the need for racial justice in America. Most people agreed, “We need to hear from additional voices.”

Three Adult Education sessions on Sunday mornings last fall brought additional voices to the discussion: Anthony Clark, founder of the advocacy group Suburban Unity Alliance; Pastor Sherman Hicks, former Bishop of the ELCA Metro Chicago Synod and retired Director of Multicultural Ministries for the ELCA; and Pastor James Brooks of Harmony Community Church in North Lawndale.

In a February conversation with the Faith Perspectives Committee about next steps, Pastor Brooks talked about a paradigm for responding to racism: relocation, reconciliation, and redistribution. By relocation

he did not mean geographical movement; he spoke of “relocation of the heart” — hearts moving toward people beaten down by racial injustice, recognizing our kinship with them as children of God and understanding the systemic racism that oppresses them. It is a process both of raising consciousness and raising compassion regarding racial justice.

“Relocation of the heart” — hearts moving toward those beaten down by racial injustice, recognizing our kinship with them as children of God and understanding the systemic racism that oppresses them.

The journey continues then in 2018, with more listening. During the Easter season — April and May — the Faith Perspectives Committee is offering screenings of two films, “A Time for Burning” and “I Am Not Your Negro,” a provocative new documentary featuring interviews with the Harlem novelist and playwright James Baldwin. Pastor Sherman Hicks will facilitate the discussions at these screenings. We are grateful to him for his continued interest

in working with members of Grace Church as we continue on a journey toward both understanding and action.

Please join us, as we further explore racism in America and reflect on how we are called to respond as Christians.

The Faith Perspectives Committee

“A Time for Burning”

Wednesday, April 11, 7–8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 15, 2:30–4 p.m., Seminar Room

This 1966 documentary about attempts to bridge the gap between white and black Lutherans in Omaha, Nebraska is a case study of social change, of the enduring inflexibility of traditional institutions and the sustained struggle and personal risk involved in transforming them.

“I Am Not Your Negro”

Sunday, May 13, 2:30–4 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 16, 7–8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Based on archival material and James Baldwin’s notes on the lives and assassinations of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr., the film explores the racial narrative in America, connecting the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter.

Summer and Fall 2018

Look for a list of additional resources – podcasts, books and articles, web resources — for continued learning and discussion through the summer.

Conversations with Harmony. Faith Perspectives is planning a series of conversations with our neighbors from Harmony Community Church next fall.

Fitness assessments and more

Grace's Health Ministry collaborates with the West Cook YMCA on healthy aging programming



Grace Church's Health Ministry and the West Cook YMCA (WCY) have been working together to develop ways to provide health literacy, wellness, and community-building programming to Grace congregation members. Last December Grace

members participated in a healthy aging survey to share information about themselves, their interests and needs. We are now taking additional steps toward delivering relevant and meaningful programs to support Grace Church members in their goals for healthy aging.

Fitness assessment and health navigation

The West Cook YMCA will be offering Grace members a fitness assessment followed by a thirty-minute visit with a member of the Y's Healthy Living Staff. This is an opportunity to set long-term health and wellness goals and receive information and learn about resources to help achieve those goals. These sessions will take place at Grace in April and May. Information about specific dates and signing up for a time slot will be available in a few weeks. The fitness assessments will be done by one of the YMCA's certified personal trainers and will cover cardiovascular fitness, strength, and flexibility. If you'd like to know more about these fitness assessments and health navigation, plan to come to one of two information sessions about the program.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

(after Cornerstones)

Sunday, May 20, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

(during the Adult Ed hour)

You'll have the opportunity to sign up for a time slot at these sessions—though you don't have to attend a session to sign up for the fitness assessment.

Volunteering and healthy living information

In the healthy aging survey Grace members indicated an interest in learning more about opportunities in the community for volunteering and for participating in wellness activities. The West Cook YMCA is hosting two community events in April that will be of interest. These events are designed to provide information regarding volunteer opportunities within our community as well as an opportunity to meet over 70 local health and wellness service providers.

Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation

Volunteer Meet and Match

Wednesday, April 18, 4–8 p.m.

This Meet and Match is designed to provide information regarding volunteer opportunities within our community. Come and discuss your own interests and expertise with representatives of local nonprofits and discover where you are needed and can help.

Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce

Community Health Fair

Sunday, April 29, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

More than 70 health and wellness professionals will be available to provide information about their services. The event also includes free fitness classes, complimentary screenings, family activities and more.

Grace Church and School and the West Cook YMCA have committed to working together to provide health literacy, wellness, and community building programming to the people of Grace. A portion of the funds for the Active Adult Navigation program were received from the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust.

Financial update

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1–March 31, 2018 \$ 1,482,000

(\$38,000 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1–March 31, 2018 \$ 1,422,000

(Last year at this time, \$ 1,258,000)

Church giving is now \$60,000 below budget and \$164,000 ahead of last year at this time. We continue to run a small deficit of \$27,000.



When I was pregnant with my first child, Owen, I had firmly made up my mind to never, ever allow him to come even close to a screen. I resolved that my child would not be the child who held onto a tablet or smartphone for dear life. I was sure that my child would live in a (practically) screen-free house.

Except ... Dave and I both had smartphones. And we both used them, regularly and repeatedly.

And because our world is saturated with screens, Owen basically came out of the womb knowing how to swipe a smartphone. In fact, he's always been able to do more with my phone than I can.

So, here we are, 5 years later. And while Dave and I have kept up our resolve to limit Owen's (and Caroline's) device usage, we admit that they have more screen time than we envisioned they would before we became parents.

Enter "Screenagers," a film for all teens, parents, grandparents, teachers, and those who love our young ones and want to see

them grow up healthy with diversified interests and skills. This film explores one parent's firsthand experience with her 12 year-old-daughter, as the family figures out together what smartphone and screen usage looks like for them. Additionally, viewers get an inside peek into what teenagers really think and feel about screen time, as well as how it affects them on a physical and psychological level.

We are excited to offer this film screening at Grace on Sunday, April 15, at 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online or at the door.

Our time together will be enhanced by the presence of Grace members Debbie Conley and Dave Jezl, who are child psychologists and who will offer their own professional feedback in a panel discussion and Q&A following the film.

We look forward to offering this film to Grace Church & School members, as well as to our surrounding community. All are welcome!

+Pastor Lauren

See "Screenagers" at Grace

Sunday, April 15, 2:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Suitable for children age 5th grade and up

Follow the link at GraceRiverForest.org to purchase tickets (\$5) online. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Moms of Littles group begins April 18

If you're a mom of young ones, you know how frazzled and stressful life can feel! We invite you to care for your spirit this spring in our new Moms of Littles group. Gather with other moms to reflect, share, and connect with one another on **Wednesdays, April 18, May 2 and 16, 6:30-8pm** in the Youth Room at Grace. Child care will be available in the nursery.

Our time together will be open and informal, with discussion guided by the book *Grace Based Parenting*, by Tim Kimmel. (You do not need to read the book to participate in the discussion.)

Come as you are, and find some peace and sisterhood in the midst of busy life. Contact Pastor Lauren (lwegner@graceriverforest.org) or Ali Carris for more information.

GRACE NEWS

SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ. Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, April 16, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson (708-445-9687; hogenson@msn.com) to arrange a ride.

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, April 17, at 1 p.m in the church library.

LECTIO DIVINA meets on Monday, April 30, 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, April 10, 10 a.m., in the church library. Benyam Kassahun and John Halverson will present "The Church in Ethiopia." Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW will be at work on a mailing project on Thursday, April 12, 9:30 a.m. in the church library, and on the April newsletter mailing on Thursday, April 26, 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. Cornerstones will not meet during Easter Week (April 4). There is Morning Prayer at 11:30 on April 18, followed by lunch.

FINDING HOPE, the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book discussion group meets on Friday, April 20, at 8 p.m. Bill Clapp will lead the discussion of "The Good Lord Bird," by James McBride. Brian and Linda Bernard host.

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. Dress for movement.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary. Look for the sign-up sheet at the reception desk in the atrium.

April 1. The potted plants in the chancel on Easter Sunday are given in memory of Marcia Fogue by her husband, Dennis.

April 8. From the Bonebrake, Kaszuba, Scherer and Henry Families in loving memory of Margo Bonebrake.

April 29. From the Wilkie family in celebration of Wes Wilkie's 80th birthday.

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.)

PRAYERS

WE PRAY for those who mourn the deaths of Grace members Donette Lofgren and Carol Tyrrell and of former member Marion Miller.

WE PRAY for Steve Kocheny, upon the death of his father, Steve; for Ruth Rehwaldt and Gick Schmidt, upon their death of their brother Walter Rehwaldt; and for Ken Folgers, upon the deaths of his sisters Jean Paulson and Doris Wieringa.

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

To our Grace Family,

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, cards and visits. All your efforts were most appreciated as Ed recovers from two major surgeries. Our heartfelt thanks to the generous members of Grace Care, the delicious meals and added seasonal touches were a real blessings.

Most sincerely,
Ed and Susan Schumacher

Heartfelt thanks to the Grace congregation, current and former pastors, and pastor emeritus for the love and support we have received during our most difficult years: visits, prayers and prayer shawls have borne us through George's and Linnea's final months and days. And we are deeply grateful for the weekly prayers and prayer shawl that encouraged my sister's years of hard work to regain speech and mobility following her massive stroke.

God bless you all.
Betty Moore

BUILDING CLOSED

Grace will be closed on Easter Monday, April 2.

School News

A Graceful Evening, the annual benefit for Grace School, raised \$90,000 for the school's operating budget and the Fund-A-Need Campaign, which this year supports a major technology upgrade for the school. Thank-you to everyone who supported the event!

Grace School students brought in \$2,600 for the Fund-A-Need Campaign. They met their fund-raising goal, which meant they got to duct-tape Principal Koehne to the gym wall during all-school festivities on Thursday afternoon, March 15.

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.

Ramona Koetke, currently the preschool teacher at Grace School, has been hired as the first grade teacher for the 2018-19 academic year.

Staff openings in fourth grade and preschool. Grace School is now looking for a full-time fourth-grade teacher and a part-time preschool teacher for 2018-19. More information is available on the Grace website. GraceRiverForest.org.

Accreditation. Grace School is in the process of renewing its accreditation with AdvancED. The accreditation team will be visiting on April 23 and 24.

Fine Arts Festival at Trinity, Roselle. Grace School students will again be participating in the Lutheran Schools Fine Arts Festival at Trinity, Roselle, on Friday, April 13.

The annual Grace School Talent Show is on Friday evening, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. Join our students for a fun evening of music, dance, skits, and unexpected talent.

Grace School students celebrate Lutheran Schools Week and Grandparents



Grace School students celebrated Lutheran Schools Week, March 12–16, with theme days and an afternoon of fun in the gym. Grandparents/Grand-Friends Day on Friday, March 16, day brought 190 guests to Grace School. They visited classrooms, worked with students to tie blankets for ALS patients and their caregivers, and enjoyed an all-school concert.

Family Fun Friday April 13, 6-8 p.m. Sign up online!

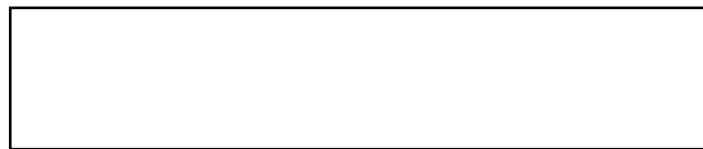


Register now for Vacation Bible School

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

For children age 3 through current 5th graders

Register at GraceRiverForest.org



7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305

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