

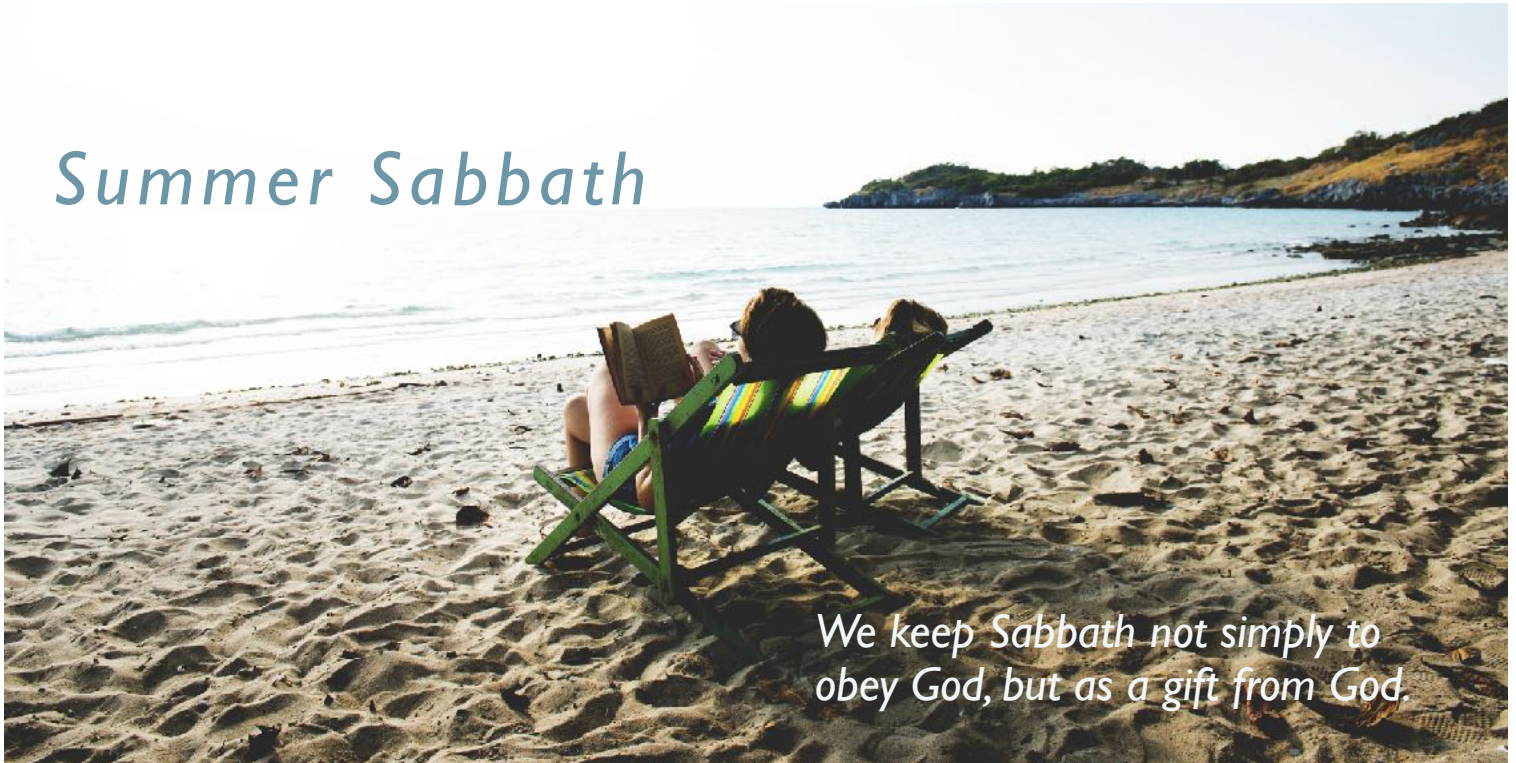
Grace Notes



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

June–July 2018

Summer Sabbath



We keep Sabbath not simply to obey God, but as a gift from God.

by Pastor Dave Lyle

The days continue to lengthen. The classrooms at Grace have gone quiet. Summer vacation is upon us. While it is true that most of us still have to work and carry on with the busy-ness of life, it is also true that things take on an easier pace during the summer months. It's a time to take a road trip or jump in a lake, to linger on back decks and balconies, to grill out and enjoy being with loved ones. Summer is a time to slow down.

If you're tempted to fill up your summer days with too much to do — don't! We were made to rest, from time to time, following the example of the Creator. In the beginning, God rested on the seventh day. This sets the pattern for the people of God, as noted in the third commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. The living out of this commandment provides the context

for some of Jesus' key teachings on Sabbath keeping, which we will hear in worship on June 3.

While our Jewish friends still observe *Shabbat*, Christians have let go of the concept to some degree. To be sure, we still observe the Lord's Day, setting aside Sunday mornings for worship and faith formation. But, if you're anything like me, Sunday afternoons and evenings often become opportunities to frantically get things done. So maybe, being set free from guilt about failing to keep the law, we can claim the freedom in Christ to keep the law of Sabbath with joy.

Freedom from the law, after all, does not mean that we don't need Sabbath. As Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). In other words, we keep Sabbath not simply to obey God, but as a gift from God. It is a gift for which we were wired.

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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, May 25, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than June 1. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The August issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, August 3. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, July 25; the issue covers events through early September. 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.

Sabbath

Continued from page 1

How can these summer months be a time of Sabbath-keeping for you? If you're looking for summer reading materials, why not add the Psalms to your reading list? If you're able to slow down a bit, use some of that time for prayer (and if you can't slow down, well, you can pray in the busy-ness, too!). Many people will seek time away in settings of natural beauty; take time to connect the dots between creation and Creator.

Sabbath keeping is never just a break, and is never self-serving. Rest and re-creation are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Remember that Jesus healed on the Sabbath; he just might do the same in your life. An amazing thing happens when we stop to rest: we discover that God is able to keep things going just fine without all of our working and striving! And we find that God is able to move and work in our lives when we are not so busy moving and working. Through this work, God can recharge us for the next season of ministry. There's no doubt that there is much work for us to do in the name of Jesus Christ. It's just that we won't do it particularly well or faithfully if we don't spend some time with Jesus Christ. So, take it easy. And see where God takes you from there.

Congregation meeting on June 3

There will be a regular meeting of the congregation on Sunday, June 3, at 12:15 p.m. The primary purpose of our June meeting is to approve the budget for the 2018–19 fiscal year. Grace's Director of Administration and Finance will walk us through the proposed budget before we vote. How we allocate our dollars at Grace is vitally important to the work of our church and school, and we value everyone's input. If you would like to review the proposed budget before the meeting on June 3, please contact Karen Christopher for a copy (kchristopher@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900).

Agenda for June 3 Congregation Meeting

1. Devotions
2. Reports
 - Principal's Report
 - Senior Pastor's Report
3. Financial report and presentation of 2018–2019 budget for vote by congregation
4. Announcements
5. Benediction

WORSHIP

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

Sunday, May 27

THE HOLY TRINITY

Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

Sunday, June 3

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Psalm 81:1-10, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12, Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, June 10

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1, Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 17

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-17, Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 24

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 141, Acts 13:13-26, Luke 1:57-80

Sunday, July 1

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43

Sunday, July 8

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 15

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 22

MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE

Ruth 1:6-18, Psalm 73:23-28, Acts 13:26-33a, John 20:1-2, 11-18

Sunday, July 29

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145:10-18, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

Worship news for June and July

We commemorate two saints from the Bible on Sundays in June and July and welcome a guest preacher on July 22.

John the Baptist is traditionally remembered on June 24. John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus' birth, just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane.

John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet. In the gospel stories John recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may still wait and wonder, discern and doubt.

On Sunday, July 22, we remember Mary

Magdalene. In the gospels of Matthew, John, and the longer ending of Mark, Mary Magdalene is the first to see the risen Christ, who commissions her to tell the other disciples the good news. Thus she is sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles." Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial. In almost all the lists of women who followed Jesus, she is named first. Through the centuries, in the Western church she has been the object of misconceptions about her life and her relationship to Jesus. Now we remember her role as a leader among Jesus' followers and as witness to the resurrection.

Guest preacher. On July 22 the Rev. Dr. Robert Moore, a representative of ELCA Global Mission, will be our guest preacher. He served as Senior Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran in Houston for 23 years and is now the ELCA Reformation 500 Representative in Wittenberg and Leipzig, Germany. Pastor Moore will also be leading an Adult Education Session on his current work as an ELCA representative in Global Mission in Germany. Grace's Benevolence dollars support several programs of ELCA Global Mission including Lutheran schools in Palestine in the Holy Land and health ministries in Papua New Guinea and Tanzania.

Lutheran Summer Music hymn festival at Valpo honors the memory of Carlos Messerli

Grace member Carlos Messerli was one of the founders of Lutheran Summer Music (LSM), a residential program for young musicians hosted on different Lutheran college campuses each summer. Grace member Brian Becker and Pastor Michael Costello serve on the Board of Directors.

Concerts at LSM this year include a hymn festival in memory of Carlos Messerli, on Wednesday, July 25, at 7 p.m., led by organist and composer Robert Hobby in the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University. Grace Church's Legacy of Grace fund is supporting the festival with a monetary grant. All are welcome!



ADULT EDUCATION THIS SUMMER

Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings at Grace. Summer Adult Ed topics include sessions led by Grace's pastors, a visiting pastor, and the Faith Perspectives Committee. All of these sessions meet in the Seminar Room.

If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming for 2018-19, please contact Ted Anton, chair of the Adult Education Committee (tanton@depaul.edu) or Pastor Dave Wegner (dwegner@graceriverforest.org).

July 8

Faith Perspectives Committee

"A Sampling of Podcasts and Other Resources on Racial Justice"

July 15

Pastor Dave Wegner

"Grab Bag"

July 22

Pastor Robert Moore

ELCA Global Mission representative in Germany

July 29

Pastor Lauren Wegner

"Faith Formation Reflections"

August 5

Pastor Dave Lyle

"My Summer With the Psalms"

August 12

Pastor Michael Costello

Music and worship

August 19

Faith Perspectives Committee

"A Sampling of Podcasts and Other Resources on Racial Justice"

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Led by Bob Jandeska, the Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room on the lower level. The group will not meet on June 24, July 1, and July 8.

Church Vocations Scholarship applications are due July 15

Through the Church Vocations Initiative, Grace Church provides support, encouragement, and financial assistance to members who have expressed plans to prepare for ordained, rostered lay, teaching, youth, or music ministry, or for practicing Christian vocation in the secular world. The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing a degree in areas that are preparatory for Christian vocation within the church or in the secular world. Undergraduates must be either a junior or senior with a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Applications for the 2018-19 academic year are due July 15. Download more information at graceriverforest.org. If you have questions please contact Diane Carioscio (diane_carioscio@comcast.net).

Fitness and healthy aging

It's not too late to sign-up at the reception desk for your fitness evaluation provided by the West Cook YMCA as part of the healthy aging program. Assessments will take place in the church library on June 4 and 28, 9 a.m.-noon.

Contact Sue Ames (sames@graceriverforest.org) with questions.

“Something Delightful” — a Grace kitchen blessing and celebration on June 16, 5 p.m.

Come to a celebration of hospitality and welcome at Grace on Saturday, June 16, at 5 p.m. It's an evening that promises to be “Something Delightful.”

The festivities begin in the sanctuary, with prayers of blessing for our new kitchen and for the ministries of food and care that serve our community here at Grace and people beyond our walls. We'll also take time to thank the members of the Christopher family and the Christopher Family Foundation for the gift that paid for the recent extensive remodeling of Grace's kitchen.

Then—it's on to a party in Fellowship Hall, where there will be food, plus beer and wine, inside as well as outside under a tent. Picture a small-town European festival evening with delicious small-plate foods at serving stations around the hall, strolling entertainers, music, strings of lights—all on what we hope will be a beautiful summer evening.

It's a family-friendly event. The service in the sanctuary will include songs sung by the children who will be participating in Vacation Bible School in the week leading up to the kitchen celebration. And children are welcome at the party, where there will be good things for them to eat and drink as well as fun things to do.

There will be music in the tent — the signature sounds of the Compass Rose Sextet, whose original compositions and innovative arrangements draw from a wide range of international influences to create a unique blend of world music. You'll hear everything from Celtic jigs and reels, to Gypsy Swing, Caribbean sambas, and Argentinian tangos

Chef Chris Koetke is heading up the kitchen crew. Volunteer to help and you may learn a tasty new trick or two while you enjoy working in the new kitchen with its flexible floor plan, new ovens, bright tile, and bluetooth speakers. Helpers are needed in all areas, from food preparation to serving and clean-up. Previous experience as a Grace cook is not needed—just come and join the crew. Volunteer by emailing Beth Smoots at macbeth839@gmail.com.

Organizers are looking for photographs of the old kitchen, and more importantly, of Grace members at work in the old kitchen. Do you have a

story to tell and a picture to go with it? Through the years thousands of meals have been prepared in the Grace kitchen. Recipes have been shared, friendships discovered, relationships deepened — by the challenges of feeding hundreds of congregation members immediately after 11 o'clock worship, or in quieter moments, in the sharing of joys and worries as potatoes are peeled, in the simple satisfaction of pancakes well-poured on the grill.

Whether as cooks, servers, guests, or dishwashers, we welcome one other. As we work together, relax together, celebrate together, we open ourselves to the possibility of change, to new ways of

doing things, new foods, new experiences, new worlds and new ideas. Called to serve one another, to be “Together in Christ,” we extend hospitality as Jesus did, with love and acceptance for all, knowing that welcoming others pulls us

out of our own comfort zone so that we can grow to be better and more active witnesses to God's love in the world.

So come to the celebration of Grace's ministry of hospitality — and enjoy!

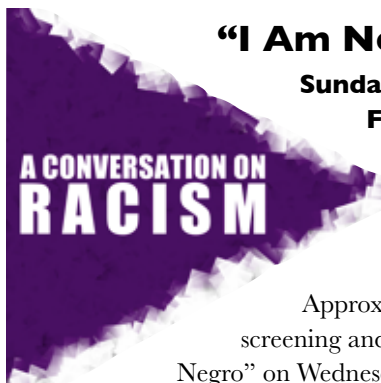
Please RSVP for “Something Delightful” online, or sign up at the reception desk in the atrium. Donations in any amount are welcome to support the event. Any proceeds beyond the cost of the event will go to support the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry and the Harmony Food Pantry.

Do you have photos to share, or are you interested in helping out? Email Beth Smoots at macbeth839@gmail.com.

**Welcome one another, therefore,
just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God. Romans 15:7**



Grace's remodeled kitchen was a busy place on Sunday, May 20, as cooks and their assistants, including Susie Calhoun and Cindy Rohlfing, worked together to prepare the meal for the retirement luncheon for first-grade teacher Paulette Reddel.



“I Am Not Your Negro”

**Sunday, June 24, 12:15 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall**

**Lunch provided.
Sign up at
the reception desk or
GraceRiverForest.org.**

Approximately 30 people attended the screening and discussion of “I Am Not Your Negro” on Wednesday evening, May 16. The

Faith Perspectives Committee is offering another opportunity to view this challenging film and discuss it with other church members on June 24, after the 11 a.m. worship service.

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.

Adult Ed programs on racial justice, July 8 and August 19

What other kinds of resources are available for learning more about racism in America? Come hear from other voices on the subject of anti-racism efforts and the struggle for racial justice. We’ll sample podcast and Ted Talk speakers such as these:

- Bryan Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. His Ted Talk titled “We need to talk about an injustice” shares some hard truths about America’s justice system, starting with a massive imbalance along racial lines

- Northwestern professor and writer Eula Biss has been thinking and writing about being white and raising white children in a multi-racial world for a long time. She helpfully opens up words and ideas like “complacency,” “guilt,” and something related to privilege called “opportunity hoarding.”
- The civil rights lawyer Michelle Alexander is the author of the award-winning book, “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” which helped to spark a national debate about the crisis of mass incarceration in the United States and inspired racial justice organizing and advocacy efforts nationwide.

Grace Church supports Harmony Summer Reading Ministry

Women @ Grace held their second annual gathering at Kinslahger Brewery in Oak Park on Monday evening, May 7, and raised \$755 for Harmony Church’s summer remedial reading program for children. In addition, Legacy of Grace is also providing funds for this program. Trained instructors will work with children to begin to address the educational deficiencies that exist in North Lawndale. Reading is foundational to success in school; the goal of the program is to boost children’s reading skills and fluency while increasing their confidence and connection to their faith community.

Save the date for Harmony Community Church’s Gala on October 13

Harmony Community Church’s annual fund-raising gala will be hosted at Grace this fall on Saturday, October 13. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend and support Harmony’s ministry to the people of North Lawndale.



Youth Ministry News

The first annual Youth Ministry Door-to-Door Dinner hosted 32 terrific youth and 9 amazing adults at two locations for lots of food and ice cream and s’mores, and a perfectly awesome fire. High school students welcomed the newly confirmed eighth graders and a great time was had by all.

ELCA Youth Gathering. Five Grace teens, along with three adult leaders, including Pastor Lauren Wegner, will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston from June 27 to July 1. They’ll join 30,000 other participants for a week of faith formation through interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship.

Richly blessed, invited by God to respond

Jesus says, “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded” (Luke 12:48).

Demanded? Required? The words seem stern, ominous. But not when heard in light of what Jesus said just a few verses earlier: “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

Do not be afraid, little flock! God has given you the kingdom. And oh, what abundant blessings we have received this year here in the little corner of God’s kingdom called Grace! From eighth graders affirming their baptismal vows to fourth graders learning about God’s gifts given in bread and wine; from joyous festival worship services to the mutual consolation of the saints found in memorial services; from excellent adult education opportunities to new fellowship in FEAST, we have been blessed this year.

As we close out the fiscal year, which ends June 30, we remember Jesus’ words: “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.” We have been richly blessed through the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, God invites us to respond accordingly.

It is always important to close the fiscal year with a surplus instead of a deficit, so that we can begin the new ministry year on a firm foundation. As of May 20, our giving was \$108,000 below budget. We have some work to do. But we do that work as those who have already been given everything.

Please make sure that you are current in your giving. And then, please give more. Erika and I will pledge to join you in that work. There are just too many blessings at Grace for us to do otherwise.

Pastor Dave Lyle

Financial update

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1, 2017–May 20, 2018 \$ 1,786,000 (\$38,000 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1, 2017 –May 20, 2018 \$ 1,678,000
(Last year at this time: \$ 1,530,000)

Church giving is now \$108,000 below budget and \$148,000 ahead of last year at this time. We have a deficit of \$65,000 with 5 weeks left in the fiscal year.

2018 Confirmation Class

On Saturday afternoon, May 5, 23 eighth-grade confirmands shared their witness statements with the congregation at the annual Witness Service. The next morning they affirmed their baptismal vows in the rite of confirmation. Copies of the booklet containing their statements are available in the racks at Grace.

Rachel Emma Armstrong

Anthony John Andreoli

Jaxon Atticus Toppen

Lauren Sophia Kocheny

Alexandra Christina Kocheny

Maxwell Stephen Keller

Aiden Nathaniel Suk Koehne

Kylie Shea Daily

Conner Thomas Daily

Jordyn Christine Van Santen

Ava Lillie Massmann

Charlotte Irene Meyer

Taylor McCormick Reynolds

Erika Jeanne Schroeder

Ella Bullock

Danielle Kathryn Hoffman

Victor Kenneth Dianovsky

Spencer Nikolas Sleuwen

Benjamin Albert La Porte

Sarah Elaine Snodgrass

William Max Kopper

James John Curley

Stephen Dean Roder



The chronic illness support group, Finding Hope, is in need of new leadership

by Jenny Kemp Berchtold

Sometimes in life, there just isn't a cure for what ails us.

For me, that has been one of the hardest realities to embrace and accept. Hearing a prognosis with a kind of "definitive finality" at age 24 cast a bleak, lonely, devastating shadow over my life. I was told that — among other things — I would be lucky to have four functional hours a day for the rest of my life. The news that there wasn't a cure for the struggles my body faced left me feeling utterly hopeless.

It also left me to wrestle with my fears and anger and sense of betrayal. Why would a loving God — my loving God — let this happen? Where was God in my emptiness? How could I worship a Lord and Savior who I believed to be powerful enough to overcome death and the grave if he wasn't strong enough to save me from illness?

And then someone introduced me to Grace's Chronic Illness Group, now known as Finding Hope.

Decades ago, a very special group of people at Grace created three different support groups around different experiences of illness. Of the three groups, only the one for individuals who struggle with chronic illness has continued through all of these years. And today, it remains a very special ministry of Grace, reaching members of the church as well as the wider faith community, just as it did over 18 years ago when I was first introduced to it.

The Chronic Illness Group was like nothing I had ever experienced. Everyone in the group had a chronic condition of some sort, ranging from shingles to breast cancer, anxiety to multiple sclerosis, asthma to Crohn's disease, and everyone who was there knew what it was like to have a life that

was changed by their illness. It was a group where people struggled to make sense of their health and their faith in God. It was a group that knew tears and fears and doubts and frustration.

But it was also a group that knew love. And laughter. And understanding. And advocacy. And more laughter. It was a group that knew how to find joy in the midst of all of the negatives that illness brought. I had never been to a support group meeting and left feeling so uplifted and understood ... and hopeful!

Over the past 18 years, we have seen so many changes within the group. People have come and gone. People have lost their fight, and people have found enough

healing that they are ready to continue the journey on their own again. But one thing has remained the same: Finding Hope is a place where *anyone* with *any* type of chronic condition that impacts their life can come and feel heard and understood, no longer alone, and hopeful!

Ten years ago, I had the honor of being asked to become the group's facilitator. A lot has changed for me since then. No longer trapped under one doctor's dismal prognosis, I've returned to work full time. I bought a home. I found love and got married to a wonderful man, John, who loves me for me and looks past my body's limitations. I became a "bonus person" to two amazing adolescent daughters. I became pregnant with the child I was told I would never bear, and am now a mom to little Evan Samuel, one of the greatest miracles of my life. I have also moved from the Chicago area out to Freeport, Illinois, where my husband and family live. I FOUND HOPE, and I believe most sincerely that

the support I received from Grace's Chronic Illness Group was at the root of it.

The Finding Hope group is now ready for its next chapter. Having met on a Tuesday evening once a month, it may be that a new daytime meeting could accommodate more people for whom night travel is difficult and evening energy is lacking. It may be time to invite people from the wider faith community into the group more intentionally than just word of mouth.

And it is time for a new facilitator to bring some new energy and leadership to the group.

Is God calling you? Have you struggled with a

Finding Hope is a place where *anyone* with *any* type of chronic condition that impacts their life can come and feel heard and understood, no longer alone, and hopeful!

chronic condition that has impacted your life in unique ways that might be best understood by others who have been through something similar? Could you consider being the facilitator of a monthly group dialogue that looks at how God works not only despite but also through our health struggles and challenges?

I pray that a member of Grace will hear this call and that this special group with such a long and rich history at Grace will be able to continue this ministry for decades more. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, either as a participant or as a leader, please contact me, Jenny Kemp Berchtold, or Sue Ames, Grace's Parish Nurse. We hope to be able to spend the summer assessing the needs of interested participants and settle into a new schedule with new leadership in the fall.

Slovakia ministry team prepares for VBS



Once again a team of Grace members and friends will travel to Martin, Slovakia, this summer to teach a week of Vacation Bible School at the Center for Christian Education, July 2–6. VBS at the CCE serves hundreds of students whose parents grew up under Communism and know little about the Christian faith. The Grace team includes Pastor Dave and Erika Lyle, Grace staff members Julie Modrich and Janel Dennen, along with 20 additional volunteers of all ages. They will be commissioned in Sunday morning worship services on June 17.

Kids and adults, Americans and Slovaks, sang and swayed at the closing festivities of last summer's Vacation Bible School program at the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia.

Books about travel from the church library

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page,” said St. Augustine. But even if you haven’t planned a trip for the summer, you can still travel in the pages of books from the Grace Church library. Check out one of the books listed below or other travel books on display in the library and in the case in the atrium.

In Search of Deep Faith: A Pilgrimage Into the Beauty, Goodness and Heart of Christianity, by Jim Belcher. InterVarsity Press, 2013. [Europe] [263 BEL]

Through Their Eyes: A People’s View of the Global Church, by F. Dean Lueking. Tyra Press, 2010. [270.8 LUE]

White Man Walking: An American Businessman’s Spiritual Adventure in Africa, by Ward Brehm. Kirk House, 2003. [276.7 BRE]

Without Reservations: The Travels of an Independent Woman, by Alice Steinbach. Random House, 2000. [Europe] [818 STE]

The Spiritual Traveler -- Chicago and Illinois: A Guide to Sacred Sites and Peaceful Places, by Marilyn J. Chiat. Hidden Spring, 2004. [910 CHI]

Travel as a Political Act, by Rick Steves. Notion Books, 2009. [910 STE]

Chameleon Days: An American Boyhood in Ethiopia, by Tim Boscom. Mifflin, 2006. [963 BAS]

The Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan, by Christina Lamb. Harper Collins, 2002. [958 LAM]

Forty Days Alone in Thailand: Jesus, the Buddha, Thai Culture, and My Self, by Tom Holmes. Chauncey Park Press, 2014. [958.3 HOL]

Never a City So Real: A Walk in Chicago, by Alex Kotlowitz. Crown Journeys, 2004. [977 KOL]

Cruisin’ Route 66, America’s Main Street. Oasis Audio, 2008. [CD 973 CRU]

The Grace Church Library is open and staffed on Sundays from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Look for books related to Adult Ed topics as well as many other subjects. The library is also open for self-service during the week.

GRACE NEWS

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

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, June 19, and Tuesday, July 17, at 1 p.m in the church library.

LECTIO DIVINA meets on Monday, June 25, and Monday, July 23, 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, June 12, 10 a.m., in the Seminar Room for a presentation by Stephen Bouman. The group meets again on July 10 in the church library, when Gick Schmidt will be the presenter on “Violence Against Women.” Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW will be at work on the August newsletter on Thursday, August 2, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers.

CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY. Cornerstones will not meet on Wednesday, May 30. The final session for Cornerstones before the summer break is the annual picnic on June 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Grace.

FINDING HOPE, the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5. The group is in need of a new coordinator. See the article on page 8.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group is reading “The Brothers Karamazov” this summer for discussion at their September meeting. Contact Barbara Hofmaier for more information about next year’s schedule

YOGA, led by Ackli Howell, is on hiatus for the summer.

MOMS OF LITTLES. The Moms of Littles group will continue to meet during the summer with meetings scheduled for June 6 and 20, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Youth Room. Child care is available in the nursery. If you're a mom of young ones, we invite you to gather with other moms to reflect, share, and connect.

Summer Weekday Hours, June 4–August 17

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

6–9 p.m. for scheduled meetings and events

Thursday

8:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

Daytime hours will be extended June 4–15 as needed, for the rummage sale and VBS. The building will reopen evenings, 6:30–9 p.m., June 4–28, for scheduled meetings and events.

PRAYERS

PRAYER LIST. The weekly Prayer List can be found in the worship bulletin on Sunday. Contact Karen Christopher (kchristopher@graceriverforest.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.

IN CELEBRATION

WE CELEBRATE with Luke Robert Ewert, son of Matt and Tasha Ewert, grandson of Tom and Grazyna Ewert, who will be baptized on Sunday, May 27.

WE CELEBRATE with Eli Wood, son of Josh and Julia Wood, and Luke and Mark Wendel, sons of Steve and Alexia Wendel, who will be baptized on Sunday, June 3.

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.

June 24 — Kathy and Bob Hale in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

BUILDING CLOSED

Grace will be closed on Monday, May 28, for the Memorial Day holiday, and on Wednesday, July 4.

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.)

Grace girls take 2nd place at the LSA state track meet



The Grace School girls track team took home the second-place trophy from the Lutheran Sports Association's state meet, held on the Concordia track on May 19 and 20. The boys team finished 8th overall, out of 60 Lutheran schools that sent athletes to the meet.

Seventh grader Zawadi Brown took first place in the girls 400 meter run and 2nd in the 800. Grace girls relay teams took first in both the 4 x 200 and the 4 x 400 relays. Owen Augustine placed 2nd in the boys 1600 meter race, with his seventh-grade classmate Isaac Cummings placing 5th. The boys took 4th place in both the 4 x 200 and 4 x 400 relays. The Vikings are coached by parents Glen Steiner (weight throws) and Jay DeVries (jumps), junior high teacher Brian Schultz (sprints, hurdles, relays), and head coach Rich Brooks, who doubles as Grace's Facility Manager.

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



School News

New teachers for the 2018-19 school year. Faculty vacancies for the upcoming academic year at Grace School have been filled. Ramona Koetke, currently teaching preschool, will teach first grade next year.

Tina Baird has been hired for the part-time preschool position. She has a BA in Communication Disorders and has earned a certificate in Early Childhood/Exceptional Education Needs. She has experience as a kindergarten teacher and more recently as a speech therapist with students in preschool through eighth grade.

Ahliyah Watson has been hired to teach third grade position. She is a new graduate of Concordia University Chicago who recently completed a very successful student teaching experience in Grace's second grade classroom with Stacy Sorg.

Ruthi Brucato stepped in as fourth-grade teacher last fall, when the classroom teacher went on leave. We are blessed to have her continue with us.

Farewell to Mrs. Reddel. Grace School students gave retiring first-grade teacher Paulette Reddel a rousing send-off on Friday afternoon, May 25, with songs, silliness and treats. First grade was fun—we'll miss you!

Graduation. Twenty-seven eighth-graders will receive their diplomas at a graduation service on Wednesday evening, May 30, 7:30 p.m. Next fall they'll be attending nine different area high schools, including Oak Park River Forest, Walther Christian Academy, Fenwick, St. Ignatius, Trinity, The Chicago Academy for the Arts, Whitney Young Magnet School, Elmwood Park, and Lyons Township.

Enrollment for fall. It's not late to enroll students in Grace School for the upcoming academic year, especially in lower-grade and Early Childhood classrooms. Call the school office at 708-366-6901



FRIDAY, JUNE 8
9am–6pm
SATURDAY, JUNE 9
8am–1pm

Proceeds from the sale support
Grace teens and adults traveling
to Houston in July for the
ELCA Youth Gathering.

BOXED/BAGGED DONATIONS TO THE ATRIUM

May 26–June 1 (*Building is closed Memorial Day*)

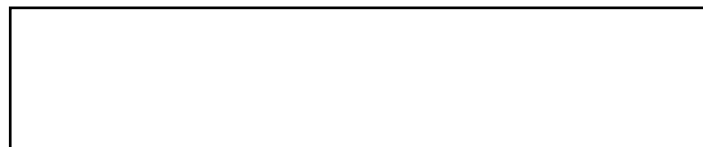
LARGE ITEMS/BOXED/BAGGED DONATIONS TO THE GYM

Saturday, June 2, 8am–1pm; Sunday, June 3, 2–5pm

Monday–Wednesday, June 4–6 9am–8pm

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP

Saturday, June 2 (Sign up at graceriverforest.org. Click on Resources > Church News)



7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305

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