

Grace Notes



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

August 2018

Visiting the past, looking to the future...



Pastor Lyle reads the Gospel at the Center for Christian Education's 20th anniversary worship service Martin, Slovakia.

by Pastor Dave Lyle

I ended my last Grace Notes article with these words for a summer of Sabbath: “So, take it easy. And see where God takes you from there.” I would love to hear where God has taken you; let me share a little bit about where God has taken me this summer.

Our family travels ended up becoming a bit of a “Tour de Dave,” taking us back to a number of places that played a significant role in my faith and life. We travelled to Martin, Slovakia, with the Grace mission team, which reconnected me with faith mentors who continue to inspire me.

Where were you formed? Who poured faith into your life? Who has helped you live into your baptismal promises and to live out your baptismal calling?

We went to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plover, Wisconsin, where I served my pastoral internship 18 years ago. (Can it really be that long ago?) And then we took our daughter

Greta to Pine Lake Camp, one of the two camps at which my young faith was given flesh and bones, at which my vocation was discovered.

I was surprised by how meaningful it was to be in these places. Memories rushed over me. Relationships were renewed. And

I was reminded just how many people have helped shape my life as a child of God. Being in these holy places helped me not simply to look back on things I had done, but also to see the

Continued on page 2

... and seeing that God has been faithful Continued from page 1



ways in which God had been faithful. And if God has been faithful in the past, will not God continue to be faithful in the future?

Wherever your summer has taken you, I would encourage you to reflect back on your journey of faith. Where were you formed? Who poured faith into your life? Who has helped you live into your baptismal promises and to live out your baptismal calling? Whether or not you can go to those places and talk to those people, take some time to give thanks to God for them. And then look to the future.

For we do not look to the past to try to get back there, to try to recapture some imagined golden age. The past, after all, was full of problems and disappointments, too. We look to the past to give us strength for the present and hope for the future. In the book of 1 Samuel, Joshua pauses to raise an Ebenezer, a “stone of help,” to remind the people of God’s goodness. Joshua declares, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” (1 Samuel 7:12) And if God has helped us so far, God will continue to be faithful. In Jesus, the promise is certain.

**If God has helped us
so far, God will continue
to be faithful.**

God uses us to preach this truth of hope into one another’s lives. Just as many people in many places have brought us to this moment, so God will use us in this

place to bring many people to the next moment. As we dropped Greta off at camp, I could tell there was just a twinge of anxiety underneath her joyful anticipation. After all, she’d never been there before. But I had. So, I got down on my knees, looked her in the eye, and said, “Remember: Camp is a magical place filled with magical people where God does magical things.” And I can’t wait to hear all about her adventures in a place that is brand new to her.

And after all of this? Well, it’s good to be home. All the places I’ve been and all the people I’ve known have helped bring me to today. The same is true for you. And now, here we are together in this magical place called Grace. It’s filled with wonderful people, sinners once lost who have been found by God and brought together for this moment. Who knows what mysterious things God will do next?

Let’s find out together. In the meantime, I hope you’ll tell me about your summer. I have no doubt God has blessed you, and I’d love to hear about it. Thank you for blessing me by being part of my faith life, and for letting me be a part of yours.



Pastor Lyle brought greetings on Grace’s behalf during Sunday worship in Slovakia (above). The Lyle family visited Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plover, Wisconsin.

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, August 3, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than August 10. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The September issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, August 31. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, August 22; the issue covers events through early October. Send news to ggotsch@graceriverforest.org. Please limit your submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

A century of grace: Paul Bouman at 100

by Pastor Michael Costello

Psalms 90:10 says that “The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong.” Grace’s Music Director Emeritus, Paul Bouman, must be some kind of superhero — he will celebrate his 100th birthday August 26!

And since August 26 falls on a Sunday, Grace’s Senior Choir will be starting their season a few weeks earlier than usual to celebrate Paul’s birthday that morning by singing some of his favorite service music. There is only one worship service that day, at 10 a.m., an opportunity for all of the Grace Church and School community to worship together before the annual

Church and School Picnic.

Paul Bouman served both church and school at Grace, as 7th grade teacher and as Director of Music from 1953 until his retirement in 1983. Paul’s colleague Carl Schalk, composer and Professor Emeritus at Concordia University, describes his accomplishments at Grace: “In the course of his three decades as director of music at Grace Church, the longest service in this role in the history of the congregation, Paul Bouman developed a children’s choir which was

widely acclaimed, presided over a major renovation of the church organ, inaugurated the Bach Vesper Cantata Series, and led the congregation to a richer and deeper appreciation of the Lutheran heritage of liturgical worship and church music.”

It is no small thing that at 100 years of age Paul is at church nearly every Sunday, holding down the back row at the 11 a.m. service and at each Bach Cantata Vespers service. Paul and his wife, Vickie, who died in 2011, raised five children, all of whom graduated from Grace School. One of his greatest thrills, Paul has said, is seeing members of his family singing in the Senior Choir. Sons Mark and John sing with the choir, and so does John’s daughter, Lucy.

Paul’s legacy reaches far beyond his own family; he has touched the lives of thousands here at Grace and throughout his work in the wider church. His compositions are well known, and of course, after nearly a century of being a Lutheran in America, Paul knows just about everyone there is to know.

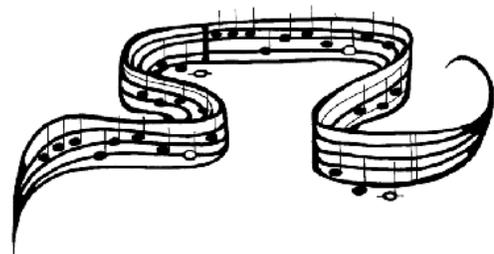
His legacy at Grace includes all the students who remember him as Mr. Bouman. One of those students is Lyle Mortensen, who later taught alongside Paul at Grace School. Lyle remembers:

Next to your pencil a ruler was the most indispensable object for Mr. Bouman’s classes. Heading a paper was taught as an art form using your ruler as a guide to justify your name, grade and date (no abbreviated months allowed) at the top right of your paper. Any project requiring printing on non-lined paper wouldn’t pass muster if a ruler was not used as a guide to keep everything straight and uniform. The great works of art created under his tutelage always had a precisely measured half-inch margin. The lesson was not about how to use a ruler but how to take pride in your work.

Schalk has noted that the establishment of the Bach Cantata Vespers series in 1971 was “perhaps one of Bouman’s most significant achievements.” The September 30 cantata, the first one of the 48th season of Bach Cantata Vespers, is being sponsored by the Bouman family in honor of Paul’s centennial. Coincidentally, the cantata being performed that day is the same one performed at the inaugural vespers series in 1971, *Es erhob sich ein Streit* (There arose a great strife), BWV 19.

The September 30 cantata service will include hymn settings by Paul Bouman, and his son Stephen P. Bouman will be the homilist. You won’t want to miss us singing “Happy Birthday” to Paul at the reception following the service, where Bach’s “Coffee Cantata” will also be performed.

Join us on August 26, Paul’s 100th birthday for worship. There will be on service that morning, followed by the Church and School Picnic. And be sure to give thanks for this servant of the Gospel as he celebrates a century of living in God’s grace.



WORSHIP

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

Sunday, August 5

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

Sunday, August 12

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

Sunday, August 19

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

Sunday, August 26

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**One service at 10 a.m.,
followed by the Church and School Picnic**

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

Sunday, September 2

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark your calendar! Church starts at 10 a.m. on August 26

There is just one worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 26. The service will include the installation of new teachers at Grace School.

Church-School Picnic

Come to the picnic immediately following the worship service! There will be lunch in Fellowship Hall. and games, bounce houses and fun for all ages outside on the field. For \$1 a throw you're invited to try your skill and dunk willing victims, including a pastor or two, principal Bill Koehne and maybe a few teachers. Or vote for who gets a pie in the face (\$1/vote)! You can also enjoy or two of bingo (25¢/page or 5/\$1).

RSVP for the picnic at the Grace website, GraceRiverForest.org. Or sign up at the reception desk. There will be a free-will offering to cover costs.

Volunteers to help in a variety of ways on Saturday and Sunday. Go to the Grace website for a link to the volunteer sign-up.

Please come, join us for fun, food, fellowship and a kick-off to the new ministry year at Grace Church and School.

From the Stewardship Committee



Sunday, October 21 is Faith Promise Sunday.

We ask that in the coming weeks you prayerfully consider your 2019 pledge of time, talent and treasure to Grace Church. We support the ministry here at Grace because of our gratitude for what God has first given us.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" 2 Corinthians 9:8

Financial update

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1 – July 31, 2018

\$ 204,500 (\$40,900 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1 – July 31, 2018

\$ 89,700

(Last year at this time: \$ 98,900)

Church giving is now \$114,800 below budget and \$9,200 behind last year at this time.



ADULT EDUCATION IN AUGUST

Summer Adult Education classes meet in the Seminar Room at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Topics include sessions led by Grace’s pastors and the Faith Perspectives Committee.

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).

August 5

Pastor Dave Lyle

My Summer With the Psalms

Martin Luther described the Book of Psalms as a “little Bible,” for in it “is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible.” Join Pastor Lyle as he shares his experience reading this “little Bible” as a prayerbook throughout this summer. These ancient words continue to guide us to Jesus and put God’s words into our mouths as we pray.

August 12

Pastor Michael Costello

Music and worship

August 19

Faith Perspectives Committee

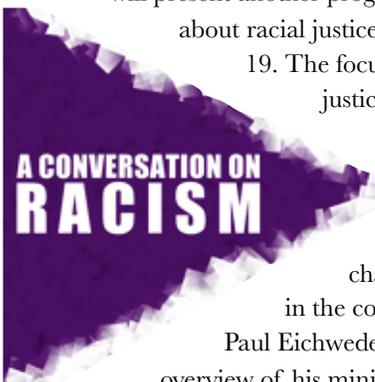
“A Sampling of Podcasts and Other Resources on Racial Justice” (see below).

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 August 5.

August 19 Adult Ed program again focuses on racial justice

Forty-five people attended the July 8 Adult Ed program on racism and criminal justice reform. The Faith Perspectives Committee will present another program on resources for learning about racial justice on Sunday morning, August 19. The focus will again be on criminal justice, with a TED talk from Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, which fights poverty and challenges racial discrimination in the court system. Grace member Paul Eichwedel will also present a brief overview of his ministry providing transitional housing for recently released citizens.



Library Committee shares its Statement of Purpose

Grace Church’s Library Committee met on June 2 and approved a Statement of Purpose for the church library. It’s been a long, long time coming!

The purpose of the Grace Church library is to promote spiritual growth in the congregation by supporting members and friends, groups and programs, with a broad range of topics and resources, including, but not limited to, theology, devotional material, Christian faith, Christian living, spiritual growth, fiction, and more, for children, youth and adults. A Books and resources in the collection reflect not only the Lutheran tradition, but those of other religions to encourage readers to be informed about the ideas, concepts, and beliefs of a variety of authors and publishers, and to encourage thought and discussion.

The volunteers on the Library Committee are responsible for organizing, directing, and promoting the parish library. The library is open and staffed on Sunday mornings and is open for self-service during the week. Stop by—for a cookie or for suggestions on what to read!

Finding Christian community in Croatia and in Martin, Slovakia

By Stefan Modrich

Stefan Modrich is a 2017 graduate of Arizona State University, where he majored in Business and Communications. Stefan grew up attending church and Sunday School at Grace; he was confirmed in 2009. His mother, Julie Modrich, is Grace's Children's Ministry Coordinator and heads up the mission team that travels to Martin, Slovakia, in the summer to teach Vacation Bible School at the Center for Christian Education.

While I was away at school in Arizona, one of the things I always looked forward to about coming home was the routine of being part of the community at Grace Lutheran Church, where my family has worshiped since 2001. Coming back to Grace helped ground me in my faith and reconnect with my peers.

I have spent the last nine months in an immersive language program in Croatia among students of diverse backgrounds, (many of them strictly secular). This experience, far away from home, definitely tested the limits of my patience and my faith.

However, I was fortunate to meet an American named Nolan Sharp, who was born and raised in Pittsburgh before meeting his future wife, Sandra – a Croat, while the two were studying at Stanford. They have two children whom they are raising in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. Nolan works at a youth empowerment organization called *Udruga Fokus* where I was introduced to several UC-Berkeley student athletes who had come to Croatia over their spring break to connect and grow in faith with some adult ministry leaders from the organization. It was a welcome opportunity for me for spiritual openness in a country where Catholicism is so dominant and the pervasive secularism across academia is at times hostile toward Christianity.

It was because of Nolan that I began to consider just how powerful and important American spiritual influence is abroad. I began attending Bible study sessions with some Croatian high school and college students, and I was impressed by Nolan's ability to communicate in two languages (he is fluent in Croatian after living there for a decade) and his thoughtfulness in inviting me and some of my peers to join him at their Baptist church on Easter Sunday.

When I shared with Nolan my plans to join my mother in Martin, Slovakia, for Grace Church's mission trip, he was thrilled, having done some mission work in Europe himself. I wasn't sure what to expect when I got to Martin, but I knew that my siblings, Anna, Katarina, and Peter, had been tremendously impacted by their time there in previous summers and had made Slovak friends that they still keep in touch with today.

Together with Bob and Kathryn Jandeska, my mother, and Pastor Lyle and his family, I had the honor of attending the



Preschoolers, age 4-5, enjoyed parachute games on their first day of Bible School in Martin, Slovakia. (Photo by Stefan Modrich.)

Center for Christian Education's anniversary party and graduation ceremony for its first high school graduating class, simultaneously celebrating 20 years of the Bible School's ministry and 15 years since the founding of the elementary school. The reception for our group from Grace and the other American ministry partners who were there was warm and full of heartfelt appreciation.

Speaking with Pastor Adrián Kacian, Bodhan Hroboň, Janka Mineková, and Pastor Milan Kubik, I began to understand just how important the CCE is as a symbol of the rebirth of the town after many harsh winters under Communist rule, and how God's love has embraced the community as children came from near and far to participate in the week of Vacation Bible School.

A week later in my capacity as a roaming photographer and an occasional games supervisor on the first day of VBS, I spent a lot of time observing the Grace team and our Slovak ministry partners encouraging children to share with one another in this great gift of fellowship bestowed upon us by Christ. I was able to pick up enough Slovak to provide basic instructions to the children, such as *áno* (yes), *nie* (no), and *dobrý deň* (good day).

Another useful phrase was *prestaň* (stop that), but I relied on the student translators for more complicated commands such as "don't hit each other in the head with basketballs." The translators and CCE staff were friendly and accommodating in many different ways, as everyone undertook this journey together.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to see God's love at work in Martin, and I hope to return again someday for an even longer stay to perpetuate the goodwill and tradition of service initiated by our wonderful leadership team and dedicated volunteers.

Partnership with Harmony Community Church serves children in North Lawndale

“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)

God is up to something new in Chicago’s North Lawndale community, and Harmony Community Church is a big part of God’s plan. The congregation is committed to helping “make a pathway” for neighborhood children and families with programs that include the Harmony Food Pantry, the Harmony Kidz tutoring program, and a recent summer reading remediation program, supported in part by a grant from Grace Church’s Legacy of Grace fund.

James Brooks, Harmony’s pastor, is leading the congregation in its efforts to listen and respond to the pain in the community. He recently reflected on the first night of the tutoring program last fall as one he will never forget. Impressed with how many students and tutors came to the program, he was also struck by the harsh reality facing many of the children:

Midway through the evening, a 7-year-old boy came to me, tugging on my shirt, saying, ‘I’m hungry.’ I questioned him about the last time he ate and what he had eaten. “I had Doritos and cheese,” he exclaimed with a sad look on his face. “When did you

have it?” I asked. And he told me, “Before I went to school.” My heart sank like I had been tossed out of an airplane without a parachute. This should not be!

By the next week’s tutoring session James and other leaders had galvanized volunteers from Harmony and Grace to alternate preparing meals for the students and tutors every Tuesday.

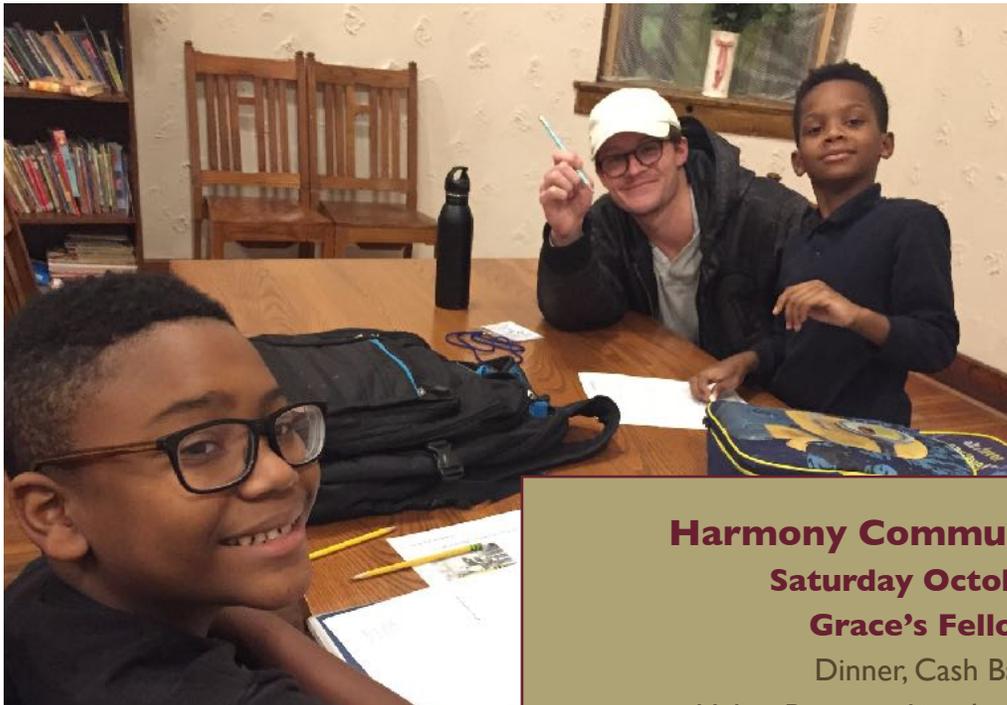
This desire to have a greater impact in the community has led to Harmony’s decision to revamp its worship space. Instead of a traditional sanctuary which sits empty for five or six days a week, the plan is to transform the space into a multipurpose area that can be used throughout the week. It will be a safe haven where young people from the community can come for programs and fun activities that promote health and education and that help them deal with the trauma experienced as a result of daily encounters with violence on Chicago’s west side.

God is
up to
something new...
and this
changes
Everything



The people of Grace Church are invited to be a part of what God is up to in North Lawndale. On Saturday, October 13, Grace will host Harmony’s annual Church Gala, a fundraiser which supports the church’s work in the community. Please join us on Saturday, October 13. God is up to something new.....and this changes everything!

The Gala planning committee is eager and excited to see where God will lead our communities and expand our partnerships. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, serving and clean-up. We are also looking for underwriters, sponsors and table hosts. Please consider where you can contribute and contact Sue Foran (sforan4@comcast.net) or Connie Zyer (cruschz@aol.com).



Harmony Community Church Gala

Saturday October 13, 6 p.m.

Grace’s Fellowship Hall

Dinner, Cash Bar, Live Music

Video, Program, Live Auction and Paddle Raise

Journal of a caregiver: role reversals, prayers for grace and patience

By Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

My role in my mother's life has changed in these past 8 months from daughter to caregiver and nurse. She reminds me of this at times by saying, "There you go again, talking as my nurse!" She does not mean it as a compliment. So I have been practicing how to be present with her without saying or doing anything that might push her buttons. What pushes her buttons? Anything I say or do that reminds her she can't remember things well and can't get through her daily routine independently. Alzheimer's Disease is taking its ugly toll, taking the mother I've always known away from me, from us who know and love her.

I am a nurse because I have felt called to caregiving since I was young. When I was in high school, I used to "grandma-sit" for the mother of a neighbor. Every time I came to sit with her, she would show me cards and postcards from special occasions and from her travels, which she had kept with great care in a special decorative box. As we went through them one by one, she shared detailed memories from her past. I felt I knew her in her glory days! She could not remember to turn off the stove, or where she lived, or my name, but how beautiful it was to be present with her and allow her the freedom to flow and be. Without any relationship history or expectations, it was easy for me to enjoy being with her.

I have not found it easy to give my mom the same freedom. I want to protect her, provide for her and bring "her" back. I am her daughter, an identity ingrained by years of trusting her unconditional love, acceptance, and guidance. But now

I'm trying to learn to be the one who loves and guides in gentle ways. I'm trying not to say things like "Remember you said this," or "I told you that." I'm trying to allow her to grocery shop even if she makes questionable choices. I set up her medications in a pill box and quietly remind her when to take them, explaining every time what each pill is for. I am learning to pray for the Holy Spirit to allow me to show grace and love

I am learning to pray for the Holy Spirit to allow me to show grace and love even when it is the last thing I feel like doing.

even when it is the last thing I feel like doing. But I would like to take over and run the show instead of being patient and letting her flow in unpredictable ways.

I have two voices in my head. The nurse says, "Is she safe, is she clean, is she taking her medication correctly? Is she wearing her lifeline, did she eat enough of the right foods?" The daughter says, "I love you, Mom, I miss you, Mom, I wish you could give me your advice and drive over to my house for a visit." My prayer is that I can learn to love her through this journey, be present in whatever moment she is in and allow her as much freedom to be the beautiful person God created her to be, knowing that someday all will be put right!

I am sharing my thoughts about caregiving in the hope that they will be helpful to others who are going through

this journey. If you are a caregiver who is reading this and would like to talk, to feel heard, I'm all ears!

Self-care for caregivers

Here are some self-care practices and resources that I have found helpful.

Start each day in fellowship with God through prayer, scripture or devotion-reading and meditation. Claim a verse for the day or week or month and keep it with you for when you need it. You can find resources for daily devotions at Grace.

Exercise. For me walking in the woods helps to calm me and restore peace

Listen to music. I like the online streaming service Pandora, where you can make a playlist that brings your heart joy.

Talk about the challenges of caregiving. I share my thoughts with my family and several close friends who have been or are on this road. It feels good to feel heard, understood and supported. I also keep a journal of my thoughts.

Learn. I am educating myself on this disease that is taking my mom away. I have gotten a certificate for dementia communication and have attended continuing education classes. I am also reading about dementia in the resource books available in the Parish Nurse office here at Grace. You're welcome to stop by, browse and even borrow material from my shelves.

Online resources for caregivers

The National Alliance for Caregiving www.caregiving.org

Includes an extensive list of caregiver resource sites and links to articles.

Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org/care

Specific caregiving recommendations for those with dementia.

National Institute on Aging: Information Center www.nia.nih.gov

Resources from the National Institutes of Health on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, including information on clinical trials and advances in scientific research.

Health Ministry News

Game Day for the Young at Heart August 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Church library and Fellowship Hall

Come join us and wear your comfy clothes, a favorite team jersey or cap! We will have an assortment of fun planned, ending with a Game Day themed lunch. No cost — just a donation for lunch. Sign up by Sunday, August 12, at the reception desk, or email Sue Ames, Parish Nurse at sames@graceriverforest.org.

Healthy aging programming with the West Cook YMCA

We had 27 people participate in the West Cook YMCA fitness assessment and goal-planning sessions. We are looking forward to healthy aging programs as we partner together in the coming year. Many thanks to the staff at the West Cook YMCA

Here is an email received from a Grace member expressing what this experience has meant to them:

"I am so grateful to God and Grace Church's Health Cabinet for giving us free membership in the Oak Park YMCA for six months. I was amazed to learn that our membership includes use of all facilities and participation in all appropriate programs and exercise classes. I have attended the enhanced fitness class for seniors on three days and notice improvement in flexibility, balance and energy already. I received a comprehensive orientation to the use of fitness equipment. I so appreciate the YMCA focus on spiritual, mental, emotional and social well-being as well as physical health. The YMCA staff is committed to helping us individually according to each of our needs and goals. Thank you, Sue Ames, pastors, YMCA director, Phil Jimenez, and all who made this wonderful gift possible."

Summer fitness

This summer's Christ Walk fitness program ran from June 21 to July 30 and engaged 17 participants in a spiritual fitness journey, including an after-church walk at Fullersburg Nature Center in Oak Brook on July 29.

Important dates at Grace Church this fall

Sunday, August 26

One service at 10 a.m. followed by the Church-School Picnic

Sunday, September 9

Kick-off activities for Sunday School and Confirmation, 9:45 a.m.
Congregation meeting, 12:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 23

Oktoberfest, 4-7 p.m.

Sunday, September 30

Bach Cantata Vespers, 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, October 13

Harmony Community Church Gala, 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 21

Faith Promise Sunday

Grace School

New JK teacher for the 2018-19

school year. Kathy Brooks has resigned her position as Junior Kindergarten teacher at Grace School and accepted a full-time position in Concordia University's Early Childhood Center, developing and teaching a new kindergarten readiness program.

Kim Hoffman will take over the JK classroom. Kim is a member of Grace Church and has eight years of experience working in early childhood classrooms at Lutheran schools in the area, the last five years at Grace. She is enrolled in an M.A. program in early childhood education at Concordia. We are excited about her move from aide to lead teacher.

Other staff changes at Grace School:

Ramona Koetke, formerly the preschool teacher, will teach first grade. Tina Baird has been hired for the part-time preschool position. Ahliyah Watson, a new graduate of Concordia University Chicago, will teach third grade. She student taught in Grace's second grade classroom during the 2017-18 school year. Ruthi Brucato, who stepped in last fall when the fourth-grade teacher went on leave, will continue in the fourth-grade classroom.

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.

New school year at Grace School

August 15, 5:30-8 p.m.

Registration night

August 21, 8:15-11:30 a.m.

First day of school for grades 1-8
All are welcome at the opening service of Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m.

August 22, 9-10:30 a.m.

Early Childhood classroom visits

August 23, 8:15-11:30 a.m.

First day of school for PK, JK and SK

August 29, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Curriculum night for parents

GRACE NEWS

SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ. Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, August 20, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson (hogenson@msn.com; 708-445-9687) to arrange a ride.

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP is taking the summer off.

LECTIO DIVINA meets on Monday, August 27, 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, August 14, at 10 a.m., in the Church Library. Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director for the ELCA Division for Global Mission is the speaker. Guests are welcome.

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

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

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group is reading “The Brothers Karamazov” this summer for discussion at their meeting on Friday, September 21. Jeff Wood will lead the discussion. Contact Barbara Hofmaier (bjhofmaier@comcast.net) for more information. The reading list for 2018-19 is posted at GraceRiverForest.org > Welcome > Fellowship.

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

MOMS OF LITTLES. The Moms of Littles group meets at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15 in the Youth Room, 6:30-8 p.m. All moms of little ones are welcome to join us as we explore various topics around motherhood, womanhood, and faith. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information (lwegner@gracriverforest.org).

PASTORS' 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.)

Summer Weekday Hours through 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.

The building opens at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays beginning Tuesday, August 21. Grace will be closed on Monday, September 3, for the Labor Day holiday.

PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR all who mourn the death of Vic Brandt. The funeral service for Rev. Brandt will be at Grace on Saturday, August 11, at 11 a.m., with visitation before the service at 10 a.m. A luncheon follows the service in Fellowship Hall. There is additional visitation with the family on Friday, August 10, 5–7 p.m., at Ahlgrim Funeral Home, 567 S. Spring Rd., Elmhurst.

WE PRAY FOR all who mourn the death of Grace members Constance Coon and LaVerne King.

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

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

IN CELEBRATION

WE CELEBRATE with Giovanna Rogers, daughter of Nate Rogers and Gabby Mendez Rogers, granddaughter of Deb Schmidt-Rogers and great-granddaughter of Gick Schmidt, baptized on July 15.

WE CELEBRATE with Vivien Crowden, daughter of Will and Beth Crowden, who will be baptized on August 19.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

July 1 - from Robert and Margaret Burke in memory of R. Robert Burke on the 50th anniversary of his death.

July 15 - from Deb Schmidt-Rogers in celebration of the baptism of Giovanna Lucina Mendez Rogers.

July 22 - from Randy and Ellie Schnack in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

July 29 - from Kathy Spies in memory of Don Becker.

August 19 - from Ann and Doug Anderson in celebration of Dean and Beverly Lueking's 60th wedding anniversary.

Students and chaperones blessed by the ELCA Youth Gathering



Thank you, Grace family, for the gift of this trip for our youth! They have encountered Jesus in so many ways, been challenged, been comforted, been renewed in their calling to serve. Your gifts of support and prayer made this happen, and you are making a difference in the lives of our teenagers! Thanks be to God for you!

Pastor Lauren Wegner
on Facebook, June 30, 2018



Come to Grace's Annual Oktoberfest

Authentic German fun for the whole family!

Sunday, September 23, 4–7 p.m.



**Traditional German menu • German oompah band and sing-along • Silent auction
Laterne parade • Erzgebirge booth • Special accordion tunes presentation!
Tickets go on sale the last week in August.**



Reserve your Luther smoker

The Erzgebirge booth with its collection of hand-crafted toys and Christmas decorations is a popular part of Grace's annual Oktoberfest. New this year is a Martin Luther smoker created for the recent celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. If you'd like to reserve one of these handcrafted Luther smokers, contact Erzgebirge booth manager Marilyn Heimburger soon at 708-771-2468.

Volunteer

The folks behind the scenes at Oktoberfest have a great time preparing for and hosting the event. If you'd like to help out, contact Dan Krout (708-524-0399, evenings) or Don Heimburger (708-771-2468, evenings).

Silent auction donations

German-related collectible items, sports memorabilia, services, gift certificates for restaurants, hotel and summer cabin accommodations—if you have something to donate please contact Dan or Don.

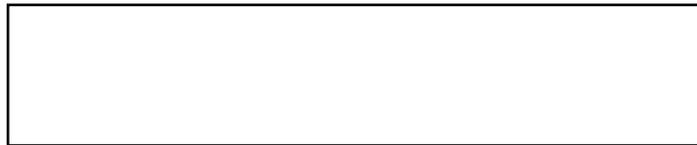
Church-School Picnic



Sunday, August 26
Worship at 10 a.m.

Lunch in Fellowship Hall
Games and fun on the field

RSVP at GraceRiverForest.org



7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305

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