

Grace Notes

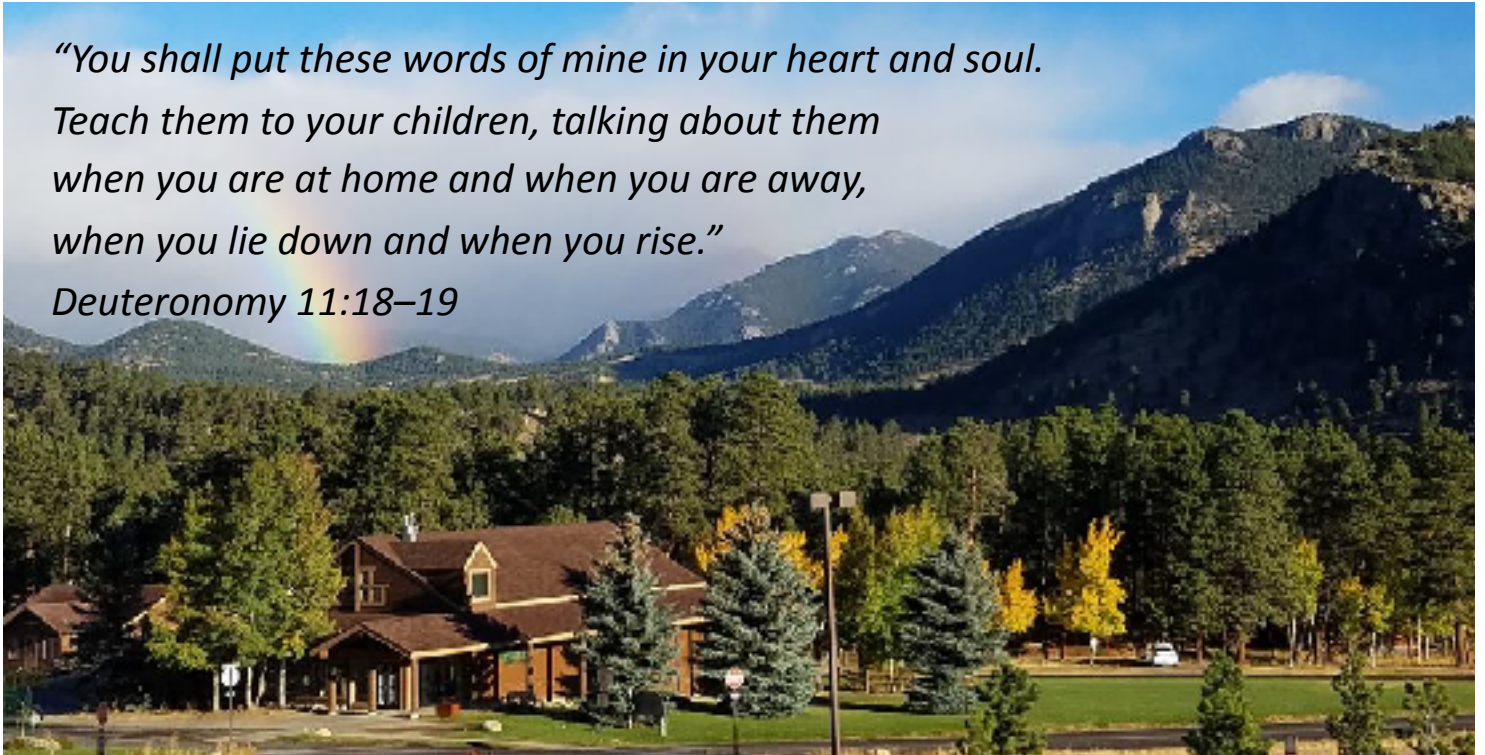
November 2018



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

*"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul.
Teach them to your children, talking about them
when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise."*

Deuteronomy 11:18–19



Estes Park, Colorado. Photo by Lauren Wegner.

Faith grows deeper through conversation and relationships

by Pastor Lauren Wegner

Fall in Colorado is a beautiful thing. Fall in Colorado with a team of ministry partners, thinking and dreaming together, is an even more beautiful thing.

In October, Pastor Dave Lyle, Julie Modrich, and Shawn Vogen accompanied me to the Cross+Gen Life Conference in Estes Park, Colorado. We were surrounded by breathtaking scenes of yellow aspen trees and mountain peaks, and we watched herds of wild elk roam the grounds of the conference center. There was so much to take in! But while the beauty of our surroundings would have been enough to amaze us, we were even more amazed by the content and experience of our

conference together as we learned more about cross-generational ministry.

The Cross+Gen movement that caused us much amazement is a model that engages young and old in faith conversation and deepened relationships. It is an opportunity for us as Christians to become more authentic and Christ-centered in our care for one another. It is, I think, how God intends the Church to exist, and the only way in which the Church truly grows.

Cross+generational ministry is not a program to implement or a ministry fad with which to experiment; rather, it finds its roots in

Continued on page 2

Cross-generational ministry: share, pray, bless

Continued from page 1

the very fundamental practice of gathering people of all ages and stages to share with, pray for, and bless one another in Jesus' name.

As at most continuing education opportunities, I was in high-absorption mode at the Cross+Gen conference — fully present, taking notes, mentally processing every bit of information from every presenter. But this time, I had a team with whom to process aloud, and process we did! In fact, we were so excited about everything we were hearing and learning that one evening, we actually had to stop ourselves from talking about it so that our minds could rest! We talked about it when we were awake, when we ate, when we took walks, and before we went to bed. I wouldn't be surprised if we all dreamed about it in our sleep!

Our excitement in Colorado reminds me of the way God called the Israelites to live in God's love and to pass on the faith to future generations. When God gifts the Israelites with the commandments, the sum of them all is: Love the Lord your God and serve the Lord with all your heart and all your soul.

Alongside this, God also instructs the Israelites: "You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

When I think of our call to teach God's Word to our children and to talk about God's Word throughout each day, I can't help but think about our Cross+Gen team's animated, never-ending processing, both during the conference and continuing since we've returned home. We are passionate about passing on the



faith, and we are passionate about equipping and empowering people of all ages and stages to do the same!

Many of you have already experienced one of the ways in which we hope for our family of faith at Grace to deepen relationships with God and with one another. FAITH5, a devotional resource and practice, is being utilized in ministry team meetings, FEAST groups, youth group gatherings, and many households. If you haven't already experienced it, you most likely will soon. Ask me for a helpful bookmark that guides you through FAITH5 at home! It is a simple way to bring greater depth to devotional practices or family prayers and to draw everyone closer to one another in faith.

There's more to come. We don't know what it looks like yet for Grace, but we do know that God has called us to teach and learn from our children and our elders and every generation in between, to share our lives with one another, to read Scripture and talk about it with one another, to pray for one another, to bless one another. And when we do these things, we end up passing on the stories of faith, readily noticing and talking about God when we are at home and when we are away, when we lie down and when we rise. Just as God has gifted and called us to do.

A serious look at Grace's current financial picture

As you can see from the figures in the Financial Update box at right, we are significantly behind in our giving, in relation to both budgeted giving and the pace of last year's giving. This is not just a paper problem — this is a real cash problem that can lead to deferring payments to benevolences and needing to take out a margin loan to meet expenses. While we have been in this place financially before, it is still a serious situation. And now is the time to turn it around.

Please take a look at your giving to Grace Church. Are you where you planned to be? Do you need to catch up on your giving? Are you able to give a gift above and beyond your usual giving in November and in December, as an Advent Thankoffering? Consider these questions prayerfully, grounded in gratitude for God's abundant love for you.

And remember that your contributions support the important ministry at Grace Church, as we align our lives with God's purposes and boldly offer our gifts for the care and redemption of all that God has made.

May our giving be abundant and joyful!
Pastor Dave Lyle

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1 – October 21, 2018 \$ \$695,300
(\$40,900 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1 – October 21, 2018 \$ 386,200
(Last year at this time: \$ 433,100)

Church giving is \$309,100 below budget
and \$46,900 behind last year.

WORSHIP

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

Sunday, November 4

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 24, Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44

Sunday, November 11

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 17:8-16, Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, November 18

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16, Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-8

Sunday, November 25

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93, Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37

Sunday, December 2

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Thursday, November 22, 10 a.m.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Joel 2:21-27, Psalm 126, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Matthew 6:25-33

Sunday, November 18

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 62

Now come, Savior of the nations

Organ prelude: Scott M. Hyslop, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School, Frankenmuth, Mich.

Homilist: David W. Wegner, Grace Lutheran Church and School

Preview Lecture: Mark Peters, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

Remembering the Saints

On All Saints Sunday we especially remember those members of our Grace Church community who have died in Christ in the past year:

Sue Berg, Irene Brandt, Vic Brandt, Nancy Christopher, Constance Coon, June Froehlig, Mim Halter, Stephen Kaufman, Laverne King, Donette Lofgren, Michael McDonnell, Carlos Messerli, Marion Miller, Harold Rohlfing, Eleanor Schmider, Paul Senne, Carol Tyrrell

Social Ministry projects for November and December

Fall Food Drive

Social Ministry's fall food drive runs through November 11. Bring non-perishable food items to the bin in the atrium. They'll be shared with local food pantries, including the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry and the Harmony Community Church Food Pantry.

Giving Tree/Mitten Tree

Social Ministry's Giving Tree will be in the atrium during November, decorated with tags with information about gifts needed for clients of local social service agencies. Take a tag, purchase the gift, and return it by the date specified (most will say December 2 or 9). On December 9 the tree becomes a mitten tree, welcoming decorations of gloves, mittens, hats and scarves for children in need.

Toiletries collection

The toiletries collection for stockings for The Night Ministry runs from November 1 through December 9. Needed are items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, wide-toothed combs, hand and foot warmers, warm socks (adult size), small sewing kits, pens and small note pads, and decks of cards. These will be distributed to homeless teens who are clients of The Night Ministry in Chicago.

Soup Can collection in Sunday School offering

Grace children are bringing soup cans and crackers for the weekly offering in Sunday School to give to the Food Pantry at Harmony Community Church. Children's donations in the Sunday School offering basket this fall will also support the Food Pantry and help someone "have a SOUPer day."





ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Classes are led by Grace members as well as guest speakers. If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton of the Adult Education Committee (tanton@depaul.edu) or Pastor Dave Wegner (dwegner@graceriverforest.org).

LIVING FAITHFULLY SERIES in the Seminar Room

November 4 and 11

Reflections on Vocation

November 4 - Mary Margaret Bartley,

Case Hoogendoorn, Pam Todd

November 11 - Kristin Vogen,

Stephanie Wilkening, James Claud

The vocation or calling of every Christian is “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” In these two sessions, Grace members reflect on their work and on what vocation means to them.

November 18

St. Augustine’s House

Pastor John Cochran

In Oxford, Michigan, St. Augustine’s House is the only Lutheran monastery in the United States and one of only three in the world. Its spiritual director, Pastor John Cochran, takes us on a guided tour of a profoundly quiet, deeply meditative way of life often abjured by Luther but gaining in popularity for young people in a noisy social media age.

Sunday Bible Study

Led by Bob Jandeska, the Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Conference Room on the lower level.

Books at the intersection of spirituality and vocation

Spirituality can mean many different things to different people. Vocation is often misunderstood as simply one’s day job. Both are so much more, and to better grasp either, perhaps both can be examined together. This month’s featured resources from the church library encourage us to develop a spirituality of listening as God calls us into vocation in and for the sake of the world around us: work that is so much more than what we do from nine to five. *Pastor Dave Wegner*

These and more items will be on display in the atrium bookcase and in the library in October.

Reclaiming the “V” Word: Renewing Life at Its

Vocational Core (Lutheran Voices Series), by Dave Daubert and Tana Kjos. Augsburg Fortress, 2009. [204.4 DAU]

Listen! God Is Calling! Luther Speaks of Vocation,

Faith and Work (Lutheran Voices Series), by D. Michael Bennethum. Augsburg Fortress, 2003. [248.4 BEN]

Members Are Ministers: The Vocation of All

Believers, by Paul F. Goetting. Cascade Books, 2012. [248.4 GOE]

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of

Vocation, by Parker J. Palmer. Jossey-Bass, 2000. [248.4 PAL]

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, by Richard Rohr. Jossey-Bass, 2011. [248.4 ROH]

Listening for Your Life: Daily Meditations with

Frederick Buechner, by Frederick Buechner. HarperSanFrancisco, 1992. [242BUE]

Soul Feast: An Invitation to a Christian Spiritual Life,

by Marjorie J. Thompson. Foreword by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. [248 THO]

Here and Now: Living in the Spirit,

by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Crossroad, 1997. [248.38 NOU]

The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey,

by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Doubleday, 1990. [282.0924 NOU]

You can search the library collection online. Go to GraceRiverForest.org > Welcome > Learn and scroll down to the bottom of the page for the catalog link.

The library is open and staffed on Sunday mornings. Stop by for a cookie or for suggestions on what to read. The library is also open for self-service during the week.

Come and enjoy lunch, graciously served by the Cornerstone cooks

Donna Serpico, like many members of a certain age at Grace Church, learned about hospitality from Maxine Christopher. And while she tells a good story about Maxine's precise instructions for placing the Grace china coffee cup on the Grace china saucer, Donna says that beautiful table settings were not really the point. Maxine was telling her not to be careless, because she knew that caring about the details was how you let people know that you cared about them.

"Never was she one way for one person and another way for someone else," said Donna. Whoever came to her table at a Grace dinner was someone special, whether a long-time member, someone from the neighborhood here for the annual Women's Sale, or a guest from Uptown at the Christmas luncheon.

"The example of fellowship and welcome was there for me 30 years ago and made me feel a part of this church," says Donna. Maxine, mother of Grace

members Jay and Scott Christopher, died in 2007, but she and many other Grace cooks, hostesses, and hosts, left their mark. "Those people who came before us made those traditions for us to celebrate," according to Donna. She celebrates by cooking with friends for everything from Church-School picnics to the elegant Harmony gala. Monthly Cornerstone lunches are a long-standing part of this tradition in Grace hospitality. One Wednesday a month, the older adults who gather for fellowship and Bible study on Wednesday mornings stay for a brief worship service and a luncheon served by the Cornerstone cooks. These lunches began in the early 1990s with the establishment of the adult daytime Cornerstone Bible study group. The name Cornerstone referred to the age of the retirees who gathered on Wednesday mornings — folks who had been alive when the Grace Church cornerstone was laid in 1929. Having been born in 1929 or earlier is no longer a requirement for attending the Cornerstone Bible study, or for coming to Cornerstone lunches. In fact, anyone and everyone is welcome at the Bible study, which is led by the pastors and focused on the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Luncheons are served once a month, usually on the third Wednesday. Come for worship at 11:30 and then enjoy a great meal and good company. (While Bible study certainly is

Holiday lunches with Cornerstones

Wednesday, November 14

Worship at 11:30, followed by an American Thanksgiving, with turkey and traditional accompaniments.

Wednesday, December 12

Worship at 11:30 and a Christmas concert by the Grace School orchestra and choirs, followed by an Italian Christmas feast. All are invited—especially parents of the performers!

a good thing, Donna promises that no one will look askance if you come only for worship and lunch.)

Back in the day, Cornerstone cooks fed 40 to 50 people at these Wednesday lunches. Attendance has dwindled as the diners have aged, but the cooks are as enthusiastic as ever. Getting together to plan and prepare these meals is important fellowship time for them, too. Deep and lasting friendships grow as they fuss over food, share recipes, search

for needed ingredients, and solve the inevitable problems. This year they've set themselves the challenge of preparing menus

from "a trip around the world." They even go on field trips—eating out, of course, but also doing things like getting their knives sharpened.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up, the cooks are planning memorable meals for Wednesday, November 14, and December 12 (not the usual third Wednesdays because of the holidays). If you're free during the day, please come for lunch. You're invited!

"The example of fellowship and welcome was there for me 30 years ago and made me feel a part of this church."



Table decorations from the Cornerstones Christmas lunch in 2016. The cooks brought in Christmas tree decor from home—an easy way to give each table a unique and festive look.



2019 Slovakia Mission Trip June 27 — July 9, 2019

Spend a week in Martin, Slovakia, teaching Vacation Bible School at the Center for Christian Education. You don't need a teaching background — just a desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ as you meet and work with new people. It's a life-changing experience!

Eight people are currently committed to the trip; there's room for 10 more. Look for the brochure at Grace or contact Julie Modrich for more information (jmodrich@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext. 229).

A deposit of \$300 is due on December 2.

Women @ Grace fall events

Thursday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.

"Building Bridges" with the Bouman brothers

Come enjoy wine and cheese and interesting conversation as Women @ Grace host an informal evening with Steve, John and Mark Bouman on Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Seminar Room. The Boumans grew up at Grace and went on to careers in the church, law, and the environment. Pastor Steve serves on the staff of the ELCA and is the author of many books and articles, John is the President of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, and Mark is the Chicago Region Program Director at the Field Museum. They'll talk about the work they do, why they do it and the themes, such as race and poverty, that are common to their different areas of interest.

November 29, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Shop and Share at Alioto's

Women @ Grace are again hosting a Shop and Share day on Thursday, November 29, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., at Alioto's Gifts, 1118 Chicago Ave. in Oak Park. There will be rolls and coffee in the morning, sandwiches at noon, and wine and cheese in the late afternoon. A percentage of all sales will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Start your Christmas shopping and enjoy the company of Grace friends at this elegant Oak Park shop.

Finding Hope planning meeting

Finding Hope is an uplifting support group for people struggling with chronic health conditions. The group has met at Grace for over 30 years, but it is currently on hiatus. Planning is in the works for the group to restart soon. Organizers are looking for others who may be interested in joining the group as well as for people interested in helping with the planning. For more information please contact Judie McDonnell (708-356-6071; judie.mcdonnell@att.net), Merrily Smith (630-530-4284; merrilyannsmith@gmail.com), or John Roberts (708-288-7788). Or come to the planning meeting on Friday, November 9, 10–11:30 a.m., in the church library.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 2, Women's Retreat

All women, young and old, single and married, are invited to the Women's Retreat sponsored by Women @ Grace. Pastor Phyllis Kersten and Louise Williams will lead Bible study and discussion on the topic "Bold Women" for participants from Grace Church and Harmony Community Church.

Harmony gives “Glory to God” for the success of the fundraising gala

The October 13 gala fundraiser for Harmony Community Church, hosted at Grace, raised \$250,000 for the church’s ministry in the North Lawndale community. It was an incredible outpouring of financial support for Harmony’s mission. It was “nothing short of a miracle,” according to co-chair Sue Foran. She describes the evening:

We had developed the program to build upon itself—a short video allowing the voices of the children and the Harmony leadership to be heard. Then Pastor Brooks brought it all together, combining God’s word with the realities in North Lawndale, telling why the body of Christ is so badly needed there. And then the room erupted with support and love....We have no choice but to give God the glory!

The entire Harmony community is grateful to Grace for sharing its facility and to Grace members for their generosity.

As Grace and Harmony members worked side by side, deeper connections were formed that were apparent to guests at the gala. Long-time Grace member Dick Martens wrote in a post-event email:

When we walked in and I saw the co-chairs, I sensed that we were off to a good start. There was Lynda McClendon from Harmony, dressed to the nines, as she greeted people. And there was [Grace member] Sue Foran, dressed in tee shirt and jeans, keeping a watchful eye on the wait staff and bartenders, who were dressed in similar attire. What became clear early-on is that the organizers and volunteers had a genuine affection for each other; an affection that permeated the entire event. Relationships weren’t awkward or uncomfortable, they were joyous and loving. And this, it seems to me, is what led folks to be so generous.

Most of the folks at our table were not from Grace or Harmony, but at the end of the evening all of them remarked how moved they were by the kindness, love and goodwill which were so readily apparent.



Front: Pastor James Brooks, Alderman Michael Scott Jr., Jackie Brooks; back row: Deacons Courtney, Darius, Keith and Darnell. Alderman Scott received the James Sr. and Mary Brooks Distinguished Partner Award at the gala.

“We can’t fix poverty and crime in the city of Chicago, but we can make a difference in North Lawndale,” says Grace member Dave Zyer, who has joined the board of Harmony’s new non-profit organization Harmony Community Cares. “I hope even more Grace members come to understand Harmony’s vision, and become engaged in a partnership that makes a real impact for the children in one of Chicago’s most under-privileged neighborhoods.”

A significant portion of the funds raised at the gala will pay for the renovation of Harmony’s sanctuary into a more flexible space that can be used for worship on Sunday and for other activities throughout the week. Pastor James Brooks and his leadership team are working with Grace member Tom Zurowski and his design firm, East Lake Studios, to fine-tune the plans for the sanctuary. Harmony hopes to finalize contracts and building permits soon so that work can commence.



Left: Dr. Lynda McClendon, Pastor James Brooks, Sue Foran. Right: Brothers Lloyd and Floyd Russell with Dave Zyer.

Harmony kids need more tutors!

Tutoring at Harmony is becoming overwhelmingly popular with kids from the community — so much so, that we are in need of more tutors. On recent evenings we have had up to 26 kids and only about 10-12 tutors. The goal is to have each child paired one-on-one with a tutor. If you are free on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., we would love to have you join us. The kids are eager to learn and eager to get to know you! You do not have to commit to every Tuesday — simply come when you can. Please e-mail Susie Calhoun (msusiecalhoun@gmail.com) or Sue Foran (susanforan4@gmail.com) for more information.

Hope for Grieving Children trains caregivers in understanding the effects of childhood grief

Hope For Grieving Children—Africa equips pastors, leaders and caregivers in Africa and elsewhere with the knowledge and skills needed to address the grief and suffering of children and individuals traumatized by parental loss.

The life of a grieving orphan is very harsh. It is made worse if the caregivers do not understand the impact that parental death or other loss has on a child. When cared for by people who understand the effects of grief, children's cognitive and emotional functioning improves and they are able to make positive life choices and regain their God-given capacity to function in a family and community setting.

Hear more about the growing outreach of the organization at the annual benefit on November 10, hosted this year at Grace.



Caregivers at a training class



Benefit for Hope for Grieving Children — Africa

Saturday, November 10, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at Grace.

Tickets (\$100) are available at hopeforgrievingchildren.org.

Or call Ellie Schnack (708-514-8186, kinderellie@gmail.com) or Tony Stephens (708-848-4641).

Help Paul Eichwedel whittle down his rehab to-do list for returning citizens' housing

Grace member Paul Eichwedel founded Jeremiah Community Renewal Corporation (JCRC) to provide housing for returning citizens—people recently released from prison. Their journey to a new life is often frustrated by a shortage of affordable housing and by discrimination. Too often they become homeless, which is a parole violation, and end up back in prison.

Paul is best known to Grace members as the building host who sits at the reception desk on Saturdays and Sundays and several evenings each week. Grace Church members have been involved in his project from the start. With encouragement from Grace's pastors over the past several years, Paul has reached out for both advice and investment.

As the director of Jeremiah Community Renewal, Paul is chipping away at a very long to-do list, with tasks that range from handyman projects to website construction. He especially needs someone with construction or renovation experience to advise him on his current rehab project.

Would you be willing to help? Take a look at the partial list of projects at right and get in touch with Paul. He welcomes your help, whether it's a few hours of productive puttering around one of his housing units, advice on bigger projects, or administrative or legal assistance. He would also welcome donations to cover the cost of some of these projects or recommendations for contractors willing to work pro bono or at a discounted rate. Contact him for more information or a copy of his list of projects (872-233-5963 or paulneichwedel@gmail.com). Or stop by for a chat at the reception desk.

JEREMIAH COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORPORATION TO-DO LIST

Can you personally help? Do you know someone who can help, pro bono or at a discount/cheap? Contact Paul Eichwedel (872-233-5963; paulneichwedel@gmail.com) for details.

Administrative

Creation of a website for JCRC

Assistance with creating application and rules for the Transitional Housing Program.

Assistance with acquiring the vacant lot next door to one of the JCRC properties.

Assistance with securing tax-exempt letter from the State of Illinois.

Assistance with fund-raising, grant applications, securing investors.

Assess, consult, advise

Paul needs advice and bid evaluations on major repairs, including gutters, plumbing, garage repair.

Handyman jobs, large and small

Repair, sand and polyurethane hardwood floor.

Prime and paint walls, stain and varnish trim.

Install new outlets, switch covers, doorbell, ceiling fan, light fixtures

Repair hinges, door knobs, window frames

Install kitchen cabinets, range hood, bathroom cabinets

Repair walls, install bathroom tile, toilet

Repair, caulk and paint exterior trim

Prepare front yard for landscaping



ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton leads the assembly in applause for Bishop Davenport.

by Bill Bixby

They say that seeing is believing. But, I still could not believe my eyes.

On September 22 in Philadelphia, I was deeply blessed to see the Rev. Patricia Davenport—my friend Pat, going back to high-hearted youth ministry days we shared in the early 1980s—installed as the first elected African-descent woman bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You can see her, too, in the photograph above, drawn from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod web site. (For the feature article, see <https://ministrylink.org/leading-sepa-in-dance-to-the-glory-of-god/>)

It was breathtaking to see a worship space with nearly 1,500 folks—at least half of whom were people of color—in the festal dress of many cultures and many ministries. It was breathtaking to see an event choir of 100 voices, swaying rhythmically, and lifting hands of praise, in cascading rows facing our assembly. It was breathtaking to see ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton beaming as Bishop Davenport—with crozier and pectoral cross, the ancient signs of this holy office—was presented to God's people.

And, it was beyond breathtaking to see Bishop Davenport dance. Really dance: like young David before the ark; like a Malinke woman of Guinea who has overcome great adversity enacting

the Moribayaasa. And Pat led us all, the entire assembly, in exuberant dancing; in the Dance!

For me, seeing—and seeing such dancing—on that glad day, was believing. And yet, I could scarcely believe my eyes. The pure elation of the day, the amazement of the day, the sanctified miracle of the day, was captured brilliantly by the day's preacher, the Rev. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration of the ELCA churchwide organization. In a sermon whose pulsing refrain was “seeing yourself in God's story,” based on Jesus's call in Luke 4, Rev. Bullock said, “Thirty years in this church black women looked at our Conference of Bishops and they said ‘Where am I?’” Then, with a graceful stride toward the front of the platform, and a gleeful smile, she gestured toward Bishop Davenport and declared, “Here you are!” And, there was a wave of delight and praise for God's mighty acts like I have never heard. Or seen.

And, in the very front of it all, there was Pat, in the lead. And I really could believe.

Bill Bixby is a retired ELCA pastor, youth minister and educator, and takes part in Grace's Faith Perspectives team and the Harmony Community Church food pantry and tutoring ministries.

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, October 26, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than November 2. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The December issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, November 30. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, November 21; the issue covers events through early December. 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.

GRACE NEWS

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP will meet at 1 p.m. in the church library on Tuesday, November 20. Beginners are welcome.

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

RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS meet on Tuesday, November 13, at 10 a.m., in the Church Library. Dean Lueking will talk about "How to Pass On Experience." Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW will be at work on the November newsletter on Thursday, November 29, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers.

CORNERSTONES fellowship and Bible study meets on Wednesdays in the church library, with treats and conversation at 10 and Bible study with the pastors at 10:30. There is a service of Morning Prayer at 11:30 a.m. on November 14, followed by lunch. Cornerstones will not meet on November 21. There's a hymn-sing on November 28.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group meets at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 16, to discuss Marilynne Robinson's "Lila." Pastor Dave Lyle leads the discussion. Chrissy and Michael Nelson host (639 S. Lombard Ave., Oak Park). A copy of the book is available in the church library.

YOGA, taught by Ackli Howell, meets on Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Newcomers are welcome! Bring a mat and a towel (preferably a beach towel), and wear comfortable clothing. Call Ackli if you have questions (708-366-4487).

MOMS OF LITTLES. The Moms of Littles group meets at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, in the Youth Room, 6:30–8 p.m. (No meeting on November 21.) All moms of little ones are welcome to join us as we explore topics around motherhood, womanhood, and faith. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information (lwegner@graceriverforest.org).

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

Family Fun Friday

November 30, 6–8 p.m.

Family-friendly dinner, Christmas craft projects, open gym and fellowship for families with children age PK–6th grade. (Younger siblings are welcome, too!) RSVP online at GraceRiverForest.org by Thursday evening, November 29.

More Family Fun Fridays — save the dates!

January 11

March 1, Mardi Gras

February 1, Chili Cook-Off

April 5

PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR Scott Christopher and all who mourn the death of Nancy Christopher.

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 those who will be baptized on November 11 and their families: Jerry Bramwell; Brooke Bramwell, daughter of Jerry and Keary Bramwell; and Avery Anderson, daughter of Joe and Morgan Anderson, granddaughter of Ann and Douglas Anderson, great-granddaughter of Dean and Beverly Lueking.

WE CELEBRATE with Ivy Howell and Timothy Gunatilaka who will be married on November 3.

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. .

November 4 - from Gwen Gotsch in memory of Kris Grahne.

November 25 - from the Haase family in loving memory of Alvin and Evelyn Haase.

PASTORS' EMERGENCY PHONE

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care on weekends, or when the Grace building is closed.



**Thanksgiving
Festival
Worship**

**Thursday,
November 22
10 a.m.**

Students walked with Grace — but indoors!



On October 5, Grace students, teachers, and parents participated in our 7th annual *Walk with Grace* walkathon. For the first time in the history of the walk, the weather kept us indoors. Students walked through the halls of the church and school, but everyone had a good time nonetheless.

More than \$25,000 was raised through the event. A 10 percent tithe of the total will be given to World Vision, with the rest of the proceeds going to support the high-quality educational program Grace Lutheran School continues to provide. Earlier in the week students packed hygiene kits, for distribution by World Vision. Thank you to the 8th graders who boxed them up for mailing. And thank you to everyone in the Grace community and beyond who supported this event!

News from GLS

GLS =Grace Lutheran School!

News from our marketing consultant.

Grace Lutheran School, through a grant from Legacy of Grace, has contracted with a marketing consultant who specializes in marketing Christian schools. Dr. Rick Newberry spent two days in September meeting with Grace teachers, administration, and parents in addition to conducting an anonymous survey of parents. He reported that Grace Lutheran School has one of the highest rates of parent satisfaction of the over 400 private schools with which he has worked. This is great news as it provides a strong base for our new word-of-mouth campaign. We are also working on increasing our social media presence. You can help these efforts by following us on Facebook. Please like and share our posts at facebook.com/GraceSchoolRiverForest.

Fall test scores. Each year students in Grades 2-8 take MAP tests in the fall, winter, and spring. Results are used to guide our teachers in instructing our students. These standardized tests are taken by students nationwide. On the recent fall test, *every one* of our 46 seventh and eighth grade students scored above the national average on the language usage (writing) test. 100%! These students also did very well in the other two areas, with 89% scoring above the national average in reading, and 86% scoring above the national average in mathematics.

Grace sports teams compete at the state and national levels.

Congratulations to our boys and girls cross-country teams who both qualified for the Lutheran Sports Association National meet on October 20 at Concordia University in Mequon, Wis. Competing with teams and individuals representing 61 schools on a cold and blustery day, Grace boys placed 9th overall and the girls placed 14th. The previous week, at the state meet, the boys took 3rd and the girls finished 5th. Owen Augustine, Anna Scholtens, and Alyse Ryniewicz earned All-State honors by placing in the top 15 in their respective races.

The boys volleyball team will be competing at the Lutheran Sports Association (LSA) State Volleyball Tournament, November 2-4 in Springfield, where they finished 5th last year. The team is currently 11-3.

GRACE
LUHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305



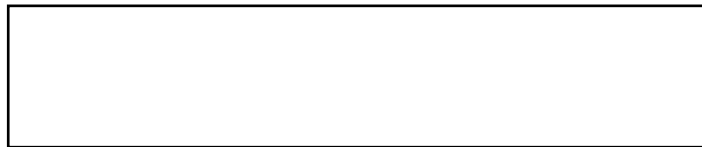
Shop for a wide range of seasonal, sustainably produced goods from local farmers and vendors. Available items include winter produce, meat, veggie burgers, eggs, baked goods, bread, fresh-roasted coffee, preserves, salsas, soap, self-care items, and more!

Sponsored by Grace's Creation Care team and Faith in Place, which empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

Customers using Link/SNAP benefits will be eligible to receive up to \$25 in Link Match Coupons to purchase fruits and vegetables.



Saturday, November 10, 9am-1pm, in Grace's gym



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