

What's up with the Ascension?

In his ascension, Jesus doesn't go somewhere. He goes everywhere.

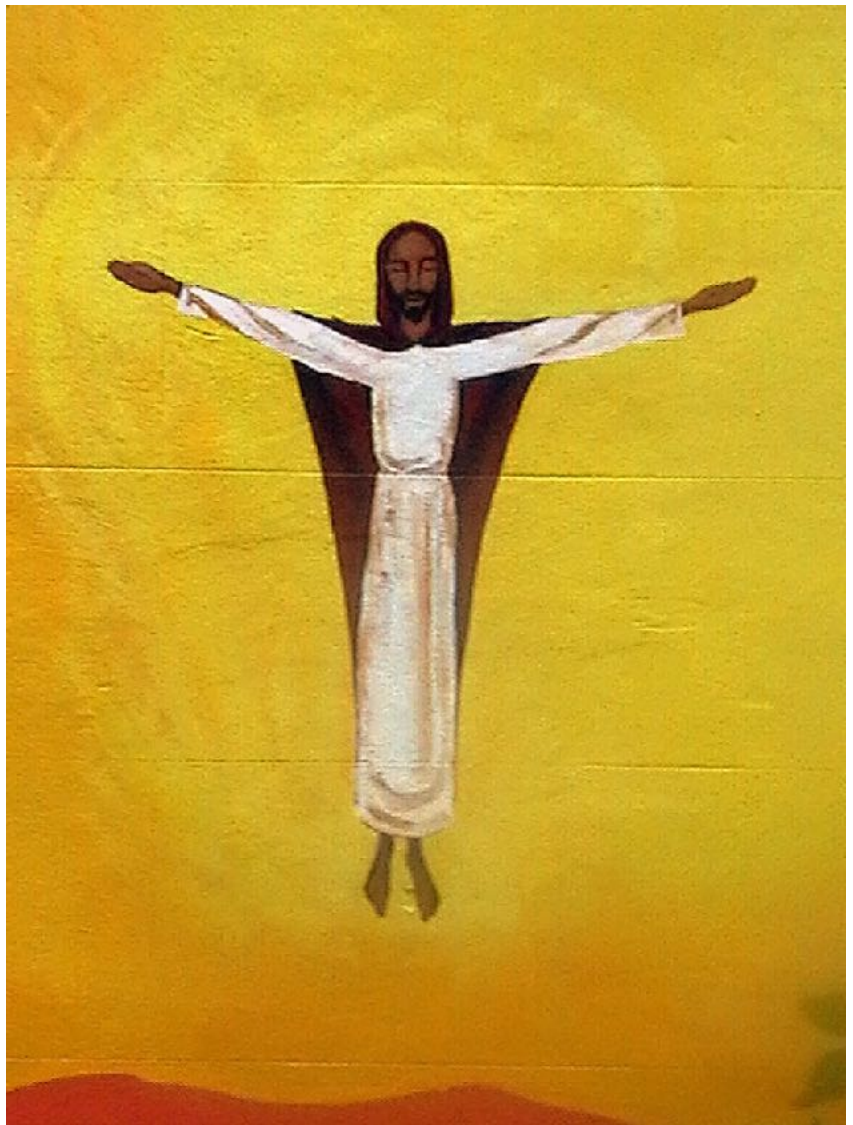
by Pastor Dave Lyle

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" This question, posed by the two men in white robes (Acts 1:11), has both an obvious answer and a missional imperative. The obvious answer is that the disciples had just watched the risen Christ be lifted up until a cloud took him out of their sight. While they had no doubt become accustomed to seeing strange things during the forty days spent with the no-longer-dead Jesus, this was something new. They looked up to heaven in surprise, and in sorrow, too. Their friend, Lord, and Savior had gone away.

What, we may well ask, is this all about? Well, it's not about geography or cosmology. We don't look up, imagining that heaven is somewhere in the sky. To confess that Jesus ascended into heaven is to claim that Jesus of Nazareth, once crucified but now raised from the dead, has returned to his Father. The resurrection establishes Jesus as Lord; in the ascension, Jesus is exalted by the Father and begins his reign. The ascension marks the final return of the One who emptied himself for our sake and took on our frail human flesh that we might be redeemed.

In ascending into heaven, two other things are made possible. The first is that in leaving our reality, bound by space and time, Jesus is now able to occupy all space and all time. In his ascension, the still-human Christ becomes ubiquitous. He reigns over a cosmos that is shot through with his presence. The first gift of Jesus' ascension is the promise that Jesus is with us always, no matter where or when we are.

Just as Jesus is here with us always through his ascension, he also promises that we will be with him always. Jesus does not return to heaven as he once left



Mural of Christ ascending to heaven on a graffiti wall in Bristol, England, 2003.

(Ascension, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54351>, retrieved April 29, 2019. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/skip/111045024/>)

What's up with the Ascension?

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it; he returns with resurrected humanity. Christ, in his incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, has reclaimed and remade humanity in his image, returning us to God.

Martin Luther writes, "He became a human being, now he is in heaven," and, "He proved what love he had for us, so that we can say, 'We have a brother in heaven.'"

The second gift of Jesus' ascension is the promise that we will always be with Jesus, no matter what else might befall us. Not even death can undo this promise.

In his ascension, Jesus doesn't go somewhere. He goes everywhere. Which brings us back to the missional implication. Before he departs, Jesus tells his disciples: "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47-48). The Holy Spirit, which will fall upon the believers ten days later, will enable and empower the believers to do this work, this holy task of preaching repentance and forgiveness in Jesus' name to all

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nations – which is precisely where Jesus, in his ascension, already is.

On the fortieth day after the resurrection, Christians gather to give praise to the Christ. He is exalted by God; he sits and reigns at the Father's

right hand; he is with us everywhere and every time, until the end of the age. And then, in the grace of God, Jesus will return to us, a new heaven and a new earth shall emerge, and the Christ who already fills all in all will be all in all.

This year at Grace, we will gather for worship on Thursday, May 30, at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. I hope you'll join us, as together we sing these words by Jaroslav Vajda:

Death-destroying, life-restoring,

Proven equal to our need,

Now for us before the Father

As our brother intercede;

Flesh that for our world was wounded,

Living, for the wounded plead!

"Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels" LBW 159



Paul Bouman, Grace Lutheran Church and School's Music Director Emeritus, passed away peacefully on Sunday morning, April 28, an appropriate day and time for a lifelong church musician to join the heavenly choir. The funeral, with much music and singing, took place on Saturday, May 4, with interment in the Grace Memorial Garden. Paul celebrated his 100th birthday on August 26, 2018. Here are excerpts from an article written by Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello for that special day:

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." ... 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.

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

Deadlines and submissions. The June-July issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, June 7. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, May 29; the issue covers events through the end of July. Send news to ggotsch@graceriverforest.org. Please limit your submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

WORSHIP

Sunday, May 5

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 12

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 19

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 26

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5; John 14:23-29

Thursday, May 30

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Holy Communion at 7 p.m.

Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, June 2

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Sunday, June 9

DAY OF PENTECOST

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

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17, 25-27

Sunday, May 19, 3:45 p.m.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen, BWV 66

Rejoice, you hearts

Prelude: Telemann's Concerto for 3 Trumpets, 2 Oboes, and Timpani in D Major, TWV 54:D3; and Richard Hillert's Prelude to Evening Prayer

Homilist: Lois E. Malcom, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Preview Lecture: Mark P. Bangert, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (3 p.m., Seminar Room)

Manz hymn festival, May 5, at Saint Luke

Grace's Senior Choir will be participating in "So Much to Sing About," a hymn festival celebrating the centennial anniversary of the birth of Paul Manz, Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m. at Saint Luke Church, 1500 W. Belmont, Chicago. Andrew Schaeffer is the organist, and Manz biographer Scott Hyslop is the narrator. There is free admission and free parking. The offering during the festival benefits Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival.

Bach Cantata Vespers closes out the season on Sunday, May 19

The final Bach Cantata Vespers service of the 2018-19 season, on Sunday, May 17, features a joyful cantata composed for Easter Monday, *Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen*, BWV 66 (Rejoice, you hearts). The instrumental prelude to the service, starting at 3:45 p.m., includes Richard Hillert's Prelude to Evening Prayer, as well as celebratory music by Bach's contemporary, Georg Philipp Telemann.

Lois Malcolm, Professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, is the preacher for the service. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Her books include "Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives" (Fortress, 2009).

Mark P. Bangert of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago previews the cantata at 3 p.m. in the Seminar Room.

Kontras Quartet on Thursday, May 23

The Kontras Quartet, Grace's string quartet in residence, plays its final concert of the 2018-19 season on Thursday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. The program centers on music inspired by African-American spirituals, including Frederick Tillis's "Spiritual Fantasy" (1995), "Five Folk Songs in Counterpoint" (1951) by Florence Price, and Antonin Dvorak's String Quartet in F Major, Op. 96, nicknamed the "American Quartet." Admission is free. There's a pre-concert talk at 6:30.



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).

May 5

“Teen Angst and Other Problems:

Typical or Troubled?”

Susan Scherer

In the second of two sessions, pediatric psychiatrist Susan Scherer will discuss mental health issues in children and adolescents, including common psychiatric problems of youth, warning signs, and when and how to get help. She will be joined by Ellie Borgstrom, Community Education Coordinator from West Suburban National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), who will speak about “Ending the Silence.” Both teens and adults will benefit from this session. *(Seminar Room)*

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) —

“Celebrating Over 150 Years of Transforming Lives”

David Novak and Molly Arnoldt,

LSSI Development Office

True to its history and mission, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois provides services across the entire state for children, families, seniors, individuals with developmental disabilities, and people recently released from prison. The steadfast partnership between LSSI and the faithful Lutheran church community is a critical component in delivering these services. Learn how LSSI’s ministry is providing the next generation of human services by taking a whole person approach and creating the type of change and healing that is proactive and generative. *(7th grade/German classroom)*

May 12 and 19

“Forgiveness”

Julie Hinz

Forgiveness. Hard to give and yet we crave it for ourselves from each other and from God. It requires us to set aside ego and ask for it, or to look past our own hurts and offer it. In these two sessions we will explore what forgiveness is, what God and scripture command of us, how we fall short, and how we can see forgiveness and the act of forgiving as gifts we can offer each other and the world. In this sacred space, we will listen, share, and prayerfully explore what healthy, God-fearing forgiveness and reconciliation can look like in our lives. *(Seminar Room)*

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.

Esther: God at work when God’s nowhere to be found

Martin Luther once said that he wished that the book of Esther “did not exist at all.” Of course, Dr. Luther wasn’t always right! The book of Esther has just about everything: an inept king and a murderous villain, a wise counselor and a heroic young woman willing to sacrifice everything for her people. There’s gluttony, envy, scheming, revenge. There’s uproarious laughter that almost covers up the sorrow underneath. There’s victory for God’s people.

Just about the only thing missing from this book is God. God isn’t mentioned once. In this recapitulation of the original

Passover story, what does it mean that God doesn’t take a role on the stage? For that matter, how is God at work in our affairs today, and how are we to engage the world? Esther – both the book and the heroic queen for which it’s named – can help us answer these questions.

Join Pastor Lyle to explore Esther

May 6, 13, and 20, 7 p.m., Seminar Room.

It would be helpful for you to read the entire (short) book prior to the first class. Sign up at the reception desk, or online at GraceRiverForest.org.

Please give faithfully and generously at the end of the fiscal year



GRACE
STEWARDSHIP

As we approach the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year here at Grace Lutheran Church, our giving is significantly behind where it needs to be to cover our expenses for the year. You can see the actual numbers in the box at right. You will notice that not only are we behind budgeted giving, we are also running behind the pace of last year's giving.

Grace members know from experience that this is a generous congregation.

The people of Grace generously support the ministry that goes on in this place, as we share the good news of the love of Jesus Christ, poured out for us on the cross and in the resurrection.

God's people at Grace, fed by Word and sacrament on Sunday mornings, bring this good news into their daily lives, to family members, to friends and to the community, supporting ministries that share God's love throughout the world.

Your gifts are needed in the weeks ahead to support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School. Your giving will make it possible for Grace to end the budget year on strong financial footing, ready to move into the future. Can you make an extra gift in May or June, in support of Grace's ministry? And continue to give generously in support of the mission entrusted to us by the risen and ascended Christ?

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019 \$ 1,799,600
(\$40,900 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019 \$ 1,388,500
(Last year at this time: \$1,584,500)

Church giving is \$411,100 below budget
and \$196,00 behind last year.

The deficit as of May 1 was \$221,000.

St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you" (1:4-6). And then he reminds them, "God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1:9).

May we give faithfully in the weeks ahead, as we continue to testify to the grace of God in our ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church!



Middle School youth (lots of them!) gathered for Game Night at church on April 5. Fun was had by all!

The greening of Grace's gardens

Spring...Easter....new life everywhere, even after the snow on Palm Sunday. Green things are happening in the landscape surrounding our beautiful church, too. At the triangular beds out by the sanctuary entrance sidewalk, Facility Manager Rich Brooks has cut back last year's stems, making way for new growth. The plants are Carex on the north side and prairie dropseed on the south. There are some gaps there; we'll fill them in with more grasses.



Prairie dropseed (left) and costmary, plants you can find at the entrance to the church.

*Photos by David J. Stang. First published at ZipcodeZoo.com, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61021411>
and <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61003165>*

Flanking the top of the steps are clumps of costmary, an old herb whose scented leaves were said to go in folks' Bibles to keep them awake during long sermons! It makes yellow flowers late in the summer.

Lining the ramp are two rows of purple coneflowers, still in their rosette stage. There are more than we originally planted, self-seeded. Speaking of seeds, we leave the coneflower "cones" up all winter, because wintering-over birds can feed on them.

There are hydrangeas near the Grace Church sign, leafing out; their stems will be cut back, too. Spaced along the east side of the church are Amelanchier trees, natives commonly called shadblow or juneberry in full white bloom (Including the tree given by the Grace School Class of 2017). Also blooming, soon, are the geraniums at the edge of the bed on the north side. After the first flush of pink flowers in late spring, there will be a few

scattered flowers off and on all summer. These are native perennials. Some additional plants will be added to this bed.

Finally, work is beginning to refresh Grace Garden across the street. Working from the original planting plan from 2003 and respecting the "bones" of the original design — trees, shrubs, stone walls — we will be clearing out the many weeds that have taken hold, while keeping many of the shrubs and perennials. We will replace plants that we have learned are invasive with those that aren't and are better suited to this garden. This will be done in stages and in gratitude for the original gift to our church of this space.

Sandy Lentz, Board of Trustees

Spring food drive is going on now to stock food pantries for the summer

The Social Ministry Committee spring food drive runs through May 19. Bring your nonperishable food donations to the bin in the atrium. Food will be shared with the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry, the Forest Park Food Pantry, and the Harmony Food Pantry. Grace School students and families are also participating in the food drive.

Visit the Holy Land with Bright Stars of Bethlehem

Bright Stars Board of Directors member Linda Edens and Bright Stars Chicago Area Representative Ruth Nelson are leading a trip "The Holy Land, Then and Now," January 13–23, 2020. The trip includes the places where Christ was born and lived, as well as opportunities to see how people of the three faiths of the Holy Land live side by side today. Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a US-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides funding and support to educational and cultural initiatives in Palestine. More information about the trip is available from Linda Edens (edens3917@gmail.com). There is a brochure at the reception desk at Grace.

Please Save the Date!

Harmony Community Church Annual Gala

Saturday, October 26, 2019

6:00 pm

**at Grace
Lutheran
Church**





Who and what are the Elders at Grace?

The Elders of Grace Lutheran Church are nine members elected by the congregation and charged with the responsibility of helping to keep the church's ministry on track with its calling. Duties of this group include: focusing on the expectations, attitudes and concerns of the congregation and pastors; serving as a listening post for the pastors and congregation; assisting the pastors in calling on the sick and those with special needs and bringing them communion; and discussing with the pastors changes and developments in the structure and performance of ministries at Grace. The elders also provide job descriptions for and perform annual evaluations of each of Grace's pastors.

Elders meet as a group with the pastors every month to have extended conversations about issues affecting the church and its ministry. "Conversation" is a key term, because these meetings are mutual discussions among the elders and pastors with no pre-determined outcomes. Elders bring to these meetings the ideas and concerns of the congregation, including their own ideas and concerns. Pastors explain the background and implications of events and plans made by church leadership—information to be shared with the congregation as a whole.

This two-way sharing of ideas — from the congregation to the pastors and from the pastors to the congregation — is facilitated by conversations that the members of the Board of Elders have with individuals outside of their monthly meeting. You are encouraged to bring your ideas and concerns to the elders as well as your questions about worship, fellowship, outreach, benevolence, or any part of the ministry at Grace in which you are interested. Of course, you are also encouraged to bring your concerns, suggestions, or questions to any of Grace's pastors, but that's not always easy, particularly on busy

Sundays, which is when most parishioners see our pastors.

And who are the elders? How can you contact them? On Sunday mornings at Grace, elders serve as deacons, sitting in the chancel, preparing the table and helping to administer the sacrament. You can talk with a deacon/elder after worship. You can also find the elders in the pews on Sunday mornings or at church events, or email or talk with them at other times. Here (right/left, wherever) is a photo of the Grace elders. Contact information is below

It is the job of the Elders to make themselves available to talk with parishioners and bring ideas to the pastors. Please be curious and ready to share your ideas and concerns so that there is effective communication at Grace between the congregation, its lay leaders, and the pastors.

Board of Elders Contact Information

Ellie Anderson	eranderson21@gmail.com	708-214-7449
Jill Baumgaertner	jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu	312-829-0290
Christa Krout	christakrout@comcast.net	708-524-0399
Ed Mason	edwin.d.mason@gmail.com	708-934-4530
Andy Massmann	andrewmassmann@yahoo.com	312-961-5698
Mary Paulson	paulson.maryb@gmail.com	708-267-2117
Bill Pullin	billpullin@comcast.net	847-491-0034
Gick Schmidt	schmidtgb@sbcglobal.net	708-771-0667
Valerie Stefanic	valstefanic27@gmail.com	630-247-0429

Know the signs of stroke so that you can act F.A.S.T.

by Pat Gulik RN, Parish Nurse

A stroke is a “brain attack”. It can happen to anyone at any time. It occurs when blood flow to an area of brain is cut off. When this happens, brain cells are deprived of oxygen and begin to die. When brain cells die during a stroke, abilities controlled by that area of the brain such as memory and muscle control are lost.

Getting treatment within the first three hours after stroke onset is critical for minimizing permanent damage. That is why it is so important to “Act F.A.S.T.” Don’t wait. Dial 911.

Do not drive yourself or your loved one to the hospital.

F.A.S.T. – Signs of stroke should prompt FAST action

The American Stroke Association developed this easy-to-remember guide, based on the acronym F. A. S. T. to help identify the signs of a stroke.

F – Face drooping. Is one side of the person’s face drooping or numb? When he or she smiles, is the smile uneven?

A – Arm weakness. Is the person experiencing weakness or numbness in one arm? Have the person raise both arms. Does one of the arms drift downward?

S – Speech difficulty. Is the person’s speech suddenly slurred or hard to understand? Is he or she unable to speak? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Can he or she repeat it back?



**MAY IS NATIONAL
STROKE
AWARENESS MONTH**
STOP Stroke • Act F.A.S.T. • Spread HOPE

T – Time to call 911. If any of these symptoms are present, dial 911 immediately. Check the time so you can report when the symptoms began.

Additional symptoms of stroke

Sometimes other symptoms appear, separately, in combination or with F.A.S.T. signs.

Learn as many stroke symptoms as possible so you can recognize stroke FAST and save a life!

Stroke symptoms include:

SUDDEN numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

SUDDEN confusion, trouble speaking, or understanding

SUDDEN trouble seeing in one or both eyes

SUDDEN trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

SUDDEN severe headache with no known cause

Call 911 immediately if you observe any of these symptoms.

Note the time of the first symptom. This information is important and can affect treatment decisions.

Summer plans from the Health Cabinet and Parish Nurse

Plans are falling into place for summer wellness activities. Look for further information in the Weekly Announcements at the end of May, in the June issue of Grace Notes and on the soon-to-be constructed Health Cabinet bulletin board outside the Church Library

Walking program starts in June. Planning has begun for a six-week walking program to begin in June. Start looking for those walking shoes!

Cornerstones outings. The Cornerstones group does not meet over the summer, but plans are being made for an outing each month to a fun destination. Join us –even if you don’t normally attend Cornerstones.

The first outing is a trip to the Morton Arboretum on Wednesday, June 26. Watch for more information in the Weekly Announcements in a couple weeks.

Call or email Pat Gulik if you have an idea for outings in July and August!

Health Cabinet table in the atrium

Third Sunday of the month

- Get your blood pressure checked.
- Find information on health-related topics.
- Pick up a prayer shawl or prayer squares.
- Talk with Pat Gulik, our Parish Nurse.

School will be out soon! Time to register for VBS!

June 17–21, 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Optional afternoon program 11:30–5 p.m.

Vacation Bible School at Grace is always a lot of fun, with songs and stories, games, crafts and snacks for kids age 3 through current 4th graders. (Bigger kids are welcome to volunteer as helpers.)

The theme this year is “Babylon: Daniel’s Courage in Captivity” and includes thrilling Bible stories such as “Daniel in the Lion’s Den” and “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace.”



Register online at GraceRiverForest.org

Children age 3 through current 4th-graders

By June 1 \$35/child, \$65/family

After June 1 \$45/child, \$85/family



Additional fee for afternoon program
\$20/child/day, \$175/family/week

Children and Family Ministry

Confirmation. Seven eighth-graders made their witness presentations on Saturday, May 4, and were confirmed on Sunday, May 5, in the 11 a.m. worship service. They are:

Owen Andrew Augustine
Clayton Michael Baird
Eylanah Joy Crawford
Mia Daniel Dunavan
Cole Kang Joo McElravey
Henry Anders Nicastro Roloff
Hannah Josephine Schubkegel

They will be attending Teen Talk on Sunday, May 12, as they get ready to move forward into high school

End-of-the-year celebration on May 19.

Sunday School, Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation students will gather with their families in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 19, at 9:45 a.m. for volunteer appreciation and an end-of-the-school-year celebration. Sunday School and Confirmation classes will resume in the fall.

New books in the church library

You will want to check out the newest additions to the Church Library this month! Passion and resurrection, caregiving and Alzheimer’s, heroines in the Bible, Job’s difficult trial, and a ragamuffin’s memoir will provide interesting and important insights into life this side of Easter. Our call to be good neighbors becomes critical as those who daily practice resurrection, especially in the midst of polarization and tribal fractioning throughout our lives both personal and public.

The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to Good People, by Harold Kushner. Schocken, 2012. [223 KUS]

Hanging by a Thread: The Questions of the Cross, by Samuel Wells. Church Pub, 2017. [232.96 WEL]

All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir, by Brennan Manning. Foreword by Philip Yancey. David C. Cook, 2011. [270 MAN]

Fifty Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith, by Michelle DeRusha. Baker Books, 2014. [270.092 DER]

Learning to Speak Alzheimers: A Groundbreaking Approach for Everyone Dealing with the Disease, by Joanne Koenig Coste. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. [362.196 COS]

The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers, by Maxwell King. Abrams Press, 2018. [791.45 KIN]

And not for children only --

Ada’s Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay, by Susan Hood, illus. by Sally Wern Comport. Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2016. [J 784.206 HOO]

The GIFT That I Can Give, by Kathie Lee Griffin, illus. by Julia Seal. Tommy Nelson, 2018. [E FIC GIF]

Very Veggie Bedtime Prayers, by Pamela Kennedy and Anne Kennedy Brady, illus. by Lisa Reed. Worthy Kids, 2018. [E 242 KEN]

Look for these titles and more in the library display in the atrium and in the church library. Please ask the person at the reception desk for assistance with books in the atrium case. Volunteers staff the library on Sunday mornings. It is open for self-service during the week. All are welcome to check out books.

GRACE NEWS

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, May 21, at 1 p.m. in the church library. Beginners are welcome.

RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS meet on Tuesday, May 14, at 10 a.m., in the Church Library. Mary Streufert, director of the ELCA's Justice for Women program, will speak on "Language for God." Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW welcomes helpers as they work on the June-July newsletter on Thursday, June 6, at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library.

CORNERSTONES fellowship and Bible study for seniors meets on Wednesdays through May 22 in the church library, with treats and conversation at 10 and Bible study with the pastors at 10:30. There is Morning Prayer on May 15, followed by lunch, and a hymn sing on May 22. The annual Cornerstones picnic, hosted at Grace, is on June 5 at 11:30 a.m.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group celebrates its 40th anniversary on May 17 with a 6:30 p.m. dinner at the home of Martin and Jill Baumgaertner, (841 W. Monroe St., #5PH, Chicago). Please RSVP by May 10 to Jill (jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu or 312-829-0290). All are welcome! The evening includes a staged reading of Act 5, Scene 1, of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

YOGA, taught by Ackli Howell, meets on Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:30 p.m., through May 16, in Fellowship Hall. Newcomers are welcome! Bring a mat and a towel (preferably a beach towel), and wear comfortable clothing.

MOMS OF LITTLES. Moms of Littles will meet on Wednesday, May 15, from 6:30–8 p.m. in the Youth Room. 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, May 20, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson with questions or to arrange a ride (hogenson@msn.com; 708-445-9687).

FINDING HOPE: SUPPORT FOR CHRONIC ILLNESS. Finding Hope is an informal monthly gathering that provides support, fellowship and education for people experiencing all types of chronic illness. Attend every month or as your schedule allows. The group meets on May 10, and on the second Friday of every month, 10–11 a.m., in the church library.

PASTORS' EMERGENCY PHONE

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

Thank you to the members of Grace

Keita Kishiwagi has been on Grace's Prayer List for several months. He is the son-in-law of Grace member Al Swanson's cousin Sue Kernc. She writes: "We are very appreciative that you had Keita on your prayer list. It has really made a difference in his recovery. He is ahead of schedule, returning to work recently. We are expecting a full recovery with improvement at six months, one year, and even 2 years. I made a book of people and churches who have prayed for him. He says that he felt the positive power of people praying for him. Thank you for your love and devotion to do the Lord's work here on earth."

PRAYERS

WE PRAY for family and friends and all who mourn the death of Paul Bouman.

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 Preston Charles Murphy, son of Kathryn and Patrick Murphy, baptized on April 28; and with Evelyn Rose Gnilka, daughter of Erica and John, granddaughter of Leann and Jeff Cribbs, who will be baptized on May 12.

WE CELEBRATE with Carolyn Becker and the Rev. Gale Schmidt, who will be married on May 11.

WE CELEBRATE with Ellie Anderson and Matt Misichko, who will be married on June 1.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

May 12 — in celebration of the wedding of Carolyn Becker and the Rev. Gale Schmidt.

June 2 — in loving memory of Reverend Aaron I. Sorrels, who was ordained into holy ministry on June 13, 1976, at Grace. "Thanks be to God for granting him life and receiving him in death to eternal life." Bernice "Deno" Sorrels and family. Pastor Sorrels's family will be worshipping at Grace on June 2.

A wedding invitation to the congregation

Carolyn Becker and the Reverend Gale Schmidt invite you to their marriage ceremony on Saturday, May 11, at 11 a.m. at Grace. All are welcome to surround Carolyn and Gale with prayers and love as they begin their new life together.

News from Grace Lutheran School

Come see "The Rock Slinger and His

Greatest Hit." Grace's first through fourth graders will present their musical about David and Goliath on Friday, May 17, at 9 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. in Grace's gym. All are welcome at both performances. You'll hear lively songs such as "Who Will Fight the Giant?" and "Dressing for Battle" and some quiet, thoughtful tunes, too. Janel Dennen and Gwen Gotsch are the directors, with special thanks to Pastor Dave Wegner, appearing as the non-speaking half of the giant.

Talent show. The annual talent show sponsored by the Grace Parent Organization (GPO) was a big hit on Friday, April 26. Esther Armstrong, Lexi Wurpts, and Roxanne Dominis were the adult leaders.

Art show. Art of every kind was on display in the gym May 3-5, all made by Grace students. Thank you to art teacher Melissa Hammer and her helpers.

Also treading the boards. GLS fourth grader Lilliana Renteria is performing in "Matilda," playing at Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace during May and June.

It's track season. Grace Lutheran School's track team boasts 80 participants this season, all of whom were ready to run, jump and throw on Saturday, April 27 — only to be disappointed when the meet was cancelled because of snow! They'll be competing at more meets in May and working on qualifying for the Lutheran Sports Association state track meet on May 18 at the Concordia track.

The end of another year. The school year ends on Thursday, May 30, with a closing worship service at 2 p.m. Graduation ceremonies for 8th graders are on Wednesday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Order Legacy pavers by May 17

The 4x8 inch engraved pavers will be part of a new walk from the school's back door to the playground. The deadline for ordering is May 17, \$150 per paver. The order form is at GraceRiverForest.org, or pick it up at the school office desk. Return completed forms to the school office. Include a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and School, or make your payment online.



The Invention Fair is a Senior Kindergarten springtime tradition. This year's ingenious designs included an automatic lunch maker (what parent doesn't wish for that?) and a hot-air boot dryer.

Let people know about the great education at Grace Lutheran School!

Word of mouth is the single most important way that people learn about the excellent instruction and caring classrooms here at Grace.

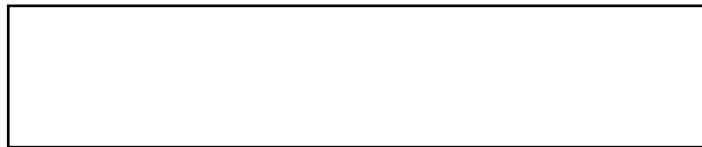
- New all-day programs for children age 3-5.
- Challenging curriculum and supportive teachers in grades 1-8.

Prospective families are welcome to drop by on First Look Friday, May 10, to tour the school and get their questions answered. Or call the school office to schedule a visit and an interview with principal Bill Koehne (708-366-6901).

**First Look Friday
at Grace Lutheran School
Drop by for a tour!**

**May 10, 8:30-10:30am
Call 708-366-6901 for more
information.**

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7
8 am – 6 pm
SATURDAY, JUNE 8
8 am – 1 pm

Proceeds from the sale support the
Youth Ministry summer mission trip

DONATION DROP OFF All items should be brought directly to the Grace gym.

Thursday and Friday, May 30 and 31

9 am–8 pm

Saturday, June 1

Sunday, June 2

Monday–Wednesday, June 3–5

9 am–8 pm

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP

Go to GraceRiverForest.org to schedule a large-item pick-up.

VOLUNTEER

Go to GraceRiverForest.org to sign-up to volunteer.