

## Building gratitude, not bigger barns



**by Pastor Dave Lyle**

Earlier this summer, my family and I decided to ride our bikes to Grace to attend GLOW. As we were riding north through Oak Park, a cyclist riding in the opposite direction dropped his keys. I crossed the street, picked up the keys, and started off after the man who had dropped them. He had a head start, but after eight blocks (and enough time to think that I should really be in better shape), I managed to chase him down. When I presented him with his keys, he took them and said, simply, “I wonder how they fell out of my pocket.” While I wasn’t offended, I confess that I thought he might have said, “Thank you.”

As soon as I thought that, however, I felt convicted. How often have people gone out of their way to help me only to receive scant thanks in return? I hope not too often, but I’m honest enough to know that it’s happened. Even more, how often have I

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to seek a life in which all we care  
about is building bigger barns  
to hold more things for ourselves.  
Jesus wants us to be rich toward God.*

failed to show appropriate gratitude toward God? After all, Jesus didn’t ride eight blocks on a bike to chase me down. He left heaven’s joys and climbed the cross so that, in his dying and living, I might live. In Christ the keys to life abundant and eternal have been placed in my hands. God has done the same for you.

# Gratitude is our response to God's grace

*Continued from page 1*

There is, of course, no point at which we've shown "enough" gratitude in response to God's grace. What we can do, however, is live in a posture of thanksgiving. Our thanks should lead to giving. Jesus drives this home for us in our gospel reading for August 4:

The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones." (Luke 12:16-18)

But a few minutes later, God says to him, "You fool!" Jesus wants us to know that it is foolish to seek a life in which all we care about is building bigger barns to hold more things for ourselves. Jesus wants us to be rich toward God.

God has no need of our money. So how do we show gratitude? By supporting God's mission in the world. This starts, I hope, with our commitment to the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church and School. We ended last year with a deficit; we need to do better this year. The Council has appointed a task force that will examine spending in relation to mission. This is always a good thing to do, but we also need to be honest that decreased giving will ultimately lead to a decrease in ministry. I don't

believe that this is where God is calling us. Please, continue in generosity. And please, don't wait until the end of the calendar or fiscal year. Grace needs your support now to continue as a thriving outpost of God's kingdom.

Our generosity need not stop with our gifts to Grace. Perhaps August is the right month to make a gift to support God's work elsewhere. I would encourage you to consider Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, whose work on behalf of those seeking a better life is of such importance in these days. Or perhaps, if

you have a heart for children in our community, you could support Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois. ELCA World Hunger is always a worthy recipient, and their work is always needed. The possibilities are endless.

As the people of God, we have so much for which to be thankful. As summer winds down, consider gratitude. Most of us don't need bigger barns. God does need our help in caring for this world and its people. In Jesus, God has chased you down and unlocked the door to a life of true abundance. How will you say thanks?

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

### Church budgeted contributions

July 1 – July 31, 2019 \$ 163,000  
(\$40,800 per week)

### Church actual contributions

July 1 – July 31, 2019 \$ 97,000  
(Last year at this time: \$90,000)

Church giving is \$66,000 below budget  
and \$7,000 ahead of last year.

The deficit as of July 31 was \$103,000.

## Support God's mission here at Grace

Give online at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org)

## Support God's mission beyond our doors

### Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

[www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)

### Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois

[www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org)

### ELCA World Hunger

[www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger)

**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](http://www.graceriverforest.org). This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, August 2, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than August 9. Copies are also available at Grace.

**Deadlines and submissions.** The September issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, August 30. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, August 21; the issue covers events through the end of September. Send news to [ggotsch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:ggotsch@graceriverforest.org). Please limit 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.

**Cover photo:** "Waiting for the harvest." © Copyright Steve Fareham. [Geograph.org.uk](http://Geograph.org.uk) - 524058.jpg. Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.



**Kick off a new school year and a new ministry year  
at the Church-School Picnic!**

**Sunday, August 25**

**One worship service at 10 a.m.**

followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall

plus games and fun for everyone, both inside and out.

Sign up online at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org), or at the front desk.

**Have even more fun at the picnic — volunteer to help out!**

Lots of volunteers are needed to get ready for the picnic on Saturday and Sunday  
and to help keep things running during the event.

You can help cook, grill, serve, set up, tear down, paint faces, supervise games, and more.

For more details, go to [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) for a link to the online sign-up.

**Important dates at Grace this fall**

<b>August 20</b>	First day of classes for Grace Lutheran School
<b>August 25</b>	Church-School Picnic — just one worship service at 10 a.m.
<b>September 8</b>	Sunday School Kick-Off Sunday. Games and activities for PK–6 in the gym, 9:45 a.m., Congregation meeting, vote on changes to the constitution and bylaws, 12:15 p.m. Confirmation-Mentor dinner, 5 –7 p.m.
<b>September 22</b>	First FEAST,
<b>September 27</b>	Family Fun Friday, 6–8 p.m.
<b>September 29</b>	Bach Cantata Vespers, <i>Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg</i> , BWV 149, 3:45 p.m.
<b>October 6</b>	Oktoberfest, 4–7 p.m.

# WORSHIP

Sunday, August 4

## **EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23, Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11,  
Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 11

## **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 18

## **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 25

## **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

One service of Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

followed by the Church-School Picnic

Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, September 1

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Proverbs 25:6-7, Psalm 112, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

## **“Faithful Parenting” discussion during the Education Hour on August 11 and 18**

So many approaches to parenting exist—and plenty of judgment, too! Parents of children of all ages are invited to a group discussion on parenthood and the Christian life, led by Pastor Lauren Wegner. How are we called to raise and teach our children in light of our faith? What lessons on parenting does Scripture provide for us? From toddler to teenager and every other age, our children are one of the greatest gifts from God to us and to the world. Come to the Seminar Room at 9:45 a.m. on August 11 and 18 and join us as we share together our hopes, joys, and challenges.

Child care will be available in the church nursery during these sessions.

### **Also in Adult Ed on August 18: Q & A on Bylaws Revision**

The congregation will vote on proposed changes to its bylaws at the congregation meeting on Sunday, September 8. Learn more about these changes in the 7th grade/German classroom during the Adult Ed hour on August 18.

### **Sunday Bible Study**

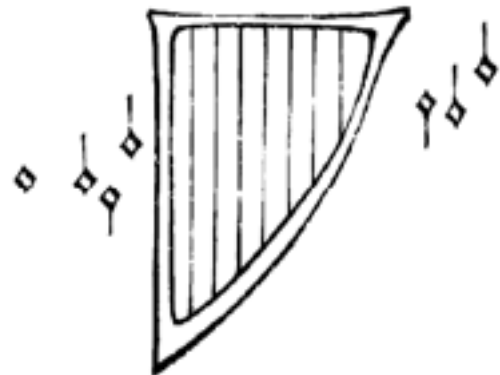
Led by Bob Jandeska, the Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings during the summer in the Conference Room on the lower level.

*A full schedule of Adult Ed programs will begin in mid-September. If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton of the Adult Education Committee ([tanton@depaul.edu](mailto:tanton@depaul.edu)) or Pastor Dave Wegner ([dwegner@gracriverforest.org](mailto:dwegner@gracriverforest.org)).*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name.*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.*

*He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
he redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;  
he satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.*





# A new plan for growing grass in the Memorial Garden



Through the years it's been hard to grow grass in the Grace Memorial Garden, that open space in the middle of the building beyond the windows of the atrium. But that is about to change.

The problem with growing grass in the Memorial Garden is the quality of the soil. When the new building was built in 1999, all that was left in the Memorial Garden space was a thin layer of topsoil and a lot of rocky dirt underneath. But Facilities Manager Rich Brooks recently came up with a plan for growing grass that is thrifty and that conserves our property's natural resources.

The solution starts out back, with the wood chips on the school playground. Wood chips are the safest and most economical surface for playgrounds, but over time they decompose and a new layer of chips has to be added. However, the chips underneath breaking down under the surface become what master gardener Sandy Lentz, a member of Grace's Board of Trustees, calls "compostable organic soil," like the rich, black dirt you'd find at the bottom of a compost pile.

So before a new layer of chips is added, Grace is paying a team of six teens from the congregation to dig up buckets of

quality soil from the playground and carry them through the building to the Memorial Garden where the organic material is being used to fill in low spots and boost the quality of the soil. Rich estimates that the kids will move 500-600 buckets of good dirt this summer before it's time to plant the new grass.

It's a win-win solution. It costs less than paying a contractor to excavate around the playground equipment to make room for a new layer of chips. And it's ecologically sound, as we practice good stewardship of the land for which we are responsible.

## Other property news

**Outdoors.** The new brick path from the back door of the school to the playground has been laid. Go down the stairs by the seventh-grade German classroom to go out the back and take a look at the many pavers purchased last spring in honor of Grace School students and others. The overhang over that door will soon be fixed, with new gutters and downspouts. Also, there will be a new outdoor drinking fountain in place, in time for the start of the school year, as well as a new Gaga Ball pit between the playground equipment and

the Concordia parking lot. The drinking fountain and the ball pit were paid for by the Fund-A-Need auction at Graceful Evening 2019.

**Inside Grace's building** the school's 3-year-old preschool classroom and extended care program are shifting to new spaces. The old daycare room is the new preschool classroom, conveniently located next door to the junior kindergarten classroom. Extended care is moving to the southeast corner of the lower level, the room that has been serving as the church nursery. The church nursery is returning to the room next to the sacristy, where it used to be before that room became the PK room.

### How to get to the new nursery.

Parents can reach the nursery by going through the Lamb Door by the elevator and up half a flight of stairs. Turn right to go down the hallway to the nursery. From the sanctuary, go through the door by the stone baptismal font, go up the stairs and turn left.

# Education, food, and peace — ways in which God is at work at Harmony Community Church

God is up to something ... and anything is possible!

That's the theme for the Harmony Community Church 2019 Gala, to be hosted at Grace on Saturday, October 26. It's also a good description of ministry at Harmony, a ministry in which Grace members are frequent partners.

The annual gala supports Harmony's ministry in its North Lawndale neighborhood, as the people of Harmony strive always to go deeper in serving the community, following the example of Jesus Christ. Last year's event raised an astounding \$250,000 to support Harmony's mission, with a particular focus on the renovation of the sanctuary into a flexible public space that can be used for programming throughout the week.

Demolition of the current sanctuary is scheduled for the end of August, and the remodeling should be completed by late fall. Grace member Tom Zurowski and his company, East Lake Studios, have designed the new space. John Lattyak, another Grace member, is helping Harmony's building committee work with engineers, contractors and inspectors.

## *How else is God at work these days at Harmony?*

The Summer Reading Program is back, expanded from six students last year to ten. Trained teachers work one-on-one with elementary age students, using research-based practices to help students increase their ability to decode words and improve fluency and comprehension.

On Wednesday evenings in the summer, Harmony calls "all those who love North Lawndale" together for Peace Gatherings at Homan and 16th Street. Peace Gatherings include a prayer walk where participants stop and pray at the homes of victims of violence. There's also music and food for all who participate, and various resources are available for those who might need them.

Two of every five residents in North Lawndale experience food insecurity. Not knowing where meals are coming from and not having good quality food readily available impact every other facet of living, especially children's ability to focus and learn in

## **Harmony Gala**

Tickets for the gala go on sale in September. Would you like to be a table host or sponsor?

Sue Foran (708-267-1620) or Connie Zyer (708-366-4600) would be happy to hear from you. They're also looking for a videographer to help put together a presentation on Harmony for the gala.



school. Harmony's Food Pantry continues to serve hundreds of people every week, providing for their most basic need. Thanks to money raised at last year's gala, the Tuesday Night Tutoring program at Harmony during the school year always includes a good dinner for students.

To better manage its ministry in the community, Harmony Church is forming a not-for-profit called Harmony Community Cares. The board of directors for this new organization is working on articulating its mission and creating a solid financial foundation for future service to the people of North Lawndale.

Come to the gala on October 26, 6 p.m. Grace member John Bouman, CEO of the Shriver Center for Poverty Law, is the keynote speaker. You'll experience the unique energy that comes from believing that with God anything is possible—and that God is definitely up to something at Harmony Community Church!



*The 2019 Summer Reading Program matches students with trained reading teachers one-on-one.*



# Church library celebrates its 40th anniversary

The church library is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Back in 1979 as organizers undertook the job of creating a new church library at Grace, they adopted this philosophy: “If one book makes a difference in one person’s life, it will be worth it.”

What will you find in the library that’s “worth it”? You might be surprised at the depth and variety of books available in the Grace church library!

There are, of course, Bible commentaries, books on theology, and devotional materials. The church library also has many books and resources on life’s ages, stages, diseases, and complications. In the northwest corner you’ll find a tall shelf full of fiction, where titles range from “War and Peace” and Marilynne Robinson’s “Gilead” novels to lighter fare such as the many charming books in Alexander McCall Smith’s “The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency” series.

Low shelves under the windows, hold picture books — Bible stories and other illustrated volumes that can help form meaningful memories and important conversations about faith between adults and young children

Olinda Fink, coordinator of church library volunteers, estimates that forty to fifty books from the library’s collection are in circulation at any one time. The entire collection contains four to five

thousand different items—books, of course, as well as CDs, DVDs and some video cassettes.

In the early days, to grow the collection and purchase necessary equipment, committee members held bake sales, spaghetti suppers, and sold butterfly houses made by Grace members. From the beginning, for 36 years, Shirley Holm (d. 2016) worked tirelessly with committees to build and maintain the collection. Purchase of new books for the library is now supported by the church budget.

If you’re looking for a copy of a book on a religious topic, it’s always worth checking the library catalog. (For a link to the online catalog, go to [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org), then click on Resources > Church library.) If you think it’s a book that other Grace members would enjoy, leave a note for the library committee – perhaps it can be added to the collection.

Before it became the library, the room was used as a classroom, as the “Ladies Parlor,” and then as a chapel. The stained glass windows were commissioned in 1969 and created by Richard Caemmerer (d. 2016), professor in the art department at Valparaiso University. As you look at them from inside the building, left to right, they depict blessings:



Blessings of the Sun

*Jesus is the light of the world*

Blessings of the Rain

*Nurture of the earth which gives us food  
(the city of Chicago is in the background)*

Blessings of Nature

*Butterfly, flower, grain of wheat (symbols  
of resurrection)*

Blessings of Night and Rest

*God’s care while we sleep*

Blessings of Science (pictured above)

*The Apollo spacecraft, symbol of the atom,  
God’s rule amidst modern technology*

The library is open and staffed on Sunday mornings, and as every Grace Sunday School child seems to know, there are cookies out on the table on Sunday mornings, as well as coffee nearby. Stop by, browse for a book, or sit down for a chat with a friendly library volunteer! The library is also open for self-service during the week. Featured books in the cabinet in the atrium are also available for checkout—just ask the person at the reception desk for assistance.



## September 8 congregation meeting includes votes on changes to the constitution and bylaws

There will be a regular meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 8, at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meeting agenda will include a second vote on proposed revisions to the congregation's constitution. Changes to the constitution require a two-thirds vote at two consecutive meetings of the congregation; these changes were approved for the first time at the meeting on June 2. There will also be a vote on changes to the bylaws; bylaw changes require the approval of a simple majority at one meeting of the congregation.

The changes were developed by a task force that included congregation president Kim Kernodle, Dan Lehmann, Al Swanson, Kristin Vogen, and Pastor Lyle. After a thorough discussion Church Council approved the changes in May and recommended the revisions to the congregation. Details were shared with congregation members via postal mail and email before the June congregation meeting; the information will be available again later in August. Contact Karen Christopher in the church office if you'd like a copy of the proposed changes ([kchristopher@graceriverforest.org](mailto:kchristopher@graceriverforest.org)).

A question and answer session about the proposed changes is scheduled for the Adult Ed hour on Sunday, August 18, 9:45 a.m. in the 7th grade/German classroom. Members of the revision task force will also be available during the Church and School Picnic on August 25 to answer questions.

## Got yarn? Grace knitters can turn it into prayer shawls and more

Grace's Knitting Group is requesting donations of yarn. If you have some you would like to get rid of, they'll take it, untangle it, and turn it into prayer shawls, prayer squares, "twiddle muffs" that provide sensory experiences for people with dementia, and other charity knitting projects.

The knitters and crocheters will accept all kinds and weights of yarn, but washable fibers are preferable so that garments and gifts are easy for recipients to care for.

Bring yarn donations to the reception desk at Grace or directly to knitting group members at their table in the atrium on Sunday, August 25.

The Knitting Group meets next on September 17, at 1 p.m. in the church library. They welcome new members and beginning knitters and crocheters. You don't have to come to Knitting Group meetings to donate prayer shawls and other knitted objects. If you have questions or need ideas, patterns or additional information, contact Margaret Burke.

## Stephen Minister "After Party"

**Thursday, August 22, 6:30-8 p.m.  
at the Lattyak home  
400 N. Harvey Avenue, Oak Park**

***Learn more about Stephen Ministry.  
Drinks and appetizers will be served.***

**To RSVP, text or call:**

<b>Loretta Lattyak</b>	<b>708-267-8890</b>
<b>Kathrine Leis</b>	<b>708-805-1304</b>
<b>Linda Bernard</b>	<b>773-259-4720</b>

### **Might God be calling you to Stephen Ministry?**

Stephen Ministers are Christian men and women trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life. They are there to care for people who are hurting, *after* the diagnosis, *after* the funeral, *after* the end of the relationship, or in other hard times in life.



A new session of Stephen Ministry training at Grace starts on Monday, September 9, and will wrap up at the end of January. Training materials are provided by the church. If you'd like to know more, contact one of the Stephen Ministry leaders listed in the box above. Or come to the "After Party."

## Oktoberfest is October 6

***Now is the time to donate to the auction  
or volunteer to help out***

The Grace Oktoberfest Committee is looking for volunteers to help with Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 6, 4-7 p.m. in the Grace gym.

- Help with set-up and decorating the day before (which is always fun).
- Help solicit silent auction items.
- Take a turn at the ticket sales table, or
- Assist with food preparation, grilling, or cleanup.

Also needed are Silent Auction items such as sports tickets, gift certificates, weekend stays in vacation cottages, German-related items, offers to bake a specialty dessert for auction, offers to donate German wines, etc.

For more information or questions, contact co-chairs Dan Krout or Don Heimburger.



# Connecting nature, spirit and health

How many of us can stand next to Niagara Falls without thinking about the Divine? Or the impossible power of thunder in a summer storm, the breathtaking beauty of a mountainside, the height of ocean waves, the innumerable stars in the sky, the majesty of an old growth Redwood Forest, or the force of gale winds?

From the grandest heights to the most minute organisms, God is there. The incredible majesty of the earth we inhabit and its mysterious forces can only reinforce our sense of wonder at the vastness of the universe.

Kent Nerburn, a writer who has spent many years bridging native and non-native culture, says, “We are all born with a belief in God. It may not have a last name or a face. We may not even see it as God. But it is there. It is the sense that comes over us as we stare into the starlit sky or watch the last fiery rays of an evening sunset. It is the morning shiver as we wake on a beautiful day and smell a richness in the air that we know and love from somewhere we can’t recall. It is the mystery behind the beginning of time and beyond the limits of space. It is a sense of otherness that brings alive something deep within our hearts.”

According to astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson, “There’s as many atoms in a single molecule of your DNA as there are stars in the typical galaxy. We are, each of us, a little universe.” How cool is it that the same God that created the mountains, oceans, galaxies and molecules looked at all that is and thought the world needed one of you, too?

Here are a few simple ideas to help you connect with God in nature.

## 1. Read the landscape.

Take a walk and find something in the natural environment. Look for signs where the natural features have adapted to natural or human impact. Why do trees lean or fall? What signs can you see of where water has created an impact in the earth, or lack of water? What signs of human activity do you see that have affected the environment you are in? How does nature adapt to change? What are some things you can do to better care for God’s creation? Can you commit to do an action step for 30 days?

## 2. Use your imagination.

Pick up a blade of grass, leaf, stone or piece of bark. Smell it, feel it, look at it very slowly and closely. Imagine you can shrink yourself and go into the leaf itself. Go as far as you can in your imagination ... all the way down to the atoms that make up the leaf. Then start moving outward. Imagine stepping further and further back from your object until you are high above the earth. Keep moving as far as your imagination will take you. What do you experience in your body as you go in close? As you move far out?



## 3. Use your senses.

Find a natural location near water or after a fresh rain. Close your eyes, relax, and breathe through your nose for 10 minutes. Listen, smell, and touch the water if you can. Feel it slip through your fingertips. Smell how it changes the air. Feel, and be aware of, how the moisture in the air wets your breath. Imagine water flowing through your body – in your blood, in your organs, in your breath, in your stomach, in your skin. Offer gratitude for the water that keeps you alive.

## Prayer

Dear God, help me to embrace the beauty and mystery of the world you have created ... and that includes me!

*Adapted from a bulletin insert published by Advocate Health Care’s Office for Mission & Spiritual Care at <https://www.advocatehealth.com/about-us/faiht-at-advocate/office-for-mission-spiritual-care/congregational-health-partnerships/bulletin-inserts>.*

## Health Cabinet table in the atrium

Pat Gulik our Parish Nurse, is at Grace on the first and third Sundays mornings of every month. Talk with her at the Health Cabinet table in the atrium between services. Pat is in her office at Grace Monday through Wednesday. Contact her at 708-366-6900 ext. 219 or [pgulik@graceriverforest.org](mailto:pgulik@graceriverforest.org).

## Flu shot clinic on Sunday, October 13, 9–11 a.m.

Traditional and high-dose flu vaccines, pneumonia and shingles vaccines will be available. Pick up a flyer at the Health Cabinet table in the atrium during August and September for more specific information. If you have questions, please contact your physician.

## GRACE NEWS

**KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP** will not meet in August. The group meets next on Tuesday, September 17, at 1 p.m. in the church library.

**RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS** meet on Tuesday, August 13, at 10 a.m., in the church library. Paul Eichwedel is the speaker on “Reentry for Ex Offenders.” On September 10 at 10 a.m., Chris Berger speaks on the “State of the Church.” Guests are welcome.

**GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW** welcomes helpers as they work on the September newsletter on Thursday, August 29, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

**CORNERSTONES** fellowship and Bible study resumes on Wednesday, September 4. Come for snacks and fellowship at 10 a.m. followed by Bible study led by the pastors at 10:30.

**RELIGION IN LITERATURE.** The book group meets on September 13 at 8 p.m. Bill Clapp will lead the discussion of “Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela.” Linda and Bryan Bernard (1840 N. New England, Chicago) host.

**YOGA**, taught by Ackli Howell, will resume on Thursday, September 5, 6:30 p.m. New participants are always welcome!

**MOMS OF LITTLES** resumes regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, beginning Wednesday, August 21, 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room at Grace.

**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 August 9 and on the second Friday of every month, 10–11 a.m., in the church library. The September 13 meeting includes a guest speaker who will talk about exercise for people with neurologic disorders.

**MAKE LUNCHES FOR PADS.** Rebecca Dahlstrom is looking for people to make lunches to be distributed at PADS Shelters in the coming year. It’s a good project for a group of people to do together. Contact Rebecca for more information about what’s involved and what dates are available (centurywanderer1@hotmail.com).

## PASTORS’ EMERGENCY PHONE

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

### Update your info in the Grace database

Have you gotten rid of your landline? Changed your email? Do your grown-up-and-graduated children have new addresses? Please let Grace Church know so that we can stay in touch. Send changes and corrections to Karen Christopher in the church office (kchristopher@graceriverforest.org), or call 708-366-6900.

## PRAYERS

**WE PRAY** for Bruce Cordes and for all who mourn the death of Nancy Cordes.

**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 Hannah Stephens and Miles Chumley to be married on August 3, and with Chris Lueking and Cameron Parker, to be married on August 16.

**WE CELEBRATE** with Nolan Valencia, son of Lindsay and Andrew Valencia, grandson of Laura and Kevin Clauss, to be baptized on August 11.

## 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.

**July 14** — the Cordes family in memory of Nancy Cordes.

**August 18** — Ruth and Karl Reko in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.

**August 25** — Lori Martin in memory of Mark Wilmot.

**September 1** — Sue and Pat Allen in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

### Summer Building Hours through August 16

Monday	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for scheduled meetings
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



**Youth mission trip.** Ellie Beck guides the power saw, under the guidance of Andrew Nieman. Ellie and 14 other high school youth, including two visiting students from Martin, Slovakia, traveled to rural Eastern Kentucky July 28-August 3 for a week of volunteering with Appalachia Service Project. With the beautiful Kentucky mountains as a backdrop, they worked on home repair and replacement projects in an area particularly impacted by poverty and unemployment. Pastors Dave and Lauren Wegner and five additional adults accompanied the group, providing support, encouragement, and practical instruction.

## Grace School hires a director of marketing and enrollment

Jenn Beasley has been hired as Grace Lutheran School's new director of marketing and enrollment. She will be working on getting the word out to the community about the educational opportunities available to children at Grace School. She will also guide and stay in touch with families as they visit the school and move through the enrollment process.

Jenn graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in psychology and from Argosy University with a degree in counseling psychology. She has worked as a professional counselor. After her children, Caleb and Libby, were born, she stepped back from full-time counseling and academics to focus on their development. Now that they are both enrolled at Grace School, she is sharing her love for the school with prospective students and their parents. She says that she "is excited to be a part of the wonderful staff at Grace Lutheran School."

### 2019-20 enrollment at Grace Lutheran School

Enrollment figures are up for the coming academic year at Grace School, though there is room for additional students in grades PK-4. The increased emphasis on marketing the school and reaching out to prospective families is important for the future of the school and its mission of bringing in, building up and sending out disciples for Jesus Christ.

### Grace Lutheran School is still accepting applications for the 2019-20 school year

- Half-day and full-day program options for children age 3–4.
- New all-day kindergarten program.
- Rigorous academics in grades 1-8 challenge students to grow in knowledge and character.
- Caring environment grounded in faith. Our students know that they are beloved children of God!

Contact Jenn Beasley for more information or to schedule a visit (708-366-6900 ext 218; [jbeasley@graceriverforest.org](mailto:jbeasley@graceriverforest.org)).



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## Church-School Picnic

Sunday, August 25

One worship service at 10 a.m.

Sign up at the reception desk or  
online at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org)

