

November 2019 Grace Notes



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

Grieving during the holidays



by Pastor Dave Wegner

My paternal grandmother lived in a duplex just down the road from our home. My sister and I would regularly descend the gentle hill of our back yard on our way to “teatime” with her – though, truthfully, it would have been better named “chocolate milk time.” Holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas were often spent in our house, our grandmother ascending the hill, and were always full of laughter, gifts, delicious food, and quiet evenings with our heads in her lap. Time continued to march on, however, and grandmother’s health began a slow then quickening decline. Hospital visits, suspension of driving privileges, canes, walkers, lift recliners, and pain began to

theme our collective times together as a family. Still, she valiantly made the trek up the hill because she delighted in tradition and togetherness.

One Christmastide, though, it all changed. She was not able to make it up the hill. The impact of a fall out of bed had broken

her hip and surgery was considered too dangerous for her frail body. She was confined to her bed or the lift recliner, requiring significant assistance to move between the two. Her world had gotten immensely smaller and could no longer include our regular holiday patterns. That Christmas we ordered Honey Baked Ham lunch boxes and ate Christmas “dinner” at

The death of a loved one can permanently alter the way we do and think about traditions – especially those surrounding the holidays. We do not grieve as those without hope, but we still grieve.

Continued on page 2

Traditions change, love for one another remains

Continued from page 1

noon before the pain medications lulled her into a now regular and deep afternoon sleep. She lived for a few more months and passed away early in the new year: complications from diabetes and a weak heart exacerbated by lack of mobility.

I will always remember our boxed lunch Christmas dinner on my grandmother's fading green living room carpet. I suspect many of us have similar stories of familial traditions surrounding holidays, even if those traditions were somehow and sometimes upset or altered by circumstances outside our control. We also know, painfully at times, that the death of a loved one can permanently alter the way we do and think about traditions – especially those surrounding the holidays. We do not grieve as those without hope, but we still grieve. We miss those moments that had become so dear. Our minds try to anticipate what the next time will be like without them, but it still hits our hearts like a ton of bricks when the time finally comes around. No matter how much time has passed since your tradition was forever altered by the death of a loved one, you are not alone in feeling this way.

If you are wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas, if you are dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated, if you need to know and feel that you are not alone, then you are warmly invited to join us for a gathering called "Surviving the Holidays" on November 17, at 12:30 p.m. in the Church Library. In this time together we will watch a 40-minute video, filled with practical tips and the real-life stories of people who have navigated the season after their loved one's death. We'll hear others share how they are dealing with the holidays. If you feel comfortable, you'll have the opportunity to share how grief is affecting you. Or you may simply be present and listen.

Everyone at the gathering will receive a copy of the "Holiday Survival Guide" crafted by GriefShare. GriefShare is a 13-week grief support program that will begin at Grace in the new year. GriefShare groups, and this gathering on November 17, are nondenominational and open to people of all faiths, as well as those who do not practice a faith. There is no cost to attend and the gathering is open to the wider community.

I was upset that our Christmas tradition was radically altered that year as we sat on the faded green carpet eating cold sandwiches out of a box. It wasn't the same as it had been. Different wasn't welcome in my young mind. I didn't know what to call it then, but know now it was grief, even before my grandmother had passed away. But just as God gives growth to seeds buried deep within the dark earth, so too do we grow during the darkness of grief. We now celebrate the memory of grandmother, her faded green carpet, and the boxed lunch dinner we ate. The story solicits laughs and tears. The story solicits a deep and potent understanding that, though traditions change, our love for one another and for those who have gone before us will never be moved.

If you need to feel that you are not alone

"Surviving the Holidays" **Sunday, November 17, 12:30–3 p.m.**

A light lunch will be served prior to the seminar.

Please sign up at the Grace reception desk.

Sponsored by Grace's new GriefShare ministry.



Longest Night worship service **Saturday, December 21 at 7pm**

As you look ahead to the Christmas season, you may want to put the Longest Night worship service on your calendar. Sometimes the holidays don't feel merry or bright. This service, at 7 p.m. on the evening of the winter solstice, Saturday, December 21, is for everyone, but especially for those who may be feeling weighed down during the holiday season by loss, a difficult transition, or other reasons. Through the gifts of scripture, prayer, meditation, and song, we will together mark this night and the feelings and burdens we carry with us, and we will hear the promises of Jesus Christ for all of us.

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, November 1, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than November 8. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The December issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Wednesday, November 27. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, November 20; the issue covers events through the first week of January. Send news to 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.

The healthy joy of generosity

From the Health Cabinet

The word generosity is derived from the Latin word *generosus* meaning “of noble birth.” Other words from the same Latin root include genesis, gender, genealogy, and genius. Early use of the word in English reflected the aristocratic sense of being of high birth.

During the 17th century, the meaning of the word began to change to mean a nobility of spirit that included characteristics such as gallantry, courage, strength, richness, gentleness, and fairness. The meaning of generosity continued to evolve in the 18th century, becoming associated with the giving of money and possessions to others.

Today generosity is an ideal; one we aspire to that calls us to a higher standard. We use the word generosity to refer to the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly with no strings attached.

Generosity is:

- A learned character trait that involves both attitude and action.
- A basic, personal, moral orientation to life.
- Not simply giving anything in abundance but giving those things that are good for others.
- Intended to enhance the well-being of the receiver.
- Giving money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, emotional availability and more.

Generosity speaks to fundamental religious questions concerning the nature of humanity, God, and the human-divine relationship.

Generosity and mental health

The “warm glow of giving” economic theory describes how people experience a sense of joy and satisfaction for “doing their part” to help others. Happiness is also tied to volunteering. People with religious faith tend to be happier than those without. Happiness increased in those who focus on good works, religion or spirituality, friends, or family.

Neuroscience research confirms that when a person donates to a charity, parts of their brain light up that are normally associated with pleasures like eating or sex. “Our brains show we profit emotionally from giving, as in feeling joy when we do good things,” stated Jorge Moll from National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

“It’s mysterious that human beings among all mammals are so hypersocial that our brains are wired to help other people, even strangers,” said Paul Zak, director of the Center for Neuroeconomics Studies at Claremont Graduate University, in an interview published in The Kansas City Star, June 17, 2007. “Economists have always been shocked (by unselfish altruism), and now we have a reason for it; it feels good to do this.”

For Christians, to be generous is to be like Christ: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16

Adapted from a bulletin insert by Community of Christ Health Ministries Association (www.HMACofChrist.org). Additional source: “What is Generosity” at Generosity Research (<https://generosityresearch.nd.edu/more-about-the-initiative/what-is-generosity>).

There’s still time to make a Faith Promise for 2020

Grace members are invited annually to make a pledge of financial commitment to the mission and ministry at Grace. These pledges are made in the fall, beginning on Faith Promise Sunday, which this year was October 20.

If you have not yet made a pledge for the coming 2020 calendar year, please consider doing so before 2019 is over. Generous, Spirit-led offerings are an opportunity to grow into a closer, more joyful relationship with God.

Faith Promise cards are available in the racks in the narthex, at the Division Street door, and by the reception desk. You may place your card in the offering plate or return it to Grace by mail.



Give thanks
to the Lord

– Psalm 118:1

WORSHIP

Sunday, November 3

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

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

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149, Ephesians 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31

Sunday, November 10

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Job 19:23-27a, Psalm 17:1-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 17

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 24

CHRIST THE KING

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

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

Thursday, November 28

THANKSGIVING DAY

Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 100, Philippians 4:4-9, John 6:25-35

Sunday, December 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday, November 24, 3:45 p.m.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort, BWV 20

O eternity, you word of thunder

Organ prelude: Thomas Schmidt, Chicago

Motet: Orlando diLassus, *Timor et tremor*

Homilist: Mark P. Bangert, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

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

Bach Cantata Vespers on November 24

Bach's chorale cantata *O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort*, BWV 20 (O eternity, you word of thunder), is a somber meditation on despair, hope and mortality, composed for the First Sunday After Trinity in 1724. It's a fitting work for the November 24 cantata service, at the end of the church year, a time when the lectionary focuses on Christ's coming kingdom.

Pastor Mark Bangert, homilist for the service, is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Ministry: Worship and Church at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is an accomplished church musician and a Bach scholar.

The organ prelude, played by Thomas Schmidt, begins at 3:45 p.m. Come to the preview at 3 p.m. in the Seminar Room to learn more about the cantata.

Many ways that members can help with worship services

Altar Guild. Be a part of making ready "the gifts of God, for the people of God." The Grace Church Altar Guild is always in need of volunteers to train and participate in the very essential and meaningful ministry of preparation of the sacrament for the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services, festival services, weddings, funerals and school communion services. To find out more, please contact Roberta Gillespie (708-771-9428) or the church office (708-366-6900).

Lectors, assisting ministers. Are you interested in serving as a lector or assisting minister? All are welcome to participate. For more information speak to a pastor or contact Karen Christopher in the church office (708-366-6900, ext. 207; kchristopher@gracriverforest.org). Now is a good time to volunteer and get on the schedule for the first half of 2020.

Ushers and greeters. These friendly folks are the face of Grace Church to worshipers coming through our doors on Sunday morning. If you're willing to serve as a greeter, please contact Marge Sanger (708-453-0649). Mike Carioscio schedules ushers (mcarioscio@gmail.com) and is always looking for more volunteers.



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP Thursday, November 28, 10 a.m.

Grace's festive service of Holy Communion on Thanksgiving morning traditionally uses the Festival Liturgy composed by the late Richard Hillert, accompanied by organ and brass. Begin your day of giving thanks by thanking and praising God, source of all good things!



ADULT EDUCATION

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

November 3

“Katharina von Bora: The Morning Star of Wittenberg”

Kurt Hendel, LSTC Distinguished Ministry Professor Emeritus of Reformation History

Martin Luther never expected to marry, but God surprised him with a gifted, devoted life partner. That was true also of Katharina. Explore her vivid biography, her relationship with Luther, contributions to their life together; and Luther’s comments about Katharina, marriage, and parenting.

November 10

“Retiring or Repositioning — Encour-AGING the Process”

Rich Bimler, author, retired president of Wheat Ridge Ministries

Retirement, the beginning of a new stage in life, can be a stressful time, but it can also provide an opportunity for spiritual repositioning and a change in emphasis from Doing to Being. This session is intended not just for those undergoing this transition, but also for those who want to learn how to support and encourage parents, grandparents, and friends in their journey into life.

November 17

“Fake News, Real News”

Amy Merrick, DePaul University College of Communication Read Schuchardt, Associate Professor of Communication, Wheaton College

November 24

GIFT — Growing In Faith Together

Join Grace members of all ages in Fellowship Hall for song, prayer, and conversations about Christ the King Sunday and the coming Advent season. (More information below.)

There is no Adult Ed program on Thanksgiving weekend, Sunday, December 1.

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.

GIFT stands for Growing In Faith Together

As the season of Advent approaches, we anticipate that particular time of preparation for Christ’s coming. But before Advent sneaks up on us, let’s be intentional about how we will enter into this season of hope and promise.

Join us for GIFT, a new faith formation event for all ages. At GIFT, we will open together in devotion, prayer, and song, and then separate into groups to explore a variety of stations around the room: faith conversation and sharing for adults and teens, a hands-on service opportunity for all ages, and a take-home Advent candle craft project to use at home through the season of Advent.

Our first GIFT Sunday is on November 24, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be breakfast treats and coffee. We look forward to gathering together in anticipation of the birth of our Savior, learning and growing in faith!

GIFT Sundays are planned with all ages in mind. We are intentionally creating space for thoughtful, reflective conversation for adults, as well as activities for children and families. We invite

GIFT Sunday Christ Is Coming

November 24, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

How will we prepare for Christ’s coming?
And what does it mean to name Christ as our King?

adults to gather that morning for theological conversation about the joy and freedom that come from naming Christ as our King alongside the modern American challenges of using “kingdom” language. With many systems of power working for some and against others, what does it mean for us to be subject of and to Christ the King?

More GIFT Sundays: Remember Your Baptism, January 12; Marked by the Cross, February 23; Given for You, Palm Sunday, April 5; Endless Eastertide, April 26.

Readers’ recommendations from the Grace Church library

Looking for a good book to settle in with as the days get colder? Look no farther than the Grace Church library. Here are some titles that have been read, loved, enjoyed and — most importantly — recommended by regular library users!

You’ll find more reader favorites displayed in the church library this month and in the cabinet in the atrium. Volunteers staff the library on Sunday mornings. It is open for self-service during the week. All are welcome to check out books. Please ask the person at the reception desk for assistance with books in the atrium case.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity, by Nabeel Quershi. Zondervan, 2014. A powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man’s heart, and the peace he eventually found in Jesus. [248.4 QUR]

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: A Surgeon Looks at the Human and Spiritual Body, by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. Zondervan, 1980. The authors explore a complex piece of creation, the human body, and offer insights into “one specific community of people [Body of Christ] that is likened to a body more than 30 times in the New Testament.” [262 BRA]

Jim and Casper Go to Church: An Atheist, a Believer, an Unlikely Friendship, by Jim Henderson. Barna Books, 2007. Frank conversation about faith, churches, and well-meaning Christians. [277.3 HEN]

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, by Richard Rohr. Jossey-Bass, 2011. A simple but deeply helpful framework for seeing the whole spiritual life. [248.4 ROH]

In Search of a Deep Faith: A Pilgrimage into the Beauty, Goodness and Heart of Christianity, by Jim Belcher. IVP Press, 2013. A fascinating journey, inviting us to view historical authors, theologians, artists and dissidents through the eyes of the author and his family. [263 BEL]

Clef Notes: Music and Musicians in Chicago’s Near Western Suburbs (OP, RE, FP), by Marcy Kubat and Lee Brooke. Library Book Club, 2007. Profiles of 12 plus musicians, some well known, and some not so well known. [780 KUB]

Pilgrimage: My Journey to a Faith in the Land Where Jesus Walked, by Lynn Austin. Bethany House, 2013. Tracing her travels throughout Israel, the author weaves events and insights from the Bible and finds a renewed passion for prayer and encouragement. [813 AUS]

The Views From Under the Pew, by Diane Winters Johnson. Abingdon Press, 2005. Illustrated. The true story of Walter, a Seeing Eye dog, who assists the pastor in her daily ministries in the church. [J 636 JOH]

Mozart’s Sister: An Historical and Biographical Novel, by Nancy Moser. Bethany House, 2016. Nannerl’s life journey as she discovers her unique purpose. [FIC MOS]

Women@Grace gather for Flowers, Food and Fellowship



Join Women@Grace at Blumen Floral Arrangements on Friday, December 13, at 11 a.m. or 7:30 p.m., and create a winter outdoor arrangement to take home with you. The floral studio is located at 222 Forest Avenue, River Forest. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. The cost is \$65. All materials will be supplied. Space is limited. Please sign up at

sabinesblumen.com and choose the morning or evening event on December 13. Please contact Diana Sicuro with questions (708-997-0215; dianamaries@aol.com).

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund		
Church budgeted contributions		
July 1 – October 30, 2019	\$	694,000
(17 Sundays, \$40,800 per week)		
Church actual contributions		
July 1 – October 30, 2019	\$	426,000
(Last year at this time: \$410,000)		
Church giving is \$268,000 below budget and \$16,000 ahead of last year. The deficit as of October 30 was \$286,000.		



Support Hope for Grieving Children at a benefit brunch on December 7

Hope for Grieving Children (HGC) equips organizations who care for orphaned children and youth with the tools needed to help these young people process the trauma of parental loss. The life of a grieving orphan can be very harsh; these children need more than food and shelter. Caregivers, pastors, and community workers who receive basic training in how to help a child deal with grief can bring understanding, healing and hope to children who have suffered significant loss.

HGC began its work primarily in Africa, specifically Zambia, but it is now expanding. HGC's new self-paced digital training curriculum was recently shared with 50 representatives from organizations in 22 countries who are responsible for orphaned children. These organizations are highly committed to restoring lives after the trauma of grief and giving children and youth a renewed hope for a bright future.

Hear more about the growing outreach and impact of Hope for Grieving Children at the annual benefit, which is a brunch this year at 10 a.m. on December 7, hosted in Grace's Fellowship Hall.

Benefit Brunch for Hope for Grieving Children

Saturday, December 7, 10:00-11:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Tickets (\$30) are available at hopeforgrievingchildren.org.
Or call Ellie Schnack (708-514-8161, kinderellie@gmail.com)
or Tony Stephens (708-207-0407, tonystephens@sbcglobal.net)



Top: Representatives to an International Needs (IN) "Congress" from ministry organizations in 22 countries who were provided with HGC's new digital training program. Left: An HGC training in Zambia.



The 2019 Harmony Community Church Gala, hosted at Grace Church, raised \$135,000 which will be used to complete the

church's sanctuary renovation and support critical ministries in the North Lawndale community. With almost 200 guests and more than 75 volunteers (some of whom are pictured above), it was a herculean effort. In addition to the financial benefits, said Sue Foran, organizer-in-chief, "We got to know each other as the body of Christ, we made deeper friendships, we comforted each other during some hard times, we learned some things about decorating, cooking, ironing, and fundraising and spread the word about all the great things God is doing in North Lawndale through Harmony Church. We opened the doors for people to get involved and stay connected. I expect we will reap the fruit of our work for years to come."

James Brooks, pastor at Harmony, adds, "My heart is filled with gratefulness. We are on this journey together to keep all of our children safe, healthy and educated. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go."

James Brooks, congratulates Grace member John Bouman (right), president of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law. John was given the Mother Bertha Hobbs and Deacon Felton Richmond Distinguished Humanitarian Award at the gala. Photos by Tom Zyer.



FAMILY FUN FRIDAY

November 22, 6-8 pm

For Church and School families with children in kindergarten-5th grade. Young siblings are welcome, too!

Please register by midnight, Thursday, November 21, at gracriverforest.org
Questions? Contact Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator 708-366-6900 ext. 229; jmodrich@gracriverforest.org.

- Open gym and Family Thankful Jar craft project
- Hot dogs, mac-n-cheese, beef sandwiches, salad, treats and lemonade
- Enjoy the company of other families
- Free will offering for meal and project. (Suggested donation \$5/each or \$20/family.)



Solar energy comes to Grace



Grace Church and School will soon be getting approximately 9 percent of the electrical energy it uses directly from the sun, after solar panels are installed on the roof later this month. Solar panels harness the sun's renewable energy through photovoltaic cells, which generate electricity. This will result in annual savings of \$5,000 on the congregation's utility bills while reducing our consumption of electricity generated by the burning of fossil fuels.

The solar panels are the gift of an anonymous Grace member, who offered to donate money in September of 2018 for the congregation to make an investment in renewable energy. The Board of Trustees looked into thermal, wind, and solar energy and decided solar

was the most practical alternative. Over the next year the trustees researched and interviewed solar energy contractors. The process took a lot longer than expected because of increased interest in solar energy in Illinois due to a new state rebate program. A contract was signed in September.

A total of 208 solar panels will be installed on the flat roofs on the south and southwest sides of Grace's building, paid for by the anonymous donor. (If Grace were paying for the installation, the savings on the electricity bill would have been enough to pay for the new system in 11 years.) The panels will be visible from the field and sidewalks and will be a sign of our congregation's

commitment to caring for God's creation.

In an Earth Day speech at the National Cathedral in Washington DC in 2012, the poet Wendell Berry came up with a new version of the Golden Rule: "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

Being good stewards of creation is part of living out our calling as Christians to seek justice and peace in our world and to love our neighbors — including our neighbors in future generations.

Your generosity is needed this holiday season

Social Ministry's Gift-Giving Tree. In early November the Gift-Giving Tree will be displayed in the church atrium. On its branches you'll find individual gift tags for giving gifts to clients of The Night Ministry, Oak Leyden Developmental Services, Lutheran Child and Family Services, New Moms, and other local organizations. Simply take a tag (or several) from the tree and purchase the asked-for items. Then return the items to Grace by November 24.

Stockings for The Night Ministry. Please help fill pre-made Christmas stockings for homeless teens served by The Night Ministry. Items needed include small purse packs of tissues, full-size deodorant, lip balm, hand cream, hand and foot warmers, adult thermal socks, mini/travel size first aid kits, stretchy gloves, small memo pads (3×5 inches), pens, and assorted individually wrapped candies and mints. Also needed are adult-sized hats, scarves, and long underwear in large sizes and dark colors.

It's Turkey time again! Once again, the sisters at Fraternité Notre Dame are making plans for their annual Thanksgiving dinner for our neighbors in the Austin area. They are in need of at least 100 turkeys and 50 pies in order to serve the hundreds of folks who come for dinner.

Please know in advance how grateful the sisters are for the steadfast support from the people of Grace over the years. They appreciate whatever you are able to contribute! Feel free to either donate money (and I will do the shopping) or the actual turkey (frozen or fresh) or pumpkin pies. Please bring the items or your checks made out to Sue Foran to church any Sunday between November 10 and November 24.

Please call or e-mail me if you need to make other arrangements for pick up or delivery. THANK YOU so much!

Sue Foran
708-267-1620; susanforan4@gmail.com

GRACE NEWS

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, November 19, at 1 p.m. in the church library. Come and work on prayer shawls or prayer squares, or bring your own project. All are welcome, including beginners!

RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS meet on Tuesday, November 12, at 10 a.m. in the church library. Jill Baumgaertner speaks on “The Last Taboo in Literature.” She will discuss contemporary literature and its problems with issues of faith. Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW welcomes helpers to work on the December newsletter on Tuesday, November 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

CORNERSTONES fellowship and Bible study meets on Wednesday mornings. Come for snacks and fellowship at 10 a.m. followed by Bible study led by the pastors at 10:30. On November 20, Morning Prayer at 11:30 is followed by lunch, served in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome at the luncheon, prepared by Cornerstone Cooks.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group meets at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 22, at the home of Chrissy and Michael Nelson, 639 S. Lombard Ave., Oak Park. Jeff Wood will lead the discussion of “What’s Bred in the Bone,” by Canadian author Robertson Davies. All are welcome. Two copies of the book are available for checkout in the church library. The reading list for 2019-20 is posted at GraceRiverForest.org > Welcome > Fellowship.

YOGA CLASSES, taught by Ackli Howell, continue on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring a mat, beach towel or small blanket, and wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move. Questions? Call Ackli at 708-516-2701. No yoga on Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving Day).

MOMS OF LITTLES meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, in the Youth Room at Grace. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information (lwegner@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext 264).

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 the second Friday of every month, 10–11 a.m., in the church library, including Friday, November 8.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP AND LUNCH. Come to Grace for a brief worship service and lunch on Wednesday, November 20. The Service of Morning Prayer begins at 11:30, lunch around noon. You’ll be on your way by 1 p.m., refreshed by God’s word, by song, friendly conversation, and a good meal!

BUILDING CLOSED

Grace Church and School will be closed after the 10 a.m. worship service on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, and all day on Friday, November 29. Grace School is closed on Wednesday, November 27.

PRAYERS

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

THANK YOU

A very heartfelt thank-you for all the kind words of comfort and support from parishioners since Nancy’s passing one year ago.

Scott Christopher and family

WE CELEBRATE

WE CELEBRATE with Leah Sicuro and Patrick Stanley to be married on November 9.

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.

November 3 - In memory of Kris Grahne from Gwen Gotsch.

November 10 - In honor of the marriage of Leah Sicuro and Patrick Stanley from Michael and Diana Sicuro.

November 24 - In memory of Evelyn and Alvin Haase from the Haase family.

PASTORS' EMERGENCY PHONE

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

News from Grace School



Congratulations to Grace School's cross country runners for (in the words of Coach Rich Brooks) "racing their hearts out" at the Lutheran Sports Association's national championship meet on Saturday, October 26. Top runners representing over forty schools competed at Concordia University in Mequon Wisconsin. The Grace boys team finished 16th; Grace girls finished 9th. Eighth-grader Anna Scholtens earned first-team-All-American honors by finishing 4th, the highest finish ever at nationals by a Grace runner. After the meet, runners and their families enjoyed "Lunch on the Farm," graciously hosted by Grace art teacher Melissa Hammer and her parents in nearby Grafton.



Grace School fifth and sixth graders recently took a field trip to the DuSable Museum of Africa American History to see the artwork of Margaret T. Burroughs, an influential Chicago artist, activist, and cultural leader. They also viewed the museum's exhibit "A Slow Walk to Greatness: The Harold Washington Story." Grace member and art historian Rhea Sprecher visited with the students prior to the field trip to tell them about the artwork.

Walkathon fundraiser surpasses its goal

Grace School students raised \$28,908 at their Walk With Grace walkathon on Friday, October 4. This was almost \$4,000 more than last year. A tithe from the proceeds was sent to Ronald McDonald House Charities, along with supplies collected by students for Ronald McDonald Houses, items such as snacks, cleaning supplies, and K-cups. Ronald McDonald Houses keep families with sick children together by offering a place to stay near the hospitals where the children are receiving treatment.



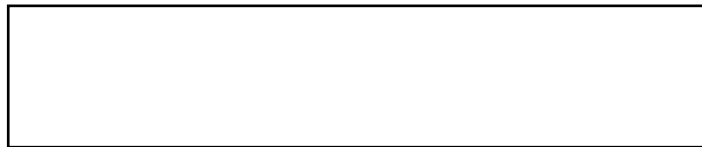
All Grace students, from preschool through 8th grade participate in the walkathon. In the weeks leading up to the big day they ask family and friends for pledges to support their school. The walkathon is one of the school year's three major fundraisers. The Annual Fund for Grace School and A Graceful Evening also help to fund Grace School's annual budget.



**First Look Fridays
at Grace Lutheran School
Drop by for a tour —
see the school in action!**

**November 15, December 20
8:30–10:30am**

Thanksgiving Festival Worship
Thursday, November 28
10 a.m.



7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305

GRACE
LUHERAN 
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

Non-profit org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Oak Park, IL
Permit No 28