

January 2020 Grace Notes

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

Following the star

If we are faithful in our following, and forgiving in our fellowship, the rest will fall into place.

by Pastor Dave Lyle

On the first Sunday of this new year, we gathered together in worship to celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. With the Magi we came into the presence of the Christ Child. We were fed and nourished with this same Christ's body and blood. It was wonderful to be together in a single Sunday morning worship service. We can't do that every week, but it's a blessing when it happens! The day, however, was bittersweet. As we celebrated with them over a wonderful meal, it really began to sink in that Pastor Lauren, Pastor Dave, and their children are leaving Grace.

I continue to rejoice in the three years we've spent together. It is thrilling to see the Pastors Wegner called to new ventures, knowing that Grace has shaped them for their future ministry. Thanks be to God!

It is natural to ask, "What's next?" for Grace. Well, we do what we always do. We follow Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. It's what the Magi did years ago; it's what God's faithful people continue to do today. What will that look like?

In the coming weeks, the leadership of Grace will be discussing our staffing needs. Before we can call a new pastor, we need to know what sort of pastor we're looking for.

Already, I've answered one question. It seems clear to me that we will be looking for one pastor, not two. Once a position description has been created, the Council will appoint a call committee and the search will begin. I invite you to hold this process in your prayers. Other staffing decisions will be shaped by the way in which the pastoral search process unfolds.

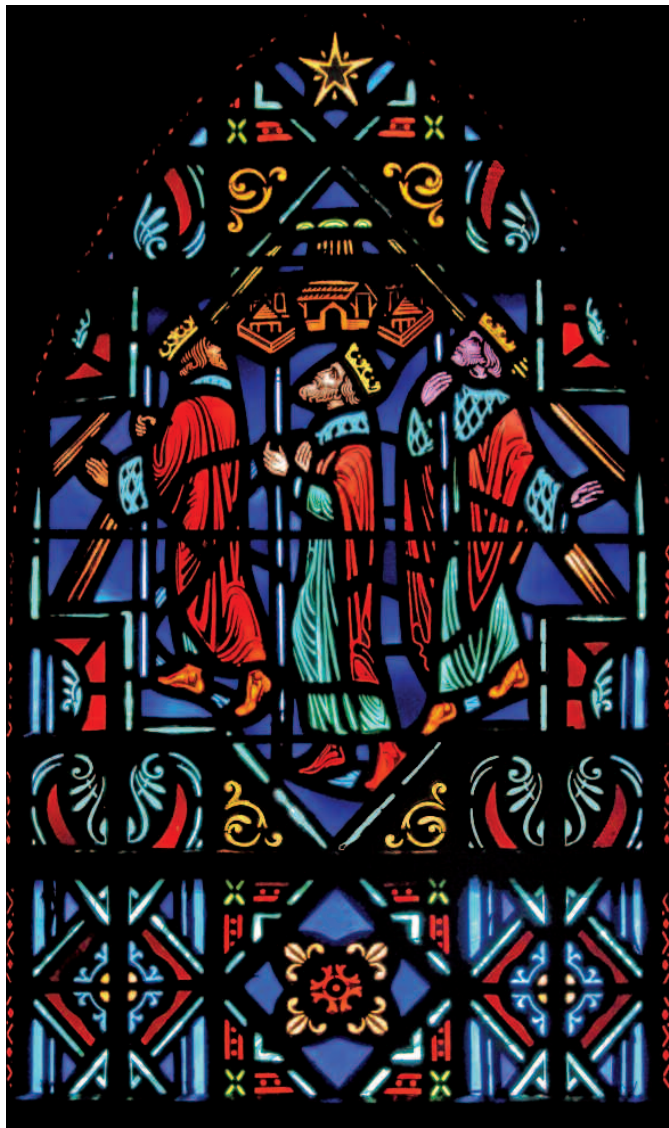
In the meantime, I plan on handling the majority of the pastoral duties, preaching and presiding in worship most Sundays. Pastor Costello will be a wonderful partner in this work from time to time, and I know that we have a wealth of retired clergy willing to help out. Pastoral visits will continue. Pat Gulik, our parish nurse, and the Board of Spiritual Life (formerly known as the Board of Elders) will be of great help in providing spiritual care for the people of Grace.



The one area for which we need to provide immediate staffing assistance is youth ministry, which has been thriving in recent years. We want to maintain that momentum. I am pleased to announce that we have hired a part-time Youth Ministry Associate, Makayla Dahleen. Makayla is in her final semester of course work at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is an approved candidate for ordained ministry. Her home congregation also happens to be the church in which I did my pastoral internship. She will join us in ministry in February and stay with us through the summer. Look for more information about Makayla in the next issue of Grace Notes.

As we follow the Light of Christ this year, we do so with a new model of governance. The Church Council will continue to have general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, while three new boards provide coordinated guidance to our various committees. These are the Board of Spiritual Life, the Board of Discipleship, and the Board of Finance and Property.

Continued on page 2



The Three Magi, window in Grace Church's south balcony

“What’s next?” for Grace Church and School

Continued from page 1

While the transition may be a bit bumpy, I am confident that our new model will greatly contribute to how we live out the ministry which God has entrusted to us.

Of course, it is impossible to say where God will lead us in 2020, or who God will lead here to join us in ministry. That’s okay. If we are faithful in our following, and forgiving in our fellowship, the rest will fall into place. I am grateful to be following the Epiphany star with each of you. May God bless you throughout this year.

Congregation meeting on Sunday, January 26, includes elections

There will be a regular meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 26, after the 11 a.m. worship service. The agenda includes reports from Senior Pastor Dave Lyle and from the congregation’s treasurer, Linda Wolf. The January meeting also holds the annual election of officers, Church Council members, and board members, along with a vote to approve some minor changes to the congregation’s bylaws. Information about the candidates was emailed to congregation members on Tuesday, January 7. Copies of the candidates’ biographical information and the election ballot are also available from Karen Christopher at Grace. A light lunch will be provided.

Agenda

1. Devotions
2. Approval of minutes from September 8, 2019, meeting
3. Financial report
4. Senior Pastor report
5. Amendments to the Bylaws
6. Election of officers, Council members and members of Boards
7. Setting dates of other meetings in 2020
8. Benediction

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 Thursday, January 9, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than January 16. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The February 2020 issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, January 31. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, January 22; the issue covers events through the first week of March. 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.

Godspeed, Pastor Dave and Pastor Lauren

Pastor Dave Wegner and Pastor Lauren Wegner's last Sunday at Grace will be January 19. At both the 8:30 and the 11 a.m. worship service, the congregation will formally release them from their call at Grace.

Pastor Lauren has accepted a call to serve at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. Pastor Dave will be transitioning from parish ministry to work in the field of nonprofit leadership and advancement.

If you would like to contribute to a gift for the Wegners, please write "Wegner gift" on the memo line of your check and put it in the offering plate or leave it at the reception desk by January 19. You can also contribute online by clicking on Giving at GraceRiverForest.org.



As I noted at the wonderful lunch on January 5, my seemingly short three years here at Grace have been packed with meaning and memories. My time with you all has been more full and enriching than I could have ever imagined. Thank you for sharing yourselves with me — for sharing your stories and for opening your hearts. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for engaging in new ideas and new initiatives with me. Thank you for embracing me and our family, for welcoming us so well, and, in these final weeks, for saying goodbye to us so well. We are so very grateful for the beautiful farewell lunch, for the words spoken, for the prayers prayed, for the hugs and love we have received. You have helped to shape and form me for future ministry in Christ's church, and therefore I carry you with me wherever I go. Our whole family has been immensely blessed by our years at Grace Church and School. We love you and always will.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Lauren Wegner



Grace family, thank you so much for the wonderful luncheon and celebration of our ministry together on January 5. We are humbled and honored by your kind words and well-wishes as we embark upon the next part of our journey. There are many more words that we wish we could share with every single one of you but, alas, there is never enough time to do so. Please know how thankful we are for your care for us and our children. Just as you called upon us to be with you in times of joy and sorrow, you have done the same for us. We believe and trust in the Spirit's continued guidance for us and for Grace Church and School.

May God's blessing be upon you all and, until we meet again, may peace be known.

Pastor Dave Wegner

New assistant cantor

Organist and composer Jeremy Zimmer is Grace Church's new assistant cantor, replacing Mark Waldron who has taken a job as director of music at another church.

Jeremy received a degree in music from Concordia University and earned a masters in composition from DePaul. He also graduated from Grace Lutheran School and looks forward to returning and serving the congregation. If the last name sounds familiar, it's because Jeremy is the son of former assistant cantor Laura Zimmer.

As assistant cantor, Jeremy will assist Pastor Costello with service-playing at Grace. The assistant cantor also helps prepare worship bulletins and takes care of other duties associated with worship planning.

January cantata focuses on faith

The cantata for the January 26 Bach Cantata Vespers is *Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit*, BWV 111 (What my God wills, that is always done). Bach based the cantata on a 16th century chorale known in English as "The Will of God Is Always Best." It was composed for the Third Sunday After Epiphany; the gospel lesson for the day (Matthew 8:1-13) included the story of the centurion who has faith that Jesus will cure his servant and who said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed."

The Rev. Amy Peeler, Associate Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, is the homilist for the service. The Kontras Quartet, Grace's string quartet in residence, plays the instrumental prelude at 3:45 p.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 12, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 19, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, I Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 26, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, February 2, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, I Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, January 26, 3:45 p.m.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit, BWV 111

What my God wills, that is always done

Prelude: Kontras Quartet

Motet: J. Crüger's *Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ* and *Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ* from *Geistliche Kirchen-Melodien* (1649)

Homilist: Amy L. Peeler, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois

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



Kontras Quartet, in residence at Grace

Upcoming Concerts at Grace

Millikin University Choir

Sunday, January 19, 4 p.m.

Free admission

Kontras Quartet Chamber Music Series

Saturday, February 1, 3 p.m.

Free admission.

"Beyond Borders" the struggle for identity in turn-of-the-century Eastern Europe

Suk, Meditation on a Czech Hymn

Bartok, String Quartet No. 2

Dvořák, String Quartet No. 13 in G major, Op. 106



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).

January 19

Anxiety and the Over-Achieving Teen

David Jezl

How do you advise teens who are feeling nervous about school, their personal life, or even larger issues like global climate change? Long time Grace parishioner and child psychologist David Jezl offers tips and suggestions from his years of practice.

January 26

Prayer, Faith and Poetry

Tania Runyan

Tania Runyan reads from new work and discusses how her poetry relates to her faith. Runyan's poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, *The Christian Century*, and the Paraclete book "Light Upon Light: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany." She is the author of the poetry collections "What Will Soon Take Place," "Second Sky," "A Thousand Vessels," "Simple Weight," and "Delicious Air," awarded Book of the Year by the Conference on Christianity and Literature.

February 2, 9, 16

King David

Dr. Michael Graves, Wheaton College

David the son of Jesse of Bethlehem is perhaps the most complex, noble, and tragic character in the Old Testament. His tumultuous rise to kingship and dramatic struggles with enemies without and within are described in 1-2 Samuel. Different portraits of David are painted in the Psalms and the book of Chronicles. The memory of David plays a major role in prophetic books. We are often left asking: Who is David? This three-week study will focus on David's rise to power, his kingship, and his symbolic role in scripture. In David, we will see how the Old Testament addresses major themes such as justice and mercy through the use of story and poetry.

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.

Look at the variety of works from Grace authors!

Grace Church and School is blessed with a rich past, present, and likely future cadre of talented authors, poets, theologians, and musicians. This month's library selections feature works from Grace members. May they be blessings to you as we continue a new year of grace in this place!

My Father's Bones, by Jill Palacz Baumgaertner. Thoughtful poems on the liturgy of loss. Finishing Line Press, 2006. [811 BAU]

The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Community, by Stephen P. Bouman. Book of Faith Initiative ELCA. Augsburg Fortress, 2013. [250 BOU]

The Anatomy of Grace, by Peter Marty. Explores the intricacies of daily human experience and invites readers to reconsider their faith lives with fresh eyes. Augsburg Fortress, 2008. [248.4 MAR]

Through Their Eyes: A People's View of the Global Church, by F. Dean Lueking. The stories of more than 250 laity and clergy, interviews in 32 countries on five continents, offer a highly readable account as seen through their eyes. [270.8 LUE]

The Christian World: A Global History, by Martin Marty. Modern Library Random House, 2007. [270 MAR]

Changing Churches: An Orthodox, Protestant and Lutheran Theological Conversation, by Mickey Mattox and A. G. Roeber. Eerdmanns, 2012. [280 MAT]

I Will Sing My Maker's Praises. Festival hymn settings by Michael Costello for Grace Lutheran Church and School. GLCS, 2013. [CD 782.28 HYM]

Hymns of Grace: Hymns and Settings by Carl Schalk. GLCS, 2005. [CD 822.7 SCH]

The Blind Faith Hotel, by Pamela Todd. A portrait of a young girl looking for her own true self and a place she can call home. Young Adult. M. K. Elderry Books, 2008. [YA FIC TOD]

Whispering Verses: Nature Poems for Young Children, by Michael J. Meyer (d. 2011). Dedicated to the author's first grandchild. "Cookie" Books, 1997. [E 808 MEY]

The library 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 checking out books in the atrium case.

Serving the church in the company of good friends

Month after month, the Grace Notes mailing crew folds, tabs and labels the church newsletter — and has fun doing it!

By Annalise Nelson Balock

As you turn the pages of this newsletter, you may not be thinking about how it gets from Grace Church to your mailbox. You're probably aware that there are computers and copy machines involved. But there's also a special step in the process of getting this publication out the door which you may not know about: the Grace Notes mailing crew.

On a Thursday morning in late November, I stepped into the church library to find a large table filled with piles of mailing labels, stickers, and a multitude of newsletters. Surrounding the clutter was a group of volunteers well into the action of their task at hand: preparing *Grace Notes* for mailing. There was a curious mix of the efficiency of an assembly line combined with the comfort of good friends sharing their morning together.

As I circled the table, I was offered pink cookies. "Marlene bribes us with cookies," confessed one of the crew members with a wink. I was then introduced to Marlene Hallman, the crew's designated leader, who has been a part of the mailing crew for 25 years. I quickly learned that she had a long history at Grace Lutheran. "I was baptized by Pastor Geiseman, was married here, and my children were also baptized at Grace," she said with a smile. When I asked her what drew her to be so committed to the mailing crew, she replied, "I'm doing something for the Lord, and having a good time doing it!"

I wondered just what it was that the crew was actually doing. "We fold the newsletter, add tabbed stickers to keep it secure, then apply the address labels," explained Chuck Levell. "It can be over a four-hour job, depending on how many hands are helping."

"The more the better!" added Barb Carlson, another long-time mail crew member.

"We enjoy the pay," chimed in Chuck, and the entire crew laughed.

As I sat and talked with the volunteers, I realized that two different things were being accomplished at this gathering. First was the giving of time and service to the Lord and the church. Second the gifts of friendship and fellowship were being shared among these volunteers.

"For me it began as a way to meet people," explained Diane Amati. "We talk and visit. We send cards to people who are sick. And it's an easy way for me to feel like I'm helping."



Marilyn Heppner stated that she liked getting to know people from "the other Grace church service," adding, "I do it because I like to help."

Marlene noted, "There's lots of laughing, talking; we have lots of opinions—not all of them the same. Anyone one is welcome to join!"

What kinds of things do they talk about? Visiting grandchildren, restaurants, health issues and treatments, what's going on in their lives, their many different interests and backgrounds.

I had one more question to ask: What was the most rewarding thing about being on the mailing crew? What keeps these volunteers coming back each month?

One member quickly replied, "The cookies." After a good laugh, others commented, "This group gives back to us," "I enjoy getting this publication out," "We're all in the same boat and enjoy the camaraderie." And simply, "It's fun!"

So as you peruse the pages of this publication, I hope it warms your heart as it did mine, knowing the love and laughter that went into the process of getting it to you. We are truly blessed and thankful to the faithful mailing crew for their time and service in assembling *Grace Notes*. And if you're ever inspired to join this special team in service and fellowship: the library doors are always open!

The Grace Notes Mailing Crew welcomes helpers to work on the February newsletter on Thursday, January 30, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

Immigration today — re-orienting and responding in faith

Two sessions sponsored by Grace's Justice and Peace Committee in February will include eye-witness reports from the U.S. southern border.

Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R, professor of the Hebrew Scriptures at Wheaton College, proposes that “the more you understand about immigration, the more you understand what it means to be a Christian.” That is, Dr. Carroll (who is Guatemalan-American) continues, you understand more about what it means to be dependent, to be odd, to be marginalized, to be treated differently. And, to be virtually powerless. Immigrants have much to teach us. If we listen.

During the Epiphany season, Grace's Justice and Peace team invites the congregation and the community to Sunday afternoon presentations at Grace on the realities of life along the U.S. southern border, featuring fresh testimony for re-orienting ourselves as Christians around immigration issues.

On Sunday, February 2, at 3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Pastor Ben Lynch of Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Oak Park, will share his first-person experiences, learnings and reflections from an

ecumenical witness trip to Brownsville, Texas / Matamoros, Mexico in mid-October of 2019. We celebrate this opportunity to link arms in learning and ministry with a neighboring congregation.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, February 16, also at 3 p.m., a representative of the ELCA's AMMPARO project — for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity — will offer up-to-the-minute stories and descriptions of

accompaniment and advocacy being carried out with and on behalf of the large numbers of children caught up in this ongoing crisis.

Join us for one or both of these informative sessions.

“The more you understand about immigration, the more you understand what it means to be a Christian.”

TRANSFORMATION & CELEBRATION

Sanctuary Floor-breaking Ceremony

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 - 6:30 pm



Harmony Community Church

1908 S Millard Street

Ceremony - Food - Fellowship

Come celebrate with us!



Last Sunday
Worship
before
Construction

Sunday,
January 12, 2020
10 am

Harmony Community Church has received the permit for its sanctuary renovation, a project that includes removing the pews, leveling the floor, adding an area for a mini cafe, and enhancing audio and visual technology. The new space will be available for ministry every day of the week and will host programs that serve children, youth and seniors in the Lawndale community.

To celebrate the commencement of construction, Harmony is hosting a “Floor-breaking Ceremony” on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. Grace members are invited to join the Harmony community for a brief program and fellowship.

Give the gift of life — donate blood

January is National Blood Donor Month – a perfect time to resolve to be a regular blood donor and help save lives.

According to the American Red Cross, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

To learn more, visit the American Red Cross online at www.redcrossblood.org. At the website you'll find information about donating blood and about blood drives in the community. You can schedule an appointment right there on the website.

Prayer

May my eyes see the needs around me. Life is a sacred gift. Help me find an opportunity to make a difference.

Stop by the Health Cabinet table in the atrium

The Health Cabinet staffs a table in the atrium on the third Sunday of every month, between services. You can get your blood pressure checked, pick up a prayer shawl or prayer squares for yourself or to share with others, and chat with Parish Nurse Pat Gulik. Stop by!

National Blood Donor Month

Make Lifesaving a Habit

1 in 7 Patients
entering a hospital
have a need for blood

Less Than 20%
of blood donations come from
millennials (age 20-34 years old)*

More Than 34,000 Units
must be collected from
volunteers every day

One Donation
can save the lives of 3 people

Less Than 10%
of Americans
donate each year

January is the time to pay tribute to voluntary donors and encourage new donors to pledge to donate in 2020!

NATIONAL Blood Donor MONTH
MAKE LIFESAVING A HABIT

*TheGlobeMail Survey, 2019



Warm food, warm friends at the Chili Cook-Off

Families of Grace Church and Grace School get together on Friday, January 31, 6–8:30 p.m., for a Chili Cook-Off and Family Fun Friday activities.

Come for supper (the menu includes pasta as well as chili), open gym, a craft project and fun and fellowship for kids and parents!

Click on the link at GraceRiverForst.org to sign up and volunteer to bring something.



Support Hope for Grieving Children at the benefit brunch on February 8

The benefit brunch for Hope for Grieving Children, originally scheduled for December, will take place on Saturday morning, February 8, beginning at 10 a.m. in Grace's Fellowship Hall.

Hope for Grieving Children (HGC) equips people 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 in Africa and other parts of the developing world 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 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.

Benefit Brunch for Hope for Grieving Children

**Saturday, February 8, 10:00-11:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Tickets (\$30) are available at hopeforgrievingchildren.org. Or contact Ellie Schnack (kinderellie@gmail.com) or Tony Stephens (tonystephens@sbcglobal.net) for more information. You can also make a donation at hopeforgrievingchildren.org.



Reverse Advent Calendar donations help feed clients of the Harmony Food Pantry

Grace members participated in a "Reverse Advent Calendar" project which began at the GIFT Sunday in November. Families took home empty blue shopping bags and each day in December they added a specific food or another item to the bag. Bags were returned to Grace after Christmas and then delivered to the Food Pantry at Harmony Community Church in North Lawndale where their contents will be shared with clients.

The bright blue bags will be distributed to a new group of seniors who previously have not been served by the food pantry because they are homebound or not able to wait in line or carry groceries. Harmony is kicking off a new program that will bring food to these older adults who cannot visit the pantry on their own.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

GRACE NEWS

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, January 21, 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, January 14, at 10 a.m. in the church library. Gerontologist and educator Dr. Lydia Manning of Concordia University Chicago will present "Seniors' Perspectives on Their Faith Communities." Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW welcomes helpers to work on the February newsletter on Thursday, January 30, 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 January 15, there is Morning Prayer at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch served in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome at the luncheon, prepared by Cornerstone Cooks.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group meets on Friday, January 17, at 8 pm. Barbara Hofmaier leads the discussion of E. M. Forster's "Where Angels Fear to Tread." Pam and Donn Todd are the hosts.

YOGA CLASSES, taught by Ackli Howell, meet on Thursdays 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.

MOMS OF LITTLES The group for mothers of small children meets on Wednesdays, February 5 and 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

FINDING HOPE: SUPPORT FOR CHRONIC ILLNESS. Finding Hope, an informal monthly gathering that provides support, fellowship and education for people experiencing all types of chronic illness, meets on January 10, 10-11 a.m., in the church library.

PRAYERS

WE PRAY for those who mourn the deaths of Carl Sievert and of Mary Pontikes.

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; KMG fine arts@comcast.net) with confidential prayer chain requests.

WE CELEBRATE

WE CELEBRATE with William Daniel Melville-Gray, son of Maggie Lupiani and Ryan Melville-Gray, to be baptized on January 12.

WE CELEBRATE with Vivian Rose Lueking-Parker, daughter of Chris Lueking and Cameron Parker, also being baptized on January 12.

PASTORS' EMERGENCY PHONE

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1, 2019 – January 6, 2020 \$ 1,102,000
(27 Sundays, \$40,800 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1, 2019 – January 6, 2020 \$ 1,005,000
(Last year at this time: \$921,000)

Church giving is \$97,000 below budget and \$84,000 ahead of last year. The deficit at the end of December was \$71,000. Last year the deficit at the end of December was \$106,000.

Wednesday worship and lunch

Served by the Cornerstone cooks

Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall, prepared by the Cornerstone Cooks. All are welcome!

GRACEFUL EVENING

MARCH 14, 2020

Buy tickets, donate online at graceful2020.givesmart.com

Graceful Evening moves to Oak Park's Nineteenth Century Club this year, at 178 Forest Avenue. The festivities on Saturday, March 14, begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., followed by a delicious sit-down dinner. There will be the usual array of tempting silent auction items, the Dessert Dash, wine and whiskey pulls, and 50/50 and champagne raffles.

Tickets (\$100/person; \$960/table of ten) are on sale through February 28 at graceful2020.givesmart.com.

The Fund-A-Need paddle raise project this year supports "Peaceful Bodies, Productive Minds," and will provide ergonomic and inclusive work spaces for both students and teachers. Physically calming spaces support successful learning for all children!

There are many ways to support Grace School through Graceful Evening: sponsorships, advertising in the program booklet, donations of auction items, gift certificates, or a bottle of wine or whiskey. Look for more information in your mail, or pick up the donation form from the rack by the school office.

If you have questions about sponsorships, ads, donations — anything — contact the event chairs, Emily Hartung and Amanda Steelman, at gracefulevening@graceriverforest.org, or talk with Brian Schultz, Assistant School Administrator (bschultz@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900, ext 231).

Graceful Evening is an important source of support for Grace School. Last year's event brought in over \$70,000. It's also a fun evening of fellowship for Grace Church members and Grace School parents and supporters. All are welcome — join us!

Director of Enrollment and Marketing for Grace School

Grace School is seeking a part-time Director of Enrollment and Marketing. Find more information at GraceRiverForest.org > School.

It's enrollment season at Grace Lutheran School

Apply now for the 2020-21 school year

Grace School is already accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year, and members of Grace Church and siblings of students already in the school should complete the enrollment process in January to be notified of admission in February. If you are interested in enrolling a child in preschool at Grace or in an elementary grade, now is the time to schedule a visit and talk with principal Bill Koehne. Call Annalise Balock at Grace (708-366-6900) to arrange a visit.

Share the good news about Grace School

Word of mouth is the best kind of advertising for Grace Lutheran School. If you know families with young children who may be looking for a preschool or a Christian elementary school, tell them about Grace!

Grace School offers flexible half-day and full-day programs for three- and four-year-olds and full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds, as well as a challenging curriculum for students in grades 1-8. More information about the school is available at GraceRiverForest.org

Open House on January 26

The school is hosting an Open House on Sunday, January 26, 1–2:30 p.m. It's an opportunity to tour the school and talk with teachers and parents and students.

Grace Lutheran School **Faith ■ Academics ■ Character**



Early Childhood age 3 to 5

- All-day kindergarten
- Half-day or full-day preschool
- We learn about God's love!

Elementary grades 1–8

- Caring, experienced teachers
- Challenging curriculum
- Support for individual learning needs
- Music, art, and sports teams
- Before and after-school care available

First Look Fridays

Drop by for a tour!

Jan. 17, Feb. 21, 8:30–10:30 am

Open House

Sunday, January 26, 1–2:30 pm

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305

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Save the dates for VBS 2020
June 15-19, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Optional extended day available until 5 p.m.
Ages 3 through current 4th graders

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!
On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting
Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.
Registration begins in February.

