

# Grace Notes



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

October 2016

## Get to know Lauren and Dave Wegner

*Communications Coordinator Gwen Gotsch spoke with our new associate pastors, Dave and Lauren Wegner, shortly after they arrived in the area. Here's the conversation:*

### **What will you be doing in your first weeks here?**

*Lauren Wegner:* I'm coming back to work after being home with small children. I'm feeling a little overwhelmed but excited. The first weeks will be about getting to know how Grace operates, who you go to for what. And of course I'll be cultivating relationships. Getting my office set up is fun for me, making it a welcoming, homey place.

*Dave Wegner:* An office is a kind of shelter. You want to make it comfortable, put your books out, surround yourself with the things that are meaningful in ministry. Framed diplomas and letters of call on the walls are solemn reminders of what it is we're doing. That's important for both of us. Lauren's "cross walls" are meaningful to her.

I will be going to a lot of committee meetings. That's the best way for me to get to know folks. I hope we can carve out some time during those gatherings to introduce ourselves. With these opportunities, even people who have known each other for years often share something about themselves that others didn't know.



*Lauren:* I don't mind interruptions, so stop by and visit. I love setting up coffee dates with people, especially young people. I'll be finding times to talk with the youth—taking a walk, grabbing coffee.

### **What is it like being a "clergy couple"?**

*Dave:* We see our gifts as complementary to each other, and we also lean in on each other's strengths and weaknesses. Teamwork is optimal for us and, we think, for the congregation that we serve. I think that we are each of us called to our strengths here at Grace. The teams

and ministries that we have been given to lead and serve are very appropriate.

*Lauren:* The highest compliment we've received as a clergy couple was from our former pastor, now retired. He surprised us when he told the congregation, "You would never know they're married in the workplace. They interact very professionally with each other and with everyone else and as colleagues." It was an affirmation of good boundaries.

*Continued on page 2*

# Conversation with our new associate pastors

*Continued from page 1*

*Dave:* The line between personal and professional is always a little fuzzy in ministry and church leadership. I think that we've gotten good at that together. Serving a church together is all we've done in our careers.

## How does being parents of young children influence your ministry?

*Lauren:* I definitely understand young families much better now, because I'm one of them. When people are rushing in late or are distracted, I understand. As they say, you're the perfect parent *before* you have kids. I'm glad that got knocked down several pegs. Please bear with us. It's a new life and a new schedule for our whole family.

*Dave:* I feel like I can more fully engage younger children and families in my ministry now. They don't teach pastors how to talk to 3-year-olds about baptism; now we can because we talk about it at home with our own kids.

*Pastor Dave Wegner and Pastor Lauren Wegner will begin their work at Grace in the first week of October. They will be officially installed on Sunday, November 13, in a single worship service.*

## How do you bridge the age gap with older members of the congregation?

*Dave:* One of the things I've become keenly aware of is that ageism is really a thing. I think we all have to be mutually responsible for respecting one another. Sharing of stories is absolutely critical for this.

*Lauren:* We have had wonderful relationships with older generations in previous congregations. Some of the people we love and miss most are older. They're the ones we've connected with and remained in touch with.

*Dave:* I lost my grandparents—all of them—a long, long time ago. That's a missing part of my life. I treasure the opportunities to be with and among older people. I appreciate hearing stories about what it was like to live through the Depression or World War II. I never heard those stories growing up.

*Lauren:* We need those relationships with older people.

*Dave:* I treasure their experience in life, their theology, and their wisdom.

## October reading: Reformation history

In October 2017 we'll celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, but meanwhile, look for new books (\*) about the Reformation in the Grace Church library, and in the atrium cabinet. Ask the person at the desk for assistance with checking out displayed material.

\* *October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day That Changed the World*, by Martin Marty. Paraclete Press, 2016. [284.1092]

\* *The Mother of the Reformation: The Amazing Life Story of Katharine Luther*, by Ernest Kroker, tr. Mark DeGarmeaux. Concordia, 2013. [284.10]

\* *Brand Luther: How an Unheralded Monk Turned His Small Town into a Center of Publishing, Made Himself the Most Famous Man in Europe, and Started the Protestant Reformation*, by Andrew Pettigree. Penguin Press, 2015. [284 PET]

*Reform and Conflict from the Medieval World to the Wars of Religion, A.D. 1365/1648*, by Rudolph W. Heinze. Baker Books, 2005. [270.5 HEI]

*Martin Luther*, by Martin Marty. Upper/Viking, 2004. [284.1 MAR]

*Out of the Storm: The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther*, by Derek Wilson. St. Martin's Press, 2008. [284.1 WIL]

*Martin Luther: A Man Who Changed the World*, by Paul L. Maier. Concordia, 2004. [J 920 MAI]

*Opening the Door to Luther, with Rick Steves*. MOSAIC/ELCA, 2001. [DVD 284.1 MOS]

*Martin Luther: 50th Anniversary Edition*. DeRochemont Associates, 2003. [DVD 922 LUT]

The library is staffed Sundays from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and is open for self-service during the week.

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**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 October issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, September 30, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than October 8. Copies are also available at Grace.

**Deadlines and submissions.** The November issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, October 28. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, October 19; the issue covers events through the end of November. Please send news to [ggotsch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:ggotsch@graceriverforest.org). Please limit your submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

# More Q & A with our new associate pastors

## Lauren Wegner

**What should we call you?** Pastor Lauren or P. L.

**When did you know you wanted to be a pastor?** Growing up, I often heard from people that I would be a pastor one day. (I call that the “external call.”) I always laughed it off. It wasn’t until I served as a youth minister in Austin, Texas, that I started realizing that everything the pastor did, I truly enjoyed! I finally felt the internal call from God to go to seminary. I was 23 years old.

**Favorite Lutheran potluck food:** Hash brown casserole.

**What would your hobby be if you actually had time for a hobby?** I’ve always had a dream/life goal of playing guitar and singing in a coffee shop. I have my set list pretty much ready to go. I have the guitar. I just need the guts!

**What’s a good book you’ve read recently?** “The Nightingale,” by Kristin Hannah

**How do you feel about Chicago winters?** This Southerner’s a bit nervous...but it’ll be okay.

**A time when God completely surprised you.** Hmm...let’s see. I never thought I would go to seminary, marry another pastor, work with my spouse, go back to work so soon after staying home with the kids...but God is full of surprises for me! (And these have all been wonderful.)

**What will you miss about North Carolina?** Proximity to beautiful Appalachian mountains, and our wonderful friends all over the state.

**What’s the best thing about the Chicago suburbs so far?** We love walking practically everywhere! So new for us.

**Pink clerical shirt, yes or no?** Um, no.

**Your best travel experience before kids.** Alaskan cruise honeymoon—amazing scenery, food, and excursions (like dog sledding!)

**Your best travel experience with kids.** Our call vote weekend here in Chicago! That was our first long-distance travel with both kids, and it was truly great.

**A favorite hymn and a memorable occasion when it was sung.** “Now the Silence.” I remember singing an “extended version” of this hymn in seminary once, with verses that began with “Then . . .” to describe the wonders of life eternal that await us.

**Favorite liturgical holiday (other than big ones, like Christmas and Easter).** All Saints. I love the intentional time to honor and remember the saints who have gone before, as well as reflect on our own sainthood by God’s grace. It’s a day that brings tears of remembrance and hopefulness for the day we will all be gathered together again.

## Dave Wegner

**What should we call you?** We know Grace has gone by “Pastor Last Name” for its history. So Pastor Wegner is one option, but then we run into “Which Pastor Wegner? Tall or short?” Lauren is proud of her height, but I don’t think constant reminders are necessary or good for my brownie-point savings account. If the people of Grace are willing, Pastor Dave works well. It is what I am used to hearing.

**When did you know you wanted to be a pastor?** There was never really a single, clear moment, just a series of small events through life that led me to this vocation. Chief among them, though, might be a 100-level course in college taught by a fantastic theology professor and pastor. His stories from parish ministry combined with insightful reflections on daily life meant a lot.

**Favorite Lutheran potluck food.** Those warm ham, cheese, and mustard sandwiches on dinner rolls..

**What would your hobby be if you actually had time for a hobby?** Flying for sure, and I hope to actually make time to get my pilot license in the Chicago area.

**Cubs/Sox/Other?** Offer me some tickets and I’ll root for whomever you want me to!

**If you could have dinner with three people from the past, whom would you choose?** Bonhoeffer, FDR, and either of the Wright Brothers.

**Current parenting challenge?** Keeping my cool when either or both of the kids are squealing at each other.

**How do you feel about Chicago winters?** I’m just glad to be in a region where people don’t suddenly forget how to drive when they see a snowflake in the air.

**A time when God completely surprised you.** Honestly? This call process at Grace. We had envisioned more years in Raleigh. We had hoped to experience some of the fruit of our work as our previous parish moved into a new chapter of its life. But now we get to be a part of a new chapter here and that is incredibly exciting.

**Something you’ve learned from someone over the age of 70.** A 95-year-old gentlemen who was the navigator of a naval ship during World War II told me how his ship was given to the Japanese Navy after the war ended so that Japan could bring their POWs home. He said, “I was honored to serve my country, it was one of the greatest things I’ve ever done. But I was more honored to shake the hand of my Japanese counterpart as I handed him the ship’s logs, because it meant I was going home.” It put a lot of things in perspective, especially when people of my generation often only see the glorified Hollywood versions of war.

**Favorite liturgical holiday (other than big ones, like Christmas and Easter).** It’s close to a big one, but Maundy Thursday is my favorite. In our previous congregation we would welcome first communicants to the table on that evening every year and it was always a special time for our church family. One year in my sermon I retold Buzz Aldrin’s account of being the first person to have communion on the moon.

# WORSHIP

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

October 2

### 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

October 9

### 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

October 16

### 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-81

October 23

### 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84:1-7, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October 30

### REFORMATION SUNDAY

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

## BACH CANTATA VESPERS

### OCTOBER 30, 3:45 P.M.

*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*, Deck thyself, O dear soul (BWV 180)

Katie Hines-Shah, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hinsdale, Illinois, homilist  
Richard Hoskins, St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, Chicago, organist

## Jazz duo improvises on Lutheran chorale tunes at Grace on October 30, 8 p.m.

The German jazz duo Spiritual Standards comes to Grace for a concert on Sunday evening, October 30, at 8 p.m. Renowned German jazz instrumentalists, Markus Burger (piano) and Jan von Klewitz (saxophone) bring modern improvisation to faith-based Baroque German standards. Staying very near to the original melodies of chorales such as "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring" and "Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming," the artists improvise in a linear manner, following basic jazz principles.

The Spiritual Standards duo is touring the U. S. as musical ambassadors for the Luther Decade, a 10-year celebration by the German state of Saxony-Anhalt that marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The concert is free. You can sample the music of Spiritual Standards on iTunes, Amazon, and at [spiritualstandards.com](http://spiritualstandards.com).

## October Bach Cantata Vespers

Composed in Leipzig for the 20th Sunday after Trinity in 1724, Cantata 180 "Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele," (Deck thyself, O dear soul) is based on a 17th-century communion hymn with a text by Johann Franck and a tune by Johann Crüger. Both tune and text appear in The Lutheran Book of Worship as "Soul, adorn yourself with gladness."

## Sacred music concerts at Grace and Concordia

### Resurrection Ringers

The handbell ensemble from Valparaiso University will present a concert at Grace on Tuesday evening, October 20, at 7 p.m. The concert is part of a fall tour of churches and other performing venues in the Chicago area. Jonah Koetke, Valpo student and Grace member, plays in this ensemble. Jonah is an alum of the Grace School handball ensemble and the Youth Handbell ensemble. Enjoy some fancy handbell ringing here in Grace's sanctuary!

### Chicago Choral Artists

Chicago Choral Artists presents their fall concert, "Songs and Psalms--The Story of Jonah," at Grace on Sunday evening, October 23, at 8 p.m. Michael D. Costello directs a program of sacred music that includes works by Bach, Carissimi, Chatman, Finzi, Monteverdi, and more. The concert is part of Concordia University's annual Lectures in Church Music. Tickets (\$25 general admission, \$15 seniors/students) are available at the door.

### Lectures in Church Music

Lectures in Church Music includes two hymn festivals in Concordia's Chapel of Our Lord: "New Settings, New Sounds—for the Reformation" on Sunday, October 22, at 4 p.m., featuring Concordia's Resonanz Ensemble, conducted by Jonathan Kohrs; and "A Mighty Fortress—Hymns of and for the Reformation," with composer Robert Hobby, on Monday, October 23, at 8 p.m.



# ADULT EDUCATION

Come to Adult Education sessions at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings for thought-provoking presentations and discussions that build faith and fellowship. Look for more information about classes and locations on the signs in the atrium.

If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton, chair of the Adult Education Committee (tanton@depaul.edu).

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## Faith in a Changing Society

*In the Seminar Room*

**October 2**

### The Presidential Race: Polls, Darn Polls, and their Reliability, or Not

*Molly Andolina, Associate Professor of Political Science, DePaul University.* The first class in a two-part series on the presidential election, this talk examines the validity of polls and their conflicting results.

**October 9**

### The Presidential Race: The Electoral College — How American Power Is Decided

*Molly Andolina, Associate Professor of Political Science, DePaul University.* The second class on the presidential election explains how the electoral college works, what it forecasts for this election, and how one political scientist's faith deepens her research and teaching.

**October 16**

### Reformation and Reformers, Friends and Foes

*Jennifer McNutt, Associate Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity, Wheaton College.* As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this two-week course explores Luther's life and work through his interactions with lesser-known reformers, friends and foes alike. The first class explores Luther's intense relationship with the German Reformers Andreas Karlstadt, Philip Melancthon, and Johannes Agricola.

**October 23**

### Reformation and Reformers, Friends and Foes

*Jennifer McNutt, Associate Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity, Wheaton College.* The second class of the Reformation series explores Luther's relationships with Ulrich Zwingli and Martin Bucer of the Reformed tradition, detailing the depth and richness of Lutheran theology as it unfolded within the Protestant movement.

**October 30**

### Visual Images of Martin Luther: The Reformation and Beyond

*Rhea Sprecher, art historian and educator.* This special Reformation talk examines paintings of Luther's story by contemporaries such as Lucas Cranach the Elder through present-day artists. A DVD of the PowerPoint will be given to all in attendance.

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## Ministry in Daily Life

*In the German classroom  
(southwest corner of the first floor of Grace School)*

**October 2**

### New and Happening at Grace School

*Bill Koehne, principal of Grace School.* Plans and innovations are underway at Grace School for the 2016-17 school year.

**October 23**

### Our Summer in Slovakia

*Kathryn Jandeska, youth and adults from the 2016 Summer Mission Team.* A report from the Mission Team that traveled to Martin, Slovakia, to teach VBS at the Center for Christian Education.

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## Sunday Bible Study

*In the Conference Room*

Led by Bob Jandeska in the conference room, the Bible study group meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. during the Adult Education hour.

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## New Member Class

Our new member class is led by the pastors and is intended for all those interested in becoming part of our ministry and in deepening their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Classes meet between services, at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Pastor Lyle's office. It's not too late to join the current session of classes, which began on October 2. If you would like more information please email Karen Christopher (kchristopher@gracereverforest.org).

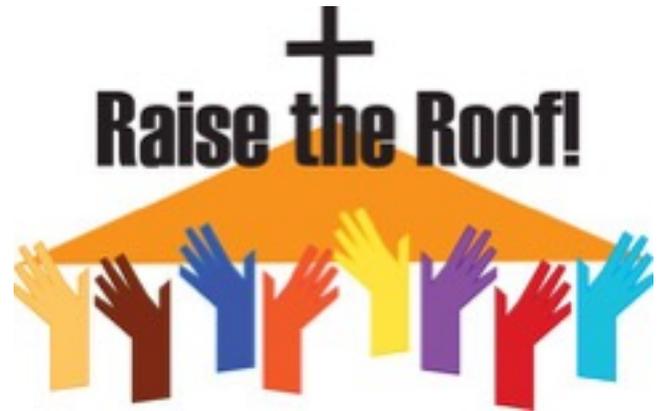
# Celebrate with Harmony Community Church at “To God Be the Glory” Weekend Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6

After many weeks of work, a fire, and unexpected additional repairs, the new roof at Harmony Community Church in North Lawndale is finally finished. It no longer “rains” inside the church. Deacons who live nearby no longer have to run over to the church and put out all the buckets when skies grow dark.

Thanks to funds raised in last spring’s Raise the Roof crowd-funding appeal, the flat roof has been replaced, new siding installed, and parapets reconstructed. New windows have been installed in some critical places, along with new gutters. Some of the interior water damage has also been repaired—and all of this has been accomplished under budget, thanks to the supervision and negotiation of architect Steve Beck, a member of Grace Church. There is approximately \$5,000 left in the Raise the Roof account. These funds will be used to complete the tuck pointing, as well as for additional work on Harmony Church’s interior.

Thank you to everyone who supported this project with gifts of time, talent and treasure, as well as with prayers. The median household income in North Lawndale is \$24,315. Harmony Church cannot possibly respond to the pain in their neighborhood without partners from other communities. The church and its message of hope are a beacon of light in North Lawndale. With peace of mind about their facility, Harmony members can continue to focus on their mission, “loving and serving like Christ!”

We give God the glory for this fruitful collaboration between Grace and Harmony, and Grace members are invited to join Harmony Church in celebrating the completion of the project at special events on November 5 and 6 (see box below).



## Join members of Harmony Community Church in giving thanks to God for:

- 25 years of sharing the Gospel.
- 10 years of food pantry ministry.
- The completion of the Raise the Roof project, in partnership with Grace Lutheran Church.
- The new parking lot, in conjunction with Lawndale Christian Health Center.

### **Banquet**

**Saturday, November 5, 6:30 p.m.**

**Tickets, \$75**

Dinner ■ Live music ■ Live and silent auctions  
Short program highlighting Harmony ministries

For tickets, contact Diane Carioscio ([diane\\_carioscio@comcast.net](mailto:diane_carioscio@comcast.net)), or Sue Foran ([sforan4@comcast.net](mailto:sforan4@comcast.net)).

Proceeds from this event will support Harmony’s youth development, violence prevention, and recovery support ministries. Organizers are seeking silent and live auction items and sponsorships to help underwrite the cost of the meal. If you have sports tickets, theater tickets, restaurant certificates or other suitable silent auction items or would like to make a cash contribution, please contact Sue or Connie.

### **Ribbon-cutting ceremony** **Sunday, November 6, 12:30 p.m.**

Lunch followed by worship at 2:30 p.m.

### **Harmony Community Church**

1908 S. Millard Avenue  
Chicago

# Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity will host Sunday afternoon forums

In June and July the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity hosted numerous listening sessions for Grace members. More than 60 people ranging from teenagers to people in their 90s shared opinions, hopes, concerns, and beliefs about how Grace could become a more welcoming community of believers. To deepen this conversation our committee will host three Sunday afternoon forums this fall.

## **Sunday, October 16, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Conversations on Scripture and Sexuality**

This forum will feature two pastors who know Grace Church well. The Rev. Dr. Fred Niedner and the Rev. Dr. Jeff Leininger will have a conversation about how their understanding and interpretation of the scriptures shape their views concerning sexual orientation, gender identity, and same-sex relationships. The forum will allow time for Fred and Jeff to present their perspectives, discuss differences, and for audience members to ask questions of the guest speakers.

**Fred Niedner** is a Senior Research Professor and Former Chair of the Theology Department at Valparaiso University. His ongoing work in biblical theology focuses on narrative portions of the scriptures, with particular attention to the wilderness tradition, stories of forgiveness and reconciliation, and the ways that biblical stories create a world in which listeners find meaning, identity and vocation.

Fred has his B.A. from Concordia Senior College, M.Div. and S.T.M. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and his Th.D. from Christ Seminary-Seminex.



**Jeff Leininger** has served as Concordia University Chicago's University Pastor since 2002. He graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul, majoring in theatre. Jeff has his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and received his M.Phil and Ph.D. in Divinity (Church History) at Cambridge University.

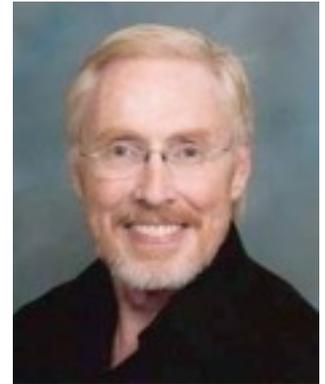
Jeff also directs the Spiritual Life activities on campus, the Pre-

Seminary Program, and supports the University's Church Relations office.

## **Sunday, October 23, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Scientific and Cultural Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

Dr. George Hogenson will present an overview of what is known about homosexuality and gender identity from biological, cultural and psychological perspectives. A substantial portion of his practice is with gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals. The intent of this presentation is to provide objective information on LGBTQ issues that can be of use to Grace members.

**George Hogenson** has his B.A. in philosophy from St. Olaf College, a Ph.D. in philosophy from Yale University, and an M.A. in clinical social work from the University of Chicago. He is affiliated with the C. G. Jung Institute of Chicago. His work focuses on Jungian psychoanalysis and therapy with individuals, as well as work with survivors of trauma, gender identity issues, and spiritual growth. George is a member of Grace and a Jungian psychoanalyst with a private practice in the Chicago Loop.



## **Sunday November 6, 2:30–4:30 p.m. A Graceful Conversation for Grace**

The third forum is subtitled “What Does This Mean?” It will be led by Pastor Lyle. This forum will be an opportunity to learn more about how we, as Lutherans, view matters of sexual orientation and gender identity, how we can seek to be welcoming and faithful, and how we center all such conversations in the grace of God given through Jesus Christ.

It is our hope that Grace Church would be a more welcoming place for all of God's children. We look forward to seeing you at these three important events. If you have questions for our committee please email us at [adhoc@graceriverforest.org](mailto:adhoc@graceriverforest.org).

Brian Becker, Ad Hoc Committee Chair  
Linda Bernard, Sue Foran, Case Hoogendoorn,  
Chris Lueking, Craig Mindrum, Becky Morgan,  
Greg Rohlfing, Gick Schmidt, Pastor Dave Lyle

# What do different faith traditions say about the Israel-Palestine conflict?

*Lutheran, Jewish and Catholic speakers explore the issue in community programs this fall*



The Interfaith Action Group on Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine is sponsoring three programs this fall on what faith traditions have to say about the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine. One of these programs will be offered at Grace on Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.

The Interfaith Action Group on Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine (IAG) is a community-based group working towards peaceful and constructive ways to express our faith in confronting the forces of international conflict and social injustice in Israel and Palestine. Grace members Sue Foran and Doris Strieter's involvement with this group is a direct outgrowth of 2014-15 Faith Perspectives programs on the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

**Grace members' involvement with this group is a direct outgrowth of 2014-15 Faith Perspectives programs on the conflict in Israel and Palestine.**

The speaker for the November 16 program at Grace is the Rev. Cindy Halmarson who has served in the ELCA's Global Mission Unit as Area Director for the Europe, Middle East and North Africa region since February 2015. In this capacity she develops and implements strategic engagements with companions in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. She also serves on the staff team for the Peace Not Walls campaign implementing the ELCA's 2005 Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine. She is an advisor to the Middle East Council of Churches and the Near East School of Theology located in Beirut, Lebanon. Halmarson came to ELCA Global Mission from the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) where she served as Bishop of Saskatchewan Synod from 2002-2014.

Other programs and speakers in the IAG's fall programs include physician and activist Alice Rothchild speaking on "A Personal Journey: Facing Historical and Ethical Challenges in Israel/Palestine" at First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park, on Friday, October 14, at 7 p.m. Dr. Rothchild is the author of "Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience." Her documentary film, "Voices Across the Divide," was released in 2013.

The final program takes place on Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m., at the Siena Center of Dominican

University 7900 W. Division Street, River Forest. Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., speaks on "No Justice, No Peace." Rev. Senior, president emeritus and chancellor of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, is a frequent lecturer and speaker throughout the United States and abroad and is actively involved in inter-religious dialogue, particularly with the Jewish and Muslim communities.

*For more information about IAG, please email [interfaithactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithactiongroup@gmail.com).*

## Support Hope for Grieving Children Africa at the Annual Wine Tasting Benefit

You are invited to attend the annual Wine Tasting Benefit for Hope for Grieving Children Africa, on Friday, November 4, at the Oak Park Country Club. The evening includes a delicious buffet dinner, excellent wine selection, world class music, great conversations and informative presentations by our Zambia and International training staff. The Wine Tasting Benefit raises needed funds to deliver caregiver and train-the-trainer programs that help children and youth cope with unresolved grief from losing their parents. We are now working in the countries of Zambia, Lesotho, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. For more information and tickets please contact Ellie Schnack or Paula Stephens.



Hope for Grieving Children | AFRICA

# Sue Ames, Grace's new Parish Nurse starts work in October

A couple of years ago, Sue Ames accompanied a friend who had lung cancer to a doctor's appointment, to serve as an extra pair of listening ears. The friend had also invited the parish nurse from her church to the appointment, and as Sue talked with her about her work, she became interested in the specialty known as Faith Community Nursing. She took a course, attended a symposium, and when she learned about the open position here at Grace, she interviewed for the job. She'll start her work as Parish Nurse here at Grace Church on October 4.

Sue has worked in many different settings since earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Christian University some 37 years ago. In the past she has worked as a hospital staff nurse, a transitional care coordinator, and a case manager for patients in home health care settings. She has led support groups and provided educational programs to promote wellness. She is currently a hospice case manager, coordinating teams that care for patients and their families.

When asked for a favorite scripture verse, Sue quotes John 11:25-26:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She adds, "In hospice, caring daily for those who are dying, I take great comfort from these words."

The Parish Nurse at Grace works with the volunteers on the Health Cabinet to promote wellness among Grace members. "Wellness," says Sue, is "mind, body and spirit. If one of these is 'out of whack' it can affect the whole. Spiritual health is at the core of wellness."

Motivating people towards wellness starts with relationships. "You have to establish trust," she acknowledges. "What is important to them? From there you earn the right to be heard."

She mentions many ways that a parish nurse may help people along their journey to wellness: a class, or one-on-one counseling, or connecting people with similar experience so they can grow from each other's knowledge and tap into resources. "I don't claim to be the end-all, know-all, be-all, but I do know how to advocate for people."

Faith in Christ is an important part of Sue's life. "I became a believing Christian when I was in high school. It wasn't just stories in the Bible anymore—I owned it in my heart through a high school group called Young Life.

"Faith is where our hope comes from, and when we have hope we are healthier all around. Faith plays a big role in how we accept things that we can't change and in how we carry on. Faith gives us the strength we need to journey through things we can't change, because we have hope in what will be. Our faith in God—that is core, at my core."

Sue and her husband, along with her mother, currently attend Christ Church in Oakbrook after many years at Western Springs Baptist Church, a smaller church in their neighborhood. Sue has lived in the Chicago area for most of her life, although she and her husband spent a few years in Colorado after their children graduated from college.

Sue will be in her office at Grace on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and will be here on the first and third Sundays of every month. She is looking forward to being part of our church family, serving in our congregation's health ministry and building relationships with people and loving them in the name of Christ. "Doing life together," she calls it, as we serve and grow and learn.

*Sue Ames will be installed as Parish Nurse at the 8:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 16.*

**"Faith is where our hope comes from, and when we have hope we are healthier all around."**



## Turkey Trot for Wellness this fall

The Health Cabinet walking program returns this fall, with a four-week Turkey Trot, from Oct. 17 to Nov. 13. The proceeds from the Turkey Trot will go to purchase turkeys for the annual Thanksgiving feast at Fraternité Notre Dame. Contact Bryan Bernard for information.

## GRACE NEWS

**SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ.** Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. These lunches are given to people in need in the Austin community. Children and teens are welcome with their parents. Contact Kate Hogenson ([hogenson@msn.com](mailto:hogenson@msn.com); 708-445-9687) to arrange a ride.

**KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP** meets on Tuesday, October 18, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the church library. Join other knitters and crocheters as they work on prayer shawls and prayer squares. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, the crafters there will be happy to get you started. Contact Margaret Burke ([mrburke42@gmail.com](mailto:mrburke42@gmail.com)) for more information.

**LECTIO DIVINA** meets on October 24 and every fourth Monday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact MaryBeth Buschmann (312-802-5493; [marybeth1942@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marybeth1942@sbcglobal.net)).

**RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS** meet on the second Tuesday of every month at Grace for informal presentations on a wide range of faith-related topics. Grace member John Bouman of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law is the speaker on Tuesday, October 11, at 10 a.m. in the church library.

**GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW.** A lively crew of volunteers led by Marlene Hallman gathers monthly in the church library to prepare the Grace Notes newsletter for mailing. They will be at work on Thursday, Oct. 27, at 9:30 a.m. There's always a need for more helpers!

**CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY.** The weekly gathering of seniors and older adults meets on Wednesdays in the church library. Come for food and fellowship at 10 a.m. and Bible study led by the pastors at 10:30. On Oct. 19 there is a worship service at 11:30, followed by luncheon. There's a Hymn Sing on Oct. 28.

**ROMEOS AND JULIETS** meet in the church library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 18. Hans Dumpys and Ruth Laux will discuss their experiences as survivors, refugees and immigrants during and after WW II. Ruth's emphasis will be on "Surviving the Victory" and Hans' on "From Peasant to Pastor." Donuts, coffee and Trivial Pursuit, too.

**FINDING HOPE**, the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4.

**RELIGION IN LITERATURE.** The book group meets on Friday, Oct. 21, at 8 p.m. at the home of Ruth Rehwaldt, 403 N. Marion St, Apt. 2C, in Oak Park. Barbara Hofmaier will lead the discussion of Atul Gawande's "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End." A copy of the book is available in the church library.

**REEL TALK**, the film discussion group, gathers on Friday, Oct. 14, to view another in a series of films on "Faith, Hope, Charity." The October presentation is the 1966 film "A Man For All Seasons" starring Paul Scofield as Sir Thomas Moore. The film starts at 6 p.m. in the church library.

**LCFS HARVEST GALA.** Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois' annual Harvest Gala fundraiser takes place Saturday, October 15, at the Oak Park Country Club. The Harvest Gala raises critical funds for LCFS programs and services, including child placement, youth residential care and community services. For more information visit [www.lcfs.org/HarvestGala](http://www.lcfs.org/HarvestGala).

## PRAYERS

**WE PRAY** for Mike Carioscio and all who mourn the death of his mother, Lucy.

**PRAYER LIST.** The weekly Prayer List can be found in the worship bulletin on Sunday. Contact Karen Christopher ([kchristopher@graceriverforest.org](mailto: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](mailto:kathy.lucht@gmail.com)) or Kathy Garness (708-366-7584; [KMGfinearts@comcast.net](mailto:KMGfinearts@comcast.net)) with confidential prayer chain requests.

## THANKS

**Refinishing the baptism font bowl.** Members of the Altar Guild recently took on the job of getting the metal bowl that lines our wooden baptismal font refinished. The font was designed and made by Dave Heinz in 2010, but over the years, the bowl had become terribly scratched. Roberta Gillespie learned that the original finish had been done at Loro Motors, a body shop business in Oak Park, since bought out by Service King Collision Repair. The new company graciously repainted the bowl at no charge. Many thanks to Service King from the people of Grace Church!

**Thanks for the school supplies.** Grace Christian Academy in Chicago was one of several schools that received donations of school supplies from the Social Ministry Committee's drive in August. School principal Carlo Giannotta wrote, "Thank you for the generous donation.... We make school supplies available to our students throughout the school year so that every child has the tools he or she needs to succeed."

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**Look for the sign-up sheet** at the reception desk to donate flowers. Donors of flower in October:

**October 2** — Sal and Diane Amati in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

**October 9** — Tom and Deb Maxwell in celebration of their 25th anniversary.

**October 30** — from Jeff and Claudia Wood in memory of Allen Wood and Elizabeth Wood.

Grace Church will be hiring a new Director for Administration and Finance this fall. The complete position description can be downloaded from the Grace web site. Those interested in applying should email a resume and a cover letter to [BusinessMgr@graceriverforest.org](mailto:BusinessMgr@graceriverforest.org).

# Fall is in full swing with Grace families



*And they're off! Third and fourth grade cross-country runners react to the starting gun at the beginning of their one-mile race. (Photo by Michael Costello.)*

**The 2016-17 academic year at Grace School is off to a great start,** with a total enrollment of 224 students in preschool through eighth grade.

This year's student body comes from 23 suburbs plus the city of Chicago:

22% live in Chicago	Additional families from
19% in Oak Park	Berwyn, Melrose Park, River Grove
11% in River Forest	and other suburbs
9% in Maywood	
9% in Forest Park	
8% in Elmwood Park	

The Grace School student body is 69% white, 13% bi-racial, 11% African American, 5% Hispanic, and 2% Asian.

There are 61 students from the Grace congregation, 91 from other Lutheran and Protestant churches, 23 belong to non-denominational churches, and 18 attend Catholic churches, with one Buddhist. Thirty students have no home church.

For more news from Grace School, visit the school's Facebook page at [facebook.com/GraceSchoolRiverForest](https://facebook.com/GraceSchoolRiverForest).



Saturday, March 18, 2017  
6:00 p.m.

Oak Park Country Club  
2001 North Thatcher  
River Grove

SAVE THE DATE!

## Kids and parents and kids of Grace Church and School are invited to the first Fun Friday of the school year

**Friday Oct. 21, 6-8 p.m.**

- Open gym, crafts, food, and fellowship.
- For elementary-age kids and their families from Grace Church and School.
- Free will offering to cover the cost of the meal.
- To sign up, click on the link at [gracriverforest.org](http://gracriverforest.org).
- Sponsored by Grace's Youth and Family Ministry.
- The event is geared for grades kindergarten through 5th grade, but families are welcome to bring older or younger siblings.

**More Family Fun Fridays this fall**  
November 11 and December 9.

## Women at Grace

**Craft Night, Monday,  
November 7, 7 p.m.**

Enjoy the company of other Grace women at a craft event on Monday evening, November 7, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will be learning how to



make no-sew small throws and scarves using fleece fabric. The scarves will be given to children in need here in Illinois, including children served by Harmony Community church. Throws will be given to Shriners Hospital for Children. Questions? Please call Teresa McFadden (815-347-8374; [teresamcf@gmail.com](mailto:teresamcf@gmail.com)).

**Save the date for a Women's Retreat, led by Pastor Phyllis Kersten.** Women at Grace leadership is planning an all-day Women's Retreat for Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Grace. Pastor Phyllis Kersten will lead the retreat on the topic of "Companions on Your Journey." There will be donuts and coffee in the morning, plus lunch. We will be inviting women from Harmony Community Church to join us. Watch for more details later this fall.



*Save the date*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13  
 INSTALLATION SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

PASTOR DAVE WEGNER  
 PASTOR LAUREN WEGNER

*Sunday School and Confirmation  
 classes meet at 8:15 A.M.  
 Lunch follows the service.*




7300 Division St.  
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