

Grace Notes

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

November 2016

New ways of ministering to youth

by Pastor Lauren Wegner

The sanctuary was quiet.

The lights were dim.

We sat on the altar steps, gathered around three flickering pillar candles, a loaf of bread, and a chalice.

Thus began Midnight Eucharist at the high school lock-in last month. As part of worship together, we shared the ways we had experienced God's presence that evening. I was struck by the fact that several students commented on how meaningful it was to have many new faces present at the event. One student called another by name while expressing gratefulness for his presence: "I think it's really cool that Johnny* is here tonight." Turning towards Johnny, he continued, "I mean, we never see you. It's really awesome that you're here."

Johnny didn't seem embarrassed that he was singled out. He seemed grateful, too. Grateful to be acknowledged and noticed among the youth group. Grateful to be present.

Nineteen high schoolers attended the lock-in, which is an exciting number for our youth ministry as we move into a new future. All three pastors attended different segments of the event; we played games, ate together, and dove into God's Word with the youth. Our lock-in theme was drawn from 2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

As part of my call process here at Grace, it was discerned that a new model for youth ministry was on the horizon here. As I met with the call committee, council, and staff members, the feeling was mutual that the Spirit was leading me to serve in a particular role at Grace. As an associate pastor who also oversees our youth ministry, I look forward to visioning together and implementing a sustainable youth ministry model that relies on a strong foundation of committed, passionate, faithful leaders.

*not his real name

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Teens pose in a game called "Freeze Frame" at the high school youth lock-in. Photos by Pastor Dave Wegner.

Join the discussion —

Youth Ministry meeting on November 3

Join Pastor Lauren Wegner and other youth ministry leaders for a conversation about the past, the present, and the future of youth ministry at Grace. Part of our gathering will involve determining the short and long-term goals of the ministry.

We will meet Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Seminar Room at Grace. All those interested are welcome to be part of the conversation.

Contact Pastor Lauren with any questions (lwegner@graceriverforest.org).



Cooking breakfast in the Grace kitchen with Pastor Lyle at the high school youth lock-in.

Sustainable youth ministry

Continued from page 1

This is a very familiar position for me, as I served in almost the exact same capacity in my previous call. However, it is a new model for Grace and naturally might elicit some confusion and questions, which I am happy to address. The particular model that I envision for Grace is based on one found in the book “Sustainable Youth Ministry” by Mark DeVries. (A group will be reading and discussing this book together as we move forward in exploring this model and its application at Grace; if you’re interested, please join us! Look for details in the new year.)

This new model differs from the previous history of youth ministry at Grace in the following key ways:

- It relies on numerous volunteer leaders casting a vision, planning, and implementing youth events, while also receiving strong support, participation, and leadership from the associate pastor.
- It engages youth in developing the vision and programming, which builds strong leadership skills.
- It more fully integrates youth into the fabric of the congregation through intergenerational relationships and events.

I have seen firsthand that this particular ministry model can bring about wonderful results in youth ministry, including volunteer leaders who are empowered and equipped for meaningful ministry, deep faith development among youth and their families, and a powerful connection and relationship that forms between youth and their pastors. The ultimate goal of this model is for youth ministry to become self-sustaining, so that it no longer relies on one particular staff member but on the collective gifts, skills, and leadership of those who are called to be part of this ministry.

While the lock-in was a fantastic kick-off event, it only marks the beginning of a redevelopment process that will surely take time. That said, starting with an event that drew 19 youth to church on a Friday night—that is something worth celebrating and building upon! I am excited that Grace has chosen to step out in faith and reshape our youth ministry. And I’m even more excited that youth like Johnny and the ones who welcomed him will continue to grow in discipleship and servanthood in Jesus’ name.

Together in Christ,

+ Pastor Lauren

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, October 28, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than November 5. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The December issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Wednesday, November 23. The deadline for copy is Monday, November 14; the issue covers events through the end of December. Please send news to ggotsch@graceriverforest.org. Please limit your submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

A Graceful Conversation for Grace

Pastor Lyle leads the third forum sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity on Sunday, November 6, at 2 p.m.

I have been blessed throughout the past year to engage in a variety of conversations regarding Grace Lutheran Church and ministry to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning (often abbreviated LGBTQ). These conversations have included members of Grace who are gay or lesbian and their families. The Ad Hoc Committee, appointed by the Church Council to consider how Grace is called to minister to, with, and for these individuals for the sake of the gospel, has been working faithfully throughout this year. We have heard feedback from many of you at our listening sessions; everything that has been shared confidentially with committee members has been prayerfully heard. We have been graced thus far with two Sunday afternoon forums, one on scripture and sexuality, the other on scientific and cultural perspectives. I am thankful to The Rev. Dr. Fred Niedner, The Rev. Dr. Jeff Leininger, and Dr. George Hogenson for graciously sharing their wisdom, insight, and expertise.

As the committee moves to our final task of making recommendations to the Church Council, we begin to ask, “What

does this mean?” What do these conversations mean for Grace as we seek to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ? What does this mean for us as people shaped by God’s Word and our confessional Lutheran identity? What does it mean to be a welcoming community of faith, committed to ensuring that there are no roadblocks or obstacles for people yearning to hear of God’s promises of hope and life?

I do not presume to know the answers to these questions. Answering them is not a task for me alone; it is the task that God has given to all of us. We are, after all, together in Christ — in this, as in all things. In that light, I invite you to join me in conversation at our third forum, on Sunday, November 6, at 2:30 p.m. We will prayerfully engage the scriptures, considering both the depth and the breadth of the biblical witness. We will also engage one another in mutual conversation. I hope and pray that you will contribute your presence and your voice as we seek a faithful path forward for all of God’s people at Grace.

Pastor Dave Lyle



INSTALLATION SERVICE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
10 A.M.

Sunday School and Confirmation classes meet at 8:45 a.m.

LUNCH FOLLOWS THE SERVICE. RSVP AT GRACRIVERFOREST.ORG

Our new associate pastors, Lauren Wegner and Dave Wegner, will be installed in a 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 13. There will be only one service that morning.

An all-congregation lunch follows the service. The cooks and organizers need to know how many people are coming so please RSVP online, or sign up at the reception desk by Monday, November 7.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and cooking on Saturday, November 12, and cooking, serving, and clean-up on Sunday, November 13. If you’re willing to help, please contact Lori Martin (708-243-5768, lmartin@envision-benefits.com).

WORSHIP

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

November 6

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

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

November 13

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST INSTALLATION SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

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

November 20

CHRIST THE KING

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

November 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 24, Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 30

Morning Prayer with Cornerstones at 11:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Supper is served in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.

Additional Wednesday services on December 7 and 14.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

NOVEMBER 20, 3:45 P.M.

Gott ist mein König

God is my king (BWV 71)

David R. Lyle, homilist

Prelude: J. S. Bach, Concerto for Harpsichord in D Major, BWV 1054

Michael D. Costello, harpsichordist

Attend a Shabbat service at West Suburban Temple with the Grace 3rd and 4th grade choir

All are welcome to attend the Shabbat Evening Service at West Suburban Temple Har Zion, 1040 North Harlem Ave., on Friday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. The Grace School 3rd and 4th grade choir will sing with children from the Temple and help welcome the sabbath. Rabbi Adir Glick will present an informal pre-service talk on the highlights of Shabbat at 6:15 p.m. For more information, contact Janel Dennen at jdennen@gracriverforest.org.

November 20 Bach Cantata Vespers celebrates Christ the King Sunday

Gott ist mein König (God is my King, BWV 71) is the featured cantata for the Bach Cantata Vespers on November 20 — Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the church year.

Cantata 71 is an early cantata from J. S. Bach, first performed in Mühlhausen on February 4, 1708, when he was only 22 years old. It was composed for the installation of the new council, an important civic occasion in German cities which called for festive music from town musicians. The cantata's text quotes from Psalm 74 ("God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth," v. 12) along with other biblical passages and adds some free poetry. Some of the aria texts speak about old age, likely a tribute to the town's former mayor who had just left office at the age of 83. The piece calls for a sizable orchestra, including trumpets and tympani, along with recorders, oboes, bassoon, organ, and strings.

Pastor David Lyle is the homilist for the service. The instrumental prelude at 3:45 p.m. is Bach's Concerto for Harpsichord in D Major, BWV 1054, with Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello at the harpsichord.

Bach Cantata Vespers in Itasca on November 6

The Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra will lead a vespers service at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 733 Catalpa Ave. in Itasca, on Sunday, November 6, at 4 p.m. The service includes Cantata #112, *Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt* (The Lord is my faithful shepherd). Soloists for the cantata will be soprano Susan Krout, mezzo-soprano Karen Brunssen, tenor Oliver Camacho, and baritone Douglas Anderson. Pastor Rebekah Weant Costello of St. Matthew Lutheran will be the homilist.

A free-will offering will be received to support Crossroad Kids Club, a ministry partner of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, whose goal is to enrich young lives through church-led, school-based character formation clubs.



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).

Adult Ed classes

November 6 and 20

Art as Visual Theology: The Virgin Mary for Lutherans

Matthew Milliner, Associate Professor of Art History, Wheaton College.

This two-part series illumines the many ways Mary has been represented visually in Lutheran theology. *In the Seminar Room*

November 20

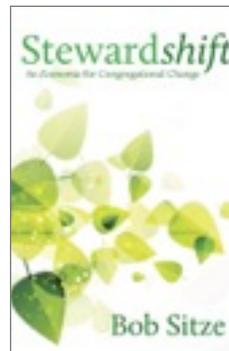
Stewardship: A New Understanding of Stewardship on a Fragile Planet

Bob Sitze, The author of "Stewardship: An Economia for Congregational Change" presents a session on stewardship. (See box.) In the German classroom (southwest corner of the first floor of Grace School).

There are no Adult Ed classes on Sunday, November 13, because of the 10 a.m. Installation Service, or on November 27, the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Sunday Bible Study

In the Conference Room



Bob Sitze was *The Lutheran* magazine's "Simple enough" blogger for five years. His latest book, "Stewardship," is a provocative look at the theology and practice of stewardship. Gathering information from biblical scholarship, as well as other fields such as financial planning, neuroscience, and community organizing, he writes about new understandings of stewardship in daily living and ministry. Copies of the book will be available at the Adult Ed session on November 20.

Read books by Grace authors in the church library

Grace Church counts many authors among its members and former members. Some of these have familiar names, such as Bouman, Lueking and Marty. Others may surprise you. Grace-authored books will be featured in the atrium cabinet and in the church library during November. All books are available for check-out. Ask the person at the reception desk for assistance with books in the atrium cabinet.

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

The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Community, by Stephen P. Bouman. Augsburg Fortress, 2012. [250 BOU]

Through Their Eyes: A People's View of the Global Church, by F. Dean Lueking. Tyra Books, 2012. [270.8 LUE]

Changing Churches: An Orthodox, Catholic, and Lutheran Theological Conversation, by Mickey L. Mattox and A. G. Roeber. W. B. Eerdmans, 2012. [280 MAT]

Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith, by Martin E. Marty. Augsburg Fortress, 2007 [284.1 MAR]

Singing the Church's Song: Essays and Occasional Writings on Church Music, by Carl Schalk. Lutheran University Press, under the auspices of Center for Church Music, CUC. [781 SCH]

Trains of America: All-Color Railroad Photography Featuring the Late Steam and Early Diesel Era, by Donald J. Heimburger. Heimburger House Publishing, 1989. [625.1 HEI]

High Performance Homes; Navigating the Green Road to Your Dream Home, by Steve Beck and Scott Krone. CODA/LCC, 2012. [720 BEC]

The Blind Faith Hotel [young adult], by Pamela Todd. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008. [YA FIC TOD]

Whispering Verses: Nature Poems for Small Children, by Michael J. Meyer. Cookie Books 1997. [E 808 MEY]



Fall Food Drive stocks local food pantries

Food donations are always needed at local food pantries, especially in preparation for the holidays. Please bring non-perishable food items to the bin in the atrium on Sunday mornings through November 13, or use the collection box in the atrium coat closet during the week. Grace School students are also contributing to this food drive. Donations will be divided among the Food Pantry of Oak Park and River Forest and food pantries at Fraternité Notre Dame, Harmony Community Church and Lutheran Child and Family Services Uptown Ministry.

Help is needed with sorting food donations after the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Nov. 6, Meet by the bin in the atrium or by the warming kitchen (across from the elevator by the gym entrance).

Some donation suggestions:

Peanut butter
Canned fish and meats
(Tuna in particular)
Pasta
Rice
Canned fruit
Canned vegetables
Hot and cold cereal

Coffee
Cooking oil
Canned soup and stews
Flour
Sugar
Canned beans
Canned chili
Juice

Baby formula
Canned milk
Baby food
Macaroni and cheese

Non-Food Items:
Deodorant
Toilet paper
Diapers
Soap

Join Harmony Community Church in saying “to God be the glory” on Nov. 5 and 6

Harmony Community Church is setting aside the weekend of November 5 and 6 to give thanks to God for the completion of its new roof and paved parking lot, as well as for 25 years of sharing the gospel and 10 years of food pantry ministry in North Lawndale.

Grace members are invited to join the people of Harmony at a Saturday evening banquet and for lunch and worship on Sunday.

Banquet

Saturday, November 5, 6:30 p.m.
Tickets, \$75

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

For tickets, go to <http://harmony25.eventbrite.com>. Proceeds from this event will support Harmony's youth development, violence prevention, and recovery support ministries.

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



Tutors are needed at Kidz Express

Kidz Express, the community center in Chicago's South Austin neighborhood that serves at-risk youth and their families, needs volunteer tutors to work one-on-one with elementary-school children every Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. Kidz Express has recently moved into a former Chicago Public School building at 5221 W. Congress in Chicago. Parking is available in the lot south of the school, on Harrison Street, just west of the fire house.

For more information go to www.kidzexpress.org. Contact director Doug Low at douglow09@gmail.com.

If you are interested in joining the group of Grace teens and adults involved with Kidz Express tutoring, contact Mary Paulson (sherwinho1@comcast.net) for more information.

"If you or your teens have ever been part of the powerful ministry of Kidz Express, or if you've never been involved but are curious about it, please join us! Come see how God has used the support and gifts of Grace members to enhance this ministry to kids in South Austin. Come learn about current needs and how you might be able to plug in. Come share in the joy of our life-changing God, who is always at work among us. Hope to see you there!"

+ Pastor Lauren Wegner

Get your flu shot at Grace on Sunday, November 6 9–11:30 a.m.

Walgreen pharmacists will be administering flu and pneumonia vaccinations in Grace's gym on Sunday, November 6, from 9–11:30 a.m.

Anyone age 10 and older may receive the vaccination at this time. Walgreen's will bill your medical insurance or Medicare, so please bring your card.

Who should get flu and pneumonia shots? The U. S. Centers for Disease Control recommend:

- **Annual flu shots** for everyone over 6 months old, especially people with chronic conditions, or those who may have compromised immune systems.
- **Vaccinations against pneumococcal disease** for everyone 65 and older, and for people younger than 65 who have chronic health conditions, compromised immune systems, or who smoke.

Working with the UN's Foundation's Shot@Life campaign, Walgreens will provide free lifesaving vaccines to children in a developing country for each vaccine administered across the U.S.



Working toward peaceful solutions in Israel and Palestine

The Rev. Cindy Halmarson from the ELCA's Global Mission Unit will speak at Grace on Wednesday, November 16, at 7 p.m. in a program sponsored by the Interfaith Action Group on Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine. The presentation takes place in Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Cindy Halmarson serves ELCA Global Mission as Area Director for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, working alongside companion ministries 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 charged with 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.

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 faith in confronting the forces of international conflict and social injustice in Israel and Palestine. Grace members Sue Foran and Doris Strieter are part of this group.

Another IAG program is planned for 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."

For more information about IAG, please email interfaithactiongroup@gmail.com.

New emergency pastoral care phone number: 708-689-3032

The pastors at Grace have a new emergency phone number: 708-689-3032.

- Call this number for emergency pastoral care on weekends, or when the Grace building is closed.
- When you call this number, the call is immediately forwarded to the cell phone of the pastor scheduled to take calls that week.
- If the pastor does not answer, please leave a message with your name and a return phone number. Your call will be returned in a few minutes.
- You may also send a text message to this number. Please include a return phone number in your text.
- The pastors' voicemail messages at Grace include information about calling this emergency number.

Volunteer with PADS

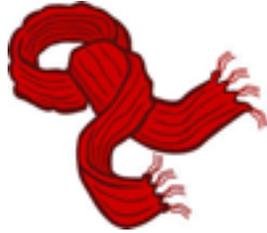
Housing Forward's PADS Emergency Shelter Program is in need of second- and third-shift shelter volunteers. Second shift volunteers work from 10:30 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. and help with maintaining site security, monitor the area and update third shift volunteers on events of the day. Third shift volunteers work from 5:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. and are responsible for facilitating the waking up of guests, overseeing breakfast and distributing lunches to guests as they leave.

PADS volunteers are vital to shelter operations, interacting with clients with kindness, compassion and respect. For more information contact Tonisha Daniel, Volunteer and Outreach Manager (tdaniel@housingforward.org; 708-338-1724, ext. 220).

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).



Coming up for Women at Grace

Monday, December 5, 7 p.m., Craft Night

Saturday, December 10, Cookie decorating

Sunday, December 11, Cookie Walk

Save the date — January 21 — 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.

Family Fun Friday for families from Grace Church and School

Friday, Nov. 11, 6-8 p.m.

- Open gym for kids in grades K–5.
- Board games in Fellowship Hall for grades 6-8.
- Fall craft project in the atrium.
- Pizza, lemonade and treats for all.
- Younger siblings are welcome.
- Free will offering to cover the cost of the meal and project.
- Sponsored by Grace's Youth and Family Ministry for Church and School families.
- To sign up, click on the link at graceriverforest.org. Please sign-up by midnight on Thursday, Nov. 10.

More Family Fun Fridays

December 9

February 10

January 20

March 10

A note of thanks from Pastor Kersten

I want to express my gratitude to the members of Grace church for a wonderful "re-retirement" party on September 25 – the second grand "send off" you've given me here!

Thank you to the members of the Board of Elders and others who set up for the salad luncheon and did the clean-up afterwards. Thank you to those who attended the luncheon, whose presence was "a gift" in itself, and to all those who sent cards. Thank you to congregation members who contributed to the generous monetary gift I received, and to those individuals who gave me other gifts.

My thanks also to the Elders who not only gave me a book, "Buechner 101, Essays and Sermons" by Frederick Buechner – an author whom I quoted rather regularly in many of my sermons at Grace, but who also presented me with a folding stool, to carry with me wherever I go, to enhance my height. (When you next see me, look about nine inches higher than usual!)

But what I have appreciated even more than anything else is the gift of being able to walk with you again this past year and a half, in both your joys and struggles. I have been enriched once more by witnessing first-hand the faith and hope and love that keep you going, and that enable you to reach out and serve those in need around you.

I know that Grace is in good hands for the future – Pastor Lyle's hands at the helm, Lauren and Dave Wegner's hands as associates and the hands of other vital church staff, the hands of gifted teachers, support staff and lay leadership, and God's gracious hands holding and guiding you all.

Thank you again for everything!

Phyllis N. Kersten

Interim Associate Pastor

What does a Parish Nurse do? What is Health and Wellness Ministry?

By Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

I am so excited to tell you about the Health and Wellness Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church and School.

Grace Church has a many-faceted health ministry, a collaboration between staff and volunteers. Here is how the parts fit together.

The Parish Nurse

The Parish Nurse is a minister of health for the congregation whose goal is to help people stay spiritually and physically healthy. She provides leadership, especially in the field of preventive medicine, by serving as:

- A health educator
- Health counselor
- Volunteer trainer
- Support group organizer
- An advocate.



Parish Nurse Sue Ames (right) talks with Olinda Fink at the October Cornerstones luncheon.

As the new Parish Nurse, I look forward to serving the people of Grace in these roles. I'm happy to talk with you about your needs or those of your family, or about your ideas for health ministry at Grace. As an RN with experience as a hospital staff nurse, a transitional care coordinator, and a case manager in home health care and hospice settings, I can offer information and suggestions useful in many healthcare situations.

The Health Cabinet

Grace's Health Cabinet is a group of volunteers, many with professional experience in healthcare or mental health, who are committed to seeing that the healing ministry of the church is carried out. These wonderful people on the Health Cabinet have been managing the health ministry at Grace on their own for the past year, and have done a fantastic job. Please join me in thanking them for their service to this congregation!

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bryan Bernard | Ruth Reko |
| Margaret Burke | Cindy Rohlfing |
| Valerie Crone | Leslie Sleuwen |
| Loretta Lattyak | Nancy Wohlford |
| Teresa McFadden | |

Health and Wellness Ministry at Grace

With direction and support from volunteer members of the Health Cabinet, the Parish Nurse provides and coordinates programs and special events that educate and support congregation members in making healthy lifestyle choices and in coping with illness, loss, and life transitions. These programs currently include:

- Adult Education programs and family education programs
- Blood pressure checks
- Flu shots
- Health information in Grace Notes
- Healing stations at worship services
- Prayer shawl and prayer square Ministry
- Walking program.

Grace has other ministries related to health and healing, and the Parish Nurse and Health Cabinet also collaborate to support these groups:

- Finding Hope, the chronic illness support group
- Stephen Ministry
- Domestic violence awareness
- Grace Care

Wellness is about body, mind and spirit. How can Grace's health ministry help you stay healthy in all of these dimensions? I look forward to talking with you and hearing about your needs and ideas.

Sue Ames is in her office at Grace on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; call for an appointment (708-366-6900, ext. 219), or stop in and say hello if you see her in her office, on the lower level, next to the Business Office. She will also be at Grace on Sunday mornings on the first and third Sunday of every month; look for her in the atrium between services.

GRACE NEWS

SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ. Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, Nov. 21, 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; 708-445-9687) to arrange a ride.

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on Tuesday, November 15, 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) for more information.

LECTIO DIVINA meets on November 28 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact MaryBeth Buschmann (312-802-5493; 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. Franklin Ishida, program director for Asia Pacific with ELCA Global Mission, is the speaker on Tuesday, November 8, 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 Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 9:30 a.m. There's always a need for more helpers!

CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY. Older adults meet 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. There is a worship service followed by lunch on Nov. 16 and 30. Cornerstones will not meet on Nov. 23.

ROMEOS AND JULIETS meet in the church library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15. Pastor Hans Dumpys will speak about "My Pilgrimage from Lithuanian Peasant to American Pastor," covering the difficulty of being a refugee after World War II and the process of immigration and finding a new life in America. Donuts, coffee and Trivial Pursuit too.

FINDING HOPE, the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group meets on Friday, November 18, at 8 p.m. at the home of Jennifer Murtoff, 2901 S. 12th Ave., Broadview. Bill Clapp will lead the discussion of Peter DeVries' "The Blood of the Lamb." A copy of the book is available in the church library.

REEL TALK, the film discussion group, gathers on Friday, Nov. 11, in the church library to view another in a series of films on "Faith, Hope, Charity." The November presentation is Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan." The film starts at 6 p.m. in the church library. Come for pizza (\$5) before the movie at 5:30.

BUILDING CLOSED. Grace will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, after the 10 a.m. worship service and all day Friday, November 25.

PRAYERS

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

PRAYER CHAIN. Contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) or Kathy Garness (708-366-7584; KMGfinearts@comcast.net) with confidential prayer chain requests.

IN THANKSGIVING

FOR BAPTISM. We give thanks with the families of these infants soon to be baptized:

November 6 - Henry Lester Maggio, son of Pete and Sabrina Maggio, grandson of Joe and Eileen Maggio.

November 24 - Miles David Hermanson, son of Kevin Hermanson and Catherine Roberts, grandson of John and Harriet Roberts.

FOR MARRIAGE. We give thanks with Laura Barkenquast and Martin Becker, to be married on November 19.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

November 20 — From Don and Carolyn Becker in honor of the marriage of Laura Barkenquast and Martin Becker.

November 27 — From Bill and Ellen Pullin in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

During worship services on All Saints Sunday, November 6, we remember the members of the Grace family who died during the past year and are now at rest in Christ:

Margo Bonebrake	Harriette Jersild
Audrey Brown	Joanne Johnson
Robert (Bob) Busse	Dorothy Kodat
Jeremy Chilton	Rosemary Lipka
Edith Ewert	Estella Lynam
Marcia Fogue	Noel Schalk
Martha Heine	Gregory (Greg) Smith
Melvin Holli	Michael Smith
Shirley Holm	Kenneth Stangeland
Harold Hurrelbrink	Harriet Ziegenhals

Fundraising revenues help support Grace School

Parents and grandparents of current Grace School students, Grace School alumni and alumni parents will soon be receiving a letter asking them to support The Annual Fund for Grace School. The Annual Fund is one of three streams of revenue for the school developed over the last five to seven years. The others are the dinner-auction, A Graceful Evening, which takes place in late winter, and the annual all-school walkathon, Walk With Grace, scheduled for May. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, these three fundraisers brought in \$104,454 to support the school's operating budget.

Grace School thrives as an integral part of the ministry of Grace Church because of support from the congregation as well as from the school community. These additional revenue streams have helped the congregation to reduce the amount of its budget that goes to support the school by more than half since fiscal year 2011-12. School families' faithful pledging and their commitment to fulfilling those pledges have also significantly increased school revenue over the past five years. In addition, careful budgeting has kept expenses under control at the school, as has the gradual replacement of retiring staff members with qualified younger teachers. The increases in giving and in other school revenue enable the congregation to meet its fiscal responsibilities and free up funds for other church ministries.

Turning in a pledge card is part of the enrollment and annual re-enrollment process at Grace School.

Parents, especially those with multiple children in the school, may not be able to pledge the full amount of the cost of their child's education, but they are asked for and respond with generous gifts. Many of these parents also support the school with additional donations to the Annual Fund, to Walk With Grace and to A Graceful Evening.

Grace School shares the mission of the congregation: bringing in, building up and sending out disciples for Jesus Christ. Thirteen percent of the school's students come from families with no church affiliation; 27 percent come from the Grace congregation, and 59 percent come from families who belong to other churches. These children leave Grace School with a firm foundation in what it means to live as a child of God, along with solid skills for success in high school and college. With continued faithful stewardship of financial resources, Grace Lutheran Church and School will be able to continue to serve our community.



To make a gift to the Annual Fund, please include "Annual Fund for Grace School" on the memo line of your check.

Grace School updates

Cross country team competes at State and Nationals. Congratulations to the Grace School girls cross-country team who finished 3rd at the Lutheran Sports Association (LSA) State Cross-Country Meet on October 15. Zawadi Brown and Nicole Virzi claimed All-State honors by finishing in the top 15. In the boys division, Paxton Ferencak and Owen Augustine earned All-State honors while leading the boys team to a 5th place finish. The girls went on to finish 8th and the boys 12th out of 52 Lutheran schools represented at Cross Country Nationals in Mequon, Wisconsin, on October 22.

The boys volleyball team, coached by 4th grade teacher Kat Slechta, earned an invitation to the LSA state tournament. They will be competing in Springfield November 4-6.

Early Childhood Open House on Nov. 29, 6-7 p.m. Grace School's early childhood classrooms are busy places where 3, 4, and 5-year-olds explore the world through play, friendship, and structured learning activities. It's not too early to think about preschool and kindergarten enrollment for fall of 2017. Come to the Early Childhood Open House on Tuesday, November 29, from 6 to 7 p.m., and talk with our teachers, explore our classrooms, and learn more about what makes Grace a loving, family-oriented environment for young children.

Grace School funding sources

Grace School expenses		School family contributions		Support from congregation		Fundraising and donations	
FY 2014	\$1,846,529	FY 2014	\$994,608	FY 2012	\$641,780	FY 2014	\$105,704
FY 2015	\$1,676,805	FY 2015	\$967,303	FY 2013	\$592,696	FY 2015	\$106,330
FY 2016	\$1,742,940	FY 2016	1,058,412	FY 2014	\$444,792	FY 2016	\$104,454
				FY 2015	\$302,972		
				FY 2016	\$243,364		

Additional sources of school revenue not noted here include other fundraising activities and various fees.



Photo by Kathryn Brewer.

Early Childhood Open House November 29 6–7 p.m.

- **Talk** with teachers,
- **Visit** classrooms
- **Learn** more about programs for children age 3, 4 and 5 at Grace School.

Call 708-366-6900 for more information.



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