

Next Sunday

Sunday School, Confirmation, and Teen Talk return on January 9. Schedules for the first half of 2022 for Sunday School, Confirmation and Teen Talk can be found on the Grace website.

Adult Education in January

January 16 and 23

We the Fallen People

Tracy McKenzie, Professor of History at Wheaton College and author of “We the Fallen People” discusses the fragile state of American democracy.

January 30

How Luther’s Circle Reached the People: Bugenhagen, Jonas, Cruciger, Spalatin, and Melanchthon

Anna Johnson, Garrett Theological Seminary,

Martin Luther did not do it all by himself. This presentation by a cutting edge theology scholar and Grace member explains who helped him and how.



Thank you from Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank community members, school families and congregation members for their abundant generosity in this year's Christmas collections. Christmas joy was provided to disabled clients served by Oak Leyden Developmental Services; to homeless teens supported and encouraged by The Night Ministry of Chicago; to homeless or abused single young mothers aided by New Moms; to residents of Mills Tower in Oak Park, and to foster children and their families supported by Lutheran Child and Family Services.

Thank you for making Christmas joyful for people served by these loving organizations.

Yoga classes with Ackli Howell resume this month

After a long hiatus, yoga classes, led by Grace member Ackli Howell, will resume on Thursday, January 13, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Classes will take place in Fellowship Hall where everyone can spread out for social distancing. Wear comfortable clothes that you can move in and a mask. Bring your own yoga mat and a blanket or large towel for practice. If you have yoga blocks, please bring them. There is no fee for the class, but a good will offering will be appreciated.

COVID safety protocols for yoga class:

- The instructor requires proof of vaccination.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times while in the church space and during yoga practice.
- Yoga blocks and straps will be provided for those who don't have them. However, the supply is limited. These will be wiped down after each class.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Class will be held provided that current protocols about gatherings/meetings at Grace do not change.

Save the date for the Slovak dinner

Grace's annual dinner fundraiser in support of the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia, is scheduled for January 21. We are hopeful that ticket sales will open next week. Watch for an email with more information.

Fellowship

GriefShare

A GriefShare group meets at Grace on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the church library. The current group runs through January 11. GriefShare support groups are open to all. For more information contact Linda Bernard (773-259-4720; lm_bernard_@hotmail.com).

Cornerstones

Bible study for Grace seniors meets in person in the church library on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Cornerstones resumes after Christmas on January 5.

Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet on January 21 to discuss Sigrid Undset's "Kristin Lavansdatter, Part 2." Amy Claud will lead the discussion. Please contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu if you would like to be added to the email list..

Theology on Tap

Monthly gatherings will resume on January 27, 2022. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

Moms of Littles

Mothers with children of all ages, infants through teens, meet twice a month, once in person and once virtually. Contact Sabrina Maggio (sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com) for meeting updates.

Dads of Grace

Join Pastor Lyle and other dads on Monday, December 27, at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of fellowship. Email Pastor Lyle for the particulars (dlyle@graceriverforest.org).

Men of Grace

Meetings resume after the holidays at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Grace. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

Retired Leaders

This group of retired Christian men and women in former leadership positions in church or community meets monthly in the church library and on Zoom. Retired Chicago policeman Garrick Turner is the guest speaker on January 11 at 10 a.m.

Finding Hope

The support group for people with chronic illness meets on the 2nd Friday of the month. The next meeting is on January 14, 10 a.m., at Grace. Contact Judie McDonnell (judie.mcdonnell@att.net) if you have questions or need to arrange a ride.

Pastors' emergency phone

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care evenings and weekends.