

April 2022

# Grace Notes



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

## Worship in person this Easter season

by Pastor Dave Lyle

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Luke 19:38

These words were shouted on Palm Sunday as Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem. Who shouted them? Luke tells us that it was a “whole multitude” of those following Jesus. As we near Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, I find myself thinking about this “whole multitude.” What if we had a whole multitude of God’s people, a large crowd of Jesus’ disciples, gathered together again at Grace? What if more and more of our Palm Sunday “Hosannas!” and our Easter “Alleluias!” were acclaimed in person, together at Grace?

As we draw near once more to the cross of Calvary and Easter’s empty tomb, perhaps it is time for more of us to consider returning to in-person worship at Grace. Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection stand at the heart of our faith. How good to be together to celebrate these divine mysteries! I am also thinking beyond Easter Sunday, however, to the weekly patterns of coming together as the Body of Christ to receive the Body of Christ.

**In-person worship connects us with the multitude of God’s people.**

We will continue to livestream our worship services. This technology has enabled us to remain connected to one another throughout a multi-year pandemic. It will continue to provide meaningful connections for members who are sick or homebound. It enables members to remain connected while out of town. It even enables my mother to worship with Grace from her home in Minnesota! The technology is a gift we will continue to utilize, with many thanks to those who volunteer to make the livestream happen each week.



Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015

Continued on page 2

# Online worship is not the same as being together

*Continued from page 1*

Nevertheless, it is simply not the same as being together in person. Worshipping online provides only some of the experience. When we worship from home, we miss out on connecting with others; we lose the chance to share our joys and sorrows in spontaneous, Spirit-filled conversations before or after worship. We deprive one another of the gift that is our presence, our voice added to the songs and prayers of the people. And while the Word comes through loud and clear online, we miss out on the sacramental moment when God is placed in our hands in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. This is something that

**When we worship from home ... we lose the chance to share our joys and sorrows in spontaneous, Spirit-filled conversations before or after worship.**

only happens when we are gathered together, flesh-and-blood people receiving the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ.

It is, of course, up to each of you to decide when the time is right to return. Many already have. For some, due to increased risk of serious illness, connecting online is still the right choice.

It is a choice I respect. But I also want you to know you are missed. Jesus Christ is God incarnate; Jesus is an in-person God. As we celebrate his resurrection from the dead, we invite you to return to Grace. I look forward to seeing you in the multitude of those shouting "Hosanna, Alleluia!"

## Returning to the common cup at Holy Communion

**by Pastor Troy Medlin**

We will return to offering the common cup during Holy Communion at Grace beginning at the Easter Vigil.

In our Christian liturgical tradition the common cup is a powerful symbol of our life together in Christ. Taking the body of Christ into our bodies in the sacrament, we become the body of Christ, and having been given the blood of Christ as a gift, his risen life now flows through our veins and we are poured out for the sake of the world. This never happens to us simply as individuals. We are always the body of Christ together. This powerful truth is symbolized by the sharing of the common cup.

However, it is understandable to be concerned about germs being transmitted from one person to another via the common cup. Some experts have studied this question (though not directly in relation to the covid virus) and have stated that the risk of transmission is very small, and probably much smaller than that of contracting an infection by other methods in any gathering of people. And using a cloth to wipe the rim of the cup after each person drinks, as we do at Grace, has been shown to greatly reduce bacteria on the rim of the cup.

As has been our long-standing practice, we will continue to offer the wine in individual cups. With the return of the common cup, you are also welcome to dip the wafer into the wine (intinction) if you prefer.

Whether you choose to receive the wine from the common cup, an individual cup, or by intinction, know that God promises to always meet you in this meal, no matter what. In the bread and wine we are given the fulness of Jesus Christ, his life, forgiveness, and salvation. So come and receive Christ's body and blood given and shed for you.



**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. This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, April 1, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than April 8. Copies are also available at Grace.

**Deadlines and submissions.** The May issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on April 29. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, April 20; the issue covers events through early June. Send news to [ggotsch@gracriverforest.org](mailto:ggotsch@gracriverforest.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.

# WORSHIP AT GRACE IN APRIL

Sunday, April 3

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 10

## SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

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

Isaiah 50:4-9a. Psalm 31:9-16. Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 23:1-49

## HOLY WEEK

### MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, April 11-13

Responsive prayer with the school children, 8:30 a.m.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 14

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26,

John 13:1-17, 31-35

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 15

Adoration of the Cross at 8:30 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25,

John 18:1-19:42.

*The Passion story will be sung in a setting by Richard Hillert at the 7 p.m. service.*

Saturday, April 16, 7 p.m.

## EASTER VIGIL

Old Testament readings, Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 17

## RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

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

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26,

Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, April 25

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Sunday, May 1

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19



## Josef Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross"

**Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.**

**Kontras Quartet and Gracia Grindal**

The Kontras Quartet will again play Joseph Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross" at Grace on Monday evening of Holy Week, April 11, beginning at 7 p.m. The musicians will be joined by poet and theologian Gracia M. Grindal. She will read selections from her book, "Jesus, a Harmony," in which she wrote 366 poems on the life of Jesus.

Haydn's music provides an opportunity to meditate on Christ's passion, as anguish and lament combine with a sense of serene majesty and transcendence. Grindal's poetry adds another level of reflection on the meaning of the salvation story for our lives.

Gracia Grindal is a retired professor of rhetoric and pastoral theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her hymns and hymn translations are published in many hymnals including *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Her most recent book of poetry is titled *The Sword of Eden: Eve and Mary Speak*. It connects the two women within the biblical story of salvation, using poems written in sonnet form.



The Kontras Quartet is in residence at Grace, playing once a month in Sunday morning worship services and presenting free concerts several times each year. Violinists Eleanor Bartsch and Francois Henkins, violist Ben Weber, and cellist Jean Hatmaker are all active as professional musicians and teachers here in the Chicago area and around the Midwest. Read more about the quartet at [KontrasQuartet.com](http://KontrasQuartet.com).



## Sunday, April 24, 9:45 a.m. Journey with Jesus through Holy Week to Easter

On the Sunday after Easter, April 24, Grace families, confirmation students, and high school students are invited to a special retelling of the story of Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to the Good Friday cross and ultimately to the resurrection. The journey begins in the church narthex at 9:45 a.m. As we move from place to place in the church, we'll hear in story and song how Jesus showed his love for us in his suffering, death and resurrection.

Grace members of all ages are welcome to join us!



## Adult Ed classes this spring

Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the lower-level Seminar Room and on Zoom. You'll find the Zoom link at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) > Faith Formation > Adult Ed. 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](mailto:tanton@depaul.edu)).

There are no Adult Ed classes scheduled for Sundays in April.

### May 1

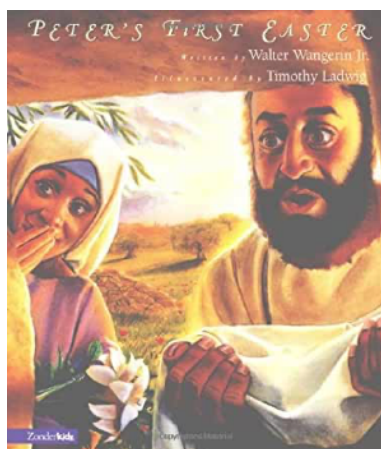
**"What the Earth Knows" with Benjamin M. Stewart, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.**

How the Bible's wisdom tradition ponders death to appreciate life.

## Easter picture books are for everyone!

The books in the church library along the north wall under the windows are identified as "children's books." But they really should be called FAMILY books. Wonderful, read-aloud stories enjoyed by everyone!

Here are some suggestions for the Easter season:



*Peter's First Easter* by Walter Wangerin. Follow in the imagined footsteps of the disciple Peter from the Lord's Supper through the crucifixion to Easter morning – and all the way to Jesus' command, "Feed my sheep."

*The First Easter* by Nancy Skarmas. Written almost like a chapter book, each page shares a traditional painted

illustration along with stories about Jesus's life from the calling of the disciples to his ascension.

*The Time of Easter* by Suzanne Richterkessing. One of the "Mouse Prints" series explaining the seasons of the church year for children, this book shares many of our Lutheran Lent and Easter traditions.

*The Legend of the Easter Robin* by Dandi Daley Mackall. This beautifully illustrated book shares the Pennsylvania Dutch legend of the compassion of the robin and the sacrifice of Christ.

*The Easter Story* by Brian Wildsmith. The small donkey who carried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday becomes a witness to the passion of the Savior, his resurrection and eventual ascension. The detailed, gold-tone illustrations will hold your attention long after the words are read.

Look for these books and others about Easter — for all ages — in the library



### Q: When will cookies be back in the Church Library on Sunday mornings?

**A:** As soon as there is a group of volunteers to act as hosts in the library on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, contact Linda Street ([kentuckystreets53@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckystreets53@gmail.com)).

You don't have to join the library committee or come to any monthly meetings. You may work from 9:30–12:15 or any part thereof, and sign up for the Sundays that suit your schedule.

Let's get those snacks and fellowship time back up and running. See you in the library soon!



**April 24, 3:45 p.m.**

## ***Halt im Gedächtnis Jesum Christ, BWV 67***

**Hold in remembrance Jesus Christ**

**Guest choir**

Concordia University Kapelle, Charles Brown, director

**Homilist**

E. Jon Benson, Saint John Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa,

**Organ Prelude**

Steven Wente, Concordia University Chicago, guest organist

**Preview Lecture**

Mark Peters, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

**Motet:** di Lasso: *Surrexit Pastor Bonus*

**Amy Anderson de Jong, mezzo soprano**

**Ryan Townsend Strand, tenor**

**Douglas Anderson, baritone**

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra,**

**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello, conducting**

## **Update from the**

The next two boys are doing well in school. Their English is improving quickly, and they look forward to summer adventures in Chicago. The three youngest girls are home with their mother. Recently a family at Grace donated a bike for one of the girls, and the fourth-grade class at Grace School collected funds to purchase a new futon for them.

**As the weather moves into summer, this family will need two small window air-conditioners.** If you can help with this, please contact Linda Street.

We are partners in co-sponsoring this Afghan family with Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. This collaboration is such a rich experience for all involved. We plan to partner with other churches in the future.

The Refugee Ministry at Grace is a clear picture of Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 12:14-31. There are

many parts of our Christian "body" called into service as we meet the needs of each refugee. Stay tuned for upcoming messages and requests – perhaps this ministry will call to a God-given gift you possess.

### **by Linda Street**

**Our Rohingya family** is adapting well to living in America. The husband has a job working as a cleaner at Midway. This is not the job he was hoping for, but it supports his family for the short term, and he is always looking for a better opportunity. He cooks us wonderful ethnic dishes when we visit. The mother is picking up English so quickly! She has already mastered all the lessons offered by RefugeeOne and will be joining another virtual class soon.

The two boys are in Chicago public schools and doing well. The youngest is a rambunctious little girl who is eager to get outside now that the weather is getting warmer.

We have officially passed the six-month co-sponsor requirement with this family – but clearly have fallen in love with them and will remain available to assist them with new issues as they come up.

**Our Afghan family** is also finding their way in American culture. As you may remember, the father of this family died shortly before their evacuation. So, although he wants to attend school full time, the oldest son has taken a job to help his family cover their expenses. He will attend college part time for now.

**We will soon be recruiting volunteers for a third Refugee Ministry Team to work with a third family. If you are interested in being part of this work or would like more information, please contact Linda Street ([kentuckystreets53@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckystreets53@gmail.com)).**



## Let's Go To The Hop!



**Friday, April 22, 6-8 p.m.**

Bring the family to Grace for a good old-fashioned sock hop!

- DJ playing rock 'n roll oldies
- Games, activities and contests
- Dress up like it's the 1950s, or just come as you are
- Admission price includes dinner, with drive-in favorites like sliders, crinkle fries, root beer floats and Jello

Sign up at [GraceRiverForest.org](https://graceriverforest.org). \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Pay using your Venmo app. Or bring cash the day of the event. (On Venmo search for Grace Lutheran Church/School or @graceriverforest. Please type Sock Hop in the comment box.)

## Vacation Bible School 2022

Five mornings full of stories, songs, crafts and games "Celebrating God's Greatness"

For kids in 3-year-old preschool through 4th grade during the 2021-22 school year

Register now by clicking on the link at [GraceRiverForest.org](https://graceriverforest.org) or in emails from Grace. The VBS fee is \$35/child, or \$65/family.

### Vacation Bible School

#### A southwest adventure

**for children age 3 through 4th grade!**  
**Monday–Friday, June 13–17, 8:30–11:30am**

## First Communion students, confirmands learn and serve together



Meredith Brayton and her mentor, Susan Walsh.

Eighth-grade confirmands and their mentors prepared and served breakfast between services on Sunday, February 27. It was good to be back sharing a meal again in Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from the free-will offering were donated to New Moms.



Fourth graders and their parents joined Pastor Lyle and Pastor Medlin to learn about the sacrament at the annual Communion Retreat on Friday evening, March 4. Many of these children will take communion for the first time on Palm Sunday, April 10. Watch for a video playing in the atrium that Sunday in which they talk about what receiving communion means to them.

# YOUTH MINISTRY RUMMAGE SALE



**FRIDAY, JUNE 10**  
**8am–5pm**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**  
**9am–1pm**

## **DONATION DROP-OFF DATES**

**Saturday, June 4, 1–4 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 5, 1–5 p.m.**

**Monday–Wednesday, June 6–8,**  
**9 a.m.–7 p.m.**

The Youth Ministry Rummage Sale is back this year. The Grace Youth are raising money for a retreat in July, other summer 2022 activities, and the Appalachian Service Project which they hope to participate in during the summer of 2023. When you donate your gently used items to the rummage sale, you'll be supporting these and other activities as Grace youth grow and serve as the body of Christ.

Pastor Troy and the Grace Youth

We welcome your donations, but there are some items we cannot accept for the sale. As you clean your closets and empty out the attic, please take note of what kinds of donations we'll accept gladly and of the things we cannot accept.

### **Donations we will accept**

Arts and crafts, jewelry  
Books, records, CDs, videotapes, and DVDs  
Clothing, shoes and boots  
Collectibles, antiques and knickknacks  
Dishes, glassware and kitchen utensils  
Games, toys and puzzles  
Hand tools and small power tools  
Hats, gloves, mittens and scarves  
Holiday items  
Lamps and small appliances  
Linens, curtains, blankets, etc.  
Sports equipment  
Small furniture: chairs and stools, nightstands, coffee tables, side tables, chest of drawers, small desks and bookcases

### **Donations we will not accept**

Electronics: monitors, TVs, hard drives, laptops, cell phones, VCRs, DVD players, etc.

Appliances: stoves/ovens, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, exercise equipment, etc.

Furniture: couches, sectionals, loveseats, mattresses, bed frames, desks, other large office furniture, kitchen or dining tables, dressers, large bookcases, entertainment centers, pianos, etc.

Baby items: cribs, car seats, walkers, or other products that do not meet the current safety standards of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission

## GRACEFUL EVENING

Thank you to all the sponsors, advertisers, donors, and volunteers who helped to make Graceful Evening come together so beautifully. And thank you to everyone who came to the event. Your generosity helped us raise over \$80,000 for Grace Lutheran School!

Save the date for next year's Graceful Evening on March 11, 2023!



# Grace Vocations Scholarships: Raising up a new generation of leaders for God's work in the world

Applications for Grace Vocations Scholarships are being accepted through June 15, 2022. If you've heard of these scholarships before, perhaps you thought they are for students going to seminary to become a pastor. While that is certainly true, the mission and purpose is far broader as the first paragraph on the application clearly states:

Recognizing the blessings of strong leadership, Grace Lutheran Church is committed to an intentional focus of raising up a new generation of leaders for the mission and ministry of the church. Through the Church Vocations Initiative, Grace will provide support, encouragement, and financial assistance to members who wish to pursue a vocational ministry, either within the church or in the secular world.

In a world changed by Covid-19, itself a corona or crown of thorns, questions about what truly matters have come to more prominence. There are entire fields of study on the impact of spirituality on physical and mental health. Others study eco-spirituality as a means for supporting environmental sustainability – literally the work of protecting Creation given to us by God in the first chapter of Genesis. Careers in equity, fairness, and building a values-based economy can also be a route for pursuing God's work in the secular world.

All these fields of study and career goals qualify as pursuit of a vocational ministry that can be supported by a Grace Vocations Scholarship. Recent recipients have used it to pursue medical and social work degrees as well as seminary study.

There are those who hear a clear call to ministry while for others the signal can break up for a long time in their lives. Vocations Scholarship recipient Amy Gillespie started out studying psychology, getting a Master of Social Work, and then working in social services before going to seminary and becoming a pastor. She phrased it this way when asked how being a Vocations Scholarship recipient helped her:

It helped me knowing that the people of Grace saw something in me, that they were willing to take a chance on a college kid who didn't know exactly what path she would take. At that point, it wasn't clear that I'd have a church vocation, but I always felt that support and encouragement!

Vocation Scholarships are Grace's way of strengthening the signal so that the word of Christ can be heard.

- Scholarships are available for members of Grace who are full-time students in a graduate program or their last two years of undergraduate work.
- Email Esther Armstrong ([earmstrong@graceriverforest.org](mailto:earmstrong@graceriverforest.org)) for a copy of the application.
- Applications are also available at the reception desk at Grace.
- If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Lyle ([dlyle@graceriverforest.org](mailto:dlyle@graceriverforest.org)) or Kate Hogenson at [khogenson@loyaltylandscape.com](mailto:khogenson@loyaltylandscape.com).
- Applications are due June 15!

## Slovak Benefit Dinner

**Friday, May 20, 6 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

Cocktails and dinner in support of the  
Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia

Tickets, \$50 Table of 8, \$400

Go to [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) to purchase tickets.

The Center for Christian Education is a place where people of all ages can learn and experience the love of Christ. The CCE shares the gospel in this post-communist part of the world via excellent quality education focused on theology, social ministry and mission. Come to the dinner and learn more as Bohdan Hroboň, President of CCE, and his colleagues describe the growth of the CCE's elementary and high school programs and plans for the future.





# Harmony Gala is online on April 30



Harmony Community Cares (HCC) will host its 2nd Annual Virtual Gala on Saturday, April 30, 2022. You're invited to tune in for a hope-filled evening focused on the HCC's work in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood.

Money raised at the Gala will be used to increase the capacity and reach of Harmony's Food Pantry and expand food delivery services to seniors and other people who find it difficult to come to the pantry on their own. Funding is also needed for the expansion of tutoring and community arts programs that help to close the educational and cultural gap that exists for children in North Lawndale.

The mission of Harmony Community Cares is to *plant seeds of love and cultivate hope by providing access to healthy food, academic enrichment, social and spiritual support, and a safe environment for people in North Lawndale and surrounding communities.*

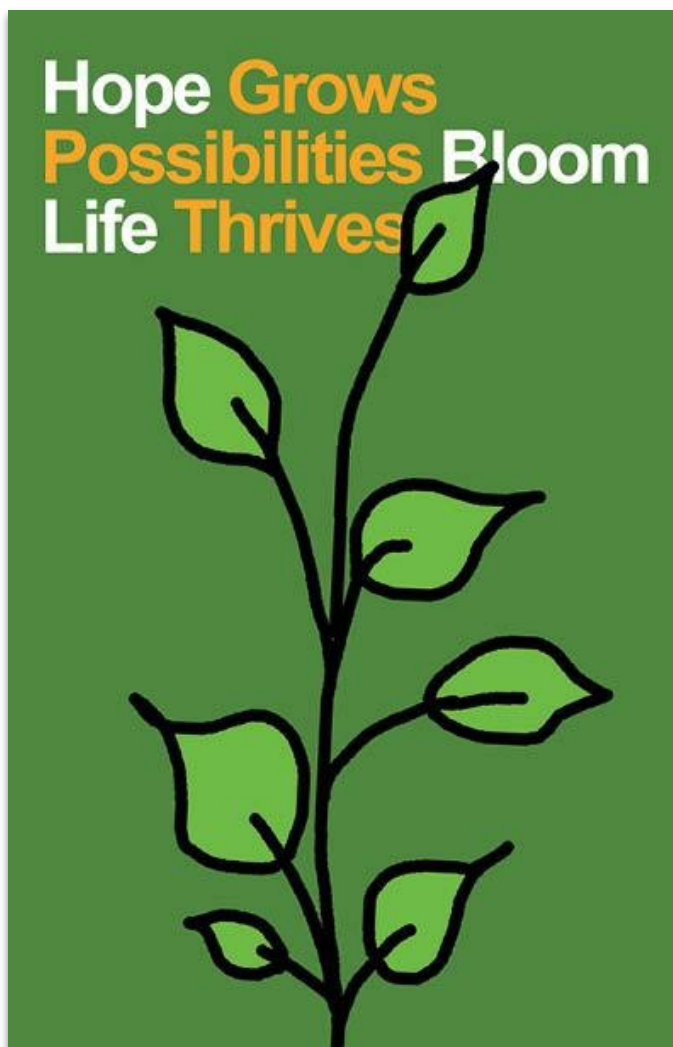
These west side neighborhoods are resilient communities, filled with people who are hopeful, hard-working and dedicated to making their community thrive. Come to the Virtual Gala and support the work of Harmony Community Cares!

## How to attend the Virtual Gala

- ◆ Register at [bidpal.net/hcc2022gala](https://bidpal.net/hcc2022gala).
- ◆ You'll receive a link to watch the Gala online.
- ◆ Plan to tune in. Even better, gather friends together for a watch party!
- ◆ Check out the exciting raffles, donate to the Fund-A-Need projects, become a sponsor, or simply donate.
- ◆ Tune in on Saturday, April 30, 7 p.m. for inspiring stories from the North Lawndale community and a hope-filled message from Pastor James Brooks and his daughter Jaylah.
- ◆ Participate in the paddle raise and find out if you're holding a winning raffle ticket!
- ◆ Help support the important work of Harmony Community Cares!



Questions? Interested in a sponsorship? Contact Sue Foran at [suef@harmonycommunitycares.org](mailto:suef@harmonycommunitycares.org).



## FELLOWSHIP

### Grace Notes mailing crew

This newsletter crew will be at work again on Thursday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact Marlene Hallman (708-562-5476), or just come!

### Cornerstones

Bible study for seniors on Wednesdays. Treats and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study with the pastors at 10 a.m. The group does not meet on April 13. There is worship at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.

### Theology on Tap

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. The next gathering is on April 28. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org) for more information.

### Moms of Littles

Mothers with children of any and all ages, infants through teens, meet at 6:30 p.m. at Grace on the first and third Thursday of the month for community and support. Contact Sabrina Maggio (sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com) for updates.

### Dads of Grace

Join Pastor Lyle and other dads on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of fellowship. Email Pastor Lyle for the particulars (dlyle@graceriverforest.org).

### Men of Grace

The Men of Grace group meets at Grace on the last Saturday of the month, April 30, 9 a.m. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

### Yoga

Weekly yoga classes taught by Ackli Howell meet on Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own yoga mat and a blanket or large towel. Please wear a mask; the instructor requires proof of vaccination. There is no fee for the class, but a good will offering will be appreciated. Questions? Please call Ackli at 708-516-2701.

### Religion in Literature

Religion in Literature will meet April 22 to discuss Wendell Berry's "Jayber Crow," led by Steve Peterson. Two copies of the book are available in the church library. Contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu to be added to the email list.

### Finding Hope

This support group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The next meeting is on April 8. Contact Judie McDonnell (judie.mcdonnell@att.net) for more information.

### Moms of Teens and Young Adults

The new fellowship group Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults fosters community among women whose children are growing up into adulthood. Contact Jessica Bullock (jesbullock23@gmail.com) to be added to the group email list.

## Retired Leaders

This group of retired Christian men and women in former leadership positions in the church or community meets April 12, 10 a.m., in the church library and on Zoom. The presenter will be Wyvetta Bullock, retired Executive for Administration at the ELCA, speaking on the ELCA today and the long-term impact of COVID on the parish.

## PRAYERS

The weekly **Prayer List** can be found in the worship bulletin on Sunday. Contact Esther Armstrong (708-366-6900 ext 207; earmstrong@graceriverforest.org) to be included on the published prayer list. Contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) or Kathy Garness (KMGfinearts@comcast.net) with confidential prayer chain requests.

**WE PRAY** for all who mourn the death of Gloria Hillert.

**WE CELEBRATE** with Sophie, Henry, and Charlie Galeener who will be baptized on Sunday, April 24.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

### Church budgeted contributions

July 1, 2021 – March 29, 2022                      \$ 1,470,000  
(39 Sundays, \$37,700 per week)

### Church actual contributions

July 1, 2021 – March 29, 2022                      \$ 1,240,000  
(Last year at this time: \$1,157,000)

Church giving is \$230,000 (16%) below budget and \$83,000 (7%) ahead of last year.

## Building hours

**Monday through Friday**, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open evenings for scheduled meetings and activities.

**Sundays**, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and for scheduled activities in the afternoon and evening.

**Good Friday, April 15**, the building closes at 1:30 p.m. and reopens for evening worship.

The building will be closed on **Monday, April 18**.

Masks are no longer required at Grace during the school day or for worship services.

### Pastors' emergency phone

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

# Grace welcomes new members



Grace Church is welcoming new members into our community. They participated in a New Member Class during February and were received into membership during worship services on Sunday, March 6.

Front row, left to right: Karrick (Karrie) Major, Naomi Rowley, Liz Hanson, Nina Helgeson, Christina Starrick, Megan Galeener.

Back row: Daniel Johnson, Gordon Rowley, Glenn Johnson, Andrew Dorsch, Michael Starrick, Aaron Galeener.

Not pictured: Oliver and Teddy Dorsch; Sophia, Henry and Charlie Galeener; Lance, Lucas and Elsie Helgeson; Renata Serpico, and Katy, Mikey and Millie Starrick.

## Grace Lutheran School Faith ■ Academics ■ Character



### Early Childhood age 3 to 5

- All-day kindergarten
- Half-day and full-day programs for 3- and 4-year olds
- 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

Learn more at [GraceSchoolRF.org](http://GraceSchoolRF.org)



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL**

**Schedule a visit**

Call 708-366-6901

Or email Tina Baird

([tbaird@graceriverforest.org](mailto:tbaird@graceriverforest.org))

## Job openings at Grace Church and School

### Grace is looking for a Discipleship and Fellowship

**Coordinator.** The new, full-time staff position will have the primary responsibility to connect members to members, members to ministry opportunities, and the congregation to the community, empowering Grace to better live out its ministry among its membership and to connect with the community for the sake of the gospel. Essential duties include supporting committees, recruiting and training volunteers, creating fellowship opportunities, and reaching out to the community.

Thanks to generous funding from an anonymous donor and a Legacy of Grace grant, this position is fully funded for the first three years. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and résumé with references to Pastor Dave Lyle at [dlyle@graceriverforest.org](mailto:dlyle@graceriverforest.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

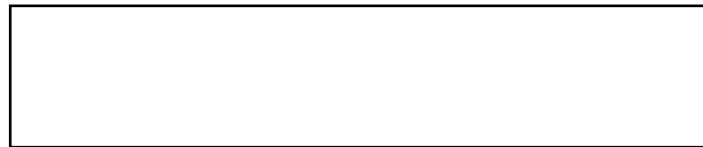
Grace Church is also seeking a **part-time Assistant Cantor**, and Grace School is seeking a **Director of Enrollment and Marketing**. More information about all of these positions is available at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) > Home > Employment.



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& SCHOOL

7300 Division St.  
River Forest, IL 60305

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**Sunday, September 18**

**All-Grace Gathering  
at the Church-School Picnic  
Worship service at 10 a.m.  
followed by food, fun and fellowship**

Plans are in the works for the return of the annual Church-School Picnic, marking the beginning of the 2022-23 ministry year.  
We're also inviting Grace School alumni to come back to Grace that day, to reminisce with old friends and classmates, tour the building and join us in celebrating Grace School's 127th anniversary.  
Watch for details this summer!

