

June-July 2022

Grace Notes



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

Waiting for the Spirit

by Pastor Dave Lyle

They are waiting. Leaving the house this morning, our kids happily reported, “Only seven and a half days left!” Left of what? School, of course. My kids like school; after all, they attend Grace! Still, the allure of summer is too strong for even the most studious children to resist. And so they wait, yearning for the warm breath of summer breezes.

As a parent, I not only look forward to summer; I look back upon a year of growth. My kids are another year closer to discovering who they will be when they grow up. Much more importantly, they have learned more about who they are: children of God, beloved and redeemed by Jesus Christ, alive with the breath of the Holy Spirit. They may be waiting for summer vacation (which is closer now as you read this than when I wrote it), and they may be waiting for what the future brings, but they don’t need to wait to know who they are. They are children of God, named and claimed in the waters of baptism.

On Pentecost, the disciples are waiting. They have been waiting fifty days since the surprising dawn of Easter. For the last ten days, they’ve been waiting without the presence of Jesus. He has ascended to his Father. They have been left to wait. Not idly, however. They devote themselves to prayer. They discern and call Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve. But they wait, unsure of what God will do next; uncertain as to what they will be when they grow up, you might say.

The Spirit comes to remind us of who we already are.



Then, on the day of Pentecost, their waiting comes to an end: “Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a

tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability” (Acts 2:2-4).

Suddenly, the future was wide open. It was also grounded firmly in the past. They speak to the crowds of God’s deeds of power, specifically of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, of how their future and everything they will become has already been promised and guaranteed by God for the sake of Jesus Christ. Whatever the disciples become, they are already who they are: children of God, beloved and redeemed by Jesus Christ, alive with the breath of the Holy Spirit.

The work of the Holy Spirit is not to make us more “spiritual,” whatever that might mean. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us to connect us in faith to the risen Christ. St. Paul writes, “When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:15b-17a). The Spirit comes to remind us of who we already are, and then calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us to help bring God’s future to pass.

We have seen the Holy Spirit in action recently, poured out in Holy Baptism upon the Galeener siblings and the Starrick siblings. It is a marvelous thing to see the Spirit so clearly at work. As we enter summer and a new season in the church year, we are called to open ourselves to the Spirit’s work, even when the Spirit’s actions are not as clear. To what ministry, at Grace and beyond, are we being called? Where do

we need enlightenment? For what purposes has God made us holy? Answering the Spirit’s invitation to gather with other Christians in worship can make the answers to these questions clearer. I hope to see you at Grace throughout the summer, listening for the Spirit’s voice on Sunday mornings and at GLOW.

Whatever the future holds, this summer and beyond; whatever you become (if ever you grow up); no matter what unfolds in this world’s uncertain future, know this: You are already who you need to be. You are a child of God, forgiven and freed by the work of Christ. Upon you has the Holy Spirit been poured out. In you, by the Spirit, God has taken up residence. Whatever you’ve been waiting for, you don’t have to wait for God’s promise. Sent by the Father and the Son, the Spirit is with you, and you are alive in Christ.



Millie, Mikey, and Katy Starrick were baptized on May 15, 2022 at the 8:30 a.m. service.

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, May 27, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than June 3. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The August issue of Grace Notes will be mailed at the end of July. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, July 20; the issue covers events through early September. Send news to gracechurch@graceriverforest.org. Please limit submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.



Summer GLOW worship

Wednesdays, June 15–August 10

6–7:30 p.m. (no GLOW on July 6)

Outdoors in front of Grace
In the atrium in case of rain

Reasons to come to GLOW

- Casual supper, informal worship and faith conversations for people of all ages
- Connect with other members of the Grace community in the middle of the week.
- Talk with other Christians about how God appears in our day-to-day lives.
- Participate in faith conversations with children.
- Sing songs about God, some serious, some with actions.
- Enjoy a meal planned by someone else!

Watch for an emailed link to the weekly sign-up.

Sabbatical for Pastor Costello

Pastor Michael Costello, Grace's Cantor, will be taking a sabbatical this summer, spending time in Germany, attending conferences, enjoying some time with his family, and working on evaluating and organizing resources in the Music Office. Pastor Costello's call to Grace began in May 2008, fourteen years ago. Pastors and Cantors at Grace are eligible for a 12-week sabbatical following every seven years of ministry to Grace, subject to approval by the Board of Spiritual Life and Church Council.

Filling in for Pastor Costello on the organ bench this summer will be Thomas Schmidt, who served as Cantor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City for 25 years until his retirement in 2017. Before his time at St. Peter's he was a professor in the music department of Concordia College, Bronxville, New York. Substituting for Tom on occasion will be Steven Wente, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Concordia University Chicago. Both organists have played for Cantata Vespers and other worship services at Grace.

Pastor Costello reports, "The Church's song is in good hands this summer."

Worship

Sunday, June 5

DAY OF PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17,
John 14:8-17, 25-27

Sunday, June 12

THE HOLY TRINITY

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Sunday, June 19

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:19-28, Galatians 3:23-29,
Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 26

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16, Galatians 5:1, 13-25;
Luke 9:51-62

Sunday, July 3

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 7 p.m.
Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 66:1-9, Galatians 6:1-16, Luke 10:1-11,
16-20

Sunday, July 10

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21;
John 17:20-26

Sunday, July 17

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Genesis 18:1-10a, Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 24

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-19, Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, July 31

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12,
Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Thankful for blessings, we support Grace with our financial gifts

As we near the end of Grace's fiscal year on June 30, we look back at the many blessings we have shared as members of this congregation. We have rejoiced with families as children are baptized, we have welcomed new members as they joined us in ministry and gratefully remembered and mourned the loss of faithful friends as we gathered at their services of remembrance and thanksgiving. We congratulated ninth-grade confirmands last fall, and we look forward to another class of Grace Lutheran School that will soon graduate.

We are thankful for the many ways that we are able to come together to share Jesus' love with one another: worship on Sundays, Adult Education and Sunday School classes, Bach Cantata Vespers and Vacation Bible School. And last month we welcomed the return of Grace Lutheran on Wednesdays – GLOW – providing us with another opportunity to reconnect with one another through a meal, a casual worship experience and Christ-centered conversation.

The ministry and mission of Grace Lutheran Church and School is making a difference in the lives of so many people in our community and our world. Our outreach includes advocating for peace and justice, hosting food and school supply drives, Christmas gift-giving and our refugee ministry that helps refugees build new lives in Chicago. We walk alongside our siblings in Christ at Harmony Community Church in Chicago and with the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia. And for more than 126 years Grace Lutheran School has provided a distinctive Christian education that brings in, builds up and sends out disciples for Christ.

Your prayers and your contributions support these ministries and so much more, and our church could not carry out this work without your partnership. The ministry to each other and to our neighbors calls for commitment and sustained financial giving from all of us. This commitment is more important than ever as we continue to return to the kind of outreach and ministry we supported before the start of the pandemic.

As you reflect on this past year at Grace, please make sure that your giving is current. And if you are able, we hope that you will consider a special year-end gift to support this life-giving work. Thank you to everyone. Your support makes our ministry together possible.

Place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday mornings during worship, or consider making your contribution online at Grace's website. You can make a one-time year-end gift there or even set up a recurring contribution.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1, 2021 – April 26, 2022 \$ 1,772,000
(47 Sundays, \$37,700 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1, 2021 – April 26, 2022 \$ 1,498,000
(Last year at this time: \$1,403,000)

Church giving is \$274,000 (15%) below budget and \$95,000 (7%) ahead of last year.

The General Fund deficit is estimated to be approximately \$140,000 as of Tuesday, May 31. This compares to a \$231,000 deficit through May 31 in 2021. We are in better shape than we were a year ago, but still need increased giving during the month of June to erase the deficit.

Congregation Meeting June 12, 12:15 p.m. In the sanctuary

The June meeting of the congregation includes the approval of the budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year as well as reports from Pastor Lyle, Pastor Medlin, and Principal Koehne.

Employment at Grace Church and School

Communications Coordinator

The Communications Coordinator has the primary responsibility to create, coordinate, and drive communication and publicity for Grace Lutheran Church and School to inform and educate church members, school families, and the community in support of Grace's mission. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and a portfolio of their work to Grace's Senior Pastor, David Lyle (dlyle@graceriverforest.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Grace Church is also seeking a **part-time Parish Nurse** and a **part-time Assistant Cantor**.

Grace School is seeking a **Director of Enrollment and Marketing** and a **School Administrative Assistant**.

More information about all of these positions is available at GraceRiverForest.org > Home > Employment.

Slovak visitors teach, preach and cook

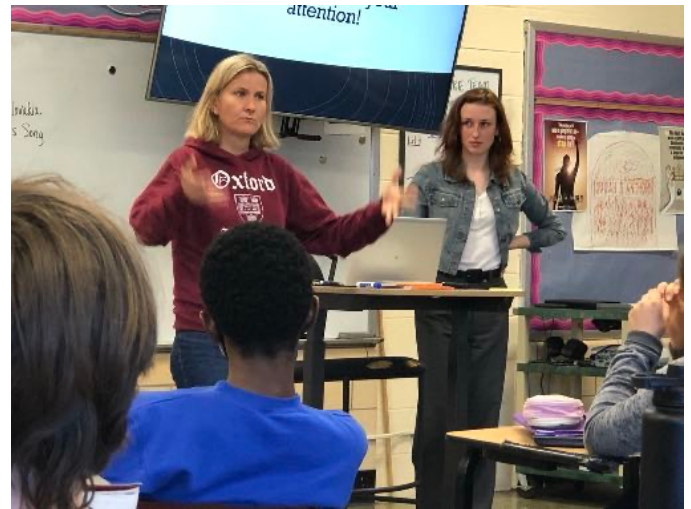


Representatives of the Center for Christian Education (CCE) in Martin, Slovakia, visited Grace on the weekend of May 20-22. Pastor Natalia Kacianova was our guest preacher in Sunday morning worship. She and Magdalena Valco also visited the 8th grade class at Grace School and told students about Slovakia and about the work being done in Martin to assist people crossing the border from Ukraine seeking safety. Eighth grade classes at Grace traditionally collect money for a class gift to a charitable organization chosen by the students. This year's class is directing their gift to the CCE, for ministry to Ukrainian refugees.

Approximately 80 people attended the Slovak Benefit Dinner on Friday evening, May 20, and enjoyed traditional Slovak goulash prepared by Bohdan Hrobon and Adrian Kacian. Money raised at the dinner supports programs at the CCE that spread the gospel in this post-communist part of the world and reintroduce a church which is faithful to its calling and relevant in today's society.

Above: Grace School 8th grade class with Magdalena (Maggie) Valco (center). Right: Pastor Natalia Kacianova and Maggie told the class about Slovakia and the mission of the CCE.

After two summers of being unable to travel because of Covid, a team from Grace will again be going to Slovakia to lead Vacation Bible School, this summer, July 4-8. The group includes Pastor Lyle and Julie Modrich, along with Kathryn and Bob Jandeska, Linda and Scott Street, Ellie Schnack, Will, Amanda and Aubrey Steelman, and Katarina Modrich.



Monday–Friday, June 13–17
8:30–11:30am

It's not too late to sign up for VBS at Grace

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

Click on the link at GraceRiverForest.org or in emails from Grace to register

The VBS fee is \$35/child, or \$65/family



Clockwise from top: Larry Garber, Susan Bogner, Ackli Howell, new Stephen Ministers.

New Stephen Ministers

Ackli Howell, Susan Bogner, and Larry Garber, will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers in worship services on Sunday, June 5. Stephen Ministers are Christian men and women who are trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life. They are there to care for people who are hurting — *after* the diagnosis, *after* the funeral, *after* the end of the relationship, or in other hard times.

Grace is blessed with a thriving and active group of Stephen Ministers ready to walk with you and hear your story. If you feel you would benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please talk with one of the pastors or email the Stephen Ministry Leaders at our confidential email: stephenministry@graceriverforest.org.

Donate to the food drive in June, sponsored by Social Ministry

Summer food drive. The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a food drive in June. Pick up a bag at church on Sunday morning, June 5, and return it filled with non-perishable items by Sunday, June 19. Donations will be shared with clients served by Beyond Hunger, the Forest Park Food Pantry, and the Harmony Community Food Pantry.

Thank you. Grace members donated a full bin of very nice court clothes for clients of the Lawndale Christian Legal Center (LCLC). Stephanie and Lance Wilkening delivered the clothes to LCLC's offices and chatted with Latrionna Moore, the Director of Human Resources and Administration, who thanked the congregation for the generous donation.

Scholarship applications due June 15

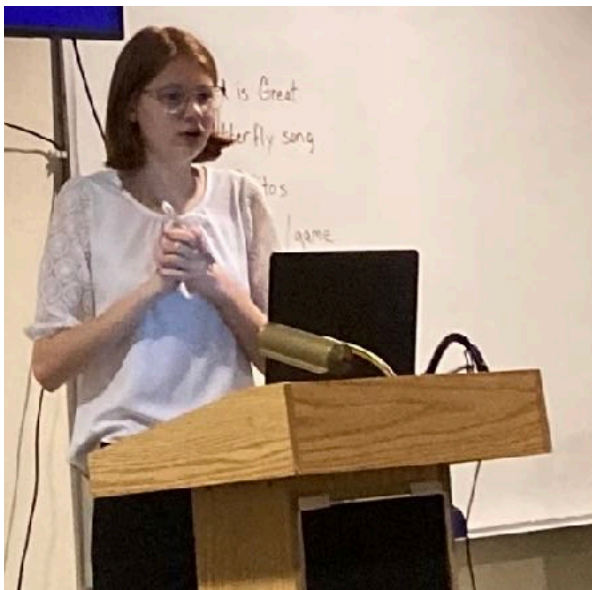
Through the Church Vocations Initiative, Grace Church provides support, encouragement, and financial assistance to members who wish to pursue a vocational ministry, either within the church or in the secular world. This may include fields of study related to health, human services, or advocacy, as well as more traditional careers in religious studies and church work.

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) for a copy of the application. Or go to GraceRiverForest.org and click on the News story for a link to the online application. Applications are due June 15!

Youth activities this summer

Grace youth, led by Pastor Troy, are making plans for service and for summer fun. They had hoped to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, but that was cancelled earlier this year because of uncertainties surrounding the pandemic. But there's still plenty to do!

Grace teens will be volunteering at the Rummage Sale and at VBS and they'll be taking a trip to the Feed My Starving Children facility to pack meals for people in need around the world. They'll also be attending a lock-in at Grace on June 17-18 and a retreat at Blue Harbor Water Park and Resort in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, at the end of July. For more information about these activities contact Pastor Troy, or watch for emails sent to youth currently in grades 8-12 and to their parents.



Grace member Charlotte Meyer, a senior at Oak Park River Forest High School, presented "COP26 and Beyond" during the Adult Ed hour on May 22. She reported on her trip to the UN Climate Change Conference, held in Glasgow in the fall of 2021. The conference made some progress on agreements between nations to slow the pace of climate change; Charlotte's report included the pros and cons of the meeting's outcome. View her slides on the Grace website (GraceRiverForest.org) for information about resources for learning about climate change and taking action locally.

The Rummage Sale needs volunteers



SALE DATES

**Friday, June 10
8am–5pm**

**Saturday, June 11
9am–1pm**

Are you a lover of garage sales? Someone who loves poking through bags and boxes in search of surprises? Volunteer to help with the Rummage Sale!

We haven't had a rummage sale at Grace since 2019, before Covid precautions shut everything down in the spring and summer of 2020. But the big sale is back this year, and Julie Modrich, the Children's Ministry Coordinator and veteran rummage sale manager, predicts that there will be a lot of great donations from Grace members who've been accumulating stuff for the last two years.

Reselling, reusing, and donating gently used items to local charities is a lot better than dumping stuff we no longer need into landfills. The Grace Rummage Sale makes this kind of recycling possible. The sale also raises money for Youth Ministry activities and gives teens valuable experience in working together and even in customer service.

The Rummage Sale crew needs the support of additional volunteers. Do you have a few hours to spare on the weekend of June 4-5 or on Saturday, June 11? Are you someone able to help out on a weekday afternoon or early evening, to get items sorted and displayed? Are you — maybe — a lover of garage sales yourself, or someone who enjoys poking through bags and boxes full of surprises? Do you have a knack for displaying things in an appealing way? Or are you a curious bargain hunter who might appreciate a first look at what's in the sale?

These are all good reasons to sign up to help! Go to GraceRiverForest.org and scroll down to the News section, click on Rummage Sale and you'll find a link to the volunteer sign-up. If you need more information about donation drop-off, check the box at right.

And don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about the big Rummage Sale at Grace on June 10 and 11.

DONATION DROP-OFF

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.**

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; sports equipment; small furniture: chairs and stools, nightstands, coffee tables, side tables, chests 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.

From the archives

Remembering Albert Enno Kaepfel and the Illuminations

The curious documents pictured at right can be seen in the Grace Church archives. The artist who created them, Albert Enno Kaepfel, wrote about them in a 2005 letter to Grace member John Stanger who had inquired about them.

Rev. Otto Geiseman [pastor of Grace 1922-63] was a friend of mine as well as my minister and handball opponent. ... He asked me to produce some different type of remembrance for valued gifts by members of the congregation. ... I was 18 years old and an art student at the Art Institute on Michigan Avenue.

What Kaepfel came up with were parchment memorials, illuminated in the style of medieval manuscripts such as the Book of Kells. The plan was to bind the individual pages together in a book that would be kept in the narthex of the church. That never happened, but the 12 illuminations and the book title page (top right) are still in the archives, along with a clipping from the Oak Leaves, the local paper, explaining the project.

Kaepfel died in 2010 at the age of 102. He told Stanger:

I have spent a great part of my life as an artist and my oil painting were my livelihood. I have visited and painted in more than 20 countries over the years.

He was still producing art in his 97th year.

Thanks to Jim McClanahan for finding and sharing the Kaepfel letter, the news clipping and the photos.



Travel without leaving home: read a book!

by Linda Street, for the Grace Church Library Committee

The church library atrium display case will soon hold a collection of books covering the topic of travel — local sites to visit, global excursions, road trips, spiritual journeys, travel with family, solo adventures — you get the idea. Some of the books recount stories of the travel experiences of others. Maybe you will be inspired to keep a journal on *your* next trip.

My favorite travel location for many years was a big blue overstuffed chair in our living room. When the school year was done and there was unscheduled time in the day, that chair called. Whether the book was fiction or non-fiction, a biography of someone living or long dead, garden tips or a who-done-it — I was away on an adventure. Sometimes I chose the young-adult books my middle schoolers were reading. This was easy and fun and led to wonderful conversations we could share about the details or controversies in these books.

Summer travel reading is also a great time to dig into something or someone new. On the church library shelves you will find biographies of people of faith, contemporary social justice leaders and multiple non-fiction resource books. Learn to knit or plant a garden or cook a favorite recipe.

The library has many books relating to travel, whether away from home or in your own big blue chair. If you are looking for suggestions, check out the bibliography provided in the display case and in the library. Or browse the shelves. Be sure to check out the books you find before you take them home.

We are curious to see the journeys you all will take this summer.

Grace Matters *Today*

Grace School is re-connecting with alumni for online discussions of important topics grounded in the values of faith and service learned in Grace classrooms. These programs kick off in May — and you don't have to be a Grace School graduate to join the discussion.

Go to [GraceSchoolRF.org](https://www.GraceSchoolRF.org) to register for these and future programs organized by the Forward in Faith Endowment Committee.

Sunday, June 5, 7 p.m.

Family Matters

Parenting, Family Life, Our Kids and Our Future

With David Jezl, Psy.D., GLS '79, Executive Director at Counseling and Diagnostic Center of Woodfield

Parents, teachers and professionals have hands-on experience and concerns with how pandemic-fueled changes and the state of the world today affect the social and emotional development of our young people. Join a conversation with fellow parents, led by a Grace alum with over 25 years of clinical experience in the mental health field working with children and adolescents. What have we learned from a Grace School education that can help all of us help the next generation?

News from Grace School

Spring track season. Nearly 75 students in grades 3-8 participated in track this spring; 15 of them qualified to compete at the Lutheran Sports Association State Meet at Concordia on May 21 and 22. The girls team finished 9th at the state meet and the boys finished 12th. Two of Grace's relay teams made the podium, with the girls 4x100 and the boys 4x400 both taking third place in their races. The Grace coaching staff included teachers Kristi Underhill, Meagan Cullen, Jared Turner and Brian Schultz, plus Ed Mason and Bob O'Connor, parents of Grace School alumni.

Eighth grade graduation. Watch the @GraceSchoolRiverForest Facebook page for pictures and profiles of our Class of 2022 graduates. They'll receive their diplomas at the graduation service on Wednesday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. A reception follows the service in the gym, hosted by parents of the 7th grade students.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month at Grace School



Grace School students celebrated Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month with assemblies on Tuesday, May 24. Parents and students of these heritage backgrounds shared information about seven countries and cultures, including food represented their nationality. Grace School serves 23 students with Asian or Pacific Islander heritage, representing 12% of the student population.

FELLOWSHIP

Cornerstones

The annual Cornerstones picnic takes place on June 8, 11:30 a.m., in the atrium. During the summer, June 22–August 31, the church library will be open on Wednesdays, 9:30–11 a.m., for Grace seniors to gather informally for coffee and conversation.

Theology on Tap

Come for community and conversations about faith and life. The next gathering is on June 23, 7 p.m. at One Lake Brewing, Lake and Austin in Oak Park. The group will not meet in July and August. 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 June 27 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 Saturday, June 25, 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.

Pilates class

Andrea Pfeiffer will teach a Pilates class at Grace on Tuesday evenings, 6:15–7 p.m., in the third-floor school commons. Please bring a yoga mat and a towel.

Knitting group

The knitting (and crocheting!) group meets on June 21, 1–2:30pm, in the church library. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

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 June 10. 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 June 14, 10am, in the church library and on Zoom. The presenter will be Dr. Kathy Albain, oncologist at Loyola University Medical Center.

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 CELEBRATE with Amelia (Millie), Michael (Mikey), and Kathryn (Katy) Starrick, children of Christina and Michael Starrick, who were baptized on May 15, 2022.

ALTAR FLOWERS Donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary. Use the sign-up sheet at the reception desk in the atrium.

June 5 — in honor of the 60th anniversary of Gale Schmidt's ordination into the ministry, by Carolyn Becker.

BUILDING HOURS

Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the school year ends on June 3. Open 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the summer. Open later for scheduled meetings and activities, including Rummage Sale drop-off and sale hours).

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

PASTORS' EMERGENCY PHONE

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memorial service for Gloria Hillert will be held on Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. here at Grace. A reception follows the service in Fellowship Hall.

A few parting words from the editor of Grace Notes

by **Gwen Gotsch**

On June 30, my last day as a Grace Staff member, I will be cleaning out my office, which lies in a far corner of the building, two flights of stairs above the church library. I'll be sorting out books and music, cleaning out files both physical and digital, deciding which personal items to take home and which ones to take to the dumpster.

I will also take down the ephemera from my bulletin board. Ephemera may not be the right word for the postcards, newspaper clippings and odd bits of this and that on my bulletin board; ephemera means "transitory creations not meant to be retained or preserved." The things on my bulletin board are there to help me remember things. Some are there for obvious reasons. Others — I am still puzzling about some of them.

There are postcards from places I've visited — places that have fueled both curiosity and contentment. There's a photo I took of the four young women who sang in my Joyful Voices choir: they're standing up tall, hands clasped in "Sound of Music" singing position and peering into the camera over their glasses, as I so often peered at them from the piano. There's a comical drawing of J. S. Bach on a postcard from the Bach House in Eisenach, Germany. The scowl on the great man's face is frightfully serious yet somehow reminds me of all the delight to be found in the great man's music. There's a page from a daily calendar with a quote from Ella Fitzgerald: "The only thing better than singing is more singing." There's a notecard with Romans 8:38 in calligraphy ("I am persuaded that neither life nor death...") There are mementos of my children and of shows I've directed and a bracelet that came to me from a former colleague who passed away in 2014. She still reminds me to take the time to do it right.

There's also a column of quotes typed out on plain white paper in my choice of fonts. Not surprisingly, one is about misogyny. Many are about writing:

"The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do." *Thomas Jefferson*

"Words ought to be a little wild, for they are the assault of thoughts on the unthinking." *John Maynard Keynes as quoted by Paul Krugman*

"Keep typing until it turns into writing." *David Carr*

More pretentiously:

"Tell the truth. Don't decorate. Remember death."

I don't know where this one came from some dozen or more years ago. It seemed like something to try to live into, if only in a modest way as a church communicator.

Several years later I posted another darkish quote, this one a bit of a puzzle:

"I love the thing that I most wish had not happened."

Stephen Colbert

It's from an interview published in GQ, August 15, 2015. Colbert, host of "The Late Show" on CBS, is the youngest of 11 children. His father and the two brothers closest to him in age were killed in a plane crash when he was 10. The statement comes from his attempts to explain how his mother, a devout Catholic, and he himself managed to survive this tragedy.

It is a paradoxical statement and it was stapled to my bulletin board because I wondered how it could possibly be true. It was something I tested in my own life as I watched my son Kris fight the good fight of dying from ALS. Before and after his death in July of 2017, I would stare at this statement and say, no, I'm not there, not there yet.

But maybe I am there now. This is hard to explain. It's something about the largeness of love, and how that love originates in God and grows as we love others through good times and bad. Something about love living larger and longer than anger. Something centered in a cross.

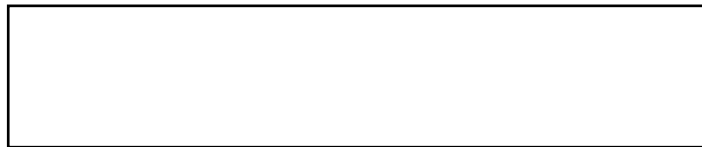
From my office I can hear the organ played in church — musicians practicing, tuners tuning, organists playing hymns as the congregation sings. From the computer on my desk I've sent both death notices and festive Easter and Christmas worship schedules to the people of Grace. I've churned out 80 or 90 issues of Grace Notes and many more email newsletters, each one full of details about lives shared, life treasured, as we live and love one another, together in Christ.

I was a member of Grace and of the choir before I had this job and I will continue as a Grace member and a soprano in the choir after I retire on June 30. I plan to do more writing in retirement. You can see how that plan is going in the months ahead by visiting my blog, The Perverse Lutheran, at perverselutheran.blogspot.com.

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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**

We will celebrate the beginning of the 2022-23 ministry
year with a Church-School Picnic.

We'll also be 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.

More details in August!

