

Weekly Announcements

November 27, 2022

No Adult Education due to Thanksgiving.

Everyone is welcome to Christmas Caroling with Grace!

On Saturday, December 3, we will sing at Winterfest in Oak Park from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. On Sunday, December 18, after worship, we will carol our way to The Sheridan and Brookdale, where we will spend some time before caroling back to Grace. See Signup Genius for details on where/when to meet:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/carolingwithgrace>, or using the QR code.



Christmas Fest Watch Party

Join the St. Olaf College Chicago Alumni Chapter on Saturday, December 3, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the Seminar Room to enjoy the 2022 St. Olaf Christmas Fest! This year's festival will be streamed live from Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis, MN for the very first time! All are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring a dessert to share while we enjoy sacred Advent music performed by over five hundred student musicians. RSVP encouraged through <https://bit.ly/3XawJEA> or the QR code. Contact Katie Maxwell at maxwellkb2@gmail.com with questions.



Help Needed with Grace Archives

Grace has a trove of documents, pictures, recordings, and other treasures! These archives have expanded during the pandemic, but have not received the needed attention. If you are interested in being part of a team to work on this organizational project, please contact Pastor Lyle.

***The Chosen* Watch Party**

Please come and see *The Chosen* Christmas episodes on December 8 and December 15 at 7 pm. in the Conference Room. If you have not seen this amazing show about the life of Jesus and those who knew him, please come and check it out. We will watch the episodes, have a brief discussion, and prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom at centurywanderer1@hotmail.com. On December 8, we will be watching the episode titled "The Shepherd", which tells the story from the point of view of one shepherd. The episode is about twenty minutes long. On December 15 we will watch the episode titled "The Messengers", which tells the birth story from Mary and Joseph's perspective and is about forty minutes long.

Night Ministry Christmas Stockings

Sewers are making large Christmas stockings to be filled with toiletries and sent to the Night Ministry, who distributes them primarily to homeless teens and young adults. Your help is needed! You may contribute some of the requested supplies for stocking filling, or you may contribute \$20 for the "adopt a stocking" option. \$20 is the cost to purchase all of the supplies to fill one stocking. This year, we plan to fill and deliver 100 stockings! A collection bin will be placed in the atrium for any items brought to Grace. Please label monetary donations "for Christmas stockings" and drop them off at the front desk. The stockings will be filled by Grace fifth and sixth graders prior to their delivery the first week in December. Please contact Jo-Ellyn Dorsey for any questions. (jodorsey47@gmail.com, 708-250-1799).

Volunteers needed at Harmony Food Pantry

We are in need of a volunteer or two with a strong back on Tuesdays, 7 to 9 a.m. and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the months of November and December at Harmony Food Pantry in North Lawndale. The tasks include unloading the truck and carrying boxes of food. Please contact Connie Zyer at cruschz@aol.com for more information and to volunteer.

Last Sunday's attendance:

8:30 a.m.: 103

11:00 a.m.: 159

Fellowship Groups

Yoga at Grace

Yoga with Ackli happens on Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring a yoga mat, a towel, and a yoga block, if you have one. Classes are free with a goodwill offering to Grace. Previous experience with yoga is not a requirement! Everyone is welcome.

Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet December 16, 7:30 p.m. in the home of David Heim and Barbara Hofmaier, 210 S. Elmwood, Oak Park. Jill Bamgaertner will lead readings from *Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, ed. Roland Bainton. All are welcome!

Cornerstones

This group for seniors meets Wednesday mornings for fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study with the pastors at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. During Advent, the 11 a.m. worship will follow the sessions. On November 30 and December 14, the Morning Prayer sessions will be followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. Contact earmstrong@gracriverforest.org for more information.

Knitting Group

The knitting group meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the church library. The next meeting is on December 20, 1–2:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

Theology on Tap

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. Due to the holidays, this group's meetings are cancelled in November and December. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@gracriverforest.org) for questions.

Moms of Littles

Mothers of children age infants through teens meet in person on the first and third Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact Sabrina Maggio (sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com) to be added to the email list or learn more about the group's updated meeting schedule.

Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults

This new fellowship group 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.

Dads of Grace

Join Pastor Lyle and other dads on Monday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of fellowship. Email Pastor Lyle for more information (dlyle@gracriverforest.org).

Men of Grace

The Men of Grace group meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at 9 a.m., in the Youth Center. Due to the holidays, this group's meetings are cancelled in November and December. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@gracriverforest.org).

Retired Leaders

This group of retired Christian men and women in former leadership positions in the church or community meets on December 13, at 10 a.m. in the church library and on Zoom.

Finding Hope

The support group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The next meeting is December 9. Contact Judie McDonnell (judie.mcdonnell@att.net) for more information or if you need to arrange a ride.

GriefShare Seminar Series: September 29 - January 5

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. The course also includes on-line information and a course workbook material. You can join at any point! Access <https://bit.ly/3UcJAok> or contact Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720 to learn more and sign up. This event is open to the community.

Sessions:

October 27 – Grief and Relationships

November 3 – Why?

November 10 – Guilt and Anger

November 17 – Complicating Factors

November 24 – Thanksgiving – No session

December 1 – Stuck

December 8 – Lessons of Grief, Part 1

December 15 – Lessons of Grief, Part 2

December 22 – Heaven

December 29 – Holiday Break

January 5 – What do I Live for Now?