

# Weekly Announcements

January 1, 2023

## *Epiphany Worship*

### **Epiphany of Our Lord**

Friday, January 6

- A service of Holy Communion, 7:00 p.m.

### **Baptism of Our Lord**

Sunday, January 8

- A service of Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

This service will be followed by an Epiphany brunch in Fellowship Hall.



## *Adult Education*

Adult Ed is on a break for the holidays. Sessions will resume on January 15.

## *Social Ministry: Mitten Tree*

Children's hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves will be donated to organizations like Little Leaders of America and Hephzibah Children's Association. Please help decorate our tree with these items and keep little ones, less fortunate than we are, warm this season. Collection continues through January 8.

## *Office Job Opening at St. Paul Lutheran Church*

Our friends at St. Paul Lutheran in Melrose Park are currently seeking a Spanish/English speaking individual to staff their church office for 25 hours per week. Interested parties may call 708-217-6667 for more information. This position will be available early in January.

## *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 resume this Thursday, January 5. 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 meets January 20, 7:30 p.m., in the home of Amy and James Claud, 326 Forest Avenue, River Forest. That evening four talented writers, who are usually four of our most insightful readers, will present excerpts from their own work: Gwen Gotsch, Steve Peterson, Pam Todd, and Jeff Wood. Come and hear some surprising and provocative writers of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. (One is even a playwright.) All are welcome. For more information and to be added to the email list, please contact Jill Baumgaertner at [jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu](mailto:jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu).

### **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. Cornerstones resumes this week on January 4. Contact [earmstrong@graceriverforest.org](mailto:earmstrong@graceriverforest.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 January 17, 1–2:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein ([ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com](mailto:ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com)) with questions.

### **Theology on Tap**

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. The next meeting is Friday, January 27. Email Pastor Troy ([tmedlin@graceriverforest.org](mailto:tmedlin@graceriverforest.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](mailto: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](mailto:jesbullock23@gmail.com)) to be added to the group email list.

### **Dads of Grace**

Pastor Lyle and other dads gather for evenings of fellowship once a month. The next gathering is Monday, January 23. Email Pastor Lyle for more information (dlyle@graceriverforest.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. The next meeting is Saturday, January 28. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

### **Retired Leaders**

This group of retired Christian men and women in former leadership positions in the church or community meets on January 10, at 10 a.m. in the church library and on Zoom. OPRF Museum board president and executive director, Peggy Sinko, will look both back and forward in our community's life together.

### **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 January 13. 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.

### **Upcoming GriefShare session:**

January 5 – What do I Live for Now?

**Last Sunday's attendance:**  
10:00 a.m.: 143

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

### **Church budgeted contributions**

July 1, 2022 – December 28, 2022           \$ 949,000  
(26 Sundays, \$36,500 per week)

### **Church actual contributions**

July 1, 2022 – December 28, 2022           \$ 796,000  
(Last year at this time: \$795,000)

Church giving is \$153,000 (16%) below budget, and \$1,000 (0%) ahead of last year. The General Fund deficit is \$88,000 (\$73,000 last year through December 31). The deficit includes everything except month-end bills and adjustments.



**Reminder: the deadline for announcement submissions is 10:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Requests submitted after the deadline will be added to the next week's announcements.**