

October 2023

# Grace Notes



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

## Grace Gathers

By Pastor Dave Lyle



*Grace Gathers. September, 2023. Photo by Debra Funderwhite.*

The first few weeks of our new Sunday schedule have found Grace abuzz with activity. Our various faith formation offerings have not only been well attended; they've been wonderful. God's people of all ages and stages are engaging with God and with one another, all leading up to the single worship service at 10:00 a.m. One of my favorite parts of the morning is quickly

becoming Grace Gathers, our brief but spirited all-ages gathering at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. During this time, we sing songs (usually one "camp"-style song and one familiar hymn) and reflect on a watchword for the week. The watchword is a verse chosen from one of the lectionary readings.

*Continued on page 2*

One of this summer's highlights was our family's first trip to Herrnhut, a small German town near the Polish border. In 1722, Nikolaus Ludwig, Count von Zinzendorf, offered his property as shelter for Bohemian and Moravian religious refugees. The settlement was given the name Herrnhut, which means, "under the watch of the Lord." Zinzendorf soon began the practice of giving a "watchword" to the community, a verse or two of scripture for daily devotional use. So began the notion of the *Daily Texts*. The Moravian community in Herrnhut still selects passages for use each day.

For more than a decade, I've been a prayer writer for an English edition of the *Daily Texts*, so visiting and worshipping in Herrnhut was a deeply moving experience. It is an amazing thing to know that you are reading and reflecting on the same verses each day as millions of other Christians around the world.

Grace Gathers is an opportunity to engage this experience at Grace. We begin our Sundays together in God's Word, framing everything else we will do that day with the reminder that we are under the Lord's watch, and that the Lord is watching over us. If you're interested in learning more about the *Daily Texts*, let me know. I'd be more than happy to share this resource with you!

More to the point, I invite you to make Grace Gathers part of your Sunday routine. It is a gift to be together with the people of Grace in a way that is fun, yes, but also deeply grounded in scripture.

And if you simply haven't been at Grace in a while, this new season is an opportunity to reengage. Come, gather with the people of Grace around God's grace freely given in Word and sacrament. The Holy Spirit continues to do amazing things in and through our congregation, and there's always room for you.



The Lyle children in Herrnhut, Germany, July, 2023. Photo by the Lyle family.

## Sunday Worship in October



### Sunday, October 1 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.  
Ezekiel 18:1-4 & 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

### Sunday, October 8 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.  
Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4-14, Matthew 21:33-46

### Saturday, October 14

Confirmation Witness Service at 7:00 p.m.  
Reception following service in Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, October 15:

#### Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion with Affirmation of Baptism at 10:00 a.m.  
Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

### Sunday, October 22

#### Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.  
Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9 & 10-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

### Sunday, October 29

#### Reformation Sunday

A Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.  
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36



**October 29, 3:45 p.m.**

**Ich glaube, lieber Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben!**

**BWV 109**

**I believe, dear Lord, help my unbelief!**

**3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture**

Mark Peters, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

**3:45 p.m. Orchestral Prelude**

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy: String Symphony Number 7 in D minor

**4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers**

Roger Ferlo, St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church, Chicago, IL, homilist

Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra

Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello, conducting

Sarah Ponder, mezzo soprano

Ace Gangoso, tenor

**5:30 p.m. Post-Service Conversation with Michael Marissen**

Bach Scholar Michael Marissen joins us to discuss topics from his book *Bach Against Modernity* (Oxford University Press., 2023), moderated by Dr. Mark Peters of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights.

**For the complete schedule of cantata services for 2023-24 visit [BachVespers.org](http://BachVespers.org). While you're there, learn more about Bach's first cycle of cantatas in weekly blog posts by Mark Peters of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. Peters will present the pre-service lectures during the upcoming cantata season. The livestream links can also be found on the website.**

**2024 ELCA Youth Gathering**

**CREATED**

**TO**  
the table

**BE**

**MYLE**  
Young Adult Gathering

The ELCA National Youth Gathering is happening in New Orleans next summer, July 16-20. The gathering is open to all current high school students including those who will graduate in spring 2024.

Learn all about the gathering at **[www.elca.church/gathering](http://www.elca.church/gathering)**

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. This a wonderful opportunity that only comes around every three years.

Registration and deposit of 150.00 due October 16 so that we can get priority registration and first pick of lodging.

Contact Pastor Troy if interested or if you have questions.

**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, October 6, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than October 13. Copies are also available at Grace.

**Deadlines and submissions.** The November issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on October 27. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, October 18. Send news to [bklaus@graceriverforest.org](mailto:bklaus@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.



# Benevolence Committee news

This information is provided by the Benevolence Committee to give you a better understanding of our ministry partners. We support these organizations with dedicated benevolence dollars due to your faithful stewardship. We also pray for them throughout the year. These are the organizations for whom we will pray during the services in October:



## L'Arche Chicago

L'Arche Chicago provides homes and direct care support for adults with intellectual disabilities in the OPRF area. Central to the mission and approach of L'Arche is the conviction that the quality of life experienced by each person directly correlates with a holistic approach to health, including physical, social, mental, and spiritual health. Funds received from Grace Lutheran will help to provide spiritual retreat opportunities for the residents that we support as well as the staff members who support them. L'Arche retreat funding helps address the fact that spirituality is an overlooked dimension of the lives of people with disabilities, which aligns with Grace Lutheran commitment to the Greater Church mission and helps provide a basic human need - the pursuit of one's spirituality. Support workers are often unaware of the significance of this dimension in their care work and consequently fail to address it. This is what sets L'Arche apart from other organizations and the retreat program is an essential part of this work.

<https://www.larchechicago.org>

## ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod

In Jesus' Name. Proclaim the Gospel. Make Disciples. Do Justice. The mission of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod is to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and do justice in Jesus' name. The Synod Office is here to assist and empower our congregations and members to live into this mission as the body of Christ in Metropolitan Chicago.

<https://mcselca.org>

## ELCA International Women Leaders

The ELCA International Women Leaders program allows us to boldly invest in established and emerging women leaders who are lifted up by our global companion churches. The IWL initiative is changing the landscape of the ELCA's scholarship program and of the church's gender justice conversation. The goal of this initiative is to increase the number of women who access education and leadership development opportunities and then go on to serve as leaders in the global Lutheran context. Funds awarded by Grace Lutheran Church will be distributed as scholarship funds to IWL scholars. Alongside their sending churches, IWL graduates serve in areas such as educational access for girls, livelihood programs for women, support for survivors of sexual abuse, health care, education, psychosocial services and more. These scholars are multiplying the impact of their experiences in the program around the world.

<https://www.elca.org/internationalleaders>

## ELCA Global Missions

Our companion churches are rooted in the hearts of their communities, and they work hard to find creative solutions to those communities' unique challenges and opportunities. One way we partner with them as they continue growing their work and Christ's church is by sending missionaries and volunteers, building up their leaders, training evangelists, and much more.

As one body in Christ, we learn together with our global partners to share the good news in the rich language of each individual culture. With your help, we share resources, equip leaders and build deep relationships with our global siblings in Christ.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission>

## Harmony Community Church of Chicago Food Pantry

Harmony Food Pantry primarily serves the North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. The residents of North Lawndale experience significant hunger, poverty, and violence. These issues are longstanding; historical disinvestment from the community and racial inequities in the city of Chicago have led to a lack of resources for the residents which has caused a deep entrenchment of the challenges which make it difficult for residents to improve their community. Using Grace funds, Harmony Food Pantry offered nutritional information, and recipes to our clients. This offered ways for our community to use the ingredients available at the pantry to make easy, healthy meals. Funds were also applied to staffing. We have 4-5 part time workers who help unload our trucks, set up for the distribution and assist the shoppers with carrying the food up the stairs. The money we receive from Grace is integral to our operation. Suffice it to say that without Grace's donation, we would not be able to offer the level of service that we need to feed as many people as we do.

## From the church library: Being Lutheran

A group of Lutherans was recently asked, "What does it mean to be a Lutheran?"

The answer was another question:

"What kind of Lutheran?" This librarian answered, "An Active one!" But let's not go there today.

The Lutheran Church as we know it today did not sprout fully formed out of Wittenburg. How did we get from there to here? The Grace Church Library is a great place to start.

The *Being Lutheran* bibliography this month is divided into three sections:

**1. Being Lutheran — The Reformation:** Several expected authors and titles are found here. But there is a new graphic novel *Papa Luther* by Daniel D. Mau that might appeal to ages 8 – 13. It is the story of Luther as told through the eyes of his children.

**2. Being Lutheran — The Early Years:** These titles capture the European history of the early Lutheran Church as well as how the faith endured theological conflicts, political struggles, and finally how the Lutheran Church emerged in America.

**3. Being Lutheran — At Grace:** For anyone new to Grace or unaware of our own rich history as a Lutheran Church, the book to recommend is *The Promise of Grace: the first 100 years of Grace Lutheran Church* by Martin Marty. Without shrinking from difficult years, Dr. Marty lays out a compelling true story. Grace Lutheran is unique – but clearly very Lutheran.

These reformation season books will be available for checkout in the church library or from the case in the Atrium. Let's get smart about *Being Lutheran*.



## From the Grace Church Altar Guild

The Grace Church and School Altar Guild invites you to a Welcome/Informational gathering on Sunday, October 15, in Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Altar Guild's reverent and essential ministry provides the setup/cleanup for communion services on Sundays, school chapel and eucharist services, weddings, funerals and festival services. This "behind the scenes" ministry is scheduled through the Ministry Service Pro program. Individuals are allowed to sign up for their preferred available dates and usually serve in teams of two to three people. Please join the gathering for further information. We hope you prayerfully consider joining this ministry, which is most essential to Grace and all who commune with us. Please contact the worship staff (708-366-6900) or Roberta Gillespie (708-218-5372) with any questions or suggestions.



# Oktoberfest 2023

Thank you to all volunteers, participants, staff, faculty, and friends for making this Oktoberfest great! We are grateful to be able to keep this tradition alive and pass it on as multiple generations join us each year. This time we got to celebrate among a group of 245 happy people.



Oktoberfest at Grace 2023. Photos by Debra Funderwhite.

## Social Ministry Coat Drive

Grace's Social Ministry Committee is holding a winter coat drive through October 15. We are looking for gently used or new winter coats for children, teens and adults. Coats collected must be clean and have working buttons, snaps and zippers. Please place them in the bin in the atrium. The coats will be given to Harmony Food Pantry and the New Neighbors Program at Harmony, which serves migrants coming from Mexico, Central America and South America. If you need more information, please contact [stephwilkening@gmail.com](mailto:stephwilkening@gmail.com).



# Thank you for for supporting Walk with Grace

This year's Walk with Grace was a record-breaker! We had more food donated and collected on the walk than ever before. Our students alone donated more than 2,400 food items and raised over \$31,699 for Grace School. We are also grateful for the families, friends, faculty, volunteers, and congregation for all the support.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE: July 1, 2023 — September 27, 2023 (13 Sundays) Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

**Church budgeted contributions:** \$486,000 (\$37,400 per week)

**Church actual contributions:** \$278,000 ((last year was \$330,000 through September 27.)

Church giving is \$208,000 (43%) behind budget and \$52,000 (16%) behind last year.

The deficit as of September 27 is \$182,000 (\$112,000 last year through September 30). The current deficit includes the September 30 payroll.



# Grace School Updates

It's time to meet Grace's new faculty and staff! We are excited to welcome several amazing new people to our Grace family.

**Iona Bodem** (Art Teacher) – Miss Bodem attended Goldsmiths College in London from 2017-2021 where she received her bachelor's in fine arts. She received her master's in 2023 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, specializing in fiber & material studies. She previously led community center courses for Girl Scouts and taught painting at her former high school. Miss Bodem is an avid home-movie maker, developing 8mm film in her own home, and she has a cat named Soda Pop.

**Ashaki Brazil** (PK Teacher Aide) – Ms. Brazil completed her associate degree at Malcolm X College, and her BA in criminal justice at Roosevelt University. During her time at Malcolm X College, she discovered her love for working with young children. She later chose to pursue that passion. Ms. Brazil gained teaching experience at Les Finch's Learning Tree over 12 years. Outside of work, she enjoys going to the movies and attending concerts with her husband, Derrick.

**Marylinn Keefer** (Extended Day Care Coordinator) – Mrs. Keefer has two children in fourth grade at Grace who have attended since Senior Kindergarten. She has been an active room parent and volunteer at a variety of Grace School events. We are so grateful for her time, skills, and ability to lead in our extended day care program.

**Megan Galeener** (Second Grade Teacher) — Mrs. Galeener is the newest addition to our faculty. We will highlight her next month.



*Iona Bodem, Ashaki Brazil and Marylinn Keefer, respectively.*

Enrollment for the 23-24 school year has increased to 210. That is over 50 new families! What a joy it has been to get to know them all. Make sure to give Grace school a follow on Facebook (@graceschoolriverforest) and Instagram (@gracelutheranschool) so that you can meet them too! We have been highlighting our new students and families on social media for the past month.

Mrs. Underhill is happy to introduce a new program in which all students in our school are participating this school year. She visited all the classrooms and gave students a simple but unusual homework assignment: "Do something new without your parents' help." Their faces lit up. Parents must approve the "project" they choose, and she explained to the students that there could be compromise, and smaller steps lead to a bigger goal.

**GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
7300 Division Street in River Forest 708-366-6900

**First Look Friday Dates:**  
October 13  
October 27  
November 10  
December 8  
Drop in between 9 and 11am

**Schedule a tour!**  
[graceschoolrf.org](http://graceschoolrf.org)

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

FAITH • ACADEMICS • CHARACTER

**Early Childhood, ages 3 to 5**

- Full-day kindergarten
- Half-day and full-day options for ages 3 to 4

**Elementary & Junior High, Grades 1 to 8**

- Strong academic curriculum
- Individualized attention
- Music, art, and sports teams
- Before and after-school care available

The main goal is to work together with parents to help students gain some independence which can grow into confidence and resiliency. We look forward to sharing each step in this new and exciting journey with you as it progresses.

We ask you to join us in praying for our 23-24 school year, that God would bless us and lead us as we strive to do the absolute best for all our students. Thank you!



# Being Disciples: Joyful Relationship

By Julie Hinz



Last month we reflected on the idea that “discipleship’s first step is being with God, listening to God, being in relationship with God.” This knowing leads to our doing, just as it did for the disciples. Then again, they spent 3 years in the relationship building stage. Those relationships continued after Jesus’ death and resurrection as the disciples continued to support, pray for, and accompany each other. This is a great example we can follow.


But how? First and foremost, just as with the disciples, discipleship does not occur by happenstance. It is an intentional act of being in God’s Word and in community with God’s people. It is movement toward being what God wants and needs you to be for God and for the world. Notice is it not what you need, what your church needs, or what your community needs. It is about what and who God is calling you to be using the gifts God has planted within you. Theologian Frederick Buechner defines vocation as “the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” That deep gladness emerges when we answer the call of our enduring and authentic selves, when we live into God’s will for our lives and set aside what others might expect us to be or do.

It sounds so simple but can be challenging in practice. Sometimes following that call creates unexpected conflicts in our relationships. Sometime those closest to us cannot understand when our focus changes from fulfilling their needs to seeking what God needs from us. Being in relationship with God is not an easy thing; no one promised it would be. It is an act of faith, a Spirit-led openness to learning more about who God is and who we are in relation to God.

Again, how? One of the first marks of discipleship is worship. Those who are in worship with others experience the joyful expression of praise and thanksgiving by the community for all God has done. Celebrating Holy Communion brings us together at the table where we are forgiven and fed. Here we sit beside the saints of old and those of today and even tomorrow, joining in the feast God has prepared for all believers. Being in worship opens space for you to be seen, heard, and known by God and the community of the faithful. Here you experience God in new ways, hear God’s word and reflect upon how it pours out in your life. You are also given opportunities to see where your deep gladness might find expression through how the church works to meet the needs of the world.

Discipleship begins with you and God; taking time to know and experience God. It is stepping outside the bubble of our individual lives and becoming part of a community of faith. It is moving from serving ourselves to serving God by using the talents and gifts given us for God’s glory. It is the journey of discovering what deep joys God has planted in our hearts and how God might want us to use those joys to praise God and benefit the world. It’s not until we are solidly in relationship that true discipleship begins. When you know who God is, who you are, and understand how God wants to use you, then the life of discipleship begins in earnest.

May you be blessed as the Holy Spirit draws you into a deeper relationship with God and with God’s people today.



**Making Disciples**  
GRACE NEW MEMBER CLASS

Begins Sunday, October 15, 11:15am - noon  
Sundays October 15-November 26  
(Come when you are able. Childcare can be provided.)

Contact Julie Hinz for more information or to let us know to expect you ([jhinz@graceriverforest.org](mailto:jhinz@graceriverforest.org))

*You are Invited!*

Open to all | Learn new things | Meet new people | Ask questions about God | Find your place at Grace.

# Picnic and other community events

First and foremost, a huge thank you to everyone who donated food, spent time helping in some way, or attended the Grace Church and Shool Picnic. What a joy it is to gather as one community! This annual event is something we can do because we have so much help from the community. Thank you for your help, support, and for helping us celebrate this new year of Grace. We look forward to another gathering next year!



*Photos of the Grace Church and School Picnic. September 10, 2023.  
By Brenda Adams.*



## Don't miss out

During the event, many attendees added their "Hopes & Dreams" to our heart in the fellowship hall. Several requests were for more church/school combined activities, so here is a list of school activities that are open to the church as well. You can be a part of the school community at any time — just as school families can attend church functions. See specific events below.

### Chapel

Every Wednesday, 8:25 a.m., in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Thanksgiving Chapel: Tuesday, November 21 at 8:25 a.m. (no chapel on November 22)

### Athletics

Friday, October 13, 4:30 p.m.: Girls Volleyball tournament at St. Paul, Mt. Prospect

Thursday, October 19, 4:30 p.m.: Volleyball home game

Saturday, October 21, 4:30 p.m.: Volleyball Tournament at St. Peter, Mt. Prospect

### Choir

Sunday, October 22: Third and fourth grade choir sings at 10:00 a.m. worship

Sunday, October 29: Fifth to eighth grade choir sings at 10:00 a.m. worship

### Social Events

Friday, October 27, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.: GPO Sponsored Spooktacular Soiree at the gym: All are welcome.

### Other

Friday, December 15, 10:45 a.m.: Early Childhood Christmas Program

Sunday, December 24, 4:15 & 6:00 p.m.: Children's Christmas Eve Service



## FELLOWSHIP

### Yoga at Grace

Yoga classes with Ackli are held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall every Thursday. Everyone is welcome. You do not need prior yoga experience. Classes are gentle and focused on alignment for strength and flexibility. Bring a yoga mat and a beach towel or blanket. Please dress comfortably. If you have questions about class or yoga in general, please call Ackli at 708-516-2701.

### Grace Notes mailing crew

This newsletter crew will be at work again on October 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact Marlene Hallman (708-562-5476) or just come!

### Cornerstones

Bible study for seniors on Wednesdays. Join us in the church library for fellowship at 10:00 a.m. and Bible study at 10:30 a.m. On October 18, please join us for morning worship at 10:30 followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. Contact Esther Armstrong at [earmstrong@graceriverforest.org](mailto:earmstrong@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 Thursdays of the month for community and support. Contact Sabrina Maggio ([sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com](mailto:sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com)) for updates.

### Theology on Tap

Community and monthly conversations about faith and life. This group will gather again on October 27. Contact Pastor Troy for more information or to be added to the email list. ([tmedlin@graceriverforest.org](mailto:tmedlin@graceriverforest.org))

### Knitting Group

The knitting (and crocheting) group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the church library. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein ([ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com](mailto:ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com)) with questions.

## BUILDING HOURS

Fall building hours: **Monday through Friday:** 7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. **Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and weekday evenings for scheduled activities and events.

## PASTOR'S EMERGENCY PHONE

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

## 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.

### Dads of Grace

This group of Grace dads meets on the fourth Monday of the month for fellowship and conversation. Email Pastor Lyle ([dlyle@graceriverforest.org](mailto:dlyle@graceriverforest.org)) for updates

### Retired Leaders

The Retired Leaders group meets in the Church Library on Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. Susan Greeley and Pastor Kelly Nieman-Anderson, staff members at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), will discuss how LSSI is addressing the changing landscape of social services in Illinois. What services do people need now? What is needed in the future? Retired Leaders includes Lutheran pastors and others interested in the church, theology and community issues.

Coming up on November 14: LSTC professor Mark Swanson speaking on his love for Orthodox icons. Email [johnhalvorsen@yahoo.com](mailto:johnhalvorsen@yahoo.com) to be added to the mailing list.

### Finding Hope

This group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is October 13 in the church library. Contact Judie McDonnell for more information ([judie.mcdonnell@att.net](mailto:judie.mcdonnell@att.net))

### 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. Save the date: November 10, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.: women's Bunco night in Fellowship Hall. Contact Beth Reynolds (708-751-2196) to be added to the group's email list.

### Men of Grace

The Men of Grace group will meet again on October 28. Email Pastor Troy for more information ([tmedlin@graceriverforest.org](mailto:tmedlin@graceriverforest.org)).

### Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet at 7:30, October 20, to discuss Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*, the story of a hunted priest in Mexico at a time when the church is outlawed there. Pastor Lyle will lead the discussion. The meeting will be held in the home of Martin and Jill Baumgaertner, 841 W. Monroe St., #5PH, Chicago. For parking information and to be added to the email list, please contact [jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu](mailto:jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu). All are welcome!

## PRAYERS

**Prayer list:** the weekly prayer list can be found in the worship bulletin on Sundays. Contact Esther Armstrong ([earmstrong@graceriverforest.org](mailto:earmstrong@graceriverforest.org)) to be included on the published prayer list.

**Confidential prayer chain:** please contact Kathy Lucht ([kathy.lucht@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.lucht@gmail.com)) to be added to the confidential prayer chain if you have private concerns.

## Adult Education schedule

### October 8: “A Reading”

Jill Baumgaertner, Wheaton College Dean Emeritus, reads from a few new books on poetry and faith: *From Shade to Shine*, and *Taking Root in the Heart*, and *34 Poets from the Christian Century*.

### October 15: “The Refugee Program at Grace”

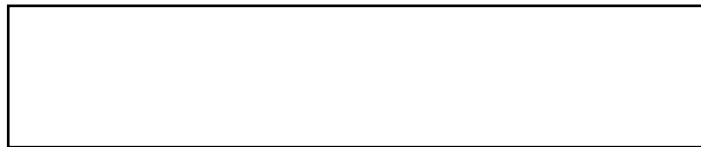
An update on Grace’s support of refugees in Chicago, from our director, Linda Street.

### Oct 22: “Programmable Planet”

Ted Anton, DePaul University Professor Emeritus, speaks on his new book, *Programmable Planet: The Synthetic Biology Revolution* (Columbia University Press, 2023). The ability to transform life in the lab is leading a way to sustainable foods, clothing, medicine and other crucial products, but what are its dangers in changing our relation to the natural world

### October 29: “The Relation of Scripture to Bach’s Music”

Michael Marissen, Swarthmore College Professor Emeritus and author of *Bach and God* explains how Bach’s pitches, rhythms, and tone colors can make contributions to a scriptural work’s plausible meanings that go beyond their texts.



7300 Division St.  
River Forest, IL 60305

GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL

Non-profit org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Oak Park, IL  
Permit No 28