

Urgent needs for migrants in Oak Park

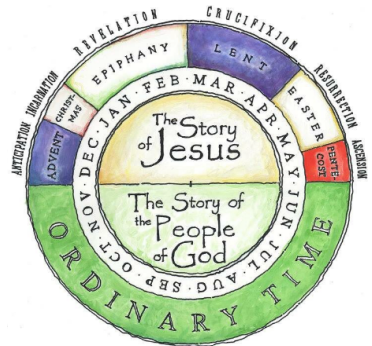
As most of you know, over 100 migrants are staying in temporary shelters throughout Oak Park. While you can still drop off your donations in person, now the easiest way to purchase the items they currently need is through an Amazon wishlist that automatically ships your purchases to a volunteer who will then drop them off at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Oak Park. The Amazon wishlist can be found at https://t.ly/kGu_i or on Grace Links.

Prayer shawls

We invite you to take a newly blessed prayer shawl — for yourself or as a gift — from the altar after worship today.

Journey Through the Church Year

Join us in the gym after worship this Sunday for a short Journey Through the Church Year. The new church year begins on Sunday, December 3 with the First Sunday in Advent. Come, walk through the upcoming seasons with us! There will be writing prompts for every season of the church year with details that may be new to you, as well as coloring pages for kids, devotions, and a lot more. Spend a little time exploring this ancient pattern of worship that began with the early church and continues to shape our lives today.



Last Sunday's Attendance: 288

Today: Bach Cantata Vespers

November 19, 3:45 p.m.

Wachet! Betet! Betet! Wachet! BWV 70

Watch! Pray! Pray! Watch!



3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture

Mark Peters, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

3:45 p.m.: Organ Prelude

Michael D. Costello, Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest, IL

4:00 p.m.: Bach Cantata Vespers

Nominations for January Elections

In preparation for the elections held at our January meeting of the congregation, the Nominating Committee welcomes your suggestions for members to serve on the Council, the Board of Spiritual Life, the Board of Discipleship, and the Board of Finance and Property. Please send any suggestions to Pastor Lyle at dlyle@graceriverforest.org

Ways to give — from the Social Ministry Committee

The Giving Tree, sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee, is decorated in Grace's atrium. Please choose a tag or two from the tree and brighten the holidays of young mothers and their children, developmentally disabled adults, foster care children, homeless young adults and seniors. All gifts need to be returned to Grace by December 3. The Adopt-A-Stocking Program for the Night Ministry is also underway at Grace. Please take a stocking from the line and return your financial contribution to church. The deadline for Adopt-a-Stocking is also December 3.

Christmas Caroling

Once again, it is time to think about caroling with Grace! This year, we will be spreading the joy of seasonal music on two different dates:

We will be singing during prime time at the Oak Park WinterFest on December 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Beginning outside Fleet Feet on Marion near North Blvd., we will sing amid those who pass by, then carol our way to 1010 Lake St., where we will do it all again!

Our second caroling date is December 17, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. We will sing at The Sheridan of Chicago and Harlem. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the joy of the season with a population who truly enjoys singing and the community it creates.

RSVP at www.signupgenius.com/go/Caroling2024 so we can prepare a music packet for you. This link is also available on Grace Links.

Join us for treats after Grace Gathers next Sunday

There will be no faith formation next Sunday, November 26, due to Thanksgiving. Instead, feel free to share some coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall immediately after Grace Gathers. All are welcome.

Donate Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

If you would like to donate poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas this year, you can sign up at the front desk. If you have questions, contact Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org.

Poinsettias are \$20. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Day worship service. Pay by check, cash or online. To pay online, write "Christmas poinsettia" in the designation line. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Fellowship Groups

Yoga at Grace

Yoga with Ackli meets on Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Bring a yoga mat, a towel, and a yoga block if you have one. Classes are free with a goodwill offering to Grace. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, this group will not meet on November 16 and November 23.

Cornerstones Bible Study

This group for seniors meets Wednesday mornings for fellowship at 10:00 a.m. and Bible study at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Cornerstones will not meet on November 22. The next meeting is November 19. Contact Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org for more.

Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults

This fellowship group fosters community among women whose children are growing up into adulthood. Contact Beth Reynolds (beth.reynolds@insight.com) to be added to the group email list.

Knitting Group

This month, the group will meet on December 19, 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the church library. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

Theology on Tap

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. This group will not be meeting in November due to Thanksgiving. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org) for details or to be added to the email list.

Dads of Grace

The dads of Grace gather offsite for evenings of fellowship on the fourth Monday of every month. The next meeting is November 27. Email Pastor Dave 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. This group will not be meeting in November due to Thanksgiving. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.)

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.

Retired Leaders

Join Retired Leaders on Tuesday, December 12 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary for "Hymns and Organ Music for Advent" with Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello. All are welcome!

Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet on Friday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. for a group reading of W. H. Auden's *For the Time*. The meeting will take place in the home of David Heim and Barbara Hofmaier, 210 S. Elmwood, Oak Park. To be added to the email list please contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu. All are welcome!

Finding Hope

The support group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of the month. The next meeting is December 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. Contact Judie McDonnell (judie.mcdonnell@att.net) for more information or if you need to arrange a ride.

GriefShare Seminar Series

Our current GriefShare seminar series is being held on Thursdays through December 28, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the church library. To register, go to GriefShare.org, click on Find a Group, and use the River Forest zip code (60305) to locate our group; call 708-366-6900; or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org. All are welcome. GriefShare schedule:

- November 23: no meeting (Thanksgiving)
- November 30: Questions for God
- December 7: Stuck in Grief
- December 14: Hope & Resilience
- December 21 *or* December 28 (TBD): What Do I Live For Now?