

Meeting of the Congregation

We will be meeting as a congregation today immediately after worship, to elect new leadership for our committees and to vote on the proposed change to the bylaws of Grace Lutheran Church. A light lunch will be served. All are welcome.

Bach Cantata Vespers



Jesus schläft, was soll ich hoffen? BWV 81

Jesus sleeps, what can I hope for?

Join us this afternoon for another Bach Cantata Vespers with preview lecture at 3:00 p.m. and service at 3:45 p.m.

Read This Today and Make a Difference

Many calls for assistance are focused on the migrants in the Chicago area. And they are all worthy efforts. But did you know that Grace already has “boots on the ground” directly helping homeless migrants through our partnership with Harmony Food Pantry? Many new neighbors come to us after only days in the Chicago area. Last Wednesday we gave out over 25 backpacks filled with hygiene supplies, clothing, winter wear and women’s monthly supplies. These backpacks are “home” for migrants as they are shuffled from place to place. As we wait to hear the next steps helping our Oak Park migrants – Please consider a donation to the Refugee Ministry at Grace where your donations can be used immediately to support efforts at Harmony. For more information contact Linda Street at kentuckystreets53@gmail.com. And thank you!

Last Sunday's Attendance: 235

Grace Wine Donation Event

In preparation for the annual school fundraiser, A Graceful Evening, please join us on February 4, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for appetizers, wine and drinks.

At this event, we will be collecting wine donations for the ever popular Wine Pull at Graceful Evening. With that in mind, please bring a bottle of wine (\$30 or greater) with you to the event. If you cannot attend but would still like to donate wine, you may drop off wine donations by March 8 at the front desk at Grace. Questions? Please contact Donna Serpico at realtor@dserpico.com. Thank you for supporting Grace School!

January in the Church Library

The theme in the church library this month is Reflection and Awareness. Find books in the Atrium case and in the library. Additionally, a complete list can be found on Grace Links, under “Church Library - January Books.”

Urgent Needs for Migrants in Oak Park

Only these items are needed: winter jackets, sweatpants (especially for men and boys,) leggings for women, hoodies, layering items, socks, gloves, hats, blankets, suitcases, and sleeping bags. We ask that you please to stick to this list. You can drop off items in the atrium bin at Grace.

Graceful Evening: Save the Date

This year, Grace Lutheran School’s annual formal dinner and fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. at the Nineteenth Century Club, in Oak Park. To learn more about how you can get involved and to purchase tickets, go to graceful2024.givesmart.com.

Grace to Host Cambridge Concert: Saturday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

Inspired by a trip to Cambridge University in 2019, Artistic Director John William Trotter has created a program of rich, vibrant English choral masterworks, and a new work by a 2023 HerVoice Composer Competition winner, performed by the ten singers of Chicago *a cappella* in resonant cathedral-like settings where sound and space work together in unique and harmonious synergy. This concert features works by Byrd, Vaughan Williams, Britten, and winner of the HerVoice Emerging Women Composers Competition. **Enjoy \$20 tickets with code GRACE20.**

Tickets: <https://www.chicagoacappella.org/concert-event/cambridge-concert/>

Fellowship Groups

Cornerstones Bible Study

Bible study for seniors on Wednesdays. Join us on January 24 for fellowship at 10:00 a.m. and Bible study at 10:30 a.m. in the church library. The next fellowship with lunch is February 14. Contact Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org for more.

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.

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.

Theology on Tap

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. The next meeting is Friday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. offsite. 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. This group will meet on February 26, at 7:30 p.m. Email Pastor Dave Lyle for more information (dlyle@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.

Religion in Literature

The February 16 meeting of the Religion in Literature group will be held in the home of Amy and James Claud, 326 Forest Ave., River Forest, at 7:30 p.m.. Roger Ferlo will lead the discussion of Cantos 1-17 of Dante's *Inferno*. Perfect for Lent! Roger is President Emeritus of Bexley Seabury Seminary and Priest Associate at St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church. He has taught an Adult Ed session at Grace on Dante and was a Cantata preacher last year. All are welcome. For further information contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu.

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 group will meet again on February 24. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.)

Finding Hope

The support group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of the month. The next meeting is February 9, 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.

Knitting Group

This month, the group will meet on February 20, 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the church library. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

Retired Leaders

The Retired Leaders group will meet again on February 13. Jill Baumgaertner will present the session titled “My Ecumenical Life”. Join us to hear about how she could study and teach Catholic authors, serve on the editorial staff of a progressive mainline journal, teach at an Evangelical college, and remain Lutheran to the core — and never feel like a living contradiction. For more information or to be added to the email list, contact John Halvorson at johnlhalvorson@yahoo.com. All are welcome!

GriefShare Seminar Series

Our current GriefShare seminar series is being held on Thursdays through April 11, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the church library except as noted below. You can join the course at any point, and all are welcome. 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. For further information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720. GriefShare schedule:

- February 1: Loneliness & Sadness
- February 8: Self-Care
- February 15: Fearful & Overwhelmed
- February 22: Anger (conference room)
- February 29: Regrets
- March 7: Grief & Your Household
- March 14: Grief & Your Friendships
- March 21: Questions for God (conference room)
- March 28: Stuck in Grief
- April 4: Hope & Resilience
- April 11: What Do I Live For Now?