

Easter Reception

Join us between services this morning for coffee and treats in the atrium. All are welcome!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Today is the last day to designate Grace as your Thrivent Choice Dollars recipient. Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible Thrivent clients the opportunity to influence where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Learn more at <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>.

Social Ministry Drive

Grace's Social Ministry Committee will collect toilet paper, diapers for babies and feminine hygiene products from Sunday through April 14. Items will go to New Moms and the Harmony Community Food Pantry. Toilet paper rolls must be individually wrapped. New Moms is in particular need of diapers in sizes 4 and up. Please drop items in the bin in the atrium. Thank you. Any questions, please contact stephwilkening@gmail.com.

Migrant Need- Grocery Fund

The migrants who came to Oak Park and are now being resettled and at this time their main need is money for groceries. Many of these new neighbors are in the process of receiving SNAP and other benefits but need grocery money to hold them over. You can drop off cash or check donations (made out to Oak Park-River Forest Community of Congregations with the word "groceries" on the memo line) at the front desk at Grace. To make an online donation visit communityofcongregations.org/migrant-response. Click on donate at the top of the page, then click on "donate with credit or debit card, then on the next page where it says "add special instructions..." select "groceries." Thank you!

Heritage Chorale Concerts at Grace, April 13 and 14

Heritage Chorale, led by artistic director Wen Chin Liu-Young, presents its spring concert, "Sing a Joyful Song: A 40th Anniversary Celebration." The program features Ralph Vaughan Williams's Five Mystical Songs (for baritone and choir with organ), together with Benjamin Britten's Festival Te Deum and Jubilate Deo in C. The choir is honored to have Douglas Anderson as baritone soloist in Five Mystical Songs. These stirring works of praise capture the spirit of joy and gratitude that is at the heart of our celebration. The program also includes pieces by Heinrich Schütz, Stephen Paulus, and David Dickau, and an anthem by Harriet Ziegenhals, artistic director of Heritage in our second decade. The concerts are Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are available at heritagechorale.com and at the door.

Seminex Panel Discussion and Lunch, April 14

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Seminex, join us on Sunday, April 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a panel featuring a 20-minute presentation by The Rev. Dr. Kurt Hendel, the Bernard, Fischer, Westberg Distinguished Ministry Professor Emeritus of Reformation History at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The panel will be followed by a discussion featuring Dr. Hendel, The Rev. Bruce Modahl, The Rev. Karl Reko, and Ruth Reko. All four of these people were directly a part of the events surrounding Seminex. Join us for this conversation and a light lunch. There will also be a time for Q and A.

Hymn Festival, April 17

Join us for a hymn festival on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Grace. The hymn festival will feature the Grace Choir and a program developed with commentary assembled and written by Martin Seltz. Musical leadership will include Robert Buckley-Farlee, Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello, Anne Krentz Organ, and Daniel Schwandt.

For more information about other events that week at The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago please select "Hymn Festival" on Grace Links.

Grace Celebrates Slovak Ministry, April 28

Wondering what's new at the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia? Come to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 28, and find out. Meet Bohdan Hrobon and Adrian Kacian, co-founders of CCE, now entering its 27th year. Grace Church has been in partnership with CCE since 2007.

Festivities begin at 4:30pm with a cash bar, a sparkling array of appetizers, and conversation with Bohdan and Adrian. Dessert and coffee follow, with a program highlighting CCE's growth and future plans. Tickets: \$40/person. Buy yours in the atrium beginning next Sunday or go online to Grace Links.

Fellowship Groups

Cornerstones Bible Study

Bible study for seniors on Wednesdays. Join us for Bible Study at Contact Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org for more information.

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. Classes will resume on April 4.

Theology on Tap

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org) for details or to be added to the email list.

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.

Dads of Grace

The Dads of Grace gather offsite for evenings of fellowship on the fourth Monday of every month. This group will meet next on April 15, 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.

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 April 27. 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 April 12, 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.

Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet on Friday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Steven Peck's *A Short Stay in Hell*, a novella which envisions hell as a vast library which one can escape only by finding the book that contains the story of one's life. Liz Hanson will lead the discussion which will meet in the home of Jeff and Claudia Wood, 1027 Thatcher Ave., River Forest. All are welcome. To be added to the email list please contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu.

Knitting Group

Calling all knitters! This month, the group will meet on April 16, 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the church library. Email Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions. Beginners are welcome.

Retired Leaders

The Retired Leaders group meets on Tuesday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. For more information or to be added to the email list, contact John Halvorson at johnhalvorson@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:

April 4: Hope & Resilience

April 11: What Do I Live For Now?

Last Sunday's Attendance: 376

