

Liturgical Backstage Pass: September 22 at 11:15 a.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Join us as we share the different roles for assisting with worship. There's no obligation to sign

Altar Guild

*Prepare the altar before worship
Assist with clean up after worship*

Gift Bearers

*Bring forward the offering
and communion elements
Assist with communion*

Ushers

*Welcome people to worship
Assist during offering and communion*

Greeters

Welcome people to worship

Assisting Minister

*Assist the pastor during worship
Write and read the prayers of the people*

Lectors

*Read one scripture passage
Assist with communion*

A/V

Help with the livestream

What's Happening this Week

FEAST Sign Up Ends September 15

Click [here](#) to sign up. Everyone is invited! Scan the QR code for the sign up link. You don't have to attend the kick-off to join a group. Contact Julie Hinz for more information (jhinz@graceriverforest.org)



GriefShare: "Loss of a Spouse Seminar": September 15 at 11:30 a.m.

This free event will take place in the Grace Church Library. A light lunch will be served. The seminar is co-sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and by St. Catherine-St. Lucy and St. Giles Catholic Church of Oak Park. All are welcome. The seminar combines a video presentation with group discussion. To register, call 708-366-6900 or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org. For more information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720 or at lmbarnard5@gmail.com.

Knitting Group: September 17 at 1 p.m. in Church Library

Cornerstones: September 18 at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Join us for fellowship followed by a discussion about the upcoming Scripture readings. This week will also be our monthly worship and lunch following the Bible study.

Grace Parish Choir Rehearsal: September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Music Room

Yoga: September 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

No experience is required. Please bring a yoga mat, a yoga block if you have one, and a large towel (beach towels work well) or a blanket with you to class.

Moms of Littles: September 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Youth Center

Religion in Literature: September 20 at 7:30 p.m.

We will meet to discuss James Baldwin's classic, *Go Tell It On the Mountain*. His works coincided with the rise of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. This novel is semi-autobiographical and focuses on the role of the Pentecostal Church in the lives of African Americans. David Heim will lead the discussion, which will take place in the home of Jill and Martin Baumgaertner, 841 W. Monroe St., #5PH, Chicago. Metered street parking is available and free parking is at the Mariano's across the street. All are welcome!

GriefShare Fall Seminar: September 19 at 10 a.m - 12 p.m. in Church Library

Session 1 Topic: Is This Normal?

The GriefShare seminar series is offered for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

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 or at lmbarnard5@gmail.com. The future session dates and topics are on [Grace Links](#).

Trivia Night: Friday, September 20, 7 - 9 p.m.

You're invited to join Grace School's parents for their trivia night. Light appetizers and desserts will be served, and a ticket only bar will be available for beer and wine. The sign up can be found on [Grace Links](#). This event is adults only. No childcare will be provided.

Theology on Tap: September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Grace's Women's Choir: Thursdays, starting September 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Once a month, we provide music during worship, and we rehearse weekly in the music room at Grace. All are welcome. The group sings easy unison or two-part music. Musical experience is helpful, but not at all necessary. Contact the director, Gwen Gotsch (708-557-5740; gwegotsch@gmail.com), if you have questions.

Faith Formation: September 22 at 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School: Who is the greatest?/ Confirmation: LC6: The Ten Commandments

Adult Education: Gwen Gotsch will share about her visit to her ancestors' church in Germany.

New Member Class: September 22 at 9 a.m. in Pastor Lyle's office

Confirmation Mentor Sunday: September 22 at 11:15 a.m. in school library

From Amanda

Grace is exploring the option of having Grace Notes available as a digital PDF to be more environmentally friendly. Please let us know your preferred format for receiving future issues (printed by mail or digital by email). You can either click on the [link](#), scan the QR code, respond to the Sunday is Coming email, or contact Amanda directly (asmith@graceriverforest.org). You will still receive a paper copy of Grace Notes if you don't reply. For members that don't have an email, that is okay. We will still be mailing it monthly to everyone who desires the paper copy. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Guest Preacher: September 22 at 10 a.m.

Join us in worship as we welcome Bishop Munib Younan to Grace. Bishop Younan is Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

Bach Cantata Vespers: September 29 at 3:45 p.m.

Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir, BWV 130 (Lord God, we all praise you)

Bach composed this festive cantata for the Feast of St. Michael during his second year in Leipzig. Based on a chorale text by Paul Eber, the cantata praises God for the creation of angels in a festive setting of the tune best known as "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." The orchestra includes strings, three oboes, three trumpets, and timpani. It is a fitting, festive start to a new season of Bach Cantata Vespers. Afterwards, join us for post-service reception to celebrate our 54th season!

Dinner celebration for Pastor F. Dean Lueking: September 29 at 6 p.m.

Grace's Pastor Emeritus, F. Dean Lueking, is celebrating the 70th anniversary of his ordination in 2024. A dinner in his honor will take place in Grace's Fellowship Hall following the Bach Cantata Vespers and reception that afternoon. There are no more tickets available for the event.

The Threat of Christian Nationalism and how to combat it: October 6 at 1 p.m.

Join ELCA Pastor and *Red State Christians* and *Disciples of White Jesus* author Angela Denker to discuss the growing popularity and influence of American white Christian Nationalism, especially its influence on the upcoming presidential election. Pastor Angela has been researching white Christian Nationalism since 2018 as a reporter, pastor, and theologian. During this forum, Pastor Angela will help us define Christian Nationalism in theological terms, understand its roots and how it's being weaponized in American politics, as well as how to use the Theology of the Cross as a tool of resistance against Christian Nationalism. This event will take place in Fellowship Hall. Childcare will not be available.

FEAST Kick-Off Gathering: October 4 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Last Sunday's Attendance: 278

Other Information

Grace Church Library

September features books on a variety of topics recently purchased for the collection. Look for them on display and checkout in the atrium and the library. You'll find the book list at [Grace Links](#)

The Scherer Lecture 2024: October 1 at 4 p.m. (In-person or [Zoom](#))

By LSTC, McCormick Theological Seminary, Catholic Theological Union

Location: 5416 S. Cornell Ave. Chicago, IL. 60615 on the 4th Floor in the LSTC Chapel

[Register](#) to join us in person or online This free symposium will honor the late James A. Scherer, with guest speakers reflecting on Scherer as Lutheran Churchman, eminent missiologist, ecumenist, mentor, and beloved professor at LSTC. This is a free lecture with complimentary parking. A reception will follow on the 4th Floor, in the North Kitchenette.

CQ! CQ! Calling All Ham Radio Operators!

If you're a licensed ham radio operator and know your way around antennas, frequencies, or a good ol' Morse code message, we want to hear from you! Your skills could be just what we need for some upcoming Grace Lutheran School projects (and maybe a little fun along the way). Please reach out to John Stys, WZ1H (773-480-7897 or johnstys@gmail.com) if you're interested in lending your expertise and helping us stay connected - literally and spiritually!

Fellowship groups

For more information on the groups, and contact information, visit [Grace Links](#).

Cornerstones: Every Wednesday in Church Library

Fellowship starts at 10 a.m. with Bible Study following at 10:30 a.m.

Yoga Class: Every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Knitting Group: September 17 at 1 p.m. in Church Library

Moms of Littles: September 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Youth Center

Religion in Literature: September 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Theology on Tap: September 20 at 7:00 p.m. at One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Dads of Grace: September 23 at 7:30 p.m. (Contact Pastor Lyle for the location)

Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults: September 25

We will be meeting at Fitzgeralds Night Club in Berwyn. More details to come.

Grace Notes Mailing Crew: September 26 at 9:30 a.m. in Church Library

Men of Grace: September 28 at 9 a.m. in Youth Center

We will be reading and discussing Brene Brown's book *The Gift of Imperfection*.

Faith Forum: October 8 at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Finding Hope: October 11 at 10 a.m. in Church Library