

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.

What's Happening this Week

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.

Cornerstones: October 2 at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Join us for fellowship followed by a discussion about the upcoming Scripture readings.

Grace Parish Choir Rehearsal: October 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Music Room

GriefShare Fall Seminar: October 3 at 10 a.m in the Conference Room

Session 3 Topic: Loneliness & Sadness

The GriefShare seminar series is offered for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, and you can join at any time. 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 lmbernard5@gmail.com. The future session dates and topics are on [Grace Links](#).

Yoga: October 3 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.

Grace's Women's Choir: October 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Music Room

Contact the director, Gwen Gotsch (708-557-5740; gwengotsch@gmail.com), if you have questions.

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

Faith Formation: Sunday, October 6

Grace Gathers: 8:45 a.m.

We will start in Fellowship Hall, where Pastor Lyle will leads us in scripture, conversation, and prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us! Afterwards, groups will be invited to go to their respective room. Leaders and Shepherds will guide Sunday School children to their class locations. Nursery care is available for the children too young to attend Sunday School.

Sunday School: Jesus blesses the children

PreK/SK: Meet in the nursery

Grades 1-6: Meet in the 3rd floor common area

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Students: Meet in school library

Topic: Gospel Overview

Making Disciples: Meet in Pastor Lyle's office

No 9 a.m. Adult Education this week

Instead, join us at 1 p.m. for a presentation by ELCA Pastor and *Red State Christians* and *Disciples of White Jesus* author Angela Denker. See the top of the announcements for more information about this event.

Upcoming Events

Vaccine Clinic: Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Grace Gym

Hosted by The Health Committee in conjunction with Jewel Osco. The flu and COVID-19 vaccine will be offered plus others that are listed when you sign up. If you have questions, you can contact Bryan Bernard by leaving a voice mail at 708-903-9609. Scan the QR code to sign up. Please bring your medical insurance card to your appointment. If you are unable to sign up online, there will be forms available the day of the event.



Confirmation Witness Service: October 19 at 7 p.m. in Grace Sanctuary

The 2024 confirmands will present their witness statements and projects. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the service. We will also be streaming the service on our YouTube page.

Festival of Hymns: October 20 at 7 p.m. in Grace Sanctuary

Grace Parish Choir and Concordia University Kapelle join together for this music event. It will feature music, texts, and commentary by Paul D. Weber. There is no cost to attend.

Book Study: Starts October 27 at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Book: *The Freedom of a Christian* by Martin Luther

To sign up, scan the QR code here or go to Grace Links. Paper copies of the book will be available at Grace Church soon.



Other Information

A note from Amanda

Grace Notes were mailed on September 25, and you should receive your paper copy this week. I also sent out a digital Grace Notes to everyone who expressed interest in receiving it in their email. If you didn't receive your copy, please let me know (asmith@graceriverforest.org). Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new version of Grace Notes.

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

Moms of Littles: October 3 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Youth Center

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

The speaker this month will be James Brooks, CEO of Lawndale Christian Health Center and Senior Pastor at Harmony Community Church in Lawndale. He'll talk about the disparities in healthcare and health outcomes for people living on the West Side of Chicago and the LCHC's efforts to bridge that gap. You can attend the meeting on Zoom as well as in person. Email gwegotsch@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

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

Knitting Group: October 15 at 1 p.m. in Church Library

Religion in Literature: October 18 at 7:30 p.m.

We will meet to discuss and read aloud portions of Michael Shewmaker's, verse drama, "Leviathan," a retelling of the book of Job in ways that will surprise and startle you. In this story, Job is a rich oilman from Texas surrounded by problematic friends. The meeting will be held in the home of Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim, 210 S. Elmwood, Oak Park. To be added to the email list, please contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu.

Grace Notes Mailing Crew: October 24 at 9:30 a.m. in Church Library

Theology on Tap: October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Men of Grace: October 26 at 9 a.m. in Youth Center

Dads of Grace: October 28 at 7:30 p.m. (Contact Pastor Lyle for the location)

Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults: Stay tuned for the next event

Last Sunday's Attendance: 251