

Food Drive: October 20 through November 10

Grace's Social Ministry Committee is hosting its Fall Holiday Food Drive. Proceeds will be distributed to the Harmony Community Church Food Pantry, Forest Park Food Pantry and Beyond Hunger.

The pantries are requesting canned soup and crackers, canned corn and canned fruits, pasta and sauce, canned tuna and other nonperishables (items that don't require other ingredients is preferred). Please place unopened nonperishable foods in the bin in the atrium. Thank you for your generosity.

Notes from Amanda Smith, Communication Coordinator at Grace

Do you like to write or draw? If so, I am looking for writers and artists who would like to submit items for Grace Notes. You can email me at asmith@graceriverforest.org. Thanks! The deadline for the next issue of Grace Notes is November 8.

Children's Christmas Eve Worship Service

The early evening Christmas Eve worship services at Grace are led by the children of Grace Church and School. All children in grades 1–8 are invited to be a part of this tradition. Every year, children who attend schools other than Grace participate in these services along with Grace School students. We hope that your child(ren) will be able to take part in the 2024 Christmas Eve services. For more information, and to sign up, visit our [website](#) under Worship Services.

What's Happening this Week

Consonance Verdi Requiem Performance: November 3 at 3 p.m.

Location: Grace Sanctuary

This concert will feature a chamber arrangement of the Verdi Requiem, presenting the work in a unique and intimate setting like you've never heard before. Tickets can be purchased online (click [here](#) or visit Grace Links), by calling the box office at 773.658.9799, or at the door. All children 12 and under may attend for free when accompanied by a ticket-holding adult.

Cornerstones: Wednesday, November 6, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

Join us for fellowship followed by a discussion about the upcoming Scripture readings. This week also features our monthly hymn sing.

Grace Parish Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday, November 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

GriefShare Fall Seminar: Thursday, November 7, at 10 a.m

Location: Church Library

Session 7 Topic: Grief, Your Household, & Your Friendships

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: Thursday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Location: 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: Thursday, November 7, and 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Church Library

Grace's Women's Choir: Thursday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

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

Finding Hope: Friday, November 8, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

New Member Welcome: Sunday, November 10

Join us after worship for a reception in the Atrium.

Faith Formation: Sunday, November 10

Grace Gathers: 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School/Confirmation

Topic: The Widow's Offering

PreK/SK: Meet in the nursery/ Grades 1-6: Meet in the 3rd floor common area

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation:

Topic: Serve All People, following the example of Jesus'

Meet in the school library

Adult Education: Book Study Starts - Meet in Fellowship Hall

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

High School Fellowship: 11:15

High school students are invited to join Pastor Troy in the atrium for the monthly fellowship gathering at I-HOP in Melrose Park.

Upcoming Events

Heritage Chorale Concert

Date: Saturday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Grace Church

As Heritage Chorale continues to celebrate its 40th anniversary, the fall concert features the commissioned work “Norb: Life as an Art Form,” by Primetime Emmy Award and BMI Film and Television Award winner Alex Wurman. Tickets may be purchased at the door (cash or credit) or online through November 15 (link on Grace Links or click [here](#)). General admission is \$20 and \$15 for seniors.

Operation Deluge:

Date: November 17 before and after worship

Operation Deluge, a Grace tradition since 2006, is returning to the atrium. Stop by before or after worship, sign a card and send some cheer to a member of our faith community.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

Date: Sunday, November 17, from 12 to 2 p.m.

Location: St. Giles Catholic Church

(1101 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302)

If you have lost a loved one and are looking for encouragement and support for navigating the holiday season, please join us for this seminar. If you have any questions, contact Geri Tapling (griefshare2stgilesparish.org OR 708.223.4912). To register, go to griefshare.org/holidays (use zip code 60302 to find this group) or scan the QR code. Grace Lutheran Church is a co-sponsor of the seminar.

Bach Cantata Vespers

Date: Sunday, November 24, at 3:45 p.m. in Grace Sanctuary

Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 116 (You Prince of Peace, Lord Jesus Christ)

This beautiful cantata was first performed by Bach on the last Sunday of the church year in 1724, almost 300 years ago to the day. Our choir and orchestra are hard at work in rehearsals, and we can't wait to share this timeless work, which speaks of the peace that only Christ can bring.

Grace Women's Night at *Illumination: See Trees in a New Light*

Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Please arrive between 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

Location: The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL

Join Doris Christopher, Jill Koski, Beth Reynolds, and Kristin Vogen for a holiday gathering for the women of Grace. The evening includes complimentary admission to the Arboretum's holiday lights show, Illumination, and time for fellowship and holiday cheer in a reserved space in the Ginkgo Restaurant at the Visitor Center. Illumination is an outdoor exhibit of lights and music highlighting the beauty of trees, along a one-mile walking path. Please dress for the weather. RSVP to GraceEvent@mortonarb.org by Friday, December 13. **Space is limited to 50 attendees.** If you have any questions, please contact Jill at jkoski@mortonarb.org or 630-200-1222.

Other Information

Grace Church Library

November brings to mind Thanksgiving, prayer, and praise. You will find books for all ages featuring this topic on display and available for checkout in the atrium bookcase and the church library. Check Grace Links for the complete book list, as well as some appropriate hymns. November's Grace Notes also includes an article about these books.

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: Thursday, November 7, and 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Youth Center

Finding Hope: Friday, November 8, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Faith Forum: Tuesday, November 12, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Mark Swanson, professor of Christian-Muslim Studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, returns to Faith Forum to provide a guided and illustrated tour of Christian icons. In exploring the artistic and theological meaning of these images, Mark will draw on the experiences he and his wife have had abroad, especially in Ethiopia and Indonesia. Email gwengotsch@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Religion in Literature: Friday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m.

This month will feature a discussion on *The Five Wounds* by Kirsten Valdez Quade's, which takes place during Holy Week in a small town in New Mexico. Amadeo Padilla has plans for personal redemption which involves participating as Jesus in the Holy Week enactment. One critic has said this book is about "family, faith, and forgiveness." Amy Merrick will lead the discussion. The meeting will be held in the home of Amy and James Claud, 326 Forest Ave., River Forest.

Contact: Jill Baumgaertner (jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu)

Knitting Group: Tuesday, November 19, at 1 p.m. in Church Library

Grace Notes Mailing Crew: Thursday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m. in Church Library

Theology on Tap: Friday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. at One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Men of Grace: Saturday, November 23, at 9 a.m. in Youth Center

Dads of Grace: Monday, November 25, 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: 336