

Welcome New Members

Today, we welcome Art Gustafson, Dana Hall, Catherine Hegarty, Amy and Nathan Hill, Deanna, Carson, and Juliet Krischke, Carolyn Lemley, and Ellen Warger to Grace Church. After worship, join us for fellowship and treats in the Atrium.

Serving Our Community for the Holidays

It's Turkey time again!

Once again, the sisters at Fraternite Notre Dame are making plans for their Annual Thanksgiving dinner for our neighbors in the Austin area. They are in need of at least 100 turkeys and 50 pies in order to serve the hundreds of neighbors who come for dinner at their church. Please know that they are so grateful for our steadfast support over the years and would appreciate whatever you are able to contribute. Feel free to either donate money (and Susan Foran will do the shopping), the actual turkey (frozen or fresh), or the pumpkin pies. Please bring the items or your checks (made out to Sue Foran) to church by Sunday Nov. 17. Please feel free to call me or email me if you need to make other arrangements for pick up. I am also happy to accept venmo (@SusanForan4) or Zelle (708-267-1620).

Contact: Sue Foran 708-267-1620 or susanforan4@gmail.com

Holiday Gifts for the Community

Grace's Social Ministry Committee invites you to take a tag or two from the tree in the Atrium and purchase a gift or a gift card for children in Lutheran Social Services of Illinois's Foster Care Program; toddlers, young children and their young mothers served by New Moms; homeless young adults served by the Night Ministry; developmentally disabled adults served by Oak-Leyden Developmental Services; and low-income seniors living at Mills Park Tower. Please remember your gift may be the only gift some receive this year. We thank you for your generosity. Unwrapped gifts and gift cards should be returned to Grace with their corresponding tags by Dec. 8 unless otherwise noted on the tag.

Stockings have been hung in the atrium with care and we also invite you to take a stocking off the line and return it to the front desk with your \$25 sponsorship fee. The money raised will help fill stockings with hats, gloves, toe warmers, hand warmers and other items for homeless young adults served by the Night Ministry. We thank you for brightening someone's holiday!

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. For more information, and to sign up, visit our [website](#) under Worship Services.

What's Happening this Week

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 provide a guided and illustrated tour of Christian icons. Email gwegotsch@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Cornerstones: Wednesday, November 13, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

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

Grace Parish Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

GriefShare Fall Seminar: Thursday, November 14, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

Topic: Questions for God

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 14, 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.

Grace's Women's Choir: Thursday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

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

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. Amy Merrick will lead the discussion. The meeting will be held in the home of Amy and James Claud, 326 Forest Ave., River Forest.

Heritage Choral Concert

Date: Saturday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. (Grace Church)

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.

Faith Formation: Sunday, November 17

Grace Gathers: 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School: Be ready

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

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation: Topic: The Sacrament of Communion

Meet in the school library

Adult Education: Book Study - Meet in Fellowship Hall

Book: *The Freedom of a Christian* by Martin Luther (books are available at the front desk)

8th Grade Mentor Sunday: 11:15 a.m (School Library)

Upcoming Events

Operation Deluge

Date: November 17 before and after worship (Atrium)

Sign a greeting card and send a word of prayer or friendship to someone in need of cheer.

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) or Linda Bernard (773-259-4720 or at lmbernard5@gmail.com). To register, go to griefshare.org/holidays (use zip code 60302 to find this group). 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.

Slovak Mission Team 2025

Date: Sunday, December 8, at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Come find out how you can be part of this exciting ministry. If you can't make the meeting, reach out to Pastor Lyle (dlyle@graceriverforest.org) and let him know that you are interested in joining.

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

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.

New Cups for Holy Communion

You might notice something a little different when you come to communion the next few Sundays. Grace offers you a choice of receiving the wine from the common cup or an individual cup, and we will continue to do so. However, the individual cups we have been using generate a regrettable amount of plastic waste at every service and are too small to be recycled. To be better stewards of creation, the Worship Committee has been researching greener alternatives. We have ordered a limited number of compostable cups made from sugarcane pulp. We'll be trying them out for the next few Sundays to see if they are a satisfactory alternative to plastic. No, they won't leak, and they even have little crosses at the bottom! If you have questions or feedback, please reach out to one of the pastors or Ruth Nelson (ruth.nelson@icloud.com).

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

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

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

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

Moms of Littles: Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Youth Center

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)

Finding Hope: Friday, December 13, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

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