

## **Operation Deluge**

**Date: November 17 before and after worship (Atrium)**

Stop by the atrium table and have a snack, sign a greeting card, and send a word of prayer or encouragement to Carol Prinz.

## **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](mailto:lmbernard5@gmail.com)). To register, go to [griefshare.org/holidays](http://griefshare.org/holidays) (use zip code 60302 to find this group). Grace Lutheran Church is a co-sponsor of the seminar.

## **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 someone in need. Unwrapped gifts and gift cards should be returned to Grace with their corresponding tags by Dec. 8 unless otherwise noted on the tag.

You're also invited 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! If you have any questions, you can reach out to Stephanie Wilkening at [stephwilkening@gmail.com](mailto:stephwilkening@gmail.com).

## **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**

**Knitting Group: Tuesday, November 19, at 1 p.m.**

**Location: Church Library**

**Cornerstones: Wednesday, November 20, at 10 a.m.**

**Location: Church Library**

Join us for fellowship followed by a discussion about the upcoming Scripture readings. This week also includes our monthly prayer service followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.

**Grace Notes Mailing Crew: Thursday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Location: Church Library**

**GriefShare Fall Seminar: Thursday, November 21, at 10 a.m**

**Location: Conference Room**

**Topic: Stuck in Grief**

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](http://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](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org). For further information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720 or at [lmbernard5@gmail.com](mailto:lmbernard5@gmail.com). The future session dates and topics are on [Grace Links](#).

**Yoga: Thursday, November 21, 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 21 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: Church Library**

**Grace's Women's Choir: Thursday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Music Room**

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

**Theology on Tap: Friday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Location: One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park**

**Fraternite Notre Dame Bake Sale: Sunday, November 24, from 8:30 to 12**

**Location: Atrium**

**Bach Cantata Vespers: Sunday, November 24, at 3:45 p.m.**

**Location: 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.

**Faith Formation: Sunday, November 24 at 8:45 a.m.**

**Sunday School/Confirmation: Thanksgiving Break**

We will resume classes on Dec. 8.

**Adult Education: Book Study - Meet in Fellowship Hall**

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

## Upcoming Events

For more information about these events and other activities happening at Grace, visit our website or check out the next issue of Grace Notes. On the website, you can find upcoming holiday worship times, community concerts hosted at Grace, future events, and more information about the different ministries at Grace.

**Thanksgiving Worship Service: Thursday, November 28, at 10 a.m.**

**Wednesdays in Advent (December 4, 11, and 18)**

6:00 p.m. Supper in Fellowship Hall/ 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service

In-person and Online

**Longest Night Worship Service: Saturday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m.**

**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](mailto:dlyle@graceriverforest.org)) and let him know that you are interested in joining.

**Advent Christmas Concert : Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m.**

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

**Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024**

There are no more spots for this event. If you would like to be added to the waitlist, please contact Jill at [jkoski@mortonarb.org](mailto:jkoski@mortonarb.org) or 630-200-1222.

## Other Information

### Advent Devotion

This year's devotional features a daily verse, reflection, and prayer. If you are interested in one, they are available at the front desk.

### Christmas Poinsettias for the Grace Chancel

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for the chancel on Christmas Day, please sign up at the front desk or send an email to Esther Armstrong at [earmstrong@graceriverforest.org](mailto:earmstrong@graceriverforest.org). The price per plant is \$20, paid by cash or check, made payable to Grace Lutheran Church. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Day worship service. You may also sponsor them in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Sponsors will be listed in the Christmas Day bulletin.

### 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](mailto: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

**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)

**Faith Forum:** Tuesday, December 10, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Carl Heine, Director of Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Oak Park, will explore four related symbols found in Advent and Christmas hymns across the centuries. The four related symbols of root, stem, branch, and rose occur in church music from medieval to modern times. Over the centuries, these images change and assume different meanings. This holiday themed session includes hymn singing and listening to settings performed on the organ.

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

**Knitting Group:** Tuesday, December 17, at 1 p.m. in Church Library

**Religion in Literature:** Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a discussion on Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*, *One Christmas*, and *The Thanksgiving Visitor*, a story that shares his childhood memories which are poignant, funny, and loving. The meeting will be held in the home of Jeff and Claudia Wood, 1027 Thatcher, River Forest. Barbara Hofmaier will lead the discussion.

**Grace Notes Mailing Crew:** Thursday, January 23, at 9:30 a.m. in Church Library

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