

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.

What's Happening this Week

Cornerstones: Wednesday, December 4, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

Join us for fellowship followed by a discussion about the upcoming Scripture readings. This week also starts our Advent series, which includes a prayer service in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Advent Supper and Evening Prayer Service: Wednesday, December 4

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

In-person and Online

Parish Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 4, at 7:45 p.m.

Location: Music Room

GriefShare Fall Seminar: Thursday, December 5, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

Topic: Hope & Resilience

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](#).

Moms of Littles: Thursday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Church Library

Grace's Women's Choir: Thursday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

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

Spirito Singers: *We Are Lights* Concert: Sunday, December 8, at 4 p.m.



Location: Grace Sanctuary

Inspired by the glow of the season, Spirito Singers presents *We Are Lights*, which features music by composers including Z. Randall Stroope, Audrey Snyder, Eric Whitacre, Mary Goetze, and others whose works highlight the beauty of our singers' voices and encourage everyone to let their light shine brightly, especially in the darkest of times. Tickets may be purchased in advance online (scan the QR code or visit Grace Links).

General Admission: \$27/Senior Admission: \$22

Faith Formation: Sunday, December 8 at 8:45 a.m.

Grace Gathers: 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School: Zechariah/Mary

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

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation: The Psalms

Meet in the school library

Adult Education: Presentation - Meet in the Seminar Room

Elizabeth Palmer joins us for a discussion on the best books of 2024.

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.

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.

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 or 630-200-1222.

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

Operation Deluge: Sunday, December 22, before and after worship

Stop and send some cheer to a member of our faith community.

Grace College Students Christmas Get Together: Monday, December 23

Grace college students who are back for break are welcome to join Mrs. Modrich and Pastor Troy for a night of fellowship and bowling. Reach out to Pastor Troy if you want more information.

Other Information

Advent Daily 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. There are also devotionals dedicated to students of all ages available in the Narthex and Atrium.

Grace Church Library

This month features books and DVDs on Advent and Christmas, which can be found in the atrium case and in the library. The book list is also on Grace Links. December's issue of Grace Notes featured two books that are also available to be checked out.

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. 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.

Community Event

Holidays A Cappella Concert

Date: Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m.

Location: Pilgrim Congregational Church 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60302

The nostalgia and magic of Christmas come to life, as the ten singers of Chicago a cappella are joined by actor Greg Vinkler for a program of timeless carols such as Carol of the Bells and Good King Wenceslas, woven between a delightful re-telling of Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales. Visit chicagoacappella.org or call (773) 281-7820 x1 to purchase tickets (general seating (\$38) and preferred seating (\$48)). Pay-what-you-can & student tickets available!

Grace members can receive \$25 general admission using code: HOLIDAYS25.

Fellowship groups

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

Cornerstones: Every Wednesday in Church Library

Advent Schedule:

Dec. 4: Bible study, worship and lunch

Dec. 11: Bible study, worship, lunch, and a school performance

Dec. 18: Bible study and worship

Yoga Class: Every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall - Will resume December 12

Moms of Littles: Thursday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. in Church Library

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

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.

Knitting Group: Tuesday, January 21, at 1 p.m. in Church Library

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

Theology on Tap: Friday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. at One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Men of Grace: Saturday, January 25, at 9 a.m. in Youth Center

Dads of Grace: Monday, January 27, 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!

