

Operation Deluge: Today, January 19, before and after worship

While you enjoy a treat, sign a card, and send a word of prayer or encouragement to Margaret Kruse.

Grace Notes Mailing Change

Hello! Grace Notes will be published January 29 this month. If you would like to help with the mailing of this newsletter, we will meet on January 30 at 9:30 a.m. to fold and label it. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Amanda Smith (asmith@graceriverforest.org). Thank you!

Please note, this is a change from what was on the schedule.

Valentine's Day Collection for Harmony Homebound Seniors

The food pantry at Harmony Community Cares takes special care of homebound people in North Lawndale, delivering food to their doors. Social Ministry and Children and Family Ministry are coordinating this effort for the whole Grace community. As we approach Valentine's Day, this is a perfect opportunity to share God's love in a real and tangible way. All are invited to donate items that will be shared with these special clients in early February. Please click the button below to select your items to donate. Drop off your donations in the atrium bin by Sunday, February 2.



What's Happening this Week

Building Closed: Monday, January 20

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

Location: Church Library

Cornerstones: Wednesday, January 22, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

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

Parish Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

GriefShare Seminar Series: Thursday, January 23, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library - LOCATION CHANGE

Topic: Your Grief Journey

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. For more information, including session topics, visit our [website](#) or [Grace Links](#).

Yoga Class: Thursday, January 23, at 6:30

Location: Fellowship Hall

Grace's Women's Choir: Thursday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

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

Theology on Tap: Friday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Please RSVP using the QR code or contacting Pastor Troy at tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.



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

Location: Atrium

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 26, after worship

Location: Fellowship Hall

A light lunch will be provided. It will be in-person only.

Bach Cantata Vespers: Sunday, January 26, at 4 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit, BWV 111 (What my God wills, may that always happen)

Bach's cantata is based on a Reformation-era chorale text by Albert, Duke of Prussia, published in 1554. The spirited music expresses complete trust in God, in life's trials and in the face of death.

Scouting Sunday: Sunday, February 2

Location: Fellowship Hall

Scouts BSA Troop 4066 is celebrating 90 years at Grace Lutheran Church! Join us on Scouting Sunday, February 2nd, for a Pancake Breakfast following the 10 a.m. worship. We invite your family and neighbors to learn more about Scouting America's leadership, citizenship and character-focused programs supported by Grace Lutheran, including Cub Scouts (K-5th) and Scouts BSA (11-17). We're also expanding Scouting opportunities for girls to join the adventure as well. Your suggested \$10 per person donation includes pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice. Tickets can be purchased in advance by scanning the QR code, on the website, or at the door. Visit www.troop4066.org for more information. We can't wait to meet you!



Bunco: Friday, February 7, at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Grace Moms of High School+ welcomes the women of Grace Church and School to an evening of Bunco fun! Please bring \$10 in cash. This money will be distributed to three winners: most wins, most buncos and most losses. Join us for fellowship and fun while we play bunco and enjoy seasonal sweet and savory charcuterie boards, wine, hard cider and non-alcoholic beverages. You can sign up on [Grace Links](#) or by scanning the QR code.



Graceful Evening Wine Open House: Sunday, February 9, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Bring a bottle of wine valued at \$30 or more to donate to the Graceful Evening Wine Pull and stay for some wine, light appetizers, and fellowship! You can bring more than one bottle of wine if desired. RSVP by scanning the QR code or visiting Grace Links. If you cannot attend, but would like to donate a bottle to the Wine Pull, please email gracefulevening@graceriverforest.org.



Winter Carnival and Chili Cook-off: Friday, February 21, at 5 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

The Chili Cookoff will begin at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, then we'll move to the gym at 6 p.m. for the Carnival, featuring games, balloon animals, face painters, a cupcake walk and so much more!

Graceful Evening: Saturday, March 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Nineteenth Century Club in Oak Park

This is Grace School's largest fundraiser of the year and is a much-anticipated evening that includes appetizers, open bar, dinner, auction and raffles – all benefitting GLS faculty, staff, students and facilities. For more information, and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit the [website](#).



Slovak Mission Trip 2025: June 26 to July 8

Center for Christian Education (CCE)'s Vacation Bible School generates an abundance of interest and applications to attend. The number of applicants that the CCE can accept for the program depends on how many volunteers we can bring. Just one more volunteer means that 10 more kids can come to VBS to learn about Jesus and His love for them. There are different roles to fill, using different gifts. What is needed most are your love, smile, and desire to share with the children. If you are interested in attending, contact Pastor Dave Lyle (dlyle@graceriverforest.org).

Other Information

2025 Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for students in grades 8-12. Students come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making and build a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a Lutheran college campus. During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles (Festival Band, Choir, and Symphony Orchestra), chamber music, private lessons with collegiate-level faculty, and elective classes (such as conducting, composition, church music, jazz, musical theatre). At night, students attend recitals and Evening Prayer services, and social events with friends. LSM 2025 takes place at Valparaiso University in Indiana from June 22-July 20 (Full Session) or June 22-July 6 (Half Session) and is open to students who have completed grades 8-12. Members of Grace Lutheran Church and students at Grace Lutheran School are eligible for a scholarship to attend LSM for just \$250, plus the application fee. Scholarships are limited, with priority given to Full Session applicants. Learn more about LSM and apply at LSMacademy.org or scan the QR code.



Grace Church Library

Continuing on through mid-January, the Church Library features resources for the Christmas season. Look for books and DVDs on display in the Atrium and in the Library. You can also find the book list on [Grace Links](#). To check out a book or DVD from the Atrium bookcase, see the receptionist.

Fellowship Groups

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

Cornerstones: Every Wednesday in Church Library

Yoga Class: Every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Knitting Group: Tuesday, January 21, at 1 p.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)

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

Moms of Littles: Thursday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library

Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults: Friday, February 7, at 6:15 p.m.

All women of Grace Church and School are invited to join us for an evening of Bunco fun! Please bring \$10 in cash. This money will be distributed to three winners: most wins, most buncos and most losses. Join us for fellowship and fun while we play bunco and enjoy seasonal sweet and savory charcuterie boards, wine, hard cider and non-alcoholic beverages. You can sign up on [Grace Links](#) or by scanning the QR code.



Faith Forum: Tuesday, February 11, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

The speaker is Roger Ferlo, president emeritus of Bexley Seabury Seminary in Chicago and priest associate of St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church in Hyde Park. He will discuss his writing of a “sermon memoir” that includes sermons and meditations on the times and places the sermons were delivered, ranging from Trinity Church in New York City after 9/11 to an Anglican monastery in South Africa.

Finding Hope: Friday, February 14, at 10 a.m. in Church Library

Religion in Literature: Friday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a discussion on *Augustine’s Confessions*, the classic autobiography and spiritual memoir written by Augustine of Hippo between 397 and 400 AD, detailing Augustine’s life, from his childhood to his conversion to Christianity. The leader of the discussion will be Craig Mindrum, and the meeting will be held in the home of Jeff and LeAnn Cribbs, 1737 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago.

Grace Lutheran Church and School • 7300 Division, River Forest, IL

60305 708-366-6900 • www.graceriverforest.org

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care evenings and weekends.