

Donate to Global Refuge

With the threat of and uncertainty around loss of funding from the government., many organizations who support immigrants now need to secure new funding from other sources. Global Refuge is one of the places that are now reliant on donors to continue their mission of "fostering a world of just and welcoming communities". If you would like to donate to them, you can visit globalrefuge.org/ or scan the QR code.



Scouting Sunday Pancake Brunch: Today after Worship

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. We can't wait to meet you!

Your suggested \$10 per person donation includes pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice. If you didn't purchase tickets ahead of time, you can purchase them when you come to Fellowship Hall.

Be a Host Family: Information Meeting: Today at 11:15 a.m.

Location: Church Library

Are you ready to make a profound difference this summer? Grace Lutheran Church invites you to be part of an incredible journey by hosting a Slovak student between June 7–26, 2025. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity fosters cultural exchange, faith-based service, and lifelong relationships. If you are interested in participating, come to the meeting to hear more about this impactful program. You'll meet past hosts, ask questions, and discover how this opportunity can transform your family and community. Please feel free to reach out to Jessica Bullock at jesbullock23@gmail.com with any questions in the interim.

What's Happening this Week

Cornerstones: Wednesday, January 29, 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 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

GriefShare Seminar Series: Thursday, January 30, at 10 a.m.

Location: Church Library

Topic: Self-Care

To register: go to [GriefShare.org](https://www.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](#).

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

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

Location: Fellowship Hall

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. Please sign up on [Grace Links](#) or by scanning the QR code.



Upcoming Events

Liturgical Backstage Pass: Sunday, February 9, at 11:15 a.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Stop by the sanctuary to learn more about assisting during worship. We are most in need of volunteers for Altar Guild and Ushers.

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! 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.



Operation Deluge: Sunday, February 16, Before and After Worship

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

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! Please RSVP, volunteer to help or bring chili. We appreciate your support!



Bach Cantata Vespers: Sunday, February 23, at 4 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort, BWV 126 (Lord, keep us steadfast in your word)

Martin Luther wrote this cantata as a hymn for children, a Kinderlied. Nearly 200 years later Bach used this chorale as the centerpiece of his cantata for Sexagesima, the second Sunday before Lent, when the appointed Gospel reading was Jesus' Parable of the Sower. We join in Luther's prayer: "Uphold us, Lord, by your word" as well as the cantata's final prayer for peace.

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@gracriverforest.org).

Other Information

Bronco Benefit for Walther Academy: Saturday, February 22, from 5 to 10 p.m.

Location: 19th Century Club in Oak Park

Tickets are just \$125 and available through www.walther.com or by scanning the QR code. Get some friends from church together to support the only Lutheran high school in the Chicagoland area. **Ticket sales close on February 10.** If you have any questions, please email or call our Advancement Director, Bill Koehne at bill_koehne@waltheracademy.org, 708-344-0404 x 230.



Grace Church Library

The Church Library's February book list features stories on Black History and Multicultural Topics. You can find the book list on [Grace Links](#), in the Atrium display area, and in the library. To check out a book or DVD from the Atrium bookcase, see the receptionist. Books that have been recommended by Grace readers are now on display in the Library with a brief report on why he/she likes the story.

Fellowship Groups

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

Cornerstones: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Church Library

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

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.

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

Knitting Group: Tuesday, February 18, at 1 p.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.

Men of Grace: Saturday, February 22, at 9 a.m. in Youth Center

Dads of Grace: Monday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. (Contact Pastor Lyle for the location)

Theology on Tap: Friday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. at One Lake Brewing Company in Oak Park

Faith Formation: Sunday, February 9, at 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School: The Disciples

PK & SK— Nursery 1st floor

Grades 1-4—3rd floor commons

Confirmation (School Library): People of the Promise

Adult Bible Study (Conference Room): The Gospel of Luke

High School Brunch: After worship at 11:15 a.m.

RSVP using Grace Links or contact Pastor Troy (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org) so he know who to wait for. All are welcome!

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.