

Weekly Announcements

March 9, 2025
Last Sunday's Attendance: 193



THOMANERCHOR
L E I P Z I G

Friday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m.

(Sanctuary)

Tickets: \$25-\$55

Come experience this unique concert and the musical mastery of these young and dedicated performers. You don't want to miss this! It is strongly encouraged to purchase tickets before the event. The link can be found on the website or Grace Links, or by scanning the QR code.



Lent at Grace

Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent 2025

"God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This devotional reflects on how God does this in the creation of all things, the Israelites' rescue from slavery in Egypt, the dry bones and Ezekiel, the fiery furnace, the big fish and Jonah, and more" (Augsburg Fortress). This devotional features a daily reading, thought to ponder, reflection, questions to consider, and a prayer. Copies of the devotional are available at the front desk.

Wednesday, March 12

Supper: 6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

The Board of Spiritual Life invites you to a pizza and salad dinner. There is no cost for the meal.

Lenten Midweek Worship

8:25 a.m. (Sanctuary with GLS), 11:30 a.m. (Church Library), and 7 p.m. (Sanctuary/Online)

Post-Worship Conversation: 8 p.m. (Church Library)

After worship, you are welcome to join us in the church library for a discussion of how what we heard in worship this evening impacts and intersects with things going on in our lives and in the world around us.

Compline Prayer on Zoom with Pastor Troy: Thursdays, March 13 - April 10, at 9 p.m.

(Meeting ID: 856 1901 8578, Passcode: 638069)

This short liturgy (15-20 minutes) gives us words and space to entrust our waking and our sleeping into God's good care so we might rest well and be renewed for the days ahead. If you have any

What's Happening: March 9 - 15

Send a Note to our College Students: Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Atrium)

We will be sending care packages to college students from Grace so that they can receive these tangible signs of Christ's love and presence during holy week. We want them to hear from as many of you as possible. We hope to let them know that we are praying for them and cheering them on as finals approach. We are the body of Christ together, even when some are apart.

Faith Forum: Tuesday at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

The speaker will be Pastor Fanya Burford-Berry, who serves in specialized ministry with the ELCA's Metro Chicago Synod as director of the West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force. She will share her journey to recovery, her work in "harm reduction," and describe the role congregations can play in supporting people with the "harm reduction" approach.

Cornerstones: Wednesday at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

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

Parish Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. (Music Room)

GriefShare Seminar Series: Thursday at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

Topic: Questions for God

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 lbernard5@gmail.com. For more information, including session topics, visit our [website](#).

Women's Choir: Thursday at 7:30 p.m. (Music Room)

Finding Hope: Friday at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

High School Service Project: Saturday at 10 a.m. (Beyond Hunger)

If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Troy Medlin or RSVP using Grace Links.

Graceful Evening: Saturday at 5:30 p.m. (Nineteenth Century Club in Oak Park)

Ticket sales have closed for this event, but you can still participate in the auction. Visit Grace Links or Grace's website for the link.

Faith Formation: Sunday, March 16

Grace Gathers: Starts at 8:45 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Classes: Starts at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: God's Promises to Abram

PK & SK— Nursery 1st floor

Grades 1-4—3rd floor commons

Confirmation (School Library): The Miracles of Jesus

Lent Book Study (Fellowship Hall)



If you scan the QR code, it will take you to **Grace Links**; otherwise, visit our website (graceriverforest.org) to find it and more information about Grace and its opportunities.

Upcoming Events and Fellowship Groups

For more information about the Fellowship Groups, visit our website under *Living Your Faith*.

RefugeeOne Presentation: Sunday, March 16, at 11:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Friends from RefugeeOne will come share the latest impact of the new administration policies regarding immigration and refugee status in Chicago and report on their efforts in this new season of welcoming strangers. A light lunch will be provided.

Operation Deluge: Sunday, March 16, before and after worship (Atrium)

Operation Deluge will return next week. When you sign a greeting card or write a note, you share the love of Christ with a fellow member of our Grace community.

Knitting Group: Tuesday, March 18, at 1 p.m. (Church Library)

Yoga: Thursday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Religion in Literature: Friday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. (Off-site)

Join us for a discussion on Frederick Buechner's *Lion Country*, the first novel in the *Book of Bebb* series. In this book, the narrator is a journalist attempting to expose a clergyman who runs a diploma mill. Liz Hanson will lead. The meeting will take place in the home of Jane Andrew, 202 N. Kenilworth Ave., Apt 3, Oak Park. All are welcome!

Moms of Littles: Thursday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. (Church Library)

Men of Grace: Saturday, March 22, at 9 a.m. (Atrium)

Mass in B Minor: Saturday, March 29, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 30, at 4 p.m.

Free admission, \$25 suggested donation

The Mass in B Minor is Bach's last great masterwork, completed in 1749, the year before his death. Much of the music was composed earlier in Bach's lifetime, but here he assembles it into a unified and deeply moving statement of faith, a summation of a life's work dedicated to the glory of God.

New Member Class: Starts Sunday, April 6, at 9 a.m.

If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Dave Lyle (dlyle@graceriverforest.org) for information on joining the next class.

Annual Slovak Benefit Dinner: Saturday, May 17, at 5 p.m.

This event will benefit the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia. More information will be shared soon.

True North Vacation Bible School: June 9 to 13

Children will discover what it means to trust Jesus in a wild world! To register, visit Grace Links.

Slovak Mission Trip 2025: June 26 to July 8

If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Dave Lyle (dlyle@graceriverforest.org).

Other Information

Perry County Lutheran Chorale: Heaven Is My Home Spring Concert

Date: Sat., March 15, at 7 p.m.

Location: St Andrew Lutheran Church (260 N Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068)

The chorale will present familiar favorites like “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, “Ein Feste Burg”, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”, and “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken in support of the Chorale.

Lutheran Home Auxiliary Spring Sale: Fri., March 21, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Address: 800 W Oakton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Join us for a fun day of shopping- great variety and amazing bargains. In addition to Easter décor and our regular offerings of jewelry, baked goods, linens, books, toys, games, glassware, dishes, artwork and other general treasures, we have a large amount of beautiful quilt fabric and pre-cuts. All proceeds go to the Auxiliary to spend for activities and special programs for the residents.

Harmony Community Cares 2025 Virtual Gala: Sat., April 5, at 7 p.m.

You're invited to attend a Gala Watch Party and/or simply tune in for an inspiring evening focused on HCCares's mission in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood. The Gala features amazing Raffle Prizes, inspirational stories from Pastor James Brooks and others, and ways you can support the essential work they do in North Lawndale. To register for the Gala, text [hcc2025gala](tel:243-725) to 243-725 or scan the QR Code. If you'd like to attend a Watch Party or be invited to one, please contact Sue Foran

susanf@harmonycommunitycares.org.



Be a Host Family: Transform Lives, Build Bridges

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 May 31-June 28, 2025. Your level of involvement is flexible—whether you can provide transportation to an event or welcome a student into your home for a few days to a week, every effort helps create a memorable experience. We will tailor your hosting timeframe based on your specific availability this summer. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity fosters cultural exchange, faith-based service, and lifelong relationships. If you are interested in participating, reach out to Jessica Bullock (jesbullock23@gmail.com).

Grace Church Library

The Church Library's March book list features a double feature: books for Lent in the Library and new children's books in the Atrium case. The book list for both can be on Grace Links. The collection of books by Dr. Rev. Martin Marty are also available for check out, and you can find the books on display in the library on the check-out table. To check out any book, please write your name on the card in the back of the book and leave it in the card holder on the table.

Altar Flowers

As a reminder, we do not decorate the altar with flowers during Lent. If you are interested in signing up after Easter, it is available at the front desk.

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.