

# Weekly Announcements

*April 13, 2025*  
*Last Sunday's Attendance: 267*



## **Kontras Quartet: Haydn: The Seven Last Words of Christ**

Monday, April 14, at 7 p.m. (Sanctuary and Livestream)

This concert will feature music and readings, including the poetry of Tania Runyan. All are invited to attend, and there is no cost for the concert. The link to the livestream can be found on Grace's YouTube page (@gracelutheranchurchriverforest).

## **Today at Grace: April 13**

### **Operation Deluge: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Atrium)**

Stop by the table to sign a card for Judie McDonnell today.

## **Holy Week and Easter at Grace**

**Maundy Thursday:** April 17 at 7 p.m. (Sanctuary and Online)

### **Good Friday: April 18**

#### **9 a.m. - Journey to the Cross**

Beginning in the Atrium, we will follow Jesus from the Hosannas of Palm Sunday to the Upper Room where Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends. We'll hear of Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane and before Pontius Pilate. We'll hear again his commandment to love one another and of his great love shown on the cross. Throughout, there are tangible experiences to help draw us into Jesus' Passion. The service will conclude in the sanctuary with a time of Adoration of the Cross. As we leave worship, we will be reminded that this is not the end of the story; Easter is coming!

#### **12 and 7 p.m. - Good Friday Worship**

The evening service will also be livestreamed.

**Easter Vigil:** April 19 at 7 p.m.

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

**Easter Sunday:** April 20 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

The 8:30 service will also be livestreamed.

## **What's Happening: April 14 - April 20**

**Knitting Group:** Tuesday, April 15, at 1 p.m. (Church Library)

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

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

## **Building Hours**

Grace Church and School will be closed on April 18 from 1 to 6 p.m. and April 21 all day. Normal building hours will resume on April 22.

## **Upcoming Events and Fellowship Groups**

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

**Cornerstones:** Resumes Wednesday, April 23, at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

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

**Religion in Literature:** Friday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. (Off-site)

Join us for a discussion on Joseph Roth's book, *Job: The Story of a Simple Man*, which is about a Russian immigrant whose misfortunes test his faith. The leader of the discussion will be Bill Clapp, and the meeting will be held in the home of Bill and Karen Clapp, 5845 W Ohio St., Chicago. All are welcome!

**Men of Grace:** Saturday, April 26, at 9 a.m. (Atrium)

**Wedding:** Saturday, April 26, at 1 p.m. (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)

Jim Kerns and Carolyn Lemley invite Grace members to their ceremony and reception following in Fellowship Hall.

**Faith Formation Resumes:** Sunday, April 27, at 8:45 a.m.

**Bach Cantata Vespers:** Sunday, April 27, at 3:45 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats, BWV 42 (On the evening of the same Sabbath)

Bach's project of writing weekly cantatas based on chorales began on Trinity Sunday in 1724 and ended on Palm Sunday in 1725 — not quite a full year. Instead of a chorale-based chorus, this cantata, composed for the First Sunday after Easter in 1725, opens with a cheery sinfonia. A recitative follows, quoting from the day's Gospel about Jesus bringing peace and comfort as he appears to his disciples gathered in a locked room on Easter evening.

**Photography Exhibition at Grace: Sacred Space: The Architecture of Worship**

Sunday, April 27, at 5:30 p.m. (Atrium, following Bach Cantata Vespers)

Photographer William North will be present for the opening of his special exhibition, which will be displayed in the foyer and Atrium. Come celebrate the opening of this exhibition with us and enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres. All are welcome!

**Moms of Littles:** Thursday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. (Youth Center)

**Finding Hope:** Friday, May 9, at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

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

Grace Church will be sponsoring its annual gathering benefiting the Center for Christian Education (CCE) in Martin, Slovakia. The happy hour will start at 5 p.m., followed by an authentic Slovak dinner, a cash bar, and fellowship. CCE leaders will also present an update of their ministry. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person. You can buy yours in the atrium before or after worship on April 27, May 4, and May 11. Or, go to Grace's website and click Donate. The tile for the event on Vanco is called CCE Benefit Event.

**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](mailto:dlyle@graceriverforest.org)).

## Other Information

### Justice and Peace

God calls us as Christians to live out our faith and be active in the world, serving others in need and working for Justice and Peace in our community and our country. In changing times, it is especially important that we be vigilant and stand up for what we believe. On Grace's website, you will find a page dedicated to resources that help us fulfill our Christian mission. If you know of other organizations that are working to support this mission, or specific programs or other initiatives, please let us know so they can be added to the page. Contact Troy Medlin ([tmedlin@graceriverforest.org](mailto:tmedlin@graceriverforest.org)) with information and a web link.

### Grace Church Library

The Church Library's April book list features Holy Week and Easter stories! To see what books the church is recommending for adults and children, visit Grace Links. 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.

### 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. If you are interested in participating, reach out to Jessica Bullock ([jesbullock23@gmail.com](mailto:jesbullock23@gmail.com)).



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

## **Congregational Survey**

We are conducting a survey of the congregation as part of our visioning and strategic planning process. We want your input, and it will help us know where to focus our energy as we move forward as a congregation.

Scanning the QR code below takes you to a survey for congregation members. Use it to go online. You will be taken to a 36 question (plus demographic info section) about our congregation. Each question has three choices and definitions to help you decide which one you believe best describes our church. You **MUST** answer every question for the survey to be submitted. If you are not sure between two answers, pick the best one. With what will likely be over 100 people doing this, your answers will collectively center in on what we think as a church - so don't over think this - just faithfully and truthfully respond.



The survey will close on Easter. Paper copies of the survey will be available at the front desk or by contacting the church office. Please return completed paper surveys to Pastor Dave Lyle.

Thanks!

*Strategic Planning Leadership Team*

*Grace Lutheran Church and School • 7300 Division, River Forest, IL  
60305 708-366-6900 • [www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org)  
Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care evenings and weekends.*