

New Member Class: Sundays, October 5 - November 9, at 8:45 a.m.

Location: Pastor Dave Lyle's Office

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org.

Today at Grace

Harmony Food Drive

Grace's Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the successful summer food collection for Harmony Community Cares Food Pantry. We are going to continue to collect for the pantry in North Lawndale which has seen a decrease in funding and an increase in those seeking food. Please drop off unopened nonperishable items in the bin in the Atrium. We thank you again for your generosity.

Collection schedule: soup from 9/14 through 10/05; baby food from 10/05 through 10/26; and peanut butter, jelly and sandwich bread from 11/30 through 12/14.

Operation Deluge: From 9 to 12 p.m. (Atrium)

Stop by to sign a card and send some cheer to a Grace member.

9th Grade Mentor Session: At 11:15 a.m. (Youth Center)

What's Happening: September 22 - September 28

Dads of Grace: Monday at 7:30 p.m. (Off-site)

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

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

Parish Choir: Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. (Music Room)

Grace Notes Mailing Crew: Thursday at 9:30 a.m. (Church Library)

GriefShare: Thursday at 10 a.m. (Conference Room)

Session Topic: Your Grief Journey

The cost for the course is \$20 and includes video sessions, online materials, and a workbook. You can join the seminar series at any point, and all are welcome. 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 by email at lmbernard5@gmail.com. For the schedule, visit Grace Links.

Yoga Class: Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Please bring a yoga mat, a yoga block if you have one, and a large towel (beach towels work well) or a blanket with you to class. Also dress in clothing that you can comfortably move around in. Fee for the class is a free will offering which goes to the church. If you have questions about class or yoga in general, please call Ackli at 708-516-2701.

Theology on Tap: Friday at 7 p.m. (One Lake Brewing, Oak Park)

Men of Grace: Saturday at 9 a.m. (Youth Center)

Sunday School: Sunday at 9 a.m. (Nursery & 3rd Floor Commons)

Confirmation: Sunday at 9 a.m. (Youth Center)

High School Brunch: Sunday at 11:15 a.m. (Youth Center)

All high school youth are invited for this time of food, connection, and conversation. We will meet once a month. Reach out to Pastor Troy with any questions at tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.

Adult Education: Sunday at 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski will share about Grace's stained glass.

Bach Cantata Vespers: Sunday at 3:45 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren, BWV 137

Praise to the Lord, the almighty King of creation

Originally performed on the 12th Sunday after Trinity, August 19, 1725, this festive work based on the beloved Lutheran chorale opens our 55th year of Bach Cantata Vespers at Grace. For more information, visit bachvespers.org.

Upcoming Events and Fellowship Groups

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

Moms of Littles: Thursday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. (Youth Center)

If you need childcare, please let Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski (elyssa.salinas@gmail.com) know by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Consonance: Friday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, October 5, at 3 p.m.

Sacrificial Love: Human and Divine

From Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir to music for solo cello and choir, the entire program is one of introspection, giving listeners and singers alike the opportunity to meditate on words of sacrifice, of mercy, of love. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for seniors. To purchase tickets, visit Grace Links or go to consonancechicago.org.

Vaccine Clinic: Sunday, October 5, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Gym)

Please bring your insurance information to your appointment. To schedule your appointment, visit Grace Links. Walk-ins are welcome, too. There will be registration forms available. If you have any questions, you can contact Bryan Bernard at 708-903-9609.

Coffee Hour and Reception: Sunday, October 5, at 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

The Board of Spiritual Life invites you to a special celebration for Pastor Dave Lyle's 10th anniversary of installation as Grace's senior pastor.

Compline Prayer: Thursday, October 9, at 9 p.m. ([Zoom](#))

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. We will meet on Zoom, and the meeting ID is 842 0215 1732 and the passcode is 671114. If you have questions, let Pastor Troy know (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

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

Blessing of the Animals: Saturday, October 11, at 10 a.m. (Outside of Grace)

Pets of all kinds are welcome! Plan to bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier. If your pet is uncomfortable around other animals (or in memory of a late pet), consider instead bringing a photo to be blessed. No pet? Come as you are. If you have questions, please let Pastor Troy Medlin know at tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.

Operation Deluge: Sunday, October 12, from 9 to 11 a.m. (Atrium)

Stop by to sign a card and send some cheer to a Grace member.

Faith Forum: Tuesday, October 14, at 10 a.m. (Church Library and [Zoom](#))

Power of Night: The Road to the 24-Hour City

How and when did cities come to be incessantly lit up, 24/7? Geographer Mark Bouman will discuss cities and nighttime from ancient Greece and Rome through the Middle Ages and down to the present, with a nod to images of darkness and light that are prominent in scripture and in Christian liturgy.

If you would like to join virtually, the Zoom meeting ID is 825-6775-6438 and the passcode is 407970.

Religion in Literature: Friday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m. (Off-site)

Steve Peterson will lead the discussion of Tolstoy's, *The Death of Ivan Ilych*, a novella about a 19th century Russian judge who has lived a life focused on superficial appearances and status, but upon suffering a terminal illness, begins to see clearly and to understand forgiveness. Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim will be the host (210 S. Elmwood, Oak Park).

Confirmation Witness Service: Sunday, October 18, at 7 p.m. (Sanctuary and Online)

The 2024 confirmands will present their witness statements and projects. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: Sunday, October 19, at 11:15 a.m. (Seminar Room)

We are looking to start making quilts to donate to LWR's quilt project (visit lwr.org to learn more). The kickoff meeting will discuss the details of this worthwhile project. Questions? Please contact Christa Krout (christakrout@comcast.net) or Beth McClanahan (macbeth839@gmail.com) for more information.

Festival of Hymns: Sunday, October 19, at 7 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Grace Parish Choir, Concordia University Kapelle, and Choir of First Saint Paul's Lutheran, Chicago will join together for this music event. It will feature texts and commentary by David Rogner. There is no cost to attend.

Knitting Group: Tuesday, October 21, at 1 p.m. (Church Library)

Other Information

Grace Church Library

The current book list features books for our younger readers with Christian books as well as stories to educate and enhance spiritual growth. To see what books the church is recommending, 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. Books are available for a four-week checkout

In the Community

For more information about these events, visit Grace Links. If you have an event you would like to include, please email it to Amanda Smith (asmith@graceriverforest.org).

Iconographer Discusses 20th Century Catholic Heroes

Sunday, September 21, at 2 p.m.

Location: United Methodist Church, 405 S. Euclid Ave, Oak Park

Grace Links

