

Today at Grace

Help our Neighbors with Groceries

The families that Grace has cared for since their arrival in the US are now afraid to go grocery shopping and are experiencing food insecurity related to recent cuts to SNAP, etc. and the Refugee Ministry wants to help them by collecting funds to purchase grocery store gift cards for them. To participate, you can donate via cash (marked "Refugee Ministry"), a check to Grace (memo: Refugee Ministry), or through Vanco's "Refugee Outreach Ministry" tile.

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.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: Sunday 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.

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

Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild, BWV 79 (*God the Lord is Sun and Shield*)

The preview lecture at 3 p.m. will be held in Grace's Gym.

This Cantata was first performed in Leipzig on Reformation Day, October 31, 1725. With the steady beat of timpani undergirding the horn obligato, the chorus proclaims the glorious "sun and shield" text from Psalm 84. The horns return in the third movement in the familiar chorale setting of Martin Rinkart's 17th century hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." Pastor L. George Detweiler from Norristown, Pennsylvania, will be the homilist. Visit bachvespers.org to learn more.

Advocacy Action Event for Food Insecurity

Date: November 2 at 11:15 a.m.

Hosted jointly by Grace's Justice & Peace and Social Ministry Committees

Join us for lunch, conversation, and action. We will hear from representatives from Beyond Hunger and Harmony Community Cares on how our neighbors are impacted by threats to their food security. We will learn about the changes for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, aka food stamps), WIC (food assistance program for Women, Infants, and Children) and grants to local food pantries. Participants will have the opportunity to reach out to elected officials about these programs by phone, email, or hard-copy letters. Donations of non-perishable food items are welcome.

Participants are encouraged to bring personal laptops or phones to support access to personal email. If you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Troy at tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.

What's Happening: October 27 - November 2

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. This week also includes a hymn sing.

Handbell Choir: Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. (Bell Room)

If you're interested in joining, please contact Lisa Wolfanger (lwolfanger@graceriverforest.org).

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

Grace Notes Mailing Crew: Thursday at 9:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

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

Session Topic: Regrets

For more information, visit the website under "What's Happening." If you have questions, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720 or by email at lmbernard5@gmail.com.

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.

New Member Class: Sunday at 8:45 a.m. (Pastor Dave Lyle's Office)

Adult Education: Sunday at 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Session Topic: The Biblical Canon: How Did We Get the Books of the Bible?

Speaker: Michael Graves of Wheaton

Christian Scripture is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament, and, for some Christians, a third category known as the Deuterocanonical (or Apocryphal) books. This class will explore how the particular books that we have (and not others) came to be recognized in the church as Sacred Scripture. On November 2, we will discuss the Old Testament and Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books, and on November 9, we will address the New Testament, including non-canonical Gospels. Please bring your insights and questions!

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

Session Topic: The Damascus Road

Sunday School: Sunday at 9 a.m. (Nursery and 3rd floor Commons)

Session Topic: Beatitudes (Luke 6:20-31)

Upcoming Events and Fellowship Groups

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

Kontras Quartet Concert: Monday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

The program will include works of Mozart, Janáček, and Paul Wiancko. It is free to attend.

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

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

Ladies Bunco Night: Friday, November 7, at 6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

We'll be playing Bunco while enjoying seasonal sweet and savory charcuterie boards, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages. Please bring \$10 in cash. The night will also include a collection for Social Ministry's Christmas Adopt a Stocking initiative for the Night Ministry. The cost is \$25 to fill a stocking or you can purchase items. To sign up to bring items or RSVP, visit Grace Links.

Health Cabinet Presentation: Sunday, November 9, at 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Session Topic: Healthcare Planning in Retirement: Strategies and Medicare Legislative Updates

The Health Committee is hosting Lori Martin, who will be talking about health care issues as we age. Medicare options and the latest legislative updates will be discussed. Other topics include downsizing and planning for appropriate living arrangements, as well as making decisions related to level of care in the future.

Faith Forum: Tuesday, November 11, at 10 a.m. (Church Library and [Zoom](#))

Ministering to Migrants in our Community

Over 51,000 immigrants arrived in the Chicago area over the past three years, many coming from Texas by bus. An interfaith response has helped migrants in the Oak Park and River Forest area with housing, food, clothing, and legal support, and some congregations have accompanied migrant families as they seek to establish a new life. Describing this ministry will be Celine Woznica, director of program development for the Migrant Ministry of the Catholic Parishes of Oak Park, and Mary Scherer-Emunds a member of the Migrant Ministry Advisory Board and head of Migrant Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Oak Park.

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

Compline Prayer: Thursday, November 13, 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, November 14, at 10 a.m. (Church Library)

Operation Deluge: Sunday, November 16, from 9 to 12 p.m. (Atrium)

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

All Church Harvest Brunch: Sunday, November 16, at 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Save the date for our upcoming brunch. More information will be shared soon.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays: Sunday, November 16, at 12 p.m.

St Giles Catholic Church (1045 Columbian Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302)

This two hour session provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season. If you have any questions, contact Geri Tapling (griefshare2stgilesparish.org OR 708.223.4912). To register, go to griefshare.org/holidays (use zip code 60302 to find this group) or visit Grace Links. Grace Lutheran Church is a co-sponsor of the seminar.

Heritage Chorale Concert: Sunday, November 16, at 4 p.m. (Sanctuary)

In our fall concert, Heritage Chorale weaves an international tapestry, showcasing choral works from across the continents. Tickets may be purchased at the door (cash or credit) or online through November 14 (link on Grace Links). General admission is \$20 and \$15 for seniors.

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

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

Liz Hanson will lead the discussion of *The Testament of Mary* by Colm Tóibín, a novel that explores Mary's old age in Ephesus where she is harassed by both followers and persecutors of her son. Her memories of the crucifixion are stark, and she questions its necessity. We will meet at the home of Jeff and Leanna Cribbs, 1737 N Natoma Ave, Chicago. All are welcome! To be added to the email list, please contact Jill Baumgaertner at jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu.

Men of Grace: Saturday, November 22, at 9 a.m. (Youth Center)

Other Information

Children's Christmas Eve Services

The Children's Christmas Eve services at 4:15 and 6 p.m. are led by the children of Grace Lutheran Church and School. All children in grades 1–8 are invited to be a part of this tradition. Every year, children who attend schools other than Grace participate in these services along with Grace School students. If you're child is interested in participating, please visit Grace Links to fill out the form. If you have any questions, please reach out to Johanna Johnson (jojohanson@graceriverforest.org).

Grace Church Library

The current list features books about Reformation Sunday and All Saints and can be found on 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

Safety for Those Who Stay: Honduran Women's Struggle Against Violence

Sunday, October 26, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: St. Giles Campus, McDonough Hall, 1101 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL

Our speakers will share their stories and successes in supporting and caring for Honduran woman. For more information, contact Dr. Marci Madary, Director of Spirit and Light, at mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org.



Grace Links