

Weekly Announcements

Nov. 9, 2025 • Last Sunday's Attendance: 327

Faith Promise Sunday: November 16

A Faith Promise, in the words of Pastor David Lyle, “is a promise of how you will faithfully, prayerfully, and generously support the mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School with your financial gifts in the coming year.” The Stewardship Committee asks that members prayerfully consider what God has entrusted to you and what you can joyfully give back to God through your contributions to Grace in 2026. Faith Promise cards are also being distributed after worship today, November 9, if you didn't receive one in the mail. Completed cards will be brought to the altar on November 16 or mailed to Grace, attention Jim McClanahan.

Today at Grace: November 9

Health Cabinet Presentation: 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Session Topic: Healthcare Planning in Retirement: Strategies and Medicare Legislative Updates
Lori Martin will be talking about health care issues as we age. Medicare options and the latest legislative updates will also 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.

New Member Reception: 11:15 a.m. (Atrium)

Mentor Sunday: 11:15 a.m. (Youth Center)



What's Happening: November 10 - November 15

Ready to build deeper friendships and connections at Grace? Now is the perfect time to jump in! We have several groups meeting this week, and you're invited to stop by even if you've never attended before. All are welcome and no RSVP required. Come connect with your church family!



Grace Links

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

Ministering to Migrants in our Community by Celine Woznica and Mary Scherer-Emunds

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.

The Zoom meeting ID is 825-6775-6438 and the passcode is 407970.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Session Topic: Questions for God

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. (3rd Floor Commons)

Bring a yoga mat, a yoga block if you have one, and a large towel or a blanket. 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.

Compline Prayer: Thursday 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. If you have questions, let Pastor Troy know (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org).

The Zoom meeting ID is 842-0215-1732 and the passcode is 671114.

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

You are invited to an informal monthly gathering of support and encouragement for those who experience a chronic health concern.

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

Tania Runyan will be reading selections from her Poet Jesus project, which imagines Jesus' perspective on the Gospels and 21st-century life.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays: Sunday 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. To register, go to griefshare.org/holidays (use zip code 60302 to find this group) or visit Grace Links.

Heritage Chorale Concert: Sunday 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.

Giving Opportunities

Thank you for giving to those in need in our community and brightening their holiday.

Food Drive for our Community: November 2 - 16 (Atrium)

Items collected will be given to Beyond Hunger, Harmony Community Cares, and Forest Park Food Pantry. Soup, canned corn, canned fruit, and canned meat are the most requested items.

Children's Costume Collection: November 2 - 16

The Social Ministry Committee will donate the costumes to Wonder Works Children's Museum in Oak Park. The museum's mission is to spark curiosity and creativity in all young children through positive play based learning experiences. Items can be left in the black bin in the Atrium.

The Giving Tree: November 9 - December 1

Please take a tag and purchase a gift or gift card and return it to Grace. This year, gifts and gift cards will go to foster children with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois; teen mothers and their young children with New Moms; children and teens with Children First; developmentally challenged adults with Oak-Leyden Adult Services; senior citizens in need at Mills Park Tower and homeless served by the Night Ministry. In some cases, your gift will be the only one the individual receives. If you have any questions please contact Heidi Hamernik at docheidihamernik@gmail.com.

Stocking Adoption: November 9 - December 3

Please adopt a stocking for the Night Ministry. The \$25 donation can be dropped at the front desk. The Social Ministry Committee will then purchase the needed toiletries, sundries, and warm winter gear and stuff the stockings that the Night Ministry will distribute to the homeless in Chicago. If you have any questions, contact Jo-Ellyn Dorsey at jodorsey47@gmail.com.

Help our Refugee Families with Groceries

Thanks to generous donations, we have been able to help three of our co-sponsored families fill the gap in their food purchasing power as a result of the reduction in their SNAP card (food stamps). We are supplying cards to ALDI and Patel Brothers as well as general Mastercard or Visa gift cards. Our goal was \$300 per month per family. So far, we have given \$900 in October and \$600 in November.

We will continue to collect donations to support the families. For more information, contact Linda Street (kentuckystreets53@gmail.com). To donate to the fund, you can give via cash (marked "Refugee Ministry"), a check to Grace (memo: Refugee Ministry), or through Vanco's "Refugee Outreach Ministry" tile. If bringing cash or a check, you can leave it with the front desk or mail it to Grace.

Upcoming Events

Information about other upcoming events, fellowship groups, and concerts can be found on the last page of Grace Notes and on Grace Links. The monthly event calendar is also available at the front desk or you can scan the QR code for a PDF version.



Confirmation and Sunday School: On Break until December 7

Adult Education: Sunday, November 23, at 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

The Immigrant Worker Rebellion: The Exodus Story & Immigrant Workers Fighting Back

Join Ethan Aronson, Faith Community Organizer from Arise Chicago, to learn about how immigrant workers are fighting for their rights under extremely difficult conditions across Chicagoland today, reflect theologically on the liberatory nature of this struggle in relation to the book of Exodus, and learn how people of faith can get involved to act prophetically alongside immigrant workers.

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. Every year, children who attend schools other than Grace participate in these services along with Grace School students. If your child is interested in participating, please visit Grace Links for the form. For questions, reach out to Johanna Johnson (jojohanson@graceriverforest.org).

Grace Church Library

The current list features books about giving thanks 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.

It's Turkey Time Again!

The sisters at Fraternite Notre Dame are making plans for their Annual Thanksgiving dinner for our neighbors in the Austin area. They are in need of at least 60 turkeys and mashed potatoes in order to serve the hundreds of neighbors who come for dinner at their church. In addition to the meal, they also distribute turkeys to their seniors. Please know that they are so grateful for our steadfast support over the years and would appreciate whatever you are able to contribute. Feel free to either donate money or the actual turkey (frozen or fresh). Please bring the items or your checks (made out to Sue Foran) to church by Sunday Nov. 23 at the latest. You can also donate using venmo (@SusanForan4) or Zelle (708-267-1620). Please feel free to call or email Sue Foran (708-267-1620 or susanforan4@gmail.com) if you need to make other arrangements for pick up.

Community of Congregations: Holiday Food and Gift Basket Giving

Every year they provide grocery gift cards in November and holiday gifts in December to low-income individuals and families. If you would like to support their work, you can donate money that will go to gift cards and program expenses, sponsor gifts, or volunteer to deliver gifts. For more information, visit communityofcongregations.org and go to the HFGB menu option.