

# Weekly Announcements

*Nov. 30, 2025 • Last Sunday's Attendance: 196*

## Today at Grace: November 30

### Grace's Library is Open

Did you know that the church library is open on Sundays? Stop by after worship to see what books are available. And if your child needs a break during worship, there are books just for them.

If you are looking for books on Advent, or Christmas, you can find them in the library too! The book list for December 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.

### Advent Devotionals

There are devotionals available for kids, adults, and families. They can be found in the Atrium and Narthex.

### Sponsor a Christmas Poinsettia for the Grace Chancel

Cost: \$20 (cash or check)

Sign up at the front desk or email [gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org). You can take your plant home after worship on Christmas Day.

### Faith Promise Cards

If you haven't brought in your card yet, you can still bring it in during any upcoming service, drop it off at the front desk, or mail it to Grace.

## Cookie Bakers Wanted



Bake them, take them! The Cookie Walk is back in town on December 14 and being sponsored by the Graceful Evening 2026 Committee. We need volunteers to bake 3-4 dozen homemade Christmas cookies, candies and treats to donate to the cookie walk! To sign up, visit Grace Links or let the front desk know. Please indicate what kind of Christmas treat you will make to avoid too many repeats. Cookie donations can be dropped off in the warming kitchen at Grace on Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to noon or Sunday, December 14, by 9 a.m.

# What's Happening: December 1 - December 7

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**

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

Join us for fellowship followed by a discussion about the upcoming Scripture readings. This week includes morning prayer and lunch. All are welcome!

## **Upcoming Schedule**

- December 10: Fellowship, Bible Study, Morning Prayer, Lunch, and School Performance
- December 17: Fellowship, Bible Study, and Morning Prayer

## **Wednesdays in Advent**

- 11:30 a.m.: Morning Prayer (Church Library)
- 6:00 p.m.: Supper (Fellowship Hall)
  - Hosted by the Health Cabinet
- 7:00 p.m.: Evening Prayer (Sanctuary and Online)

## **Handbell Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. (Bell Room)**

If you're interested in joining, please contact Lisa Wolfanger ([lwolfanger@gracriverforest.org](mailto:lwolfanger@gracriverforest.org)).

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

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

Session Topic: Hope & Resilience

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](mailto:lmbernard5@gmail.com).

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

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.

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

We are group for moms of children ages infant - 8th grade. Our intention is to build and maintain a faith-based community that supports each other as we navigate the journey of parenthood. All moms are welcome in this group regardless of church or school affiliation. If you are in need of child care, please let Elyssa know by the Monday before each meeting ([elyssa.salinass@gmail.com](mailto:elyssa.salinass@gmail.com)).

## **Adult Education: Sunday at 9 a.m. (Seminar Room)**

Elizabeth Palmer on the best books of the year

### **Christmas Caroling in Oak Park: Saturday at 12:30 p.m.**

Grace singers and friends will again be singing Christmas carols in downtown Oak Park this year. We'll meet by Fleet Feet, at the corner of Marion and North Blvd. Singers of all ages, abilities, and experience are welcome. We'll have carol books ready for you. Sign up beforehand so that we have an idea of how many people will be coming — or join us at the last minute. The link to RSVP can be found on Grace Links. Questions? Email Gwen Gotsch ([gwengotsch@gmail.com](mailto:gwengotsch@gmail.com)).

### **Spirito Concert (Winter's Tale): Sunday at 4 p.m. (Sanctuary)**

Gather near this holiday season to hear musical stories of winters past and present in Winter's Tales. Featuring talented treble singers ages 8-18 from across the Chicagoland area - as well as our brother ensemble, Fratelli men's chorus - Spirito Singers will shine in a program that includes holiday favorites new and old. From jazz standards like "The Man with the Bag" to hilarious songs like "The Twelve Dogs of Christmas" to Benjamin Britten's sublime A Ceremony of Carols, this program will leave audience's hearts glowing, even as the days grow shorter. Tickets are \$27 in advance (\$22 students and seniors with valid ID). For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit Grace Links or their website ([www.spiritosingers.org](http://www.spiritosingers.org)).

## **Upcoming Events**

Information about upcoming events, fellowship groups, and concerts can be found in 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



## **Other Information**

### **Lutheran Home Auxiliary Christmas Sale: Fri., Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Location: 800 Oakton, Arlington Heights 60004

Enjoy a day of shopping to fill your home and Santa's stockings with Christmas treasures. In addition, there will be baked goods, jewelry, linens, household and kitchen items, and much more - both gently used and new. The proceeds from the Christmas Sale go to the Lutheran Home Benevolent Care Fund.

### **Christmas Cookie Collection for Harmony Food Pantry**

Each year for Christmas, Harmony Food Pantry gives each client a dozen (or more) home-made Christmas cookies as a special holiday treat. Due to high food costs and government cutbacks, we have been averaging close to 300 clients each week, which means we will need at least 3600 cookies. We invite you to join us in bringing some Christmas cheer to our neighbors in North Lawndale. Bring your cookies to church on Sunday, December 14. Be sure to label them Harmony Cookies; or you can drop them off at Connie Zyer's home at 1321 William St. River Forest. There will also be coolers at the side door of Connie's driveway from Dec. 10 - 15 where you can place your cookies if you can't bring them to Grace on that Sunday. For more information, contact Connie at 708-917-4872 or [cruschz@aol.com](mailto:cruschz@aol.com).

## **In the Community**

### **Vigil Against Gun Violence, Remembering Victims and Supporting Survivors**

Date: Monday, December 8, at 7 p.m. (St. Edmund Church, 188 S. Oak Park Ave.)