

## Today at Grace: December 7

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

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

### Advent Devotionals

There are devotionals available for kids, adults, and families in the Atrium & 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).

### Harmony Cares Food Collection: Until December 14 (Atrium)

We will be collecting peanut butter, bread, and jelly for the food pantry.

### 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 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.

### Faith Promise Cards

If you haven't brought in your card yet, you can still bring it in. Please leave it at the front desk.

## Advent Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14, at 4 p.m. (Sanctuary)

This year's theme is Sing the Songs of Bethlehem. The Parish Choir of Grace Lutheran Church and fifth through eighth grade choir of Grace Lutheran School will sing familiar carols and anthems of the season with orchestra and congregational participation. The work that anchors this year's program was composed by K. Lee Scott, Sing the Songs of Bethlehem, which itself is presented in the familiar pattern of lessons and carols. Join us for this annual tradition to listen to music for the season and to add your voice to the song!

# What's Happening: December 8 - December 14

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!



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

## **Grace Links**

The Word Made Flesh: Poets Encounter the Incarnation

Grace member and poet Jill Peláez Baumgaertner will focus on 20 poems and prose passages from authors who present images and interpretations of Christmas. From John Donne to Lawrence Ferlinghetti to Jewish philosopher Edith Stein, who became a saint of the Catholic church, these are poets who sometimes ask unpredictable questions and resist the usual formulas, inspiring reflection, surprise, and delight. If you would like to join virtually, 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. This week includes morning prayer, lunch, and a performance from Grace students. All are welcome!

## **Wednesdays in Advent**

- 11:30 a.m.: Morning Prayer (Church Library)
- 6:00 p.m.: Supper (Fellowship Hall)
  - Hosted by the Church Council
- 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@graceriverforest.org](mailto:lwolfanger@graceriverforest.org)).

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

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

Session Topic: What Do I Live For Now?

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.

## **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. (Seminar Room)**

Appalachian Service Project (ASP) Mission Team

The high school students who went on the ASP mission trip last summer will share about their experience serving in Harlan, KY, and their reflections on this transformative time.

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

Session Topic: The Revelation to John

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

Session Topic: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-58)

### **Operation Deluge: Sunday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Atrium)**

Stop by to enjoy a treat, sign a card, and send a word of prayer or encouragement to a Grace member.

### **Cookie Walk: Sunday at 11:15 a.m. (Grace's Gym)**

Sponsored by the Graceful Evening 2026 Committee

Come to the gym after worship and choose your favorite cookies to take home. Fill a box for \$20.

We also 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.

## **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.



## **Monthly Reminders**

### **Help our Refugee Families with Groceries**

We will continue to collect donations to support the refugee families. For more information, contact Linda Street ([kentuckystreets53@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Threads of Hope**

Join us on January 10 in Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help assemble our first quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The finished quilts will support people in need, whether due to health diagnosis, natural disasters, or war. Help us assemble quilts and sort donations. All levels of experience are welcome. Stay for the full time or drop in for an hour or two. Light lunch will be served to volunteers. Please consider donating supplies, equipment, or funds to support this effort. A "Master List of Welcome Supplies" can be found on Grace Links. Donated Supplies can be placed in the Quilt Project Bin in the Coat Closet off the Atrium. Contact Christa Krout, 708.557.9574 or [christakrout@comcast.net](mailto:christakrout@comcast.net) with any questions.

## **Other Information**

### **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.)

### **Second Sunday Concert**

Date: Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m. (United Lutheran Church, 409 Greenfield St, Oak Park)

Flutist Eric Leise, along with cellist Christopher Ferrer and pianist Cacie Miller, will perform works by Lili Boulanger, Frank Bridge, Philippe Gaubert, and Carl Maria von Weber. There is no cost to attend the concert, and it is open to the public.

## **Thank You**

On behalf of our neighbors in Austin and the brothers & sisters at Fraternite Notre Dame, I give thanks for the generous members of Grace. Thanks to you, we were able to donate over 60 turkeys and the fixings for mashed potatoes and desserts for over 300 people. The need in our world is so great, and it is such an honor and a privilege that together we can serve our neighbors an abundant meal on Thanksgiving. God bless you all!

With deep gratitude,

Sue Foran