

Weekly Announcements

Dec. 28, 2025 • Last Sunday's Attendance: 224

Today at Grace

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.

What's Happening: December 29 - January 4

Building Hours

- December 29/30: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- December 31/January 1: open for worship only
- January 2: building closed

New Years Eve Worship: December 31 at 7 p.m.

This year, our new years eve service also includes the cantata, Gottlob! nun geht das Jahr zu Ende, BWV 28 (Praise God! Now the year comes to an end). This cheerful cantata was written by Bach for the last Sunday of 1725. Its five concise movements thank God for the gifts of the past year and ask that these blessings continue in the year to come. The Baroque, dance-like opening aria for soprano is immediately followed by the chorale Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren (My soul, now praise your maker), set by Bach in the older contrapuntal style of the church motet. Join us as we welcome a new year with prayer and praise!

New Years Day Worship: January 1 at 10 a.m.



Grace Links

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.



GriefShare Seminar Series: Thursdays, January 22 - April 9, at 10 a.m.

A new offering of the 12-week GriefShare seminar series begins soon. The sessions will be held on Thursdays, January 22–April 9, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. All meetings will be held in the church library except as noted below. All are welcome, and you can join at any time.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. Whether you are grieving the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, other family member, or a friend, and no matter what the cause of your loved one's death, you will find encouragement, comfort, and help by being with others who understand what you are feeling. The cost for the course is \$20 and includes video sessions, online materials, and a workbook.

Schedule

January 22: Is This Normal?

January 29: Your Grief Journey
Conference Room

February 5: Loneliness & Sadness

February 12: Self-Care

February 19: Fearful & Overwhelmed

February 26: Anger (Conference Room)

March 5: Regrets

March 12: Grief, Your Household, & Your
Friendships

March 19: Questions for God

March 26: Stuck in Grief (Conference Room)

April 2: Hope & Resilience

April 9: What Do I Live For Now?

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 at lmbernard5@gmail.com.

Other Information

Finance Report

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund – July 1, 2025 through December 23, 2025 (25 Sundays)

- Church Budgeted Contributions: \$966,300 (\$38,650 per week)
- Church Actual Contributions: \$894,000 (last year was \$813,000 through December 23)
- Church giving is \$72,300 (7.5%) behind budget, and \$81,000 (10.0%) ahead of last year.
- Today's December 23 deficit is \$138,000 (\$225,000 deficit last year through December 31).