

*February 1, 2026 • Last Sunday's Attendance: 169*

## Today at Grace: February 1

### Scout Sunday and Pancake Breakfast

During worship, Grace member Mike Carioscio will be presented with the Lamb Award – a national award of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting. It recognizes distinguished service of Lutheran adults in fostering the spiritual growth of youth through church and civic youth serving agency programs. Following worship, come to Fellowship Hall to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by the Scouts. Donations and silent auction support Troop programming and adventures. Come enjoy some food, connect with members of the Grace and scouting communities, and learn more about our Troop's rich 90 year history. Whether you're a longtime supporter, a curious newcomer, or simply hungry for some pancakes, everyone is welcome.

### Harmony Food Drive

#### February: Canned/Boxed Soup

We are going to continue collecting food for Harmony Community Cares Food Pantry. Please drop off unopened nonperishable items in the bin in the Atrium.

### 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.

The current feature is our large coffee table books. More information will be shared in the next Grace Notes, but you can check out the books now in the Atrium case. 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.

### Chili Cook Off and Winter Carnival



#### Friday, February 6

##### Chili Cook Off

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

*Chili prizes: Most original, Zestiest, and Best overall*

##### Winter Carnival

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Gym

*Carnival games for all ages, face painting, balloon artist, music, and more!*

Cost: \$10 per adult and \$5 per child



This is a church and school event, so we hope you can make it!

Go to Grace Links to RSVP, volunteer to help, or bring chili. We appreciate your support!

# **What's Happening: February 1 - 8**

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!

## **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)**

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

## **GriefShare: Thursday at 10 a.m. (Conference Room)**

Session Topic: Loneliness & Sadness

For more information, including upcoming sessions, go to Grace Links.

## **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 ([elyssa.salinas@gmail.com](mailto:elyssa.salinas@gmail.com)) know by the Monday before each meeting.

## **Graceful Evening Whiskey Donation Party: Friday at 7 PM**

Location: Schultz Residence (234 Park Ave, River Forest)

Church and school families are invited to come for an evening of and fellowship to support Grace School. We'll have apps, desserts, and additional beverages for those that prefer non-whiskey drinks. Please bring a bottle of whiskey valued at \$50 or more as a donation to the Whiskey Pull at Graceful Evening. Adults only please. Visit Grace Links to RSVP.

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

Session Topic: Hear the Word and Share the Supper

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

Session Topic: Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-20)

## **Other Information**

### **Sign Up for ELCA Action Alerts**

Looking for easy ways to advocate for justice and peace in the world? The Justice and Peace Committee encourages you to sign up to receive action alerts via email from the ELCA Advocacy office. These alerts will arrive in your inbox with the tools you need to reach out to elected officials regarding timely pieces of legislation so that you can add your voice to those calling for compassion, justice, and mercy in the legislative process as beloved children of God. Go to Grace Links for the link to sign up.

# Join us in February

## Grace Links



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

Managing Technology in Our Lives: Learning from Kierkegaard

Speaker: Pastor Ole Schenk

Technology affects many dimensions of our lives, and not always for the better. Social media activity can lead to a sense of futility about democratic politics and public discourse. The increased use of artificial intelligence may raise fears about the loss of employment in some fields. And these are just two examples. Drawing on the reflections of the Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard, Pastor Ole will explore how we might become better and more faithful at managing technology in our lives.

### **Finding Hope: Fri., Feb. 13, 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.

### **Operation Deluge: Sun., Feb. 15, 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.

### **Adult Education: Sun., Feb. 15, at 9 a.m. (Seminar Room)**

Finding Value in Forgotten Landscapes: The Case of the Calumet National Heritage Area

Speaker: Mark Bouman

In December, Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) and Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL) introduced bi-state, bicameral, and bipartisan legislation to create a Calumet National Heritage Area. The legislation recognizes the region's unusual ecological assets, its industrial strength, its cultural heritage, and perhaps most importantly, its national leadership in identifying and restoring often neglected sites and landscapes in this complex area at the continental crossroads neighboring the southern end of Lake Michigan. Geographer Mark Bouman has been a leader in this effort for over three decades and will review this exercise in placemaking at the regional scale.

### **Knitting Group: Tues., Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. (Church Library)**

Looking for a cozy community to share your love of yarn? Whether you're a beginner or an experienced knitter, you'll find a warm welcome here! Bring your current project and enjoy some relaxed crafting time and good conversation. We will also show you how to contribute to our prayer shawl ministry.

### **Moms of Littles: Thurs., Feb. 19, 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.

### **Religion in Literature: Fri., Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. (Off-site)**

*Foster* and *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan

One is about a man's moral dilemma as he discovers the abuse of young women in a local convent. The other is about a child who discovers love with foster parents. Karen Clapp will lead the discussion at Jill and Martin Baumgaertner home (841 W. Monroe St., #5PH, Chicago).

## **Bach Cantata Vespers: Sun., Feb. 22, at 3:45 p.m. (Sanctuary)**

Tue Rechnung! Donnerwort, BWV 168 (Settle the account! Word of thunder)

Based on the parable in Luke 16 about a dishonest manager, the dramatic music of the opening aria shows an all-powerful God who demands accountability from the people. The later movements of the cantata, however, bring resolution as text and music remind listeners that Jesus' sacrificial death has paid their debt. This marks the first performance of this cantata in our series at Grace.

## **Communion Instruction Retreat: Fri., Feb. 20, at 5:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)**

Fourth graders are invited to participate with a parent. Children who already receive communion are encouraged to attend the retreat along with their peers. To RSVP, visit Grace Links.

## **Lent Book Study: Sun., Feb. 22 - March 22 (Fellowship Hall)**

Join Pastor Lyle this Lent for a journey through *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* by Mark Powell. Please sign up using Grace Links so we know how many books to order.

## **Dads of Grace: Mon., Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. (Off-site)**

You're invited to stop by and connect with other dads in the church for encouragement, practical advice, and supportive friendship as we navigate the challenges and joys of fatherhood together.

## **Wednesdays in Lent: February 25 - March 25**

6:00 p.m. Supper (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service (Sanctuary and Online)

## **Grace Notes Mailing Crew: Thurs., Feb. 26, at 9:30 a.m. (Church Library)**

## **FEAST Kick-Off Event: Fri., Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)**

Join us for appetizers and cocktails as we kick off another season of FEAST (Faith, Education, and Spirit Together). This is an opportunity to gather in small groups each month to share fellowship and food, centered in scripture and prayer. If you would like to participate, the sign up is on Grace Links. Sign up will close on February 13, so there is time to organize the groups before the kickoff event on February 27. If you can't make the event of February 27, you can still sign up to participate.

## **Theology on Tap: Fri., Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. (One Lake Brewing, Oak Park)**

You're invited to join Pastor Troy once a month for Theology on Tap. It is geared toward young adults but all people are welcome. Pastor Troy will bring a topic and some questions for discussion. Curiosity and different perspectives are always welcome.

## **Men of Grace: Sat., Feb. 28, at 9 a.m. (Youth Center)**

Join the men of Grace for coffee and donuts, great conversation, and time for connection with each other. All are welcome!

## **Graceful Evening Pub Crawl: Sat., Feb. 28, at 6 PM**

**(Madison Ave in Forest Park; Bars TBD)**

Cost: \$50 per person and includes a T-shirt and pizza at Jimmy's place.

Join us for the first ever Graceful Evening Pub Crawl on Madison Street in Forest Park! The evening kicks off at 6 p.m. at Duffy's Tavern. We will "crawl" to about 4 bars total with a stop at Jimmy's Place for pizza. This event is open to anyone who wants to support Grace Lutheran School (21+). Visit Grace Links to RSVP.