

Upcoming Events

September 2026

GriefShare Loss of a Spouse Seminar: Sat., Sept. 12, at 9 a.m. (Church Library)

Are you grieving the death of a spouse? If so, your life has changed forever, and the emotions and challenges you are dealing with may seem too hard to bear. But help is available. This practical, hope-inspiring seminar uses a biblical perspective and features video interviews with Christian experts on grief and recovery as well as personal testimonies from widowed men and women. The seminar combines the video presentation with group discussion. Attendees will receive a booklet filled with practical tips, encouraging words, insights from Scripture, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help in their life ahead. The cost is \$5, and you can pay at the door with check or cash. To register, call 708-366-6900 or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org.

PicnicFest: Sun., Sept. 13, from 11:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Don't miss all the fun and fellowship as the church and school serve together at the beginning of a new school and ministry year. Enjoy picnic fare with brats, sauerkraut, an Oktoberfest biergarten, and fun activities for the whole family! To RSVP to attend or volunteer to help, visit [Grace Links](#).

Jewel Osco Vaccine Clinic: Sun., Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Grace's Gym)

When scheduling an appointment, keep in mind that before worship is the busiest time, and you may not receive the vaccine before the service starts. Please bring your insurance information to your appointment. To schedule your appointment, visit [Grace Links](#). Walk ins are welcome too. There will be registration forms available.

Operation Deluge: Sun., Sept. 20, 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.

Liturgical Backstage Pass: Sun., Sept. 20, at 11:15 a.m. (Sanctuary)

On average, 200 people come to worship at Grace on Sunday morning. Special holidays, like Christmas Eve and Easter bring even more attendees. It takes many hands to help worship flow smoothly, and we are always looking for help in many different roles. If you are interested in learning more, join us in the Sanctuary after worship on September 20.

Worship Roles

- Altar Guild: prepares Holy Communion for all worship services and are responsible for the care and management of the sacramental supplies from linens to bread and wine.
- Assisting Ministers: write the Prayers of the Church, lead the Offertory and Post-Communion prayers, help with Holy Communion, proclaim the Dismissal.
- Gift Bearers: carry the Holy Communion elements to the altar during the offering and help distribute the common cup during distribution.
- Greeters: welcome everyone who enters Grace for worship and provide directions and assistance.
- Lectors: read either the Old Testament or the New Testament text during worship and assist with Holy Communion.

- Livestream: handle the audio and video elements of streaming our worship through our YouTube channel. Members work in teams – one managing the visual and one the audio. This job requires some basic computer skills to learn the the control panels.
- Ushers: hand out bulletins, track Sunday attendance, collect offerings, assist with Communion, and see to the overall well-being of those in worship.