

# Grace Notes

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 7300 W DIVISION • RIVER FOREST IL 60305 • 708-366-6900 • WWW.GRACERIVERFOREST.ORG



## Free in Christ

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, sparked by Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Writing in response to the corrupt practice of selling indulgences, Luther asserted at the outset that, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." So we ask that most Lutheran of questions: What does this mean?

The biblical concept of repentance means to turn around, to acknowledge that our lives are heading in the wrong direction and to respond by reorienting our living in the direction of our source of life. Luther knew well the power of sin

and the grip it holds on our lives. We are in bondage and cannot free ourselves. We need to turn around, by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is not our own work. It is what happens when we are gripped by the preached Word and behold that same Word, Jesus himself, nailed to the cross and raised from the dead for our forgiveness and salvation.

In turning around and beholding Christ crucified, we discover

what we most need to know: that in spite of our sin, in spite of the power of death, God has finally and decisively acted graciously on behalf of humanity and, indeed, all of creation. We behold that the gift of Jesus is just that: a gift. A gift freely given for the sake of freedom.

**The anniversary of the Reformation is an opportunity to repent, to turn around and face Jesus; to see our shared future through cruciform eyes.**

# Chicago-area Reformation 500 special Events

## Reformation 500 Celebration Day

Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Concordia University Chicago  
7400 Augusta St., River Forest

The all-day celebration includes 16th-century period actors, falconry, weapons and armor, seminars on the legacy of the Reformation, a rare book exhibit (Including J.S. Bach's personal Bible), "Lunch with Luther," and festival worship. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children age 5–14. Find more information and register online at [cuchicago.edu](http://cuchicago.edu).

## Covenant Renewal Service

Tuesday, October 31, 7 p.m.  
Holy Name Cathedral  
730 N. Wabash, Chicago

Cardinal Blasé J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, and Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA will lead an ecumenical prayer service. During the service they will renew the covenant between the two local churches originally signed in 1989. All are invited to attend. Choir members from throughout the greater Chicago area are invited to form the choir. Contact Pastor Costello for more information.

Luther's seal



# Free in Christ

*Continued from page 1*

Freedom is exactly that. We are no longer under any obligation to God except to trust God by grace through faith. We are free; the sin-shaped shackles we place upon each other and ourselves have simply fallen away. Therefore, the question that the Reformation places upon our hearts is simple yet life-changing: What are you going to do with this freedom that has been given to you?

The answer is shaped by the gift, Christ and him crucified. So Luther could write, in the treatise "A Brief Instruction on What to Look for and Expect in the Gospels" (1521):

Now when you have Christ as the foundation and chief blessing of your salvation, then the other part follows: that you take him as your example, giving yourself in service to your neighbor just as you see that Christ has given himself for you.

The anniversary of the Reformation is not primarily an opportunity to look back, not simply a moment in time to celebrate our heritage. It is an opportunity to repent, to turn around and face Jesus; to see our shared future through cruciform eyes. To be a church of the Reformation is to be a church that continues to be reformed, reshaped, and renewed by Word and sacrament for the sake of the world.

You, dear friends, have been set free. We celebrate the past but even more look to the future. It is a future defined by the gracious gift of the Son of God, crucified and raised for your sake. You are free. Really, actually free. What will you do with this freedom? My prayer during this season of celebration is that Grace will continue to be a people of grace, set free to give full-throated praise to God and unrestrained love to the world by serving our neighbors.

St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" (2:8-10). May this ever be the gospel in which we live.

In the freedom of Christ alone,  
Pastor Lyle



**Grace Notes** is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church and School, 7300 Division St., River Forest, Ill. It is mailed to Grace members, parents of students at Grace School, and friends of the congregation. The newsletter is online at [www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org). This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, September 29, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than October 6. Copies are also available at Grace.

**Deadlines and submissions.** The November issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, October 27. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, October 18; the issue covers events through the end of November. Send news to [ggotsch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:ggotsch@graceriverforest.org). Please limit your submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and School, its mission, ministries, and the benevolences the congregation supports. Articles should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

# WORSHIP

October 1

## 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

## 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

## 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

## 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

## REFORMATION SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Jonah 3:10--4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

September 24, prelude at 3:45 p.m.

## BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 80 (A mighty fortress is our God)

Prelude: Mendelssohn's "Reformation" Symphony, Op. 107

Homilist: Mark A. Granquist, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

*The prelude begins at 3:30 p.m. There is no preview lecture.*

## Hymn Festival on Sunday, October 15: "Around This Reformation Year"

Martin Luther, his contemporaries, and other German pastors and musicians of the 16th and 17th centuries composed great hymns that tell the story of salvation with memorable texts and tunes. Grace's Reformation Hymn Festival on Sunday, October 15, at 4 p.m., will celebrate this heritage, as choirs and congregation sing favorite Reformation-era hymns from around the church year, accompanied by organ, strings, and the Alliance Brass Quartet.

While the hymns are old, many of the settings are new, composed by Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello and other contemporary composers. Grace member Carl Schalk, a well-known scholar of Lutheran hymnody, will offer an introduction to the hymn festival. Short commentaries from Grace's pastors will relate hymns to faith and scripture.

The Senior Choir, Joyful Voices, and the 5-8 Grade Grace School Choir will all participate in the festival, which concludes (of course!) with "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

## Chicago Choral Artists present sacred music by Heinrich Schütz

Seventeenth-century German composer Heinrich Schütz composed *Der Schwanengesang* (Swan Song) near the end of his life. It's a splendid setting for double choir and continuo of Psalm 119, the Magnificat, and Psalm 100. Chicago Choral Artists Kammerchor will sing this work in a concert at Grace on Sunday, October 22, at 4 p.m., directed by Michael D. Costello. Grace members receive \$5 off the ticket price of \$25.

## Get your tickets now for the November 20 concert by the *Thomanerchor* of Leipzig

The *Thomanerchor*, the boys choir of St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany, will sing a concert at Grace on Monday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$12-\$45) are selling quickly. Purchase them online at [www.ticketor.com/grace](http://www.ticketor.com/grace) or call the church at 708-366-6900.

The *Thomanerchor's* history reaches back more than 800 years. The works of Johann Sebastian Bach, who as *Thomaskantor* directed the choir from 1723 until his death in 1750, are the center of the choir's repertory. The November 20 concert includes music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Schütz, and Schein, with *Thomaskantor* Gotthold Schwarz conducting.



# Worship: Not a spectator sport

*There are many roles to fill in worship leadership*

## By Pastor Michael D. Costello

You may have noticed that worship in the Lutheran tradition is not a spectator sport. You would have to work pretty hard *not* to participate in what happens on a Sunday morning. We stand and sit, speak and sing, taste and see. Worship is something that involves our bodies, minds, and souls. But not all of that happens from the pews.

Have you ever noticed how many people are involved in leading a worship service on a Sunday morning? Beyond the pastors, who are ordained and called to preach the Word of God and administer the sacraments, there are dozens of people involved in making worship happen. In fact, in our tradition, worship depends on the praises and offerings of the whole people of God.

Of course there is music led by choirs of adults and children, handbell ensembles, soloists, and instrumentalists. But think also about those who greet us at the front door, those who distribute bulletins and collect offerings, those who read from scripture, and those who prepare the altar or serve during Holy Communion. Each person brings their own gift and, together, we all join in what is indeed a Great Thanksgiving.

For example, high school junior Sarah Danganan serves as a lector:

I initially got involved in serving as a lector after I completed my eighth grade confirmation. All of the confirmed eighth graders were advised to fill out an interest form that indicated some of the ways we would like to serve as a confirmed, "adult" member of Grace. I had done theater for many years and I was comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, so thought that I would enjoy serving as a lector.

For the past two years, I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the message of God during worship. Often times, it's easy for weekly church and the structure of the service itself to become simply a routine, so it is important to me that the worship service is engaging and fulfilling. By serving as a lector and reading the word of God with my own oral interpretation, I hope that listeners are intrigued and are able to see the text in a new way.

Perhaps you might enjoy leading worship in some capacity, be it large or small, public or behind the scenes. In fact, we are in need of people to fill various roles in worship (see the list at right) and we invite you to learn more. Don't hold back for fear of not knowing what to do. We'll walk you through how things work and make sure that you feel confident in leading worship in whatever capacity is right for you.

Contact Pastor Costello ([mcostello@graceriverforest.org](mailto:mcostello@graceriverforest.org) or 708-366-6900) and he will connect you to the organizer of each group.



*Altar Guild members Dori Freundt and Marilyn Heimburger prepared the altar for communion on a recent Sunday morning at Grace.*

## Worship leaders at Grace Church

- **Gift Bearers** process during the offertory with the gifts of bread and wine which become for us the body and blood of Christ. They also serve as chalice bearers and distribute the blood of Christ for those who drink from the common cup. (Gift Bearers are especially needed currently for the 11 a.m. service.)
- **Lectors** read the selected scripture passages and distribute the blood of Christ for those who drink from individual communion cups.
- **Assisting Ministers** assist the pastors during worship services at the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion and also compose and lead the prayers of the people.
- **Altar Guild** is the group of people who prepare the altar for Holy Communion prior to worship.
- **Greeters** share a "good morning" with worshipers at entrances to the church.



# ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings at Grace. Classes in the Faithful Learning track focus on theology, scripture, church history, and other topics. Faithful Living topics include social justice issues, spirituality, family life, and vocation. On most Sundays classes are offered in both tracks. Many classes are part of multi-week series, but feel free to move from one track to another from week to week. Living Faithfully classes meet in the 7th grade/German classroom on the first floor of the older part of the school. Learning Faithfully classes meet in the Seminar Room.

If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton, chair of the Adult Education Committee ([tanton@depaul.edu](mailto:tanton@depaul.edu)) or Pastor Dave Wegner ([dwegner@graceriverforest.org](mailto:dwegner@graceriverforest.org)).

## October 1

### **Katharina and Martin: The Implications for the Lutheran Reformation**

Karl Reko

The marriage of the former monk Martin Luther and former nun Katarina von Bora had implications for marriage and family life during the Reformation.

### **Living Faithfully: Community Organizing**

Anthony Clark, Suburban Unity Alliance

Clark is a teacher at OPRF high school and a Congressional candidate in the Democratic primary in 2018. He is also the founder of the advocacy group Suburban Unity Alliance, which was created in the summer of 2016 to raise awareness of discrimination and bring diverse suburban communities together.

## October 8

### **Luther the German**

Karl Reko

Learn about the cultural and political factors in Germany from the Roman Empire to the 16th century that affected when and how the Lutheran Reformation occurred.

### **Living Faithfully as an Active Family**

Ramona and Chris Koetke

Grace members explore Christian vocation in the context of family and career.

## October 15

### **Luther and the Reformation**

Karl Reko

Luther's theology matured as he collaborated with Philip Melancthon to build the University of Wittenberg and defend himself against the attacks of Rome and the Holy Roman Empire.

### **Living Faithfully as a Professor of Music and Conductor**

Rich Fischer, Concordia University

*Rich writes:* I try to take seriously my call to teach, motivate and inspire my students to become unobstructed "vessels" through which the music flows. I also try to incorporate the sharing of the

Gospel with others, either verbally or through the music that I program. My life has not been without tremendous struggles mentally, emotionally and spiritually. I am learning more and more how important it is to pray to God for strength, grace and guidance.

## October 22

### **Music and the Reformation**

Carl Schalk

How did Martin Luther, the man who "grew up with music ringing in his ears," shape basic concepts in Reformation musical and liturgical tradition?

### **Living Faithfully: Continuing the Conversation on Racism**

Pastor Sherman Hicks

How do Christians respond to structural racism in American society? Pastor Hicks leads a conversation on race and faithful living. Hicks served as ELCA bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA and as Executive Director of ELCA Multicultural Ministries.

## October 29

### **Music and the Reformation**

Carl Schalk

How did Luther see the role of hymnody in worship? How many hymns did Luther "write"? Did he write both words and music? How did they function?

### **Living Faithfully: Serving in Harmony**

Diane Carioscio and other Grace members

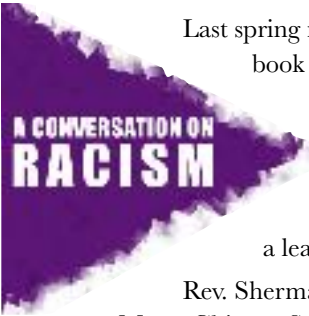
Hear about the trials and joys of building a church community on Chicago's west side.

## **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Led by Bob Jandeska the Bible study group meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room on the lower level.

# How does the church respond to racism?

## *Join the conversation in Adult Ed on Sunday, October 22*



Last spring more than 100 Grace members participated in small-group discussions about racism while reading the book “Waking Up White,” by Debbie Irving. At the end of those discussions, many people asked “What’s next?”

This fall, the Faith Perspectives Team has invited Rev. Sherman Hicks to join us for a frank conversation about racism and how the church is called to confront it in our community. We have asked him to share from the intersection of his own experiences as a person of color in America and as a leader in the church.

Rev. Sherman Hicks' extensive relationships through the ELCA as Bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod, parish pastor, and staff of the former ELCA Division for Outreach prepared him well for his role as Director of Multicultural Ministries in the mid-2000s. Pastor Hicks came to that position with exceptional leadership experience, theological wisdom and a vision for the ELCA's commitment to becoming an increasingly multicultural and intentionally anti-racist church. He is highly respected for his collegial style of leadership and for his ability to interpret with clarity God's call for us to be a church in mission.

When considering how we can become more aware of the effects of racism and multiculturalism in society Pastor Hicks commented, “We must recognize that all people have something to offer, and that does not mean we have to give something up. Different does not mean better or worse, it just means different.”

Join us Sunday October 22, 2017 at 9:45 a.m. for the second of three sessions that continues Grace Church's Conversation on Racism.



## Reformation reading in the church library

Grace's church library contains many books on Martin Luther and the Reformation. Look for these and others in the library and in the case in the atrium.

Volunteers staff the library on Sunday mornings. The library is also open for self-service during the week. All are welcome to check out books.

**Martin Luther: Justified by Grace**, by Carter Lindberg. [Cloud of Witnesses series] Graded Press, 1988. [270 CLO]  
**Reform and Conflict: From the Medieval World to the Wars of Religion**, by Rudolph W. Heinze. Baker Books, 2005. [270.5 HEI]

**A Reformation Source Book: Documents From an Age of Debate**. Michael W. Bruening, ed. University of Toronto Press, 2017. [270.6]

**Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther**, by Roland H. Bainton. Meridian, 1995. [284.1 BAI]

**In Martin Luther's Footsteps: A Pictorial Journey**, by Matthias Gretschel and Toma Babovic. Ellert & Richter Verlag, 1996. [284.1 LUT]

**The Mother of the Reformation: The Amazing Life and Story of Katharine Luther**, by Ernst Koker. Translated by Marc E. DeGarmeaux. Concordia, 2014. [284.1 KRO]

**Brand Luther: How an Unheralded Monk Turned His Small Town Into a Center for Publishing, Made Himself the Most Famous Man in Europe, and Started the Protestant Reformation**, by Andrew Pettegrew. Penguin Books, 2015. [940.23 PET]

**Martin Luther: A Man Who Changed the World**, by Paul L. Maier. Concordia, 2004. [J 920 MAI]

**Luther and the Reformation**, by Rick Steves. Rick Steves Europe, Inc. 2017. [DVD 284.1 STE]

**Truth Prevails: The Undying Faith of Jan Hus**. Vision Works, 2007. [DVD 922 HUS]

# Making a greater impact with our benevolence giving

## by Pastor Dave Wegner

An important part of Grace's ministry beyond the doors of the building is benevolence giving. Each year ten percent of our annual offerings leave this place to make a positive difference in the world. Grace's elected Benevolence Committee is responsible for ensuring that the ministries we support align with our mission and values and that our contributions make a significant impact to these ministries.

Grace has supported many organizations throughout its history, many of which were brought to the Benevolence Committee's attention by Grace members involved in those organizations. But because the funds available to give remain relatively fixed, adding more partnerships over the years has resulted in fewer dollars going to each.

In the 2017-18 ministry year the Benevolence Committee is moving from a "more partners are better" approach toward a dynamic plan of fewer, but revolving partnerships. To increase the impact of Grace's giving, the Committee is reducing and ending some partnerships so that we might expand giving to others.

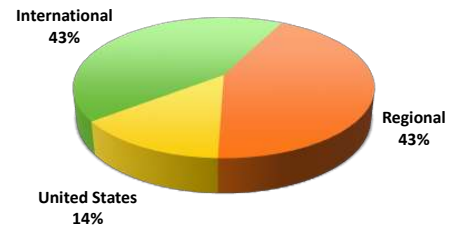
The Committee's decisions about which ministries to support have been surrounded by conversation and prayer, and many exciting opportunities are emerging in this shift. As Benevolence Committee members share their work with the congregation in the months ahead, they will pay particular attention to benevolence themes and ministry needs and shine spotlights on specific geographic areas. The congregation will hear more cohesive and compelling stories about the change our gifts are effecting.

### Your gifts, our giving

Through our benevolence partnerships we support organizations that are equipped to do ministry in geographic or demographic spheres of influence different from our own. Combined with the gifts of other congregations, benevolence giving is doing God's work in ways that no individual or congregation can do alone - and this is good. Supporting additional ministries and programs expands our own mission field and responds to the broader call of the whole Christian church.

It is your faithful year-round financial contributions to Grace that make benevolence giving possible. We will

**2017-2018 Benevolence Giving  
Geographical Impact**  
*some partners in multiple categories*



continue to honor and celebrate all of our ministry partnerships - those that involve dollars and those that employ our hands and feet in service. As one expression of living together as the body of Christ, we will continue crafting a faithful disposition to do good.

If you would like to know more about the Benevolence Committee's work contact co-chairs Sue Allen ([susanwallen@comcast.net](mailto:susanwallen@comcast.net)) or Carolyn Becker ([beckers606@yahoo.com](mailto:beckers606@yahoo.com)), or Pastor Dave Wegner ([dwegner@graceriverforest.org](mailto:dwegner@graceriverforest.org)), pastoral liaison to the team.

## Support Hope for Grieving Children—Africa at the Wine-Tasting Benefit



*Hope for Grieving Children—Africa is one of the international organizations supported by Grace's benevolence giving. The organization trains caregivers (left) to help children and youth cope with unresolved grief from losing their parents.*

*The annual Wine-Tasting Benefit for Hope for Grieving Children Africa is another important source of support for the organization. This year's event is on Saturday, November 4, at the Oak Park Country Club. The evening includes a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres, excellent wine, world-class music, raffle, auction and a brief informative video and Q & A session with CEO Jeff Johnson and trainer Danette Johnson.*

Register online at [hopeforgrievingchildren.org](http://hopeforgrievingchildren.org).

# October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

When deciding what to offer in Grace Notes this month, I saw that October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. And on the day I sat down to write about breast cancer, my dear friend went for a needle biopsy of an abnormal lump that had suddenly appeared since her mammogram six months ago. I can only imagine the thoughts and feelings she experienced. She half-kiddingly had asked me to go with her, but as she lives in Colorado, it wasn't an option. I prayed for her and with her and gave her my best pep talk, but felt inadequate to provide the reassurance she wanted. That only comes from God. She loves Jesus and he is with her. That is my hope, and many of you who have had her experience can relate to this. The scripture I texted her was Psalm 32:7: "You are our hiding place, you will protect us from trouble and surround us with songs of deliverance." I think that is what it must feel like, wanting to hide. There is hope in the Lord protecting us from trouble and surrounding us with songs of deliverance, a beautiful, hopeful, true distraction from suffering we sometimes are called to endure. I don't yet know the outcome of her test, my prayer is for her deliverance.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month I think of my friend and remind you of the following ways you can take an active role in reducing your risk of breast cancer. Don't forget to wear your pink ribbon this month!

## Reducing your risk of breast cancer

Breast cancer is deadly: it is the most common type of cancer suffered by women and the second most common cause of female cancer deaths in the U.S. While breast cancer can happen to anyone, there are several things that women can do to reduce the risk of the disease.

- *Talk to your doctor about mammograms.* While routine mammograms are generally only recommended for women over the age of 40, doctors sometimes recommend them to younger women who are at greater risk for the disease.
- *Exercise!* Researchers have observed a correlation between women who get regular physical activity and lowered breast cancer risk. The amount of exercise required can be as little as 75 minutes a week.
- *Maintain a healthy weight.* Being obese or overweight is a risk factor for breast cancer. Develop a healthy eating plan and reasonable fitness goals.
- *Reduce your alcohol intake.* Women who have two or more drinks a day have an increased risk of breast cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends that women limit their alcohol intake to no more than one drink per day.
- *Discuss hormone replacement therapy with your doctor.* In 2002, researchers connected hormone therapy with an increased risk of breast cancer. Your doctor can make recommendations based on your symptoms and other risk factors.

## Breast cancer and family issues

When a woman has breast cancer, she often struggles with multiple issues, including physical recovery, managing treatments, emotional stress and self-esteem. These struggles can also have an impact on the cancer patient's family.

Knowing about these struggles and getting help are important for supporting both the cancer patient and family members. Hospital social workers, advocacy groups and faith communities can all do their part in providing resources to families in need.

Here are some common issues for families where one or more members are undergoing treatment for breast cancer:

*Emotional shock and grief:* Learning of a loved one's diagnosis can be traumatic. Family members may need emotional support as they come to terms with the news.

Children may find a parent's illness extremely distressing. Mental health professionals, school counselors and parents can work together to ensure that children get the support they need.

*Caretaker support:* When someone is undergoing cancer treatment, she will often rely on family members for caregiving. In some cases, family members may find caregiving to be difficult and perhaps even overwhelming.

Good communication between the patient, caregivers and medical social workers can help address the patient's need for care and the ability of family members to provide it.

*Concern about developing breast cancer:* There is a genetic component to breast cancer. According to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, women who develop breast cancer at a young age are more likely to see another family member also be diagnosed with the disease. Family members should speak to their physicians about genetic testing and address their own risk factors.

*Adapted from a bulletin insert prepared by Advocate Health Care Congregational Health Partnerships.*

## Track your steps with Trotting for Turkeys

Trotting for Turkeys, the fall walking program, runs from October 1 through November 12. Sign up online or email Sue Ames ([sames@graceriverforest.org](mailto:sames@graceriverforest.org)). Your \$10 registration fee will help buy turkeys for Fraternité Notre Dame's Thanksgiving dinner for people in need. Our shared goal is to cover the 2,750 miles traveled by the Mayflower across the ocean from Plymouth, England, to Plymouth, Massachusetts.

## Get your flu shot at Grace on October 15

Flu shots, provided by Walgreen's, will be available on Sunday, Oct 15, 9-11 a.m., in Grace's gym. Flu shots are for anyone age 10 and older. The pneumonia vaccine will also be available for adults 65 and older. The cost is covered by insurance; bring your insurance card and/or Medicare information.

# Kitchen renovation project supports hospitality ministry

Meals have always been an important part of connecting people to one another at Grace Church and School. Whether it's an Advent supper, a Cornerstones lunch, pizza for confirmands, or a reception after a funeral, sharing food brings people together and creates opportunities to see and talk about the love of Jesus at work in God's people. Hospitality strengthens the ties that bind us together as the church and reminds us of our calling to bring God's grace to the world around us.

Those meals, of course, start in the kitchen.

Grace's kitchen is old, broken and obsolete. It cannot pass a health code inspection and, therefore, cannot be used, for example, to provide hot lunches for school children. The ovens are too old to repair. Several years ago it became apparent that major upgrades would be needed if the kitchen was going to continue to support meal functions at Grace.

That kitchen renovation will take place this fall. Extensive planning has gone into this project, led by members with years of experience working in the Grace kitchen, as well as congregation members with expertise in related areas. The proceeds from three years of Oktoberfest celebrations were used to engage a commercial kitchen designer and an experienced architect to lay out the new kitchen and propose related changes to Fellowship Hall. The Christopher families, along with their Foundation, have come together to fund the renovation. We are very grateful for their generous support.

The work will begin in early October and will be completed around the end of 2017. The kitchen will be completely redone. There will be new equipment, cabinetry and work surfaces including new ovens, dishwasher, sinks, refrigerators and a freezer, along with movable work tables and storage cabinets. The storage loft will be enclosed and the access stairs will be moved to the east hallway outside of the kitchen. There will also

be a new coffee and beverage service area along the north wall of Fellowship Hall.

Architect's drawings are posted on the bulletin board by the entrance to Fellowship Hall and in a cabinet in the atrium.

Fellowship Hall will be

**Hospitality strengthens the ties that bind us together as the church and reminds us of our calling to bring God's grace to the world around us.**



unavailable for much of the fall. Plans are being made to shift events scheduled for Fellowship Hall to other places in the Grace building.

Many lasting friendships have been formed in Grace's kitchen, and many people have enjoyed the meals prepared there: meals that welcomed them to Grace Church or that provided comfort after a funeral, receptions that celebrated life's milestones or suppers where a new acquaintance or a surprising conversation have shown the path to new ways to love and serve. With a new kitchen at the heart of Grace's hospitality ministry, these traditions will continue and evolve and help connect us to one another and to all whom we serve.

## GRACE NEWS

**SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ.** Grace members will be packing lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, October 16, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson to arrange a ride.

**KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, October 17, at 1 p.m. in the church library. For more information, contact Margaret Burke.

**LECTIO DIVINA** meets on Monday, October 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library. Contact MaryBeth Buschmann.

**RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS** meet on Tuesday, October 10, 10 a.m., in the church library, for a presentation from Dirk Ficca on Muslim, Christian and Jewish relations. Guests are welcome.

**GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW** will be at work on the November newsletter on Thursday, October 26, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers!

**CORNERSTONES BIBLE STUDY.** Come for treats and conversation at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, followed by Bible study at 10:30. On October 18, there is Morning Prayer at 11:30, followed by lunch. There's a hymn sing on Oct. 25.

**FINDING HOPE,** the chronic illness support group, meets at Grace at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, at 7:15 p.m.

**RELIGION IN LITERATURE.** The book discussion group meets on Friday, October 20, 8 p.m., to discuss J. D. Salinger's "Franny and Zooey," led by Jeff Wood. Hosts are Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim. Copies of the book are available in the church library.

**YOGA,** led by Ackli Howell, meets at Grace on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket or beach towel to sit on. Dress comfortably for movement. The class will not meet on October 5 or 12.

### Social Ministry projects for fall

With cold weather and the holiday season approaching, the Social Ministry Committee is asking for your support with the following projects:

**Holiday Food Drive, October 29–November 5.** The school community joins Grace Church members in collecting food for local food pantries, including the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry, the Forest Park Food Pantry, and food pantries at Fraternité Notre Dame and Harmony Community Church.

**Winter Coat Drive, October 22–November 5.** We are collecting new or gently used adult and children's coats. The coats will be shared with clients of various local agencies including New Moms, Hephzibah Children's Association, North Austin Head Start, Harmony Church, and Safer Foundation.

**Toiletry items for The Night Ministry, October 22–November 5.** Items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, wide-toothed combs, hand and foot warmers, warm socks (adult size), small sewing kits, pens and small note pads, and decks of cards will be placed into huge Christmas stockings and distributed to homeless teens who are clients of The Night Ministry in Chicago.

## PRAYERS

**WE PRAY** for Miriam Bretscher and all who mourn the death of Manuel Bretscher; and for all who mourn the death of Don Rinnan.

**PRAYER LIST.** The weekly Prayer List can be found in the worship bulletin on Sunday. Contact Karen Christopher (kchristopher@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext 207) to be included on the published prayer list.

**PRAYER CHAIN.** Contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) or Kathy Garness (708-366-7584; KMGfinearts@comcast.net) with confidential prayer chain requests.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**Sign up** at the reception desk to donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary. Flower donations from late July through September:

**October 1** - from Sal and Diane Amati in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary

## PASTORAL CARE

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care on weekends, or when the Grace building is closed. Please include a return phone number if you leave a message or send a text.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

The fall New Members Class, "By Heart: A Conversation with Martin Luther's Small Catechism," begins on Sunday, October 1, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., in Pastor Lyle's office. The class runs through November 19; new participants are welcome at any time.

### "Healthy Brain, Healthy Memory"

Join memory expert Linda Sasser, PhD., for an educational, entertaining presentation on Tuesday, November 7, 1–2:30 p.m. in the church library. You'll hear about how memory works and age-related brain changes and learn about maintaining and even improving brain function. Leave with easy-to-use strategies for remembering names, information and tasks. Brain-healthy refreshments provided. Please sign up at the reception desk in the atrium, or contact Sue Ames, Parish Nurse (708-366-6900 ext 219; sames@graceriverforest.org). Invite a friend!

# News from Grace School



**Pancake Day in First Grade.** Paulette Reddel has taught first grade at Grace School since 1990. Every fall she reads Eric Carle's "Pancakes, Pancakes!" with her students and then invites parents to come help the kids prepare a pancake lunch. Great memories for Grace School families from Mrs. Reddel, who will be retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

## School walkathon fundraiser is Oct. 6



Grace School students' annual walkathon fundraiser takes place on Friday, October 6. This is a new time of year for this event; it was previously held in May. Students' families and friends support the walk with pledges. This year 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the ALS Association in memory of Grace School grad Kris Grahnke (class of '01). Students are also making "Baskets of Sunshine," to encourage and care for ALS patients and their caregivers. Ask your favorite Grace School student about pledging to support Walk With Grace.

## "Soup-er" collection in Confirmation and Sunday School

Children in Grace's Sunday School and Confirmation classes are working on the "Soup-er Can Collection" for the Food Pantry at Harmony Community Church in North Lawndale. They're bringing cans of soup for the offering basket in their classes, through November 5. Monetary donations will be used to buy more soup. In this Reformation 500 anniversary year, the goal is 500 cans! Watch the Sunday School bulletin board in the 3rd floor school commons to see how fast the cans stack up.

## Reformation Sunday fun on October 29

There will be lots of special fun in the gym for students in preschool through sixth grade and their parents during the 9:45 a.m. Education Hour on Reformation Sunday, October 29. Be part of a collaborative art project, "Fish for Sola's," and enjoy a live visit with Martin and Katie Luther—plus treats from Katie's kitchen.

## Family Fun Friday

### October 20, 6-8 p.m.

Join families with kids from kindergarten through eighth grade for an evening of fun and fellowship here at Grace. Open gym, crafts, and games, plus a pizza supper. Click on the link at [www.GraceRiverForest.org](http://www.GraceRiverForest.org) to register by midnight on Thursday, October 19.





**Sign up by October 8**

Singles, couples and families of all ages from Grace Church and School are signing up for FEAST.

You're invited! Get to know people more deeply in faith-based conversation at regular small-group social gatherings.

Sign up at the reception desk in the atrium, or click on the FEAST logo at [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org). Then come to First FEAST on Saturday, October 21, 5:30 p.m., at the home of Dave and Connie Zyer, 1321 William St. in River Forest. You'll receive your group assignment and go on to dinner hosted by a member of your group.



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