
March 2019

Grace Notes



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



Lasting hope

*Hope does not disappoint us.
Romans 5:5*

by Pastor Dave Lyle

“Hope does not disappoint us,” St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. One might respond with that Lutheran question, “What does this mean?”

In order to answer that question, we need to know what hope is. According to Merriam-Webster, hope can function as an intransitive verb meaning, “to want something to happen.” It can also serve as a noun: “a desire accompanied by expectation.”

This is how we tend to use the word these days. “I hope it will happen,” we might say, implying that it may well not happen. Or, “those are my hopes for the future,” again implying that such hopes might not be fulfilled.

If that’s what hope is, then how can it not disappoint us? Merriam-Webster is useful here, too. Hope, the

Perhaps we need to reclaim our old-fashioned notion of what hope is, not as a wish for something to come true, but as trust in something sure and certain.

dictionary reminds us, can be a verb or a noun meaning “trust.” The accompanying note is instructive; this meaning is archaic. Perhaps we need to reclaim our old-fashioned notion of what hope is, not as a wish for something to come true, but as trust in something sure and certain.

Hope, St. Paul knows, does not disappoint us because hope is what God gives to us through Jesus Christ. This hope does not always lead us to where we want to go. Sometimes hope is the result of suffering: “We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5). Hope does not mean the absence of suffering; it means that suffering will never get the last word.

Continued on page 2

Hope will not disappoint us

Continued from page 1

Our theme for Lent is “Lasting Hope.” As we walk through this season toward the cross of Jesus, we are ever mindful that it is in his cross and empty tomb that our hope is found. Hope not disappointing us does not mean that we will never be disappointed. Instead, it means that our suffering never thwarts the promises of Christ; indeed, Jesus enters fully into our suffering precisely to assure us that the promise is secure.

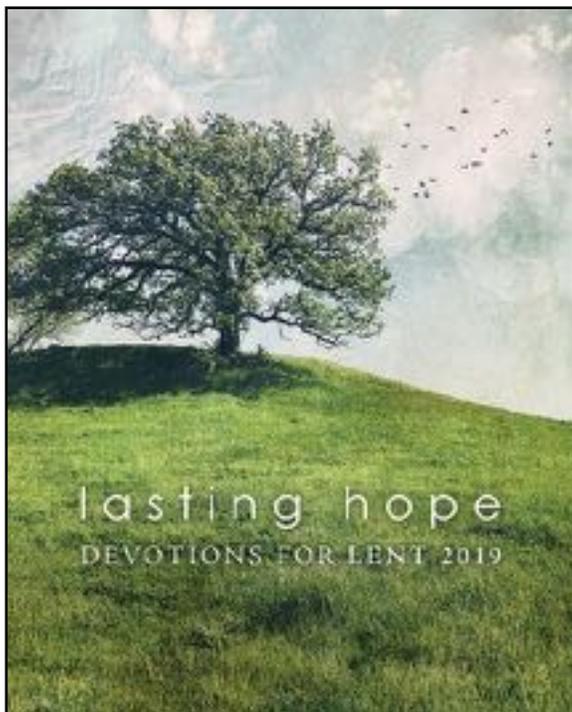
Our midweek services during Lent will focus on the psalms assigned for the previous Sunday, paired with texts from the Gospel of John. We will explore the hope we have in Jesus Christ, who is our refuge, light, living water, forgiveness, and joy. I hope that you’ll join us; I trust that you will.

Emily Dickenson proclaimed the truth of hope’s nature in her well-known poem:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

Because Christ who was crucified has been raised, the tune of hope is stirred forever within our hearts and souls. May you hear its lasting song throughout this season and beyond. Hope may seem archaic or old-fashioned these days. No matter. Keep holding onto Christ. You will never be disappointed by hope.

Mid-week worship during Lent



Pick up a copy of this year’s Lent devotional booklet, “Lasting Hope,” in the atrium. The devotions explore the Psalm texts for Lent from the lectionary (the texts we hear on Sunday mornings). There is a Bible reading for each day, accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer

Ash Wednesday, March 6

Worship with the school children at 8:30 a.m., with seniors and others at Cornerstone worship at 11:30 a.m., or in the evening at 7 p.m. All three services include ashes and Holy Communion.

Wednesdays in Lent: “Lasting Hope”

In our midweek Lenten services we will explore the hope we have in Jesus Christ using psalms assigned for the previous Sunday, paired with texts from the Gospel of John.

March 13

Jesus, Our Refuge

March 20

Jesus, Our Light

March 27

Jesus, Our Living Water

April 3

Jesus, Our Forgiveness

April 10

Jesus, Our Joy

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer with the school children

11:30 a.m. Morning Prayer with seniors from Cornerstones Bible Study
Lunch is served on March 6, March 20, and April 3

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
Supper is served in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.
(No supper on Ash Wednesday, March 6)

WORSHIP

Sunday, March 3

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-43a

March 6

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7 p.m.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10,
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 10

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 17

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 24

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 31

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, March 24, 3:45 p.m.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich, Herr, zu dir, BWV 131

Out of the depths I call, Lord, to you

Prelude: Brescianello's Trio Sonata for Oboe, Violin, and Continuo in C minor; and Bach's Canonic Trio in F Major, BWV 1040 with musicians from the Haymarket Opera Company, Chicago

Homilist: Elizabeth Palmer, The Christian Century, Chicago

Preview Lecture: Mark Peters, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

Bach Cantata Vespers for Lent on March 24

The cantata for the March Bach Cantata Vespers service on March 24 is BWV 131, *Aus der Tiefen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir* (Out of the depths I call, Lord, to you). Based on Martin Luther's German translation of Psalm 130, this deeply moving penitential cantata was composed in 1707 or 1708, making it one of Bach's earliest cantatas. It will be sung at Grace with one voice to a part, accompanied by musicians from Haymarket Opera Company in Chicago, an organization which focuses on historically informed performance. Haymarket musicians will also play the preservice music, trio sonatas by Bach and Brescianello.

The homilist for the service is Elizabeth Palmer, from the staff of *The Christian Century*. She presented an Adult Ed session at Grace in December on religious books published in 2018. Dr. Mark Peters of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights will present the preview lecture at 3 p.m. in the Seminar Room.

Trouble-shooting hearing devices

If you use one of the special hearing devices provided in the church sanctuary and experience problems with it, we need your feedback. When you return the device to the usher, please take a few minutes to fill out a Hearing Device Information Sheet, available in the rear of the sanctuary. Give the form and the device to an usher so that we can adjust or repair the device.

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. This issue was mailed via U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail on Friday, March 1, with the hope that it will arrive in your mailbox no later than March 8. Copies are also available at Grace.

Deadlines and submissions. The April issue of Grace Notes will be mailed on Friday, March 29. The deadline for copy is Wednesday, March 20; the issue covers events through early May. Send news to 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.



ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Classes are led by Grace members as well as guest speakers. If you have ideas or suggestions for Adult Ed programming, please contact Ted Anton of the Adult Education Committee (tanton@depaul.edu) or Pastor Dave Wegner (dwegner@graceriverforest.org).

March 3 and 10

“Connecting People to Nature in the Chicago Region: The Field Museum’s Journey of Discovery”

Mark Bouman, Chicago Region Program Director, Keller Science Action Center, Field Museum

Grace member Mark Bouman leads the Field Museum’s interdisciplinary environmental conservation and cultural heritage work in the Chicago region. He’ll talk about how a collections-based natural history museum, came to take on the future-oriented mission of “seeking solutions for a brighter future rich in nature and culture”? He’ll share examples of this work on-the-ground, both inside the Museum and across the landscape of the Chicago region and reflect on the intersections of the ecological and social scientific work of the Museum and the concerns of people of faith. (*Seminar Room*)

March 17

“Making a Difference: Sharing Your Time, Talents and Treasures”

David Henry and James Smith, Thrivent Financial

Stewardship means making intentional choices about how we use our resources to care for ourselves, our family and friends, our church and our community. What is meaningful for you as you consider how you will steward your time, talent and treasure? This presentation will focus on understanding and aligning personal values and generosity. (*Seminar Room*)

March 24 and 31

“Know Your Theologians: Augustine in a McNuttshell”

Jennifer and David McNutt

In 386, in a garden in Milan, the future Bishop of Hippo, Augustine, experienced an encounter with God that would forever transform his life. Following his baptism by Church Father Ambrose the following year, Augustine would begin to write theology that would shape and transform Western Christian belief and practice with a legacy that continues today. Over the course of two classes, you will be introduced to the life and thought of Augustine with particular focus on his Confessions. Join us as we get to know one of the greatest Christian theologians of the church’s history and how he continues to inform our faith today. (*Seminar Room*)

Jennifer McNutt, PhD, is Associate Professor of Theology and History of Christianity at Wheaton College. David McNutt, PhD, is an Associate Editor at IVP Academic, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, and a Guest Professor at Wheaton College. The McNutts are launching a new ministry called McNuttshell Ministries, Inc.

Sunday Bible Study

Led by Bob Jandeska, the Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Conference Room on the lower level.



Evening Prayer with LSM at Grace Church

Join musicians from Lutheran Summer Music at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 31, here at Grace, as they recreate a typical evening at LSM with a recital, reception, and evening prayer service. Thomas Bandar, violist and executive director of LSM, will host the recital and welcome LSM alums to the stage. Pastor Michael Costello will preside over evening prayer, and Timothy Spelbring, continuo player for Bach Cantata Vespers, will be at the organ. All are welcome to this free event. A freewill offering will be taken to support LSM 2019. To learn more about LSM, visit www.lsmacademy.org.

Grace will host exchange students from Slovakia

Want to be part of the fun?

This summer Grace Families will again have the opportunity to host high school students from the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia. Before coming to the U. S., our Slovak students will work with the Grace mission team teaching VBS in Martin July 1–5. This will allow them to get acquainted with some Grace members before leaving for Chicago.

We will need host families to provide housing from July 9–28. It's possible to host all three weeks, or for a one- or two-week segment. At the end of July the students will join Grace youth on the Appalachian Service Project trip before returning to Slovakia in early August.

What are the host family's responsibilities?

Supply a sleeping space and meals for your visiting student. If you already have a teen in your family, a shared (same gender) bedroom is fine. Also, provide transportation to Grace for youth excursions and activities.

What would this cost?

Besides meals there should not be additional costs to you – tickets to group events for the visiting student will be covered by Grace.

Can the students speak English?

Most of the students will have some English language skills, but part of the reason they are coming to the U.S. is to live immersed in the English language for these weeks. So be prepared to be a creative communicator.

What support will be offered by Grace?

This is a congregation hosting experience. You will not be alone as a host. There will be several youth activities planned each week the students are here. You are welcome to come along or use this time as a respite. Grace Youth Ministry staff will be available to assist as needed.



I can't host a student — how else can I help?

If you are not able to host a student in your home – you can still be part of the hospitality.

- You can prayerfully lift up these students and the host families, praying that the experience is culturally meaningful and spiritually uplifting for each participant.
- You can join the excursions and trips planned for the students, broadening their exposure to our culture and providing additional connections.
- If you're interested in hosting, or have additional questions, please contact Linda Street (502-773-5586, kentuckystreets@msn.com).

Our visiting Slovak students are an unexpected gift for our youth ministry to support this year, and we are in need of additional funds to offer them a wonderful Chicago experience this summer! If you feel called to contribute to these adventures (e.g., museum visits, sports games, and other entertainment and cultural opportunities), please write "Youth Budget" on the memo line of your check. We thank you for helping to host these brothers and sisters in Christ!

Benefit for the Center for Christian Education in Slovakia raises \$26,000



Despite a snowy evening, Grace Church's Slovakia Dinner on January 26 attracted nearly 90 attendees and raised more than \$26,000. Guests enjoyed an authentic Slovak dinner, a cash bar, a silent auction, and presentations by leadership of the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia.

A highlight of the meal included "Christmas soup"—a traditional Slovak dish prepared and served table side by CCE leaders.

"It was great to see so many people out to greet our Slovak friends and hear about what's going on these days at the CCE. We here at Grace have been blessed by our partnership," said Pastor Dave Lyle.

The evening's proceeds support the continued renovation of CCE's five-year, bilingual Lutheran High School.



Untying Knots: Polarization in America

Workshop led by Mike McGillicuddy, LCSW
Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

In our world today, many of us are feeling the pain of division. It seems that discussions turn into arguments as we see people divided into different sides, often along the lines of religious and political affiliations. Many of us feel stuck in the argument without a clear path forward. In this workshop we will explore the causes of polarization and how to move past it to meaningful dialogue that builds

relationships with others, increases understanding, and moves the conversation forward. We will also explore how our spiritual traditions can support us in this work.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover concrete ways that you can build bridges in your daily interactions with others.

This program is presented by the Faith Perspectives Committee.

- This is the third in a series of presentations at Grace by Mike McGillicuddy. In this longer format you'll learn about the sociology and psychology of polarization and have opportunities to practice skills for better listening and more meaningful conversations.
- All are welcome — invite a friend from the community!
- There is no charge for the workshop.
- There will be a freewill offering to cover the cost of lunch.
- Register online at GraceRiverForest.org, or in person at the Grace reception desk.

Lenten resources in the church library

A rich variety of resources to complement our Lenten journey is available in the church library. Whether it is in the form of daily devotional readings, theological reflections on the cross, the music of Bach, or a video interview with Dr. Paul Maier, these hand-picked resources will guide our hearts and minds on the way of the cross for this important season of the church year.

Making Sense of the Cross, by David J. Lose. Augsburg Fortress, 2011. [230 LOS]

Cross Examinations: Readings on the Meaning of the Cross, ed. Marit Trelstad. Fortress, 2006. [232.9 CRO]

Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter. Orbis Books, 2005. [234.34 BRE]

Reliving the Passion: Meditations on the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, as Recorded in Mark, by Walter Wangerin. Zondervan, 1992. [232.96 WAN]

Hanging by a Thread:

The Questions of the Cross, by Samuel Wells. Church Publishing, 2017. [232.96 WEL]

Never Said a Mumblin' Word: Lenten Meditations on the Spirituals, by Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones. Augsburg Fortress, 2002. [242.34 BOZ]

Show Me the Way:

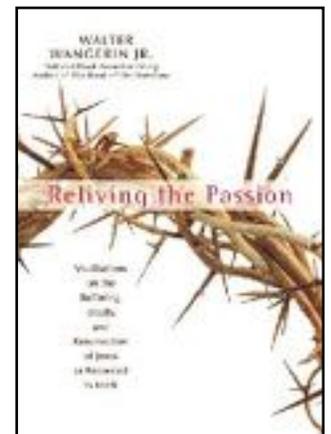
Readings for Each Day of Lent, by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Crossroad, 1992. [242.34 NOU]

J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Bach Cantata Vespers, 2013. [CD781.71 BAC]

The ComPASSION of the Christ: The Big Picture.

Interview with Dr. Paul Maier, church historian. Lutheran Church Charities, 2004. [DVD 232.96 LUT]

Volunteers staff the library on Sunday mornings. It is open for self-service during the week. All are welcome to check out books. Please ask the person at the reception desk for assistance with books in the atrium case.



Tips for using the kitchen, caring for the environment

Grace has a wonderful new kitchen which is there for ministry groups to use. If your group or committee or activity is planning an event at Grace, by all means—use the kitchen!

You'll find a binder with answers to many of the questions you might have about the kitchen hanging on the supply rack just inside the east door. It includes general instructions as well as information about where to find things. Grace's Facility Manager Rich Brooks can answer your questions about kitchen supplies, and Grace cooks and volunteers familiar with the remodeled kitchen are also happy to answer questions and provide guidance.

As part of our increasing attention to stewardship of the environment in our building and grounds at Grace, you will find marked containers in the kitchen for recycling, for compost, and for trash that must go to the landfill. Please use them carefully: when recyclables are mixed with non-recyclables, everything in the container ends up in the landfill. If you have questions about recycling, please contact Rich Brooks or Sandy Lentz from the Board of Trustees (sandylentz@gmail.com).

Whenever possible please avoid using single-use plastic items such as straws and flatware, non-recyclable plastic items, and plastic-lined coffee cups. The kitchen includes a new dishwasher, which is not hard to use. Rich or Jay DeVries would be happy to show you how.

Social Ministry serves PADS and The Night Ministry

Sheets and towels. A bin will be in the atrium March 10–24 for the collection of new or like-new linens for use by Housing Forward (previously known as PADS) and for The Night Ministry. Needed are twin-sized sheets, blankets, towels and wash cloths.

Cooking. The Social Ministry Committee will be preparing a meal for The Night Ministry CRIB on March 15. Come to the church kitchen at 5:30 p.m. to help prepare the meal.

“West Side Story” with Women@Grace

Women@Grace has secured a group of tickets for the Friday, May 17, 7 p.m. performance of “West Side Story” at Lyric Opera. All tickets are for seating on the main floor; tickets are available at four different ticket prices. These tickets have been purchased at the group rate, which offers a 20 percent discount on the standard ticket price.

Purchase your tickets by April 7 at the Grace reception desk, where you'll find more information on ticket pricing and the Lyric Opera floor plan. Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

Buy a paver, share a message in the Legacy Walk



Grace Lutheran School students have streamed from these doors out to the playground for decades, crossing a stretch of asphalt soon to be renamed — and repaved — as the Legacy Walk.

celebrate an alum, remember friends — whatever you might want to say in three lines of 13 characters each.

The order form is available at GraceRiverForest.org, or pick it up at the school office desk at Grace. Return completed forms to the school office, or email them to office@graceriverforest.org. Include a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and School, or make your payment online.

Proceeds from the Legacy Walk benefit Grace Lutheran School. Don't wait too long — the new walk will be laid in the summer of 2019!

The cracked concrete by the building door, along with block of asphalt between the door and the border around the playground will be replaced with 4-by-8-inch pavers, engraved with messages from the Grace Church and School community.

For \$150/paver, you can buy a paver and have it engraved with a one-to-three line message. It's an opportunity to remember or honor a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or leave a message for future generations of Grace School students. Thank a teacher,



Meet Grace's new Parish Nurse, Pat Gulik

Grace Church's new Parish Nurse is Pat Gulik, who began her work at Grace on February 19.

"Pat comes with the depth of skills for which the Health Cabinet was looking," said Pastor Dave Wegner. "We discerned her clinical and senior care experience to be invaluable as she transitions into the field of faith community nursing. I look forward to the ways Pat will help our community grow in whole-self health and wellness."

Asked about her career in nursing, Pat said she has worked in a variety of settings: in surgical nursing, as a clinical nursing instructor, in home healthcare, and most recently at Mayslake Village, a low-income senior housing community run by the Franciscans in Oakbrook.

Caring for seniors at Mayslake was something Pat got into more or less by accident when a colleague asked her to sub for a semester in the Mayslake clinic. Pat stayed for five years, and after some time as a home healthcare nurse, returned to Mayslake in 2013. She served the community in a variety of ways, doing assessments and referrals and leading support groups and health education programs.

"People would come in and maybe they didn't understand their medicine and we could talk to them about it. Or they'd say, I'm concerned about this, is it something to worry about? ... I led support groups. We did flu shot clinics—a lot of the same things that happen here at Grace."

Pat's position at Mayslake was eliminated last June because of funding issues, but a few months later, coincidentally, she learned about the Parish Nurse position at Grace from retiring Parish Nurse Sue Ames. "I was with Sue at a lunch with Mayslake nurses, and she said I'm going to be retiring but she loved the position — 'it's just like working at Mayslake.'" She suggested Pat forward her resume. And now, as Pastor Dave said, she brings important skills and experience to the Grace community.

Pat grew up Catholic on the south side of Chicago, where "everyone pretty much went to one Catholic parish or another." When she returned to church after her first child was born, invited by her sister and her husband, she found herself at an Episcopalian congregation in Riverside, where, she points out, "the coffee hour and fellowship after the service are part of the liturgy." She has completed a four-year online Education for Ministry program through The University of the South (better known as Sewanee), and currently she's enjoying a weekly evening class at her church on the psalms. She enjoys praying Compline (the final church service of the day in the Christian tradition of canonical hours) with the group at the end of the evening.

Parish nursing, however, is new to Pat, so she has enrolled in the Faith Community Nursing course offered through OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. It's an online class, with



Marilyn Busse (right) welcomed Pat Gulik, Grace's new Parish Nurse to Cornerstones Bible Study.

readings, questions to think about and a weekly group discussion session on Monday evenings via the internet. The course begins with grounding in spirituality and praying—which Pat says are new areas to her, at least in relation to nursing.

"The focus of parish nursing is the spiritual wholeness of the person," she says. "You need to address, not just their physical needs, not just their emotional needs, but their spiritual needs as well. And so parish nursing is not, come here, I'm going to teach you how to take your medicines, I'm going to teach you how to change your dressing. That's home care, where you have to have goals, tasks, and you have to reach them and then you discharge the person. Parish nursing is developing a relationship with the person. Listening to them, trying to help them problem-solve, providing referrals, connections. That relationship-building means that somewhere down the line, if needs come up, that person will trust you and know you and maybe think what you have to say is valid."

Pat's plan is to be at Grace Church on the first and third Sundays of the month, and to be working in her office or doing visits on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week. Her job description includes crafting a vision and overseeing programs for health and wellness throughout the congregation.

"I'm just kind of putting my toe in. My focus has been so strongly on seniors that I want to make sure I don't forget everyone else, especially families. ... I'm open to ideas!"



Register now for Vacation Bible School June 17-21, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

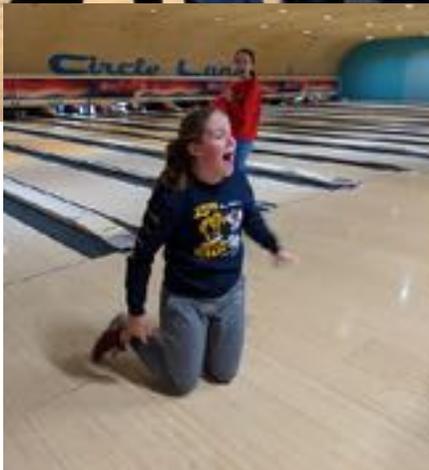
Have you ever wondered...
 ...what it was like to live in Bible times?
 ...if that guy in the den of lions really survived?
 ...how the three friends lived through the fire?



For children age 3 through current 4th-graders
 Register online at GraceRiverForest.org
 By June 1 \$35/child, \$65/family
 After June 1 \$45/child, \$85/family
 Additional fee for afternoon program
 \$20/child/day, \$175/family/week

Join us in Babylon where we'll explore what life was like for Daniel and his friends, captives in a strange land. You'll visit with Daniel, craft cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-time games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits of interesting food.

Sharing laughter, love and support in Youth Ministry



High School Youth make the most of these cold winter nights! In February, we enjoyed a night of bowling followed by dinner together in downtown Oak Park. Our youth truly value being together—they share a lot of laughs, as well as a lot of love and support for one another. Exciting things are happening in and through our young people at Grace!
 Pastor Lauren Wegner

GRACE NEWS

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP meets on March 19 at 1 p.m. in the church library. Beginners are welcome.

RETIRED LEADERS AND OTHERS. The group meets on Tuesday, March 12, at 10 a.m., in the Church Library. Neurosurgeon Doug Anderson will speak on “Brain, Mind, and Spirit.” Guests are welcome.

GRACE NOTES MAILING CREW will be at work on the March newsletter on Thursday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m. They welcome more helpers.

CORNERSTONES fellowship and Bible study for seniors meets on Wednesdays in the church library, with treats and conversation at 10 and Bible study with the pastors at 10:30. There is a service of Holy Communion on March 6, Ash Wednesday, at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch; and Lenten Morning Prayer on March 13, 20 and 27, with lunch on March 20.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE. The book group meets next on Friday, March 15, at 8 p.m. Karen Clapp leads the discussion of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Bill and Karen Clapp (5845 W. Ohio St., Chicago) are the hosts. (This is a change from the previously announced schedule. David Heim will lead the discussion of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s *Frankenstein* on April 26.) All are welcome. A copy of the book is available in the church library.

YOGA, taught by Ackli Howell, meets on Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Newcomers are welcome! Bring a mat and a towel (preferably a beach towel), and wear comfortable clothing. Call Ackli if you have questions (708-366-4487).

MOMS OF LITTLES. Moms of Littles will meet on a different schedule during the season of Lent in March and April. Join us on Thursday, March 7, and Thursday, April 4, from 6:30-8pm in the Youth Room. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information (lwegner@graceriverforest.org).

SANDWICH-MAKING AT FRATERNITÉ. Grace members will be making lunches at Fraternité Notre Dame, 502 N. Central, on Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. Contact Kate Hogenson with questions or to arrange a ride (hogenson@msn.com; 708-445-9687).

FINDING HOPE: SUPPORT FOR CHRONIC ILLNESS. Finding Hope is an informal monthly gathering that provides support, fellowship and education for people experiencing all types of chronic illness. Attend every month or as your schedule allows. The group meets on March 8, and on the second Friday of every month, 10–11 a.m., in the church library.

Healthy Aging programs return to Grace

West Cook YMCA will again offer fitness classes, health literacy workshops and wellness assessments at Grace starting in early March. Information sessions for new enrollees and for participants in last fall’s program were offered the last week in February. Fitness assessments will be held at 1 p.m. on either Tuesday, March 5, or Thursday, March 7, in Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Margaret Burke, mburke42@gmail.com or Ruth Reko, ruthreko426@gmail.com.

PRAYERS

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

Use the sign-up sheet at the reception desk in the atrium to donate flowers to remember a loved one or commemorate a special birthday or anniversary. (There are no flowers in the chancel during Lent.)

March 3 — Mary Margaret Bartley and Stewart Clarke on their 30th wedding anniversary

PASTORS' EMERGENCY PHONE

Call 708-689-3032 for emergency pastoral care on weekends, or when the Grace building is closed.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

A new session of Grace’s New Members Class begins on March 3 and runs through April 28. (It’s okay to join the class at its second or third session) The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. (The class will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 21.)

If you are interested or know someone who might appreciate an invitation, please contact Karen Christopher, Church Administrative Assistant (kchristopher@graceriverforest.org; 708-366-6900 ext. 207).

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Grace Lutheran Church General Fund

Church budgeted contributions

July 1, 2018 – February 27, 2019 \$ 1,431,500
(\$40,900 per week)

Church actual contributions

July 1, 2018 – February 27, 2019 \$ 1,102,000
(Last year at this time: \$1,310,000)

Church giving is \$329,500 below budget and \$208,000 behind last year.

The deficit as of February 27 was \$218,000.



Buy your tickets for Graceful Evening

The annual dinner-auction benefit for Grace Lutheran School starts at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, at the Oak Park Country Club. Ticket sales close on Monday, March 11.

Graceful Evening is the most important fundraiser of the year for Grace Lutheran School—and it's a lot of fun, a chance for people from the Grace Church and School communities to connect and enjoy supporting the mission of the school and congregation.

Under the big top. This year's event has a classic circus theme — hence the stuffed lions and tigers you've seen presiding over Graceful Evening information in the Grace atrium. For the big night, the Oak Park Country Club will have an “under the big top” vibe. There will be fun carnival games with prizes, and magicians (Grace school parents in real life) will entertain guests with nifty tricks. As always there's an amazing assortment of sports tickets, unique experiences, gift certificates and other cool stuff available in the auction, while the Wine Pull and Dessert Dash offer treats and surprises.

Fund A Need. Proceeds from the paddle-raise Fund-A-Need auction will be used to improve indoor and outdoor play areas at Grace. The wish list includes an outdoor drinking fountain,

a GaGa Ball* pit, sun shades for the playground, new permanent mats for the gym walls, and lots of play equipment such as balls, Frisbees, and play nets.

You don't have to attend the event to bid on auction items or make a donation. Connect with the event online at 19graceful.givesmart.com. It's not too early to support the Fund-A-Need! The silent auction will open online a day or two before the event.

If you've supported Grace Lutheran School through Graceful Evening in the past—

thank you, and please, come again! If it's new to you—come on down! It's a wonderful, friendly evening of celebrating and supporting Grace Lutheran School.

* GaGa Ball is a game that incorporates the skills necessary for sports success and athletic development, but is conducted in a fun and inclusive way that everyone can enjoy, regardless of athletic ability. Read more at gagaballpit.com.

Visit 19graceful.givesmart.com to purchase tickets for Graceful Evening (\$100 each; \$950 for a table of ten). Or click on the link at GraceRiverForest.org.

News from Grace Lutheran School

Congratulations to a young filmmaker. Tori Robinson-Thomas, a sixth-grader at Grace Lutheran School, won an honorable mention award in the One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest for her short film titled "Our Water Crisis."

Tori researched and made her film over Christmas break. In the opening frames she walks next to Lake Michigan and talks about the importance of fresh water. She goes on to address the issues of water shortages and pollution and how individuals can conserve water. Tori has been invited to an awards ceremony at the Gene Siskel Film Center, and her film will be posted online at oneearthfilmfest.org. It will also be screened on Saturday, April 27, at the River Forest Public Library.

Invite families to visit Grace Lutheran School. Word of mouth is the single most important way that people learn about the excellent education and caring environment at Grace Lutheran School.

- If you know parents looking for a preschool, tell them about Grace's new all-day programs for children age 3–5.
- Parents with children entering grades 1–8 will be interested in the school's challenging curriculum and supportive teachers.

Prospective families are welcome to drop in on a First Look Friday (dates below) to tour the school and get their questions answered. They may also call the school office to schedule a visit at another time.

**First Look Fridays
at Grace Lutheran School
Drop by for a tour!**

**March 8, April 12
8:30–10:30am**

**Call 708-366-6901 for more
information.**

VISIT 19GRACEFUL.GIVESMART.COM TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR MAKE A DONATION

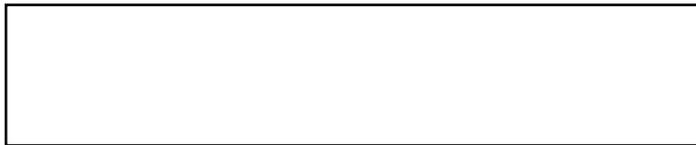
DRINKS • DINNER • AUCTION

GRACEFUL EVENING

MARCH 16, 2019

COME ONE, COME ALL!

STARTS AT 5:30 P.M.
OAK PARK COUNTRY CLUB
2001 NORTH THATCHER
RIVER GROVE



7300 Division St.
River Forest, IL 60305

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