

Time and Talent

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

Stewardship is everything we do after we say "I believe."

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to use God's gifts of time, talent and treasure in service to one another and to the world. At Grace Lutheran Church and School there are many opportunities to connect with other Christians as we work together to bring in, build up and send out disciples for Jesus Christ.

Get involved

- Make a phone call, send an email, respond, come to the event when you see a call for volunteers in Grace Notes, Sunday Is Coming, or the Weekly Announcements.
- Talk with Grace members at the various tables in the atrium each Sunday. Find out more about what they do and how you can help.
- Email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org or call 708-366-6900. We'll get you connected with the ministry and mission of Grace.

Get involved: Worship

Worship is at the heart of all we do as Christians. We gather each Sunday as a community to hear God's word, to receive forgiveness and healing at Christ's table, and then to "go in peace and serve the Lord."

Altar guild teams of volunteers take turns setting up and putting away what's needed for communion on Sunday mornings.

Ushers greet worshippers and assist during worship services. Ushers rotate, serving at one Sunday service for a month, then taking two months off.

Assisting ministers, lectors, communion assistants, Bible bearers and crucifers serve at four to six worship services a year.

Musicians sing in Grace's choirs, ring handbells and play instruments.

Video assistants help with the video recording of Sunday services.

Get involved: Children and families

Sunday School meets from September through May and serves children age three through fifth grade. Sunday School opening worship and Family Sundays are opportunities for parents and children to learn together. Volunteer for a three-to-six-week rotation as a Sunday School teacher or serve as a shepherd each Sunday.

CAFÉ Bible study for adults coordinates with the Sunday morning children's schedule.

Vacation Bible School brings children to Grace for a week of evenings during the summer to learn and play as they study Bible stories and talk about faith. Teach, assist, or work in the kitchen to prepare the evening meal.

Confirmation ministry serves sixth to eighth graders as they prepare to reaffirm their baptismal vows. Adult volunteers serve as Sunday morning confirmation teachers and as mentors to individual eighth-grade students.

Joyful Voices is Grace Church's choir for students in grades 2-6. Children learn about faith and worship as well as about music, singing and responsibility.

Mustard Seeds sponsors social events for families with small children.

Small groups for mothers and for couples bring parents together to socialize, support one another, and study the Bible together. Join an existing group, or help to start one.

Boy Scout Troop 66 and Cub Scout Pack 66 have been sponsored by Grace for over fifty years. The groups include boys and adult leaders from the congregation and the community. Volunteers also organize Girl Scout troops at Grace School.

Get involved: Teens

Grace teens minister to one another with their presence at Sunday morning Teen Talk programs. They serve the community in the Kidz Express tutoring program and in other service projects. Teens also sing in the Youth Choir, ring in the Youth Handbell Choir, and assist in worship as lectors, assisting ministers, Bible bearers and crucifers.

Get involved: Adult education

Adult Education classes at 9:50 a.m. on Sundays offer a variety of programs presented by congregation members and guests. Come and listen, participate in the discussions, recommend speakers and topics to the Adult Ed committee.

Bible study groups meet on Sunday mornings and at other times during the week. Learn more about scripture and discuss its meaning for your life with fellow Christians.

Faith Perspectives presents two Sunday afternoon programs each year with guest speakers from different faith traditions discussing social issues and ideas. Attend the programs and volunteer to help behind the scenes.

Dialogue meets one morning each month for presentations on church and theological issues. The group, originally a gathering of retired pastors, welcomes guests.

Get involved: Adult fellowship

Cornerstones is Grace's group for seniors, which meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from September through June for fellowship and Bible study, with a monthly luncheon.

ROMEOb meet once a month on Tuesday mornings to hear guest speakers. First organized as a men's group, ROMEOb also welcomes women.

Reel Talk presents a film and discussion monthly on Friday nights at Grace. Look for a movie schedule on the Grace web site or at the reception desk.

Religion in Literature book discussions are held once a month in members' homes. A book list can be found on the Grace web site.

Supper Shuffles are small groups that meet in members' homes for dinner and fellowship. Groups are reorganized ("shuffled") annually in the fall.

Job Club includes people who are unemployed or underemployed who meet weekly for networking and mutual support.

Chronic Illness Group members support one another through ongoing health problems.

Caregivers' Support Group meets once a month.

Small Group Ministry connects Grace members in groups whose members agree to meet together regularly for Bible study, prayer, and mutual caring and support.

Get involved: Service

Stephen Ministers provide distinctively Christian one-on-one supportive care to individuals coping with life's challenges. Stephen ministry training is offered annually. (To request a Stephen minister, contact the pastors.)

Health Cabinet members provide support and information in the congregation's Health and Wellness ministry and advise the Parish Nurse.

Serving in the community. Grace's Social Ministry Committee connects Grace members with opportunities to serve the community, including making lunches for the homeless, working at food pantries and participating in the annual CROP Hunger Walk.

Boards and committees manage the congregation's programs, property, finances, and contributions to benevolence ministries. Elections are held in January. Volunteers are recruited throughout the year, especially in the fall.

Get involved: Work to do

Are you someone who likes to *do* something? Here are some hands-on volunteer jobs.

Knit or crochet prayer shawls.

Work in the Grace kitchen to prepare a Lenten supper or a meal for a special event.

Volunteer for Grace Care and bring meals to members who are sick or recovering from surgery.

Join the planning committee for a once-a-year event such as Oktoberfest or the Grace School benefit.

Sort, count, collate, and help out with office tasks at Grace.

The church library needs volunteers to process books and assist library users.

Handy with tools? Work with the Wednesday night crew on maintenance projects.

Garden club volunteers care for the plants and flowers around the building exterior and in Grace Garden at the northeast corner of Bonnie Brae and Division.

Prayer chain volunteers respond to prayer requests from the Grace community.