



GRACE TO YOU

October 2025

**Grace United
Protestant Church**

**266 Somonauk St.
Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone: 708-748-4567**



FALL FEST !

Saturday, October 4, 2025

11:00 AM—3:00 PM

Location: Somonauk Park, Park Forest

Again, this year, we will be facilitating pumpkin decorating. Please save your leftover craft supplies and materials to help with the decorating. Especially needed are markers, paint, glitter, craft glue and volunteers.

There is a collection box in the Sunday School room (room 103).

WCA FALL FIELD TRIP

Saturday, October 11th.

We will be meeting at

The Shrine of Christ's Passion

10630 Wicker Ave., St. John, IN

at 10:00 AM

Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP to Leslie Langmeyer (708-481-1578 or llangmeyer@aol.com)
no later than October 1st.

Unfortunately, if you don't RSVP, you won't be able to ride on the tour. Hurry: There are only 4 spaces left!

All women and men are invited.

The tour will be followed by an optional, self-paid lunch at

Honey Bee Pancake House

9643 Wicker Ave., St. John, IN

(average lunch price is \$12-\$13)

FAMILY FUN GAME NIGHT

will be coming on

Saturday, November 8th.

Watch for more details in the next GTY!

Mission Statement of Our

Reconciling Ministries:

Through God's grace and as apprentices of Christ's living example, we stand united in our commitment to welcome and embrace the diversity of all children of God, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and wish to reach out to those underserved to provide a safe space for spiritual growth. We strive to create an inclusive fellowship welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community, their families, and support networks, and to foster fairness, justice, peace, love, and understanding among all as is reflected in our name—Grace United Protestant Church.



***A spiritual home for
worship and service.***

Website: graceupc.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

October 2025

[Safety in the Shadow of the Lord](#)

Have you noticed and experienced the spiritual power found in the Psalms? Have you felt the comfort of its words, uplifting prayers and songs, encouragement to trust the Lord, and the importance of meditating on God's messages contained within these Psalms?

The Book of Psalms is a significant part of the Bible. The book has been a source of strength, consolation, and spiritual upliftment! The book is divided into five sections, which Scholars believe the editors created to mirror the five books of the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). The five divisions are: Book 1: Psalms 1–41, Book 2: Psalms 42–72, Book 3: Psalms 73–89, Book 4: Psalms 90–106, and Book 5: Psalms 107–150. Each section concludes with a brief hymn of praise, known as doxology.

However, to fully understand these psalms, scholars have classified them into six literary genres: Lament, Praise Hymns, Thanksgiving Psalms, Kingship and Covenant Psalms, Songs of Trust, and Wisdom Psalms. **Lament psalms** express feelings of being attacked by enemies and disappointment with God (e.g., Psalm 22:1-2), yet they shift from mourning to trust in God. **Praise Hymns** call for glorifying God's greatness (Psalms 8, 19, 29, 104, 148). **Thanksgiving Psalms** express gratitude for God's answers (Psalms 18, 30, 32, 34, 40, 66, 67, 75, 92, 107, 116, 118, 124, 136, 138). **Kingship and Covenant Psalms** celebrate God as King and affirm loyalty to His covenant. The Davidic dynasty (Psalms 21, 72, 101, 110, 144) is significant for Christians as it culminates in Jesus Christ. **Songs of Trust Psalms** emphasize trusting God for security, as seen in David's faith in Psalms 11, 23, and 91. **Wisdom Psalms** focus on the Torah as essential for blessing, contrasting the lifestyles of the righteous and the wicked (Psalms 1, 15, 119, 135).

To gain the most benefits from the psalms, take time to reflect on your feelings and challenges. **If you seek deliverance**, find comfort in the Psalms of Lament. **When sadness persists**, draw confidence from Psalms 23, 27, and 91. **Psalm 91 offers a sense of security and safety in the shadow of the Lord**, much like calling 911. **If you're enjoying good times**, expand your praise words by exploring the Psalms of Praise. **For existential questions about God's distance**, refer to the Psalms of Complaint. May these psalms provide you with strength and uplift your spirit.

Please join us for our virtual Bible study every Tuesday at 7 PM as we explore the relevance of the three Minor Prophets—Jonah, Micah, and Nahum—to today's society. Your participation is appreciated! Check your email on Mondays for study notes and the Zoom link.

Our condolences to Sheena Bass Gilbert, whose father, Curtis Bass, Jr., transitioned to eternity on September 12, 2025. May God comfort and strengthen the family. May his soul rest in peace

We celebrate this month's birthday and anniversary celebrants! We pray that God blesses them and grants them good health, so they can continue enjoying their lives.

Yours by His Grace, Pastor Amos Oladipo



WCA NEWS

WCA Board monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM in the parlor. All women are invited to attend any of the meetings.

THANK YOU!!

We appreciate everyone for supporting our Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser!
With your help, we were able to raise \$119 for missions!

FALL FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for the Fall Fundraiser — ButterBraid coffee cakes, Joyful Traditions cake rolls, Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, Amish Pretzel Co. pretzels, and the new Croissant Crowns will be available. Sale dates are October 26th, November 2nd, and November 9th. Delivery date is November 20th and the pickup date will be November 23rd after church. Please check out the information on page 10 and then get your taste buds ready!

MISSIONS NEWS

The Grace October mission is UNICEF. Most of us were first introduced to this organization through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF boxes, asking neighbors for donations while collecting candy on Halloween. The boxes are still in use and the program has grown to provide children with health care, clean water, nutrition, emergency relief, education and more. Children around the world benefit from both short term emergency relief and the ever expanding long term programs that create a better world for kids everywhere. Look at their website, unicef.org, to see details of the amazing work of UNICEF, changing the lives of children and families.

Please donate as you are able using the blue pew envelope during October. Checks should be payable to Grace Church, indicating for UNICEF.

BIBLE STUDY

Our fall Bible Study began on Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00 PM. Please find time to be with other disciples for this weekly Bible Study via our Zoom link from September 9 to November 25, 2025.

Each Monday, Pastor Amos sends the Zoom link to those who want it. Please let the church office know if you would like the link by sending an email to graceupchurch2@gmail.com. There is a wonderful discussion of the books Jonah, Micah, and Nahum; you'll be glad you joined it!

CHAT AND CHEW

Calling all men! Join us for a longstanding Grace U.P. tradition! Any men who are available to join us are welcome. No need to RSVP - just come to Big Apple Pancake House in Chicago Heights at 8:00 AM on Tuesdays for a time of chatting, enjoying breakfast together, and fellowship. We'll see you Tuesday!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our 3-12 year old Sunday School class resumed is going strong! We will continue the schedule of starting in church with our families at 11:00 and leaving before the sermon for room 103. On the first Sunday of each month we will return to the sanctuary to participate in communion. Fall themes are: We Share; We Give; We Grow; We Love; We Praise.

Parents and grandparents are always encouraged to join us anytime.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE PLUMBERS FUND!

As you know our plumber found some cracked sewer pipe in the front yard of our church. Therefore, we needed to have part of the front yard dug up and the original pipe was replaced with new pipe. This cost was \$13,000 for the whole project. With your help, we have already reached more than 3/4 of the goal at \$9900! We appreciate all of you and know we'll be able to reach 100%. Please put "Plumbers Fund" on your check or envelope. We will be collecting money for this during the rest of 2025.

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Banner Room (room 116). Everyone with concerns for the church, the community, the country, or themselves, is welcome and encouraged to join this informal group.

Please let Alice Wasney or the church office know of any prayer needs.

THE LINK FOR THE SUNDAY VIRTUAL SERVICE

Each Sunday, the church service is available virtually on Zoom. The service is live. *The bulletin and the words to the songs are on your screen each week. If you join by phone and want the bulletin emailed to you, please let the church office know.*

Pastor Amos sends the Zoom link each Sunday morning for anyone would like to have it. Please let the office know if you want to have him send the link to you. Email the office at graceupchurch2@gmail.com.

A gentle reminder: It's wonderful to be able to socialize before and after the service, but with the new virtual system in place, we need to mute our own computers during the service. As a courtesy to others, please remember to mute during the service.

Although I find devotions from my daily readings that I like to share, it's always from the same sources. I would love some other contributions to this page! Please share your devotions, readings, and inspirations that are special to you so that others can be inspired, too. I hope that this will be a page that everyone will enjoy and contribute to. Please email me with your contributions at llangmeyer@aol.com. Thank you!

From *God's Way, Day by Day* by Charles F. Stanley

Strong in His Strength

I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me...For when I am weak, then I am strong.. ~2 Corinthians 12:0-10

Paul's thorn-in-the-flesh experience brought him to the position where he could fully allow the strength of Christ to be his strength...

Some people today will claim, "Troubles make you strong." They are wrong. Troubles destroy some people. Troubles weaken others. There is nothing inherent about troubles that results in making us strong emotionally and spiritually.

The truth, as Paul state it so well, is that when we rely upon Christ Jesus in our times of trouble, *He* makes us strong. He imparts His strength to us and as we receive His strength, we are made strong.

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From *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young

I am all around you, hovering over you even as you seek My Face. I am nearer than you dare believe, closer than the air you breathe. If My children could only recognize My Presence, they would never feel lonely again. *I know every thought before you think it, every word before you speak it.* My Presence impinges on your innermost being. Can you see the absurdity of trying to hide anything from Me? You can easily deceive other people, and even yourself, but I read you like an open, large-print book.

Deep within themselves, most people have some awareness of My imminent Presence. Many people run from Me and vehemently deny My existence because My closeness terrifies them. But My own children have nothing to fear, for I have cleansed them by My blood and clothed them in My righteousness. Be blessed by My intimate nearness. Since I live in you, let Me also live through you, shining My Light into the darkness.

.....

From *God's Way, Day by Day*

Praise and Faith

Pray, not until God
hears you, but until
you hear God.



Our petitions, thanksgiving, and praise must all be bathed by our faith. We must truly believe that God is capable and is in control of all things. We must truly believe that God desires our eternal good. We must truly believe that God is our help in time of need.

When we catch even a glimpse of who God is, what God is capable of doing, and how He desires to exert the full extent of His power, presence, and provision to help us, we can't help but feel faith and hope welling up in us to produce an abiding peace.



CELEBRATIONS FOR OCTOBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Nan Beard—6th
Jemiyo Oladipo—14th
Tomi Ajayi—18th
Chris Long—31st



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Biodun and Fikayo Ajayi—23rd



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

We thank God for many answered prayers as we continue to pray for:

The Members of our church, near and far, Our Veterans, our Troops, and our Country,
World Peace, that the hungry can be fed, and the end of violence.



Barbara Abels
The Family of Curtis Bass, Jr.
Nan Beard
Jackie Ceres
Gabe Chachakis
Daniel Christain
Ralph Duncan
Niki Juarez Cummings
Mona Earving
Malcolm Knox
Jim Lewis
The Family of Patty McLeod
Helen Neel

Marge Neel
Lee Nelson
Ronan Nelson
Wylladene Nelson
Stacey Peterson
Kyla Jo Purvenas
Szymanski Family
Alma White
The Migrants, Immigrants, and
Refugees among us
The Victims of Gun Violence
The People of Israel and Gaza
The People of Ukraine

GRACE TO YOU **ABOUT** Scouts

What an amazing Court of Honor. Eleven Scouts earned 43 merit badges and two scouts earned rank. Five scouts earned 6 awards and eleven Scouts completed the merit badge test lab Life skills badge. Parents and leaders were also recognized for their support of the many Troop outings.



The Scouts have had a very eventful summer with lots of advancements and merit badges earned. And hopefully some great family time as well. Now we are back to our regular meeting schedule of ever Tuesday. This month we have the Council Camporee , Sept 19-21, at the Sandwich fairgrounds. It's going to be lots of fun. Then in October we have our annual KOA campout in Kankakee, Oct 17-19. This is set to Halloween activities including Trick or Treat and a haunted house. November we will march in the Richton Park Veterans Day Parade as well as the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade.

We have also started our popcorn sales. Some may choose to do an online store, while others may choose to sell from the brochure. However we ask that everyone help with our show and sell events. On Saturday, Oct 4 we will sell at the Park Forest Fall Fest , 12-4pm.

Watch for pictures of these wonderful events in future Grace to You newsletters!

MARTIN LUTHER: THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND...

October is the month for celebrating the Reformation. October 31, 1517: the day over 500-years ago when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

What began as a debate and academic objection about the sale of indulgences within the Roman Catholic church, resulted in the birth of a Christian sect, Protestantism, and it's why there are "Lutherans," to this day.

Who was this man in honor of whom an entire religious denomination was named? What did he do that was so important? When and how did he live?

These, and many other interesting tidbits will be revealed when Dr. Dwight Johnson takes on the role of the Man himself in his one-man show, "An Evening with Martin Luther."

You are warmly invited to see this interesting performance hosted by the Zion Crete OWLS group.

WHEN: Sunday, October 12th, 2025 at 4p.m.

WHERE: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1610 S. Main Street, Crete, IL 60417

REGISTER: Reserve your spot at zioncrete.org/luther

A reception will follow the performance, and all proceeds will be donated to the performer's charity of choice, the Lutheran Military Support Group.

**MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE!****VOICES OF GRACE**

Do you love to sing? Do you hum with any music you hear? Do you find yourself tapping your foot in time to music? There is a place for you with the "Voices of Grace," our wonderful Grace Church choir!

Rehearsals are the first Sunday of the month after church and the second and fourth Sundays before church at 10:00 AM.

**RINGALINGS**

The Grace Church "Ringalings" Handbell Choir began rehearsals on Sunday, September 14th. They rehearse every second and fourth Sunday after church. All are welcome regardless of age or prior experience.



Nature's Lesson: Falling Through Ice

My footsteps crunched the snow, startling a deer. I watched her bound through the woods and across a frozen lake. Then the ice gave way and she plunged into the frigid water. The lake was miles from the nearest road, so it would have been difficult for rescuers to reach her, even if they chose to try. So until the sun set an hour later, I simply prayed for God's mercy as I watched her futile efforts to get her feet back onto the ice. The next day, the ice was refrozen, leaving no trace of the deer or her struggle.

For more than a year, I pondered why God allowed me to witness that scene. Then He opened my eyes to the people all around me who may need rescue or comfort. Had they fallen through life's cracks and were desperately struggling to get back onto their feet? Would I lend rescue or watch them slip away?

"...comfort, comfort my people, says your God."

~Isaiah 40:1

Thank you to Sue Dukes for sharing all these wonderful inspirations from Carol "Scout" Ruhter & Marty "Acorn" Ramey, Trailbound Trips.

Sale dates are October 26th, November 2nd, and November 9th. Delivery date is November 20th

Orders can be picked up after church on Sunday, November 23rd.

If you are unable to pick up your orders, arrangements can be made to deliver them.

Butter Braid Pastries, Cake rolls, Otis Spunkmeyer cookie doughs, Soft Pretzels and bites, and new Croissant Crowns are all available.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming — Be sure to stock up now!

Butter Braid Pastries — \$18.00 each:

Apple

Bavarian Crème

Blueberry Cream Cheese

Cinnamon

Four Cheese & Herb

Strawberry Cream Cheese

Cherry

Cinnamon Rolls



Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls—\$18.00 each:

Carrot Cake roll

Chocolate cake roll

Lemon Crème cake roll

Pumpkin cake roll

Red Velvet cake roll

Strawberry Cheesecake cake roll



Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough—\$20.00 each:

Classic Chocolate Chip Pecan

Chocolate Chip Toffee Crunch

Chocolate Chip

Peanut Butter

Snickerdoodle

Strawberry Shortcake

Triple Chocolate Chunk

White Chocolate Sweet

Macadamia Nut



Amish Pretzel Co. Soft Pretzels and Pretzel Bites—\$20.00 each:

6 Pretzels per box

Approx. 30 Pretzel Bites per box

NEW: Croissant Crowns—\$20.00 each

Breakfast: The Ultimate morning pastry! Scrambled eggs, Swiss cheese, Ham & Sausage or Ham & Cheese: Savory mix of Swiss cheese and ham, perfect for a mid-day snack. 6 Crowns per box.



Please order at church or call/email Sue Dukes (815-931-5145; email sdukes555@hotmail.com) or Chris Long (708-606-9143; email longabc51@gmail.com) or Leslie Langmeyer (708-481-1578; email llangmeyer@aol.com) to place your order.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE PRE-PAID.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO THE WCA MISSIONS.



October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	2 WCA Board Meeting 10:00 AM	3	4 Village Fall Fest 11:00 AM—3:00 PM
5 Communion Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal after church	6	7 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout meeting <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00 PM	8 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	9	10	11 WCA Field Trip 10:00 AM
12 Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 AM</u> Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Bell Choir rehearsal after church	13 Rebekah Circle at the home of Leslie Langmeyer 7:00 PM	14 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout meeting <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00 PM	15 Prayer Group <u>9:30 AM</u> Tabitha Circle in parlor 2:00 PM	16	17	18 ART meeting— virtual 9:30 AM
19 Jazz Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Coffee & Fellowship following church	20	21 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout meeting <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00 PM	22 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	23	24	25
26 Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 AM</u> Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Bell Choir rehearsal after church	27	28 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout meeting <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00 PM	29	30	31 	