

Grace Seeds Ministry

Growing in God's grace. Cultivating God's love, justice & peace.

September 17, 2024

Share the Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration!

Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mt. Zion Lutheran/New Generation COGIC

10400 S. Kostner, Oak Lawn

Grace Seeds Ministry Partners and Friends!



Here's a post I wrote for our Grace Seeds Ministry Facebook page recently:

"How did you celebrate Labor Day over the long weekend? For many of our Share the Harvest partners it meant spending time in gardens and farms of all sizes -- tending to plants, watering, and harvesting so our neighbors confronting food insecurity have fresh, delicious vegetables to enjoy and aromatic herbs to flavor meals! And we can't forget the hours of effort donated by volunteers who prep the harvests for delivery and make sure they arrive at food pantries

throughout the Chicagoland area! It takes a faithful community -- an amazing network of growing and sharing -- to make it happen! This photo celebrates the fruits of all the love, wisdom, persistence, strength, sweat, and commitment poured into all those beautiful harvests! To all of our Share the Harvest supporters and partners -- your time and talents are appreciated! Not only on Labor Day -- but EVERY day! Thank you and blessings in abundance!"

Truly, this season has been — and continues to be — full of the freshest, healthiest, most delicious gifts of vegetables and herbs, made possible by our incredible Share the Harvest Growing Partners and Pantry Partners!

And because there's so much to celebrate and so much for which to give thanks... we're going to gather for our annual **Share the Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration** on **Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.!** We're meeting at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 10400 S. Kostner Ave., Oak Lawn, 60453. The program will begin at 10 a.m. with feasting at noon. Here's a preview of some of what will be happening!

Libraries and Seed Journey - a 2-part program!

Part 1: Libraries!

This year, we've added a number of new Chicago Public Library branches to our network: Brainerd, Douglass, and West Englewood. And we're celebrating our continuing partnership with the Jeffery Manor branch and the Clearing branch. Come meet leaders from Chicago Public Library branches who "Share the Harvest" in creative ways at their locations! Come learn about and celebrate the ways libraries are growing and connecting in their neighborhoods!

Part 2: Seed Journey!

A lot has happened since we extended an invitation to our Share the Harvest Growing Partners to participate in our 2024 "Seed Journey" - inspired by a generous gift of seeds from the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians! Hear about the journey, see what's grown so far, and learn about opportunities to be part of the continuing journey in 2025!

RSVP Please! Please let us know you're coming! **Here's the registration link:** <https://forms.gle/PZ9orVHYNUxmrg1m6> . **If you need another way to register,** please feel free to call/text (773-495-7865) or email graceseedsministry@gmail.com.

Oases Botanic Gardens Tour and Garlic Recipes!

It was wonderful to see some of you in late July for the inspiring tour of Oases Botanic Gardens in Gary, IN! Thank you, again, to Carmen McKee for the outstanding tour and to Bettie Simmons for her leadership on the day. Oases promotes sustainable urban agriculture and fosters a deeper connection to nature. It's a place where community and hospitality are nurtured and grown!

There's so much to know about Oases - but I'll share one of their projects here. Last year, Oases planted 5,000 garlic bulbs. The garlic is shared in many ways in the Gary, IN community — and beyond! This fall, Oases is doubling its garlic planting to 10,000 bulbs! Imagine all of those garlic scapes next June and picture the huge garlic harvest coming in 2025! Carmen kindly sent links to some of the great garlic recipes they use at OBG. Here they are! Enjoy!

No-fuss Crispy Garlic Chips

<https://culinaryambition.com/crispy-garlic-chips/#recipe>

Black Garlic Chocolate Chip Cookies

<https://food52.com/recipes/75092-black-garlic-chocolate-chip-cookies>

Gilroy Garlic Ice Cream Recipe

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/gilroy-garlic-ice-cream-recipe-101385>

Simple Garlic and Basil Pesto Sauce

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/76697/simple-garlic-and-basil-pesto/>

Simple Pickled Garlic

<https://www.food.com/recipe/simple-pickled-garlic-73803>

Harvest Moon Tonight!

I find myself watering and watching the beautiful web work of orb weavers - the spiders who don't let me forget that autumn is around the corner. And the squirrels! Gorging themselves on acorns from the beloved oak tree in our front yard. And tonight's Harvest Moon will shine a bright reminder that fall is almost here.

But not...quite...yet! In the weeks of growing that remain, tomatoes will still ripen, peppers will still thrill with their greens, oranges, yellows and reds — and collards, chard and kale will sprout new leaves. I give thanks that our shared vision— of a welcoming table where all have plentiful, healthy meals— knows no season and continues to grow! I look forward to celebrating all of that — and much more — when we gather on Oct. 19!

With deep gratitude!

Linda

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