

Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
www.graceglenellyn.org
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West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

MONTH OF MAY 2023
1085423-05

Grace To You is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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Permit #104



FROM THE PASTOR

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find a summary from council president Tim Kelly outlining the call process for your next pastor when I retire at the end of December. But in this

article I want to talk about some of the reasons behind why the process is what it is.

The first thing most people ask, of course, is "Can't we get the Call Committee together *now* and get going, so we'll have a new pastor ready to go when Pastor Melody leaves?" It's a great question based on a reasonable desire to move quickly and efficiently. And no, you can't.

There are several reasons for this. To begin, the relationship between a pastor and congregation is often a very emotional one (for good or for bad!). There is a tremendous amount of intimate connection, so "replacing" a pastor without time for reflecting and processing can be very unhealthy. Kind of like trying to line up your next spouse before the divorce is finalized or the funeral done. (Although in this case not because of a painful break in the relationship, thankfully.)

Secondly, it's not unheard of for a pastor to try to maintain inappropriate connection or control in a congregation by influencing the choice of the next pastor. Maybe it's a desire to maintain a personal legacy, or maybe just to keep an "in." Sometimes, even when a pastor is well-loved, what the congregation *really* needs is a new direction or new gifts. So the

Church provides for a separation between the outgoing pastor and the process of calling a new one to make sure the congregation is completely free to evaluate for *themselves* where they need to go next.

Thirdly, the fact is that losing a pastor can be really stressful, and often congregations just want to relieve the discomfort as quickly as possible. But this can end up leading to what we sometimes call a "rebound" pastor, or an "unintentional interim." That happens when a congregation issues a call *in reaction* to their outgoing pastor—maybe just looking for the same gifts the outgoing pastor had, or reactively looking for the gifts the outgoing pastor lacked. Either way, the desire to ease the stress and discomfort of transition can short-circuit the need for careful reflection, self-study, and prayer. Pastors called out of reactivity often don't last long in the call—hence the "unintentional interim" title.

I want you to hear that in my 36 years as a pastor, my experience in the Metro Chicago Synod has consistently been of my bishops wanting the best for me and for the congregations I have served. The Synod isn't on a power trip, and they aren't there to jerk congregations around. The Bishop cares for you. This process, while sometimes frustrating and long, really is designed to help you and your pastors maintain the healthiest relationship possible, so that your witness to God's love poured out in Christ will be as powerful as possible.

Remember, God will be with you throughout your call process. So will my prayers.

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



PATH TO CALL A NEW PASTOR AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Eastman stated at the annual meeting in January 2023, that she intends to retire at the end of 2023. Pastor Eastman will be with us through Sunday, December 31, 2023. This will be Pastor's last official day with us.

The procedures for Grace Church to enter into a call with a new pastor will proceed as follows:

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has already been notified of Pastor Melody's retirement and Grace Church's need for a new pastor starting in January 2024.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha is Bishop Curry's Associate who relates to our Conference. Pastor Mortha will help us with this process including having an interim pastor at Grace Church. The Synod is committed to us throughout the entire process, till we call a new pastor.

It is possible that an interim pastor will be appointed by Bishop Curry for us right away in January. This interim pastor *may* possibly be able to overlap with Pastor Eastman for some transition for a week in December of 2023.

In late January 2024 Grace church will have its annual congregational meeting and new executive and council members will be elected.

The call process would begin in early 2024 with the new council in place. This process would include the formation of a call committee. Per Synod and ELCA guidelines, the call committee will not be formed until after Pastor Eastman's retirement.

If anyone has a question about this feel free to talk or contact me.

Yours in Christ!

Respectfully,
Timothy Kelly
Grace Church Council President



FAITH TALK, THURSDAY, MAY 4

Join us from 12:30-2:00. Did you know there are many different types of prayer in the Christian tradition, and many ways to pray? We continue our exploration of prayer by looking at different *ways* of prayer in Christianity and other traditions. Along with the spiritual strength we draw from prayer, the practice of prayer is also connected with several benefits to both physical and emotional well-being. Regardless of your own experience with prayer, you might find something new that clicks with you!! *FaithTalk* meets on the lower level.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

In May, the sharing circle on racial healing will be meeting after worship on **May 21**. Using *The Little Book of Racial Healing* (by Thomas Norman DeWolf and Jodie Geddes) as a starting point, we explore the ways in which experiences of race and racial disparities are affecting our lives and our community. The format of the sharing circle is based on a mutual agreement to create a safe space for all who choose to participate and to practice deep listening as we talk about difficult topics. We will be meeting in the Great Room and all are welcome to join.

PEOPLE OF GRACE

Please join the People of Grace for dinner and fun conversation on Tuesday, **May 16**. The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday at **7pm**. The location will vary each month to keep it fresh. Please contact Jeff Nelson at jeff.nelson@vlses.com if you are interested in attending.

A REMINDER ABOUT PASTOR MELODY'S DAYS OFF

Pastor Melody's days off are Friday and Saturday. If you wish to reach out to her for a non-emergency communication, it is best to do so Monday through Thursday. In particular, text messages received on her days off are most likely to get lost in the string of other texts she receives. Email is the best way to be sure she will get your message at a time when she can respond. Of course, in case of a pastoral emergency (death or serious illness/injury) you may reach out to her via phone, text or email at any time.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 UP TO 6TH GRADE

9:00-9:15am: All ages gather for fellowship time in the Narthex with music and art -

Parents are welcome to drop off or stay

9:20am: Group prayer and sending song

9:20-9:45am: *Spark* Preschool-Kindergarten Class heads to classroom downstairs with Mrs. Graf and Mrs. Hutzler for a craft and lesson (toys available for young children). **Shine 1st-6th Grade Class** joins Mrs. Drager and Mrs. Kregor downstairs in the multi-use room (with kitchen).

- **SPARK** classes will focus on “Fruit of the Spirit” lessons & crafts
- **SHINE** will be learning Bible lessons from Matthew



With thanks,

Heather Graf, Alison Hutzler, Cyndy Drager, and Karen Kregor

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY COORDINATOR POSITION

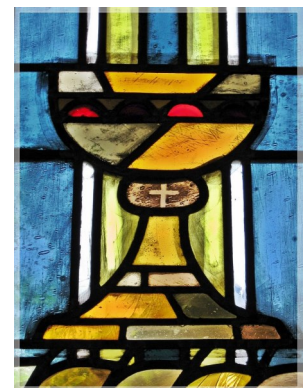
Grace is seeking someone to fill the position of Children’s Ministry Coordinator—a somewhat pared down position previously held by Becky Ficarella. This position will focus on faith formation and events for our kids in Sunday School, and will involve working with teachers and parents, organizing curriculum and materials, working with VBS, and coordinating with the pastor on Confirmation ministry.

The position will require roughly 10-12 hours per week on a flexible schedule. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Melody.



CONFIRMATION SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 10AM

Join us as we celebrate with Evelyn Dieter, Abby Nelson, and Lilly Nelson in the rite of confirmation. There will be a reception following the Confirmation Service. Please join us in congratulating our Confirmands!



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Glen Ellyn / Wheaton CROP HUNGER WALK

This interfaith mission to reduce hunger and poverty has not changed and, in fact, the need for local and global food supply is even more imperative - so let's get engaged and do everything we can to raise funds to fight hunger!! We will start our Crop Walk outside Gary Memorial Methodist Church, 224 N. Main St. in Wheaton and take a walk together.

1) Let's Walk: Sunday, May 7th at 1pm for registration with a 2pm walk off.

Action: Sign-up on this website so we can see everyone who will be walking!! Or contact me, Mike Pertle, and I can sign you up!! Even family and friends in other cities and states can participate!!

2) Donate: Please continue to encourage people to donate to this cause. This web page enables online contributions and we welcome donations now through May!!

Action: Send this link to family and friends anywhere in the U.S. who want to help support our local and global food supplies!! If you sign up to walk, they can donate directly to Church World Service or to Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn. Any amount is appreciated!! To donate, sign up to walk on the website and it is up and running now!! Make Checks payable to CWS/Crop.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/grace-lutheran-glen-ellyn-il>

Follow us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Glen-EllynWheaton-CROP-Hunger-Walk-384858704862610/>

What's important is that we remain purposeful to this cause so mark your calendars for Sunday, May 7th and participate any way you can!

Thank you,
Mike Pertle
mike.pertle@gmail.com, 630-488-0880

PADS

It will be time for PADS again which is the first Tuesday of every month, in this case May 2nd.

For May 2nd, we're looking for meals - fresh cooked hot or cold that can be put in the containers that we already have. For example: A pan of homemade Chili.

We also need Frozen dinners or Shelf stable foods and fruit like oranges, apples and bananas. Dessert items are also welcome. Please remember that a third of our guests are children when making food selections.

Of course all food donations are appreciated. If anyone has contacts with restaurants or stores who would like to help, please let us know.

Please leave donated food for PADS (**1st Tuesday of the month**) upstairs in the Church Kitchen via the gym. - Food from the Church is picked up about 2:00pm on Tuesday. Or, it can be dropped off here at our house - we usually leave for the site around 4:15pm. (1N346 Prairie Ave, GE - last house on the left - 630-790-1612)

If you'd like a closer look at what we do and who we serve, please join us at the IHC (Interim Housing Center) - previously a red roof inn - on the south side of Butterfield just west of Highland Ave between 5 and 5:30pm - east side of building room 106. We are always looking for volunteers to help us distribute the food.

A group does come over the Sunday before PADS day at around 1pm to help prepare food. So if you have any food that needs to be separated or packed in individual bags or containers. If possible please bring that food prior to 1pm on Sunday.

Thank you for your support and helping members in our community.

Thank you so much for all your support!
Joe and Donna Jacobo



PRAYER REQUESTS

Tom Roete, Lenore Dean, Luke Pajowski, Lori Garabrandt, Brittany Huizenga, Dorothy Tracy for healing and strength.

Prayers for our Homebound Member:

Norma Petersen

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by great refreshments and Christian fellowship at 10:45am. At the congregational meeting in January, it was voted on and passed to keep the 10am worship time year-round. This means we will not have a 9am service over the summer.

ZOOM WORSHIP

We will continue to offer a Zoom link for our Sunday worship service for those who are continuing to participate from home. If you need a bulletin, remember you can view (on another device) or download/print a bulletin from Grace's website. Just click on *Quick Link to Worship*.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031586315>

Dial In: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 890 3158 6315

GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY MOVE UPDATE

As you can see, the information provided by the food pantry in January for them to leave by the end of the first quarter of 2023 has come and gone. We have now been informed that the food pantry plans to move to its new location next to Faith Lutheran Church by the end of the second quarter 2023!

MARCH FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your participation. We received 21 bags of food totally 289 lbs. for the food pantry.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania Avenue

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Office: 630.469.1555

Emergency Pastoral Contact: 630.674.2887

Email: info@graceglenellyn.org

www.graceglenellyn.org

Every Member: Minister & Missionary!

Melody Eastman, Pastor

Carole LoGalbo, M.S., LCPC Parish Counselor

Barbara Sudds, Office Manager

Bradford Thompson, Minister of Music

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30am - 3:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday 1:00pm - 3:00pm



ATTENDANCE

DATE	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	LENT
3/5	51	6	13
3/12	34	14	17
3/19	41	12	16
3/26	43	6	14

GRACE ARTS AND APPS

Calling all artists of all ages and those with art they would like to share....the Social Committee is hosting an **Arts and Apps** event on **Sunday, June 4** after worship in the narthex. We will show artwork of Grace's members for the congregation to see while enjoying some light refreshments in the form of appetizers. Do you have some art that you have made as a hobby or profession? Do you own some artwork you would like to bring and show that day? There will be a sign-up in the narthex so we know how many tables to set up. And, if you don't have any art to share, perhaps you would like to make an appetizer to share.