

Hey Families with Children in First through Eighth Grades...During December there will be many opportunities for family time because Wednesday Youth Club & Confirmation WILL NOT meet on Dec. 12, 19, 26 or Jan. 2nd. Enjoy your time together!

Advent Activities For Our Youth & Families

In celebration of the birth of Christ, we will have two large group activities for our families of Sunday School Children ages 3 through high school. Both occasions will be held in our gym from 9-9:45am during the Sunday School hour. On Nov. 25 we will make 3 different Christmas ornaments symbolizing different aspects of Advent. Dec. 23 will be filled with Christmas "Joy" as we finish the 4th advent ornament, have a birthday party for Jesus, & hear the story of his birth! Remember parents, grandparents, & other family members are invited!

Oh, The Sound of Children!

Our Sunday School Children will be singing in the 10am worship service on Nov. 18. Soon afterwards, they will begin practicing for their special Dec. 9th Christmas Worship. Their practice schedule is as follows: Wednesdays, Nov. 28 & Dec. 5: Three year olds through K will practice from 4:30-5pm in the Sanctuary. All 1st through 8th graders will practice on the same dates from 4:30-6pm, with gym time included. Dinner will be served, as usual, from 6-6:20pm. In addition, our final rehearsal will be with everyone, 3 yr. olds through 8th grade, from 9-9:45am on Sunday, Dec. 9th.

Operation Christmas Child

Giving comes in a shoebox! November of 2007 was Grace's 3rd annual drive to gather shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in Third World Countries. One shoebox filled with items is probably the only Christmas gift each child will receive. The Confirmation class prayed for the children receiving boxes, then assembled the shoeboxes & handed them out to our younger Sunday School Children. Read the next "Grace to You" for final results on project from start to finish!

Attention Sr. High Youth: remember to meet at Grace at 2:45pm on Nov. 18 to help with shipping of the shoeboxes!

Christmas Day Worship

Did the jingling of bells and cash registers make it hard to hear the Christmas Message? Pause between gift opening and feasting to bring the whole family to Christmas morning worship at Grace, 10am on Tuesday, December 25. The bright sun streaming in the windows will help us celebrate that morning long ago when the shepherds ran to tell everyone what they had seen! Join us for carols, Holy Communion and a special Christmas story time for children.

Families Worship Together

Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Grace!

Nursery. On the lower level in the first room beginning at 8:45 is an adult staffed nursery for the youngest children.

KidsWord. After Pastor reads the Gospel, preschool and early elementary children go to the Fellowship Room across the hall from the sanctuary for a story and activities with an adult leader. They return during the Hymn of the Day. Older elementary school children are encouraged to be involved participants in worship.

Rainbow Bags with quiet toys and crayons are in the cupboard at the back of the church or get a **children's bulletin** from the ushers.

Overflow room The glassed area at the back of the church is soundproof and equipped with loudspeakers and chairs in rows to resemble church to allow full participation in worship. This space allows for a little movement and fussiness without leaving the worship area. Please model good listening and respect for others desire to hear and participate.

All children are invited to be present for **Holy Communion**. Those receiving the Sacrament should extend cupped hands. Children desiring a blessing should fold their hands. Children learn to worship by watching parents and coming often. Please make regular worship with your child a priority.



Christmas Shopping For Those Less Fortunate

For the last 9 years, the congregation of Grace has generously tossed money into our jingling decorated coffee cans! On Sunday, Dec. 2nd, once again, the Jr. High Confirmation class will be collecting donations in their cans after both worship services. They will purchase winter coats, clothes, toys & games for families who are less fortunate, and then return to Grace to wrap a mountain of gifts! This year we will shop for about 25 people with the hope of making their Christmas a little brighter. Thank you in advance for your support.

Building on Baptism

Building on Baptism is a commitment made by Grace at the moment of baptism to life long Bible learning of each member. That begins with our newly revitalized Cradle Roll program. It continues each week as children are brought up for a blessing. Perhaps you have heard the excited voices of preschoolers as they learn to say "amen." It continues in Sunday school where the teaching curriculum has been built by Grace to give our children the basics they need in Bible stories, Christian values, and service to others. In the preschool years KidsWord time offers a story with activities they can enjoy so the worship experience is a positive one. As children reach grade school they join Wednesday Youth Club for more learning but more important to build relationships with other Christian children. Through the years Vacation Bible School blends stories with songs and games and fun. In Middle School, structured confirmation classes on Wednesday and Sunday give students the information they need to know to choose for themselves lives of faith. Each year those who plan and support these ministries try to improve them, make them more relevant to children's lives while still true to the faith we love.



**The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church:
PROCLAIM, BUILD AND SERVE!**

Calling All Calendars

What's clogging your mailbox? This time of year calendars abound. Can you spare some to donate to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry? It really helps their clients keep track of scheduled Food Pantry appointments. Bring them to the church office or Food Pantry anytime.

Thoughts on Thanksgiving from Sandy Stein

Thanksgiving is the time of the year when many people put a bigger emphasis on acknowledging the blessings they have received from God. And thus, their offerings get bigger, the food pantry's stock increases and people are more cordial to each other. There is that inner recognition that what we have does come from God. And having so much more than two-thirds of the world, we ought to be grateful for the things like: clean water, food on our tables, clothes on our backs, a roof over our head and to be able to send our children to school (even if they complain about it), because it is right to do so.

God has certainly given me all these things and I am truly grateful for every blessing I have received, but what I am even more grateful for is what God has not given me – an eternal death sentence. Being a sinner, I have fallen short of the glory of God and I deserve to be eternally separated in death from my heavenly Father. We all do. But in God's great love and mercy, He sent His only Son to be the once for all time sacrifice so that I may be forgiven of my sins. That has a huge ramifications on the impact of my gratefulness to God. I can't buy His forgiveness and I can't earn it; it is God's gift. And because of that great sacrifice Jesus made and our faith in Him, we have been made righteous before God and we are called God's children. How can we not be thankful for that?

It is my hope this Thanksgiving holiday that each one of us at Grace will take the opportunity to meditate on the true meaning of what Jesus has done for us, and its significance in our every day lives. And to give true thankfulness for the blessings God has given us, our church, and each other.

It's Not Christmas Yet!

December 23 is Advent 4 and there will be worship at 8am and 10am. At 9am the Choir of Grace will rehearse and there will be a family group Sunday school activity. Before the tissue paper and the turkey, bring your family to reflect on the center of the season: The baby in a manger.

Learn about Chrismons during Advent

A chrismon is one of number of Christian symbols intended to represent aspects of the Person, life or ministry of Jesus Christ and the life, ministry or history of the church through a single image, emblem or monogram. The term "chrismon" comes from the Latin phrase "Christi Monogramma", meaning "monogram of Christ." The designs are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days, making visible and memorable the names of Christ. The symbols we use on the four Sundays of Advent are illustrations of His character and work. Like parables, they are earthly symbols with heavenly meanings.

An Early Gift for the West Hall and Entry

The first floor hallway has been repainted and the floors of the Fellowship Room, hallway and bathrooms have been cleaned and seal coated. A contractor will repair the foundation under the west entry on November 19, necessitating the closing of that entry for the day. The shrubbery around that entry must be removed for the renovation, so, if you wish to have any, help yourself before the 19th.





We are Embraced by Grace!

Established in 1909, Grace has been committed to be a serving ministry in downtown Glen Ellyn for almost 100 years. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **Our Mission:** Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, builds community through worship and fellowship, and serves beyond the walls of the church.

We are located just one block north of the Metra railroad station at the corner of Forest and Pennsylvania Avenues. We make use of our location to serve the community and those most in need in our midst. Housed in our building are the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, Village Senior Service Center, Meals on Wheels program and senior dining center, PADS homeless shelter with weekly medical consultations, and support groups for various recovery groups.

Parking on Sundays for worship is available on the street or the train station parking lot. We welcome you to visit anytime or take part in any of our activities.

What Lutherans Believe

Our history dates back to the 16th century when Martin Luther began the Reformation by separating from the Roman Catholic Church. Our worship, sanctuaries, and traditions remain very similar to Roman Catholic. Several areas we do not agree on are: Pope as the supreme head of the church, understanding of the consecration of elements for Holy Communion, number of sacraments, views on divorce and contraception, ordination of women and role of the saints. Like them and many other Protestants we believe in one baptism for all Christians, the truth of the Holy Bible, salvation through grace by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the commitment to serve others as Christ showed us, the power of prayer, mutual compassion and support within the community, spreading the love of Christ in word and deed. To find out more go to www.elca.org or contact Pastor Robin.

Be Part of the Christmas Choir!

Music Director Dr Edward Zimmerman encourages singers in high school and older singers to share their gifts at choir rehearsals for the Advent and Christmas seasons on Thursdays 7:30-9pm in the Choir Room on the lower level. The Choir of Grace sings each week at the 10am worship to support the congregation in hymns and liturgy as well as offer musical inspiration. Join them for this season of wonderful music including Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at the 9pm Eucharist.

Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

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Diane Lombardi, Youth Director 871-2372, office x 14
Kelly Schumacher, Family Ministries Cord. 359-4633 office x 12
Brenda Ciero, Children's Assistant 858-7181 office x 15
Cathy Milleville, Parish Nurse, 653-0957, office x 13
Edward Zimmerman, Director of Music, 553-3671
Carole LoGalbo, Parish Counselor, 668-4594
Gail Salvatori, Youth Music Teacher 653-5538
Grace Information Hotline, office x 20

Church office hours

M-Thur. 9:30am-4pm
Friday 9:30am-noon

Oh, come let us "a-door" the west hall!

Welcome to the heart and soul of the Grace: the west hall. Here we hand out emergency bags of food, provide free counseling, help seniors with phone bills, greet the homeless, track blood pressure of anyone in the community, offer smiles and service to all in need. Last summer Grace was gifted with the funds to initiate repairs and improvements. The building is sound but needs paint, floor restoration, ceilings and...new and secure office doors! From now to the end of the year the congregation is invited to be part of the door replacement project. When you contribute toward the cost of one door replacement, your family name will be placed on a gift tag on a door. When a door is completely funded we'll add a big celebration bow! Can we wrap the west hall in our gifts? Add a door to your Christmas list for any amount. Use a pew envelope and label "door replacement" project.

Proverbs 16: 3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Bells Ringing on December 30 at 10am

Join us for a bell ringing good time at Klokker worship, 10am on Sunday, December 30. There will be one worship service that day. Bring bells of any kind from home. We will share the stories behind them if you like. Those without bells will be loaned one so everyone can ring along as we sing. Stories of the season and Holy Communion complete our noisy celebration.



Follow that Star!

It's not too late to join in the project. We need all the help we can get to get us the 6155 miles from Grace to Bethlehem before Mary and Joseph get there. All it takes is a little exercise, that's all. So get moving, track the distance you walk and record it on the chart on the ushers stand. There are over 50 of us working on this, come help us out.

There's a Chill in the air – and Chili in our future!

This will be the 8th year running that Grace has organized a Chili Supper to raise money for ELCA's World Hunger Appeal during the Glen Ellyn Christmas Walk (the Supper originated as an in-house fundraiser from 1989-94). This year's Chili Supper will take place from 5-8 pm on Friday, Nov. 23 (the day after Thanksgiving). If you can help with advance work such as publicity, decorations, tickets, supplies or volunteer sign up please stop by and look for Carol Asselmeier. Watch for a sign up on the kiosk for help on the day of the event. If you will be in town that weekend, we hope you can work a shift and/or come to eat! Thanks to all for continuing to make this event so meaningful. The Senior High Youth will sell left over chili on Sunday, November 25.

Parables of Jesus

This year, most of the Pentecost season Gospel readings featured the parables of Jesus from Luke. Many of us studied them in Bible classes. For those who want to fill the stories out even further, we will view a six-session DVD series of the Parables of Jesus on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm and on Sunday mornings at 9am, beginning Thursday, Nov. 29, and Sunday, Dec. 2.

Each session features a professor from a Christian college or university giving the historical and cultural background, then a close look at the text, and finally application of the meaning to modern life. Each lesson opens in Israel, where the parable was first spoken, but finishes in today's America, where we have the task of putting the lessons into practice. Join us for in-depth study and discussion.



The incredible, unbelievable, improbable TRUTH about Christmas!

So how DID Mary and Joseph explain a baby on the way without the usual conventions of parenthood? Be sure to worship on Advent 3, December 16 at 8 and 10am when three mini-dramas presented by Grace members enlighten us to the tricky conversations they must have had with parents, each other and even the paparazzi!

It's Decorating Time!!

When all the lights go up, and the tree is decorated the sanctuary is just beautiful. It takes lots of hands but the work is fun. Come help out with this project on Friday December 7 at 7:00pm. Bring a snack to pass, we'll have refreshments to keep us going. It's a great project for families to do together. With kids age 7 and up. Come join in the fun and make some new friends for the holiday season.



Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la!

We will be doing special Christmas caroling visits to our shut-ins on the afternoons of December 13 and 18 around 1:00. Want to come spread some Christmas cheer? Please let Cathy Milleville (cmilleville@graceglenellyn.org or 469-1555x13) know if you are interested in joining us. Also we could use some Christmas cookies to take along with us if anyone has some to share.

Holiday Faith and Friendship Lunches

Come celebrate the holidays with friends at Grace as we gather for prayer service, communion and a festive lunch before both upcoming holidays. We will meet at 12:30 on November 21 for Thanksgiving worship and get-together. We meet again on December 19 for a Christmas holiday event. Bring a friend.

Support for Troops at the Chili Supper

Want to give a serviceman or woman a lift this season? We will be collecting donations of goodies at the Chili Supper on Friday, Nov. 23 here at Grace that will be sent in holiday care packages. Here are the top ten items being collected by Operation Support Our Troops Illinois: peanut butter (small), canned fruit and pasta, beef jerky/slim jims, nuts, coffee in single serving boxes, tea bags, hot chocolate, unscented baby wipes, crackers, Pringles and mints. Every care package includes at least one letter from a citizen, so please consider writing a thank you note to a serviceperson as well. Items may be brought to the Chili Supper or to the church office by Sunday, Nov. 25. Contact Carol Asselmeier at carolasel@aol.com or www.osotil.org for more information.

