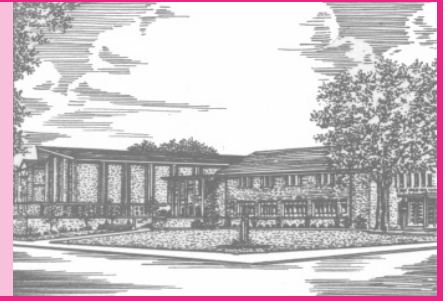


GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



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.

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. Come join in the fun.

WALK TO BETHLEHEM

I hope you are all out doing extra walking and exercising, because we need to make it to *Casablanca before the end of November!!* Right now we are in the middle of the Atlantic ocean, and swimming hard. Water, water everywhere. Did you know the average depth of the Atlantic Ocean is 12,881 ft. Think about the importance of water in our lives while you are walking this week. Not only the physical need our bodies have for water, or the water conservation activities we need to be practicing, but also the life giving water that cleanses us at baptism.

Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Return Service Requested

West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

Weeks of November 25 & December 2
Christ the King & Advent 1
1085407-24

Vol. 2007-08 No. 07-24 *Grace To You* is the bi-weekly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

Chili Sell-off!

On Sunday, Nov. 25, after both services, the Sr. High youth will be selling the left over Chili from Friday night's dinner to benefit world hunger. Chili always tastes better the second time! All profits on Sunday will go directly to the 2008 New Orleans Mission Trip.

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 9:00 AM. The series begins on Thursday, Nov 29, and Sunday, Dec. 3.

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.

VIM (Very Important Meeting!)

Sunday school parents meet at 9:15 on December 2 give input to the design and construction team about the SS area on the lower level. Let's have as many families as possible represented as possible! Kids will be in group Sunday school so teachers can attend.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Permit #104

Have you always meant to express appreciation to a Grace staff member? Why not tell PMC Chair Donna Barber (donna.barber@lssi.org or 630-690-7806) your compliment? We'll share it anonymously at staff reviews on November 28 and 29.

GreenGrace Members Recycle

On October 27, Bob Stein and Hoard Bruning helped load electronics and small appliances for recycling at a West Chicago open recycling day. Russ took two full pick up truck loads to the center. Thank you to everyone who brought items for recycling.

Sunday school teachers meet with Kelly Shumacher and Pastor Robin at 7pm on November 27 for backgrounds on Winter sessions and planning for classes in April and May, 2008.

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 visit and other appointments. Bring them to the church office or Food Pantry anytime. If you have extra, it's easy to share!

Knock-knock!

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.

Property Committee Update

The first floor hall was recently painted as part of the sprucing up of the first floor of Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Bob Beeching, Bruce Lantz, Spencer Lantz, Tim Breitling, Lynn Breitling, Bob Stein, Carol Asslemeier, Karen Kregor, Willie Collins, Karen Collins, Jeff Berta, Howard Bruning, and Pete Jaeger for volunteering their time and to Mike Pertel for the donation of paint and supplies. After the painting was completed John Doty and his crew stripped and sealed the floors of the entire first floor of Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all for their donations of time and materials.

On Monday, November 19th work began on shoring up the foundation wall of the west entrance. When completed the doors should be square again and the gaps between the walls and door frames will disappear. We are fixing up the entrance in preparation for the upcoming major construction that begins April, as this entrance will be the main entrance into the building during construction.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center officials want to remind those individuals who want to show their appreciation through mail to include packages, letters, and holiday cards addressed to 'Any Wounded Soldier' or 'A Recovering American Soldier' that Walter Reed cannot accept these packages in support of the decision by then Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Transportation Policy in 2001. This decision was made to ensure the safety and well being of patients and staff at medical centers throughout the Department of Defense. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service is no longer accepting "Any Service Member" or "A Recovering American Soldier" letters or packages. Mail to "Any Service Member" that is deposited into a collection box will not be delivered. Instead of sending an "Any Wounded Soldier" letter or package to Walter Reed, please consider making a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families listed on the "America Supports You" website, www.americasupportsyou.mil

The Retirement Research Foundation has informed Grace Church that a grant award to the amount of \$30,000 has been approved and will be sent to us early in 2008. ("And the people say...Amen!") This award is made in support of the Accessible Faith Grant. It will be used specifically to renovate rest rooms with new equipment which accommodate people with physical limitations. This award has encouraged the congregation as it moves forward to reach financial goals for the capital campaign. We look forward to the ground breaking for the building addition scheduled for April 6, 2008.

Grace Events

Week of Nov 25-Dec 1	
11/28-29 6:30 - 9:30pm Staff reviews	
Sun	8 & 10am Worship Service 8:30am Parish Nurse 9:00am SS, Parents SS, Adult BS, Choir Reh.
Mon	
Tues	7:00pm SS Teacher Training 8:00pm Dartball (away)
Wed	7:15am Early Risers Adult Bible Study 9:30am Transition team special meeting 4:30-6pm WYC & Confirmation class
Thur	noon & 7:20pm Prayers 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Design Team
Week of Dec 2-8	
Sun	8 & 10am Worship Service Advent 1 8:30am Parish Nurse 9:00am SS, Parents SS, Adult BS, Choir Reh.
Mon	9:30am EBG Steering comm. 11:00am Transition team
Tues	8:00pm Dartball (away)
Wed	7:15am Early Risers Adult Bible Study 4:30-6pm WYC & Conf Last class of 2007 7:00pm Green Team
Thur	noon & 7:20pm Prayers 12:15pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Bible study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal
Fri	7:00pm Decorate the Church

Building Usage


Sun	5:00pm S-A 7:30pm A-A 5:00pm S-Anon Step Study (every 4th Sunday)
Mon	5-8:30pm Highland Dancers (gym) 8:00pm Al-Anon (Serenity Seekers)
Tues	12:30pm S-Anon 3:30-5:30pm Play Group (gym) 4:30-6pm Basketball (gym) 6-7:30pm Basketball (gym) 7:30pm Al-Anon (English language) 7:30pm Circle of Serenity
Wed	6-8pm Basketball (gym) 10:30-11:30am Senior Center Bingo (2nd Wednesday fellowship) 10:00-11:30am CNS Support Group (1/mo)
Thur	7:00pm PADS Gym
Fri	6:30pm S-A 6:30pm S-Anon 7-9pm Basketball (gym)
Senior Meals Monday - Friday at 11:00am	
Senior Services Monday - Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm	
Food Pantry Tuesday & Friday 9-11am, 1-3pm Wednesday 5pm home delivery Thursday 1-3 pm	

Our Thanks and Praise

Date	Attendance		Offering	
	8am	10am	Regular	Capt. Campgn
10/28	36	145	5258	26,770
11/04	58	155	10,024	12,005

Sunday	November 25, 2007	December 2, 2007
Welcome	Betty Johnson	Kathy & Ron Gallian
Cookie Patrol	Carol Petersen	Suzanne Joyce
Altar Guild	Carol Petersen Lois Pertle	Marlene Fenske Jean Jeske
Kidsword	Mike Gould	Charlie Ortmann
8am Usher	Jake Jacobson Jim Rasins	Jake Jacobson Tim Loftus
8am Acolyte	Hannah Loftus	Kay Loftus
8am Lectors	Fred Warnke Vince Hardt	Fred Warnke Vince Hardt
10am Usher	Tim Derrico Mark Danly Charlie Ortmann Jay Malo	Chuck Miller Jon Milleville Ben Jacobson Josh Hansel
10am Acolyte	Liz Lombardi	Carrie Asselmeier
10am Lectors	Mark Drager Jean Derrico	Sean Nelson Diane Plant

Remember in Prayer: Welcome to Logan Matthew born to Brook & Matt West on Nov. 2nd; Lorraine Pfursich recovering from a recent hospitalization; Friends visited Ruth Moe, Carol Frazier and Lucille Smith; Susan Froneberger and family on the sudden death of her father, Jack Carlson; Charley Stange and family on the sudden death of his sister-in-law, Dolores Stange.



10th Annual Jr. High Halloween Party

Where do you find Fairy Princesses, Army soldiers, ghosts, goblins, a bunch of bananas, & a gorilla or two? At our very own youth mystery party, of course! Twenty-two of Grace's Jr. & Sr. High youth gathered for a night of surprises, mayhem, & fellowship. For our service project, the kids made goody bags for the food pantry and a ghoulish good time was had by all. Thank you to the following adults for helping Diane Lombardi at the party, as well as set-up, clean-up & snacks: Pete & Chris Jaeger, Andy Ross, Diane Plant & Krista Lawrence.

Reflections from Sandi Stein

The dictionary describes Thanksgiving as: an annual United States holiday... instituted by the Pilgrims to give thanks to God for their survival. Two words; thanks meaning an expression of gratitude and giving meaning to turn over the possession or control of to someone without cost or exchange; hand over as a gift.

The thanks part of Thanksgiving is usually the easier part. We say thanks when someone helps us or when someone is courteous in their actions. We're polite in saying thanks when someone gives us a gift or they go out of their way and expresses their kindness. We say thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us because it is right to do so. And it is a moral value that we should teach our children.

The giving part of Thanksgiving is the harder part. We love receiving but giving tends to be more of a duty than an expression of compassion and mercy. We resist giving of our time since our time is rendered more for our own pleasures; helping out at church or a charity function just doesn't fit the schedule. We don't like giving of our talents because once you do everyone wants something from you; usually for their own gain. But perhaps the hardest is giving money. We work hard for our money, why should we give it to church or a charity? Let them go out and earn their own money. Why should it be my responsibility, let someone else do it, I work too hard to just give it away. These are just a few statements I've heard and, sadly, this is the unfortunate value many children learn by our words and actions.

If everything we have comes from a loving God, then everything we give should be given to God. When I give of my time, I give all that I do unto God as if I am doing it for God Himself. If I give of my talents, like these articles, I give them unto God in hopes that they will bring glory to God's name. If people benefit from them then God gets the glory. Every dollar I give to church, a charity or to help a homeless person, I give the money to God. Then, if someone misuses the money, they will have to stand before God to account for their actions and I can stand before God with a clear conscience. God doesn't need our money but God expects us to love others as Jesus loved us, and that means to give out of what God has given us. Giving shouldn't be a duty, it should be done out of thanks for what God has so graciously given.

God gives me the choice to give back from the blessings God has given me and when I do, it is for God's glory. Then I can unite my thanks and my giving into its true meaning; a meaning that is pleasing to God.

A BIG Thanks—Our recent blood drive brought in 21 pints for Heartland Blood Center. Many thanks to all who donated, not just an hour of their time but a lifetime for someone else.

Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
Office: 630-469-1555
Fax: 630-469-1561

www.graceglenellyn.org

Rev. Dr. Robin Currie, Pastor, 858-3329, office x 17
Patti Lewis, Church Coordinator, 668-8929, office x 10
Barbara Sudds, Business & Facilities Cord. 790-9862, office 16
Diane Lombardi, Youth Director 871-2372, office x 14
Kelly Schumacher, Family Ministries Cord. 359-4633 office x 12
Brenda Clero, 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

Giving Comes in a Shoebox!

The youth of Grace, ranging in age from 3-12th grade, took part in our 3rd Annual Operation Christmas Child collection. The Confirmation class prayed for the children who would receive the small items, as they assembled the shoeboxes. Then they handed them out to the Sunday school children who took them home, filled them with gifts, & returned them to church. Suddenly, during the 10am worship service on Nov. 18, the Jr. & Sr. high kids stacked 36 shoeboxes on the altar for Pastor Robin to bless. Later that day, Diane Lombardi, Donna Loftus, Karen Kregor, Stacey Wagner & Corinne Loftus packed about 400 shoe boxes into larger boxes at the local warehouse in West Chicago. These large boxes then went into a semi-truck headed for Minneapolis, the central warehouse that distributes to Third World Countries. Operation Christmas Child is organized by Samaritan's Purse International, which was founded by Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham. For more information, visit www.samaritanpurse.org

Now appearing at the **Bundles of Books** store in the Turning Point building - Suncatchers by Ginny Stein. Each piece is unique and affordably priced for that special gift giving. Many of the cups and creamers were purchased from the Treasure House making it a full-circle of recycling. Also, the suncatcher purchases help support our renters, Rosemary and Anne. Stop by today!

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 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 families members are invited!

Advent Prayers

Jesus Christ is the light of the world! Rest awhile from the chaos and find peace in the comfort of tradition and the timeless message of waiting for the Christ Child. Join us at noon or 7:20 on Thursdays beginning December 6.

The incredible, unbelievable, improbable TRUTH about Christmas!

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 Mary and Joseph must have had with parents, each other and even the paparazzi!

Family coming for Christmas? Time to plan events with worship in mind!~ Christmas Eve family worship with Spontaneous Nativity at **5pm** and Christmas Eve Eucharist with Lessons and Carols at **9pm**. Christmas Day worship is at 10am as is the Klokker Worship (bring bells of any kind) at 10am on December 30. Epiphany worship on January 6 features the story of the Fourth Wise man.

What is Joy?

We rejoice with great joy at Christmas but do we really appreciate that it is the best gift of all? On December 9 at 10am our children and youth will share the message of great joy for all people. Come see the little angels usher in joy. Watch as Mary and shepherds work through fear, by choosing obedience to God's word of revelation, and in the end discover what true joy is all about. Bring your own heart, as a child brings theirs, before the throne of God, with humbleness of heart, ready to hear, and receive the word of truth that Jesus' birth brings. As the angels sang so long ago, 'alleluia!' sing the little angels of Grace.

Family Fellowship Opportunity on Dec. 9th

Plan to stay after the Children's Christmas Worship Service for cookies & punch reception! There will be simple activities for the children and lots of conversation for the adults! Plan to attend!

Christmas Shut-In Visits

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.

Chrismons during Advent worship

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 Christ's character and work. Like parables, they are earthly symbols with heavenly meanings.

Faith and Friendship Christmas Lunch

Come Wednesday December 19 at 12:30 for a Christmas get together with Grace members. We will have an advent prayer service followed by lunch and Christmas festivities.

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.

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- Jan. 2nd. See you at 4:30pm on January 9, 2008.