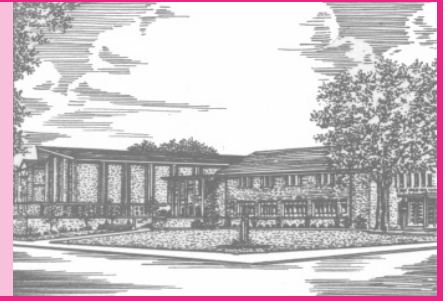


GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



What will be the Grace of the Future....

There is so much happening in and around Grace these days that it is hard not to see and feel the excitement. You can feel God's presence working within our walls and thru us.

April 6th marked an historic date in the history of our congregation. We took a giant step toward our future with our new renovation project. This project took over 5 years of hard work. Many hours were devoted to the planning, designing and funding of this building project. Now that the building process is beginning, we will need to focus our attention on how we use this gift that God has given us to its full potential.

What does the next 5 years hold for the Congregation of Grace? Where are we going, what will we be doing, what is our vision? What strategies and tactics will we need to implement so that Grace continues on its mission to Proclaim, Build and Serve?

The congregational council has been hard at work designing a vision that will complement our congregation and our mission with our new improved facilities. The council has begun asking key questions to help direct the congregation in its search for the answers which will lead us all to our future.

How will Grace grow its membership?

How will we enrich ourselves thru our worship service?

How will we build spiritual growth and fellowship among our members?

How will Grace continue to minister to our youth so that their faith may continue to grow?

How will Grace continue to expand our community ministry both locally and globally?

How will we establish deeper internal connections between our members?

What qualities will we need in our new pastor to help us meet these objectives?

How will we utilize our building to its fullest and best potential?

These are just a few of the questions we face as a congregation to prepare for our next 100 years of faith and service. Small "Cottage Meetings" will be scheduled in May at members homes and different venues to start this process and formulate a vision for Grace for the next 5 years.

Come, join the Congregational Council as it begins this important work with the council's installation on Sunday, April 27 at the 9am. service. Stay for the Forum after the service at 10am to get an update on: Our Renovation Progress, search for a new pastor - The Call Process, Vision of Grace for the next 5 years and Cottage Meetings.

Youth Sunday is April 13th!

Be sure to participate in Youth Sunday worship at 9am on Sunday, April 13th!

Grace's Youth (with some help from Miss Gail) have been working hard on their spring-time worship service! Our 8th graders will be giving their testimonies about their individual projects, and our little ones have been preparing their songs for weeks. Come let Grace's younger members help you along your faith journey.

Children are to gather at 8:30am in the Overflow Room that morning.

NOTE: Group Sunday school continues until May 18 with Pastor Robin telling stories about Paul. Share the adventure!

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 April 13 & 20
Youth Sunday & Earth Day
1085408-09

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Grace Family VBS "God at Work"

Does your family have a busy schedule with work, school and activities? Looking for some family time? Then Grace VBS is the place for you, starting Monday June 23rd through Thursday June 26th 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

At Family VBS we will gather in the beginning of each night to review our blueprint for the evening. The kids will then go to music with Miss Gail, while the parents have a brief informational session.

We will then come back together for the lesson and to participate in the activities with our children. Join us and see how these activities relate to our mission statement of Build, Serve and Proclaim; and watch our children's faith grow at Grace. At the end of the evening, we will enjoy Fellowship time with a snack relating to the lesson and the night's activities.

Please return your VBS Registration no later than April 20th. We would like to know our enrollment so we may order our crafts and receive them in a timely manner.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration fee is \$10 per child, or \$25 for 3 + children.

Miss placed the form that was mailed to you?

Go to www.graceglenellyn.org to download the form, fill it out and return it to the church office with payment. If you prefer, send Brenda Ciero an email at Bciero@sbcglobal.net with your information: family name, attending or not able to attend, list of children and ages and any known allergies.

Please also include an emergency contact number(s). If emailing the registration information, then bring a check to the church office or just drop it in the mail and mark it for "VBS Registration". It is that simple.

Come and join in the Family fun!

Brenda Ciero, Children's Assistant

GET A HEALTH CHECK

Healthchek is a company that has come to Grace for the past 5 years offering osteoporosis screenings, cholesterol and other blood measurements at a very affordable cost. They will be here at Grace Sunday morning April 13 from 8-10am. If you haven't had your cholesterol checked in a while, or are interested in having any other testing done please call Cathy Milleville ext 13 for an appointment. Informational fliers are available in the church office.

Thanks, Kelly!

Kelly Schumacher has been a valuable addition to our staff for the past few months, coordinating the family ministries and giving energy to our transition phase. With her help we will use a rotation model, popular in many newer churches, in April and May with an eye to incorporating it while we are in the gym and beyond that. She has been popular with the kids of all ages, greeting newly baptized to interacting with the Senior High. We will miss her and wish her well as her life situation changes. Kelly's last Sunday will be April 13, Youth Sunday.

**May 11 – a great day to be a mother!**

May 11 we celebrate the people who made mothers into mothers: our kids! We will honor our High School graduates and present Bibles to our new Confirmation students. Please let the office know if you are celebrating a graduation of any kind this year. Our 2008 Senior High graduates are: Kristina Breitling, Spencer Lantz, Emilie Lehmann, Emily Lombardi, Liz Lombardi, Kit Ortman, James Wagner and Justin Wiebe. Congratulations!

Also that day we will award Scouting honors to Rodger and Jacob Plant.

***Congratulations to our Confirmation class 2008***

**Lauren Dublin Samuel Hansel
Peter Jaeger Kristin Jokela
Marc Lewis Frederick Jaeger**

Cake to Celebrate! The reception to honor our newest Confirmands on March 30 was well attended by family, friends, and members of Grace. Thank you to the Jr. High moms who set-up, decorated, served & cleaned up! They were: Donna Loftus, Sue Froneberger, Diane Plant, Karen Collins & Nancy Lantz. In addition, we would like to thank Sarah & Aimee Gerhardt for serving the punch and Marlene Fenske for making lots of coffee!

Confirmation Class Makes Jesus' Last Days Memorable

On the morning of Good Friday, our 6th, 7th, & 8th graders transformed the entire basement of Grace Lutheran Church into the last events of Jesus' life before his crucifixion. Children, parents, & grandparents followed Pastor Robin as they hear the stories of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Praying in the Garden, Judas' betrayal and Jesus' arrest, Peter's denial, and Jesus' Trial. We ended in the Sanctuary at the foot of the cross. Throughout the journey were wall-sized scenery, costumed characters, sounds, aromas, and so much more. It took a crew of 18 Jr. High kids & 12 adults to present our 12th annual presentation of "Jesus' Last Days." There were two identical presentations to a crowd of over 100 people!

Grace Events

Week of April 13th		
Sun 4/13	9:00am	Worship Youth Sunday
	8-10am	Cholesterol Screening Nurse Office
	8:30am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
Mon 4/14	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	6:30pm	Children's Ministry meeting
	7:00pm	Finance meeting
	7:00pm	Bible Study (Romans)
Wed 4/16	7:15am	Bible Study
	7-9pm	Property Moving Storeroom
Thur 4/17	noon	Prayers
	6:30pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	Pads at 1st Presbyterian church
	7:20pm	Prayers
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Week of April 20th		
Sun 4/20	9:00am	Worship Earth Day Celebration
	8:30am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
	10:00am	Council Meeting Install New Council
Mon 4/21	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	7:00pm	Bible Study (Romans)
Tue 4/22	9:30am	EBG Committee meeting
	7:00pm	Turning Point meeting (off site)
Wed 4/23	7:15am	Bible Study
Thur 4/24	noon	Prayers
	6:30pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	PADS at 1st Presbyterian Church
	7:20pm	Prayers
	7:30pm	Last Choir Rehearsal (Summer Break)

Building Usage

Senior Services	Monday - Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Food Pantry	Tuesday & Friday 9-11am, 1-3pm Tuesday Evening 5-6:30pm Thursday 1-3 pm

Remember in Prayer:

Gladys Thiele doing much better, still at Luther Home; Samantha Jacobson briefly hospitalized with Mono; Alice Joyce April 5th, 90 years of faithful living; Jan Miller and Family on the death of her mother, Verna Roberts, funeral service was held on March 25th in Milwaukee; Our March and April mission partner is the Crop Walk which will be held on May 4th.



Date	Attendance		Offering	
	8am	10am	Regular	Capt.Campgn
03/23	107	325	2634	5016
03/30	47	190	3030	740

Easter Baskets Bring Joy & Hope Recently, Dana & Erin Ruecker shopped for items to go into Easter baskets that were given to clients of the food pantry, and also to a couple of local needy families. The girls used almost \$200 from the youth's sub sandwich sale on Super Bowl Sunday. It feels good to give!!



	Youth Sunday	Earth Day
	April 13, 2008	April 20, 2008
Welcome Ministers	Susi Nelson	Daina & Ken Ellerth
Cookie Patrol	Susi Nelson	Susan Froneberger
Altar Guild	Donna Loftus	Donna Loftus
Nursery Attendant	Sarah Swiston	Heather Lewis
Kidsword	none	Susan Froneberger
9am Service Only	9am Service Only	9am Service Only
9am Service Only	9am Service Only	9am Service Only
9am Service Only	9am Service Only	9am Service Only
9am Usher	Chuck Miller Jon Milleville Tim Loftus Pete Jaeger	Chuck Miller Jon Milleville Tim Loftus Pete Jaeger
9am Acolyte	Josh Lawrence	Jenny Stein
9am Servers	Liz Lombardi Emily Lombardi Jeffrey Berta Christina Schmitz	Jay Malo- Lector Donna Stephan Vince Hardt Fred Warnke



May 8 is the Date for Dates!

Attention: all staff and Ministry Chairs plus any others with events or activities for 2008-August 2009! May 8 at 7pm we organize the calendar for the coming year. This year with gym worship and an interim and building it is more important than ever to have regular meetings and special events planned and communicated. If the Ministry Chair cannot come, please send someone to make sure you are represented. Yes, there will be treats!

Spring cleaning? If you run across any pictures of weddings, baptisms, other events at Grace in the last 12 years with Pastor Robin and have extra copies, it would be fun to put together a photo album before her retirement on June 8. Drop them in the church office.

The Personnel Ministries Committee will be assessing staffing at Grace in conjunction with the changes in the next year. Contact Chair Donna Barber at donna.barber@lssi.org if you have comments or concerns about staffing as we enter the interim ministry period.

Glen Ellyn / Wheaton Crop Walk Sunday May 4

Hundreds of Crop Walks are held around the country to raise both money and awareness. Over a dozen congregations participated in "our" Crop Walk last year to raise over \$44,000 for hunger programs. A big part of that money goes to food banks in this area. The rest goes to the programs of Church World Service, a partnership of 36 different denominations here in the United States. The Crop Walk is an excellent opportunity to put your faith into action. For families a child and stroller friendly "short loop" is marked off. The full route covers 10 kilometers of our beautiful communities. This year also bring one non-perishable food item to the walk, to be donated to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. For those not up to either walk, we'll be asking for pledges of financial support too. If you'd like to help, walk, or pledge stop by the Crop Walk information table in March and April or contact Deb or Paul Davis at (847) 340-8792.

Let us pray... Continuing through April on Thursday evenings at 6:30 will be the video series "The Prayers of Jesus." The re-presentation is intended for Choir members and others who were unable to watch the series on Sundays due to their other commitments at Grace. The series includes prayers actually spoken by Jesus in the Gospels, most notably the Lord's Prayer and the high priestly prayer from Maundy Thursday in the Gospel of John, and also Jesus' teachings about prayer. In studying these texts, we hope to strengthen our own prayer lives.

Romans Exploration

Continuing our trek through Romans on Monday evenings through May 12 at church. This will be a discussion of the meaning of God's message to us as individuals and as a community as opposed to a verse by verse study. Sign up on the kiosk for this interesting and important Bible study opportunity. If you have any questions, please call Fred Warnke at 630/529-5713.

Mother's Day is coming! You know the date, May 11. You know to bring Mom to church. But did you know there will be a **plant sale** that day at Grace? Consider buying mom bright, spring flowers! She'll love it if you help her plant them, too! Any left over plants will go to the Turning Point beds. All profits will benefit the group going on the mission trip to New Orleans.

**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
Diane Lombardi, Youth Director 871-2372, office x 14
Barbara Sudds, Business & Facilities Cord. 790-9862, office 16
Kelly Schumacher, Family Ministries Cord. 359-4633 office x 12
Brenda Ciero, Children's Assistant 858-7181
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

From Andy Ross...

Last May, I was lucky enough to receive a kidney transplant. Since that time, I have been a volunteer for Donate Life Illinois to help raise organ donation awareness. Through my efforts, I hope others can experience the miracle of transplantation, as I did.

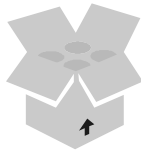
As of 1/1/2006, Illinois passed a law that created a new first person registry. Prior to that date, someone could sign the back of their license if they wished to be an organ donor, but their wishes could be overridden by their family members. With the new first person registry, if a person registers, their wishes become legally binding and can not be overridden. Before the new law, 6.5 million people had signed the back of their licenses. When the new law went into effect, the Illinois organ donor list went to zero again. Many people are unaware of this change and our goal is to educate them on the change and tell them how to re-register if they wish.

April is National Donate Life Month. Register anytime at www.DonateLifeIllinois.org or call 888-307-DON8 (3668).


The Turning Point Garden is now certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Watch for the sign posting and dedication in May!

Does anyone need any blue chair student desks? We have some to give away! Please contact Barbara Sudds at the church office or bsudds@graceglenellyn.org.

A big **Thank You** to the following folks for their help: Chris and Dana Bethel for donating 25 boxes to help the choir store their music during the renovation. John Doty for cleaning the gym floors. The Staff, Bob Stein, Eva Holzapfel, Howard Bruning and Dorothy Tracy for getting the kitchen, sacristy, the hallway and the front hall closet all cleaned and in order.



Construction Update

 We are progressing towards the "start of construction". We are currently taking bids for the asbestos removal. We have already had the remodeling areas tested, and yes, we do have asbestos. The majority is in the floor tile mastic. There is also some in the boiler room and on some of the pipes in the lower level. We must have it removed and certified before we can start with the project demolition.

Sundays in April 2008

April 13 1 Worship service at 9am in the Sanctuary
Youth Sunday with group Sunday school/Adult Ed at 10am.

April 20 1 worship service at 9am
Choir rehearsal at 8:30 in the Choir Room or Gym?
Worship in the gym or Sanctuary? Find out at 9am!
Group Sunday school for age 3 –Grade 5 in the gym
JH SS in Youth Office

April 27 1 worship service at 9am probably the gym
Choir rehearsal at 8:30 in the Gym
Stay on the lower level until the BELL RINGS for Worship
Group Sunday school for age 3 –Grade 5 in the gym

The Greening of Easter Breakfast

Everyone did their part during Easter breakfast. Thank you! With your help, GreenGrace reduced waste to six garbage bags. Three of those six were composted, two were recycled, and only one went in the regular trash. Even the foil pans will be reused. The team served organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee and teas. Plus, the kitchen staff "cooked to order" so there were NO leftovers to throw out or sell. The congregation worked together—great results!



A BIG Thank-you

We give a HUGE thank-you to all who helped make the Easter breakfast a wonderful start to our Easter celebration. Lots of people helped serve, set-up, cook and clean-up. Thank-you to all!! We especially want to thank Bonnie Paganis for her delicious donation of time and talents in the kitchen. AND also for her expertise with the garbage. She helped us all compostable paper products and reduce our garbage to one bag! Way to go GreenGrace Team!!

Worship Green

This summer in the gym we will save paper by producing one bulletin for mid-June through the end of August. Each week, pick up two inserts: blue one with music and pink one with announcements plus readings and prayers to be used in worship. Reusable service booklets will be on the seats at the end of each row. Thanks to the newly formed Worship and Music Planning Team for endorsing this idea!

What's happening at Grace? A Transition Update.

The following activities have been completed the first week in April as we get the building ready to accommodate all our activities during renovation.

Meals on Wheels has rolled over to the YMCA .

PADS is bedding down at 1st Presbyterian.

All the renters have completed their contracts.

All support groups have relocated.

The Highland Dancers have kicked their last kick in the gym.

Can you hear the hush?

It will soon be replaced by the sound of bulldozers and then the shout of welcome as we open our improved facilities to these and other community uses in the name of Christ.



April 20 Earth Celebration

In honor of Earth Day GreenGrace will present the video "The Story of Stuff" followed by a thought provoking discussion. Join us on April 20 at 10:00 right after worship in a Forum in the Fellowship Room. **What is the Story of Stuff?** From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. **The Story of Stuff** is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. **The Story of Stuff** exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it may change the way you look at all the stuff forever.