

## Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

www.graceglenellyn.org

Return Service Requested

West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016

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### FROM THE PASTOR:

Mary and Joseph had no idea what to expect.

Think about that a moment. They knew they were preparing for a baby, and I'm sure they were looking forward to its arrival. They knew that God was active in this event somehow—and in a big way, from all the signs. But they didn't

know *how* God was going to be active—they didn't know what was going to happen. And I'm sure they didn't anticipate that the arrival of God's promise would drive them from their home and turn them into refugees.

So what was the season of waiting for the promise really like for them? Did they ever fall prey to false hopes? Given their faithful response to the unexpected in-breaking of God, I'm guessing not. From what we know, it looks like they were pretty good at holding themselves in a state of readiness to hear from God, and then figuring out how to wait patiently and confidently for whatever blessing God would reveal.

They were expectant, without having set expectations.

This is something a lot of us could use some practice in—both as individuals and as congregations. I think there are three parts to this Expectant Advent Waiting:

Trusting that *God will act*. Actually, the challenge comes in accepting that God will act, but probably not in the way we would prefer. For instance, God probably won't bring a lottery win to pay off the mortgage.

(Okay... *God might*. But most of the time, God doesn't act in the ways that would make things...well...easiest for us.)

Trusting that God's acting *will bring blessing*. Mary knew that her pregnancy was God's action—but it didn't necessarily look like that was going to simplify her life. She risked Joseph leaving her, risked being rejected by her family and community. And she did end up losing her home, even if she didn't lose Joseph. It took some dedication to see the blessing amongst all the challenges—but Mary proclaimed that blessing consistently.

*Behaving as though God is working* even if it doesn't make immediate sense to us. Mary revealed to her family what was happening without much initial proof to back up her story. Joseph took Mary as his wife with no other certainty than a dream. (And later, on the basis of another dream, they fled their home—and any support structures they might have had—to live in exile until it was safe to return. Their waiting for blessing went on a lot longer than nine months!) Both Mary and Joseph lived as though God was doing something wonderful, all the while facing tremendous challenges *because God was doing something wonderful*.

It was precisely because Mary and Joseph knew the difference between being expectant, and setting expectations, that such blessing flowed through them. May we, too, wait in the way that lets God's blessings blossom.

Pastor Melody

# GRACE TO YOU

## Proclaim, Build, and Serve



**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR CRAFT TABLE  
AT CHILI SUPPER**

This year Grace will be offering attendees at the Annual Chili Supper the opportunity to create their own Reverse Advent Calendar. Craft supplies to decorate the Calendar bag will be provided, along with an Advent flip book and an Advent devotional (with a choice of children’s or adult versions). The flip book will include daily suggestions for a small food, clothing, or toiletry item to be added to the bag. Everyone is welcome to bring their completed Reverse Advent Calendars to Grace for the 4:00pm Family Service on Christmas Eve; the bags will be collected and blessed during the service, and the items collected will be donated to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and PADS (just after the holidays, when need continues but contributions normally drop). Come join us at the Chili Supper on November 25th to get your Reverse Advent Calendar!

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

There will be two Christmas Eve worship services at Grace. 4:00pm will be a Family Service and 10:00pm will be a Traditional Candlelight Service. Worship assistants are still needed, please go to our website at [GraceGlenEllyn.org](http://GraceGlenEllyn.org) to sign up.

Grace Lutheran will not have a Christmas Day service. There will be Christmas Day services at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheaton on Geneva Road at 9:30am and also at Faith Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn on Park Boulevard at 10am for those looking for a house of worship on Christmas morning.



**CHANGE HUNGER**

\$615.48 in change, collected on Nov. 6, weighed in at 56 pounds!

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER**

**FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP LUNCH**

Come join in with us for our annual *Faith and Friendship Christmas Party Wednesday December 21 at 11:30*. We will



have a holiday devotion followed by a festive lunch. Please bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift for our exciting and fun gift exchange. Faith and Friendship meets every month on the 3rd Wednesday in the fellowship room. All are welcome to join us!!!

A **HOT BREAKFAST** is again available in the fellowship room most Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00. Please come help yourself and enjoy a little fellowship before heading off to your Sunday Faith Formation activity. Free will donation is appreciated, with extra proceeds going to different mission partners (see table display).

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING** will take place after 10:30 worship on December 4 and 11. Plan to stay for a short time to help make our church festive looking for the holiday.

**ESSE IN DECEMBER**

December is Grace's month to volunteer for ESSE in Glen Ellyn. If you have a hobby, a pet, pictures from a trip you could share with clients, or would like to play a game with clients please sign-up in the Fellowship Room. They also appreciate homemade treats. If you have some holiday cookies, sweets, or healthy snacks please also sign-up to drop them off at ESSE. Thank you, Doris Nelson

**THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**NOVEMBER 23, 7:00PM**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**41 N. PARK BLVD., GLEN ELLYN**

Faith Lutheran Church and Second Baptist Church are hosting a joint Thanksgiving service with pie and coffee reception. The night before Thanksgiving is a good time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for that comes from God, our Creator.

## INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT IS LOOKING FOR DONATIONS!

On **November 27th**, Grace will offer an Intergenerational Event as part of Faith Formation from 9:15am-10:15am. We will be creating fleece blankets that will be donated to Project Linus, an organization that donates the blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. We will be needing donations of fleece to create these blankets on Sunday, Nov. 27 as well as at Shine and Ignite on Wednesday, Dec. 7. If you are willing to donate we



are looking for fleece fabric, really good scissors and/or gift cards to JoAnn's Fabrics. Fabric size for the fleece needs to be at least 1 1/2 yards long. Please reach out to Becky Ficarella with any questions 847-347-0928.

## POINSETTIAS

Christmas is right around the corner so it's time to begin thinking about purchasing a Poinsettia for the altar. The red leaves on the Poinsettias look beautiful with the Christmas decorations. Poinsettias can be purchased *In Honor Of* or *In Memory Of* someone special in your life. The plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve worship service that you attend. The order form will be in the bulletin and online.



## CHILI SUPPER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25



Chili Supper coordinators are looking for volunteers and sponsors.

There are many opportunities for those who seek minimal commitment. Join the fun, raising funds to fight hunger, with "From Chilly to Chili." Contact Sue Pagnoni 630-878-4780, [e2sue@hotmail.com](mailto:e2sue@hotmail.com) or Kathy Gallian 630-205-0456, [kgallian@bkpgessentials.com](mailto:kgallian@bkpgessentials.com).

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Fusion (High School) & Ignite (Middle School)  
12/4 & 12/11 9:15am-10:15am

Spark (Preschool) & Shine 1& 2 (Elementary)  
12/4 & 12/11 9:15am-9:45am Free Play and Music Rehearsal

On December 18th the **IGNITE YOUTH GROUP** (Confirmation) will be hosting a **BAKE SALE** from 10:15am-10:30am and then again after the 10:30am Lessons & Carols Service. This Bake Sale will support expenses for events and retreats for Confirmation students.

**THE YOUTH OF GRACE** will be "shaking the cans" at the end of services in December; 4, 11, & 18. The students will be supporting the **ELCA Good Gifts Project** and want to purchase an entire farm and make a positive impact in the life of a family and community. Bring any change that is keeping your purses and pockets heavy and drop them into the cans! Thank you for your support!

### GRACE MORNING PLAYGROUP:

Need to get your kiddos out of the house for some fun!? Come join us in the gym on **Thursdays from 8:30-10:30am**. Parents are invited along with their children. Drop in for any part of the time that works for your schedule. Feel free to bring a scooter or tricycle along to ride around. Children ages birth through 8 are welcome. Please come join for some fellowship and fun!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY AT GRACE!

Please check out the online volunteer sign up for Children's & Youth Ministry at Grace. Without the help of parents and adults we cannot keep this ministry running! Please reach out to Becky Ficarella if you would like to help in any way! Use this link <http://signup.com/go/N9pvgZ> or contact Becky at [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org).

With thanks!  
Becky Ficarella  
630-469-1555 x17

**LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE  
DECEMBER 18**

Grace will be celebrating the Advent Season with a **LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE** during both the 8:00 & 10:30 services. The 10:30am service will feature both Grace Youth and Adult choirs presenting instrumental and vocal music selections, as well as youth reading the lessons and providing leadership throughout the service. Come join us for this special service to honor this season.

**START WITH A SMILE AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

Support Grace and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more.

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

Here is the link for Grace Lutheran:  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438>

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a percentage of your purchase to Grace Lutheran!

**GRACE TO YOU  
ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE**

Submit articles and photos to Barbara Sudds at  
bsudds@graceglenellyn.org:

January Issue Due December 7  
February Issue Due January 4

**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

	8AM	10:30AM	
DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
10/2	39	90	\$13,661
10/9	28	59	\$ 4,796
10/16	31	91	\$ 7,769
10/23	36	67	\$11,428
10/30	36	97	\$ 3,727

Grace's total income through October 2016 was \$284,009 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$365,181.

**WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE**

Sunday	8:00 & 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Worship
Sunday	9:15am	Faith Formation, Choir
Sunday	5:00-6:00pm	Support Group (WOW)
Mon-Fri	9:00-1:00pm	Senior Service Center
3rd Monday	9:00-11:00pm	Food Pantry Brd of Directors
2nd Monday	10:00-11:00am	FP Volunteer Training
Monday	11:30-12:30pm	Support Group (WOW)
Monday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Monday	1:00 & 7:15pm	Yoga Class (Narthex)
Monday	5:30-8:30pm	Highland Dancers (Gym)
2nd Monday	6:00pm	Finance Ministry
Monday	7:00-8:30pm	Adult Ed Bible Study
1st Monday	7:00pm	Property Ministry
3rd Monday	7:00pm	Church Council
Tuesday	9-11/1-3/5-7pm	Food Pantry for Clients
1st Tuesday	9:30am	Social Ministry
3rd Tuesday	11:00-1:00pm	Sr. Ctr. Book Club
Tuesday	3:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
4th Tuesday	4:00-5:00pm	FP Volunteer Training
Tuesday	6:00-7:30pm	Pill Bottle Project
4th Tuesday	7:00-9:00pm	Gospel Fellowship Church
Wednesday	7:30-8:30am	Bible Study
2nd Wed.	10:00-Noon	Sr. Ctr. Bingo
3rd Wed.	11:00-1:00pm	Sr. Ctr. Movie
3rd Wed.	11:30am	Faith & Friendship Lunch
Wednesday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
2nd Wed.	2:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday	1:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
1st Wed.	5:30-7:00pm	Shine/Ignite
3rd Wed.	5:30-7:00pm	Shine/Ignite
Wednesday	8:00-10:00pm	Support Group (WOW)
Thursday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Thursday	1:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
Thursday	5:30-7:00pm	Bright Lights Theatre
1st Thursday	6:00pm-7:00am	PADS (Off-Site)
Thursday	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	9-11am & 1-3pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Friday	6:30-7:45pm	Support Group (WOW)
First three Saturdays of each month:		
Saturday	9:00-1:00pm	Slanchogleli (WOW Room)
Saturday	12:00-2:00pm	Sunflower Dancers (Gym)

**ADULT FORUM**



**The Lutheran Course**

Join us for a lighthearted (but solid!) look at Lutheran identity, theology and tradition. This 7-week series runs through Dec. 18—a great way to revisit the basics of our faith!

**ONE VOICE OUTREACH CHOIR  
TO PERFORM AT GRACE LUTHERAN**

Grace Lutheran Church will host the **ONE VOICE OUTREACH CHOIR FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT 3:00PM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH.** One Voice Choir is a unique musical experience. The choir is comprised of over 50 high school students from the Glen Ellyn and Wheaton area who represent several high schools and houses of worship. Together these teens give their time and lend their hearts to this special choir. One Voice performs around Chicago visiting Nursing and Retirement homes. The goal of One Voice Choir is to bridge the generational gap and create positive connections within their communities. All Grace members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

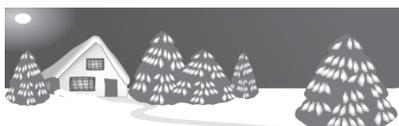
**VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY  
THE CHORALE**

We are most excited to have the opportunity to host the Valparaiso University Chorale in concert for the very first time on Sunday, March 5th, 2017! The Chorale is one of the premier Lutheran collegiate choirs in the United States, having toured all over the United States and Germany. Under the direction of Dr. Christopher Cock, the ensemble plans to travel to Germany in 2017 to perform for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

We will be in need of host families on the evening of the concert, Sunday, March 5th. In the coming weeks, look for sign-up sheets in the narthex, or feel free to email Bradford directly. More details to follow!

Go Grace, and go Lutherans!!"

Thanks!!  
Bradford Thompson  
Minister of Music  
219-718-8879  
Bradfordmthompson@gmail.com



Merry Christmas

**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  
Fax: 630.469.1561  
Email: info@graceglenellyn.org

**www.graceglenellyn.org**

**Every Member; Minister & Missionary!**

Melody Eastman, Pastor  
Bradford Thompson, Minister of Music  
Barbara Sudds, Office Manager  
Becky Ficarella, Children & Youth Coordinator  
Carole LoGalbo, M.S., LCPC Parish Counselor

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Jan Hutzler, Jim Rasins, Mary Porter, Greg Barber, Kay Mahnke, Scott Kifer, and Scott Kacz for healing and strength.



**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Ardena Klenk – at home in Glen Ellyn  
Florence Kracke – at Laurels Peak in Mankato, MN  
Julie Trout—at home in Wheaton

**Prayers for our member in the Armed Forces:**

Rodger Plant, Air Force

**THANKS FOR HELPING TO CHANGE HUNGER!**

Thank you to one and all who collected change in the "Change Hunger" soup cans this past month for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. The total after the Nov. 6 collection date was \$615.48 in change plus \$88 in bills for a total of \$693.48! That's a lot of coins! Thank you also to everyone who was able donate "paper" toward Thanksgiving turkey dinners to more than 600 families. (See photo on page 2)

Carol Asselmeier  
GE Food Pantry Board  
Member

