

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 AUGUST 2017

1085417-8

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Permit #104

Vol. 2016-17 No. 17-8 *Grace To You* is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.



FROM THE PASTOR:

My new neighbor across the street writes for a magazine for socially conscious businesses. She brought me some copies of the latest edition (it's very well done!), and as I was flipping through the pages I saw an article on creating a positive office climate. I was caught by one of the bullet points:

Do you make decisions out of creativity, or out of fear?

Now *that's* an intriguing question for the Church today! The writer of 1 John states, ***"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us."*** Yet Church publications—ELCA and others—contain quite a few stories that address fear. There's a lot of it. Fear of decline, fear of the failure of the Church, fear of losing our liturgy or traditions, fear of change.

I'm not saying there are no grounds for concern. But *concern* is different from *fear*. Concern means recognizing a need to evaluate a situation and take steps to address it. Fear usually means reacting, defending, and hiding. Too often, we say we're *concerned* when we really mean we're *afraid*. And when We-the-Church aren't honest about the difference, we end up digging ourselves into a hole. When we're afraid, we need to admit it so that we can appropriately *address the fear*. Then, and *only* then, can we address the *concern* in a productive way.

In the Church, fear erupts when people have lost their deep connection to the Promise of God. (And yes, it happens to the best of us!) It is that Promise that calls

out love from us, and it is that love that casts out fear. If we are afraid, it is because we have forgotten how much God loves us. When we re-ground ourselves in that Divine Love (and remember that nothing in heaven or on earth can separate us from it: Romans 8:38-39), then we can face issues of concern with creative response instead of unhelpful reactivity.

For every story across Christ's Church that talks about fear, there is a story about how a congregation is creatively engaging the world with the Gospel, using some new approaches to tell the Old, Old Story. Those stories are filled with courage and energy and joy. In these days, they tend to *not* look like mega-churches. They look like much smaller communities that are bringing in people you used to not see in church so much. They may be highly liturgical yet somehow less formal. They may be "safe," in that you don't have to hide your real self from the community, yet not "safe" if "safe" means never having to deal with truths like mental illness, addiction, unemployment, abuse, divorce—you know, all the stuff we usually "clean up" and cover before heading off to worship. They look different, yet somehow feel more authentic than ever. They are deeply grounded in both individual and communal sense of connection to the Love of God, lived out in individual and communal discipleship.

And I am absolutely, completely convinced that *that* Church will never fail.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



NEXT *DINNER AND A MOVIE: SAVE THE DATE!*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 6:30PM

TEMPLE GRANDIN

Join us for this true story about an autistic woman who has become one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry. The movie won several awards, including an Emmy for Outstanding Made for Television Movie. Watch for sign-up in the Narthex.

We will begin with supper at 6:30pm.

Movie will be shown at 7:00pm.

Discussion will follow the movie.



Temple Grandin

COUNCIL CORNER

Thank you to all who responded to the RIC survey. The results are in:

97 respondents (from 310 mailed surveys)

- 1) Do you understand the RIC process?
Yes: 79 No: 11 Need More Info: 7
- 2) Have you been to a Faith Formation RIC class?
Yes: 33 No: 62
- 3) If voting today, would you be in favor of becoming a Reconciling In Christ congregation?
Yes: 75 No: 8 Undecided: 12

Thank you for your detailed comments. They have guided us to hold Faith Formation/Forums in the Fall along with open discussion opportunities.

You are Graceful,
Sue Pagnoni
Council President

SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

COFFEE HOUR will continue throughout the summer with refreshments and coffee available in the fellowship room after 9:00 worship.

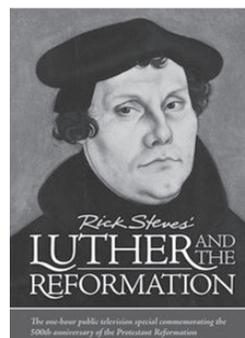
Plan to attend *Grace's Annual Church Picnic Sunday August 27* at Grace following worship. It is a great time of fellowship and catching up with one another.



Fall Harvest Festival and Fundraiser for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Saturday, October 28th

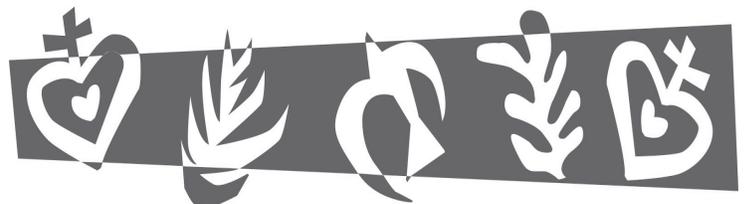


11:00am-2:00pm: This event will replace the Chili Supper as the GEFP fundraiser for 2017. There will be a free Barn Dance for the public, food for sale, games, and crafts for the children. This event will occur at the same time as the Halloween Costume Event in Downtown Glen Ellyn. Come join the Halloween Fun! Contact Becky Ficarella if you are interested in volunteering for this new event!



In recognition of the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**, we are planning a showing of Rick Steve's *Luther and the Reformation* documentary.

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 3. We will serve dinner and watch the program followed by discussion.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Playgroup is on break during August! Enjoy the last weeks summer! We will begin gathering again from 8:30am-10:30am on Thursdays in September, beginning September 7th. More details to come in September's GTY newsletter.

The Church Picnic will be held in the church parking lot on Sunday, August 27th immediately following the 9:00am service. There will be grilled food, salads, and ice cream for everyone! Kids can enjoy the bouncy house, games, and the water balloon toss.



Women of Grace: We will meet Thursday, August 10th at 7:30pm at Fire & Wine in Glen Ellyn for conversation and a cocktail. See you there!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00pm: Parent Meeting for Confirmation Program (6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Students) 2017-18 Faith Formation year. Please bring your calendars so that we may take some time at this meeting for you to sign up as parent volunteers for this year's events. Contact Pastor Melody or Becky with any questions.

Sunday, September 10th 9:15-10:15am: Breakfast in the lower level and Faith Formation registration for the 2017-18 school year

Sunday, September 17th 9:15-10:15am: First day of Faith Formation classes. Spark (Preschool & K); Shine 1 (1st-3rd Grade); Shine 2 (4th/5th Grade); Ignite (Middle School Confirmation); Adults (Sr. High and Up)

Saturday, October 28th Fall Harvest Festival and Fundraiser for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry 11:00am-2:00pm: This event will replace the Chili Supper as the GEFP fundraiser for 2017. There will be a free Barn Dance for the public, food for sale, games, and crafts for the children. This event will occur at the same time as the Halloween costume event in downtown Glen Ellyn. Come join the Halloween Fun! Contact Becky Ficarella if you are interested in volunteering for this new event!

LOOKING FOR IDEAS!

We will be holding several Intergenerational Events on Sunday mornings throughout the 2017-18 Liturgical Year. These are one-hour sessions that are open to all ages of our congregation during the Faith Formation Hour 9:15-10:15am. This past year we utilized that time helping Project Linus in blanket making, and the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Do you have a group or organization that you enjoy supporting that could use the hands of Grace's congregation for one hour of our time on a Sunday morning? Please note that this event needs to be able to take place on Grace's premises on a Sunday morning!

Please contact me with any questions!

With thanks!

Becky Ficarella

630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

PRECISION SHOPPING CART BRIGADE

I want to thank everyone for their support of the Shopping Cart Brigade. Each time we begin planning the effort we wonder how it will work out. This year was no exception—especially with several “core” Brigaders being out of town. But as we discussed after the parade, God provides and provides in abundance. We had several return Brigaders, a few new faces, and the return of a family that had taken a year off—just enough to field a full Brigade and support crew. Barbara Sudds and Jean Jeske supported our publicity efforts. Max Hufnagle and a St. Pet’s family stuffed mailboxes with fliers. The Swistons gathered and restocked the decorations and resurrected our website. Jim Rasins helped with a snafu in our registration. We developed a new relationship with members of First Congregational Church. I am also grateful for those that joined us in the parade: Pastor Melody, Marty, Sue, Max, Leigh, Matthew, the Wheeler family and Kate from St. Pet’s, Pastor Plummer from St. Luke’s, and Max from First Congregational. Each person became God’s hands in raising awareness about hunger in our community, building fellowship, and collecting food for those in need. And yes, we did collect some food for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry—**180 bags**—which is 40 more than last year. God Provides in abundance indeed!

Dominic LoGalbo



GLEN ELLYN SENIOR CENTER

The Glen Ellyn Senior Center will hold their weekly exercise class on Tuesday August 1 and August 8 from 11:00-12:30pm in the Great Room but will cancel the remainder of their extracurricular activities (book club, movies, exercise classes) for the month of August.



WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	8:00 & 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Worship
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
2nd Monday	6:00pm	Finance Ministry
Monday	7:00-8:30pm	Adult Ed Bible Study
3rd Monday	7:00pm	Grace Church Council
Monday	7:15pm	Yoga Class (Narthex)
Tuesday	1-3pm & 5-7pm	Food Pantry for Clients
1st Tuesday	9:30am	Social Ministry
1st Tuesday	11:00-1:00pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
2nd Tuesday	11:00-1:00pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
3rd Tuesday	11:00-1:00pm	Sr. Center Book Club
4th Tuesday	11:00-1:00pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
Tuesday	3:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
4th Tuesday	4:00-5:00pm	FP Volunteer Training
Tuesday	6:00-7:30pm	Pill Bottle Project
1st Tuesday	7:00pm	Property Ministry
Wednesday	7:30-8:30am	Bible Study
2nd Wed.	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center Movie
4th Wed.	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center Movie
Wednesday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Wednesday	1:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
Wednesday	8:00-10:00pm	Support Group (WOW)
Thursday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Thursday	1:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
Friday	6:30-7:45pm	Support Group (WOW)
First Saturday of each month (unless noted):		
Saturday	8:00-9:30am	Women of Grace (Off-Site)

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	9AM	WED.	
6/4	83	21	\$8,663
6/11	75	20	\$8,120
6/18	70	20	\$2,475
6/25	72	18	\$5,831

Grace’s total income through June 2017 was \$208,538 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$243,471 leaving Grace with a mid-year deficit of \$34,933. While far from perfect, this is still a much better position than our deficit at this time last year of \$61,105.

GRACE TO YOU

ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

Submit articles and photos to the church office at info@graceglenellyn.org

September Issue Due August 2
 October Issue Due September 6



WOMEN OF GRACE

Our August meeting will be Thursday, August 10th at 7:30pm at Fire & Wine in Glen Ellyn for conversation and a cocktail. See you there!

RUN 4 HOME BENEFITTING DUPAGE PADS

Mark your calendars for the 13th annual *Run 4 Home* on Saturday, September 16 at 8am—10K Run, 5K Run or 5K Walk

Run 4 Home consists of a scenic walk/run through the neighborhood streets of Wheaton while supporting their mission to end homelessness! New this year is the *Run 4 Home Kids Corner* with food, face painting, games, prizes, magic tricks and more! www.padsrun.org

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL REPLACES CHILI SUPPER

The chili supper is being replaced this year with a **Fall Harvest Festival** and fundraiser for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry taking place on Saturday, October 28th from 11am - 2pm. This event will be open to the community and held on the same day as downtown Glen Ellyn's *Halloween Festival and Parade* which is a "Spooktacular" event that draws an average of 2,500 happy children with their parents to participate in the parade, go Trick-or-Treating at participating local businesses, enjoy festival entertainment and crafts. Grace Lutheran will be mentioned in Glen Ellyn's Chamber of Commerce advertising for this event. Many hands will be needed to make this a spectacular event for Grace. Watch more details to come.



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

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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

Lois Pertle, Dorothy Stein, Fred Warnke, Laurie Huizenga, Barbara Ryder, Daniel Swiston, Kay Mahnke, Paul Rosland, Jack Dean, and David Ruehl for healing and strength.



The families of Jan Hutzler (member); Vernon Petersen (Brenda Ciero's father); and John Schindler (Edna Malo's uncle) for comfort in grief.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Ardena Klenk-at home in Glen Ellyn

Florence Kracke-at Laurels Peak in Mankato, MN

Julie Trout-at Westbridge Asst'd Living in Wheaton

Prayers for our member in the Armed Forces:

Rodger Plant, Air Force

