

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 FEBRUARY 2017
1085417-2

Vol. 2016-17 No. 17-2 *Grace To You* is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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



FROM THE PASTOR:

Last month's Coffee With Council generated a lot of great conversation! I unfortunately wasn't there because I was busy teaching confirmands about the dual nature of Jesus—which was great fun (no, really!), but I was sad to miss the Coffee.

I heard a lot about it, though, as members continued the conversations that were generated there. One of the topics that came up was the question of how we take care of one another at Grace. Who checks up on you if you miss church? How does anyone know if you've had a life event that would make the offer of a meal brought to your house the best thing that's happened to you all month?

As the Steering Team (a really great group of people!) was talking all this over during one of their monthly gatherings, they came up with an idea: What if we had a handful of people who would each take responsibility for just one section of the congregation? And they would commit to checking in with the folks on their list—especially if they had missed church longer than you'd expect for vacation, say. And *everyone* would get a check-in call, maybe two to four times a year, just to see how things are going. The callers ask about what's new and exciting—or what's new and challenging. Maybe ask if there's anything they could pray for. You know—simple contact and caring.

It's a pretty basic thing, but this kind of caring for each other is a huge part of keeping a faith community healthy

and strong. It doesn't take a particular set of special skills—just a desire to help people feel connected, a willingness to reach out and listen, and an ability to hold a confidence if it's warranted. We would write up a few guidelines to help callers know what to say and what to offer (i.e., "Is it ok if I share this with Pastor Melody? Would you like her to call you?") We'd set some guidelines for sending an email if you can't get through by calling. It would be a 1-year commitment to be in touch with a few people maybe 2 or 4 times. We'd figure out a convenient way for callers for keep track of their contacts. Easy peasy.

So how do we make this happen? Well, like all ministries of the church, it happens if the folks want it to happen and are willing to take a hand. So here's the question: Does this sound like a good idea to you? And if so, do you think you might have an interest in being a caller? (Hint: the more people who say "yes," the easier the ministry gets!)

Of course, I would be very happy to meet with this ministry team as needed, to provide some guidance, offer support, and answer questions. But really, anyone who's ever had a friend, or been a friend, probably knows how to do this.

And if you *really really* love this idea and think you have an anointing for being a lay leader who could coordinate it for the year, that would also be awesome—let me know! And as always, thank you for all the things you do in Christ's service here!

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



COUNCIL CORNER

Welcome to 2017. A new calendar year with feelings of anticipation, awakening and sometimes apprehension. Some may take comfort that all is not new as we are already months into the new church year. During the time of and after Epiphany, as we celebrate Christ with gladness, light and joy, we can consider our spiritual growth and growth at Grace Lutheran Church. What is God's message to Grace Lutheran Church? How shall we serve Him? We look forward to these discussions at our **Congregational meeting January 29 at 10:30am**. Enjoy a new format with brunch and worship along with voting for council, budget and other agenda items. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Thank you for your participation in "Coffee with Council" on January 8. We appreciate your input, questions and recommendations to discern God's message for Grace Lutheran Church. As a congregation, we are a capable team to build connections with our community, share the gift of God's grace with others and thrive amidst challenges. Give an appropriate hug, high-five or thank you to each other for all that has been accomplished, for encouragement and for the days ahead.

~ Sue Pagnoni, Council President

You are Grace-full

MONDAY EVENING 7:00PM BIBLE CLASS WILL STUDY THE KERYGMA SERIES "LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE: STRATEGIES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE."

The introductory session looks at a few short passages to discover the difference between their meaning to their original hearers and to us today. The second session shows how most books of the Bible are not as much the product of the individuals who wrote them as they are of the faith community as a whole in which they were produced. Beginning in January, we will study one technique per week: Historical Setting, Literary Context, Oral and Literary Forms (genre), Structure, Key Words and Phrases, and finally how all can be put together to find the meaning of these ancient texts for our lives as a community today. Take a refreshing new look at some selected parts of the Bible while learning techniques which you can then apply independently in your own hearing and reading of scripture.

Contact Fred Warnke or Vince Hardt if you have not participated on Monday evenings previously and would like to join our happy throng. We will obtain a course study guide for you.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP LUNCH is a gathering of Grace members and friends that get together for devotion, food and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join us. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 in the Narthex. Our next luncheon will be **Wednesday, February 15**.



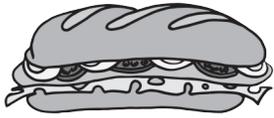
THE COFFEE HOUR is still available between services on Sunday morning but there will no longer be a Hot Breakfast. Please come for coffee and snacks and enjoy a little fellowship before heading off to your Sunday Faith Formation activity. Free will donation is appreciated, with the extra proceeds going various mission partners.

During December, January, and February the extra proceeds from the Coffee Hour are going to the Braun Foundation. It was established in 2010 by Braunability founder, Ralph Braun as a way to bridge the funding gap for those who cannot afford the often high cost of vehicle modifications. Accessible transportation is the key to quality of life for those with limited mobility. Braun Grants help recipients live active, independent lives. Visit their website at ralphbraunfoundation.org to read success stories.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 24**. This will be the first of several activities Grace is planning to commemorate the **500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION**. We are planning a "Movie Night at Grace" to view the movie *Luther* (released 2003) together with German food and drink. Watch for more information.

**Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ**
500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



FUSION HIGH SCHOOL SUB SALE FEBRUARY 5TH

The Fusion High School Youth Group will offer a Sub Sale on February 5th as a fundraiser for future High School events and programs. We are looking for donations towards this event. We will need:

- Turano Sub Sandwich Rolls
- Sliced Cheeses
- Sliced Meats (ham, turkey, salami)
- Toppings (lettuce, tomato, onion)
- Classic Mix Variety Chips – small individual bags

Please reach out to Becky Ficarella if you are able to contribute in any way. Thank you.

REVERSE ADVENT BAGS

The Shine and Ignite Youth unpacked, logged, and reorganized the donations from the Reverse Advent Project on Wednesday, January 4th for their monthly service project. 338 items were collected in total. 102 items went to DuPage county PADS and 236 items (30 full bags of groceries) were donated to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. The students worked hard and had a great time!



SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Spark/Shine 1&2 (Preschool-Elementary) 9:15-9:30
Free Play, 9:30-10:00am Class, 10:00-10:15 Music and Presentation Preparation

Ignite/Fusion (Jr. High & High School) 9:15-10:15am

February 5th Faith Formation 9:15-10:15

February 12th Faith Formation 9:15-10:15

February 19th NO Faith Formation: Holiday Break

February 26th Youth Sunday 10:30am Service; All ages come to rehearsal at 9:40am to prepare for 10:30am service

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN FOR SHINE 1&2 (ELEMENTARY) AND IGNITE (CONFIRMATION)

February 1st Service Project Night 5:30-7:00p Dinner Included

February 15th Shine On Wednesday & Ignite Wednesday 5:30-7:00p Dinner Included

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN FOR IGNITE (CONFIRMATION) AND FUSION (HIGH SCHOOL)

February 10th *She Kills Monsters* performance by Glenbard West Theatre is a high-octane dramatic comedy with fairies, nasty ogres, and 90's pop culture! After her teenage sister's death, Agnes finds her sibling's *Dungeons & Dragons* notebook and stumbles into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventures. This heart-pounding play celebrates the geek and warrior within us all. Dinner together before the show.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday is February 26th during the 10:30am service. Please come join our youth as they present music, drama, and serve in all areas of worship.

With thanks!

Becky Ficarella

630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

**ALL-AGES BARN DANCE AT GRACE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 2:00-3:15PM**

Come on out for an afternoon of fun, friendly community dances taught by caller Meg Dedolph. You don't need any experience for these easy-to-learn folk dances that kids and adults can enjoy together. Dance to live fiddle music by Jonathan and Friends. The fine print: Please wear comfortable shoes and come dressed to move. Kids should be able to walk independently and easily, or be content to ride on a parent's back. Invite a friend!

Questions? Need a little encouragement?
Email Meg at meg.dedolph@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS WITH THE GLEN ELLYN SENIOR CENTER

You may have noticed on the monthly calendar in *GTU* and in the weekly bulletin that the Senior Center holds three events each month in the Great Room. All seniors are welcome to attend. I provide coffee and snacks. Advance registration is preferred but not necessary. Here are the February offerings if you would like to participate:

- The Second Wednesday of the month is either Bingo or a movie at 10am. At the time of this printing a decision had not yet been made for February 8.
- The book we will be reading for our February 21 book club is *Lily and the Octopus* by Steven Kowley. Alex, from the Glen Ellyn Library, gets the books for us and they are on the second floor of the library in the book club section under Senior Center Book Club. The book club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 11am-1pm.
- On the 22nd of February I will be showing the movie *Sully* with Tom Hanks at 10am. Movies are shown on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am.

I hope you will join us.
Sue Davison, Senior Services Coordinator
630.858.6343 seniors493@geseniors.org
www.glenellyn.org

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8AM	10:30AM	
12/4	32	93	\$12,236
12/11	31	75	\$15,152
12/18	16	116	\$25,714
	4PM	10PM	
12/24	228	141	\$16,598

Grace's total income through December 2016 was \$450,153 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$473,602.

WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	8:00 & 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Worship
Sunday	9:15am	Faith Formation
Sunday	10:00am	Choir Rehearsal
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	Grace 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. Center 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
Wednesday	7:30-8:30am	Bible Study
2nd Wed.	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center Bingo
4th Wed.	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center 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 Youth Groups
3rd Wed.	5:30-7:00pm	Shine/Ignite Youth Groups
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)
Saturday	8:00-9:030am	Women of Grace (Off-Site)
First three Saturdays of each month:		
Saturday	9:00-1:00pm	Slancholedi (WOW Room)
Saturday	12:00-2:00pm	Sunflower Dancers (Gym)

The Youth of Grace would like to THANK the congregation for all of their contributions to the **GOOD GIFTS PROJECT!** \$446 was raised!

The Ignite Confirmation Group raised \$332 from their **BAKE SALE** on December 18th. Thank you to all that contributed delicious treats and to those that purchased and enjoyed them!

**GRACE TO YOU
ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE**

Submit articles and photos to the church office at
info@graceglenellyn.org
March Issue Due February 1
April Issue Due March 1

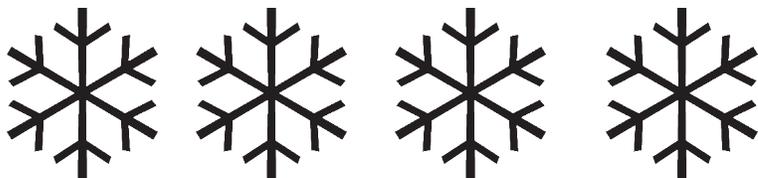
WOMEN OF GRACE



Looking for deeper connections in your relationships at Grace? Come join the Women of Grace at Mariano's in Wheaton on Saturday, February 11th from 8:00am-9:30am. This is just a casual

moment in the month to sit and connect with women of all ages from Grace Lutheran Church. Wearing yoga pants and no make up is not only OK but encouraged!

We will keep in touch through a closed Facebook group and/or email throughout the month so that we can encourage and pray for each other. All women are welcomed to join. Please ask Becky Ficarella if you have any questions. 847-347-0928



VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY 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.

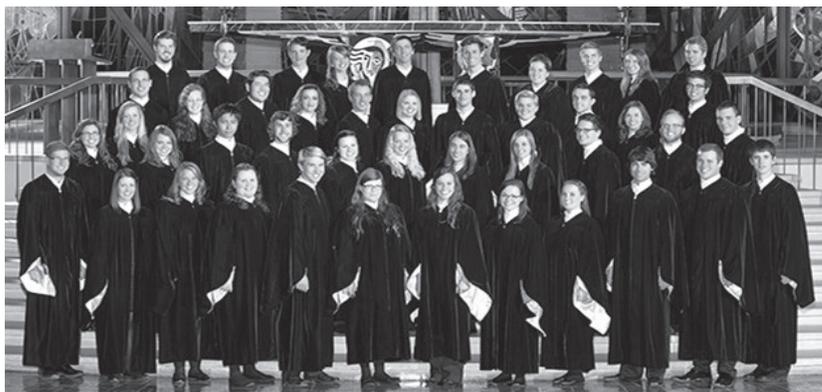
We will be in need of host families on the evening of the concert, Sunday, March 5th. In the coming weeks, look for sign-up sheets in the narthex, or feel free to email Bradford directly. More details to follow!

Go Grace, and go Lutherans!!"

Thanks!!

Bradford Thompson, Minister of Music

219-718-8879 Bradfordmthompson@gmail.com



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

Norma Petersen, Seth Matthews, Jim Rasins, Erik Vrovel, Jan Hutzler, Mary Porter, Scott Kifer, Heather Pearl, Christine Stoeckig, Robert Sippel for healing and strength.



The family of Mary Geil, for comfort and peace. The family of Pastor Greg Moser, and the people of Lutheran Church of the Master in Carol Stream for comfort and Peace.

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

START WITH A SMILE AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Support Grace and find all of your daily 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!