

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 JANUARY 2018
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Grace To You is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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FROM THE PASTOR:

I was listening to a TEDxTeen Talk recently by Natalie Hampton, a young woman who had moved just before her freshman year of high school. In middle school she had been popular and happy, with lots of friends and activities. On her first day in a new high school where she didn't know anyone, she approached a lunch table with a group of students and was told, "You can't sit with us." That experience was repeated over and over. Ultimately she sat alone. What started as students merely ignoring her soon began to morph; she rapidly began to experience active and violently aggressive verbal and physical bullying and assault. She came home with bleeding wounds and bruises, and became extremely anxious, depressed and withdrawn. The school administration made her attend weekly counseling sessions to see if they could determine why she was making everyone hate her; they assumed the bullying was her fault. But it wasn't her; it was the culture.

After two hellish years she moved to a new school. The first day, a young man approached her (she was looking obviously lost) and asked if she'd like help finding her classes. Her life took an immediate and dramatic turnaround, simply because one person connected with her. (She also describes an experience later when she invited another girl to sit with her at lunch, and discovered this girl was also feeling isolated and suicidal; that invitation convinced her to live.) At 17, Natalie is now the CEO of a non-profit company marketing a free app that helps students find a wel-

coming space at a lunch table in their school. Evidently houses of worship are beginning to use it, too.

I mentioned in a sermon this past month that we can perform acts of radical love by simply approaching people/couples who are sitting alone, and asking if they would like someone to join them. It seems like a small thing, but Beloved, things like this matter more than we realize. Community doesn't happen by chance; it happens because people **lean into a culture of inclusion** and community. If someone says "No, thank you," there's absolutely nothing wrong with that. But in our current context where so many people (not just high school students, but adults too) are feeling isolated and alone, "Do you want to sit with us?" can be the single most important thing someone hears all week.

I'm hoping we will lean even more into this culture here at Grace. Whether it's people you know, or a new face, try inviting people to sit with you. Let them know it's ok if they'd like quiet space instead. If you've never met them, introduce yourself and ask if they're members you don't know yet, or new to the church. If they're new, tell them to let you know if they have questions. And then, just worship with them.

Worship was always meant to happen in community, and community means much more than just a lot of people in the same room. Let's be the church where no one worships alone if they don't want to.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



NEW YEARS EVE WORSHIP

NEW YEAR'S EVE

There will be two services at Grace on Sunday, December 31. 8am and 10:30am. There will be no Faith Formation classes that day.

#METOO MONDAY

In the last several months we've heard innumerable stories of women speaking out about their experiences of sexual harassment and violence. It's been a welcome change from the silence that has surrounded this issue. But it's also raised a lot of memories and feelings for many women who have experienced harassment or abuse. And often, we're not sure where we can talk out our feelings about our experiences.



Becky Ficarella and Pastor Melody have decided to offer a gathering for women who would like a safe space to talk about their experiences and what they've been feeling lately. This isn't a therapy or counseling group—just a safe and confidential space to process and let go with other women who understand.

The first **#METOO MONDAY** will be on Monday, **January 8 from 7-8:30pm**. We will gather in the Youth Room downstairs, with some comfort food and quiet space to chat. If you've got questions, feel free to contact either one



Guest Preacher on January 28

Metro Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller will be our guest preacher at our January 28 Dinner Church/Congregational Meeting. Bishop Miller is an outstanding preacher; you won't want to miss this!



SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP: Our January Faith and Friendship Lunch is Wednesday, January 17 at 11:30. Come enjoy a warm lunch, devotion and fellowship with Grace friends.

DINNER AND A MOVIE AT GRACE: Come in from the cold and warm up with some fellowship during a multi-generational Dinner and a Movie on Saturday, January 20. Supper will be served at 5:00 and movie will start at 5:30. Our movie will be a "chiller." We will be showing "Ice Age," a movie sure to entertain all ages. Come join us for congregation-wide fellowship and fun.



COUNCIL CORNER

Greetings,
I give thanks to God for using me to serve at Grace and it is with much gratitude to an exceptional team of Pastor Melody, staff, council members and congregation members, that I conclude this term as Council President. This coming year's council has strong leadership, enthusiasm and discernment. There are a few openings on council and nominations are being accepted. If you are considering serving, please ask any council member about questions you may have. Remember we have coffee with council scheduled during the fellowship hour on Sundays in January for RIC and other topics of discussion prior to our Congregational meeting. Thank you for your guidance and support during these past years. I am grateful that God planted me with you to grow in faith and community.

Sue Pagnoni
Council President
You are Grace-full

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn has a Facebook page and we would like you to like us! Stay in touch with events, ministries, ELCA news and check out the pictures!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY PAGE**SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION IN JANUARY****Spark & Shine 1&2**

January 7 & 14: Instead of scheduled class on these dates, we will offer movie and a craft in the Narthex for students to participate in from 9:15-10:15am. Parents are invited to join in the Coffee with Council discussion that will take place in the Fellowship Room. The discussion will focus on the budget and the RIC voting process that will take place on January 28th during the Congregational Meeting.

January 21: There will be normal classes offered, 9:15-10:15am. Spark 2 is on Altar Guild duty.

January 28: No classes will meet on this date. 10:30am Congregational Dinner Church and Meeting will be in the gym. Once we are through the meal and service, there will be an activity offered for younger children while the parents attend the voting portion of the Congregational Meeting. Anyone that would like to help with watching children, please see Becky to sign up.

Ignite Confirmation on Sunday

We will meet on January 21st at St. Petronille Church in Glen Ellyn for their 9:30am Mass. Once Mass is finished, we will walk to Blackberry Market for breakfast and discussion of our Inter Faith visit. This will be the *only* Sunday we will meet in January due to our school breaks and Congregational Meeting. All students are encouraged to help assist with younger students watching a movie or creating crafts from 9:15-10:15am on January 7, 14 and 28.

Fusion High School on Sunday

We will meet in the Fusion Lounge for study on Sunday January 14 & 21, from 9:15-10:15am. Come join us for conversation about our world and how it connects to the Gospel Reading for that day! Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts are always available.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS**PLAY GROUP ON FRIDAYS**

Play Group will meet on Fridays from 8:30am -10:30am in the lobby at Grace. We start up again on January 5, 2018. This is great fellowship time for children and adults alike. Come for coffee and conversation while the children play.

OPEN GYM NIGHT

Open Gym will meet on January 12th, 6:00-8:00pm. Children have open use of the gym and our sports equipment (adults too!) Bring a scooter to ride around too! This is a great night of fellowship for children and adults alike. See you there.

PADS SWEATER DRIVE OFFERED BY IGNITE HIGH SCHOOL GROUP

The Christmas Season is past and it's time to clean out old sweaters from your wardrobe to make room for your new items. Bring your gently used sweaters and sweatshirts to the donation box in the Narthex. This drive will begin on January 7th and go through the end of the month. Help keep our homeless community warm this season with the generosity of your old garments.

WOMEN OF GRACE

We will meet for fellowship and fun at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn at 7:30pm Wednesday, January 24th. This is a fun monthly outing to create deeper connections with women of all ages at Grace. We hope to see you there! Friends are always welcome.

SPARK/SHINE REVERSE ADVENT UNPACKING PARTY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

On January 10th we invite Spark and Shine Youth and their family to help us unpack and sort the donations from the Reverse Advent Project donations. The evening will start with dinner at 5:30pm, with unpacking and organizing happening from 6:00pm-7:00pm. If you would like to help contribute to the dinner for this event, please let Becky Ficarella know.

IGNITE CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Ignite will meet for Wednesday programming on January 17th and 31st, 6:00-7:30pm. These will be the last Wednesday evening sessions until April, after Lent. Please keep in mind that we ideally would like our students to attend Wednesday Lent Services, which begin February 14 and last through March 21. Services are at 7:00pm, following a Simple Supper.

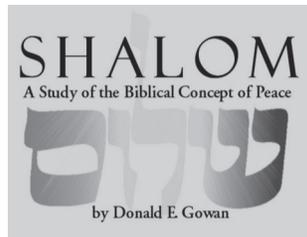
Please contact me with any questions!

With thanks! Becky Ficarella 630-469-1555 x17 bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Starting on Monday, January 8, 2018, the 7:00pm Monday Bible study group will view and discuss the series Shalom: A Study of the Biblical Concept of Peace, written by Donald E Gowan. Shalom is a common greeting in Hebrew, and a linguistic cognate of the Arabic Salaam. It can also be translated health, wholeness, or harmony, and is presented as God’s answer to the illness, division and conflict of the world as we know it. This 14-week study traces the concept through the Old Testament and into the New, where peacemaking is a key value in the Ministry of Jesus. Dr. Gowan also wrote the course material on Exodus which we studied about four year ago. He is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA and Emeritus Professor of Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Unlike other Kerygma studies, there is no study guide book. The material is presented orally from a CD with learning activities during the sessions. This makes the class even more open to those who can only come to some sessions but not all. Our group of Monday night regulars, who come together to enjoy decaf coffee, treats and conversation as well as Bible study, has become cohesive over the years, but we are also welcoming to newcomers.



WOMEN OF GRACE

December 27 and January 24 at 7:30pm

Women of Grace is an evening gathering open to all women of Grace Lutheran Church. We will meet at Reserve 22 (Village Links Golf Course) in Glen Ellyn for drinks, appetizers, or dinner!



GRACE TO YOU

ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

February Issue
March Issue

Due January 3
Due February 7

WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	8:00 & 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Worship
Sunday	9:15-10:15am	Faith Formation Hour
4th Sunday	2:00-3:15pm	Family Barn Dance
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 Board of Directors
2nd Monday	10:00-11:00am	Food Pantry (Gr. Room)
Monday	11:30-12:30pm	Support Group (WOW)
Monday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Monday	4:30-7:00pm	Bright Lights Theatre
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	Food Pantry (Gr. Room)
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)
4th Wed.	7:30pm	Women of Grace (offsite)
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 three Saturdays of each month	8:30-11:00am	Sunflower Dancers

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8AM	10:30AM	
11/5	39	77	\$10,990
11/12	29	79	\$ 8,789
11/19	37	85	\$ 5,045
11/26	31	80	\$ 5,322

Grace’s total income through November 2017 was \$367,293 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$417,166 leaving Grace with a deficit of \$49,873. If our end of year giving matches last year (remember the 1% Challenge) we could end the year in the black. We are grateful for your support in helping us reach a balanced budget.

New Members Received

On Sunday, Dec. 17 we welcomed Tim and Linda Kelly and Linda's father, Werner Kroeger into the community at Grace Lutheran. Please introduce yourself.

FOUNDATIONS

Foundations is a monthly Wednesday evening gathering where we'll revisit Luther's Small Catechism—but with adult questions and adult beverages! (Bring a libation of your choice, a dessert to share if you like, and a willingness to go ahead and ask the question you thought you shouldn't ask.) Our next session will be **January 31 at 7:30pm**.

SHOP AT AMAZONSMILE

Remember to shop at AmazonSmile when making purchases online. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Here is the link for Grace Lutheran:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438>

When you sign on, you will see "Supporting Grace Lutheran Church" in the upper left hand corner.

DINNER CHURCH/CONGREGATION MEETING JANUARY 29 AT 10:30AM

Important Notice

This year, we will again gather for our annual meeting in the gym at 10:30am. "Wait," you ask, "isn't that the time for church?" Yes, it is! On January 29 we will worship with **Dinner Church**—an

awesome liturgy that reflects the practice of the early church of gathering for the Lord's Supper around an actual sit-down-and-eat-together meal. Plus, Metro Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller will be our guest preacher!

Communion will be shared around tables along with a full meal. (Brunch, at this time of the day.) And along with the normal collection, the offering will also be what we usually think of as the "business meeting"—we'll approve a financial plan for our ministry in the coming year, and we'll do this *as an offering of worship and thanks to God*. The worship service will include all the other pieces you expect, too—hymns and prayers and readings. The order will be a little different, but all the parts of our traditional Lutheran liturgy will be there.

There will not be an 8:00am service on January 29.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania Avenue
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

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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

Elaine Roete, Greg Barber, Mike Pertle, Lois Pertle, Dorothy Stein, Laurie Huizenga, Donna Gerhardt, Leslie Lindsey, Joan Schonstore, Mindy Gould, Layne Finn, Nancy Hubbard, John Brennan, and Jack Dean for healing and strength.

The families of Kay Mahnke and Michael & Katie Arnold for comfort in grief.

Birthday wishes to Julie Trout on her 96th Birthday (12/13).

Congratulations to Norma Petersen on the birth of twin granddaughters (11/22)



Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Florence Kracke-at Laurels Peak in Mankato, MN
Julie Trout-at Westbridge Asst'd Living in Wheaton
Werner Kroeger-at Belmont Village in Carol Stream

Prayers for our member in the Armed Forces:

Rodger Plant, Air Force