

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 MARCH 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:

Everyone loves and admires Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was a Lutheran pastor who was martyred two weeks before the liberation of Flossenbürg concentration camp, one month before Germany surrendered in WWII. A man of tremendous faith, an outstanding and brilliant ethicist and theologian, author of the Christian classics *Life Together* and *The Cost of Discipleship*, one of the founders of the Confessing Church movement in Germany. He was A Good Man. I love him, too.

Until I actually read him. Then I'm honestly more ambivalent about all that love—because Pastor Bonhoeffer makes me *profoundly uncomfortable*. I like to cheer (you know, inwardly) over his denunciations of “cheap grace”—until I read his understanding of cheap grace and realize that, all too often, he's describing me. He holds up that mirror that shows the honesty and imperfection of my faith; I prefer to keep that mirror covered, thank you.

From Bonhoeffer's book *The Cost of Discipleship*: “Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church... Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate....

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which [one] must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs [one's] life,

and it is grace because it gives [one] the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of [the] Son: ‘ye were bought at a price,’ and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us.”

Bonhoeffer had a passionate, evangelical zeal for the life completely dedicated to Christ. Every time I read his work, I find myself caught in the tension between longing for that life, that wholeness and purity of purpose, and the pull of so many things that want to qualify, minimize, reduce or postpone the obligation of that call.

Which is exactly why we have Lent. Because even Bonhoeffer himself would have said he struggled with this. But God offers us a Word and a season to remember our calling. In our baptism, God offers us a daily invitation to return to discipleship, to discipline, to obedience. Not so we can avoid hell—but so that we can finally start learning to live. The time to do that is today. From *Letters and Papers from Prison*: “Time is the most precious gift in our possession, for it is the most irrevocable. This is what makes it so disturbing to look back upon the time which we have lost. Time lost is time when we have not lived a full human life, time unenriched by experience, creative endeavor, enjoyment, and suffering. Time lost is time not filled, time left empty.”

Bonhoeffer does nothing more than echo Christ's call to us—to come to God, and live. Today.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

At the Annual Meeting in January, Grace voted (65-21, 1 abstention) to become a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation by adopting the following statement:

"Grace Lutheran is a home for anyone seeking God's love. Because God welcomes and embraces each one of us, we, in turn, welcome people of any race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or relationship status. We welcome people living with mental, emotional and physical challenges, including addiction. We welcome people from all social and economic walks of life. Our calling is to reveal God's love and grace; all are invited to share the work of the Gospel with us."

In the following week, we recorded this action with Reconciling Works, the Lutheran organization that provides people of faith with a comprehensive list of congregations and communities that have adopted statements of welcome.

During the congregational meeting, the question was raised whether a welcome statement with more general language would qualify Grace as an RIC congregation. The Reconciling Works website clarifies that for a congregation to be designated as a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation, the statement must include language "specifically naming 'LGBT' or 'people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.'" Other categories of welcome may also be included. The statement we adopted was reviewed and accepted by Reconciling Works.

Note that the statement focuses on *states of being*—who people are rather than what we believe or think. In other words, the statement is meant to address facets of our life in community that are not a matter of choice, but which historically have often presented barriers to full inclusion. While respect, understanding and welcome across political, theological or ideological categories is also important, that is not the focus of this statement of welcome.

Continued in next column.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP: Our March Faith and Friendship Lunch is **Wednesday, March 21st**. Remember we changed the time to **11:15**. Come join us!!

LENTEN MEALS: Plan on joining us during the six Wednesdays in Lent for a simple meal. We gather at 6:15 in the narthex and finish up by 6:45. Worship begins at 7pm.

EASTER RECEPTION: Plan to come Easter morning for a reception from 9:15-10:15 in the Fellowship Room. Begin your Easter celebration with Grace friends.

MOVIE NIGHT!! We are planning another movie night **Friday, April 6**. Supper at 6:30 and movie (*Lars and the Real Girl*) at 7:00. More info to follow. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

GRACE'S ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER: Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 21**. Watch for more info to follow.

EASTER FLOWERS

Hydrangeas and Azaleas will again be available for purchase to grace our altar on Easter Sunday. Plants will be \$18 each.



RIC Continued from first column.

The bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Rev. Wayne Miller, was our preacher and remained throughout the service and meeting. He was very complimentary of the way disagreements were expressed and heard, and the overall respectful tone of the morning. He found the experience "delightful," and enjoyed the opportunity to be with a congregation working in such a healthy manner. (The sign of health in a congregation is not a lack of disagreement, but the demonstrated ability to manage disagreement with respect and mutual love.)

During and after the meeting, some questions of proper procedure also arose. Grace's council will review Robert's Rules or Order in the coming months, and we will also schedule an opportunity for congregational members to learn more about how you can best work with the process prior to next year's congregational meeting.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY PAGE MARCH 2018

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Spark & Shine (Preschool -5th Grade Students)

9:15-9:30am Group craft: God's Wonderful World

9:30-10:00am Meet in classrooms for lesson

10:00-10:15am Music with Mrs. Drager

Meeting March 4th, 11th, & 18th

NO CLASSES March 25th & April 1st due to Spring Break!

Ignite Confirmation (Middle School) 9:15-10:15am

March 4th Revelation

March 11th Freedom of a Christian

March 18th The Neighbor

NO CLASSES March 25th & April 1st due to Spring Break!

Fusion High School 9:15-10:15 Fusion High School Lounge

We will meet **March 4th and 11th** for an in depth study of the Gospel lesson of the day. Come join us for relaxed conversation and of course donuts, coffee, & hot chocolate!

NO CLASSES March 25th & April 1st due to Spring Break!

There is no Wednesday Youth Programming in March due to Lent. Please Join us for 6:15pm Simple Supper and Service at 7:00pm.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN MARCH

Playgroup on Friday Mornings

Play Group will meet Fridays in March, from 8:30-10:30am. Come join us in the Narthex for coffee and conversation while the children play.

Barn Dance, March 25th

The next Community Barn Dance will take place on **Sunday, March 25th from 2:00-3:15pm** in Grace's Gym. A great time for all ages; come dance or just simply enjoy the company of others while the music plays!

Bringing the Gifts to the Altar on Sunday Mornings in Lent

During Lent, we invite families and friends to sign up to walk the offering and communion gifts forward during 8:00am and 10:30am services. After we share the peace, head to the back of the Sanctuary to gather the Offering Trays and Bread and Wine (sitting on the back table behind the baptismal font). The group will carry these gifts forward to the altar to be prepared for the Communion Feast. Sign up for this Ministry is located in the Narthex.

Women of Grace

Women of Grace will meet at **Reserve 22 on Thursday, March 22nd at 7:30pm**. Come join us for a beverage, an appetizer, and great conversation. All Women are welcome to attend!

Please contact me with any questions!

With thanks! Becky Ficarella 630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

2018 DATES FOR ALL-AGES BARN DANCE
SUNDAY, FEB. 25; MAR. 25; APR. 22; MAY 20
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



WOMEN OF GRACE
Thursday, March 22 at 7:30pm

Women of Grace is a monthly evening gathering open to all women of Grace Lutheran Church. We meet at Reserve 22 (Village Links Golf Course) in Glen Ellyn for drinks, appetizers, or dinner! The picture below is from our January gathering. Join us!!



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!

GRACE TO YOU
ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

April Issue Due March 7
May Issue Due April 4

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	11:00-12:30pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
Monday	11:30-12:30pm	Support Group (WOW)
Monday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Monday	4:30-8:00pm	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 (Lower Level)
Tuesday	1-3pm & 5-7pm	Food Pantry for Clients
1st Tuesday	9:30am	Social Ministry
1st Tuesday	11:00-12:30pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
2nd Tuesday	11:00-12:30pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
3rd Tuesday	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center Book Club
4th Tuesday	11:00-12:30pm	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
	9:00-1:00pm	Slancholedi Language School

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8AM	10:30AM	
1/7	32	97	\$ 7,983
1/14	33	90	\$11,615
1/21	31	82	\$ 3,135
1/28	xxx	110	\$ 2,710

Grace's total income through January 2108 was \$28,288 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$46,195 leaving Grace with month end deficit of \$17,907.



FOUNDATIONS

Foundations will not meet during Lent. Join us **April 25 and May 16 at 7:30pm** as we 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.)



SAVE THE DATE! IRISH CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY

Plan to join us on **Friday, March 9**, when Grace hosts an evening of Irish music and song to benefit the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry!

We are very excited to welcome Ian King, Max Dunne and Nora Byrd for this special evening just ahead of St. Patrick's Day.

Ian King (fiddle) is an All-Ireland Champion, playing with the Murphy Roche Irish Music Club to claim the title for Best Musical Group at the 2012 Fleadh Cheoil Na hEireann (Irish Music Festival). Ian has studied with Irish fiddle legends Martin Hayes, Maurice Lennon and Liz Carroll, toured with the Trinity Irish Dancers, and is in demand for sessions wherever he goes.

Max Dunne is an uilleann piper based on the south side of Chicago. He also is an accomplished guitar, bouzouki, and whistle player and has played with Gavin Coyle, The Hatfield Sisters, and The Ploughboys.

Nora Byrd is a singer and a session favorite at the Galway Arms Sunday Session in Chicago. She also volunteers with Sharing Notes, an organization that improves quality of life for Chicago hospital patients through intimate, engaging and uplifting live music performances. Her beautiful renditions of favorite Irish songs will have you humming along well through St. Paddy's!

Tickets will be \$15 in advance and can be purchased in the church office or through our website GraceGlenEllyn.org, or \$20 at the door the night of the event.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Every Member: Minister & Missionary!

Melody Eastman, Pastor
Bradford Thompson, Minister of Music
Barbara Sudds, Office Manager
Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
Carole LoGalbo, M.S., LCPC Parish Counselor

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30am - 3:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-3:00pm

PRAYER REQUESTS

Kim Jokela, Rich Davison, Elaine Roete, Noah Ankrom, Laurie Huizenga, Donna Gerhardt, Steve Homberg, Elizabeth Amber, Joseph LoGalbo, Joan Schonstore, Mindy Gould, Cindy Carlson, Barbara Cooper, John Brennan, and Jack Dean for healing and strength.



The family of Frank Ackerman for comfort in grief.

Anniversary wishes to Howard & Beth Bruning on their 58th Anniversary (2/6); Jerry & Brigitte Miller 54th Anniv. (3/6); Jim & Helen Sladek 60th Anniv. (3/22).

Florence Kracke on her 99th birthday (3/7).

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

