

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 JULY 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:

Every year at our Synod Assembly, Bishop Miller offers his reflections on the state of the Church. His reports are always challenging, provocative, and encouraging. This year was no different, and I want to share with you some of his comments that I found helpful.

It's no secret that Grace faces challenges and changes. Attendance is lower than it has been, and we usually end our financial year with a deficit that is steadily eating into our reserves. We are by no means alone in this; Bishop Miller noted that most congregations focus most of their energy on how many/how much they gather, and how they can get back to what they gathered in the past. But that is not the thing that concerns the people we're trying to reach. What concerns the very people we're trying to reach is "How do I live my life well?" They aren't interested in our numbers or how long we can keep our doors open. They want to know how they can live well in a confusing, complicated world, with some hope and a sense of meaning. They aren't necessarily interested in being "gathered" into a community; they want a community that can help them "scatter" into the world with courage and purpose.

To respond to this need, Bishop Miller noted, the Church needs a strong capacity for risk-taking—and that can be difficult for people who have come to the Church to find a haven or shelter from the world. There's already enough risk and stress "out there," thank you very much, and we'd really like just one place of comfort and security where we don't have to deal with more loss of the familiar. But to fulfill our mission in the world today, we need

the capacity to deal with loss of the familiar. We need to be able to build and to release, to start and to let go. We need to give ourselves over to the impermanence of what we create while still remembering that the presence and promise of God is the only real constant.

In our world today, innovation is a driving force. To keep up with the call for innovation, congregations should understand that a new ministry won't last forever. It may run for a year, or a few years, and then a congregation will release it to start something new. One of the advantages of this is something we don't often think about: it can be very difficult for newcomers to find a place in an established community or ministry. But practicing regular innovation makes it possible for newcomers to always have a chance to "get in on the ground floor"—to be part of *building* something, which is what generates excitement and energy and is a great way to develop a sense of meaning in one's life.

New Era Congregations (as Bishop Miller named them) are always generating new groups, new missions, new cultures. They are finding new ways to send people into the world with a sense of calling. They are finding ways to accompany their members into the spaces where they live the rest of their lives. These are the congregations that are thriving today. These are the congregations that are most able to communicate the steady, unchanging, familiar Gospel Message—that God has forgiven us, called us, and equipped us to face all the changes of life without fear.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



MISSION QUILTS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Have you ever wished you could do something to help in the global refugee crisis?

You can! Did you know that in 2017, Lutheran World Relief distributed over **305,000** quilts to people arriving in refugee camps? A young Sudanese man told me, "That quilt was the first thing I got when I arrived at the camp when I was 8. It was my bed. It was my coat. It was my shade from the sun, it was my shelter from the rain, it was my protection against mosquitos. It was *everything*."

All those quilts come from congregations just like us. Members gather to sort donated fabric, cut out squares, stitch quilt tops, and tie simple knots to make a sturdy and warm covering. You don't have to know how to run a sewing machine; if you can cut fabric or tie a knot, you can be part of providing comfort to a child who has had to flee home.

If you're interested in starting a LWR quilt group here at Grace, please contact me (Pastor Melody). I hope to also invite clients from the Food Pantry and the Senior Center to join us. What a great way to make new friends, build fellowship, and be part of something wonderful! <https://lwr.org/get-involved/quilts>

CONFIRMATION, MAY 20

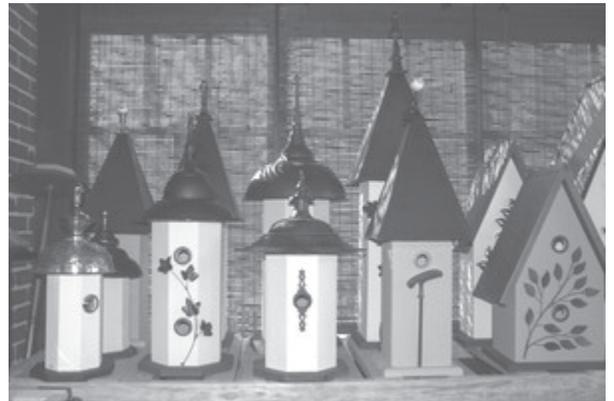
ALEXIS MURAWSKI AND KATHERINE ANDERSON



Mark your calendars for **GRACE'S ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, August 26**. More information to follow.



On June 24th we welcomed two families into membership at Grace: Amanda Heller, and Joe & Hope Serritella with their three children Daniel, Jonathan, and Christopher. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them.



HAND CRAFTED BIRDHOUSES FOR SALE

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry will again have hand crafted birdhouses by **Marcia Lamoureux, *The Birdhouse Lady***, on display and for sale during the Glen Ellyn Sidewalk Sale taking place the last weekend in July. Instead of having a booth on Main Street, the pantry will use the Fellowship Room and part of the parking lot here at Grace. Birdhouses will be available for sale **Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29**. This is an excellent fundraiser for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry as Marcia generously donates all the amazing and unique birdhouses for the sale.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY PAGE

Playgroup Meets on Fridays in July

Come join the Grace Lutheran Church Playgroup at Lake Ellyn Park on Friday Mornings, 8:30-10:30am. This is a great park to allow the children to explore while parents and caretakers can enjoy a shady area for fellowship. Come join us!

Women of Grace

Women of Grace will meet at *Reserve 22* in Glen Ellyn on **Thursday, July 26 from 7:15pm-9:15pm**. Come enjoy food and beverage on the outdoor patio while enjoying fellowship with women from Grace Church! Friends are always welcome. We have a Facebook Group that we put reminder updates on. If you are on Facebook, but not currently enrolled in the group please let Becky Ficarella know so that we can get you connected!

The Community Gathers

The Community Gathers is a Wednesday evening fellowship opportunity at Lake Ellyn this summer. We will meet at the park at Lake Ellyn from 6:00-7:30pm each Wednesday beginning June 13th running through August 8th (We will not meet on July 4th).

Bring your lawn chair and any refreshments you would like to enjoy. We will have the game "bags" available for kids and adults to play together, as well as popsicles to share. Fishing is available at the dock as well, bring your own equipment. Come join us for this summer fun!

Summer Fellowship at Grace

Saturday, July 28: Bonfire at the Ficarellas' 4:30pm-8:30pm
22 W 386 Emerson Ave in Glen Ellyn

Mario and Becky will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and bottled water. Please bring any side, dessert, or beverages you would like to share! This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join too.

*Please note that our home is a raised ranch and requires quite a few stairs to get inside plus we only have one bathroom in our home.

August 26: Grace Lutheran Church Picnic following 9:00am Service

Grace Lutheran Church parking lot, 493 Forest Ave Glen Ellyn

Hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, chips, salad, veggies, fruit and ice cream!

Please contact me with any questions!

With thanks! Becky Ficarella

630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

PRECISION SHOPPING CART BRIGADE

The Precision Shopping Cart Brigade will once again perform during the Fourth of July Parade as they collect food donations for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. The Brigade performs (mostly) coordinated maneuvers to entertain onlookers, accept donations, and raise awareness about hunger in our own community. The Brigade is being organized by Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn and will be joined by several other faith communities working together in mission, service, and ministry.

There are opportunities to participate for people of all ages and abilities. Activities include:

- Volunteer coordinator for your organization
- Distributing fliers to homes along the parade route with a friendly request for donations
- Decorate shopping carts prior to the parade
- March with the Brigade during the parade
- Shuttle donations from the Brigade carts to the support truck during the parade
- Drive a support truck
- Unload donations into the Food Pantry after the parade
- Bring non-perishable food items to the parade
- Ask your friends and neighbors to bring a donation
- Pray for good weather

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry is a non-profit organization supporting families and individuals in Glen Ellyn, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Wheaton, Lombard and Lisle. The Pantry serves approximately 5,000 families each year by providing them with necessary grocery and personal items to help make ends meet. The 30 year-old organization is comprised of 16 Glen Ellyn churches and is supported solely by the private donations of individuals and community organizations as well as the work of over 200 dedicated volunteers.



For more information contact Dominic LoGalbo at ShoppingCartBrigade@gmail.com

WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	9:00am	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 Board of Directors
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
2nd Monday	6:00pm	Finance Ministry
3rd Monday	7:00pm	Grace Church Council
Monday	7:15pm	Yoga Class (Lower Level)
Tuesday	1:00-3:00pm	Wooly Knitters
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
Tuesday	6:00-7:30pm	Pill Bottle Project
1st Tuesday	7:00pm	Property Ministry
Wednesday	7:30-8:30am	Bible Study
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 Thursday	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)

GRACE TO YOU

ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

August Issue Due July 5
September Issue Due August 1

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8AM	10:30AM	
5/6	58	75	\$10,790
5/13	20	106	\$ 8,516
5/20	20	126	\$ 3,716
5/27	9am	70	\$ 2,040



WOMEN OF GRACE

Thursday, July 28 at 7:00pm



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, and/or dinner! Join us!!

BONFIRE AT THE FICARELLAS'

JULY 28, 4:30-8:30PM

All are invited to Mario and Becky's, 22w386 Emerson Avenue in Glen Ellyn, for a cook out and bonfire. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and bottled water will be provided. Please bring any side, dessert, or beverages you would like to share! This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join too. Look for a sign up sheet in the narthex so we know how many to plan for.

*Please note that our home is a raised ranch and requires quite a few stairs to get inside plus we only have one bathroom.



WHAT CAN THIS BE??

We are in possession of 100 of these really nice hard-shell cases. They have a zipper closure, an adjustable strap, and an inside dimension of 9 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 2 1/2".

They are not waterproof. We would like use them for outreach projects. Some ideas are first aid kits, school supplies, PADS client kits, art kits? What do you think would be a good use for these and what supplies would you fill them with?

We would like to hear from you with your ideas and suggestions. The case is on display in the narthex where you can write down your ideas or you can e-mail Becky at bficarella@graceglenellyn.org. We would like to start requesting donations for supplies and have our first "stuffing" event on Sunday, October 7th. Thank you.



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

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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

Norma Peterson, Avelina Santiago, Dolores Nosal, Julie Trout, Kim Jokela, Mark Danly, Mike Bentley, Aimee Gerhardt, Brian Flynn, Joan Rosland, Phil Dimaso, Anne Marie Keenan, Mindy Gould, Janice Sowinski, Diane Pagnoni, Noah Ankrom, Aimee Gerhardt, Rodger Haga, Cindy Carlson, Barbara Cooper, Lydia Trevina, Quentin and Valerie, the Benefield Family, students injured at the Glendale Heights bonfire accident, and Jack Dean for healing and strength.



The families of Julie Trout, Michael Durschmid, and Joe Ernst for comfort in grief.

Prayers for our Homebound Member:

Florence Kracke - at Laurels Peak in Mankato, MN



tell your friends and family