

## 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

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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:

You're at a neighborhood cookout, and you just met the family who moved in across the street. They've got a new baby, and you're wondering if they want to have the baby baptized so you ask if they've found a church yet. And they answer, "We're not into joining a group that believes most of the world will burn in hell." What do you say?

In the Holy Cow Survey Grace did in 2014, you all identified a few high priorities. The greatest priority was "Reach New People." The second was "Families" and the third was a tie between "Education" and "Relationships."

The first two goals aren't surprising. Every declining church (and that's almost all of us) lists "Reach New People" as a priority—often combining this with a "Families" emphasis to get "We want to draw in new young families." To be brutally honest, the motivation for this is usually getting more offerings and more volunteers; it's more about meeting *our* needs than theirs, and since "young families" (and everyone else!) can sense this from a mile away, it almost never works out the way we imagined it would.

Then there's that "Education" category—which I think is critical. Although I like to think of it more in terms of **Faith Formation**, which combines head knowledge and heart knowledge. Without it, when your neighbor asks you if you seriously believe most of the world's population is going to burn in hell, you probably don't have a helpful answer.

But if you have thought about this—talked it over with your church friends, explored scripture and tradition, asked questions—then you can have a conversation with your neighbor that may actually engage a deep longing they have. And *then* you have a reason to invite them to join you at church, and in a faith journey. And here's the thing: **People who aren't interested in "joining a church" are interested in this.** People want relationships, they want meaning, and they want to be able to ask questions without feeling judged or stupid.

**Faith Formation** is one of the very best strategies we have for "Reaching New People." Because it helps you *grow* in your faith, and it equips you to take your faith, your questions, and an invitation with you out into the world. *And that's where evangelism happens.* Willow Creek knew this, which is why they grew. People took their faith with them into their neighborhoods, with just enough understanding and confidence to invite other people to grow with them.

Coming up in the fall at Adult Forum, by request of last year's class, is a series on questions people have about faith (and doubt): Are only Christians saved? Is Hell real? Do you have to believe in the Trinity? I'm not going to give you the answer to those questions. But I hope I can give you the tools to answer the questions for yourself, in a way that makes you feel like you're a real part of this Church, and makes you want to invite other people to join you.

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## SHOPPING CART BRIGADE



Many thanks to organizer Dominic LoGalbo and our team of 23 Precision Shopping Cart Brigaders who marched in Glen Ellyn's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade! We received almost \$200 in cash donations and collected 110 bags of food for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Our faithful team put in a lot of hard work, arriving at the church at 9:00 to decorate carts and practice precision maneuvers (this year introducing a daring and death-defying new element—the "Leap of Faith!"). After the parade we returned to the church to cool off, unload, eat ice cream and clean up the carts, wrapping up around 2:00. Even with high temps and humidity, the Precision Shopping Cart Brigade had a really wonderful day!

## 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. There is a Wendy's down the street on North Avenue that has a restroom just inside the entrance if that could work for you.



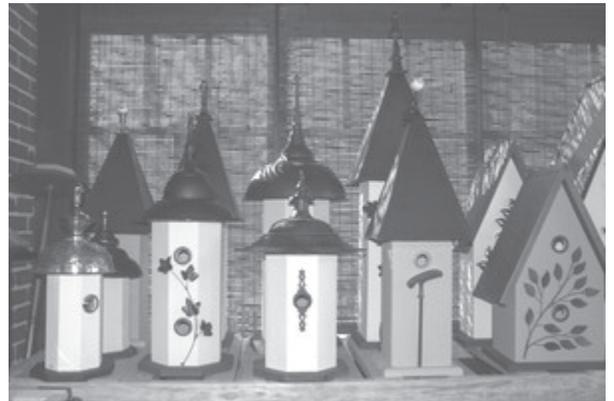
## \*\* HELP WANTED! PART TIME! NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!\*\*

Grace is looking for a third member for our **Nominating Committee**. We currently have Robert Dieter and Sue Pagnoni serving. One member rotates off each year, and you do not serve for more than three years. If you are member "who knows others" you would be perfect!

Grace is also looking for two additional members to serve on the **Memorials Committee**. Barb Raisins is currently the sole member of this committee, and we would like to expand to three people.

Please notify the church office or contact a council member to offer your services for either opportunity to serve!

Thank you,  
Susan Jacobson  
Council President



## 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.

## FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE

### The Community Gathers

Have you come to join us in the park yet!? You still have two Wednesday evenings in August to attend before we wrap up for the season: August 1 & 8. We gather in conversation, sometimes create music, and play the game “bags” while enjoying freeze pops that we share with anyone that passes by! What a great opportunity to connect with our neighbors in Glen Ellyn and share the fellowship of our Congregation at Grace! We are located directly north of the playground so that our children can run and play freely. Look for our sign.



### Grace's Annual Church Picnic is on August 26<sup>th</sup>

Grace Lutheran Church will gather for our annual Church Picnic immediately following the 9:00am service on August 26<sup>th</sup>. A bounce house and water balloon toss will be available for kids of all ages! Come join us for this fun celebration.



### Faith Formation is just around the corner!

We will register our children and youth for Faith Formation on September 9<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex in between services. More details to follow in the September issue of Grace To You!



### Grace Play Group

Play Group will take a break in August, but will return again in September! Look for details in the September issue of Grace To You!

Please contact me with any questions!

With thanks! Becky Ficarella

630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

## FELLOWSHIP ROOM BULLETIN BOARDS ARE BEING REDESIGNED!

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the new ministry bulletin boards in the Fellowship Room. You will find many different ways to get involved with ministry at Grace. There will be a rolling six month calendar that will list upcoming events and ministry needs to sign up for. Would you like to start a new ministry or do you need space for your current ministry? Contact Becky Ficarella about creating a space to allow Grace Members to sign up!



**“THE COMMUNITY GATHERS” LAKE ELLYN PARK**

The Wednesday evenings in the park have been enjoyable. A time to relax, reflect, and share in fellowship. A few different folks join us each week. Why don't you come out to play with us?? **The last Wednesday date will be August 8.**



Bob Stein feeding the fish in Lake Ellyn.



Pr. Melody making jumbo bubbles while Bob Stein and Cheryl Huizenga look on. Zachary Gregor warming up for an intense game of bags!



Mario and Enzo Ficarella enjoying the jumbo bubbles.

**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	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
Wednesday	6:00-7:30pm	The Community Gathers (offsite)
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	7:00pm	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](mailto:info@graceglenellyn.org).

**September Issue Due August 1**  
**October Issue Due September 5**

**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
	<b>9AM</b>	
6/3	74	\$ 8,199
6/10	87	\$ 11,876
6/17	95	\$ 7,350
6/24	93	\$ 2,290



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION.**

**WOMEN OF GRACE**

**Thursday, July 26 and August 23 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!!

**FUN AT THE DRAGERS' POOL PARTY**

It was a beautiful day; the sun was out, the pool was refreshing, the pizza delicious, and great fellowship. Mark and Cyndy would like to invite everyone again next year and make it an annual event so don't miss it!



Mario & Becky Ficarella and Cyndy Drager



Mark Drager & Jennifer Baxa



Ryan & Adelynn Baxa and Enzo Ficarella



Mark Sudds

Not pictured: Cheryl Huizenga, Barbara Sudds

**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**

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



**Prayers for our Homebound Member:**  
 Florence Kracke - at Laurels Peak in Mankato, MN

**CHURCH PICNIC  
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 26**



Picnic in the parking lot following worship. All are invited, bring a friend. Look for sign up sheet in the narthex so we know how many to plan for.