

## Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

Return Service Requested

West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

MONTH OF JANUARY 2019  
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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:

In her book *Reclaiming the "L" (that's "Lutheran") Word*, author (and former professor of Congregational Leadership at Luther Seminary) Kelly Fryer writes (paraphrasing Dietrich Bonhoeffer), "The Church is the only institution that exists solely for the sake of those who are not its members."

Honestly, that's a pretty jarring thought for a lot of folks. We're used to thinking about the ways we need our church to take care of *us*—staffing, the style of worship we like, programming we want for ourselves or our families. When we go looking for a new church, we tend to focus on finding the one that "best meets our needs."

Interestingly, you won't find that calling *anywhere* in scripture. Jesus never sends anyone out to find a community that meets their needs. He consistently sends his followers out to meet the needs of people who *aren't* following him—and who often never do.

This strategy is not going to help us pay our mortgage.

But then, we know that paying the mortgage isn't the point of our mission—even while we recognize that the building should *support* our mission. While we look for partners to work with us in maintaining the wonderful facility we have for mission, we also continue to think about what we can do to reveal God's love to people who don't worship at Grace.

What do you think the people in Glen Ellyn who aren't

going to church anywhere might need, spiritually and shalom-wise? What do you think might help people who are cynical and skeptical about Church reconsider? What do you think might lead someone who doesn't believe in God rethink that? (Hint: It won't be a program. The answer will be found in *relationships*.)

As we prepare for our congregational meeting at the end of this month, these are the kinds of questions our leadership continues to pray over and talk about. It's not an easy question, and there's aren't simple answers.

But as we consider these questions I want you, the People of Grace Glen Ellyn, to hear this: You have something to offer that is much needed. I know—we sit in the middle of 18 other churches in Glen Ellyn alone. I don't know much about many of them. But I know that in the 3+ years I have spent with you, I have seen a true desire to be a community that helps each individual become whole. You want to love each other. You want to people who feel excluded or judged to feel a sense of welcome and love. You want your kids to feel accepted and important—not because of the ways they excel in the world's standards, but because of the way that God created them and works in them. You want people to see themselves and each other with God's eyes—honestly, filled with mercy, brimming with love. No matter how many churches there are around us, we can all use more of this.

*Pastor Melody*

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

There will be two worship services at Grace on Christmas Eve. 4:00pm will be a Family Service with the *Do-It-Yourself Nativity* and 10:00pm will be a Traditional Candlelight Service with the choir.

Grace Lutheran will not have a Christmas Day service. There will be Christmas Day services at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn on Butterfield Road at 9:30am; and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheaton on Geneva Road at 9:30am for those looking for a house of worship on Christmas morning.

There will be one worship service at 10:15am on Sunday, Dec. 23 and Sunday, Dec. 30.



## COMING UP IN THE ADULT FORUM IN JANUARY

**January 6**, hosted by Rev. Lynette Schroeder (filling in while Pastor Melody is in Israel and Egypt): **Christianity and Islam**. Join Pr. Schroeder for an excellent video presentation and conversation about our connections and relationship with the Muslim faith.

**January 13**, hosted by Rev. Lynette Schroeder: **Islam: History and Tradition**. Another opportunity to gain deeper (and accurate!) insight into Islam, and unpack some of the misconceptions about those who practice the faith today.

**January 20: Fellowship Sunday, come enjoy fellowship between services. There will be no Faith Formation classes this Sunday.**

**January 27: 2019 Mission Budget Presentation.**

Today is the congregational meeting following the 10:15 service. If you'd like detailed presentation of the budget and the opportunity to ask questions, be sure you attend the Adult Forum hour at 9:15, where council and finance team members will be present. (There will be time for some discussion of the budget at the meeting, but the time allowed will not be open-ended.)

## Pastoral Contact in Pr. Melody's Absence

Pr. Charles Plummer of St. Luke Lutheran Church will be the emergency on call pastor while Pr. Melody is away from Grace. Pr. Charles can be reached at 630-210-5841.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

### GRACE FOODIES PLAN TO MEET AGAIN!!

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 19**. Come enjoy a night out with Grace friends and good food. We will gather at ***Made in Italy***, a restaurant on Forest Avenue across from the church, where we will enjoy the entire restaurant to ourselves. Child care will again be provided at Grace. Watch for more info and sign-up in narthex.

### JANUARY FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP

Come in out of the cold for a warm bowl of soup and warm fellowship with Grace friends. We will meet for lunch and fellowship on **Wednesday, January 16 at 11:15**. All are welcome! Come join us!!

We are having a **"GREEN" POTLUCK SUNDAY** on **Sunday March 17** following 10:15 service. Watch for more information in the weeks to come!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 27 AT 11:30AM

Join us as we hold our annual congregational meeting following the 10:15am service on the 27th. And while we will indeed be approving a budget and electing council leadership, those aren't the reason for our meeting - they're just the means to the end! Our real reason and purpose is always God's mission - which we need a budget and leadership to carry out. So we'll also be hearing about what our mission might look like in the coming year - building on our strengths and exploring some new opportunities. We need you to make mission happen; we look forward to seeing you there!

Important  
Message

## FLOWER CHART FOR 2019

The new Flower Chart is in the Fellowship Room. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two or more! Bouquets are still \$15 each. Please indicate on the chart how you would like your flowers acknowledged in the bulletin - in honor of, in memory of, etc.

## FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE

### SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

**Spark (Preschool-K), Shine 1&2 (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades):** 9:15-9:45am Class Meets, 9:45am-10:00am Music in the Gathering Room with Mrs. Drager\*

**Class meets January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> only this month**

\*Please note that students must be picked up at 10:00am in the Gathering Room or they will be brought to the Quiet Play Area at the back of the Sanctuary.

**Ignite Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades):** Class meets 9:15-10:00am in the Ignite Room  
**-Class meets January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> only this month**

**-January 13<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Visit to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn**

Students and Parents meet at 9:00am at St. Mark's to attend the 9:15am Service.

Optional afterwards, 10:30am Breakfast at Blackberry Market.

**Fusion High School:** Class will meet with Dominic LoGalbo on January 13<sup>th</sup> 9:15-10:00am in the Fusion Lounge.

**Upcoming Event: Feed My Starving Children Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00-11:00am in Aurora. Let Becky know if you are interested to join! Parents welcomed to join too.**



### IGNITE CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN JANUARY

**January 9th: 6:00-7:30pm\*** Still looking for one parent to help with this night! Please let Becky Ficarella know if you are able to assist.

We will begin work on our **Confirmation Individual Projects** for Youth Sunday on February 24<sup>th</sup>. These will be due on February 13<sup>th</sup> in preparation of Youth Sunday.

**January 23rd: 6:00-7:30pm** Tough Questions Unit Topic Discussion



### WOMEN OF GRACE

Women of Grace will meet on Thursday, January 24th from 7:00-9:00pm at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn. Come gather with women from Grace Lutheran Church for snacks and refreshments. Friends are always welcome!



### GRACE YOGA TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 6:15-7:15PM IN THE GREAT ROOM

A new **five-week Winter 1 Session** of Grace Yoga will begin on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and will run through Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. This session may be purchased in full for \$40, only \$8 per class, or you can drop in on any week for \$10.

We are adding a short **four-week Winter session** to Thursday nights as well! This session will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup> and run through January 31<sup>st</sup>. This session may be purchased for \$32, only \$8 per class, or you can drop in on any session for \$10.

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

## MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

This fall, the **Monday Night Bible Study Group** has been assisted in our study of Ecclesiastes by videos from Dr. Baruch Korman. We have seen the depth of his knowledge of the Bible and the Hebrew language and culture, but so far, we don't know him. On January 7 and 14, we will look at his interesting history as an American Orthodox Jewish rabbi who became convinced that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, and who then moved to Israel to teach this message, in Hebrew, to Israelis.

**Starting on January 21, we will return to a Kerygma study of Second Isaiah.** We have already studied Isaiah 1-39. Chapters 40-55 are believed by scholars to have been written in Babylon during the exile of the key elements of the Jewish people. There is an explanation of the gloom and doom that have come on many nations, including those chosen by God. These chapters also contain words of comfort, including the Suffering Servant poems which Christians believe to predict key elements of the life of Jesus, and which we hear in readings in church late in Lent, leading into Easter. As with all Kerygma studies, we will attempt to understand the meaning of Second Isaiah's words in their original context as well as their importance to us today.

We meet on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. We are a friendly, cohesive group, but we always have room for more and would love to have you. Come as we share decaf coffee and a sweet treat and look at the sources behind our faith. Please let Fred Warnke or Vince Hardt know if you are interested in the Isaiah study so we can order a course guide for you.



Adult Bible Studies with a difference  
Making a difference for 40 years!

## WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	8:00 & 10:15am	Grace Lutheran Worship
Sunday	9:15-10:00am	Faith Formation - All Ages
Sunday	2:00-6:00pm	FCCC Worship Service
Sunday	5:00-6:00pm	Support Group
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
Monday	4:30-9:00pm	Bright Lights Theatre
Monday	5:30-8:30pm	Thistle & Heather Highland Dancers
2nd Monday	6:00pm	Finance Ministry
3rd Monday	7:00pm	Grace Church Council
Monday	7:00pm	Bible Study
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	1:00-3:00pm	Wooly Knitters
Tuesday	1-3pm & 5-7pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Tuesday	3:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
Tuesday	6:00-7:30pm	Pill Bottle Project
1st Tuesday	6:00pm	Property Ministry
Tuesday	6:15pm	Grace Yoga with Becky!
Tuesday	6:45-9:30pm	Society for Creative Anachronism
Wednesday	7:30-8:30am	Bible Study
3rd Wednesday	11:15am	Faith & Friendship
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
4th Thursday	7:00pm	Women of Grace (Reserve 22)
Thursday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Thursday	1:00-7:00pm	Parish Counselor
Thursday	3:30-5:30pm	Kiwanis Club Backpack Snacks
Thursday	4:30-9:00pm	Bright Lights Theatre
Thursday	6:15pm	Grace Yoga with Becky!
Thursday	7:00-8:30pm	Titans Basketball
Friday	6:30-7:45pm	Support Group
Saturday	8:30-11:00am	Sunflower Dancers
Saturday	9:00-1:00pm	Slanchogledi Language School
Saturday	6:00-8:00pm	FCCC Worship Service

### GRACE TO YOU

#### ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

February Issue  
March Issue

Due January 2  
Due February 7

Happy  
New Year



## HOLIDAY SHOPPE HOSTED BY GE FOOD PANTRY AND GRACE LUTHERAN

The Glen Ellyn Food Panty Holiday Shoppe was a huge success! We would like to thank the congregation of Grace for your loving support of this project. Over 2,000 items were donated to the Shoppe, providing Christmas for nearly 100 families in the area. Thank you to everyone for your monetary gifts, donated items, and most importantly your time. We could not have accomplished this event without the many hours of volunteer support! For those of us that had the opportunity to work with the clients, it was truly our blessing to be used by God in this way. May the remainder of your Christmas Season be filled with joy and opportunity to be a blessing to others.



## 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

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**[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)**

### 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

Greg Barber, Kathy Maras, Dolores Nosal, Rich Davison, Dorothy Tracy, Farrel Benefield, Lucille Drager, Bear Binkele, Daniel Cournoyer, Carrie Wiebe, Joan Rosland, Eric Scanlon, Lucy Storey, Deandre Moore, and Quinten Benefield for healing and strength.



### Prayers for our Homebound Member:

Anita Blakemore

The families of Rodger Haga, Diane Plant's father; and Cindy Carlson, Tim Derrico's cousin, for comfort in grief.

### NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8AM	10:15AM	
11/4	39	90	\$ 9,821
11/11	30	103	\$ 6,978
11/18	32	72	\$ 8,645
11/25	16	73	\$ 7,685

Grace's total income through November 2018 was \$353,382 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$418,661. We are grateful for your support in helping us meet our expenses so we can continue to carry out our mission at Grace Lutheran of Proclaim, Build, Serve.