

## Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
www.graceglenellyn.org  
Return Service Requested

West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

MONTH OF MARCH 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:



One of the things that struck me the most strongly during my travel seminar to the Holy Land in January was the sheer weight of history. Not just history, actually, but *lives*. Standing in Jericho, the oldest city on earth with a continuous timeline going back *11,000 years*, I felt the immensity of all those lives—people making bread, building shelter, tending flocks, worrying about water, discussing the latest political catastrophe, and praying to their gods or God to see them through. Wherever I went it was the same; I stood on ground where people, for millennia, have struggled and grieved and built and hoped—and prayed. It seemed I could feel the steady flow of small, everyday life events, along with the major cataclysms, that led from their lives to mine. With God present in all of it.

I thought we might reflect on this truth together during Lent. I'm calling my series, *Swimming in the River of Life*. Each Wednesday (after Ash Wednesday) I'll give a short presentation about one of the sites we visited, with some of the historical background and archeological revelations that have surfaced in recent years. But I'll also talk about how our lives are connected, how our stories in faith ultimately



join in one massive, constantly moving current. How our histories flow into one another. How we nourish and draw from the stream of witness.

I saw many things in the Holy Land that made me grieve. I saw many things that brought me joy. I stood in places that left me awe-struck, and in places where the commercialization and manipulation of people's faith made me feel slightly sick. Overall, my experience in that space made me feel very, very small. But this wasn't a bad thing. At the same time that I was overwhelmed with the weight of the past, or the pettiness of human institutions, I was also reminded of the vastness of God, who has moved with and through all of these currents with the same promise of Life.

*Climbing the last 750 steps to the top of Mt. Sinai*

We will begin the season on Lent on March 6, Ash Wednesday, with a Simple Soup Supper in the gym at 6:00, and worship (including the imposition of ashes and communion) in the sanctuary at 7:00. On the following Wednesdays we'll gather in the narthex for Simple Soup Supper from 6:00-6:45, and worship in the sanctuary at 7:00.

*Pastor Melody*

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## ADULT FORUM IN MARCH: *ON DOUBT*

We continue our conversation on Faith and Doubt with three topics that have been raising questions for Christians for centuries:

### March 3: *Is Heaven Only for Christians?*

What exactly is the relationship between faith in Jesus Christ and salvation? Have Christians always believed the same thing about this? Does it raise a moral or spiritual dilemma for you? (Because it does for many other people!)

### March 10: *What about the Virgin Birth?*

There's some ambiguity in the text and translation, and Christianity isn't the first and only tradition to claim this as proof of divine action. Do we need to believe this? What does the doctrine say about human sin?

### March 17: *Is Hell Real?*

How has the understanding of hell changed over time in Judaism and Christianity? Who has influenced our understanding—and how much of our contemporary picture of hell is actually biblical? And what does it say about a God who is both Righteous and Loving?

There are no stupid questions—bring yours and join us!

March 24 and 31: This is the week of spring break, so we don't have classes scheduled. But join us for coffee and fellowship, and get to know some of our newest members!

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

**Grace Foodies** is a gathering of Grace members that has gotten together twice now for a fun "foodie" social gathering at a local restaurant. We offer free babysitting at church. It has been a lot of fun. Watch for details on our next outing.

**Ash Wednesday Soup Supper** will be Wednesday March 6 at 6:00pm in the gym.

**Lenten Meals** will again take place on Wednesdays in Lent from 6:00-6:45 in the narthex. Worship will occur in the sanctuary this year. **This year we are offering congregation members a chance to cook a soup or stew for 10 people to bring and share. With four different cooks each week it should be a fun sharing of the Lenten meal. See sign-up in narthex to bring a dish.**

**"Green Pot-luck" Sunday March 17.** Bring a food dish to pass and your own dishware to our "green" potluck on St. Patrick's Day. See insert and display in narthex for more info.

**March Faith and Friendship Lunch.** Join us for lunch and fellowship on Wednesday, March 20 at 11:15. All are welcome.

## COME AND CELEBRATE ST. PADDY'S WITH US!

St. Paddy's Day falls on a Sunday this year, and we're making the most of it!

On March 17 we are delighted to welcome **2018 All-Ireland Fiddle Champion Lexia Kennedy** at our 10:15 worship service. The All-Ireland is an international competition that brings together the very best in Irish music from around the globe; Lexia took first place honors in Fiddle Solo for ages 12-15. From the Murphy Roche School of Irish Music in Burr Ridge, Lexia is a regular in the Chicago-area trad Irish session scene, has been featured on WDCB's *Ireland Tonight*, and performs regularly with guitarist Dave Reynolds at the Two Way Street Coffehouse in Downers Grove and at Dry City Brew Works in Wheaton. At 14, she has an exquisite command of both slow airs and pounding reels; her music will definitely set your heart singing!

Following the service we hope you'll join us for a **Green Pot Luck**. No, we're not serving *all* green food, but we'll definitely be green in the earth-friendly sort of way. You are invited to bring a dish to share, along with your own place settings. **Our goal is to avoid using disposable dishes and serving pieces; if possible please bring dishes you can take home and wash.** (Plus, this makes cleaning up a breeze!) There will probably be a bit more music; there will definitely be great food and fellowship.

If you're not a make-a-dish-to-share kind of person, just show up with a loaf of bread, a package of cookies, or just your awesome self. We're pretty confident we'll have plenty to go around. What's not to love? Hope to see you there!



## 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 March 3, 10, & 17**

**No Class on March 24 or 31 due to Spring Break!**

\*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 March 3, 10, & 17**

**No Class on March 24 or 31 due to Spring Break!**

**Fusion High School:** Class will meet March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:15-10:00am in the Fusion Lounge. We will study the Gospel reading for the day and enjoy coffee and donuts. See you there!

### **Ignite Confirmation Wednesday Nights in March**

There will be no Confirmation classes meeting during Lent. We ask that your student make an effort to attend as many of the Lent Services as possible. **Lent Services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** and then continue to meet the next five Wednesdays through April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Women of Grace**

Women of Grace will meet on **Thursday, March 21 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 Winter 2 Session begins on March 5th and runs through April 2<sup>nd</sup> on Tuesdays, March 7<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup> on Thursdays. This Session may be purchased for \$40, only \$8 per class or you can drop in on any session for \$10. Let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions!

### **All Ages Barn Dance March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Come dance or just sit and listen to the beautiful music! 2:00-3:30pm in Grace Gym! Friends are always welcome!

With thanks!

Becky Ficarella

630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org



**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN  
FEBRUARY 2**



14 members of Grace turned out to pack food for *Feed My Starving Children* in Aurora.



Thank you to the Danly, Ficarella, Goertzen, Graf, and Hamilton Families for volunteering their time for this service project.



**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 Classes & 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
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	Slancholedi Language School
Saturday	6:00-8:00pm	FCCC Classes

**GRACE TO YOU**

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE**

Submit articles and photos to the church office at [info@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:info@graceglenellyn.org).

**April Issue**

**Due March 6**

**May Issue**

**Due April 3**

**FAMILY BARN DANCE**

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for more barn dancing fun on **March 24 from 2-3:30pm**. All ages are welcome! Last date of the season will be April 28.



**RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

Join us as we receive several new families into the community at Grace. Please contact Pr. Melody if you are interested in becoming part of our family.



**HELP US HIT 50 FOR 50 YEARS OF CROP!**

This year we're excited to announce that Grace is the host site for the **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Glen Ellyn/Wheaton CROP Walk on Sunday, May 5**. Let's make it a banner year by getting at least 50 folks from Grace to walk or volunteer!

This is a great opportunity for us to make ourselves known (again) to the neighborhood as a committed, vibrant faith community, dedicated to healing and hope in the wider world. The CROP Walk fights food insecurity not only around the world, but right here in Glen Ellyn. 25% of the funds we raise will be returned to fight hunger locally—and the need is only growing.

Wouldn't it be awesome if we had 50 walkers who each raised \$50? Or better yet--\$100? The walk route (and length) is perfect for families, and this is a great way for parents to model service for their kids. And it's an awesome opportunity to get to know new people. There really isn't a better way to spend a few hours on Sunday afternoon.

Mike Pertle is again coordinating the efforts here at Grace. If you'd like to help with planning, please reach out to him, or contact the office. And watch for more information for registering to walk. It's easy to sign up with Grace's team online and help us reach our goal! (Yes, there may be a friendly competition among the local churches—all for a good cause.)

**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**

Kathy Maras, Dolores Nosal, Dorothy Tracy, Farrel Benefield, Fred Warnke, Cindy Boehm, Marty Friend, Shelly Thompson, Daniel Cournoyer, Paul & Alicia Davison, Lucy Storey for healing and strength.



Birthday wishes to Dorothy Stein 90 (2/14); Anita Blakemore 92 (3/18).

Anniversary wishes to Jerry & Brigitte Miller, 55 yrs. (3/6); Jim & Helen Sladek, 61 yrs. (3/22).

Family and friends of Mark Shellady for comfort in grief.

**Prayers for our Homebound Member:**

Anita Blakemore

**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8AM	10:15AM	
1/6	30	82	\$6,710
1/13	29	93	\$6,748
1/20	24	96	\$4,491
1/27	xx	92	\$3,969

Grace's total income through January 2019 was \$24,971 while expenses incurred during that same time period were \$44,518.