

## 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 JULY 2019**  
**1085419-7**

*Grace To You* is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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### FROM THE PASTOR



This year's Metro Chicago Synod Assembly was fascinating. Not only because we elected a new bishop for our synod (and we knew going in it would be someone new, as Bp. Miller is retiring). But also because of the ways we, as Church, talked about all the things people in church don't want to talk about because they're too polarizing or too painful or too shocking. As I mentioned in my Pentecost sermon, it is an amazing gift to be able to name racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, etc.—and not have people walk out of the room because they're offended. It was a powerful demonstration of the truth that we *can* talk about the things we *need* to talk about, and we can learn and grow from it.

Another aspect I appreciated this year was the multiple ways I felt affirmation for Grace's conversations about using the space in our building. We heard multiple stories of other congregations that are thriving because they are using the resource of their building for community wholeness as part of their mission. The "thriving" may not look like explosive numbers of people or dollars, but it does look like explosive purpose and impact for good in the lives of neighbors. And that impact does indeed draw people to Christ because it is a physical, tangible embodiment of the truth that Christ really does care about them.

Several of our candidates for bishop talked about the future of the church, and a common theme was that the structure of the institution needs to change. In par-

ticular, our institutional structures of trying to financially maintain large buildings with few people in them needs to change—because it means too many dollars going to buildings, and too few dollars going to human need in the community. More and more, congregations are pursuing partnerships like those we have been thinking about, sharing their space with other organizations who also share the financial load of maintaining the building. Instead of focusing on "getting more members" as a survival strategy, congregations are focusing on having more *purpose* as a proclamation of Christ's love for the world. And increasingly, that purpose looks less like Sunday School programming and more like addressing depression and suicide, addiction, lack of jobs, inadequate affordable housing, loneliness...you get the picture. It was pretty inspiring and exciting to listen to!

If you haven't ever been to a Synod Assembly, you might think it's the equivalent of sitting through two days of what is essentially a congregational meeting. In other words, you might think it's boring. Far from it! The Assembly is a great way to get the Big Picture of just how powerfully the Spirit is moving in Christ's Church. Yes, some portions can be...less inspiring. But overall, the Assembly helps us remember how we can work together when we all have different opinions (and political views!), how we can behave respectfully and effectively while dealing with tough issues, and how we can accomplish a lot more than we thought we were capable of by each taking on the task before us.

Thanks for being a really wonderful part of what God is doing in the Metro Chicago Synod!

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## NEW BISHOP ELECTED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY



At the 2019 Metro Chicago Synod Assembly, we elected pastor **Yehiel Curry** as Bishop of the synod for the next six years.

Pastor Curry is pastor of Shekinah Chapel, an ELCA congregation that grew out of an initial program (founded in 1992) designed to mentor and support young African American men in Riverdale.

The program's success and growth (expanded to include the mentoring of young women) ultimately led to the founding of Shekinah Chapel as a congregation of the ELCA. The congregation continues to draw and nurture young African American men and women in faith; 90% of the congregation's members are first-generation Lutherans.

For those unfamiliar with the process of electing a bishop in Metro Chicago, here is a brief summary: Before the Assembly, voting members are invited to identify one person they would like to hear from as a possible candidate for bishop, and submit a question they would like answered.

The top six identified people appear at a series of panels to answer questions. Even though they appear at these panels, that is no guarantee that they will end up participating in the election process at the Assembly.

At the Assembly, the first ballot is a nominating ballot.

Each voting member writes the name of someone they would like to consider as bishop. If any one candidate receives  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all valid votes cast, that person is elected.

The second ballot includes all of these names (this year, there were around 60), and voting members vote for one candidate. If one person receives a majority of valid votes, they are elected.

The third ballot includes the top seven candidates (plus ties). Majority of votes elects.

The fourth ballot includes the top three candidates (plus ties). At this point, these three candidates address the Assembly and address questions selected by the bishop election committee. A majority of votes elects.

The fifth ballot includes the top two candidates (plus ties). A majority of votes elects.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

### Summer Coffee Hour

Please join in the fellowship over coffee and a sweet *following* the service during the summer.

A **Progressive Dinner** will be held **Saturday, July 13**. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Please see Heather Graf or Patti Lewis with questions.

Our Annual **Church Picnic** is scheduled for **Sunday, September 8**. Watch for more info over the summer, but in the meantime, mark your calendars!

## CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2019



Back Row: Ryan Murawski, Pr. Melody, Quentin McKnight  
Front Row: Elizabeth Dieter, Rose Fenske, Ethan Roete

## Spring Clean Up Thank You

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the following people who helped spread five yards of mulch in May:

John Jokela  
Mark Sudds  
Barbara Sudds  
Sandra Venturoni  
Carol Asselmeier  
Becky Ficarella and  
Kim Jokela



## FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE

### CYPRESS COVE WATER PARK DAY: TUESDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>

Come meet Grace friends at the Waterpark on **Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**! We will meet at Cypress Cove Water Park, (8301 S. Janes Avenue, Woodridge, IL) at 11:30am when the park opens. Food is NOT allowed to be brought in. However you are able to go to your car and come back in if you choose. We can coordinate eating a picnic lunch outside of the park before, and running to the cooler for a snack later. Admission is \$15.50 per person. The children's area is gated and extremely safe for toddlers to run and play. They even have a water slide just for these younger kiddos. The lazy river, tube slides, and water slides are a great way to stay cool! Let Becky know if you plan to attend. All are welcome, so bring a friend and let's have some fun!



### FRIDAY PLAYGROUP AT LAKE ELLYN PARK

Just a reminder that we will be gathering at Lake Ellyn Park on the following days in July: 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>. 8:30am-10:00am. Bring a friend for fellowship and fun!

### BACKPACK BLESSING IN AUGUST

**GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK!**

We will be blessing backpacks during our 9:00am service on **Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**. We invite anyone who would like their backpack or briefcase blessed for the coming year to join us for this special service. Please let Becky Ficarella know if you would like your bag's tag personalized with your name.



### GRACE YOGA SUMMER SESSION 2

Grace Yoga will meet in July and August for Summer Session 2: Tuesdays, July 9<sup>th</sup>-August 27<sup>th</sup>, not meeting July 23<sup>rd</sup> or August 6<sup>th</sup>. This 6 week session will be \$48, or a \$10 drop in fee is always available. Yoga is a wonderful practice of body, mind, and spirit. It is for everyone, not just the flexible!

Please let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions!

630-469-1555 x17

bficarella@gracelennellyn.org

**WOMEN OF GRACE**



Women of Grace will meet on **Thursday, June 28 and Thursday, July 25 from 7:00-9:00pm** at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn. Come gather with women from Grace

Lutheran Church for snacks and refreshments. Fingers crossed in hoping we may be blessed with beautiful weather to enjoy the outdoor seating area. Friends are always welcome!

**WANTED: small, travel size toiletries** for PADS to use in their outreach to the homeless members of our community. As you partake of your spring and summer travels, please bring back any unused soaps, shampoos, etc. from your hotel room and put them in the basket under the table in the Narthex.

**POP TABS FOR CARSON GRAF**

The Kindergartners at Madison Elementary would like to give a HUGE thank you to Fred Warnke for his incredibly generous donations of pop tabs toward their drive for Ronald McDonald House! He contributed 183 lbs of tabs!! The students brought in another 139 lbs, for an amazing total of 322 lbs! This will provide approximately 15 overnight stays for families in need at the RMHC! Thank you to all who brought in tabs; we've been reminded that every little bit adds up to a big difference! In addition to collecting pop tabs, each class gave up a recess and made special projects for Ronald McDonald House and the Pediatric Unit at CDH.



Kindergartners with signs signed by the entire class. With thanks, Heather Graf

**WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE**

Sunday	8:00 & 10:15am	Grace Lutheran Worship
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	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 Wednesday	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
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

**ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR SUMMER PLAY GROUP!**

The Play Group will meet on Friday mornings at **Lake Ellyn Park from 8:30am-10:00am.**

June Dates: 6/14 & 6/28  
 July Dates: 7/12, 7/19, 7/26  
 August Dates: 8/9, 8/16



Bring a friend and join the fun!

**GRACE TO YOU**

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE**

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

**August Issue Due July 3**  
**September Issue Due August 1**

**WOMEN'S FAITH TALK**

Join us every third Thursday of the month from 10-11:30 for Women's FaithTalk, a new conversation and study group facilitated by Pastor Melody. This is a place to ask questions, share ideas, and build community. We'll talk about scripture and tradition, current events, comparative religions, spirituality - wherever the Spirit takes us! We're not limited to Grace members, or to any particular faith tradition; seekers and skeptics who want a place to explore spirituality are welcome too. The only requirements are a commitment to listen and share in a context of intentional and deep respect.

**FOURTH OF JULY SHOPPING CART BRIGADE**



**JWR FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING**

Jim Rasins' family has set up a 501(c)(3) foundation in his name. **THE JWR FOUNDATION "KEEP DOING GREAT THINGS"** is raising money for Glenbard West and Glenbard South scholarships for kids who are "doing great things" in their community like Jim was. **The Foundation is having its First Annual Golf Outing** at the Village Links of Glen Ellyn on Thursday, July 25. We hope you'll consider joining us or make a donation if you are unable to come.

Please visit <http://www.keepdoinggreatthings.org> for details. Contact the foundation directly via email at [info@keepdoinggreatthings.org](mailto:info@keepdoinggreatthings.org) for details on golf outing sponsorships if you or your business is interested.

**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**

Dolores Nosal, Farrel Benefield, Fred Warnke, Rich Davison, Lucy Soorey, Marty Friend and Susan Papierski for healing and strength.

Family of Donna Gerhardt and Ted Thomas for comfort in grief.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Anita Blakemore; Bob & Darlene Clauss



**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	8:00AM	10:15AM	
5/5	20	86	\$6,797
5/12	23	95	\$4,529
5/19	21	122	\$7,935
5/26	9:00am	56	\$2,146

Grace's total income through May 2019 is 164,221.

