

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 AUGUST 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

People have been asking recently for a little more information on the ELCA's stand on the crisis situation of children at the US-Mexico border. So here's some background information:

Immigration crisis isn't a new thing. The ELCA has been monitoring the status of children seeking asylum at our southern border since 2014. ELCA leaders and staff visited the U.S.-Mexico border, Central America and Mexico to gain understanding of the reasons so many people (half of them unaccompanied children) were arriving at the border. What they found was confirmed in a study by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees: most children arriving at our border were fleeing violence (including human trafficking) or being targeted in other ways. That is, people are *not* coming to the US because they want a more affluent lifestyle. They come because they don't want to be killed, tortured, or sold into slavery. (I won't detail the violence some women have reported happening to murdered sisters and mothers; it would give you nightmares.)

The ELCA developed a strategy several years ago to address this crisis. AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity) focuses on providing social services for these children, building awareness of their situation, and addressing the root causes of migration—including outlining needed changes in US immigration policy.

As the crisis has deepened, the ELCA continues to actively engage in the need for wise and compassionate

response. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued several messages addressing the issues of immigration and the welfare of vulnerable children. Citing ELCA Social Messages that go back as far as 1998, she has called for an end to the separation of families, an end to the detention of children, and an end to "practices that create unreasonable obstacles and unattainable standards of proof for those seeking asylum."

In closing her most recent statement, Bishop Eaton writes, "Our nation and its leaders have moral and legal obligations on behalf of those who seek safety in our land. As Congress considers federal funding for DHS, we advocate against further funds for immigration detention, deportation, and border militarization, and oppose intentional policy choices that harm children and families. We follow a Lord who instructed, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Matthew 19:14). As we continue to serve and love our neighbor, we pray for the well-being of children and families in detention, and we urge the presidential administration to seek alternatives to the detention of children."

You can learn more about the ELCA's response to the immigration crisis at <https://www.elca.org/ammparo>, and you can find all of Bishop Eaton's messages at <https://elca.org/Resources/Presiding-Bishop-Messages>.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve





GENDER-NEUTRAL BATHROOM

The men's room near the West Entrance of the building (across from the church office) is being converted to a *Gender-Neutral/Family Bathroom*. Because this bathroom has only one stall, this conversion requires nothing more than installing a lock on the door and ordering a new sign. Growing numbers of public institutions are converting bathrooms to gender-neutral facilities to make it easier for families with multiple children, to increase flexibility of use, and to provide safe space for individuals who often find themselves harassed or feeling unsafe in typical gender-defined bathrooms. As part of our *RIC* witness, we are taking this step to assure safe space for everyone who comes into our church. In addition, we are expanding our hospitality of providing menstrual hygiene items in the women's bathroom stalls to include all of our bathrooms.

WOMEN'S FAITH TALK

Join us every third Thursday of the month from 10:00-11:30am for Women's FaithTalk, a 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.

HELLO CONGREGATION MEMBERS:

On behalf of Grace Council I would like to give you a brief update on some current topics of discussion on the Council. We would welcome your thoughts and feedback!

Worship Times: We are considering moving to one worship time year round at 9 am, with an education hour following the service for all age groups. This option was part of the questionnaire sent out last summer when we were looking for feedback on adjusting worship times, and there was interest in this possibility. This change would hopefully create a more robust single service for all members that also appeals to visitors that are considering joining our congregation.

Mission Partners: We will be meeting with a representative from the DuPage County Health Department at our August meeting. We are gathering information on how we can repurpose the space that will be vacated by the Food Pantry in a way that will best serve the community needs around us. Our location near a high school and public transportation makes us a good fit for many of their programs.

Constitution & Bylaws Update: We have a committee of three that are reviewing and updating our current documents and will also adjust our constitution to address any changes made at the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in August. Any constitution changes will be brought before the congregation for a vote.

Please contact any of our Council members with questions or comments on any of these topics. Susan Jacobson, Jon Milleville, Joe Jacobo, Lisa Goertzen, George Murray, Eva Holzapfel, Tom Langner, Jason Graf, Hannah LoGalbo and Pastor Melody Eastman.

Susan Jacobson
Council President



FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE



Play Group Fridays in August

Come join us at Lake Ellyn Park on **Friday August 9th & 16th from 8:30-10:00am**. Friends are always welcome to join!

Backpack Blessing

Calling all students, teachers, & ANYONE who carries a bag or briefcase to work each day! Come join us at the 9:00am Service on **Sunday, August 18th** for a special blessing to send you out into the world knowing that "God's Got Your Back!" Each participant will receive a tag to hang on their bag that says "God's Got Your Back!" Let Becky Ficarella know if you would like yours personalized with your name on the back.



Instant Pot Easy Meals

Do you have an Instant Pot that is sitting in its box? Are you terrified to take it out? I must confess that I felt the same way when I got mine! Come join me, Becky Ficarella, for a quick overview of how the Instant Pot works. I will share a couple of easy and fast recipes that your family will love! This class will gather in the Fellowship Room after 9:00am Service on **Sunday, August 25th**.

Grace Yoga in August

The Summer 2 Session will continue to meet in August in the Great Room. We will meet each Tuesday from 6:15-7:15pm. There is no class on August 6th. Mats and props are always available for use. \$10 drop-in fee if you did not purchase a package in July. All people are always welcome!



New Grace Music Ministry Opportunity: Generations Choir!

Grace will be offering a fun new opportunity for people of all ages to join: Generations Choir! How is this different from the Choir of Grace? This will be a monthly opportunity to gather all ages, including our youngest members, to learn and rehearse one new song and present that song on the following Sunday during the 10:15am service. **This group will typically meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.** The songs chosen will appeal to

all ages and sometimes utilize instruments, snapping, and clapping of our hands. This group will present their music in the balcony on the following Sunday morning. What a great way to involve the entire family or maybe a special "date" between a child and parent.

6:00pm will be a quick fellowship meal together. We will ask participants to sign up for a particular month to help provide the meal (think Lent Simple Supper style.) **We will rehearse our song from 6:45-7:15pm.** Please see Becky or Bradford with any questions!

Upcoming Fall Events

Rally Day and Church Picnic: Sunday, September 8th

Confirmation Parent & Student Meeting: Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00pm

First Day of Faith Formation: Sunday, September 15th

First Wednesday Night Confirmation: October 9th

Generations Choir Rehearsal & Dinner: Wednesday, October 16th at 6:00pm

Generations Choir Presents music during Service on Sunday, October 20th

Please let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions!

630-469-1555 x17 bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS

SAVE THE DATE: On **Sunday, September 1** we are planning a joint **God's Work Our Hands** event with Faith Lutheran and St. Luke Lutheran. More details will follow as they become available.

SUMMER COFFEE HOUR

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

CHURCH PICNIC

Come join us as **Grace Gathers Together** to kick off Rally Day with our **Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 8**. We will gather for **ONE service at 10:15am**, then gather out front for food and fun. We will have a bouncy house, of course, lots of good food, of course, and time to catch up with other Grace members and meet new ones. No need to bring anything, a free will donation will be present. All are welcome, invite a friend!

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We return to our regular schedule on **Sunday, September 15** with **two services at 8am and 10:15am** and Faith Formation at 9:15am.

WOMEN OF GRACE

Women of Grace will meet on **Thursday, July 25 and August 15 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.



WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	8:00 & 10:15am	Grace Lutheran Worship
Sunday	1:00-5:00pm	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	Woolly Knitters
Tuesday	1-3pm & 5-7pm	Food Pantry for Clients
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	8:00-10:00pm	Support Group
4th Thursday	7:00pm	Women of Grace (Reserve 22)
Thursday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
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 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**.

July Dates: 7/19, 7/26
August Dates: 8/9, 8/16

Bring a friend and join the fun!



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GRACE TO YOU

ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

September Issue
Due August 1

October Issue
Due September 4

SHOPPING CART BRIGADE



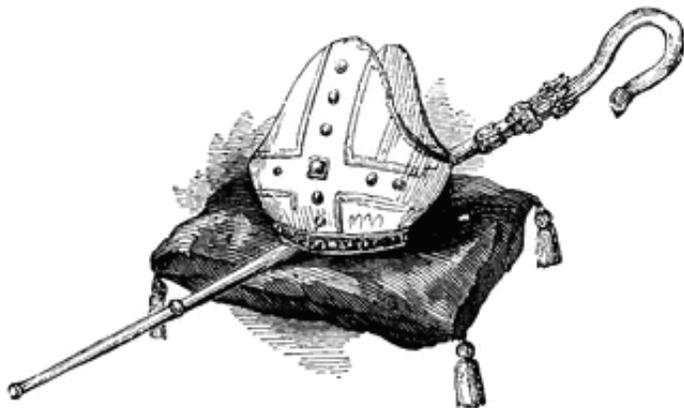
80 bags of food were collected along the parade route, along with \$272 in cash donations. Thank you to everyone who participate in this year's event.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT YEHIEL CURRY

Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry will be installed as bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod on Saturday, **October 19, 2019**, at 2pm at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477. A reception will follow. His term officially begins on September 1, 2019. He is replacing Bishop Wayne N. Miller who is retiring August 31 after two terms as bishop.

Pastor Curry served as pastor of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale since 2013, and as mission developer of Shekinah from 2007 to 2012. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995, and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2013.

All are invited to the installation and reception.



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
 Emergency Pastoral Contact: 630.674.2887
 Email: info@graceglenellyn.org

www.graceglenellyn.org

Every Member: Minister & Missionary!

Melody Eastman, Pastor
 Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
 Carole LoGalbo, M.S., LCPC Parish Counselor
 Barbara Sudds, Office Manager
 Bradford Thompson, Minister of Music

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, Zeferina Cuatzo and Susan Papierski for healing and strength.



Families of Darlene Clauss and Aleksandra Chernin for comfort in grief.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Anita Blakemore; Bob Clauss

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
	9:00AM	
6/2	73	\$7,351
6/9	72	\$2,136
6/16	87	\$7,620
6/23	74	\$3,876
6/30	65	\$4,335

Grace's total income through June 2019 is \$195,708.

