

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 SEPTEMBER 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

Most of you know I didn't start out my life as a Lutheran. Not even as a Christian, for that matter. My parents sort of assumed we were Christian by default, but we didn't go to church and didn't talk about God, so they never realized that there came a point when I believed God wasn't real.

When I did become Christian, I struggled a bit to find a communal expression of faith that fit. I was baptized in the Southern Baptist church, but I didn't last there very long because I couldn't accept the baptismal theology I was hearing (that baptism means we'll go to heaven while everyone else goes to hell).

When I was invited to go to a Lutheran church with a friend, I fell in love—with the liturgy, with the preaching, and *especially* with the sacramental theology (meaning, what we believe about baptism and communion). I loved hearing how baptism isn't just the thing we do so God won't send us to hell (what I call Fire Insurance Theology), but a promise we are given specifically *because we are also sent*. Baptism means you and I are called, not to tell people that we have the correct religion, but to embody and reveal the radical nature of God's love for everyone.

We're called to attract people to God by living a life that is so beautiful, so joyous, so abundant, that even suffering and death can't quench it. And let's be real, sometimes this beautiful, joyous, abundant life *is* lived out in the middle of struggles with depression, poverty, stress, addiction, and our own sin. But that's the miracle—that even in

the midst of our very real struggles, Christ gives us something *more*—and it's amazing, even in the midst of grief or pain. United with Christ in baptism, we're called to live in such a way that people look at us and think, "I don't know what they got but I want some."

Contrary to what the advertisers would have us believe, Jesus teaches us that this beautiful, joyous, abundant life doesn't come to us from a richness of possessions or position. It comes from the love of God revealed in Christ. (Yes, I know you know this. It bears repeating.) Our baptismal calling is to reveal that love by mirroring (not duplicating, but *reflecting*) the way Christ revealed it—in loving service. Every single baptized Christian has this calling.

We're going to mark the start of a new ministry year on Sept. 8 with **Grace Gathers**, a day of worship and food and good times with much-loved friends. As part of our celebration, we'll be remembering our baptismal identity, and giving thanks for a wide variety of ways we reveal God's love in service. And there's a lot to celebrate! There are a bunch of new ministries starting at Grace, along on-going ministries that have comforted and encouraged so many people. We have so many different kinds of gifts, and so many different kinds of people giving them. Could we be any more blessed?

So again, hear my thanks to you for your offering in service to your baptismal calling. And remember that no matter what stage of life you are in, no matter how "together" you think you are, God loves you and has a baptismal calling for you every single day of your life.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



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.

SUPPORT OUR GRACE TO YOU ADVERTISERS!

Thank you to the following Grace members for placing advertisements on the back page of our *Grace To You* newsletter:

Jennifer Langner, D.D.S. with *Always Great Smiles*;
Becky Ficarella with *Ficarella Wellness*;
Rob Granner with *Thrivent Financial*.

Thank you also to our new advertisers:

Made In Italy Trattoria
Burlingame Concrete Construction, Inc.

If you or know of anyone who may be interested in placing an advertisement, please contact LPI at 1-800-950-9952 or www.4lpi.com.

LET'S "SERVE BEYOND OUR WALLS" ON SEPTEMBER 1!

Grace members will have an opportunity to live out one of the tenets of our mission statement: Proclaim the Gospel; Build Community and Serve Beyond Our Walls on Sunday, September 1st when we will participate in the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. This event is being promoted church-wide as a celebration of who we are: one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. This year we are partnering with Faith Lutheran Church and St. Luke Lutheran Church. There are sign up sheets in the narthex with the various activities you can partake in. There are two activities at Grace, two activities at Faith and several off-site so there is something for everyone and for all ages. Wear your gold God's Work. Our Hands t-shirt if you have one! Please see Pr. Melody if you have any questions.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Starting on **Monday, September 9, 7:00pm**, the Monday Evening Bible Study group will read and discuss the second and third parts of Isaiah. This follows our study of Isaiah 1-39 in the spring of 2018. The study materials for which we have been waiting are still available.

Each part of Isaiah is unique. Building on a common theme which includes devotion to God alone and concern for one's neighbor, the three parts reflect the pre-exile, Babylonian exile and return from exile periods of the history of Israel. The second part contains the beloved Suffering Servant poems which we see as a prediction of the life and death of Jesus. We will use the Kerygma study guide, which relates the themes of each lesson to masterpieces of Christian art from the centuries.

The Monday night group has become cohesive over the years, sharing treats and conversation as well as our Bible study. Still, there is always room for more and we will make you feel welcome. See Fred Warnke, Mark Hamilton or Vince Hardt if you have not participated before and wish to join us now. We will make sure there are sufficient course guides available.

CHURCH PICNIC

Come join us as **Grace Gathers Together** to kick off Rally Day with our **Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 8th**. We will gather for **one service** and then move 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!



FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE

Rally Day & Church Picnic September 8th

Come enjoy one service on Sunday, September 8th. Immediately following the service join the congregation outside in the parking lot for our Church Picnic. There will be a bounce house, bags, and water balloon toss.

Register for Faith Formation in 2019/2020

You can begin to register your students for the new year in Faith Formation Ministry in August and September. There will be a registration station set up in the Narthex for students to be registered. This includes all Preschool - High School students.

First Day of Faith Formation is September 15th at 9:15am: Preschool - 8th Grade

Spark (Preschool-K), Shine 1&2 (combined class of 1st-5th Grade), Ignite (6th-8th Grade).

All three of these age groups will gather for class at 9:15am September 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Ignite (Confirmation) Programming Important Dates in September

Parent & Student Information Meeting: Wednesday, September 11th 7:00pm.

9:15am Sunday Morning Faith Formation: September 15th, 22nd, & 29th.

Confirmation Lock In at Grace! Friends are welcome! Friday, September 27th 7:00pm-7:00am.

PADS Service Opportunity in September for Ignite & Fusion School Students

Wednesday, September 4th come to Grace at 5:00pm where we will prepare a meal together for PADS. Join us for fun and fellowship as well as working on your cooking skills in the kitchen. Plan to stay for 60-75 minutes or so!

Women of Grace: September 26th at 7:00pm

Come join other women within the Community of Grace! We gather at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn at 7:00pm. Friends are always welcome to join us!

Grace Yoga Fall Session 1

Grace Yoga will offer an eight week session on Tuesdays. September 10th - October 29th there will be a one hour class offered from 6:15-7:15pm in the Great Room. You may purchase the entire eight week session for a discounted price of \$64 or you can drop in to any class and pay \$10.

Please let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions!

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

630-469-1555 x17

WOMEN OF GRACE



Women of Grace will meet on **Thursday, September 26 from 7:00-9:00pm** at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn. Come gather with women from Grace Lutheran Church for snacks and refresh-

ments. Fingers crossed in hoping we may be blessed with beautiful weather to enjoy the outdoor seating area. Friends are always welcome!

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PADS

1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) will be starting up again on **Thursday, September 4th** at 6:00pm and continuing through to Friday morning at 7:00am. Please contact Grace's PADS Coordinator, Joe Jacobo, at jl1jacob@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer on the first Thursday of every month September through May. Volunteers are needed to work shifts at the site between 6:00pm and 7:00am to set up the pads and dining area, prepare and serve the meals, prepare lunch bags for guests to take with them on Friday, and return the site to its original state for use by the church during the week. If you are unable to work at the site you may volunteer to provide food or beverages for the guests which can be dropped off at 1st Presbyterian Church on Thursday.

RUN 4 HOME BENEFITTING DUPAGE PADS

Bring your family, friends, congregants and co-workers to **DuPagePads' 15th Annual Run 4 Home on Saturday, September 21st - 8:00am.** Register to run or walk at <https://fundraise.dupagepads.org/event/dupagepads-15th-annual-run-4-home/e227640>

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 | Wooly 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 |

BUILDING USERS WANTED

The gym at Grace is available on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings as well as various other times during the week and on the weekend. If you know of anyone looking for weekly space; basketball, theatre, darts, exercise, instruction, etc. please have them contact the church office at 630-469-1555 or info@graceglenellyn.org.



GRACE TO YOU

ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

**October Issue
Due September 4**

**November Issue
Due October 2**

Hey y'all!

Another marvelous Summer means another Fall of music is just around the corner! This Fall, we have a number of exciting additions to our music program! Here's what you need to know:



1) Adult choir rehearsals resume Wednesday September 4th at 7pm! Sunday morning rehearsals will begin 45 minutes prior to service time.

2) In the interest of accuracy, fun, and inclusive language, Men's Choir and Women's Choir have new names! They will henceforth be known and referred to as "Swing Low" (formerly "Men's Choir") and "Higher Choir" (formerly "Women's Choir").

3) This Fall, we also say hello to a new choir-- "Generations"! More information to come, but this *occasional* choir will focus on simple, fun, engaging music that can be learned in one rehearsal, and sung the following Sunday! We'd like this to be an opportunity for anyone and everyone, regardless of previous experience, vocal ability, or being able to read music!

Excuses to not sing/play in a choir this season:

Possible excuse: "But Bradford, I'm tone deaf!"

My response: "We'll fix that."

Possible excuse: "I can't read music!"

My response: "You don't need to!"

Possible excuse: "But I can't sing!"

My response: "Not with that attitude!"

Here's the thing. We at Grace appreciate a vast array of different musical styles. Seriously...can you name another church that successfully intermingles classical, folk, trad Irish, Spirituals, praise, bluegrass, gospel, and countless global musics? In my time alone we've sung in English, Spanish, Swedish, Italian, Latin, Urdu, and Swahili! All of which is to say, I'm tremendously proud of all y'all's openness and flexibility when it comes to trying new things!

Bottom line--I want something for everyone. All of you are a part of this beautiful, welcoming community that is Grace, and I want every last one of you to feel empowered to raise your voice in song.

So come and sing (or play!!!) with us! I promise y'all won't be disappointed :)

Peace, and much love,
Bradford

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.



Congratulations to Paul and JoAnn Griffin on their 59th anniversary (9/4).

Families of Helen Dickerson and Mike Liberio for comfort in grief.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Anita Blakemore; Bob Clauss

NOSES AND NUMBERS

| DATE | ATTENDANCE | OFFERING |
|------|---------------|----------|
| | 9:00AM | |
| 7/7 | 60 | \$5,020 |
| 7/14 | 82 | \$7,138 |
| 7/21 | 69 | \$6,896 |
| 7/28 | 62 | \$2,026 |

Grace's total income through July 2019 is \$220,924.

