

## 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 2020**

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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

I hate to admit this, but every year I'm surprised by how much I enjoy Synod Assembly. For those of you who haven't ever been to one, it's the equivalent of a Congregational Annual Meeting, but for the whole Metro Chicago Synod. We do the same things we do at Grace's annual meeting—approve a budget, elect people to positions of leadership, pass resolutions. Those things are important, and I'm glad to be able to participate in them. But I gotta admit I don't necessarily look forward to them.

But the thing I *do* enjoy (and again, every year I'm surprised by how inspired I feel coming away) is the tremendous amount of time we spend talking about, hearing about, learning about *mission*. Every year, individuals, congregations, and collectives of congregations get up in front of everyone and talk about the ways their congregation has stepped out of the box (and building) and engaged in mission that is creative, innovative, transformative, and occasionally a bit off-the-wall.

And then we *also* hear about the wider Church, and the ways we are doing God's work in the world in ways most of us don't even recognize. But it's amazing, and I'm consistently glad and proud to be able to be part of the comfort and grace the ELCA carries into the world.

I'm feeling that same excitement around Grace these days. You all are *primed* for The Thing that God is calling us to, and I can feel the energy and excitement building. You know that we've been thinking about partnership and ministries that support the significant population (and needs) of seniors in our area. The more people talk, the more ideas are generated. And with every idea gener-

ated, I end up with a vision dancing in my head—of cooking classes and community meals, exercise classes geared toward seniors (three sessions a week, with strength training, stretching and yoga, with an on-site coach to help with individual needs!), support groups for managing anxiety or grief, or for people whose primary care-giver is wrestling with addiction. Music and art gatherings, book groups, theology conversations, movie afternoons, maybe the occasional happy hour. Connecting seniors who live on their own with young people from the high school who don't have a grandparent nearby. Building our opportunities for seniors to volunteer and serve with projects like the Community Quilters or the Pill Bottle Project. With organizations who have staff and skills we lack locating on site to keep it all going.

You probably have some ideas and thoughts, too. So this year, bring them to the Congregational Meeting on January 26. Go ahead—dream big and outside the box! While the work we do approving a budget and electing leaders is really important, it becomes a lot more exciting when we know the reason we're giving our dollars and our time is bigger than just us.

And if you're thinking, "We can't commit to anything while we're struggling with a deficit budget," lay that down. Committing to a vision that serves the people outside our doors (and worrying a little less about ourselves) is *exactly* the thing that will eliminate our concerns about deficits, and provide the sustainability of Grace's witness here.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you at the meeting!

*Pastor Heather*

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Join us on **Sunday, January 12** after worship to meet with Grace council for an open forum discussion of current and long range planning, finances, opportunities and challenges. Please share your thoughts in this comfortable, casual setting as a prelude to our upcoming annual meeting on January 26.

## A QUICK NOTE FROM THE TREASURER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 2020

On **Sunday, January 19** after the worship service, we will have a forty-minute Finance Presentation outlining the cost of supporting our Ministries at Grace for 2020.

The good news is that our Operating Budget for 2020 will look similar to 2019 but there will be slight changes to accommodate increases in insurance costs. The Presentation Handouts will highlight the changes between the 2020 budget items versus 2019.

The Finance presentation will also cover the challenge of our ongoing deficit and how the Mortgage Reduction Fund will be key to reducing it!

If you are curious, concerned or just like numbers, this presentation will be the session to ask questions before the congregation on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> officially votes on the 2020 Grace operating budget.

Thanks to everyone for their continuing stewardship.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Join us as we hold our annual congregational meeting following the service on the 26th. 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 - for 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!

## 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 15 at 11:15am**. All are welcome! Come join us!!

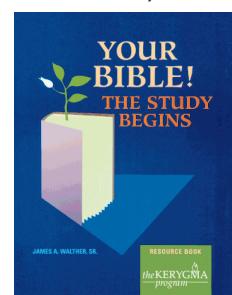
## MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Starting on **January 6, 7:00pm**, we will study **Your Bible! The Study Begins**. This study guide, prepared by Dr. James A. Walther, Sr., consists of seven sessions:

- What Is the Bible?
- How Did the Bible Come to Be?
- What Is the Old Testament About?
- What Is the New Testament About?
- How Has the Bible Been Preserved and Handed On?
- How Shall We Study the Bible?
- What Is the Place of the Bible in Our Lives?

This course offers an introduction to the library of books which are the foundation of our faith and provides a refreshing orientation to the Book. It opens a door of understanding to all other Bible study. While this will be a review and perhaps a fresh perspective for those who have been with us regularly, it should be of great interest to those who are now considering starting group Bible study after some time away. Dr. Walther is an ordained Presbyterian minister and spent his career as a professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A few years ago, we studied his four-part series **Great Themes of the Bible**, and many years back, **Revelation**.

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. The regular participants chose this topic with you in mind! Contact Mark Hamilton, mark.hamilton@ifsworld.com, 630-841-2941, or Vince Hardt, vvince2001@hotmail.com, 630-415-4600, if you have not participated before and wish to join us now. We will make sure there are sufficient course guides available.



**FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE****Sunday Morning Faith Formation 10:15-11:00am**

**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** Spark (Preschool-K), Shine (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet.

**Sundays, January 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>** there will be no Faith Formation Classes due to the Holiday Weekends

**Ignite Confirmation** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) will meet at and attend the **9:15am Service at First Congregational Church** in Glen Ellyn (located 1 block north of Grace on Forest Avenue) on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**. This is a part of our church visit curriculum to investigate how we are similar and different from our church neighbors. We will return to Grace to enjoy a brunch and discussion afterwards. Parents are invited to this event as well!

**Fusion High School Monthly Gospel Study:** This group will meet monthly in the Fusion Lounge.

Dominic LoGalbo will lead this group on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am**.

**Wednesday Night Ignite Confirmation** is on break but resumes **January 29<sup>th</sup>**! This group will meet each Wednesday Night at Faith Lutheran Church (41 Park Boulevard in Glen Ellyn) from 7:00-8:30pm. The sessions will feature a lecture from Pastor Joe Yucha, following with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students breaking into small group discussions to dive even deeper into the topic. Becky Ficarella will be on site to assist with Small Group Leadership. We will be on BREAK for most of January, but will RESUME again on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your Winter Break!

**Special Events in January**

**All Ages Barn Dance:** **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30pm**. Come join us in Grace Gym for live music, which includes a dance “caller” to tell the group which dance steps to follow. This is a great work out and a joyful time for all. Bring a friend and step to the beat!

**Generations Choir:** **Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm**. Have you always wanted to join choir, but you can’t read music? Does your 4 year-old long to sit in the choir loft and sing with the adults? Are you just too busy to commit to choir on a permanent basis? Are you already in Grace Choir and want to join this group too? Well, you all have a place in Generations Choir! We gather at 6:00pm to enjoy a potluck meal together. Check out the slat wall to sign up to bring a dish. We will finish up dinner by 6:30 or so, and plan to learn our song from 6:40-7:15pm. The group will present the song on Sunday, January 29th during the 9:00am Service.

**Women of Grace** meets **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00-9:00pm**. This month we are trying a new spot for dinner! A highly recommended restaurant called Pa Lian Burmese Restaurant at 254 E. Geneva Road in Wheaton. They do not serve alcohol but you are able to bring in your own. Friends are always welcome to join us.

**Grace Yoga** is taking a break in January. Grace Yoga will start up again on **Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**. See you next month!

Please let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions!

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org 630-469-1555 x17

## BLOOD DRIVE AT GRACE LUTHERAN

### JANUARY 5 9:00AM - 1:00PM



Appointments are encouraged!  
Please go to [https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/5581480](https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5581480) to schedule your preferred donation time!

**Who benefits from blood donation?** At Versiti Blood Center of Illinois, formerly Heartland Blood Centers, we never forget the patients who receive the blood we collect. Every unit of blood is collected from volunteer donors who meet specific criteria and have been screened according to strict guidelines. Every unit (pint) is collected, transported, tested and stored according to tightly-controlled procedures.

#### Examples of transfusion needs are:

Cancer: up to 8 units/month

Bone Marrow Transplant: up to 2 units/day

Liver Transplant: up to 100 units

Auto Accident: up to 50 units

Cardiovascular Surgery: 2-25 units

Questions? Please contact Brad Goertzen, Grace's Blood Drive Coordinator. [bradgoertzen@gmail.com](mailto:bradgoertzen@gmail.com) or 630-960-2000.

## VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CHORALE

As chance would have it, the Valparaiso University Chorale will once again make their way to Grace Glen Ellyn! They have prepared what I'm sure will be a spectacular concert for **Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.**

#### We are in need of two things:

-Hosts for the students the night of the concert and

-Food for the Choralians' dinner on the night of the concert

More information to follow, but please feel free to email me if you're able to help with either of these!

Get excited, my friends!!!

Peace,  
Bradford Thompson  
Minister of Music  
219-718-8879  
[Bradfordmthompson@gmail.com](mailto:Bradfordmthompson@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY BUILDING USAGE

Sunday	8:30am	Grace Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	9:00am	Grace Lutheran Worship
Sunday	10:15am	Faith Formation
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
2nd Monday	5:30pm	Executive Committee
2nd Monday	6:00pm	Grace Finance Ministry
3rd Monday	7:00pm	Grace Church Council
Monday	7:00pm	Bible Study
1st Tuesday	10:00am	Social Ministry
3rd Tuesday	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center Book Club
1st Tuesday	11:00-12:30pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
2nd Tuesday	11:00-12:30pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
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	Grace Property Ministry
Tuesday	6:15-7:15pm	Grace Yoga with Becky!
Tuesday	6:45-9:30pm	Society for Creative Anachronism
1st Wednesday	9:30-11:15am	Community Quilters
3rd Wednesday	9:30-11:15am	Community Quilters
4th Wednesday	10:00-Noon	Sr. Center Movie
3rd Wednesday	11:15am	Faith & Friendship Luncheon
Wednesday	12:30pm	Grace Lutheran Worship
Wednesday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
Wednesday	7:00pm	Grace Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	8:00-10:00pm	Support Group
3rd Thursday	10:00-11:30am	Women's FaithTalk
Thursday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
4th Thursday	7:00pm	Women of Grace
2nd Thursday	7:30-10:00pm	Trad Irish Music Session
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

Gingerbread House made by Spark & Shine students at their Advent Party on December 4 and submitted to the Glen Ellyn Historical Society.



**VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT!  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 WITH RUNA**

Join us for another evening of fantastic music with **RUNA**, who will make Grace the only local stop on their upcoming Midwest tour in February.

Celebrating its 10-Year anniversary, Celtic-American Roots music group RUNA continues to push the boundaries of Irish folk music into the Americana and roots music formats. Interweaving the haunting melodies and exuberant tunes of Ireland and Scotland with the lush harmonies and intoxicating rhythms of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues, they offer a thrilling and redefining take on traditional music.

RUNA consists of vocalist and step-dancer Shannon Lambert-Ryan of Philadelphia, Dublin-born Fionán de Barra on guitar, Cheryl Prashker of Canada on percussion, Jake James of New York on the fiddle, and Caleb Edwards of Nashville on mandolin and vocals.

Invite some friends to join you for this special event—they'll thank you for it! Info on tickets will be coming soon.

**GRACE FOODIES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

It's time to gather for fellowship and great food! Grace Foodies will be gathering on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at **Fire & Wine** in Glen Ellyn from 6:00pm-8:00pm. There are 28 seats available to be filled for this event, so be sure to sign up in the Narthex early! Childcare will be available at Grace from 5:45pm-8:15pm, with pizza, veggies, and fruit for the children to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there! Any questions? Please reach out to Heather Graf or Becky Ficarella.

**WOMEN'S FAITH TALK**

Join us every third Thursday of the month from 10:00-1:30am for Women's FaithTalk, a conversation and study group facilitated by Pastor Melody.

**ALL-AGES FAMILY BARN DANCE  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 FROM 2-3:30PM**

**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**

Dorothy Tracy, Rich Davison, Scott Kacz, Sigrid Elliott, Benjamin Cuatzo and Susan Papierski, for healing and strength.

Emerson Miller on her baptism.

Family of Fred Warnke for comfort in grief.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Farrel Benefield, Anita Blakemore; Bob Clauss, Evelyn Elson, Patricia Moore, Carol Peterson

**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		<b>OFFERING</b>
	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>12:30PM</b>	
11/3	93	4	\$6,090
11/10	103	6	\$4,860
11/17	98	18	\$8,838
11/24	78	12	\$5,162

Grace's total income through November 2019 is \$354,410 while expenses incurred during the same period are \$420,648.

**GRACE TO YOU**

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE**

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

**February Issue**

**March Issue**

**Due January 8**

**Due February 5**