

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 FEBRUARY 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

You've probably met people who describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious (SBNR)." I have quite a few good friends in this category myself—people I really like and admire. These folks find a spiritual life (however they choose to express it) important, but they don't belong to any faith community or identify with a particular faith tradition. Still, they look for meaning in the big picture, and feel some responsibility for living life in a way that benefits everyone.

I actually respect this in many ways. I've seen enough of the downside of "organized religion" to understand why people don't want to be part of it. My main critique of SBNR is that, for me, I would really like being able to feel spiritual without any real accountability other than to myself. I know myself; I would practice my spirituality only when doing so made me feel better, more comfortable. If being spiritual actually called me to take up someone else's struggle or produced any real stress for me, I'm afraid I would find every excuse in the book not to do it. And there wouldn't be anyone around to call me out.

The flip side of being SBNR, of course, is being "religious but not spiritual (RBNS)." Oddly enough, I've never heard anyone claim this as their life choice. But it's definitely a thing—which is why so many people have fled to the SBNR end of the faith spectrum. RBNS is the ultimate description of the worst of organized religion—total focus on upholding the institution, assuring its survival, using people to make sure the institution (and those within it who hold power) maintains its position, celebrating being

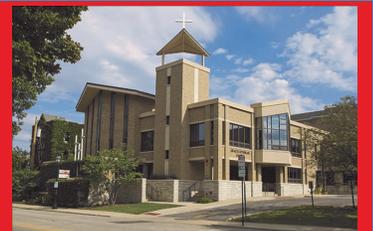
part of the In Crowd. Why that's not good doesn't need much explanation.

And of course, many people fall in the middle—part of "organized religion" but struggling with spirituality while at the same time wanting to be more spiritual. Or wanting to go deeper in their spirituality with a community of accountability around them, but struggling to figure out where they fit.

This tension is re-shaping the Church. SBNR may help individuals, but without accountability to hard work there isn't much collective power to do anything about the real hurts and evils in the world. SBNR stands to become as irrelevant as many people think organized religion is now. RBNS is the result when faith loses its focus—God. When the institution (which originally was meant to help people do the hard work of God's Will) loses its mission and turns all its energy to self-preservation, it becomes irrelevant too.

Our challenge, then, is to understand how much the world really needs a Church that is spiritual and religious. An organization where we hold each other accountable to the radical love God calls us to, and that equips us for the hard work that sometimes takes. An organization that has some power to change the world with that love, because there are enough people and resources to make a difference. An organization that has at its heart a spiritual, profound and deep desire for God—even more so than for the Church. A collective of people willing to set some things aside to make room for that relationship to grow, so that God's work also grows. Without strong connections to God, we simply won't have the strength to be the Church. The more spiritual we are individually, the stronger the Church will be.

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



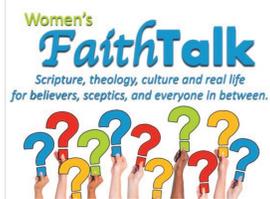
COMING UP IN FEBRUARY AT ADULT FORUM

Feb. 2 & 9: By request of the class, we'll do some more exploration of the dynamics of racism: how the word is used today, how the dynamics continue to play out, and how the conversation has changed since the 1960s.

Feb. 16: No class. Share a cup of coffee with some friends!

Feb. 23: To be determined. We'll give the class an opportunity to request a follow-up topic to clarify any issues raised in the conversation on racism—or have another session of Stump the Pastor before we begin our end-of-year emphasis on the Catechism!

FAITHTALK FEBRUARY 13



Beat the winter doldrums with another great movie! By request, we'll watch the 1998 movie *Smoke Signals*. The film is unique as an all-Native American production: producers, director, screenwriter, actors and technicians. Peter Stack of the *San Francisco Chronicle* gave the film a rave review, calling it, "unpretentious, funny and soulful ... Well-acted, well-written, with spare, beautiful imagery." Kevin Thomas of the *Los Angeles Times* described *Smoke Signals* as "a warm film of friendship and reconciliation, and whenever it refers to historic injustices or contemporary issues in Native American culture, it does so with wry, glancing humor. *Smoke Signals* is indeed poignant, but above all it's pretty funny." **FaithTalk meets every second Thursday of the month from 10:00-11:30am.**

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 26

This year, we will offer **two services with the Imposition of Ashes**—at 12:30 and 7:00. Each service will be preceded by a simple soup meal (at 11:30 and 6:00). Start your Lent practice with the support of the community surrounding you!



CHRISTMAS EVE DO-IT-YOURSELF NATIVITY



FAMILY MINISTRY PAGE

Sunday Morning Faith Formation 10:15-11:00am

Sundays, February 2nd, 9th, & 23rd Spark (Preschool-K), Shine (1st-5th grade), & Ignite Confirmation (6th-8th Grade) will meet. Please bring your bibles to class with you!

Fusion High School Monthly Gospel Study: This group will meet monthly in the 1st floor Fusion Lounge (sitting area in Becky's Office). Dominic LoGalbo will lead this discussion on **Sunday February 23rd, 10:15-11:00am.**

Wednesday Night Valentines' Party for Spark & Shine Students, Wednesday, February 5th

Calling all Spark & Shine students for the Annual Valentine's Party! Join us at 5:30pm for a special dinner, and then help to create Valentine Cards for our Grace Seniors from 6:00-7:00pm. Friends and parents are welcome to attend this event!

Wednesday Night Ignite Confirmation

Grace Lutheran Church & Faith Lutheran Church have partnered together for Wednesday Night Confirmation. 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 7th grade and 8th 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. This group will meet Wednesdays in February. **On February 26th is the Ash Wednesday Service. We invite you to come to Grace that day for Worship instead of class at Faith Lutheran.**

All Ages Barn Dance: Sunday, February 9th 2:00-3:30pm

The Barn Dance season continues at Grace! 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, February 19th 6:00-7:15pm

Bring a potluck item to share for dinner. We will meet for dinner from 6:00-6:45pm and then sing in the balcony from 6:45-7:15pm. Young and old are invited! You do not need to read music to join this group. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Women of Grace meets February 27th, 7:00-9:00pm

Come join us for fellowship and food. Our location is TBD, but we will meet from 7:00-9:00pm. Bring a friend and join in the fun!

Grace Yoga Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm

Grace Yoga will meet on the following Tuesday's in February: 2/11, 2/18, & 2/25. We meet in the Great Room on the 2nd floor. Mats & Props are available to use. \$10 drop in fee!

Please let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions!
bfcarella@graceglenellyn.org 630-469-1555 x17

AWWW! TOO CUTE!



This a note written on the backside of one of the envelopes from the offering basket. Sometimes the smallest things are what can get us through the day.



Ministry Associate Becky Ficarella receives help leading the Sunday morning Hymn Sing on Dec. 29th from a young worshipper who came forward to request "Jesus Loves Me."



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	9:00-11:00am	Food Pantry Board of Directors
Monday	11:00-12:30pm	Sr. Center Exercise Class
Monday	1:00-3:00pm	Food Pantry for Clients
3rd Monday	5:30pm	Executive Committee
3rd 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	Slancholedi Language School
Saturday	6:00-8:00pm	FCCC Worship

PILL BOTTLE MINISTRY

This ministry is moving forward under the direction of Mark Hamilton. **The ministry meets every Tuesday evening from 6-7:30pm upstairs in the gym kitchen.** Additional volunteers are always welcome and needed! If you know someone who needs **Community Service Hours**, they can contact Mark at 630-841-2941 to schedule their service.

Thank you also to friend of Grace, Karin Slenczka who brought a group of co-workers from Beacon Hill for a Day of Service. Cleaned bottles are delivered to Woodridge and used as packing materials for medical equipment being shipped overseas and then used to distribute prescription medicine in those countries.

BROWN BAG AND BUDGET

Bring lunch if you like, and join us for a small group to help encourage and guide anyone who wants to improve their money management skills. Whether you use a budget app, an Excel spreadsheet on your computer, or pencil and paper, we will share tips to help you balance your budget. Our first meeting will be on **Sunday February, 8 from 11:30-12:30**. If there is continued interest we will meet on the second Sunday of every month. Bring your laptop if you use one.

**GENERATIONS CHOIR
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**



Bring a potluck item to share for dinner. We will meet for dinner from 6:00-6:45pm and then sing in the balcony from 6:45-7:15pm. Young and old are invited! You do not need to read music to join this group. ALL ARE WELCOME!

SOCIAL MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Following service on **March 22** there will be a **“Green” St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck Brunch**. Bring your own non-disposable dishes, utensils, and a pot luck dish to share.

Progressive Dinner will be coming in the Spring. Details to be announced next month.

Women of Grace



Come join us for fellowship and food on **Thursday, February 27**. Our location is TBD, but we will meet from 7:00-9:00pm. Bring a friend and join in the fun!

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, February 19 at 11:15am**. All are welcome! Come join us!!



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

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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

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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, Kristy Wenberg, Paul Gergola, Benjamin Cuatzo, Karen Larson, and Susan Papierski for healing and strength.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

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

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	SUNDAY 9:00AM	WEDNESDAY 12:30PM	
12/1	65	6	\$ 5,650
12/8	110	5	\$ 4,773
12/15	80	12	\$13,726
12/22	115	xx	\$18,844
12/24	4p-147	10p-115	\$14,189
12/29	47	xx	\$ 980

Grace’s total income through December 2019 is \$416,660 while expenses incurred during the same period are \$465,529.

GRACE TO YOU

ARTICLE SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

March Issue Due February 5