

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 JUNE 2020
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Grace To You is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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GRACE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN THIS NEWS-LETTER ARE CONTINGENT ON THE STATEWIDE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER AND LIMITS ON GATHERING SIZE BEING LIFTED. PLEASE GO TO GRACE'S WEBSITE AT WWW.GRACEGLENELLYN.ORG FOR FURTHER UPDATES.

FROM THE PASTOR

A lot of people don't realize that laypeople have been leading worship themselves in their homes throughout history. Today's context, where we can't gather for church, feels so strange to us—but fact is, this has actually been the norm throughout much of our history. The head of the household would gather the family for scripture, hymns, prayers, and conversation about faith. Even if they did have access to a church for a service on Sunday, worship still happened in the home daily, led by the members of the family. In the early part of our country's history, people often had access to a pastor only a few times a year. (Which, by the way, is why they got into the habit of receiving communion only 2 or 4 times. Not because it was "too special" to have every week, but because it just wasn't available.)

Over time, people got used to having a pastor at their church every week, and got out of the habit of taking on the responsibility for worship themselves. Eventually, people started thinking that they *couldn't* lead worship themselves. Or pray. Or read the bible with any understanding. So now, when we can't gather for me to lead services, many folks are at a loss.

Online worship is certainly one response. But really, I

would rather have all of you regain some of your confidence in worshipping in your homes yourselves. You don't need special training or knowledge. I've provided you with a liturgy, and Bradford has recorded accompaniment, and I'm recording sermons for you. If you use a computer, you have access to everything you need online. If you don't use a computer, we're mailing you the bulletin. (If you need one and aren't getting one, call Barbara in the office and let her know.)

Only a few things are missing. Communion, of course is a big missing piece. (Both Bishop Eaton and Bishop Curry have referred to this period as "fasting" from communion. That approach makes sense to me. And, as I mentioned above, this isn't new to the Church.) And singing together is a pretty big loss. For those who don't use the internet, the sermon is missing too. But the main thing we're missing is the ability to worship with others—and I think that's really the hardest thing to lose.

So I have a suggestion. **Create a worship community.** (I know; you're wondering why I don't create one on Zoom. It's because I fear that would encourage you to think that only I can make worship happen. To be brutally honest, I don't want to unintentionally end up supporting an even greater tendency toward passivity when it comes to worship.)

So I'm asking you to reach out to a friend and ask them to worship with you on Sunday. You can connect over Zoom or Skype or Google Duo or Facetime—there are so many ways. (But all of them definitely work better

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GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



From the Pastor Continued from Page One

with a few people as opposed to dozens.) Decide who will lead each part, and do the service together. You've got the sermon videos to cover you!

And this is particularly important: Call someone who doesn't use a computer, and worship with them over the phone. Seriously, please do this; people who can't connect online are particularly in need of their faith community. Call me if you need suggestions.

Jon and Cathy Milleville have described to me how they do this. The member they call has a print bulletin mailed to them. They all take turns reading the parts of the service. When it's time for music or the sermon, Jon & Cathy play it on their computer and put their phone next to the speaker, so the other person can hear it. That's been working really well. And it means a lot more to all of them than watching something online. Most importantly, this approach doesn't leave anyone out like worshipping via Zoom does.

So, to keep us strong as a community, I'm asking you to take the lead. Don't let yourselves be fooled by false ideas that because you've never been a worship leader, you don't know how to do this. You do. And when you connect with someone this way, I guarantee you you'll feel the blessing. And you'll be keeping the Body of Christ at Grace nourished and strong.

I really miss you all; this is hard for me too. But I am encouraged every day when I hear stories like Jon and Cathy's (and others!) who make me realize that Grace is still busy being the Church. Thank you so much for your witness!

Pastor Melody

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DRIVE FOR THE GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY!!

The pantry thanks the Glen Ellyn community for such a generous response. Food can be dropped off in the west entrance vestibule at Grace Lutheran Church. Donations can be mailed to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry at 493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn 60137 or



made online
at www.glenellynfoodpantry.org.

QUICK FINANCIAL UPDATES

In March, Grace was able to combine generous contributions from our church members along with designated Church funds, in making a one-time payment of \$75,000 to reduce the principal on our Mortgage loan. This principal payment of \$75,000 reduced our monthly mortgage payment by \$559. We went from a mortgage monthly payment of \$7,993 down to \$7,434 reducing our budget on a yearly basis by 6,708. Thanks again to everyone! You all make a difference in Grace's future.

With a number of people helping, we were able to receive temporary Federal aid thru BMO-Harris bank. This temporary financial aid will help supplant our payroll so that we could continue to help pay key members of our staff thru the months of May and June.

We took another step to conserve our financial resources, we changed the terms of our mortgage loan payment for the months of May and June to an interest only mortgage payment. This should relieve some strain on our ongoing budget deficient in these challenging times.

Giving compared to last April was down by 20 percent (\$31,967 vs \$41,534) but considering we are in the middle of a pandemic it could be a lot worse.

Thanks to our congregation members, wonderful staff and our continued faith, we are holding our own so far financially.

Joe Jacobo
Council Treasurer

NO JUNE CALENDAR

Pastor Melody and the Executive Committee have been meeting every other week during the pandemic and it is their universal opinion that we clear all events from the calendar for June. We will allow our 12-step groups to meet if they are below 10 people and follow basic safety measures.

Please continue to check the website for additional updates. www.GraceGlenEllyn.org

DIGITAL SAFETY

It seems like scams and phishing are on the increase during this pandemic. So here are some **Digital Safety Measures** to help keep you safe:

Texts from an unidentified person who says, “Hi, do you have time to talk?”

Response: *Don't respond!* Don't text back even to ask who it is. They are just trying to find out if your number is active so they can sell your number to other marketers/scammers. Delete it.

Texts or emails that sound like someone you know, but the address is a little off:

Several folks at Grace got one of these purporting to be from Pastor Melody. The address was Rev. Melody Eastman, pastoralaffairs35@gmail.com. It looks legit—but that's not Pastor Melody's email address. Someone got her name off the site, created a reasonable-sounding account, and sent out a **request for gift cards** to others whose names show up on our site.

Response: Delete delete delete. *Don't send anyone gift cards!*

Emails from companies you do (or have done) business with, with a weird character in the “Sender” name:

Something like “Infínity” or “Cômcast”—with a letter type or a character that's out of place. These emails may tell you a charge has been submitted or your annual payment has been renewed. If you respond, again, they know they've got a live one—and may ask for sensitive account info to “correct the mistake.”

Response: Delete it. You haven't been charged. (But it's a good idea to check your bank and credit card balances regularly just in case.)

Emails with your password in the subject line—and a threat:

It's not uncommon for people to be able to hack sites and get your password. If that happens, don't panic. Go change your password on every site you've used it on.

Many of these emails are very upsetting because they claim that the sender has activated your webcam and recorded you doing something embarrassing or shameful. They ask for money or they'll make the video public.

Anybody can get these, and you may not have anything to worry about. But the fact is many people do go to certain websites that they wouldn't want others to know about—and they may be worried enough to respond to these emails.

Response: *Delete the email.* They don't have video, they're not going to blackmail anyone. Millions of these emails get sent out every year; they're trying to prey on fear, shame and panic. But it's still not a bad idea to keep your webcam covered with a piece of tape or paper when you're not using it.

Texts, emails, or FB Messages that say, “I can't believe you're in this video!” or “You gotta see this!” with a link attached:

That link is malware. Don't ever open *anything* if you don't know up front what it is. Many times, spammers will do a good job of masking this under what looks like legitimate business.

Response: If it looks like it could be legitimate, contact the sender *by another means* to ask if they sent it. If not, delete it *without clicking on the link.*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY - JUNE 2020

What an incredible two months it has been! I don't know about you, but for me, this has been and continues to be a challenging season to navigate. So many of our ways to connect and communicate have been dramatically altered, making it difficult to know when a new "normal" will begin to emerge again. As we continue to navigate this space of the unknown, I am committed to trying a lot of new things and approaches to staying connected as a community throughout the summer of 2020.

Community VBS Update

As most of you know, we have cancelled this year's Community VBS program for June 22-26th due to the Covid-19 Virus. We are currently seeking feedback from our participants, volunteers, and members for alternate ways the Community VBS Team can support you and your family this summer. This may look like a virtual week of VBS, weekly electronic lessons, craft kits being delivered to your door; the possibilities are endless.

Once we have the results of your feedback in, we will be able to determine the best approach to meet the needs of the community. I am excited to continue to team up with Faith Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn to offer this programming over the summer.

College Student Zoom

Grace College students, this summer may look different for a lot of you. Summer jobs may not be available, and you may be looking for ways to connect and stay busy over the summer. We want to help you stay connected with each other, your faith, and the community. We will begin a weekly Zoom to connect on Monday's at 12:00pm, beginning June 1st. We can determine together as a group what you would all like to focus on. Bible Study, weekly discussion topics, service projects such as helping our elder members with yard work or errands, etc. Email Becky Ficarella at bficarella@graceglenellyn.org for more details.

Confirmation & High School Biweekly Gospel Study Zoom

Dominic LoGalbo is leading a High School and Confirmation student biweekly Gospel Study via Zoom at 11:00am on Sunday mornings. Dominic will dig into the Gospel reading for the day, taking time to reflect on the wisdom and deeper meaning of the Word. This group will meet on Sundays June 13th & 27th. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Optional Confirmation Zoom Summer Course with Becky Ficarella

Confirmation is normally finished in April each year, with the group reconvening again in September. We have typically not offered any summer instruction due to the busy summer schedules that so many of us enjoy. This summer presents us with new challenges and new opportunity! I will be offering a weekly Zoom for Confirmation students to take a deep dive into the following topics: June will focus on Prayer, July will focus on Sin, and August will focus on Salvation. We will meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings. The dates in June will be 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, & 6/24. Please email me if you would like to be a part of this study. This is open to all incoming 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th grade students (since our 9th graders are awaiting their Service of Confirmation to be held in October).

How can I help?

Please do not hesitate to reach out if your family needs any support. I would love to be a resource for faith materials and resources to be used in your home for your family. Need a zoom date for the kiddos? Need extra craft supplies at home? Please do not hesitate to reach out to me so that I can support your family in whatever way that I can!

I close this month's message with a passage from Jeremiah. May we store this message in our heart when the days get tough. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family.
Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

CROP WALK UPDATE FROM MIKE PERTLE



First off, I am so thrilled with the generous support from our congregation for the Crop Walk. I really had some doubts trying to pull off the virtual walk but once again the support of our

members rose to the occasion. As of now we have \$12,925 and I have not heard back yet from several churches participating. **Grace is at \$2,180, a big THANK YOU should go out to all!!!**

I would like to thank everyone who has already participated and for those who are not comfortable donating online, checks can be mailed directly to me at my home address. Some of the usual contributors have already done so. My original thinking was to extend the cut off until June with the hope that Sunday services would reopen but that is not looking likely until after May. Checks should be made out to CWS/Crop and my address is 938 Dartmouth Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189. Thank you.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/2 Gregg & Shari Ruecker (36)
- 6/4 Matt & Michele Fenske (26)
- 6/5 Jason & Heather Graf (10)
- 6/5 Shane & Sooz Hufnagle (26)
- 6/6 Rob & Allison Hutzler (5)
- 6/11 Andy & Tracy Swiston (26)
- 6/16 Chuck & Jan Miller (58)
- 6/19 Tim & Linda Kelly (44)
- 6/22 Michael & Susan Pagnoni (18)
- 6/22 Tom & Elaine Roete (52)
- 6/23 Robert & Juanita Margetts (9)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 6/3 Vince Hardt | 6/19 Dr. Ray Dieter |
| 6/3 Andy Swiston III | 6/19 Jerry Miller |
| 6/7 Robert LoGalbo | 6/19 Mike Zimmer |
| 6/8 Dru Geraghty | 6/26 Donna Barber |
| 6/9 Amanda Streicher | 6/27 Lauran Berta |
| 6/10 Alexis Murawski | 6/27 Heather Graf |
| 6/11 Pr. Melody Eastman | 6/27 Laura Sugrue |
| 6/13 Max Hufnagle | 6/27 Judith Wagner |
| 6/16 Doris Nelson | 6/29 Jeff Drager |
| 6/17 Dr. Robert Dieter | 6/29 Mark Sudds |

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

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, Sigrid Elliott, Chris Danly, David Dean, Marty Friend, Bob Beckman, Chuck Beckman, Susan Papierski, Mark Frerichs, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

Family and friends of John Nelson, The Rev. Roy Wilhelm, Annette Westbrook, and loved ones lost to the Covid-19 virus for comfort in grief.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Anita Blakemore; Bob Clauss, Evelyn Elson, Carol Peterson, Norma Petersen

NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	
4/5	xx	xx	\$ 10,695
4/12	xx	xx	\$ 10,570
4/17	xx	xx	\$ 3,705
4/26	xx	xx	\$ 4,212

Grace's total income through April 2020 is \$126,4500 while expenses incurred during the same period are \$166,095.