

## 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 AUGUST 2020**  
**1085420-08**

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

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### FROM THE PASTOR

Remember 5 years ago when so many of my newsletter articles were about “change is hard!”? Ha! If we’d known then what we know now....

You may realize that these articles are written almost a month before you get them. The assumption has always been that what we write will still be relevant a month later; not too much will have changed, after all. Then 2020 happened.

Change is hard. ‘Tho it does seem like we’re getting used to it.

I have to confess to having very mixed feelings about this year and all its changes. I find myself having to hold seemingly contradictory emotions together at the same time. I’m beyond grieved and horrified by yet more deaths of unarmed black people dying in police custody, and by the upsurge of videos and recordings of blatantly racist attacks by white citizens against black citizens. I’ve been reading *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, and I’m horrified by what I haven’t seen right in front of my eyes. I’m grieved by the loss of income and lack of access to medical care for low-wage workers during this pandemic, by the financial devastation faced by so many small business owners and employees, by the catastrophic realities in families who have lost loved ones or who face life-long physical challenges from the aftermath of COVID-19. There has been So Much Pain.

And at the same time there have been so many things I’m beyond grateful for. I’m grateful for the fact that maybe, just maybe, our society will see our way to changing our

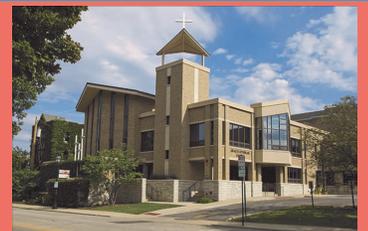
expectations that police handle *all* of our societal problems without adequate resources or training or mental/emotional support, while being expected to cover for their colleagues’ poor behavior. I’m grateful for the voices calling me to take a hard look at systems that I assume are working for everyone. I’m hopeful that maybe we’ll stop equipping our community police with cast-off military gear as their best (only) response to the crisis of drug use and addiction.

I’m grateful that people are now paying more attention to the inequities in pay, worker benefits, and access to health care. I’m grateful that many businesses are realizing they can allow their employees more flexibility and life balance. I’m grateful for space to slow down as a society and discover some things we might want to reclaim. I’m grateful that *some* people are discovering both the need and the ability to *communicate* (not just shout) across differences of politics, race, status, experience—and finding stunning hope and sacred beauty in that space.

This is a lot of change—for good and for bad. The only way we handle so much change while keeping our balance is by making sure we’re standing on solid ground. For me, that ground is the Word—grace in the knowledge that I am a messed-up, sinful person who has been inexplicably loved and forgiven in Jesus. And *that* helps me love my neighbor enough to listen, to respect, to ask, to speak—and to work for the change that brings us all good things. That’s called manifesting the Reign of God, and if we’re truly willing to seek it, humbly and consistently, God promises to bring it. That hasn’t changed at all.

*Pastor Melody*

**GRACE TO YOU**  
*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW WHEN WE RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP RETURN DATE IS STILL UNDETERMINED

### PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED

Either register online at our website, [www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org), or call the church office the week of the service you wish to attend. If you are willing to serve as a Greeter/Usher, please register separately from any family members attending with you. We need 5 people per week to assist with guiding members in following new practices.

If you are registering for worship (only), please include yourself and anyone attending with you. If you register for worship and then find that you will not be able to attend, please email [webmaster@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:webmaster@graceglenellyn.org) to update.

Walk-ins will be asked to wait outside until 9:00. If we have not reached our 50-person limit at 9:00 (regardless of registration) walk-ins will be seated at that time. This means that if you have registered to attend, you need to arrive before 9:00.

All worshippers over 2 years old will be required to wear properly-fitting masks. This is important to keep others safe, in case someone who is a carrier but showing no symptoms comes to church. Wearing a mask is not primarily about protecting yourself; it is about protecting/loving your neighbor.

Worship resources for at-home use will continue to be available on the website.

Greeters/ushers will seat you and assist worshippers in maintaining social distance in the pews. We will be using only every other pew.

We have removed the cushions from the pews where worshippers will be seated. If you need a cushion, please bring one from home. (We are storing cushions on pews where no one will sit. Don't sit in those pews.)

The Overflow Room/Nursery is closed, as is the PrayGround. Parents, please bring quiet toys or activities for your children to sit in the pew with you.

Following the service, we will ask everyone who can to sanitize their seating area with cleaning supplies we will make available. This will make things easier for the after-worship sanitizing crew, which will clean any remaining areas. (We'll explain more when you get there, but it will be easy!)

Note that the following changes will be made to worship at this time: No singing; No community responses or prayers; No communion; No shaking hands or passing the peace; Entry and exit through designated doors; No congregating in the building before or after service.

Yes, we're also very sad about these changes. But our first priority is keeping everyone safe, so we appreciate your help in following the new procedures.

### Greeters/ushers will assist worshippers in maintaining social distance in the pews:



Seating in every other pew as marked



3 or more from one household in the middle with no one at the ends



1 or 2 from the same household at either end with no one in the middle  
(2 households per pew)



## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY**

### **Grace Youth Gospel Study Zoom with Dominic LoGalbo**

We have had wonderful success with our Gospel Study Zoom this summer. This offering is available to our Confirmation and High school students. We will continue our study biweekly on the following August dates; Sundays 8/9 & 8/23 @ 11:00am. Becky Ficarella will email out the Zoom link during the week before. Email her for the link or with any questions.

### **Faith Formation Offerings in the Fall**

At this time, we are not going to be offering in person instruction for Faith Formation this fall. Like many organizations, we have had to look at our facility capability and our availability of volunteers to create a safe and clean environment.

Preschool and Elementary School Faith Formation will be offered through pre-recorded lessons. Those links will be made available weekly to each family via email and likely the website too. We will email home any worksheets needed and/or may do a monthly drop off of supplies so that your family will have the needed parts to create crafts that would normally have been available in class.

Confirmation & High School Faith Formation will be offered live via Zoom. There is still a lot of planning going on with these programs, and we will be updating those families via email in the coming weeks. We may have an opportunity to meet in a socially distant way for service work, but we will assess the safety of this type of gathering on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Becky Ficarella.

### ***A note from Mrs. Ficarella:***

Some of you may or may not know that we are expecting a baby girl in November. We are very excited for this beautiful blessing in our family! This will mean that I will be taking maternity leave from about mid-November through the New Year. As you can imagine, we are excited but extremely cautious with how much or often we are in large group settings. Once we enter the fall, I will likely continue to work from home, preparing lots of recorded lessons and participating in Faith Formation via Zoom as stated above. You may not see me in worship on Sunday, but I am still here! I may need to ask for parents to sit in on Zoom calls that I would normally attend during the maternity leave, so please let me know if that is something you might be willing to do.

With Thanks!

Becky

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

[bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org)

**WOMEN OF GRACE ZOOM,  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00PM**

Do you miss going out for dinner and drinks as a group!? We would love to offer this from the comfort of your own home. Log into Zoom with the link that will be sent out via E-Blast (it will also be listed on our Women of Grace Facebook Group).

Bring your favorite beverage and snack and pull up to your computer or phone for some fun fellowship and catching up.

Contact Becky Ficarella with any questions.

**PREPPING FOR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY VBS**

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for our virtual community VBS program. The bags are packed and ready to go!!



**GRACE SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP ZOOM  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 11:00AM**

Are you missing your Grace friends!? We are too! Since we can't gather in Fellowship in person after services on a Sunday, we are going to offer a virtual Fellowship hour via Zoom on Sunday, August 2 at 11:00am. A link to join will be sent out in an E-Blast the week leading up to August 2.

Reach out to Becky Ficarella with any questions.



**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 8/4 Amanda & Matt Streicher (2)
- 8/11 Jean & Jerry Jeske (58)
- 8/11 Jeff & Jessica Drager (2)
- 8/15 Rob & Sabrina Granner (5)
- 8/20 Tom & Kim Wiebe (37)
- 8/21 Bob & Dorothy Stein (66)
- 8/27 Joe & Donna Jacobo (24)
- 8/29 Sean Nelson & Robin Hulshizer (28)



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8/1 Dominic LoGalbo     | 8/15 Lynn Murawski         |
| 8/2 Cheryl Huizenga     | 8/16 Erin Ruecker          |
| 8/2 Tim Loftus          | 8/16 Kim Wiebe             |
| 8/4 Greg Barber         | 8/16 Tom Wiebe             |
| 8/4 Matt Fenske         | 8/17 Shirley Sauerman (93) |
| 8/5 Jake Jacobson       | 8/22 Carol Wandke (90)     |
| 8/5 Bonnie Pasbrig      | 8/23 Delaney Bethel        |
| 8/7 Cathy Milleville    | 8/24 Jim Kregor            |
| 8/9 Beth Bruning (93)   | 8/24 Nancy Lantz           |
| 8/11 Heather Lewis      | 8/24 Bonnie Paganis        |
| 8/11 Sandra Venturoni   | 8/25 Zachary Kregor        |
| 8/12 Katherine Anderson | 8/26 Norma Petersen (93)   |
| 8/12 Kristine Anderson  | 8/28 Sean Nelson           |
| 8/15 Robert Dieter, Jr. | 8/31 Daniel Dean           |
| 8/15 Joe Jacobo         | 8/31 Jake Koors            |

**HOW TO WEAR FACE MASKS PROPERLY  
GUIDANCE FROM MAYO CLINIC**

Cloth masks should have multiple layers, and should fit snugly to the face. Masks must be worn over both mouth and nose!

We have some spare masks available in adult and child sizes if you don't have one, or yours isn't adequate.

- Place your mask over your mouth and nose.
- Tie it behind your head or use ear loops and make sure it's snug.
- Don't touch your mask while wearing it.
- If you accidentally touch your mask, wash or sanitize your hands.
- Remove the mask by untying it or lifting off the ear loops without touching the front of the mask or your face.
- Wash your hands immediately after removing your mask.
- Regularly wash your mask with soap and water in the washing machine. It's fine to launder it with other clothes.

**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, Sigrid Elliott, Chris Danly, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Anita Blakemore, Bob Claus, Evelyn Elson, Carol Peterson, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**UPDATE ON FINANCE. . . .**

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Grace's Ministries in these uncertain times. Every donation is needed for Grace to keep its doors open so please check and make sure your giving is up to date. From your Treasurer, Joe Jacobo

**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	
6/7	xx	xx	\$ 9,635
6/14 & 21	xx	xx	\$ 6,740
6/28	xx	xx	\$ 4,851

Grace's income, minus the PPP Gov't Aid, through June 2020 is \$183,790 while expenses incurred during the same period are \$227,784.