

## 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 OCTOBER 2020**

**1085420-10**

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

Non-Profit Organization

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### FROM THE PASTOR

I have to be honest, I've wished for years I had a new approach to the annual "It's Time for the Stewardship Campaign!" pastor's letter. Be careful what you wish for, huh?

"Stewardship In a Time of Pandemic" sounds like an invitation to expect the absolute worst when it comes to a request for financial support. But I have to say that I'm actually extremely encouraged and hopeful about our current financial position, and what it presages for our future ministry. Don't get me wrong—giving has definitely been down this year. Many of our folks have seen job and income loss, and the general anxiety of—well, everything—has led others to reconsider what they feel comfortable releasing back to the ministry of the Church.

But many others have been able to maintain their commitment even though the job market and overall economic picture remain uncertain. (This is one of the more challenging aspects of discipleship—the spiritual discipline of figuring out how to be wise and faithful with money without succumbing to either magical thinking or fear.) And we were able to obtain a PPP Loan that has helped us a great deal, balancing out a fair part of the drop in giving.

So here's what's different about this year's pastoral encouragement to respond to our Stewardship Appeal: If even a few people go a little bit over and above in their current giving between now and the end of December, **we stand a good chance of ending this year with no deficit whatsoever**. Friends, that hasn't hap-

pened in a long time—but we can make it happen this year without too much extra stress. That would put us in an excellent position to build those partnerships in our building that will help us pay off the mortgage, while growing new ministries that show Christ's love to the folks who live right around us. This is pretty exciting stuff!

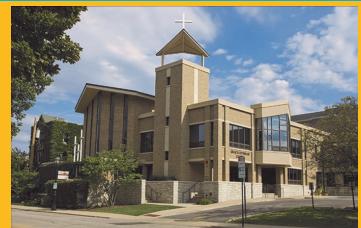
And if you are able and called to do a little bit *more* than a little bit more, you can build Grace's future mission by supporting the *Eliminate the Comma! Mortgage Reduction Drive* over and above your General Fund commitment. We need only \$40,000 to get our mortgage balance *below \$1,000,000*. We could get there if 100 people gave an extra \$8 each week for the next year, or if 50 people gave an extra \$16 each week, or if 25 people gave an extra \$32 each week. **Making this goal will have a huge impact on our future budgets** by lessening the stress our mortgage puts on our finances. Then we can channel those funds into the new and innovative ministries that make an impact on the community around us and draw people to the strength and hope of the Gospel. (But one reminder: We still need your full support for the General Fund. It doesn't help us that much to pay off the building if we lose our ongoing ministry!)

You'll be able to offer your commitment this year either by mailing in a physical Commitment Card, or by submitting your commitment online. Remember that pandemic or no, God has a future for the witness and call of the Church—and you are part of it.

*Pastor Melody*

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



**HOUSE CHURCH WORSHIP  
VIA PHONE OR INTERNET  
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30AM!**

Our "House Churches" meet via Zoom or by calling in by phone. Pastor Melody will join one House Church each week on a rotating basis to celebrate communion. If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we'll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. Inviting friends to join us is always welcomed! Register online for a House Church at [grace-glenellyn.org](http://grace-glenellyn.org) (on the main page Announcements).

**TUESDAY EVENING HOUSE CHURCH**

Want to attend a House Church, but Sunday morning at 9:30am doesn't fit your schedule? **We are now offering a 7:00pm House Church service.** This is on a trial basis during the months of September and October. If you would like to sign up for this particular group, please register through the Grace website, indicating that you are interested in the Tuesday Evening group. Missed a Sunday service and just want to join in on a Tuesday to make it up? No problem. The Zoom link to join will be sent out on a Tuesday through the *News From Grace!* e-blast so that you can participate as well. Any questions may be directed to Becky Ficarella.

**FELLOWSHIP AT ST. JAMES FARM  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AND  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**



We are so excited to gather for some social distance fellowship with you on Sunday morning at 11:30am at St. James Farm located at 25541 Winfield Road in Warrenville. This is a fellowship event only and NOT a worship service. We will still be virtually meeting with our House Church groups at 9:30am. Please remember to bring your face mask, and a sack lunch if you would like to. There is some seating available at picnic tables, but bringing a blanket or lawn chair is a good idea too. We look forward to seeing you and having a nice outdoor visit. We had close to 30 participants at our August outing!

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2021**

*With a grateful heart for God's boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian stewardship, I/we make this commitment to Christ's church and this congregation.*

With 2020 being such a chaotic and unnerving year it's easy to overlook things in life. So we are giving you a gentle reminder that Grace will be sending out commitment cards mid-October. Please fill in your pledge amount for 2021 to help Grace Church continue its mission of Proclaim, Build and Serve to our community. Return the commitment card at your earliest convenience and at the latest by mid-January. The returned commitment card will help Grace form a financial perspective on what services can be provided to our members and the community in 2021.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, volunteerism and support of Grace in these trying times.

In Christ your Grace Finance Team

**Commitment Card Example**

**Church is:** \$\_\_\_\_ per week or \$\_\_\_\_ per month or \$\_\_\_\_ per year  
**Mortgage Reduction is:** \$\_\_\_\_ per week or \$\_\_\_\_ per month or \$\_\_\_\_ per year  
**OR** \_\_\_\_ I/We will give as we are able but prefer not to disclose an amount at this time.

**ELIMINATE THE COMMA!  
MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

With grateful thanks to Grace members and friends who have contributed to this campaign, and the matching funds provided by Grace, we were able to make a \$75,000 buy-down payment on our mortgage this past April. This lowered our monthly payment from \$7,993 to \$7,434 resulting in \$559 savings per month or \$6,708 per year. But we did not eliminate the comma! Our current loan is \$1,042,300! We have \$10,910 in our Mortgage Reduction Fund but the lender requires a minimum of \$50,000 for the next buy-down payment. Please consider donating to this fund in addition to your contribution to Grace's Operating Budget. Please indicate it is for the Mortgage Reduction Fund. Any amounts given will get us closer to the next buy-down and another reduction in our monthly mortgage payment. Let's eliminate the comma! Thank you.

## **GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY**

### **VIRTUAL FAITH FORMATION IS UP AND RUNNING ON THE GRACE WEBSITE!**

You should have received an invitation by Email by now to register for a sign-in to the Grace Virtual Family Faith Formation page on the website. If not, please reach out to Becky Ficarella to get registered! We are utilizing this approach because the lesson links will contain copyrighted material that we cannot issue for free on the website. Since Becky will be on Maternity Leave in November-January, we needed an easy option for access to the entire Congregation!

We porch dropped kits of materials for the first 6 weeks of classes during the week of September 14. There will be an additional in drop off in October to last through November, December, & January lessons. The first two lessons for September covered the 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Classes offered in this format:**

**Little Lights: For a family with Babies – Toddler age 2:** These lessons include a simple prayer, a story read via video, a coloring page and a simple song. We will begin with stories in the Old Testament and end the school year in the New Testament.

**Spark: Preschool-Kindergarten:** These lessons include an Opening & Closing Prayer, Bible Story video reading, Video lesson with a recorded follow up discussion, a craft, and a song to sing. All lessons will follow the Lectionary Calendar for this year. This means your children will be studying the same Gospel and readings as you do that week in Worship! Your porch packets will include a family sheet each week that will help the entire family to focus on the past week's lessons. It contains great questions for dinner discussion and activities to keep your family focused on your Faith together.

**Shine: 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** These lessons include an Opening & Closing Prayer, Bible Story video reading, Video lesson with a recorded follow up discussion, a craft/activity sheet, and a song to sing. Some lessons will separate out different activity sheets for 1-2<sup>nd</sup> graders and different ones for 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders to ensure the concepts and abilities are skill level appropriate. All lessons will follow the Lectionary Calendar for this year. This means your children will be studying the same Gospel and readings as you do that week in Worship! Your porch packets will include a family sheet each week that will help the entire family to focus on the past week's lessons. It contains great questions for dinner discussion and activities to keep your family focused on your Faith together.

### **9AM LIVE SATURDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP ZOOM FOR ALL STUDENTS PRESCHOOL-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WITH CINDY DRAGER**

Mrs. Drager is hosting a Live Saturday Morning Zoom at 9:00am for our children to stay connected and have fun in the Word! There will be a lesson, music, and craft ideas too. All materials to participate were dropped off the week of September 14<sup>th</sup> in the same delivery as the Faith Formation materials. The Zoom lasts for 30-40 minutes. What a great alternative to Saturday morning cartoons, as your children will enjoy Fellowship and Fun! The Zoom link for this event will be emailed out to you weekly. Please email Becky Ficarella with any questions!

### **IGNITE: CONFIRMATION ZOOM PROGRAM PLANNING THROUGH JANUARY 2021**

Confirmation is up and running on Zoom! We have planned a schedule that allows our group to connect weekly, alternating Wednesdays & Sundays. Zoom link is emailed out weekly. It is not too late to join Confirmation!

Email Becky Ficarella with questions. The dates to meet are listed below.

#### **Sunday Morning 1-hour Gospel Study @ 11:00am with Dominic LoGalbo**

October 11 & 25; November 8 & 22; December 6; January 10 & 24

#### **Wednesday Evening 1-hour Confirmation Discussion @ 7:30pm with Pastor Melody**

October 7 & 21; November 4 & 18; December 2 & 16; January 20

#### **Fusion: High School: Sunday Morning 1-hour Gospel Study @ 11:00am with Dominic LoGalbo**

The Gospel Study is a combined study with Confirmation Students. Come join us for great discussion and ways to apply these lessons to our lives. October 11 & 25 will be the dates we meet this month. Email Becky Ficarella with any questions!

*Friends are ALWAYS welcome to join in our Virtual Programming! Email Becky for more information! bficarella@graceglenellyn.org.*

**BLOOD DRIVE****SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 9:00-1:00PM**

From Brad Goertzen: Usually we try to have a summer blood drive but for several reasons we have been unable to do so this year. Versiti, formerly Heartland, was very understanding when we had to cancel our July standing appointment.

However, they have contacted us again because they are in need of donations now more than ever. They have assured us that they can safely coordinate a drive where we all are physically distanced and protected with masks. A Q&A handout is available if you have questions about the safety of donations during this pandemic.

Additional good news is that every donation taken will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies. This will confirm whether or not you have been exposed and recovered from virus.

Please consider giving a donation and passing along the request to friends and family. You can sign up today at the following link to donate.

[https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/5580681](https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5580681)

### **WOMEN OF GRACE VIRTUAL ZOOM 7:00PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**



We will meet via Zoom for fun and fellowship! Pull up a chair with your favorite beverage and snack and join the other Women of Grace for online fun. The Zoom link will be posted in the *Facebook Women of Grace* group and will be sent out in an e-blast as well. Hope to see you there!

### **VILLAGE OF GLEN ELLYN ARTICLE**

The Village of Glen Ellyn was recently featured in the August issue of *West Suburban Living* with a 7-page spread. This is the link to the article.

[https://www.glenellyn.org/DocumentCenter/View/2037/WSL\\_GLEN-ELLYN-TOWN-FOCUS\\_08\\_20](https://www.glenellyn.org/DocumentCenter/View/2037/WSL_GLEN-ELLYN-TOWN-FOCUS_08_20)

**PADS**

PADS will be proceeding this fall but in a reinvented way with numerous improvements due to COVID. Hotels continue to be a part of the solution, but the PADS organization is more focused than ever on finding permanent housing for our guests. PADS has been forced to find a more sustainable site model for our guests and they are doing a commendable job under these stressful conditions.

For this upcoming PADS season a new model will be used so both volunteers and guests can stay safe. PADS found having more stable and predictable housing has allowed guests to get the case management services they need, so this will be incorporated into the new model.

The changes to PADS will be:

- A static site model, for the time being. Guests will spend two to three days at one site then move to the next site, ideally the sites will be near each other.
- Sites will accommodate 20 to 25 guests, the rest will be in permanent housing or hotels.
- No volunteer contact with guests at all. PADS staff will stay at the site overnight; set-up, food drop off, and clean-up will happen when guests are not on site.
- Sites are yet to be determined and the volunteer coordination is being worked out.
- Lots of details are still being worked on; COVID procedures and health code are being worked on in conjunction with the DuPage Health Department.
- The earliest possible start date is in October.

More details will be coming out soon. In the meantime, please continue providing needed supplies, a list is located on the PADS website. <https://dupagepads.org/solutions/needed-items/>

Thank you for all of your support and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

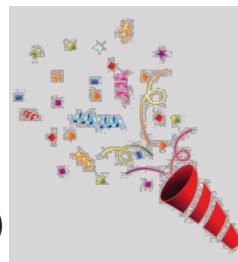
Thanks,

Donna Jacobo, Grace PADS On-site Food Coordinator  
(630) 740-4527, donnahjacob@yahoo.com

Joe Jacobo, Grace PADS On-site Volunteer Coordinator  
(630) 740-4527, jl1jacob@yahoo.com

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10/2 Rich & Sue Davison (39)  
 10/3 D. LoGalbo & L. McMillen (22)  
 10/8 Nick & Becky Nelson (15)  
 10/10 Jake & Jessica Koors (12)  
 10/13 John & Kim Jokela (36)  
 10/13 Mike & Lois Pertle (19)  
 10/20 Mark Hamilton & Kim Darlin (24)  
 10/31 Kevin & Meredith Doyle (5)

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 10/1 Hannah LoGalbo  | 10/17 Farrel Benefield  |
| 10/2 Rich Davison    | 10/17 Madalyn Schumaker |
| 10/2 Alison Hutzler  | 10/17 Rebecca Youmans   |
| 10/2 Rob Inzinga     | 10/18 Lauren Marquardt  |
| 10/2 Russ Schumaker  | 10/19 Carl Fenske       |
| 10/3 Mark Murdoch    | 10/19 Aubrey Graf       |
| 10/5 Bob Lewis       | 10/22 Sam Hufnagle      |
| 10/5 Kathy Maras     | 10/23 Tom Roete         |
| 10/5 Gregg Ruecker   | 10/24 Alex Goertzen     |
| 10/5 Donna Stephan   | 10/26 Elaine Roete      |
| 10/5 Stacey Wagner   | 10/28 Violet Miller     |
| 10/7 Pat Danly       | 10/28 Sarah Swiston     |
| 10/10 Ken Frank      | 10/28 Basia Yount       |
| 10/11 Shelby Inzinga | 10/31 Danny Anderson    |
| 10/12 Jose de Leon   | 10/31 Lynn Breitling    |
| 10/12 Daina Ellerth  | 10/31 Rebecca Ficarella |
| 10/16 Mark Danly     | 10/31 Krista Lawrence   |
| 10/16 Ethan Roete    |                         |

**DUE TO THE USE OF THE GYM BY THE FOOD PANTRY FOR FOOD SORTING AND STORAGE, THE GYM WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ANY GROUPS UNTIL SEPTEMBER OF 2021. THE FOOD PANTRY WILL BE MOVING TO THEIR NEW LOCATION NEXT TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH BY AUGUST OF 2021.**

**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**

Marilyn Goodrich, Dorothy Tracy, Sigrid Elliott, Chris Danly, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

Family and friends of Albert Wilhelm, brother of Helen Sladek; and Norm Wandke, Carol Wandke's husband for comfort in grief.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

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

**NOSES AND NUMBERS**

DATE	ATTENDANCE		OFFERING
	SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	
8/2	xx	xx	\$ 2,320
8/9	xx	xx	\$ 9,125
8/16	xx	xx	\$ 5,810
8/23	xx	xx	\$2,135
8/30	xx	xx	\$6,578



Grace's income, minus the PPP Gov't Aid Loan, through September 2020 is \$242,051 while expenses incurred during the same period are \$299,585.