

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 NOVEMBER 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

Well, here we still are. Pandemic 2020 is still a thing, and we're all getting really *really* tired of it. I thought it was awful enough to miss Holy Week and Easter. Then we missed Pentecost and Confirmation. And now we're looking at missing All Saint's Sunday and very possibly Christmas.

I'm ready to be done with this.

In the survey we took last spring, over half of our congregation said they weren't comfortable returning to in-person worship until we have a reliable vaccine—what our state has identified as "Stage 5." So it looks like this online life is gonna be our reality for a while yet.

Like so many of you, I really miss being in the sanctuary for worship. We did have one service in the sanctuary under the social-distancing guidelines, with about 25 people present. (That was the day before cases in DuPage County started going up and we halted it again). I have to be honest, that service was hard for me. It was hard for me to be in a worship service where we had to tell people that not everyone could have access. (That just felt so *wrong*.) It was hard to see people but not really be able to talk with each other. (No lingering or chatting.) It was hard to not be able to sing or say the Lord's Prayer together. I thought being in the sanctuary would make me feel better than it did—but there were just so many holes....

I think the reason I like the House Church experience is that, even though it's "remote," I *feel* more connected to you. I can see you and chat with you. I can hear your

responses, even when the digital delay makes it sound like we're all out of sync. We can sing, and we can take communion, and as your pastor I don't have to wonder if I am literally putting your life at risk while we do it.

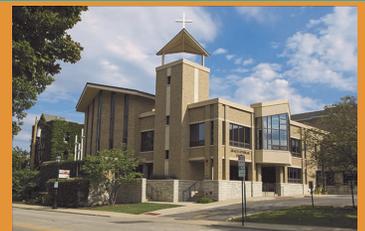
And I think one of the things I like best about House Church is this: your presence doesn't just matter to you. It matters to the other members of your Church. As a pastor, I have *always* wished people understood this better—*your presence matters to your neighbors in the pews*. You make worship happen—your singing and your praying and your sharing communion and your checking in with each other before and after the service. Your presence in House Church matters too. The other members of your Church feel better, supported, more encouraged in faith, when you're there. And when you can't be there, we feel your absence.

We're heading into a season filled with services that mean a great deal to all of us. We're going to miss being in the sanctuary for All Saints Sunday. But in House Church we're still going to have a Rite of Remembrance, and you can still light candles for your loved ones, and share both grief and hope with your siblings in Christ.

We need each other now more than ever. For those of you who have been so faithful in supporting one another in worship through House Church, thank you for your presence and witness! For those of you who have been nervous or hesitant, I hope you'll go to the website and sign up to give it a try. You will be a blessing to those you connect with, and I am pretty confident you will find blessing in return.

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



HOUSE CHURCH WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30AM!

Our "House Churches" meet via Zoom or by calling in by phone. Thank you to our House Church leaders: Jon & Cathy Milleville, Becky Ficarella, Mark Hamilton, Sigrid Elliott/Karin Slenczka, and Sue Pagnoni/Sue Jacobson. Pastor Melody joins one House Church each week on a rotating basis to celebrate communion. If you are unsure how to sign in to Zoom, 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 graceglenellyn.org (on the main page Announcements).

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.

WOMEN OF GRACE



Becky is looking for someone to host *Women of Grace* while she is on maternity leave. Please contact Becky Ficarella if you would like to be the new host!

There are currently no dates scheduled for November and December.

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. Commitment cards were mailed out mid-October. Please let the church office know if you did not receive one. Please fill in your pledge amount for 2021 to help Grace Church continue its mission of Proclaim, Build and Serve to our community. Please 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.

You may also complete a Commitment Card online at Grace's website, www.graceglenellyn.org.

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.



My deep thanks to everyone for the cards, prayers and support I received at the death of my dear sister, Marty. I was so blessed to spend time with her and her family a few weeks before her death, and was much encouraged by your prayers as I later led the service to commend her to God. Again, thank you for all the strength and comfort you provided; it meant more than you know.

Pastor Melody

GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY**VIRTUAL FAITH FORMATION IS UP AND RUNNING ON THE GRACE WEBSITE!**

You should have received an invitation via 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 of kits of materials for the first six weeks of classes during the week of September 14th. There will be an additional in drop off in October to last through November, December, & January lessons.

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: 1st-5th 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 1-2nd graders and different ones for 3-5th 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.

Virtual Faith Formation "Connections" Service Projects

Those of you participating in Virtual Faith Formation will see that your crafts for November/December will include pre-stamped & addressed envelopes for your child to send a sweet note or drawing to members of our Congregation. This is a wonderful way to keep our community connected during a time of increased isolation. The late October supply drop off will include a packet that will have all of this clearly labeled for you. Your participation in this small piece will put a warm smile on many faces this season. Thank you!

9AM LIVE SATURDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP ZOOM FOR ALL STUDENTS 1ST-5TH 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 14th 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 Cyndy Drager with any questions mmscyndy@aol.com.

You will find information on our Confirmation (Ignite) and High School (Fusion) Programs on the next page.

Friends are ALWAYS welcome to join in our Virtual Programming! Email Becky for more information!

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

CONFIRMATION ZOOM PROGRAM PLANNING THROUGH FEBRUARY 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 Pastor Melody Eastman with any questions meastman@graceglenellyn.org. The dates to meet are listed below.

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

November 8 & 22; December 6; January 10 & 24

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

November 4 & 18; December 2 & 16; January 20;
February 3



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY MORNING ONE-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. November 4 & 18 will be the dates we meet this month. Email Dominic LoGalbo dlogalbo@sbcglobal.net with any questions! *Friends are ALWAYS welcome to join in our Virtual Programming! Email Pastor Melody Eastman for more details.*

REVERSE ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

The Reverse Advent Food Drive for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry will begin a little earlier this year. We are asking you to begin collecting items each day starting November 25th. You may then bring your filled bags to the Food Pantry between December 21st-23rd between 9 and 11am. The list is located on the backside of the flyer enclosed in this newsletter. You can also find a list on Grace's Website at graceglenellyn.org.

PADS - PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER

PADS has come up with a plan to feed the people who have been housed in hotels. Grace has been asked to supply 110 adult meals and 40 child meals and deliver them to three hotel locations (50 meals for each location) at 4:00pm. (Meals must be store bought or restaurant bought, no home cooking at this time. Individual frozen meals such as Stoffers, Marie Callender's, etc.). Fruits, individual vegetables and individual desserts are also appreciated. Joe and I have an extra-large freezer so we can store meals if people want to purchase them ahead of time. Meals can also be brought to Grace left in the upstairs gym kitchen freezer and a box for fruit, veggies, and desserts will be available. Joe Jacobo will pick up from Grace on the Tuesday afternoon of our PADS date.

- 1) First Tuesday of each month we provide 50 meals to each of three locations. Please let me know how many meals you can provide each month.
- 2) We need three volunteer groups to deliver the meals to the hotels at 4:00pm. Hotels are: Red Roof Inn, 1113 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove; Extended Stay, 3150 Finley Road, Downers Grove; Red Roof Inn, 1698 W Diehl Road, Naperville.

Thank you for all of your support of the PADS program.

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



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/3 Joe & Catheryne Room (2)
- 11/28 Donald & Jensine Linnane (26)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11/1 Hannah Nelson | 11/19 Jean Jeske |
| 11/2 Julia Marquardt | 11/19 Nicolas Ruoti |
| 11/7 Garrett Lantz | 11/23 Keith Danly |
| 11/10 Ryan Baxa | 11/23 Sue Davison |
| 11/10 Avelina Santiago | 11/26 Jon Ciero |
| 11/11 Sam Youmans | 11/26 Ellen Danly |
| 11/12 Leigh Pietsch | 11/26 Thomas Danly |
| 11/13 Brigitte Miller | 11/26 Dale Nelson |
| 10/15 Linda Kelly | 11/28 John Jokela |
| 11/15 Quentin McKnight | 11/30 Mark Hamilton, Jr. |
| 11/17 Rose Fenske | 11/30 Christine Uhlhorn |
| 11/17 Scott Ruoti | |

AMAZONSMILE

Remember to shop at AmazonSmile when making purchases online. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Here is the link for Grace Lutheran:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438>

When you sign on, you will see **“Supporting Grace Lutheran Church”** in the upper left hand corner. Then just shop as you normally do. There is no cost to Grace or to you, the customer. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the Amazon-Smile Foundation will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to Grace.

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 INTO 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, AnnMarie McFarland, Chris Danly, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

Family and friends of Marty Friend, Pr. Melody’s sister; and Ramon Jacobo, Joe Jacobo’s father 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	TUESDAY	
9/6	39	2	\$ 5,535
9/13	44	0	\$ 5,510
9/20	41	0	\$ 1,650
9/27	46	0	\$ 3,985

We are so blessed to have Attendance numbers again!! Thanks be to God.



Grace’s income, minus the PPP Gov’t Aid Loan, through September 2020 is \$263,782 while expenses incurred during the same period are \$333,779.