

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 OCTOBER 2021
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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

My nephew Brian and his wife MJ visited with me last month. MJ started her own production company (Brian often works with her) and was in town to do an interview for a video she's creating for the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture. Its founder and Executive Director is James Davison Hunter, author of *Culture Wars and To Change the World*. As I watched snippets of the interview MJ did, I was absolutely intrigued. The institute that he founded is intentionally apolitical and areligious (although Hunter is deeply grounded in his Christian faith) and incorporates works and perspectives from a wide range of academics from conservative to progressive. He is engaging and passionate as he speaks about what they are trying to do.

The tensions he describes in finding meaning and moral order in a time of political and cultural change are absolutely those that I see played out in the church, as worshippers try to figure out how to juggle their political understandings with the faith understandings proclaimed by their pastor and the *different* political and faith understandings of many of their neighbors in the pews. Hunter seeks to engage the questions of how societies move beyond the short-sighted concept of "winning the culture war" and finally figure out how to care for the society as a whole across its differences. (I may have oversimplified this. He's written 9 books and I haven't read them, but I think I'm going to start.)

As I listened to MJ and Brian talk about his vision and why they were so excited about this project even though it is going to take a *lot* of work (and yes, these are 2 of those millennials everyone seems so eager to blow off as spoiled, self-focused and whiny—let me just say that they fit none of those stereotypes!) I was inspired and filled with hope. The idea that if we can *imagine* a better culture, we can *build* a better culture is one that I pray we can take seriously. After all, as Hunter relates in several of his books and essays, that work is foundational to Christian identity.

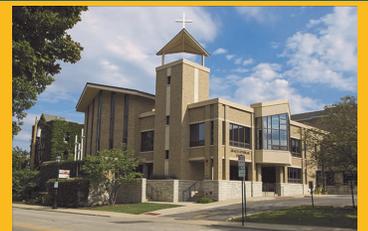
I love the idea that "conservatives" and "liberals" are all part of this institute, publishing, talking, working, offering colloquies and seminars together. I love the idea that a commitment to using our varied experiences and perspectives in something other than a "war" is possible. I love the idea that our fundamental work is to define everyone around us as "human" and insist on the policies and practices that acknowledge this. And I really really love the idea that lots of other people believe in this possibility too.

As we at Grace look to our own sense of meaning and moral order in a changing world, I pray we keep in mind that this isn't about "surviving" the "attack" of cultural change, but about deepening our sense of our foundation and our calling, and rejoicing in some new ways of seeing ourselves as God's people in a world that will continue to need God's love and presence.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Due to the new Delta variant, we are adjusting a few of our restrictions for our worship services and building users at Grace Lutheran:

- Masks are required full time inside the building regardless of vaccination status.
- We will allow singing and corporate speaking.

For the time being, we are keeping the following protocols in place for worship:

- We ask that you still sit in every other pew and practice social distancing between household groups, since we have the space.
- We will continue to use the individual communion kits. We will not take up the offering, but ask that you leave your offering in the offering box in the narthex.
- We will continue to offer a Zoom link for those who are continuing to participate from home.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240509475>
Meeting ID: 872 4050 9475

ALL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP ZOOM Sunday, October 3, 7:00pm

This event is open to all Grace members as it has been a while since we have all gathered to chat! Let's connect over zoom so that those of our friends who are unable to see us in person have an opportunity to connect and catch up again! Look for the link in your *News From Grace* e-blast for this event!

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 7:00pm, the group are reviewing a new, as yet unpublished, book from Dr. George Byron Koch. The topic is the Jewish roots of Christianity. We hope to meet live in the Great Room, subject to revision based upon the progress in eradicating COVID-19 from our community. In any event, if we meet live, we will provide a Zoom option for those who prefer to participate that way. The Monday night group has become cohesive over the years, sharing treats and conversation as well as our Bible study. Still, there is always room for more, and we will make you feel welcome. Kindly contact Mark Hamilton or Vince Hardt if you have not participated before so that we may add you to our Email list.

SOME PUBLISHED ACTIVITIES MAY NEED TO BE CANCELLED

As anxious as we all are get back to our pre-COVID active life at Grace, we ask you to please be patient as we may find it necessary to cancel some activities based on current public health issues. Our top priority is keeping our congregation and friends of Grace safe. Any cancellations will be included in the weekly *News From Grace* eblast or you may call the church office or check Grace's website, GraceGlenEllyn.org, to determine the status of an activity.



FAITH TALK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 12:30PM

FaithTalk is a study and conversation group that meets to ask the deep and challenging questions of living our faith in today's world. We gather the **first Thursday of each month from 12:30-2:00** in the lower level of the church. (If you are attending Sue Davison's exercise class that ends at noon, feel free to bring a sack lunch and meet before class. We'll start our discussion at 12:30.) Please join us if you're interested! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Pastor Melody.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

You do not need to be a member of Grace to participate on **Wednesday mornings at 7:30am**. All are welcome! Discussion centers on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday plus other topics of interest. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



Former Faith & Friendship Now "GRACE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON"

This monthly luncheon is open to the entire congregation regardless of age! Join us on **Wednesday, October 20 in worship with communion at 11am** followed by a **soup and sandwich meal in the Narthex at 11:45am**. This group meets on the third Wednesday of the month. We are looking for volunteers to help with this monthly event, please let Becky Ficarella know if you are available!

GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

FAITH FORMATION BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26! REGISTER FOR FAITH FORMATION ON GRACE'S WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY!

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION, IN PERSON INSTRUCTION

Spark (Preschool –K) and Shine (1st-5th Grade) will meet in the Sanctuary after worship from 10:20am-11:00am. We will have a lesson associated with the Lectionary Scripture for that day, crafts, music, fellowship and care for our Worship space! In October, we will meet 10/3, 10/17, 10/24. **We will not have class on October 10th or October 31st.**

Ignite Confirmation (6th-8th Grade) will meet in the lower level Youth Room after worship from 10:20am-11:00am. In October, we will meet 10/3, 10/17, 10/24. **We will not have class on October 10th or October 31st.**

VIRTUAL FAITH FORMATION INSTRUCTION OPTIONS IN OCTOBER

Little Lights (Birth –3), Spark (Preschool-Kindergarten), Shine (1st-5th Grade) may be included in Virtual Faith Formation! You will receive the same lesson the in-person group will use, along with a video, a craft, and music to enjoy too! Be sure to register for Virtual Instruction if you would like this option so that we can get supplies to your porch. Just email Becky Ficarella with any questions or changes in your needs!

Ignite Confirmation & Fusion High School will have a Youth Bible Study Zoom offered at 11:00am on Sunday, October 3rd and 17th. An email will be sent out that week with the link to join. If you would like to be on this email list, please let Becky Ficarella know.

MISSION, MUSIC, & FUN IN OCTOBER!

All Ages Event: Outdoor Halloween Fun Fest at the Jacobo's, Friday, October 29th 5:30-7:30pm

Come in your costumes and celebrate this fun holiday with pizza, games, snacks, and of course trick or treating in the spooky forest! This is open to all Grace members and their friends! Please RSVP with Becky Ficarella so that we can plan enough fun for everyone.

BRIDGE 36 HAND CHIME CHOIR

Open to 3rd-6th Grade Students Wednesdays, October 6th & 20th 4:45-5:45pm

Bridge 36 is a new group for our older elementary students not quite in Confirmation yet! This is open for all 3rd-6th grade students, however we must have a group of at least five consistent students to make this offering work. We will open the day with a devotional and then rehearse hand chime songs for Advent. Our students will eventually present this music during a worship service in December. If this proves to be successful, we will offer this again in January to prepare for Holy Week and Easter services. Please RSVP with Becky Ficarella ASAP if you would like your student to participate.

ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER IN SKOKIE, IL

Open to Ignite Confirmation, Fusion High School Students and friends: Sunday, October 3rd 11:00am-4:00pm

All Confirmation and High School students are invited to attend the Holocaust Museum trip. We will be traveling with the students from St. Paul Lutheran church in Wheaton for this trip. Please RSVP with Becky Ficarella if you would like to attend. Parents are ALWAYS welcome too!

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org; 847-347-0928

THE QUILTING MINISTRY HAS A NEW DATE

This ministry will meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:00-10:00am beginning September 28**. Even if you can't sew but are able to cut fabric into a 9" square we need you! We have 10⁺ bins of fabric waiting to be cut. After quilting you are invited to stay and attend the chair exercise class at 10:00am and if you like to knit hats, scarves, and gloves you can join the Woolly Knitters at 1pm! Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

CIRCLE OF CARE COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are seeking a new individual to fill the role of **Circle of Care Coordinator**. This role includes managing incoming requests of care from members and then finding the appropriate volunteers to assist from an existing list of willing helpers! Examples might include rides, grocery store runs, or meal drop offs. Please contact the church office or Becky Ficarella if you are interested in filling this role or being added to the list of volunteers!



UPDATE ON GYM USAGE AT GRACE

It is probable that the Food Pantry will not be moving into their new location in December but the good news is that the gym and other areas of the building that they have been using will be available for Grace and outside activities to use beginning in January. You do not need to be a member of the Social Committee to plan an event so grab a friend and get your thinking caps on and plan some fun fellowship events. You can check on available dates with Barbara Sudds in the church office.

GENERATIONS (SINGING & INSTRUMENTAL) CHOIR Wednesday, October 20th 6:00-7:15pm

All Ages Event: Come join Becky and Bradford for a new twist on praising with music! We will find new and creative ways to sing or play a song with instruments and movement in a socially distanced way. This is open to ANY member of Grace of ANY age (yep, your baby can shake a rattle too!) Please RSVP with Becky Ficarella so that I can communicate with you any updates for this event regarding dinner, etc.

USHERS NEEDED

Each of our four usher teams are still in need of one additional team member. **Team 1** (January, May, September); **Team 2** (February, June, October); **Team 3** (March, July, November); **Team 4** (April, August, December). Please contact the church office if you can volunteer for one of these teams or sign up in the Narthex.

WOMEN OF GRACE / MEN OF GRACE

Women of Grace meet for drinks and dining on the **second Thursday of the month at 7pm**. The *Men of Grace* meet for drinks and dining on the **third Thursday of the month at 7pm**. Please watch for details in the *News From Grace* e-blast and on Grace's website.



GRACE CHOIR!!!

Choir meets every Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday mornings at 8:40am! Come join us for an hour of fun, super low-pressure music-making! Not free on Wednesday evenings? You're still welcome to join us on Sunday mornings! Don't feel good about your voice/singing? We can work on that, too! No matter your voice type or skill level, there's room for you! Get excited, my friends! The fun starts now :)

BRIDGE 36 HAND CHIME CHOIR Wednesdays, October 6th & 20th 4:45-5:45pm

Bridge 36 is a new group for our older elementary students not quite in Confirmation yet! This is open for all 3rd-6th grade students, however we must have a group of at least five consistent students to make this offering work. We will open the day with a devotional and then rehearse hand chime songs for Advent. Our students will eventually present this music during a worship service in December. If this proves to be successful, we will offer this again in January to prepare for Holy Week and Easter services. Please RSVP with Becky Ficarella ASAP if you would like your student to participate.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Cathy Milleville, Dorothy Tracy, Sigrid Elliott, Jim Sladek, Chris Danly, Lori Garabrandt, Norma Petersen, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus and Delta variant for healing and strength.

Family and friends of Dorothy Stein who passed away on September 12.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

PILL BOTTLE PROJECT

Calling all volunteers! After being shut down for over a year, we are meeting weekly **from 6-7:30pm** in the upstairs kitchen next to the gym. We need to work through our backlog of pill bottles stored at Grace. If you would like to volunteer, just show up! **Please note: at this time we are not accepting any pill bottles as it will take some time to get through the current inventory we have.** If you have any questions, please contact Mark Hamilton at (630) 841-2941 / mark.hamilton@ifs.com

RAMP (REDUCE ANOTHER MORTGAGE PAYMENT)

As we continue to RAMP up to refinance our mortgage with Mission Investment Fund in October, we wish to thank you all who have contributed to date. We are still hopeful we can raise an additional \$75,000 before October 5. **Our monthly mortgage payment is a big ticket item in our budget at \$6,777 monthly (\$81,324 annually) and lowering that amount by an additional \$1,000 or more (yes please) per month will greatly help our annual budget and free up funds that we can utilize on the ministries of Grace.** Please give **any amount** you can between now and October 5. Indicate your contribution is for the Mortgage Reduction Fund.

GOT CAPITAL GAINS?

Did you know that stock donations allow you to both claim a deduction at the appreciated value AND allow you to avoid capital gains taxes on these assets? Further, consolidating donations in a tax year could lead to increased ability to deduct charitable contributions in a given tax year. Consult your tax advisor for details, but **if you'd like more information on how to go about donating stock, reach out to the church office.**

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 1:00pm - 3:00pm



NOSES AND NUMBERS

DATE	ATTENDANCE		MEMBER GIVING
	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	GENERAL FUND
8/1	23	10	\$6,240
8/8	17	10	\$7,770
8/15	0	25	\$1,345
8/22	22	11	\$2,720
8/29	27 (church picnic)		\$3,020



Grace's **total income** through August is **\$219,520** while **expenses** incurred during the same period are **\$311,469**.

Besides Member Giving, additional contributions to the General Fund come from interest on our bank accounts, Thrivent Choice dollars, and donations from our building users.

Grace cannot sustain a large deficit in the long term. Please give as you can and any extra when possible.

In Christ, your Finance Team