

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

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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

It's going to be all right.

That's your Advent message. It's going to be all right. God's promise is going to come, God's promise will hold us, we are not forgotten. No matter if it seems everything is getting worse (true every year, every decade, every century, every millennium). No matter how hopeless or enraged or frightened you feel. It's going to be all right. Just keep your head up and your eyes open for God.

Easy to say, isn't it? Harder to do. But I'm not encouraging us to pretend there's nothing bothering us. This isn't about denial of all the challenges we feel and fear. Advent has always been a time that calls us to recognize the hard realities around us—our own sin, the sinfulness of the people and systems around us, the brokenness and anguish, the need for redemption. Preparing the way of the Lord isn't about getting out more garland, but about owning how thoroughly festooned we are already are with the bonds of sin that fetter us.

Maybe that sounds more like Lent than Advent to you, but that's not surprising. Both seasons have this in common—the need to acknowledge where we are and admit what we need. (Though this has gotten pretty much lost in contemporary celebrations of Advent as Christmas All December Long.) Advent's prophets warn us about the consequences of denying the reality of where we live. But they also promise us that hope is coming. Again.

So in addition to owning up to the fear and hurt and sin

that binds us, Advent calls us to get ready to be freed. Not by forgetting our world's struggles, or glossing over them with the short-lived endorphin rush of gifts and lights and parties. Advent invites us to get ready to be freed by laying down our fear—along with the bitterness, anger, violence, apathy, judgementalism, etc. that fear leads to. Lay down our fear, look up, look ahead, and *expect the glory of God's mercy and grace.*

It's going to be all right. Mountains may fall, seas may roar. There will be wars, droughts, hurricanes, floods, devastating heat waves, killing cold. Economic rises and falls. Everything is going to be different. And still, it's going to be all right.

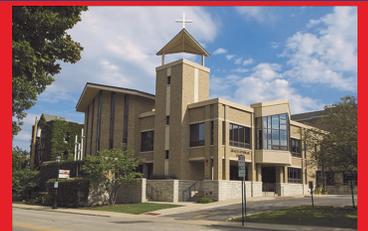
If you doubt that, then take a look at what has survived through the entirety of human history. In spite of the constant reality of human violence and hatred, in spite of the rise and fall of countless empires, we have all still known love. Bravery. Sacrifice. Mercy. We have still known beauty. We have still known joy. We have known hope.

These things are ours from the God Who Comes. If you're feeling overwhelmed with the idea that everything is spiraling out of control, remember that it always has been—at least, out of our control. But we are loved by God who has acted so that chaos shall not have final say over us. Love, mercy, hope, beauty, joy, grace, peace even in the midst of chaotic uncertainty—these things are ours.

This Advent, watch for them.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



WELCOME THE SAVIOR WITH US!



This year Grace will celebrate with **one service at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve**. Our worship will feature all the traditional Christmas Eve favorites, including communion and the Candlelight Service. The sermon will be especially designed to appeal to our youngest worshippers, although the message there won't be only for them! Special music, beautifully decorated and lit sanctuary, and best of all, the Word born amid us once again. Family and friends are more than welcome to join us!

ZOOM WORSHIP

We will continue to offer a Zoom link for our 9am Sunday worship service those who are continuing to participate from home.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240509475>

Meeting ID: 872 4050 9475

SOCIAL COMMITTEE SPECIAL EVENT "CAROLS & COOKIES"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 7PM-8PM

Come join us for a cozy night of music for all! Wear pj's or comfy clothing, bring along a blanket and find a comfortable place in the Sanctuary to sit and sing carols, listen to the Bridge 36 Handchime Choir, student instrumental solos and more. The Christmas tree and lights will be glowing as we enjoy celebration of the season together. You will finish the evening with a little goodie bag to take as you leave to enjoy at home.

GRACE WELCOMES THE CREGAR FAMILY

Please join us as we welcome our newest family to Grace. Chuck and Sara made Grace their home on October 3 and had their daughter, Emelyn, baptized on the same day. Thanks be to God.



LOOKING FOR GIFT IDEAS?

Check out the **ELCA Good Gifts Catalog at goodgifts.elca.org**. You can honor someone with the gift of a piglet or goat, chickens, or a cow to provide a family in need with renewable resources to fight hunger. Or you can gift an environmentally friendly cook stove that works better and reduces health risks for families. Or how about a computer for a community center that allows children to do schoolwork and learn tech skills? So many great options for you as an individual shopper or for a group gift.

Another alternative is gifting earth-friendly items that cut back on single use items of paper or plastic. Here are a few ideas:

- Steel or glass dental floss dispenser, with refillable silk floss. Eliminates the plastic of the dispenser *and the floss. The dispenser is reusable and the floss is compostable!*
- Silicone baking mats. These eliminate the need to line pans with single-use foil, and make cleanup a breeze. Food browns and crisps beautifully, and they can go in the dishwasher.
- Reusable food wraps. These cloths are cotton permeated with beeswax. They help prevent mold, seal to the shape you need (awesome for sandwiches and blocks of cheese!) and can be used over and over. Wash in cool to barely warm water to avoid rinsing away the wax. When they begin to get a bit flaky, simply lay them flat and warm them gently in a low-temperature oven, and they're good as new.
- Silicone resealable bags. These replace disposable resealable sandwich and food storage bags. They can be used in the freezer and withstand heat. Hint: Sometimes the seal can get a little stiff, but rub just a drop of oil along the edges and they work like magic again.
- Shampoo and hair conditioner bars. Create a little spa basket and get rid of the plastic bottles, while surrounding your recipient in wonderful scents.
- Cotton napkins. Replace disposable napkins or paper towels with something cool and pretty they can use every day!

For some of these items, the initial cost is a bit higher than the disposable item they replace, which is why they make great gifts—especially for someone on a budget.

GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

In Person Sunday Morning Faith Formation:

Spark Preschool/K: Meets from 10-11am in the Sanctuary & quiet room in back.

Shine 1st-6th Grade: Meets 10-11 in Sanctuary. First 20 minutes involves prayer, games, and movement with the Spark children. Handchime Choir Rehearsal 10:20-11am with Bradford in the Sanctuary.

Dates in December for Spark/Shine Faith Formation:

12/5: *PADS Service Project for Children and Youth and their families

12/12: Decorate the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary!

12/19: *The Nativity Story* movie and crafts



7th-8th Grade Confirmation: In Person Instruction is available at Faith Lutheran Church from 9:45-10:45am.

Fusion High School Virtual Faith Formation Zoom: This option is taking a break in December as we have not had the turn out we once did for this virtual option. If you have a desire to meet virtually or in person, PLEASE reach out to Becky Ficarella so that I can help get you connected! We are always open to High School Ministry opportunity, but thus far have not had any participation in any scheduled events since July. Both Faith Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton are open to combined events for High School students. Reach out to Becky Ficarella if you have any interest in this ministry.

Wednesday Night Programming:

Bridge 36 Handchime Choir: Rehearsal Wednesday, 12/1 from 4:45-5:45pm.

7th-8th Grade Confirmation @Faith Lutheran Church: 12/1, 12/8, & 12/15 from 7-8:30pm.



Operation Connection Returns! We are looking for a team of children and youth of all ages to join our Operation Connection Group this year. **We will send out a few mailings over the next few months to keep connected with our members.** Sending a little picture, scripture, or just a note to say HELLO! can be such a beautiful way to brighten someone's day. Please let Becky Ficarella know if you are interested in participating.

***DUPAGE PADS SERVICE DAY:** Join the children and youth of Grace to assemble food packages to be delivered to PADS clients. We will gather in the Narthex on **Sunday, December 5 from 10-11am.** We will need help with table set up and break down, set up of the assembly line of items to be bagged, and breakdown of the event. If you would like to help assist in this project and help our youngest children work on this Service project we would be so grateful for your help! Please contact Becky Ficarella with any questions.



Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

847-347-0928

She/Her

FAITH TALK

DECEMBER 2 - 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.

Holy Communion



We rejoice with these students who completed their Holy Communion Instruction with celebration at the Lord's Supper on Sunday, October 24: Adelynn Baxa, Vincenzo Ficarella, Emily Kregor, Natalie Kregor, Zach Yount.

THANK YOU FROM VERSITI



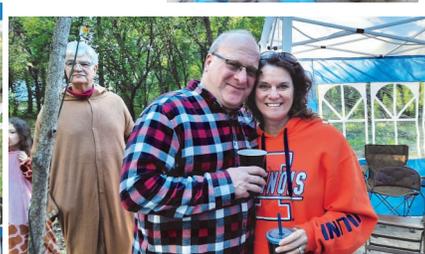
We had 16 registered donors; 3 were deferred and our team collected 16 units. Because of you and the generous donors, up to 48 lives were saved! Thank you! And the best news is, this was one of the best turnouts we have had there at Grace! Thank you so much! Your partnership is very important to us and we appreciate all that you and your team are doing on a consistent basis to help us save lives. Thank you again for ALL you do to help us maintain a healthy blood supply. It means a lot. Camille, Versiti Blood Drive Coordinator

GYM USAGE AT GRACE

Confirmed, one-half of the gym 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.

JACOBO WOODS HARVEST FEST A SUCCESS!!

There was a great turnout at Jacobo Woods and everyone had a fantastic time. The paths through the woods were lined with buckets of goodies for the children to fill their Halloween bags, a ninja course, bonfire and tiki torches, games, food, and spirits! Unfortunately your photographer had to leave early so I apologize to those who are not pictured!



All Saints Sunday

Grace held a beautiful **Rite of Remembrance** with candle lighting for our beloved members called home this past year (Joan Frank, Evelyn Elson, Anita Blakemore, Jerry Jeske, Bob Stein, Robert LoGalbo, Dorothy Stein, Jim Sladek) and for the names of loved ones spoken aloud from the congregation during the candle lighting.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Cathy Milleville, Rich Davison, Dorothy Tracy, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus and Delta variant for healing and strength.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

Prayers for Comfort in Grief

Family and friends of Jim Sladek.

THANK YOU FROM CATHY MILLEVILLE

May I take this time to thank all of you for the many cards, well wishes and especially for holding me in prayer as I have travelled through my illness. It has all been such an important and meaningful support to Jon and I. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving community that Grace Lutheran is. Cathy Milleville

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR



Grace has ordered 10 red poinsettias to decorate the altar this year. If you are interested in purchasing one, please notify Barbara in the office by phone or email by December 12. The cost is \$15. You may place them in honor/memory of a loved one. Please pick them up after the service on Christmas eve. We will leave them until Monday 12/27.

**BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM!**



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
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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
10/3	45	18	\$ 9,360
10/10	33	13	\$ 4,250
10/17	37	16	\$ 2,680
10/24	53	22	\$ 4,850
10/31	44	18	\$ 3,830



Grace's **total income** through October is **\$291,646** while **expenses** incurred during the same period are **\$379,050**.

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