

## 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 APRIL 2021**  
**1085421-4**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
Permit #104



### FROM THE PASTOR

Within a few days of receiving this issue of *Grace to You* we will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. And in spite of the past year, we have much to celebrate!

Beloved, we are a Resurrection People. No matter what the world throws at us, we have been given an amazing gift of grace and hope and life, all because we know that Christ entered into death with and for us and brings us with him when he rises out of it. This truth continues to hold onto us through everything else.

So we continue our work of living as Resurrection People. What does that mean? It isn't just pretending that nothing bothers or frightens us. Living as Resurrection People means trusting that God's reign of justice, love and righteousness is indeed with us even in the midst of a sometimes really confusing and scary world. Living as Resurrection People means doing those loving acts of mercy and justice because we know that *the Reign of God is really a thing*. Now, we aren't trying to create heaven on earth; we don't believe that if we do enough we can transform this world into a perfect paradise. That's not the goal of being Resurrection People. The goal is to constantly give people a vision of what life with God is like, filled with hope and mercy and justice—and by doing that, inviting them into a way of life that is more abundant.

Last month we were very blessed with the opportunity to organize a vaccination clinic. Grace member Karin Slenczka asked me if I thought we could do this, because she had the name of someone at Albertson's who was interested in setting up community clinics. And almost before

we knew it, 400 people had appointments for vaccines.

If you are one of the folks who signed up, you may know what this has meant to the community. We reached out to the Food Pantry to see if their volunteers (who are at risk as they continue to meet to sort and prepare food distribution and help clients) were interested, and over 50 people gladly said yes. Jodi Hefler and Sue Davison at the Senior Center began making calls to seniors who don't use computers to help them get registered; Jodi told me later that she spent a good portion of that time with tears in her eyes, because so many of the people she spoke with began crying with gratitude that they could finally get an appointment. Somewhere between 200-250 seniors were able to get the vaccines they've been waiting for.

Glen Ellyn Village Manager Mark Franz reached out to us too, to offer any support we might need from the Village. They provided police to help with any traffic concerns, parking maps and other resources for us. After word got out about what we were doing, two other area pastors reached out to me to see about setting up clinics at their churches.

Beloved, *this* is a sign of Resurrection, of *being* Resurrection People. When the (non-member) community around us says, "Thank God for Grace Lutheran!" we rejoice. Not because it feeds our ego or makes us look good—because we know it really isn't about us. We rejoice because in the Body of Christ at Grace, people have seen God's love in such a tangible way that they cannot help but give thanks.

And you know what? Even though it isn't about us (but about living out God's love for the world), it still feels really wonderful.

*Pastor Theobald*

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## PASTOR MELODY'S DAYS OFF

A reminder that **Pastor Melody is off on Fridays and Saturdays**, and does not respond to text, email or phone messages unless it is a pastoral emergency. In general, for non-emergency issues it is best to contact her Monday through Thursday.

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

Come join us for **House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** Come see what it is all about. No commitment is necessary, zoom cameras don't have to be on and mics can be turned off. We currently have five "House Churches" of 35 - 45 worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) 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! If you feel 10:30 would work better for you please let us know. Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](http://graceglenellyn.org) (on the main page Announcements), call the church office, or call/email Jon and Cathy Milleville at [jmilleville@comcast.net](mailto:jmilleville@comcast.net). We would be so blessed to have you join us.

## Eliminate the Comma Mortgage Reduction Campaign

We are excited to announce that we have been able to eliminate the comma from our mortgage, bringing our total mortgage to under \$1,000,000!

We will continue this campaign in 2021 as "**RAMP**" (**R**educe **A**nother **M**ortgage **P**ayment) as we continue to RAMP up to refinance our mortgage with Mission Investment Fund this Fall. If we can raise an additional \$100,000 payment prior to our November refinancing it will take us from \$925,000 to \$825,000.

We cannot begin to tell you how thankful we are for your support of this campaign. We aim to have 2021 be one more push towards diminishing the monthly mortgage payment and freeing more of the budget for our Ministries at Grace.

## HOLY WEEK AT GRACE

Join us online as we mark Holy Week together via Zoom. The three services of the **Triduum** are really meant to be experienced as one worship experience spread over three days; the message of each is most profound when you take part in all of them. For each service, please try to log on as much as 15 minutes before worship starts. We will be admitting people to the service individually, and it's very helpful if people begin connecting early.

**Thursday, April 1 is Maundy Thursday.** We will worship together at 7:00 p.m. with the traditional Maundy Thursday service, including communion. In this service we remember Christ's command to love one another as he has loved us, and dedicate ourselves to following him in the strength of his gift to us. The end of the service is marked by the stripping of the altar, a symbol of Christ willingly laying down his power for our sake. This service traditionally ends in silence, so there will not be Zoom fellowship following.

**Friday, April 2 is Good Friday.** We will mark this day at 7:00 p.m. with the familiar Tenebrae service, with readings and candles. If you would like to deepen your experience of this service you may prepare 7 candles at home, and follow along with us as we extinguish the light after each reading. The service will close with the Adoration of the Cross, a time of reflecting on our need and Jesus' nearness to us. Again, because of the solemn nature of this day the service ends in silence, so there will not be Zoom fellowship following.

**Sunday, April 4 is Easter Sunday. Note that we will worship at 9:00 a.m.** half an hour earlier than our House Church time. As always, our celebration of the Resurrection will include communion, beautiful music, and the sanctuary decorated with Easter flowers. You will be muted during the service itself, but after the postlude you may unmute yourself and share Easter greetings with one another. The Zoom link for all services will be sent out in *News from Grace*, or you can request the link from the church office. **If you need help** learning how to connect (either by phone or computer) you can contact Becky Ficarella ahead of time, and she will talk you through the process and help you practice. If you need self-contained communion kits, contact the church office and let Barbara know if you wish to pick them up or if you need to have them delivered to you.

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

### Virtual Faith Formation in March

#### **Virtual Faith Formation in March**

##### **Little Lights (Birth-Age 3)**

This month your little one will learn some of Jesus' most memorable life moments:

4/4: Easter Sunday, He is Risen!; 4/11: Good Night; 4/18: God Made Us All; 4/25 We are Better Together.



##### **Spark (Preschool-K) & Shine (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

This month you and your family are encouraged to continue to work through the Lent Family Devotional, *Reflections on the Heart*. This is a wonderful way to connect to your faith together as a family, helping bring focus to an important season in our faith. In addition to the devotional, each week you will have your virtual Faith Formation lesson based on the Lectionary for the church season. This month's lessons include: 4/4: Easter Sunday, He is Risen!; 4/11: Early Believers Share; 4/18: Jesus Appears to the Disciples; 4/25: The Good Shepherd. This concludes our virtual instruction for the school year. We will begin Faith Formation again in the fall. Be on the lookout for fun outdoor offerings in *Grace To You* this summer as well.

##### **Outdoor Evening Family Vacation Bible School coming in June!**

The Community VBS Team (Grace Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, and First Congregational Glen Ellyn) are excited to announce an outdoor, four night offering this upcoming June for the entire family. We will be socially distanced outdoors on site at Faith Lutheran Church. More details to come soon! There will be volunteer opportunities for this event that will include remote duties as well. Contact Becky for more details!



##### **Ignite Confirmation (6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

##### **8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Service Preparation Zoom**

We will be offering a Zoom Meeting to prepare for Confirmation Service on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please plan to attend with at least one parent.

We have not yet identified the exact details for Confirmation but will be sharing those plans very soon. More details to come!

##### **Sunday Mornings**

Please join Dominic LoGalbo for our Sunday morning Bi-Weekly Bible Study Zoom at 11am. Just bring your Bible and a heart for reflection and conversation. We meet in April on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Fusion High School**

Please join Dominic LoGalbo for our Sunday morning Bi-Weekly Bible Study Zoom at 11am. Just bring your Bible and a heart for reflection and conversation.

We meet in April on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

We will take the month of May off for this Bible Study. It will go to a once per month meeting this summer. More details to follow.

##### ***Friends are ALWAYS welcome to join in our Virtual Programming!***

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org



**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4/10 Mario & Becky Ficarella (11)
- 4/11 Jon & Cathy Milleville (40)
- 4/15 Marty & Pr. Melody Eastman (42)
- 4/22 Mike & Pam Zimmer (32)

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 4/1 Daniel Serritella   | 4/12 Chris Bethel    |
| 4/3 Helen Sladek        | 4/14 Brittany Lantz  |
| 4/4 Lindsey Koors       | 4/20 Emma Dieter     |
| 4/5 Enzo Ficarella      | 4/20 Will Doyle      |
| 4/5 Julie Ruoti         | 4/23 Steve Dean      |
| 4/7 Jason Graf          | 4/26 Quinn Hufnagle  |
| 4/7 Barbara Marquardt   | 4/26 Kate Nelson     |
| 4/8 Laurie Danly        | 4/27 Joey Ciero      |
| 4/9 Carol Petersen (93) | 4/30 Nicholas Dean   |
| 4/9 Zachary Yount       | 4/30 Sabrina Granner |
| 4/11 Dana Bethel        |                      |

**GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY**

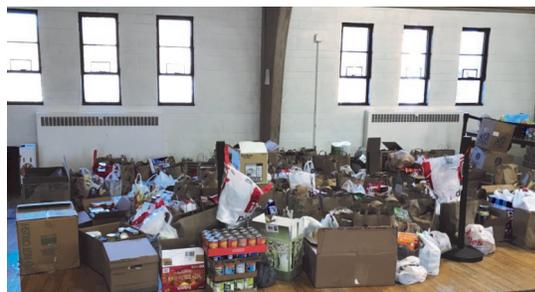
Excerpts from a *Daily Herald News* article: Village trustees unanimously approved plans to allow the pantry to renovate and relocate to the parsonage next to Faith Lutheran Church. The project will put a critical resource for food insecurity closer to the Roosevelt Road corridor and public transit.

Of the new families coming in over the summertime, 61% lived in Glen Ellyn. Typically, the pantry distributes about a quarter of its food supply to village residents.

A list of most-needed items is updated every week on the pantry's website and Facebook page.

The pantry, meanwhile, hopes to break ground in the spring and move in this fall at the new location.

In its original location, the pantry had outgrown its space inside Grace Lutheran Church. The new home allows the pantry to control operating hours and expand its reach. The pantry will lease the site for \$55 a year, a nod to the new address, 55 N. Park Boulevard. "It has been a very long, arduous process, but I will say very thorough," Nugent said. "We wanted to make sure that wherever we ended up that it could grow with us."



# Welcome!

Welcome to new members **Bradford Thompson and Judy Zipprich** who joined Grace Lutheran in February. Bradford is the Minister of Music at Grace and Judy is his grandmother. The Thompson family have their roots in Glen Ellyn and at Grace. Judy was confirmed at Grace and Bradford's parents, Gerald and Shelly, were married at Grace!



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Helen Sladek, Dorothy Tracy, Sigrid Elliott, Rich Davison, Chris Danly, Sally & Eberhard Slenczka, Ruthie Maddock, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

Family and friends of Joan Frank, Evelyn Elson, and Victor Murdoch for comfort in grief.

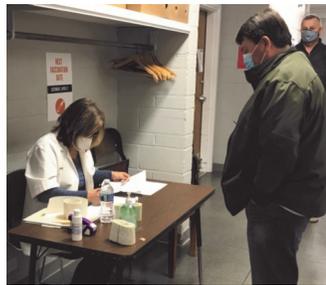
Carol Petersen on her 93rd Birthday (4/9).

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Anita Blakemore, Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC AT GRACE**

The vaccination clinic at Grace was a huge success! We were able to provide appointments for all of our seniors from Grace Lutheran and St. Luke that requested them plus seniors from the community. 400 doses were administered! Thank you to Grace member Karin Slenczka for organizing this with Jewel/Osco and to Jodi and Sue from the Sr. Center for personally phoning local seniors without email, Teri from the Food Pantry for working with their senior clients and to our dedicated volunteers, many of whom said they would return to help out with the clinic on April 3!



**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](http://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		OFFERING
	SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	
2/7	42	0	\$ 9,695
2/14	58	20	\$ 6,920
2/21	38	14	\$ 1,160
2/28	38	12	\$ 7,002



Grace's income through February 2021 is \$64,620 while expenses incurred during the same time period are \$90,266.

**COMMENTS FROM A CLINIC PARTICIPANT**

Dear Pastor Melody and members of Grace, I was fortunate enough to be able to get my first Covid vaccine yesterday at your clinic. I want to thank you and all the volunteers for the amazing organization. Everyone was so helpful and friendly. It was absolutely perfect! Such a blessing for so many of us. Thanks from the bottom of my heart .  
 Judy P.

