

## 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 MAY 2021**  
**1085421-5**

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

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### FROM THE PASTOR

Ahhh—it's finally spring. Warm breezes, bright green grass, more sunlight, blooming flowers. It feels like the entire earth is taking a deep breath and exhaling with a cosmic

sigh of gladness and relief. It feels wonderful.

And yet we know that the hard work of recovering from the pandemic isn't over yet. We still need to be willing to wear masks and watch for new outbreaks. We still need to focus on taking care of each other. And I think if there's one thing this last year has impressed on me, it's the critical need for us to increasingly practice and model the spiritual discipline of kindness.

Please don't misunderstand me. Don't confuse *kindness* with *niceness*. They aren't the same thing at all. "Niceness" has its place, but that place is more limited in scope than we often assume. All too often our desire for niceness results in superficiality and a tenacious tendency to sweep hurt, evil and injustice under the rug.

Kindness, as Paul talks about it, is very different. And it's hard work. Paul describes it as one of the attributes of love: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude" (1 Cor. 13:4). That in itself is a tremendous challenge in a culture that too often rewards winning and being right more than it does being kind.

And again, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together

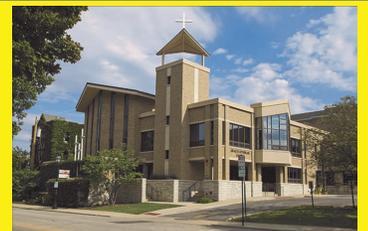
with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 4:30-5:2).

Lest any of us confuse kindness for weakness or some misguided effort to maintain calm, remember that Jesus' kindness included calling out the hypocrisy of the religious leaders ("whited sepulchers"), overturning tables and using a whip in the temple, and being tortured to death. All of this was *part of his mercy to us*.

Kindness is often inappropriately associated with weakness. It's really the opposite. To be "tenderhearted" as Paul instructed is to allow your heart to ache with the pain of your neighbor. That takes guts and strength. It is to invest yourself in the reality of the other, to care about their well-being, to be willing to actually see the truth of their experience. Sometimes kindness actually means being moved to anger—anger at the systems or conditions that harm vulnerable people. This anger-from-kindness *should* be expressed, not in attacking people, but in working to undo and transform those systems.

As we move into this spring and feel all the hope of renewal, I hope we can continue to grow in Christian kindness and help the world around us see how powerfully transformative it can be. I hope we can engage in the spiritual practice of kindness, not out of a sense that things are finally going to get easier, but out of a sense that because Christ is risen, we're willing to work harder than ever for each other.

***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 on the main page Announcements at [graceglenellyn.org](http://graceglenellyn.org), call the church office, or call/email Becky Ficarella at [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org) or 847-347-0928. 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"** (Reduce Another Mortgage Payment) 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.

## GRACE TO YOU

### OUR NEWEST GTY NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



We'd like to give a big shout-out to our new sponsors and thank them for their support of Grace Lutheran. Please check out the advertisements on the back page and show them your support: Service Express Heating and Air Conditioning; Tidwell Roofing and Sheet Metal; Glen Ellyn Youth & Family Counseling Services; Made in Italy Trattoria; A-Z Electrical; Herman Gomez Tree Service and Landscaping, Inc.; AWE Air, Water, Energy; and Jim Teran Concrete Construction, Inc.

We would also like to thank our continuing sponsors for their support: Len's Ace Hardware; Ed the Plumber, Ed The carpenter; Borter Heating & Cooling; Robert Granner, Thrivent Financial; Richard A. Kocurek, Attorney at Law; LTH Accounting and Tax Services P.C.; Hultgren Funeral Home and Cremation Services; Smile Doctors Braces; Egglectic Café; Burlingame Concrete, Construction, Inc.; Alternating Currents; Plumbing Repairs, Sewer & Drain Cleaning.

### GRACE FAMILIES MAKE HOLY WEEK BREAD

On Wednesday March 31, students and parents gathered together on zoom to make homemade Holy Week Bread together. Each family used this bread along with grape juice as their communion for their Holy Week Services. It was such a fun activity to participate in during Spring Break together! Thank You to the deLeon, Graf, and Ficarella families for participating!



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

### **Little Lights, Spark & Shine Virtual Faith Formation - May**

Virtual Faith Formation is over for the current school year. We will return for Faith Formation in September.

### **Vacation Bible School Registration Coming Soon!**

Be on the lookout for an email and e-blast to let you know that Vacation Bible School Registration has opened! We will offer a virtual option as well as in person. If we are rained out on any given night, the virtual program will be available. **Dates: June 21-25** socially distanced outside at Faith Lutheran Church.

This year we will celebrate in a new way: Family Evening VBS!

Monday Night: 5:30-7:00pm Dinner and outdoor worship

Tuesday Night: Day 1 of VBS 5:30-7:00pm including dinner

Wednesday Night: Day 2 of VBS 5:30-7:00pm including dinner

Thursday Night: Day 3 of VBS 5:30-7:00pm including dinner

Friday Night: Movie Night! The time and movie will be announced soon!



### **Planning for Faith Formation 2021-2022 via Zoom for Little Lights, Spark & Shine Students Wednesday, May 19 @7pm**

Please join Becky Ficarella for a zoom call to discuss what types of programming you would like to see for our children in the coming year. Topics include Sunday morning faith formation, special events for mission or fellowship, and any other programming ideas or concerns. Please reach out to Becky Ficarella with questions. I will be emailing a zoom link out as we get closer.

### **Service of Confirmation for our 2020 and 2021 Confirmands**

We are so excited to announce that we will be confirming both our 2020 and 2021 Confirmation Classes on **May 23 at 9:30am** in the Sanctuary of Grace. We will be offering this as a Live Zoom Service so that both Grace members, family & friends of our students can safely attend. Immediate family will be invited to attend this service live with their students. Be on the lookout for a live Zoom link to be emailed out that week.

### **Youth Gospel Study**

We will be on break in May, but we will see you again in June!

***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](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org)

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5/6 Kenneth & Elle Milleville (4)
- 5/7 Mark & Karen Anderson (27)
- 5/13 Greg & Donna Barber (49)
- 5/16 Tim & Lynn Breitling (40)
- 5/25 Jeff & Linda Berta (37)
- 5/29 Joe & Hope Serritella (10)
- 5/31 Sam & Rebecca Youmans (41)

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 5/1 Eva Holzapfel         | 5/19 Shane Hufnagle    |
| 5/1 Margaret Schumaker    | 5/20 Oliver Lawrence   |
| 5/4 Shari Ruecker         | 5/21 Kenny Milleville  |
| 5/5 Marilyn Goodrich (93) | 5/21 Becky Nelson      |
| 5/6 Allison Ciero         | 5/24 Linda Berta       |
| 5/7 Robert Maras          | 5/26 Erik Suds         |
| 5/10 Elizabeth Dean       | 5/26 Tracy Swiston     |
| 5/11 Erin Dieter          | 5/29 Patricia Moore    |
| 5/13 Lisa Goertzen        | 5/29 Diane Plant       |
| 5/14 Bob Stein (93)       | 5/30 Tim Derrico       |
| 5/15 Lucas Yount          | 5/30 Wesley Milleville |
| 5/15 Evelyn Dieter        | 5/31 Nate Nelson       |
| 5/17 Brenda Ciero         |                        |
| 5/18 Dolores Nosal (97)   |                        |

**TREATS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES**

Pictured is Christopher Serritella enjoying his Dunkin Donut Munchkins treat!

Thank you to our Grace members and Social Committee for making this sweet surprise possible!!



**CROP Walk  
Sunday, May 2nd**

This interfaith mission to reduce hunger and poverty has not changed due to COVID-19 and, in fact, the need for local and global food supply is even more imperative - so let's stay focused and do everything we can to raise funds to fight hunger!

We will start our Crop Walk outside the church and take a walk together provided we comply with the CDC, IL, and Grace Lutheran guidelines.

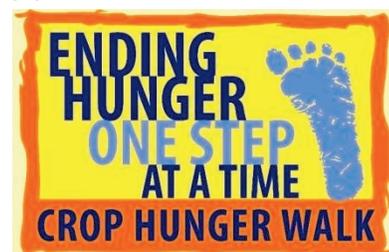
1) Let's Walk: May 2nd at 1pm separately but together in our cause!! You can walk anywhere and any distance - but let's all walk at 1pm. You can walk three miles in a park or one mile in your neighborhood or three feet in your living room! Action: Sign-up on this website so we can see everyone who will be walking! Or contact me, Mike Pertle, and I can sign you up! Even family and friends in other cities and states can participate! There will be no gathering or check-in - just walking!

2) Donate: Please continue to encourage people to donate to this cause. The web page enables online contributions and we welcome donations now through May! Action: Send this link to family and friends anywhere in the U.S. who want to help support our local and global food supplies! If you sign up to walk, they can donate directly Church World Service or to Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn. Any amount is appreciated!! To donate, sign up to walk on the website and it is up and running now! Make Checks payable to CWS/ Crop.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/glenellynil>

What's important is that we remain purposeful to this cause and stay in community even if we are not physically together! Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 2nd to participate any way you can!

Thank you,  
Mike Pertle  
mike.pertle@gmail.com  
630-488-0880



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Cathy Milleville, Jerry Jeske, Bob Stein, Shirley Sauerman, Dorothy Tracy, Sigrid Elliott, Rich Davison, Jim Sladek, Rick Long, Chris Danly, Ruthie Maddock, Elizabeth Amber, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

Marilyn Goodrich on her 93rd Birthday (5/5); Bob Stein on his 93rd Birthday (5/14); Dolores Nosal on her 97th birthday (5/18).

Family and friends of Anita Blakemore who recently passed away.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**PILL BOTTLE PROJECT**



**Beginning immediately Grace is no longer accepting pill bottles.** We have simply run out of storage space for the pill bottles so please find an alternate way to dispose of yours, do not save them for us.

Mark Hamilton does intend to continue with the program at some time in the future.

Grace is also **no longer accepting batteries, printer cartridges, and light bulbs for recycling.** The only item we will continue to accept are pull tabs from cans. Thank you.

**COVID CLINIC THANK YOU NOTE**

Thank you for hosting the Senior Vaccine Clinic. It made so many happy again and really filled with hope. Sincerely, Gail F.



**Update:** The Food Pantry has announced that their new home will not be ready until December which means that our gym users and any Grace members wanting to reserve the gym will have to wait until January 2022, not September as previously posted.

**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 |           | OFFERING |
|------|------------|-----------|----------|
|      | SUNDAY     | WEDNESDAY |          |
| 3/7  | 50         | 18        | \$ 7,030 |
| 3/14 | 43         | 20        | \$ 7,220 |
| 3/21 | 47         | 14        | \$ 360   |
| 3/28 | 40         |           | \$ 8,865 |



Grace's income through March 2021 is \$100,147 while expenses incurred during the same time period are 132,648.

**SECOND COVID VACCINATION CLINIC**

Our second clinic went off without a hitch. 400 people received their second dose of the Moderna vaccine. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with this successful event.

