

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 JUNE 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

I have to say, I'm really happy to be returning to in-person worship. But I have to tell you, I'm even happier about the way this congregation has handled this last year. It hasn't been easy for anyone, but there is a lot to rejoice over in the Body of Christ at Grace.

I have been so impressed with what I have witnessed in the fellowship of Christ at Grace this year. We've done some things very well, and some things not as well as we might have. Several times where there have been shortcomings or miscalculations or omissions, members have reached out respectfully to share their concerns, allowing us to do better. Even though communicating directly (not anonymously!) is difficult, members bore with that tension to be clear and up front, with respect. And *that* allowed us to work things out in a healthy way.

I have also been particularly impressed with Council leadership, whose members continue to work together so incredibly well. They don't always agree with each other, and none of us loves disagreement. But they have consistently committed themselves to loving one another, disagreeing respectfully, accepting each other's input, prayerfully considering their decision, and then prayerfully reconsidering those decisions when appropriate. I want you all to understand how hard they have worked to listen to the congregation while taking very seriously their call to act always in the best interest of our members and our community. It's a delicate piece of work, very often with no clear right answers. They prayed and did the very best they could, and every time they met it has been clear

to me that their first priority is serving God faithfully by loving the community of Grace to the very best of their ability. You are blessed in them.

I want to thank you, as well, for the patience and care you have shown for the staff, all of whom have been faced with a learning curve like nothing they've had before. Trying to juggle a radical shift in schedule, flexibility, and duties while trying to master new technologies *right now*—it's been beyond "challenging." But Barbara, Bradford and Becky have all remained so very gracious, consistently supporting one another (and me) and being willing to take on all the new stuff. Where things haven't gone as we'd hoped as we wrestle with new technologies, you all have remained gracious and encouraging.

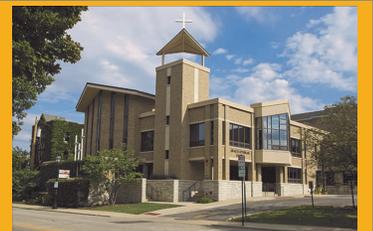
And then there are the House Church hosts, who get put on the spot every week to smoothly lead their House Churches through worship that can still get hit with surprise glitches. Thank you, Jon & Cathy Milleville, Becky Ficarella, Mark Hamilton, Sigrid Elliott & Karin Slenczka, Sue Pagnoni and Susan Jacobson! You have so faithfully served with patience and grace. We are all grateful for what you made possible to carry us through this year.

Do you see the theme here? You, Grace Lutheran, have been an amazing witness of grace and flexibility and perseverance in what often felt like a train wreck of a year. You have so much strength and gift to give. I am so excited to see what we can bring forth in this next year, and I give thanks to God for this partnership with you.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are so happy to be returning to in-person worship on **June 6 at 9:00am!** As you prepare yourself for the new reality of worship, here are some things to keep in mind in the short term:

- A limit of 50 people, including worship leaders. You'll need to pre-register each week for worship. If we consistently have more than 50 people who want to attend, we may ask folks to stagger the weeks you plan to attend.
- Family/household groups spaced 6 feet apart in every other pew.
- Wearing masks throughout the service, except when you take them off to take communion.
- Communion in the pews. You'll pick up a pre-packaged communion kit on the way in. If you need assistance opening it, an usher with gloves on will help you. If you prefer, you can bring your own communion elements from home.
- No communal singing or speaking until 70% of the population is vaccinated. But we'd love to have individual members offer special music! Let Bradford know if you'd like to help out with this.
- No shaking hands with ushers/greeters on the way into church or at the passing of the peace.
- No coffee or fellowship hour following worship.
- No singing from the complete choir for a while yet.
- These changes also mean changes in the kinds of assistance we will need to make worship happen...
- We *can* have lecturers/readers again.
- No passing of offering plates, but you will be able to leave your offering in an offering box on the way into or out of church. And, of course, you can give an offering online, or have your bank submit automatic payments to us directly from your account.
- We will need ushers to assist people to pews with the correct spacing.
- We will need greeters to open doors and direct people to appropriate seating.
- Ushers will also assist members with opening communion kits if their have difficulty. (We'll provide sanitizer/gloves.)

Continued in next column.

- We will need people to see to opening and closing windows before and after the service, to increase ventilation during the service.
- We need people to host a congregational Zoom meeting during worship, to include people who aren't ready to return but still want to connect.
- We need extra folks who can help with the tech in the sanctuary, getting the stream ready to be shared on the Zoom link. (Currently we have only 2 people doing this, and we need some more people for backup!)

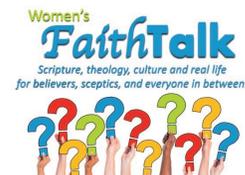
Please let us know if you are willing to assist in any of these ministries. We look forward to worshipping in person with you again!

PRAYGROUND AND QUIET TOYS

Grace will not be providing the PrayGround and quiet activity toys for children at this time. Parents, please create a special "church bag" for your child/children that you bring to worship and is only available to your child/children on Sunday morning. No electronics please.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

The Wednesday 7:30am Bible Study is back in session. You do not need to be a member of Grace to participate. All are welcome! Discussion centers on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday plus other topics of interest. Tim Stephan and Tim Frakes are regulars with this group meeting in the Narthex at Grace. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



FAITHTALK IS RETURNING!

We have a new schedule, meeting on the **1st Thursday of the month from 12:30-2:00 beginning June 3.** If you are attending Sue Davison's exercise class that ends at noon, bring a lunch and join us in the basement after class. Those who like can eat lunch together and we'll begin our discussion at 12:30.

Grace Lutheran's Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Family Vacation Bible School June 21-25 presented by Grace Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, and First Congregational Churches of Glen Ellyn!



Where: Faith Lutheran Church located at 41 N Park Boulevard in Glen Ellyn.

Outdoors. If it rains, there will be a virtual program available.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket for your family. Everyone will be socially distanced and have their own painted square on the lawn to fit up to eight people, which must include at least one adult. Masks will be required.

Food is available but will be served by volunteers to each lawn square so we avoid crowds around open containers of food. You are always welcome to bring your own food picnic instead. Dinner is from 5:30-5:50pm or so.

Who: Incoming Preschool - 5th Grade students and their families. The activities and crafts will be aimed for those ages with opportunities for the entire group to participate. That means Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, older siblings; whomever the adult available to be there for all of the fun.

When: Monday - Thursday 5:30-7:00pm; Friday: 6:45-8:15pm

You may register for only one night, or all five. Any combination is available.

Monday Night is Family Fun Outdoor Worship Night with pizza on the lawn. GF pizza will be available!

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday will be the three nights of VBS lesson, story telling, craft, game, service project and music time! Food TBA.

Friday is Movie Night. Arrive at 6:45 for a fun dessert and an outdoor movie. If it rains, our rain date is Saturday, June 26, same time.

We need volunteers of all ages to help: Food preppers, servers, drivers, shoppers, craft prep, short skit videos, assembly of supplies, set up, take down. You name it! We need it! Please register to volunteer where you register to participate.

We would love to have you join us! Go to Grace's Website and register today! Let Becky Ficarella know if you have any questions.

GRACE CONGRATULATES OUR 2021 GRADUATING SENIORS: Allison Ciero, Robert Dieter Jr., Quinn Hufnagle

GRACE CONGRATULATES OUR 2021 8TH GRADE GRADUATING CLASS: Emma Dieter, Raleigh Hamilton, Daniel Langner, Matthew LoGalbo

WOMEN OF GRACE will meet on **Thursday, June 10 at Reserve 22**. We have two reservations at 7:00pm for 10 at two outdoor tables. We will have a sign up to attend on Facebook *Women of Grace* page. Let Becky Ficarella know if you plan to attend.

Friends are ALWAYS welcome to join in our programming!

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/2 Gregg & Shari Ruecker (37)
- 6/4 Matt & Michele Fenske (27)
- 6/5 Jason & Heather Graf (11)
- 6/5 Shane & Sooz Hufnagle (27)
- 6/6 Rob & Allison Hutzler (6)
- 6/11 Andy & Tracy Swiston (27)
- 6/16 Chuck & Jan Miller (59)
- 6/19 Tim & Linda Kelly (45)
- 6/22 Michael & Susan Pagnoni (19)
- 6/22 Tom & Elaine Roete (53)
- 6/23 Robert & Juanita Margetts (20)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 6/3 Vince Hardt | 6/19 Dr. Ray Dieter |
| 6/3 Andy Swiston III | 6/19 Jerry Miller |
| 6/5 Judy Zipprich | 6/19 Mike Zimmer |
| 6/8 Dru Geraghty | 6/23 Walter Hall |
| 6/9 Amanda Streicher | 6/26 Donna Barber |
| 6/10 Alexis Murawski | 6/27 Lauran Berta |
| 6/11 Pr. Melody Eastman | 6/27 Heather Graf |
| 6/13 Max Hufnagle | 6/27 Laura Sugrue |
| 6/16 Doris Nelson | 6/27 Judith Wagner |
| 6/17 Dr. Robert Dieter | 6/29 Jeff Drager |
| | 6/29 Mark Sudds |

**BRADFORD’S LIVESTREAM MUSIC SESSIONS
Wednesdays at 7:00pm**

Looking for something to do on Wednesday evenings? Join Bradford Thompson, Grace’s Minister of Music, for LIVE music sessions broadcast directly from Grace! Let the meditative sounds of drums, guitar, and keyboards heal your woes and soothe your souls. Bradford plans to change up the music and include various musicians each week. This is still a work in progress so please be patient with the format tweaks!

Here is the link for Wednesday evening at 7:00pm to join Bradford and friends on his YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCbqfoPipBLAIY3hAkVKoi8Q>



WOMEN OF GRACE RETURNS!

We will meet on **Thursday, June 10 at Reserve 22**. We have two reservations at 7:00pm for 10 people at two outdoor tables. There will be a sign up to attend on the *Women of Grace* Facebook page. Let Becky Ficarella know if you plan to attend.



“RAMP” (Reduce Another Mortgage Payment)

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 last push towards diminishing the monthly mortgage payment and freeing more of the budget for our Ministries at Grace.

CHAIR EXERCISE AND MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Registration is required as the number of attendees will be limited. The exercise class meets Mondays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 11:00am. The Book Club will meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 11:00am. Please contact Sue Davison at 630-858-6343 to register.



CHURCH GARDENS NEED VOLUNTEERS

As you know, the breathtaking gardens at Grace have been because of the love and care given by Sandy Venturoni. Sandy needs to step back from tending to the gardens although she will still be responsible for the three pots at the handicap door. We need a couple of volunteers to take over this role. Sandy will provide guidance so you will not be going into this blindly. Please contact the church office this is something you would be interested in doing. We already have Doris Nelson on board! Thank you Doris.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Chuck & Jan Miller on their 59th Anniversary 6/16 and Thomas & Elaine Roete on their 53rd Anniversary 6/22.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

“FUNNY ZONE”

BORROWED FROM GLEN ELLYN SR. CENTER

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. “Reverend,” said the young man, “Sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.” The minister chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

CROP HUNGER WALK - MAY 2

What a glorious day for the Crop Walk warmest I can remember. Below was some of our walking group on May 2. We’re at \$16,890 with 8 teams and 98 registered fantastic work!! Keep it going maybe we could reach 20K? Donations are being accepted until the end of May! events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/mike-pertle or checks made out to *CROP Hunger Walk* can be mailed to the church office.

From the right is Nolan Declan & Rory Dougherty, Emily & Dennis Dougherty (family of Ernie Wright from First Congregation), Janis Wright, Kendra & Eliza Joyner, Tim Stephan, Doris Nelson, Mike Pertle, and Marty Eastman. Thank you for your participation. Mike Pertle



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
	SUNDAY	THURS/FRI	
4/1		35	
4/2		35	
4/4	100		\$ 8,016
4/11	35		\$ 6,320
4/18	39		\$ 4,250
4/25	41		\$ 2,970



Grace’s **total income** through April 2021 is **\$121,813** while **expenses** incurred during the same time period are **\$177,487**. To meet our budget, our monthly member giving should be \$33,750 and as you can see we are falling well short of that amount. Please give as you can and any extra when you can. Grace cannot continue long term to absorb a deficit of this size.