

## 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 JULY 2021**  
**1085421-7**

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

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### FROM THE PASTOR

You probably already realize that July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday this year. And you might be wondering if we're going to fill the service with patriotic songs, since our worship coincides exactly with Independence Day.

I realize this may disappoint some folks, but no—we haven't included patriotic songs in worship for that day. Why not? Well, there are a couple of reasons. First of all, our tradition emphasizes choosing hymns that support the scripture messages of the day rather than secular holidays. The texts for July 4<sup>th</sup> this year are pretty much about rebellion against God and refusal to listen to Jesus. (Awkward!)

But also, I have to confess to having a pretty conservative bent when it comes to worship, which is always focused on the proclamation that God alone is worthy of our highest devotion. The Judeo-Christian witness is clear that God is above everything—including national pride. Now, let me be clear—this does **not** mean we aren't supposed to be patriotic or love our country. But I do believe we are not supposed to love our country above God. We have all the rest of the week to show our love for our country though good citizenship and working for the public good. But worship is for God, and God alone. While patriotism is good and has a very important place, the fact is that it also represents a division among God's people. Worship is not the right place to emphasize that.

Several years ago, right after the attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, two members of my congregation (they happened to be a former Marine and a former Lieu-

tenant Colonel in the Air Force) asked if we could put an American flag in the sanctuary to show support for our country. I appreciated where they were coming from; they had once borne great risk to protect freedom and they wanted to support and pray for those who would be taking that risk again. I explained to them what I had been taught: that because the sanctuary has been dedicated to God, it's not appropriate to make symbols of national identity a focus in that space. The American flag started being placed in churches during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, when German communities here put flags in their (German) churches in an attempt to demonstrate that they were loyal to the United States—at a time when they felt unsafe in their German identity. I explained that I see the sanctuary as God's Embassy in the midst of a politically divided world. In the American embassy in Russia, we display the American flag but not the Russian flag, because that space belongs to the United States, not Russia. In churches, which are God's space in this world, we display the cross but not the flag of the country the church is in, because it's space dedicated to the reign of God—which reaches across all national and political divides. Only symbols of *God's* reign belong there.

I know that churches have had differences of opinion on this, but as I said, I take a pretty conservative stance here. I will definitely sing the patriotic songs at the parades or fireworks displays or other spaces where we gather to proclaim our love for our country. But in church, we'll sing the hymns that remind us that, even with our deep gratitude for and love of our country, our greatest hope and highest love must rest in God.

*Pastor Melody*

# GRACE TO YOU

*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

With the increase in the number of people vaccinated and the decrease in the case rate for COVID, we are lifting a few more restrictions for our worship services and building users at Grace Lutheran:

- Fully vaccinated people have the option to wear a mask or not, as you are comfortable. We ask unvaccinated people to continue to wear masks.
- 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, which you can pick up in the narthex with your bulletin before you enter. We will continue to receive communion in the pews.
- 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  
 One tap mobile +13126266799,,87240509475#

## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY JULY 18



We will offer coffee and donuts with outdoor seating following the worship service. We look forward to visiting with you!

## 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.

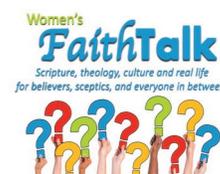
## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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. Tim Stephan, Jerry Miller, Sue Pagnoni, Kathy Gallian, and Tim Frakes are regulars with this group meeting in the Narthex at Grace. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



## FAITH TALK JULY 1

FaithTalk meets on the **1st Thursday of the month from 12:30-2:00pm**. 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.



## 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/UCBgfoPipBLAIY3hAkVKoI8Q>



## WOMEN OF GRACE

We will meet outdoors at Reserve 22 on July 8 @ 7pm for drinks and dining together. We have 14 seats available for this date. Reserve in the Facebook Group page or contact Becky Ficarella.



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

**Save the Date: August 29th Outdoor Worship & Picnic at Blackwell Forest Preserve. More details to come!**

### **FUSION HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY IN 2021-2022**

St. Paul Lutheran Church has reached out to Grace and asked to form a partnership in the High School Ministry this next calendar year. We are similar sized congregations and are both looking to offer new opportunities to our students in this age group. We will meet with students 1 -2 times per month for fellowship, mission projects and potential fund raising for the ELCA 2022 High School Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. Come join our first event on July 14 to help us get to know what types of things you might like to do as a group in the next school year!

### **FUSION HIGH SCHOOL SCAVENGER HUNT IN WHEATON WITH ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 6PM-8PM**

We will meet at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 515 S. Wheaton Avenue in Wheaton. The group will split up on a scavenger hunt into town, finishing with ice cream as we walk back to St. Paul. If it rains, we will reach out with an alternate plan that day, but plan to keep the same time open.

### **"BOUNDLESS 2022" ELCA HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING MINNEAPOLIS, MN JULY 24-28 OPEN TO ALL INCOMING 8TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS**

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis next summer. We are planning to take students from Grace and will team up with St. Paul Lutheran Church to attend. In order for students to receive any financial assistance, I will need to know your intention of going by July 22, 2021. The registration fee for this trip will be \$150 and will be due between 9/22-11/1 in order to receive early bird pricing. We will offer fundraising opportunities throughout the year to help defray the costs. We will not know our hotel assignments until late January 2022, so final costs will not be known until we have that information settled. Please reach out to Becky Ficarella with any questions.

### **SATURDAY MORNING MEET UP IS JULY 10 AT LAKE ELLYN PARK 9-11AM**

Come join Grace families at Lake Ellyn Park for play and fellowship! Friends are always welcome!

### **POOL DAY AT TURTLE SPLASH WATER PARK IN WEST CHICAGO, MONDAY JULY 12, 11:30AM (RAIN DATE JULY 19)**

Come join us for a day of pool fun! This is a newer facility that will limit the number of people able to come in each day due to COVID, so please try to arrive as close to 11:30am as possible. It is a first come basis. Admission is \$15 per person for non-residents; Grace will split the cost and cover \$7.50 per ticket. Please RSVP by July 9th with Becky Ficarella if you would like to attend!

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Looking for a way to volunteer this summer? PADS could use your help in the Grace basement classrooms the first Tuesday of every month at 2:30PM. Food packs need to be assembled and delivered to hotels where the PADS clients are staying. Reach out to Becky Ficarella or Donna Jacobo with questions.

***Friends are ALWAYS welcome to join in our programming!***

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

847-347-0928

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/2 Andrew & Basia Yount (15)  
 7/3 Brad & Jennifer Baxa (10)  
 7/9 Spencer & Candice Lantz (5)  
 7/11 Kathy & Robert Maras (40)  
 7/12 Tom & Jennifer Langner (24)  
 7/15 Tim & Donna Loftus (32)  
 7/16 Jake & Susan Jacobson (39)  
 7/16 Rob & Katie Inzinga (5)  
 7/17 Brad & Lisa Goertzen (21)  
 7/19 Tim & Donna Stephan (41)

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7/1 Camden de Leon    | 7/16 Ryan Ruoti             |
| 7/1 Mario Ficarella   | 7/17 Mark Hamilton          |
| 7/1 Joe Serritella    | 7/18 Ginny Stein            |
| 7/2 Barbara Sudds     | 7/19 Bruce Lantz            |
| 7/3 Leigh McMillen    | 7/21 Richard Pasbrig        |
| 7/4 Will Swiston      | 7/22 Vivienne de Leon       |
| 7/5 Brad Goertzen     | 7/23 Lois Pertle            |
| 7/5 Andrew Milleville | 7/24 Barbara Rasins         |
| 7/8 Paula Gregor      | 7/26 Jennifer Langner       |
| 7/8 Joe Room          | 7/28 Bradford Thompson      |
| 7/13 Tammy Coleman    | 7/29 Ben Schumaker          |
| 7/14 Leah Fenske      | 7/30 Tim Breitling          |
|                       | 7/31 Christopher Serritella |

## SHOPPING CART BRIGADE

Grace has spear-headed food collection for the GE Food Pantry for many years through our now famous "shopping cart brigade." This year, even though we will coordinate our activities with Pantry staff and volunteers, we still require a crew from Grace. The parade will be held Sunday, July 4 beginning at noon. Contact Carol Asselmeier at [carolassel@aol.com](mailto:carolassel@aol.com) or call **630-244-3235** to sign up to volunteer.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO GRACE

You may continue to mail your contributions to the church office; have your bank mail your contribution to the church office; or contribute on-line through Grace's website. Please know, pandemic or no, our mission continues! Thank you for your continued support of our ministries at Grace Lutheran.

## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

We invite you to sign up in the narthex to provide floral bouquets that you have created. It's okay if bouquets don't match or we have only one bouquet on a Sunday! Share from your garden, the farmer's market, or local store and bring them with you Sunday morning! Please sign up in the Narthex, or contact the church office to reserve a date. Please only include flowers and no special decorations or messages in the bouquet. These are the available dates: July 4; July 11; July 18; July 25; August 1; August 15; August 22; September 5.



## USHERS NEEDED

Each of our four usher teams are 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.

## BLOOD DRIVE RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER

Thank you to Tim Stephan for volunteering to be Grace's coordinator but unfortunately due to staffing issues at Versiti, they asked to reschedule the July blood drive at Grace. Our next scheduled blood drive will be Saturday, October 30. Many thanks to Brad Goertzen for his past involvement in organizing the blood drive at Grace and we send our blessings with Brad and Lisa as they relocate to Florida. Follow this link to find local Versiti blood drives:

<https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/zip>

## 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.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Cathy Milleville, Bob Stein, Dorothy Tracy, Sigrid Elliott, Jim Sladek, Chris Danly, Tammy Rollo, Elizabeth Amber, Susan Nelson, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus for healing and strength.

Family and friends of Jerry Jeske for comfort in grief.

Our blessings go with Shane, Sooz, and Quinn Hufnagle as they relocate to South Carolina. We will miss you!

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR FOOD PANTRY**



Pr. Melody took part in the ceremony on May 12 at the new home of the Food Pantry. They are not actually “breaking ground” for an addition, the addition will be added above the existing garage in this picture.

**UPDATE ON GYM USAGE AT GRACE**

The Food Pantry will finally be moving into their new location in December which means the gym and all other areas of the building will be available for Grace and other outside activities in January. Yeah!!! Becky Ficarella is busy is planning gym activities for the children Grace and Barbara Sudds and Paul Rom are in discussion to run a fun social event. You don’t need to be a member of the Social Committee to plan an event so grab a friend and get your thinking caps on and lets put 2020/2021 behind us and get back to Grace life in 2022!

**Teaser:**



**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 SUNDAY	MEMBER GIVING GENERAL FUND
5/2	26	\$5,235
5/9	42	\$5,430
5/16	30	\$1,845
5/23	67	\$3,000
5/30	28	\$ 515



Grace’s **total income** through May 2021 is **\$198,983** while **expenses** incurred during the same period was **\$206,532**.

Please note, last year through May of 2020 member giving to the General Fund was \$137,841 while May 2021 has come in at \$106,882.

Additional contributions to the General Fund come from interest on our bank accounts along with donations from our building users.

To meet our 2021 budget, our monthly member giving should be at \$33,750, however we are averaging \$21,376 which falls well short of what is needed.

Please give as you can and any extra when possible. Grace cannot absorb a continuing deficit in the long term without draining our cash reserves.