

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 SEPTEMBER 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

FaithTalk is a group of folks (at this point, all women, but that's only coincidental) who gather on the first Thursday of the month to talk about...well, you know.

Some of the folks are members of Grace, some aren't. Some are admittedly trying to figure out where they land on the whole religion thing. Many of them like coming to Grace because we're *Reconciling in Christ*, and they appreciate the welcome and safety of that for their loved ones' sake. I love meeting with them; they like hard questions. In the time we met before the pandemic the topics ranged from where the Bible comes from to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We watched the movie *Smoke Signals* (the first movie written, produced, directed and acted by all Native American people) and talked about Native American history. We've talked about transgender issues (and they've asked to come back to that), and next they have requested that we read the book *So You Want to Talk About Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo. We're starting it on September 2.

By the way, almost all of these women are between the ages of 75 and 97.

These folks give me such hope, because they are a clear witness that we are never too old to grow in our relationship with the world around us. Maybe it's because they've seen so much that they've lost the fear that keeps so many of us from diving into the challenging conversations. Several of them have expressed a desire to be able to have a coherent conversation with their grandkids and great-grandkids on topics that the younger generations are passionate about. Not only do they have the desire to stay connected to the world, they have the *courage* to

connect to a world that is bigger and more complex than the one they used to know. No matter if it takes longer to get through a book or they have to come back to new ideas several times.

They know this can be a lot harder than it might have been in their younger days. As they glanced through the table of contents of the book, they had a lot of questions about words like intersectionality and privilege and the meaning of racism. They're a little confused about some of those terms, and a lot curious. Most of all they want to *learn* so they can engage a long-standing problem in a more productive way. And they're not afraid of having been wrong about some things.

Let me say that again for the folks in the back. *They're not afraid of having been wrong about some things.* If that isn't the epitome of baptismal living I don't know what is. The willingness to confess honestly ("We did and said things that were really bad. I didn't realize how bad until now, but that doesn't change the fact that they were bad and hurt people."), the capacity to receive forgiveness ("Nobody's really any better than anyone else; we've all done hurtful things and have to trust God just like everybody else."), and the ability to move forward with grace ("There's really nothing we can do except try to learn to do better and help teach the people around us.")—all of these are hallmarks of Christian living and witness that our world could use a lot more of.

We aren't a closed group. If you'd like to join us, we meet on the first Thursday of the month from 12:30-2:00, downstairs in the kitchen room. Even if you can't get the book before September 2 you can join us and catch up later. Even with difficult topics, it's always a lift to the spirit!

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



UPDATE FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Due to the new Delta variant, we are adjusting a few of our restrictions for our worship services and building users at Grace Lutheran:

- Masks are required full time inside the building regardless of vaccination status.
- 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



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS FOOD DRIVE

For "God's work. Our hands." on September 12, Grace has organized a Non-Perishable Food Drive to benefit DuPage PADS and the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. **The Food Drive will run through September 12.** All items received will be blessed on September 12 during the worship service and then distributed to PADS and GEFP. Items requested for PADS include bottled juice, fruit snacks/pop tarts/chewy bars, and individually package desserts. The GEFP can use everything including personal and laundry care items, and dog/cat food.

SOME PUBLISHED ACTIVITIES MAY NEED TO BE CANCELLED

As anxious as we all are get back to our pre-COVID active life at Grace, we ask you to please be patient as we may find it necessary to cancel some activities based on current public health issues. Our top priority is keeping our congregation and friends of Grace safe. Any cancellations will be included in the weekly *News From Grace* eblast or you may call the church office or check Grace's website, GraceGlenEllyn.org, to determine the status of an activity.



FAITH TALK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 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.

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. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



Former Faith & Friendship Now "GRACE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON"

This monthly luncheon is open to the entire congregation regardless of age! Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 15 in worship with communion at 11am** followed by a **soup and sandwich meal in the Narthex at 11:45am.** This group meets on the third Wednesday of the month. We are looking for volunteers to help with this monthly event, please let Becky Ficarella know if you are available!

GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY**SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26! WHAT TO EXPECT THIS FALL.**

Little Lights (Birth-3): Weekly Virtual Lesson with Song, Story and Craft (porch supply drop-off). Let Becky know if you would like to participate.

I would love to see a group begin to gather in-person for this age group, depending on our comfort level, with stories and music for parents and little ones. This will be a time for families to connect in fellowship with a monthly meet up in the Overflow Room (Quiet Room at the back of the Sanctuary). Please reach out to Becky if you would like to be a part of getting this ministry going!

Spark (Preschool-Kindergarten):

Weekly In-Person Lesson from 10:20-11:00am. We will meet in the Sanctuary this fall until the gym opens up for use again in January. We will explore music and plan for some special Sundays to present what we learned to the congregation during 9am worship. If you are able to help be an assistant with this group, please contact Becky Ficarella.

Weekly Virtual Lesson with Song, Story and Craft (porch supply drop-off). Let Becky know if you would like to participate.

Shine (1st-5th Grade):

Weekly In-Person Lesson from 10:20-11:00am. We will meet in the Sanctuary this fall until the gym opens up for use again in January. We will explore music and plan for some special Sundays to present what we learned to the congregation during 9am worship. If you are able to help be an assistant with this group, please contact Becky Ficarella.

Weekly Virtual Lesson with Song, Story and Craft (porch supply drop-off). Let Becky know if you would like to participate.

Ignite Sundays (Confirmation 6th-8th Grade):

Weekly In-Person Lesson from 10:20-11:00am. Will meet in both the Youth Room and also with Adult Forum in the Fellowship Room. Lessons will be taught by Marty Eastman and Pastor Melody Eastman.

Virtual Zoom Bible Study at 11am with Dominic LoGalbo offered biweekly for both Ignite and Fusion students.

Fusion Sundays (High School): **Virtual Zoom Bible Study at 11am** with Dominic LoGalbo offered biweekly for both Ignite and Fusion students.

REGISTRATION for the Boundless Youth Gathering begins September 22! Reach out to Becky Ficarella if you are interested.

WEEKDAY PROGRAMMING

Wednesday Night Ignite (Confirmation) begins September 8th, 7-8:30pm, at Faith Lutheran for 7th and 8th Grade students. Lessons led by Grace Ministry Associate Becky Ficarella and Faith Lutheran's Pastor Joe Yucha. Games, small group scripture and study discussion time, and large group Big Topic discussion time! We move around a lot! Get ready for a season of fun! Schedule is as follows:

9/8 Session 1; 9/15 Session 2; 9/22 Feed My Starving Children Event; 9/29 Session 3

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



CIRCLE OF CARE COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are seeking a new individual to fill the role of **Circle of Care Coordinator**. This role includes managing incoming requests of care from members and then finding the appropriate volunteers to assist from an existing list of willing helpers! Examples might include rides, grocery store runs, or meal drop offs. Please contact the church office or Becky Ficarella if you are interested in filling this role or being added to the list of volunteers!



UPDATE ON GYM USAGE AT GRACE

It is probable that the Food Pantry will not be moving into their new location in December but the good news is that the gym and other areas of the building that they have been using 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.

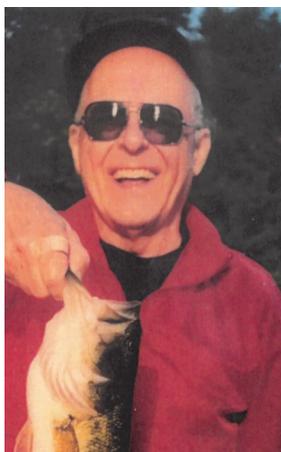
THANK YOU FROM THE STEIN FAMILY

Dear Grace Members,

Thank you very much for all of your calls, prayers, notes, visits, memorials, and attendance at Bob Stein's funeral. It means a lot to us that you all remember and appreciate Bob's decades of service to Grace. He knew and loved every nook and cranny in the building. He has joined the long list of illustrious saints that watch over our comings and goings. For that we are truly grateful.

Fondly,

The Stein family: Dorothy, Ginny, Mia Stein-Kodzick (Bill, Sam), Carol Asselmeier (Carrie, Charlie), Becky, Nick, Abby and Lilly Nelson



USHERS NEEDED

Each of our four usher teams are still 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.

WOMEN OF GRACE

We will meet for drinks and dining outdoors together on **Thursday, September 9, 7:00pm, at Reserve 22**. Due to COVID and the Delta variant we are only able to reserve two tables for six people at each table. It is possible this event may be cancelled in the future so please RSVP to Becky Ficarella at 847-347-0928 or bficarella@graceglenellyn.org so we have your name.



GRACE CHOIR!!!

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 8th, at 7pm! Come join us for an hour of fun, super low-pressure music-making! Not free on Wednesday evenings? You're still welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:40! Don't feel good about your voice/singing? We can work on that, too! No matter your voice type or skill level, there's room for you! Get excited, my friends! The fun starts now :)

Generations Choir

Wednesday, September 15, 6:00pm

Grace's all ages choir has returned! **We will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm for a simple soup meal and then rehearse our music from 6:45-7:15pm.** We will sing on the following Sunday, September 19 at the beginning of the worship service! We can't wait to raise praise with you in fellowship and song! All questions about the meal should be directed to Becky Ficarella, and questions regarding the music should be directed to Bradford Thompson!

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC
AT BLACKWELL FOREST PRESERVE**

Join us for a special outdoor worship service at the East Picnic Shelter at Blackwell Forest Preserve on **Sunday, August 29 at 9:00am.** (The East Picnic Shelter is a long drive into the park—the last shelter at the end of the road, but easily accessible with a paved path from the parking lot to the shelter.) Feel free to bring camp chairs (the shelter may not hold *all* of us) and your own picnic brunch/lunch; we'll enjoy fellowship, food and some kids' games after our service. We look forward to seeing you there!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Cathy Milleville, Dorothy Tracy, Sigrid Elliott, Jim Sladek, Keith Petras, Chris Danly, Tammy Rollo, Lori Garabrandt, Norma Petersen, Keith & Rita Matthews, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus and Delta variant for healing and strength.

Birthday blessings to Jim Sladek who turns 90 on Sept. 25.

Anniversary blessings to Paul and JoAnn Griffin Sept. 4 (61 years) and Ray and Bette Dieter Sept. 29 (60 years).

Prayers for comfort in grief to the family and friends of Joanne Wenner, mother of Sandy Wenner, who passed away in July.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, and Dorothy Stein

PILL BOTTLE PROJECT

Calling all volunteers! We are starting up the Pill Bottle Project. After being shut down for over a year, we will meet **Tuesday, September 14th from 6-7:30pm** in the upstairs kitchen next to the gym. We will begin to work through our backlog of pill bottles. If you would like to volunteer, just show up! **Please note: at this time we are not accepting any pill bottles as it will take some time to get through the current inventory we have.**



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

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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
7/4	31	9	\$11,100
7/11	54	14	\$ 8,213
7/18	42	6	\$ 4,550
7/25	40	8	\$10,424



Grace's **total income** through July 2021 is **\$194,312** while **expenses** incurred during the same period are **\$275,411**.

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