FROM THE PASTOR

We’re almost at the end of the season of Pentecost. A lot of folks think of Pentecost as the “quiet” season of the church because of the lack of big celebrations and holidays for months at a time. But really, Pentecost has been anything but quiet, if you paid attention. Pentecost is the season of growth and development. Really, you could say it’s the most important part of the Church year because it’s where Jesus strengthens his Body to keep doing his work and being his Word in the world.

We usually like Advent and Christmas and Easter (and maybe even Lent, because it still points so clearly toward Easter and spring) a lot better than Pentecost. There are wonderful worship services filled with great music and much nostalgia and joy. And they’re all about Jesus, which is easier for us.

But Pentecost is more about us. About listening to Jesus, learning from Jesus. Even when he does miracles, they are about showing us how we are supposed to live in the Reign of God right now. Pentecost is the program of strength and endurance training Jesus sets up for us to make us strong enough for the Main Event of being his Body in the world, revealing his love and his desire for righteousness.

Strength and endurance training. Ugh. The thing I know about myself (others are different, I know) is that I do not love exercising. I don’t look forward to it. When I plan for it, it’s not because I’m afraid I’ll miss it. It’s because I’m afraid if I don’t plan for it I just won’t do it. I don’t love working out.

But—I love having worked out. I love the feeling of being stronger, better, more equipped and ready for whatever. For the things I would not have been ready for if I hadn’t disciplined myself to exercise when I didn’t really feel like it. And I’ve also discovered that my being healthier benefits not only me, but the people around me whom I can support better because I’m stronger.

Faith is so much like that. Discipleship/discipline—in-faith is so much like that. The “less exciting” part is where we gain the most.

Maybe it seems strange that I’m writing this article now, when we’re almost at the end of the season of Pentecost. But I’m hoping that, if you’re realizing that you skipped spiritual leg day again (and arm day and core day and oh, yeah, cardio day), you might enter into the upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas and Epiphany and Lent and Easter with a new commitment to continuing that enthusiasm and commitment into the next season of Pentecost. Practicing the things Jesus teaches (especially the hard stuff) with a little more mindfulness.

Remember, “faithfulness” in discipleship isn’t something you are doing for Jesus. It’s something he does for you—guiding you into strength and skill for living. And just like regular exercise it benefits not only you, but the people around you. Just another way that Jesus is always multiplying his blessings.

PROCLAIM, BUILD, AND SERVE
**Zoom Worship**

We will continue to offer a Zoom link for our Sunday worship service for those who are continuing to participate from home. If you need a bulletin, remember you can view (on another device) or download/print a bulletin from Grace’s website. Just click on Quick Link to Worship.

**Zoom link:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031586315  
Dial In: 1 312 626 6799  
Meeting ID: 890 3158 6315

Please remember your offerings to Grace. You can mail them to the church, have your bank mail them to the church, or contribute through our website, www.GraceGlenEllyn.org.

**Sunday Worship Time**

Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by fellowship at 11am.

**Adult Faith Formation**  
9:00am-9:45am

On October 2 and 23, Pastor Melody continues to guide an exploration and discussion (begun in September) of the Church’s response to the question of abortion. We will plan to cover biblical references, historical actions by the Church, and the ELCA’s most current Social Statement on the topic. We will also choose the topics for upcoming forums, so bring your ideas and questions!

**Worship Training**

On October 9 and 16 during Faith Formation at 9am, we will offer worship training for serving as cross-bearer, lector, and altar guild. If you’re interested, join us in the sanctuary; otherwise, coffee will still be available in the Fellowship Room.

**Choirs**

The choirs meet at Grace on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Minister of Music Bradford Thompson for more information.

**FaithTalk – Luther Redux** in the downstairs kitchen/study room.

Redux means “brought back” or “revived.” We’ll do a quick review of the core of Luther’s teaching. And we’ll look at how the ELCA continues to embody much of his teaching in our contemporary ministry, and how we have apologized for and seek to correct the parts of his writing that have caused harm. This will be both a good into and a good review—and as always, filled with great conversation.

**Coffee Hour and Special Event Help**

Would you like to host coffee hour on a Sunday morning? Be an extra pair of hands for any special events like a fellowship luncheon for members? We would love to add a few more people to our rotation and volunteer lists. You do not have to commit every week, but be a part of a rotation every 6-8 weeks.

Please let Cathy Millville or Becky Ficarella know if you can help!

**Weekly Gospel Lesson Discussion**  
Wednesday Mornings 7:30-8:30am

Our Wednesday morning bible study group discusses the gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. It is a small, but dedicated, group of members and non-members of Grace Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend. Vince Hardt emails out the lesson and questions in advance or you may pick them up from the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room. Please contact Vince if you would like to receive that weekly email. vvince2001@hotmail.com
GRACE LUTHERAN’S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

FAITH FORMATION ON SUNDAY MORNING
We meet October 2, 16, 23, and 30
9:00-9:15am Family & Youth are invited to gather in The Great Room on the 2nd floor for snacks and coffee.
9:15am Group Prayer and Song
9:20-9:45am
Spark (Preschool-K) stays in the Great Room with Mrs. Graf
Shine (1st-6th Grade) goes to the gym with Mrs. Drager
Faith in Action (7th-12th Grade) gathers for service projects with Mrs. Ficarella

WORSHIP TRAINING DURING SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION
October 9th & 16th 9:00-9:45am
Would you like to learn more about how you can assist in Worship? Has it been a few years and you would like an update on your skills and knowledge? Come learn how to serve as an Usher, Lector, Welcome Minister, & Crucifer. This is open to everyone in the Congregation, including any youth in 3rd grade and above.

GRACEGIVES GOES TO PANERA IN WHEATON ON OCTOBER 4TH
Come support Grace Gives from 4p-8p at the Panera located at 167 Danada Square East in Wheaton on Tuesday, October 4th. Just be sure to mention Grace Gives and we will receive 20% back in contributions. Thanks for your support!

PEOPLE OF GRACE MEETS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
Come join us at Reserve 22 for fellowship and food! Members and friends of Grace are always welcome. Please RSVP with Jeff Nelson.

CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN OCTOBER AT FAITH LUTHERAN 7-8:30PM
10/12, 10/19 & 10/26 Sessions
We will NOT meet 10/5.

THE COMMUNITY VBS TEAM SPONSORS “SOUP-TOBER” FOOD DRIVE FOR PADS IN OCTOBER!
Our children learned all about Compassion for others during our fun week at Vacation Bible School this summer. To continue that important message, we plan to collect microwavable soups and Hormel microwave meals for our neighbors in PADS during the month of October. Please bring them to the display in the Narthex. Let’s show our kids how compassionate we can all be when we all come together to help!

OCTOBER 23RD IS CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY
We will gather at 10am Service to hear a special message from our Faith Formation students. Parents/Guardians please plan for your student to be at Grace by 9:10am that morning so that we may rehearse our presentation prior to 10am Service.

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
bficarella@graceglenellyn.org
847-347-0928
She/Her
The RECONNECT RALLY was a fun success!

The children of Grace made their own goodie bags during our event. Flashing rings, sensory poppers & little critters were just some of the fun items available.

A BIG Thank You to everyone who participated in God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday.

We packed 100 warming bags for our neighbors at the Forest Avenue apartments to be donated this October. Our bags included hot chocolate, tea, oatmeal, tissues and new warm socks! Each bag included a personalized message from our members to send our blessings of warmth this Season.

We are still doing God’s Work, Our Hands all September long! Participate in the Food Drive for the Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center. Can you help with any of the snacks listed below? These are snacks for students during their after school tutoring time as well as special treats when they have a movie night. Please bring any donations to the NARTHEX all month long! Thank you for your support and putting your hands and hearts to work in our community. Please be sure to pay attention to the details of which snacks. They have an approved snack list they must adhere to.

PADS INTERIM HOUSING CENTER

Volunteer Resource Room Attendants are urgently needed! Resource Room Attendants help guests at our Interim Housing Center by bagging up much-needed food, baby care and personal care items.
-Attendants help keep donations in the Resource Rooms organized and tidy.
-Shifts are available working in teams on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2-6pm.
-This volunteer role has the most direct client interaction of all our volunteer positions. Please bring your welcoming smile and positive attitude to this volunteer opportunity.

Please sign up at https://volunteer.dupagepads.org/need/

Questions? Contact Volunteer Manager, Suzanne Thibeault, sthibeault@dupagepads.org
**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Rich Davison, Dorothy Derrico, Norma Petersen, Susan Yerger, Brittany Huizenga, Dorothy Tracy for healing and strength.

Baptized on Sept. 18: Cate Milleville, Palmer Milleville, and Emma Sugrue.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**
Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

**GraceGives goes to Panera in Wheaton**
**October 4**

Support GraceGives from 4-8p at the Panera located at 167 Danada Square East in Wheaton on Tuesday, October 4th. Just be sure to mention Grace Gives and we will receive 20% back in contributions. Thanks for your support!

**PEOPLE OF GRACE**
**Tuesday, October 18, 7PM**

We will gather at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn for dinner and drinks. People of Grace is a fellowship event open to all members and friends of Grace. RSVP with Jeff Nelson at jnelson@ercmidwest.com

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flower chart is back up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room. Arrangements are $20 each (note price increase.). Sign up on the chart or you may email or call the church office. Please indicate how you would like the flowers noted in the bulletin.

**Sr. Center Chair Exercise**

The exercise class meets Mondays and Tuesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 11am. Please contact Sue Davison at 630-858-6343 if you have any questions.

**Quilting Ministry**

This ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9-10am. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

**ATTENDANCE**

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