

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 FEBRUARY 2022
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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

When Jesus was asked about the most important commandment, he responded with a 2-for-1: Love God with everything you've got, and love your neighbor as yourself.

This makes a pretty good mission statement. Tho most congregations gravitate more quickly to the last thing Jesus said to his followers in Matthew: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all I have commanded you." But I don't think Jesus meant, "Convince as many people as you can to get baptized and join your church and accept the doctrine." I really think he meant, "Show people my love, tell them what I've done for you, invite them in to share the strength and life I offer you, and teach them how to love God with everything they've got and to love their neighbors like they love themselves."

In the ELCA, we take this commandment seriously. And we see it closely connected with Jesus' words, "Whatever you do for/to the least important/most vulnerable people around you, you do to/for me." Which, with our trinitarian theology, also means we do it to/for God.

ELCA missionaries around the world don't go out to "convince people to convert." Instead, they go out to love their neighbors—especially ones whose lives and experiences are different. They offer medical care, education, engineering expertise and more to people whose lives are improved by those things. They strive to *show* the love of Jesus more than to explain the love of Jesus. They share that their strength and will to love generously comes from Jesus. They offer to share more about their faith if people want to know. But their primary mission is to love God by loving God's people, and thereby demonstrating that God loves the people too.

Here at Grace, this commandment becomes the groundwork for what we do day-to-day as well. Sharing our space with the Food Pantry (and subsidizing a significant part of their operations) has been, for over 40 years, in answer to this call to love God by loving our neighbors. Our decisions about actions during the pandemic are also shaped by this command to love. *Not* by fear, note—but by our willingness to go to great lengths and make sacrifices to protect our neighbors and greater community—in this case by reducing transmissions.

And what role does worship play in all this? In the Ten Commandments God directed that we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, and in Isaiah God reminds the people not to "trample on the sabbath, pursuing your own interests on my holy day...not going your own ways or pursuing your own affairs...." But gathering for weekly worship isn't specifically mentioned until the New Testament describes the followers of Jesus gathering to commemorate his resurrection.

Still, worship is vitally important—but not because it fulfills a command. Worship is important because it gives us the strength we need to fulfill the greatest command. Worship reminds us who God is, and who we are—sometimes in ways we can't even put into words. Worship gives us grace and strength and courage—and a sharp prod when needed!—to pay attention to the command to love God with *everything*, and to love our neighbors that way too. Worship helps us see how loving our neighbors *is* loving God, and how loving God must lead to loving our neighbors.

Returning to our baptism in Jesus (which we do in weekly worship) is the thing that helps us love God—all day, every day—and love our neighbors—all day, every day. That's how we show who we really are, and proclaim what we truly know.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



ZOOM WORSHIP

We will continue to offer a Zoom link for our 9am Sunday worship service 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.

Note this is a new 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.

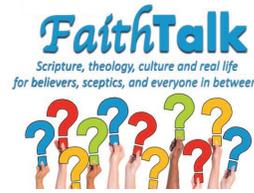
GLOW: A WEDNESDAY MUSIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY YOUTH, 2ND GRADE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

Once called Bridge 36 Handchime Choir, this group focused solely on Handchime music. The upcoming sessions are the continuation of what was started this fall, only we are opening this up to include any youth, 2nd grade through High School. Our new group is called Glow.

Why Glow?

Because music is a way for us all to connect whether we are praising God, soothing or celebrating our emotions, or praying through our challenges. When we experience music, it can help us to feel as if our heart is lit up and glowing. When we create music as a group and then share it with others, we share our Glow with each other and the community.

We will explore new instruments in addition to continuing Handchimes. Learn about and explore major and minor keys and how their differences can help us express our emotions in praise and prayer. We will learn how to work as a harmonious group together considering each members ability and experience. We will reflect upon our upcoming presentations and prepare our hearts and minds for the mood we want to create with our contribution to Worship during the Lent Season.



For our February gathering of **FaithTalk (Thursday, February 3 from 12:30-2:00)**, we are delighted to welcome Pastor Andi Voinovich, Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove. Pastor Andi (they/ them) is non-binary, and has offered to speak to us about non-binary, trans, and queer identities, and about their experience in the Church. We are grateful for this opportunity to grow in our understanding of many of our siblings in Christ! As always, your questions are welcome. (And don't worry about asking something awkward or inappropriate. You will find Pastor Andi to be extremely welcoming and kind; they are used to leading these discussions, and will graciously either answer, or gently explain why a particular question is not one they choose to answer.)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Grace's Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 30**. Watch for more information in e-blasts and announcements.



GLOW SCHEDULE

Session 1: 4:45-5:45pm Wednesday Rehearsals: February 2nd and 16th in preparation to present **March 2nd, 7pm Ash Wednesday Service Prelude Music**, plan to gather on **March 2nd at 6:40pm** to run through the music.

Session 2: 4:45-5:45p Wednesday Rehearsals: March 23rd, April 6th and April 13th in preparation to present **April 14th 7pm Maundy Thursday Service and April 15th 7pm Good Friday Service**, plan to gather on **April 14th and April 15th at 6:40pm** to run through the music

GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

February Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Spark Preschool, Shine Elementary 1-6, will meet 2/6, 2/13 & 2/27

We will not meet 2/20 due to President's Weekend

10:00-11:00am in the Sanctuary

10-10:15 Opening Prayer and Activity

10:15-11:00 Bridge Handchime Choir w/Bradford

10:15-11:00 Spark Preschool Story and Lesson with Mrs. Ficarella



Faith Formation Confirmation 7th & 8th Grade

Wednesday Night Faith Formation onsite @Faith will meet 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, and 2/23

Sunday Morning Confirmation onsite @Faith meets 2/6, 2/13 and 2/27

A Valentine Surprise for our neighbors!



Would you like to brighten someone's day? We would like to enlist as many members as possible to commit to creating a few homemade valentines to share with our neighbors at the Forest Avenue Apartments in February.

Let Becky Ficarella or the Office know that you would like to participate in creating Valentines. We have 80 residents to create for!

If you would like supplies delivered to you and/or valentines you have created picked up from your porch, please let the church office or Becky Ficarella know.

We would like to have all Valentine's back to Grace by Monday, February 7th.

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

847-347-0928

She/Her

GYM USAGE AT GRACE

Confirmed, *one-half* of the gym 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.

QUILTING MINISTRY



This ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th **Tuesday of the month from 9:00-10:00am.** Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Started on **Monday, January 3, 2022, at 7:00pm**, the Monday Night Bible Study group will study the **Gospel of Luke using the Kerygma Bible Study 13-session course.** We chose this Gospel because it is the prime focus of the readings in the current liturgical year which began with Advent.

Luke is followed by Acts, addressed in the same way to an individual who may have been a Roman authority. It is attributed to Luke, the companion of Paul on some of his mission journeys in Acts, also identified as a physician in the Greco-Roman culture. It is considered to be the Gospel to the Gentile community in which Paul conducted his missionary work. It concentrates on the teachings of Jesus, containing more parables than any other Gospel, and also frequently shows Jesus praying, another exclusive. The image of Jesus is very human, although His claim to divinity is also stated with clarity.

We will provide both an in-person study opportunity in the Great Room and the possibility of connecting from wherever you are via Zoom. The Monday night group has become cohesive over the years, sharing treats and conversation as well as our Bible study. Still, there is always room for more, and we will make you feel welcome. Kindly contact Mark Hamilton or Vince Hardt if you have not participated in the current series so that we may order a study guide for you.



GO OUT TO EAT WITH GRACE GIVES SEE INSERT FOR DATE AND TIME

We are starting a new way to fundraise for ELCA initiatives both locally and worldwide this year. Welcome to *Grace Gives*, an opportunity to eat out and take a break from preparing dinner while helping to benefit ELCA ministry efforts, such as Disaster Relief, Refugee support and so much more. Each month we will choose a local restaurant to partner with to give back 15-20% of the night's food proceeds. **This month, we will meet at Barone's Pizza. From 4p-7p all orders placed with the flyer (insert found in this GTY) will earn a % back in fundraising profits.** We will rotate which Ministry is supported every quarter.

Take your order to go or eat on site, just be sure to bring your flyer with you that night!

THANK YOU FROM VERSITI

Thank you for sponsoring the blood drive last week. It looks like our team registered 16 donors, only 3 donors were deferred and they collected 14 units! Because of you and the generous donors – up to 42 lives were saved. That is OUTSTANDING! The goal was set at 14 units and you achieved it! That means so much to us!

We are so grateful for you, Tim Stephan, your team and the generous donors there at your Church!



Truly,
Camille

A BIG THANK-YOU!

We extend our thanks to Jeff and Jeffery Berta; Dominic and Matthew LoGalbo; Jeff, Susi and Nate Nelson; Matt and Sam Fenske for putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. You helped make the season bright!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Palmer Milleville, Rich Davison, Dorothy Tracy, Frank Granata, Kris Diesness, and those infected with the Covid-19 virus and its variants for healing and strength.

Matthew Barrera for a safe return to his family.

Anniversary wishes to Howard and Beth Bruning on their 62nd anniversary on February 6.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

CAROLS & COOKIES WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to our members and friends who joined us for the Carols & Cookies Event on December 15. We enjoyed singing Carols together in the Sanctuary with the Christmas lights all aglow. Carson Graf shared a piano solo while the Bridge 36 Handchime Choir finished the evening with Carol of the Bells. As everyone left, they were given a bag filled with delicious cookies, candies, and citrus as a gift from the Social Committee. We look forward to this tradition again next year!



ADVENT CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

A HUGE Thank you to Cynthia Drager for her leadership, writing, and direction of the Children's Advent Service on December 12. The children shared an important Christmas Message with the Congregation with a short "game show" themed skit which reminded us that Christmas is about CHRIST! Bradford Thompson and Becky Ficarella helped coordinate and direct the Handchime and Krystal Bell music offered by the children as well. Thank you to the Children of Grace for all of your hard work and dedication to this special presentation!



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

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www.graceglenellyn.org

Every Member: Minister & Missionary!

Melody Eastman, Pastor

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

Carole LoGalbo, M.S., LCPC Parish Counselor

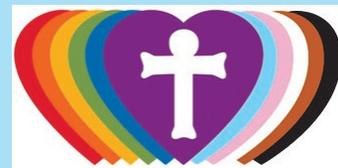
Barbara Sudds, Office Manager

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
	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	GENERAL FUND
12/5	45	16	\$ 6,078
12/12	60	21	\$ 8,735
12/19	40	28	\$17,615
12/24	91	41	
12/26	0	25	\$ 3,295

Grace’s income (not including the Payroll Protection Program Forgiveness) through December was **\$376,513** while expenses incurred during the same period are **\$452,838**.

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.

You may continue to mail your contributions for the General Fund to the church office; have your bank mail your contribution to the church office (this works great); or contribute on-line through Grace’s website (Grace/you pay fees). Please know, pandemic or no, our mission continues!