

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 MARCH 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

I really like to think of Lent as my chance to Marie Kondo my spiritual life.

If you don't know Marie Kondo, she has achieved pop culture icon status by helping people de-clutter their lives. She demonstrates how to prioritize and organize so you can reduce distractions and stress in your personal environment. She helps people learn how to throw out the un-needed, unimportant stuff and refocus on what matters most.

I find that an incredibly helpful approach to Lent. Not so much the "Jesus sacrificed so I should, too" approach or the "I need to remember what a truly terrible person I really am" approach that some people (wrongly) think a Lenten discipline requires. But an approach that says, "What am I holding on to that's holding me back? What clutter and downright garbage am I clinging to that's absolutely exhausting me?"

Really, it's about simplifying. Clarifying. Taking a good look at ourselves and saying, "This false expectation (of myself or someone else) isn't helping me." "This attempt to build up my sense of worth with busyness or acquisition or being *right* isn't working." It is about taking a hard look at whatever it is that is keeping you from hearing the Good News and walking with God the way God hopes you will.

Sometimes the clutter of the soul is the baggage of self-hatred. The inner voice that says, "I'm no good to God or anyone else." I know, this voice can be *really* hard to eliminate. But it's important to challenge it, because it doesn't represent humility so much as it represents self-obsession, even in its negative impact. God wants you to

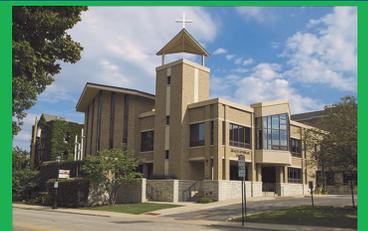
be freed from that, so you can turn that energy outward in love instead of inward in destructive hate. It's a good thing to work to eliminate that voice, but in the meantime, a good Lenten practice is to remind yourself that this voice lies. *It lies*. You are Beloved. Simply that.

And sometimes the clutter of the soul is the baggage of self-aggrandizement. The inner voice that says, "They can't get on without me. I need to do this and this and this, because that's what everyone expects and that's why I matter." This baggage is tricky because we get lots of affirmation for carrying it. But it's also based in a lie. You don't matter because of your excellence. You matter because of your *self*. And yes, good work is...good. But that's not all there is to you. So you don't need to fear losing yourself if you fail or stumble or make a mistake or disappoint someone. If your inner voice tells you that you are a failure because sometimes you fail, remember that that voice lies. *It lies*. You are Beloved. Simply that.

I love Lent. It reminds me to set aside emotional and spiritual clutter and get back to what matters most. Mistakes and failings that we can't change—it's time to let those go. Wrongs that we can address by admitting them and expressing my sorrow for hurt we've caused—it's time to admit them, pack away the fear that keeps me from acting, and do what needs to be done to make amends. Grace and mercy that we are frantically searching for—it's time to stop scrambling and see that they come to us freely and abundantly, and there's nothing we can do but receive. And that's easier to do when we take the time to get all the "stuff" out of the way.

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.

EASTER FLOWERS

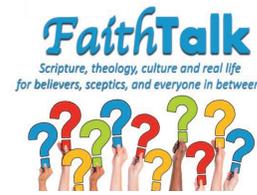


Let's decorate the altar with beautiful flowers for Easter. If you would like to purchase a flowering plant to be placed on the altar, **please order by February 28**. You may order and pay on Grace's website, or you may call the church office with your order. You may place these flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. **We are offering white Azalea \$24, yellow Begonia \$19, or pink Hydrangea \$26.** You may pick up your flower after worship on Easter, but please pick it up by Tuesday morning.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sixty confirmed members of Grace attended the annual congregational meeting held virtually via Zoom on Sunday, January 30th. The meeting included a presentation by Treasurer Joe Jacobo on the church's financial status, Pastor Melody's annual pastor's report, the election of new council members Rob Granner, Jim Kregor, Rob Margetts & Paul Rom, and the election of Tim Kelly and Karin Slenczka as our representatives to the Annual Synod Assembly. Voting occurred using the Zoom polling feature.

Pastor Melody provided an update on the work of our Mission Partner Strategy Team. After the meeting was over, we had a brief social time. Thanks to all who attended and participated.



THURSDAY, MARCH 3

12:30-2:00PM

After having been rescheduled twice due to COVID, Pastor Andi Voinivich (*they/them*) joins us to talk about non-binary and transgender identities, and to answer your questions about their experience and faith journey. Pastor Andi is Associate Pastor at the Downers Grove United Methodist Church, and we are grateful for their willingness to join us for this conversation. (Pastor Andi has spoken frequently to groups just learning about these issues and is very accustomed to addressing all questions lovingly—so don't be afraid to bring yours!)



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP WITH WORD AND PRAYER TURNING TOWARD GOD'S ABUNDANCE WEDNESDAYS AT NOON AND 7:00PM

Midweek Lent worship offers us a quiet time to refocus and refresh. It helps us center and rest in God. We pray that you will join the community at Grace and find nourishment for yourself as your presence also nourishes your neighbors' spirits.

All services will also be available on Zoom.

March 2 – Ash Wednesday

Traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy including imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion to mark the beginning of our Lenten season.

March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6 – Service of Word and Prayer

Each week we will reflect on one of God's abundant gifts: **Faithfulness, Mercy, Compassion, Forgiveness and Love.** And, each week we will explore prayer through one of the five senses using **Visio Divina, Sung Prayer, Bidding Prayer, Prayer with Movement and Prayer with Anointing.** Each week will include scripture readings plus offerings of lesser-known poetry that speaks to our spiritual longing.

GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

MARCH SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Spark Preschool and Shine Elementary (grades 1-6), will meet 3/6, 3/13 & 3/20.

We will not meet 3/27 due to Spring Break 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 & Lesson with Mrs. Ficarella



Upcoming Children's Spring Service will be on May 15th during the 9am Service.

Cindy Drager, Becky Ficarella and Bradford Thompson will lead the children and youth of Grace through a Spring presentation with drama and music.

Faith Formation Confirmation 7th & 8th Grade

Wednesday Night Faith Formation meets onsite at Faith on 3/2, 3/9, 3/16 & 3/23.

Each of these Wednesday Nights at Faith in Lent will begin with Worship in Faith's Sanctuary at 7:00pm followed by Small Group/Large Group time 7:30-8:30pm.

Sunday Morning Confirmation meets onsite at Faith 3/6, 3/13 & 3/20.

Confirmation Service will be held on May 22 during the 9am Service.

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

MARCH AND APRIL DATES

Once called Bridge 36 Handchime Choir, this group focused solely on Handchime music. The upcoming sessions of Glow 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.

Session 2: 4:45-5:45p Wednesday Rehearsals: March 23, April 6 & April 13 in

preparation to present **April 14th 7pm Maundy Thursday Service & April 15th 7pm**

Good Friday Service, plan to gather at 6:40pm on 4/14 & 4/15 to run through the music



COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration is now open for volunteers and

participants. Grace Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church & First Congregational Church Glen Ellyn are presenting this week together in partnership!

June 20-24, 9:00am-12:00pm Monday – Friday located at Faith Lutheran Church.

41 N. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn. Check Grace's website to register!



Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

847-347-0928

She/Her

GYM USAGE AT GRACE

One-half of the gym and the gym kitchen is available for Grace and outside activities for use! You do not need to be a member of the Social Committee to plan an event so grab a friend and put your thinking caps on and plan some fun fellowship events.

We already had two Saturday afternoons in February booked in the gym, the weekly Tuesday evening Society of Creative Anachronism has returned and now we are using the gym for our Wednesday evening suppers in Lent!

You can check available dates on the church calendar on Grace’s website and then schedule with Barbara Sudds in the church office.



RUNA TO RETURN TO GRACE!

Pr. Melody has been working with RUNA for a return concert at Grace Lutheran. RUNA was last at Grace on February 14, 2020, and presented us with an awesome concert that was enjoyed by a full house! Watch the e-blast for more information.



GRACE GIVES

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT AT 6PM

Grace Gives looks a little different during Lent. Grace Gives will take place at Grace in the gym this Lent!



We will return to soup suppers before services during Lent on Wednesday nights. Ash Wednesday, March 2, and each Wednesday following (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6) we will offer a simple soup supper in the gym. Dinner will begin at 6pm in the gym, serving until 6:45pm with services in the Sanctuary following at 7pm.

You may donate to the free will offering which will contribute toward food costs and the Grace Gives Fund.

QUILTING MINISTRY

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



USHERS STILL NEEDED

If you are able, please help us meet the need for **at least two ushers** during the worship service each Sunday—one to monitor needs in the sanctuary and one to stand at the entrance to the sanctuary and monitor the narthex and entrances to the bathrooms. We have occasionally had people we don’t know enter the building and remain for some time, and while we welcome everyone, we also want to be able to make sure everyone in the building is secure. Two ushers help us appropriately monitor both needs in the sanctuary and in the narthex and bathrooms.



We are in need of one usher to work with Tim Kelly the Sundays in March, July, and November.

We are in need of two ushers the Sundays of February, June, and October.

Please contact the church office and Barbara can add you to the schedule. Thank you.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Palmer Milleville, Rich Davison, Dorothy Tracy, Muzio Ficarella, 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.

Congratulations to Patrick & Colleen Derrico on the birth of their daughter Maeve. Grandparents are Grace members Tim & Jean Derrico.

Anniversary wishes to Jerry & Brigitte Miller on their 58th anniversary on March 6th.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

SR. CENTER CHAIR EXERCISE



The exercise class meets Mondays at 10:00am, Tuesdays at 10:00am, and Thursdays at 11:00am. Registration is required as the number of attendees will be limited. Please contact Sue Davison at 630-858-6343 to register.

YOUR GRACE COUNCIL

- President: Eva Holzapfel
- Vice President: Tim Kelly
- Treasurer: Paul Rom
- Secretary: Susi Nelson
- Clergy: Pastor Melody Eastman
- Council Members:
 - Rob Granner
 - Mark Hamilton
 - Rob Hutzler
 - Jim Kregor
 - Rob Margetts
- Student Rep: Rose Fenske
- Synod Assembly: Tim Kelly
 - Karin Slenczka

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
	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	GENERAL FUND
1/2		30	\$ 1,050
1/9		39	\$ 5,038
1/16		40	\$ 1,406
1/23		42	\$ 8,914
1/30	Cong. Mtg	62	\$ 4,963

Grace's **income** through January was **\$37,125** while **expenses** incurred during the same period are **\$44,092**.

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.

