

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 APRIL 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

As we gather for the first Easter Celebration together in two years, we're wondering if everyone will be back. Have we lost folks for good over the pandemic? Will the Church ever look the same?

For once I know the answer. It's "no." But then, the Church hasn't looked "the same" since its beginning. The Church (notice the big "C") has been changing since the day Jesus called Peter a rock—for whatever reason. (It could be taken a variety of ways, after all.)

We don't love change, and we really don't love change to the things/places/people we love. Our church checks all those boxes, so change in the church/Church can be especially difficult. But not all change is bad, and God can do amazing things with it.

Did you know there are 20 Christian faith communities in Glen Ellyn alone? That's a huge change from Luther's day, where one huge building for the faithful was enough. There was a time when most of our big churches were filled to bursting with people—but that's changed too. Is it bad? I can't really say. For a long time churches were filled with people who loved their church, because their friends were there and there was good fellowship and activities like choir and leagues and potlucks. Some of those folks loved their church more than they ever learned to love God. And now there are a whole lot of other ways for people to meet those social needs, and no one cares if you don't attend church, so more and more, people go elsewhere for the music and sports and eating together.

I did a rough calculation recently and came up with an interesting factoid: If all 20 churches spend roughly what we will spend this year on the physical building, then over 10 years the faith communities in Glen Ellyn alone will spend almost 30 million dollars maintaining their buildings.

Thirty. Million. Dollars. Are we, as people who love Jesus, making the best use of those resources for his sake?

Here's where Easter Resurrection comes into play.

What if the change Jesus is looking for is really about Resurrection, not only for our souls and spirits, but for our buildings as well? What if we can offer them up to be transformed into new life for the people around us, as a sign of what Jesus' death and resurrection means for us? A Resurrection Focus for a Resurrection Church held in trust by Resurrection People, who are thinking not about how we can keep *our* church going while others fold, but who are thinking about how we can become a center/vortex/beacon of hope that spirals out into the lives around us.

Change means possibility. We worship the God of Infinite Possibility, who can transform every death into life. There is no need to ever give up hope on the Church, because it belongs to our Resurrected Lord who really loves us Resurrection People.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



IN-PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9AM

The mask mandate has been lifted in Illinois. We have returned to in-person worship with communion at the rail followed by coffee and fellowship in the Fellowship Room.

ZOOM WORSHIP

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



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP WITH WORD AND PRAYER TURNING TOWARD GOD'S ABUNDANCE WEDNESDAYS AT 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.

The evening services will be available on Zoom using the same zoom link as Sunday mornings.

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 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 in the gym before services during Lent on Wednesday evenings. Dinner will begin at 6pm 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We had close to 60 in attendance at our Ash Wednesday service and we also had great turnout for the soup supper. **Glow** presented an instrumental of "O Love, How Deep" with handchimes during the service and the bell choir performed the postlude. Thank you to Jake Jacobson for his beautiful solo. Prior to the service following the Glow rehearsal, Bradford let some of the children in attendance warm up their fingers on the organ. Maybe we have a budding future Grace organist in our midst!



GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

SPARK PRESCHOOL AND SHINE ELEMENTARY GRADES 1-6 FAITH FORMATION WILL MEET 4/10 & 4/24

We will not meet 4/3 Spring Break and 4/17 Easter Sunday

10-10:15 Family fellowship time during coffee hour

10:15-10:40 Spring Presentation Rehearsal with Mrs. Drager

10:40-11:00 Spark Preschool Story & Lesson with Mrs. Ficarella

10:40-11:00 2nd Grade – 6th Grade Handchime Rehearsal with Bradford



CHILDREN'S SPRING PROGRAM 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 onsite at Faith will meet 4/6, 4/20 & 4/27 from 7-8:30pm.

The April 6th Wednesday Night at Faith in Lent will begin with Worship in the Sanctuary at Faith at 7:00pm, followed by Small Group/Large Group time 7:30-8:30pm. 4/20 & 4/27 are our last two 7-8:30pm classes.

Sunday Morning Confirmation onsite at Faith meets 4/3, 4/10 & 4/24.

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 last fall, only we are opening this up to include any youth, 2nd grade through High School.

Our group is called Glow.

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



EASTER EGG HUNT AT JACOBO WOODS, SATURDAY APRIL 16 10-11AM



Calling all kids to join us in an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt at Jacobo Woods!

Bring a basket or bucket and come enjoy a fun hunt for all the Easter Egg treasure you can find.

Donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided.

*If this event is rained out, we will reschedule the hunt in the Sanctuary AFTER the 9am Easter Service 4/17, beginning at 10:30am.

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration is now open for volunteers and participants. Grace Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, and 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 had another Saturday event booked in the gym in March, the weekly Tuesday evening Society of Creative Anachronism has returned, Becky has used the space for Sunday Faith Formation, 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 RETURNS TO GRACE!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 7PM**



Award-Winning Celtic Roots Music group **RUNA** will return to Grace on **Friday, March 25 at 7pm**.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and available on Grace’s website, www.GraceGlenEllyn.org, and at the church office. Tickets will also be available at the door at \$25 each.

Don’t know RUNA? This is a video of RUNA performing *Dance in the Graveyard*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW22OENmX40>.

You can find additional information on the group at their website www.RunaMusic.com. This is a concert you will not want to miss!



THURSDAY, APRIL 7 12:30-2:00PM

FaithTalk is an informal, open, spirited conversation for people with questions and a desire to dig deeper into faith, the world, God, and all matters spiritual. We love new ideas and working through tough issues, and we love one another even though we think about things differently.

There is no set topic for April; we will open up the conversation to any questions and explore what kinds of things we’d like to discuss in the future. Pastor Melody often presents on topics the group requests, but there is always great shared conversation and a healthy share of laughter.

It’s not a closed group—you are welcome to join us at any time! We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in the basement kitchen/group room (formerly called the Youth Room). Discussion runs from 12:30-2:00. If you have attended one of the Senior Center classes that ends at noon, you are welcome to brown bag and eat your lunch before our “official” conversation starts.



SCOOTER FUN AT FAITH FORMATION



PRAYER REQUESTS

Dorothy Tracy, Muzio Ficarella, Lucille Hanson, Frank Granata, and Kris Diesness for healing and strength.

The families of Ukraine who are being displaced and separated by war.

Matthew Barrera for a safe return to his family.

Anniversary wishes to Norm and Carol Wandke on their 70th anniversary on April 26.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

WOMEN OF GRACE



Join us for *Women of Grace* on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm for food, drinks, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Becky Ficarella if you can attend and she will make the reservation. Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn is currently our go-to location.

MEN OF GRACE

Men of Grace meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm for food, drinks, and fellowship. Please contact Jeff Nelson for additional information as the location for this group changes every month.

QUILTING MINISTRY



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

SR. CENTER CHAIR EXERCISE



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



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West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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 Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
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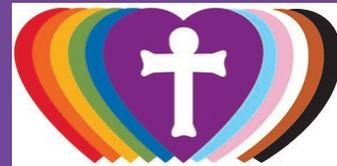
www.graceglenellyn.org

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
2/6	0	43	\$ 3,890
2/13	38	24	\$ 5,140
2/20	39	18	\$ 1,075
2/27	40	31	\$ 3,065

Grace's total **income** through February was **\$50,842** while **expenses** incurred during the same period are **\$92,611**.

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.

Thank you to everyone who choose to donate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Grace.

Remember also that Grace receives cash back when you shop at Amazon Smile. **Sign up for AmazonSmile and pick Grace Lutheran Church as your Charity of Choice** and remember to shop at AmazonSmile when making purchases online. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Here is the link for Grace Lutheran:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438>