

## Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
www.graceglenellyn.org  
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West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

MONTH OF MAY 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

Last month I poked the bear pretty hard in this column, talking about the amount of money spent on physical buildings by the 20 congregations in Glen Ellyn. And yes—I meant to provoke—in a very pastoral way, of course!

And this month, as I did in a recent sermon, I want to clarify a wrong conclusion some people may have drawn from that article. ***I do NOT believe we should close our congregation and sell the building.*** That's never been my goal or agenda, even though I have been clear that it could be a possibility—as it is for a whole lot of congregations today. But it's not the goal.

The goal, Beloved, is (in many senses) **Resurrection**. Grace has a beautiful, powerful, grace-filled history, and that history has successfully brought us this far. We give thanks for that! And in the life of every congregation, just as in the life of every believer, there comes those times when something old gets laid down (living at home with your parents, being a student, changing a career—or hosting a food pantry!) for the sake of something new and wonderful.

For a congregation, that can mean learning that not all congregations need to run on the same model. Some may continue with excellent programming for their members. Others turn to the needs of the community. (Only 2 possibilities out of many!) Neither is exclusive or best; in today's world, multiple expressions of the Church are needed.

We at Grace have a rich abundance of space. We don't

need it all for our members. *And that's not a bad thing!* We have so many wonderful partners in faith all around us who welcome us (and our kids) into shared programs geared toward church members. Which means that we can use our space to address unmet needs around us.

You know I've been talking about bringing in partner not-for-profit agencies to establish a wide range of services for seniors who are remaining in their homes or apartments, instead of moving into assisted living. Over the last months (years, really) I've been having a *lot* of conversations with the executive directors and leaders of various service agencies in the area. And I have to tell you, I have been *blown away* by the excitement, appreciation and support I am receiving. A marvelously dynamic young man on the staff of a large agency said, "This is awesome! I've never heard of a church willing to do something like this. I want to work with you to make this happen! Why aren't all churches doing something like this??" (He has since followed up with a lot of recommendations for connections and steps forward.)

I believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to a new thing—a **Resurrection** thing. **Of course we will continue wonderful worship, and inspiring music, and opportunities to learn and build and grow faith.** We will continue to **PROCLAIM + BUILD + SERVE.**

And some of things Grace has been in the past will fall into the earth and die—and as they die, **they will also produce much new fruit.** Letting them go doesn't mean we aren't grateful for them. We remain grateful for all we have been, and all God has done here. And we are grateful for all God will yet be doing!

**GRACE TO YOU**  
*Proclaim, Build, and Serve*



## SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9AM

Join us for worship with communion 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](http://www.GraceGlenEllyn.org).



### NEW MEMBERS

On Easter Sunday we welcomed Harold & Jacky Anderson to the community of Grace. Please be sure to introduce yourself.

### DRIVERS NEEDED



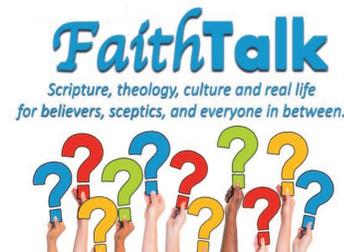
We have two Grace members who need a ride to church on Sunday mornings. One from Beacon Hill in Lombard and one near President Street and Geneva Road in Wheaton. Do you think you could help out with this? Your commitment would be once every 5-6

weeks. They are so thankful to be able to come to worship. If you think this would work for you, please call or email or call Cathy Milleville at [jmilleville@comcast.net](mailto:jmilleville@comcast.net).

## GRACE GIVES

For the first quarter of 2022, *Grace Gives* received **\$388.47** which was donated to Lutheran World Relief for their efforts in Ukraine. Buona Beef generated \$47.47, Lent Meals brought in \$145, and Barone's Pizza totaled \$196.

Our next *Grace Gives* will take place on May 11 at Portillo's in Glendale Heights. Additional information is on the insert page. Thank you for your support of *Grace Gives*.



**THURSDAY, MAY 5 12:30-2:00PM**

Did you know there are *two* version of the Creation story in the Bible? One appears in Genesis 1, and the other (which is probably older) appears in Genesis 2. There are a lot of similarities, but also a lot of differences. Why are they different? And why are they both in there anyway?

In May, Pastor Melody will lead us in a comparison of the two versions and talk about the differences and meanings of each. (Spoiler: they're *both* true but neither is particularly accurate.) Curious? Join us in the downstairs Kitchen Room.

*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.

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

## GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

### UPCOMING CHILDREN'S SPRING SERVICE WILL BE ON MAY 15 DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

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

**Preschool – Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rehearsal May 1 10am -11am after worship in the Sanctuary**

### UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION CONFIRMATION 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE THIS SUMMER

Community VBS is a fun way to help others and have fun! Dates run June 20-24 9:00-12:00 and there are many opportunities to help with prep before and after the event. Let Becky Ficarella know if you are interested in volunteering!

Faith Formation will begin again in September with Wednesday night programming taking place at Faith, 7-8:30pm. More details to come later this summer!

### CONFIRMATION SERVICE WILL BE CELEBRATED AT GRACE ON MAY 29 DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

There will be a cupcake reception to following the Confirmation Service in the Narthex. Please join us in congratulating our Confirmands!

### COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS.

**2022 Community VBS is a partnership of the following congregations: Grace Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church Glen Ellyn, First United Methodist Church Glen Ellyn, and St. Paul Lutheran Church Wheaton**

Monday - Friday, June 20-24, 9:00am-12:00pm. VBS will take place at Faith Lutheran Church, 41 N. Park Glen Ellyn. Check Grace's website to register! [www.GraceGlenEllyn.org](http://www.GraceGlenEllyn.org)



### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you love helping/teaching children and youth?

We would love your volunteering heart and spirit to join our Faith Formation team!

Looking for support to offer monthly and weekly faith and fellowship opportunities for our youngest toddlers, preschool/K, elementary, Middle, & High School students.

Middle School Confirmation (7 & 8 Grade) will be meeting at Faith Lutheran in September; however, we can always use the support of an adult leader for small groups on Wednesday evenings (7-8:30pm September-April with a long winter break that resumes the last week in January). Pastor Joe Yucha from Faith Lutheran Church leads this group with games and large group, and Becky Ficarella leads in small group.

Opportunities include music, crafts, small group leadership, storytelling, games, community service projects, and worship support. Let Becky Ficarella know if you would like to serve in this area. We will have opportunity to rotate offerings if a weekly commitment is not possible! The more people that can offer help, the more variety and fun we can offer our students. Please consider serving our youth this year! We begin again in late September.

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

[bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org)

847-347-0928

She/Her

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

## Glen Ellyn / Wheaton CROP HUNGER WALK

MAY 1, 2022

GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS

This interfaith mission to reduce hunger and poverty has not changed and, in fact, the need for local and global food supply is even more imperative - so let's get engaged and do everything we can to raise funds to fight hunger!! We will start our Crop Walk outside Faith Lutheran Church and take a walk together.

**1) Let's Walk:** May 1st at 1pm for registration with a 2pm walk off.

**Action:** Sign-up on this website so we can see everyone who will be walking!! Or contact me, Mike Pertle, and I can sign you up!! Even family and friends in other cities and states can participate!!

**2) Donate:** Please continue to encourage people to donate to this cause. This web page enables online contributions and we welcome donations now through May!!

**Action:** Send this link to family and friends anywhere in the U.S. who want to help support our local and global food supplies!! If you sign up to walk, they can donate directly to Church World Service or to Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn. Any amount is appreciated!! To donate, sign up to walk on the website and it is up and running now!! Make Checks payable to CWS/Crop

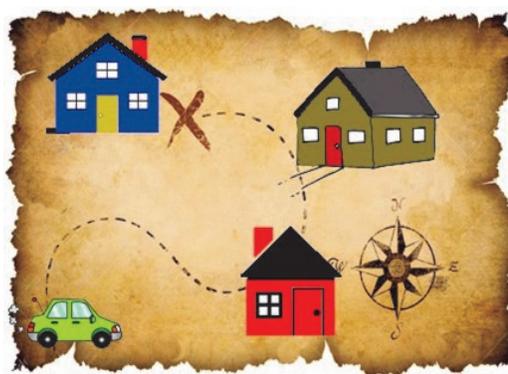
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/grace-lutheran-glen-ellyn-il>

What's important is that we remain purposeful to this cause so mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1st and participate any way you can!

Thank you,  
Mike Pertle  
mike.pertle@gmail.com, 630-488-0880

## SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

An easy way to help out at church is to help out with Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. It involves making coffee and setting it out in the fellowship room along with coffecake cut up to serve for 45 minutes after worship. We have a few people already volunteering, so if we get a few more, the commitment would only be once every other month. If you are interested, please talk to Becky Ficarella.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**PROGRESSIVE DINNER!**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

We are planning on restarting the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, June 11th. **We will have two options for sign up. Appetizers Only or Appetizers and Dinner.** We are planning on the Appetizer House to be held outside for those who still are uncomfortable eating inside but would like to re-connect with your Grace family. Appetizers will start at 5:30pm, with dinner houses to follow at 7:30pm. Please sign up on the poster in the Narthex for a great evening. Questions, please call Susi Nelson at 630-297-3620.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Dorothy Tracy, Dolores Nosal, Norma Petersen, Brittany Huizenga, 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 Greg & Donna Barber on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 13.

Birthday wishes to Marilyn Goodrich on her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 5, and Dolores Nosal on her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday May 18.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](http://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
3/2 (Wed)	60		
3/6	34	15	\$ 6,795
3/9 (Wed)	17		
3/13	35	24	\$ 6,839
3/16 (Wed)	15		
3/20	47	19	\$ 4,875
3/23 (Wed)	15		
3/27	35	15	\$ 4,395
3/30 (Wed)	8		

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