

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 JULY 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

Okay, I admit it. I have bought into and used my fair share of theological jargon that probably makes a lot of laypeople inwardly cringe and outwardly attempt to avoid eye contact. Among the top contenders of phrases I've used regularly and am now seriously re-thinking is *practicing discipleship*. Yes, I know—you can probably still remember the last time you heard it in a sermon. I use it a lot. But what, really, does it actually mean?

Growing in Faith? Ok. But what does *that* mean? I used to hope that if I was growing in faith I would experience either fewer doubts or less temptation. Neither seems to be happening, tho.

Praying and reading the Bible more? Well, I do those things a lot. But sometimes I feel frustrated with them because I don't really feel any different. I want my prayer life to make me feel *better*. And sometimes I do. But sometimes I don't. When I read scripture, sometimes I see something I never saw before. And sometimes I just think, "Yeah. I know this story."

Becoming a Better Christian? Ha. I don't know what a "better Christian" looks like. What I *do* know is that every time I hear someone use that phrase, they usually end up making very un-Jesus-like comparisons.

Believe me, I'm not saying there's no point in practicing discipleship. I know it's absolutely vital to my life in Christ. But I'm beginning to realize how very easy

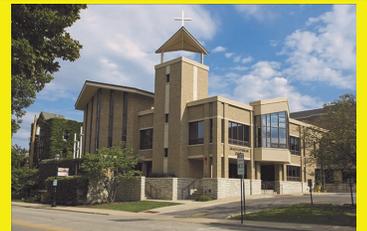
it can be to miss the point. I'm realizing that it would be very, very appealing to spend my entire life "practicing discipleship" at the feet of Jesus, learning to understand scripture better, reflecting on my doubts and sins, asking for grace, and doing everything in my power to love Jesus more—as long as I can stay sitting cozily at his feet. I could sit and learn forever. It's possible to practice discipleship like this for decades while never making any impact outside the walls of the church.

But discipleship isn't just learning about God. Discipleship is about *using* what we've learned about God, for the sake of people who don't know about God. Not, by the way, so that they will join our congregation and validate our presence and support our budget. (Really—it needs to be said.)

Discipleship means practicing the things that help us be open to God, understand more about God, and be stronger in loving God. It also means using what we have learned to love other people who need God—not for our sake, but for their sake. It's like being a living icon—an image that exists, not be worshipped, but to open a "window" to help people worship and love God.

Our call as a congregation is to *practice discipleship together*. To focus and draw from God those things that can change not only us, but also the world around us.

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9AM

Join us for worship with communion followed by fellowship and coffee in the Fellowship Room.

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 TO CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER

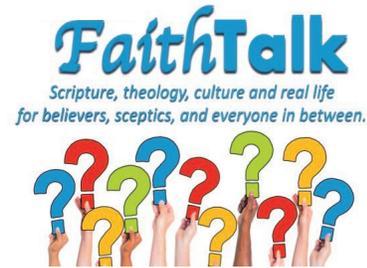
The Church Council received several requests from congregation members to review the start time of our Sunday Worship Service. After a thoughtful discussion, it was unanimously decided to make a change. **Beginning on Rally Day, September 11, 2022, Sunday worship at Grace will begin at 10am and Faith Formation will be at 9am.**

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Instead of a June date for the Food Pantry to relocate it now appears that the *earliest* the Food Pantry will be moving into their new location next to Faith Lutheran Church will be Thanksgiving. Grace will continue to have access to half the gym space at all times and use of the Fellowship Room on Sunday mornings.



Photo taken
May 24, 2022



**THURSDAY, JULY 7
12:30-2:00PM**

This month we are gathering for a conversation about the most pressing needs for seniors in Glen Ellyn who are living in their own homes or apartments, without the services associated with Assisted Living Communities. Grace is hoping to partner with other agencies in our area to expand resources for seniors in our community. What services could we offer that would support the emotional, mental, spiritual and physical well-being of our neighbors? How might we create a new approach to community service that benefits everyone? Pastor Melody and the Mission Partnership Strategy Team have been developing ideas but would love to hear more from the personal experience of seniors in our area. Join us for a lively conversation!

FaithTalk is 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 12:30-2:00pm.

**VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE
THURSDAY, JULY 21**

Our next blood drive will take place on Thursday, July 21 from 2:30-7:00pm. Signup information will be forthcoming in Grace's weekly *News From Grace* e-blast, in the narthex, and on Grace's website.



GRACE LUTHERAN'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

People of Grace

Men of Grace and *Women of Grace* have decided to combine forces this summer to offer you *People of Grace*. We will gather on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, this month on July 19th at 7pm at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn. Please RSVP with Becky Ficarella or Jeff Nelson for this month's event!

Grace Gives is July 26th at Buona Beef in Glen Ellyn

We will celebrate our July Fundraiser at Buona Beef on Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn. 20% of all orders placed, dine in and carry out, will go to Grace Gives when you bring your flyer and mention Grace Gives. Want to eat with a group from Grace onsite? Attend Fellowship Dinner Hour at Buona Beef at 6pm. See you there!

Grace Playgoup meets at Lake Ellyn on Monday mornings this summer.

We meet each Monday in July at Lake Ellyn Park from 9:00-11:00am except for the July 4th Holiday! Bring friends too. All are always welcome to join in the fun.



Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

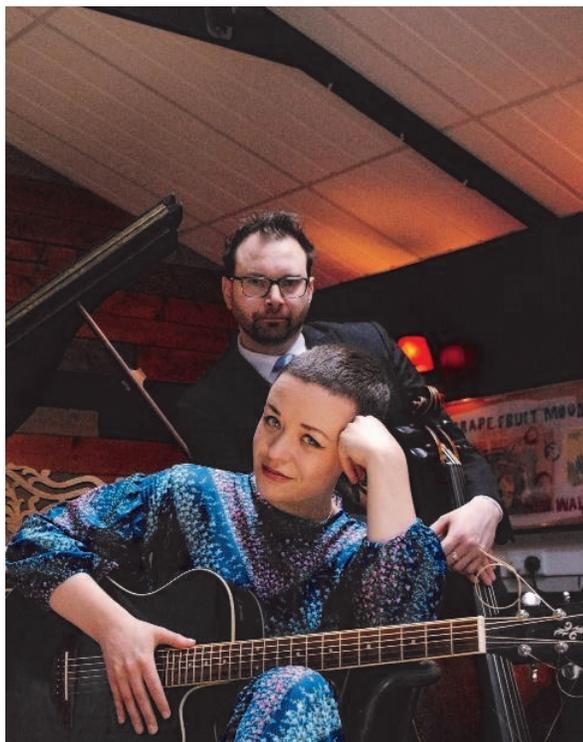
Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org; 847-347-0928

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AT GRACE JUNE 5, 2022



**EMMA LANGFORD AND ALEC BROWN
IN CONCERT AT GRACE!
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 7:00PM**



Join us for an outstanding evening of music with this folk duo before they head north to appear at the famous Milwaukee Irish Fest! Emma plays acoustic guitar and performs her own songs, many of which are inspired by traditional Irish and folk music (with, she says, a hint of Joni Mitchell and Janis Ian thrown in), and Alec is a wonderful cellist, flautist and singer in his own right. Together they create a delightfully unique take on traditional tunes and songs with a warm and folksy approach. Tickets are \$15 and will be available through the office or on Grace’s website.

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to Matthew LoGalbo and Leah Fenske who celebrated their confirmation on Sunday, May 29.

SR. CENTER CHAIR EXERCISE

The exercise class meets Mondays and Tuesdays at 10am. The Thursdays class will not meet in June, July, or August. Registration is required as the number of attendees will be limited. Please contact Sue Davison at 630-858-6343 to register.

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.



**PEOPLE OF GRACE
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 7PM**

Women of Grace and *Men of Grace* are COMBINED this summer! We have decided to merge our two groups into one for summer fellowship at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn. Please RSVP to Jeff Nelson or Becky Ficarella if you plan to join us. See you there!



QUILTING MINISTRY

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



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.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

PADS, FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

Thank you everyone for all you help. PADS is going to have the guests at the Interim Housing Center pick up the meals from Room 106.

- 1) We will no longer meet at the church to fill bags. (Joe will stop at the church to pick up the donated food between 4:30 and 5:00 - if anyone needs a ride from the church to the hotel, let Joe know and he can drive people as well as food.)
 - 2) The new process will be for us to meet at the Interim Housing Center at 5:15 to set the extras on tables outside Room 106 (east side of building). Center address is 1113 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove (get to the center off of the frontage road).
 - 3) We'll give out the meals as people come up and ask. They'll choose their own extras. We'll bring the frozen meals in coolers to give out to families with children. (Since only a percentage of people come to pick up the meals, if we made up bags, we'd just have to unpack most of them to put the meals in the refrigerator.)
 - 4) All extra meals will be put in the refrigerators on site for the clients to pick up at will.
- Thank you all so much! If you have any questions, please contact Donna at 630-740-4542; or Joe at 630-740-4527.



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



ATTENDANCE

DATE	IN-PERSON	ZOOM
5/1	45	16
5/8	48	11
5/15	59	10
5/22	30	12
5/29	59	13

Remember also that Grace receives cash back when you shop at Amazon Smile. **Sign up for AmazonSmile and select *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>