FROM THE PASTOR

It feels like a good time for a kind of “State of the Congregation” address. I’m happy to say that this fall is bringing good things to us here at Grace! Of course, some of that is change—but some of it is getting back to things we’ve been missing.

What’s new? Well, as you know we are returning to 10:00 for our single worship service. I know—some of you are thrilled and some of you are disappointed. Every time we address this issue we know that some people will be unhappy with the most recent decision. I’m not sure if you know this, but in studies on congregational conflict one of the most common causes for tension is worship times. I’m not sure what that says about the Body of Christ as a whole, to be honest. We’re doing our best to find what works best for the most people, but it’s never going to be perfect for everyone. I am grateful for the graciousness you have shown while we have tried to hear everyone and come to a decision.

This also means a slight change for the two other congregations now using our worship space each week. The Church of Christ, Scientist will come in at 11:00 (ish, as soon as we can clear out) to rehearse and prep for their service at 11:30. Then Falam Christian Church of Chicago will come in a little before 1:00 to set up for their worship. They are here until 6:00 every Sunday.

One of the advantages for us with this schedule is that it makes it much easier for Bradford, the choir, and other musicians and worship participants to rehearse and prep for worship. Faith Formation for Grace will also happen before worship, beginning at 9:00. (And just so you know, we will put summer worship time on the agenda for input at the congregational meeting. But you really don’t need to start lobbying for your preference now!) I’m looking forward to starting Adult Forum again on September 18, too; I’ve missed teaching. Tho it will be a challenge for me to hold myself to 45 minutes, I’ll do my best. ;-)

And in other news-of-change: As I write this we are still not positive of the Food Pantry’s transition date—but they are hoping for somewhere around Thanksgiving. I want you to know that while we are still in the beginning stages of conversations, we have had some very, very positive developments regarding our desire to partner with organizations to support seniors living in our area. Our vision is that this partnership will fill our building with services for our community while also providing us with the necessary financial resources to maintain our physical presence in our current space. Kind of like the partnership we have had with the Food Pantry, but on steroids. I’m hoping that I will be able to provide more details soon, but know that your prayers for our mission are bearing fruit! Please keep it up that good work.

So all in all, I feel encouraged and very, very excited about our path forward at Grace. While our priority is always to seek God’s desire, I believe God’s call for us has a rich future, and I am grateful for your faithfulness as we seek to answer that call together. As ever, thank you for your partnership in this mission.

Grace To You is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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 SEPTEMBER 2022
1085422-9

G R A C E  T O  Y O U
Proclaim, Build, and Serve
**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. **Starting on Rally Day, September 11, 2022, Sunday worship at Grace will begin at 10am followed by fellowship at 11am. Faith Formation will be at 9am beginning September 18.**

**Adult Faith Formation Begins September 18, 9:00-9:45**

We will start out the year with an opportunity to study/review/discuss one of our nation’s hottest current topics: abortion. Over the first few weeks we’ll take a look at scripture passages relevant to the topic, the history of the Church’s stance on abortion, and the ELCA’s conversation and Social Statement. Depending on the interest of the group, we will follow this series with a look at the ELCA position on medical ethics.

**Contribution Statements**

Contribution Statements through August 28 will be available to pick up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, September 11.

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**Thursday, September 1**

12:30-2:00pm

*Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?* Who or what is the cause of evil? Does God do it? Does God just allow it? Is Satan so strong that God can’t stop all of it? If God is all-powerful and all-loving, how can we make sense of the pain in the world? Hint: the easy answers aren’t the best ones here!

**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.

**Reconnect Rally Sunday September 11**

We are pleased to invite you to our Reconnect Rally on Sunday, September 11th following our first 10:00am Worship Service. We will celebrate this day as an opportunity to reconnect with our members and friends with food, games, and fun! This is also the ELCA’s *God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday* so we will support two community needs with service project stations for you to lend a hand.

Come join the fun! We can't wait to Reconnect with you!

**Coffee Hour and Special Event Help**

Would you like to host coffee hour on a Sunday morning? Be an extra pair of hands for any special events like a fellowship luncheon for members? We would love to add a few more people to our rotation and volunteer lists. You do not have to commit every week, but be a part of a rotation every 6-8 weeks.

Please let Cathy Millville or Becky Ficarella know if you can help!
Grace Lutheran’s Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Faith Formation for Children & Youth will begin on Sunday, September 18th at 9:00am. Note new time!

Sunday Morning Faith Formation meets 9:00-9:45am September 18th and September 25th in September.

**Children: Ages 2 up to 6th Grade**

9:00-9:15am: Gathering and fellowship time in the Great Room on 2nd Floor with crafts and toys. Coffee and healthy morning snacks available for families as they drop off their students.

9:20am: Group Prayer and Sending Song

9:20-9:45am: *Spark Preschool-Kindergarten Class* stays with Mrs. Graf in the Great Room

**Shine 1st-6th Grade Class** with Mrs. Drager in gym for Faith Formation and Bradford Thompson for Hand Chime Rehearsal

*We NEED parent, guardian, and member support of these students for each of these classes. We need at least one other adult to assist each class, each week. Please let Becky Ficarella know if you can help!*

**Youth: Confirmation & High School Students 7th to 12th Grade**

Sunday Morning Faith In Action with Becky Ficarella for all Confirmation & High School students.

Meet from 9am-9:45am in the Grace Gym Kitchen to assist with various service projects, such as the Pill Bottle project, assemble packages for PADS, assist with cleaning the Sanctuary and preparing the space for Worship. As we work together, we will discuss a topic that ties to the lectionary text for the week.

We will participate in Children & Youth Sunday on October 23 and December 11. Plan to use time on October 16 and December 7 to prepare for those Services. We will meet on October 23 & and December 11 to rehearse prior to 10am Service.

*We NEED parent, guardian, and member support of these students. We need at least one other adult to assist each week.*

**Do you have a service project our group can help with? Want to work with us before Services? We can always use a hand!**

**Wednesday Night Confirmation Program for 7th & 8th Grade**

We will continue our Confirmation partnership with Faith Lutheran Church in 2022/23. Confirmation will meet at Faith Lutheran Church weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm beginning September 7th.

7:00-7:30pm Games

7:30-8:30pm Large Group and Small Group Discussions

Wednesday evenings will cover the content of the material covered for the Confirmation curriculum. Pastor Wende West, Pastor Melody Eastman, and Becky Ficarella will lead the large group and small group discussions.

We are looking for parent/guardian/member support of this ministry! Just being an extra adult to support the games or small group discussions is a huge help. Please let Becky Ficarella know if you are interested!

*Children & Youth Sunday will held be on October 23 and December 11. Be sure to mark your calendar!*

Peace Be Upon You Grace Family and Friends.

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
bficarella@graceglenellyn.org
847-347-0928
She/Her
VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you so much hosting a Versiti blood drive in July. Our team registered 15 donors; only TWO were deferred and they collected 13 units. Because of your generous Church Family – up to 39 lives were saved! The next drive we have on the calendar for Grace is confirmed for Thursday, October 13, 2022.

Camille Piazza I Senior Account Representative Versiti – Blood Center of Illinois

A big shout out also to Tim Stephen for working with Versiti to organize these blood drives at Grace three times a year. Thank you Tim!

Celebrating the 68th Year of the DuPage County Fair with Marilyn Goodrich

Beginning in 1954, Marilyn Goodrich of Goodrich Farms has participated in the DuPage County Fair. For a very long time Goodrich Farm was the only goat farm in DuPage County. There are now four farms that raise goats in DuPage. Marilyn has participated in the Glen Ellyn Historical Society’s Pioneer day for 26 years. The visitors at the site of Stacy’s Tavern Museum have enjoyed the goats, chickens and rabbits that the Goodrich’s brought for a visit. Pioneer Day is Sunday, September 25 between the hours of 1 and 4:30pm and the Goodrich animals will be there. Jennifer Sue Mitton-Cox will also be at the site with her beautiful horses. Mark the calendar for a truly great pioneer experience. Photo: Marilyn Goodrich celebrated her 94th birthday and is posed with her daughter Bonnie Goodrich Pagonis who is a Director of the DuPage County Fair.

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.

QUILTING MINISTRY

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

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Monday evening Bible study group, starting on Monday, September 12 at 7pm, will study the Acts of the Apostles. We concluded our study of the Gospel of Luke in May, and Acts is a sequel to Luke. They are addressed to the same Roman official and show a common hand, whether of an individual or a group. Acts begins where Luke ends, with the final instructions by Jesus to His disciples, then the Ascension. After this comes the Festival of Pentecost and the initial efforts of the original disciples in Judea. The bulk of the Book is concerned with the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. For much of this, the language switches from “he” to “we,” as the historical Luke was a companion of Paul on many of his voyages. As with our study of Luke, we will use Kerygma Bible study materials. The writer of the Resource Book for Acts is Carol J. Miller, whose style will be familiar to us as she was also the author of our study materials for Luke. Participation will be possible in person in the Great Room and via Zoom link until the COVID situation improves greatly in Illinois.

The Monday night group has become cohesive over the years, sharing 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 before so that we may order course materials for you and add you to our Email list.

PADS INTERIM HOUSING CENTER

Volunteer Resource Room Attendants are urgently needed! Resource Room Attendants help guests at our Interim Housing Center by bagging up much-needed food, baby care and personal care items.

-Attendants help keep donations in the Resource Rooms organized and tidy.

-Shifts are available working in teams on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2-6pm.

-This volunteer role has the most direct client interaction of all our volunteer positions. Please bring your welcoming smile and positive attitude to this volunteer opportunity.

Please sign up at https://volunteer.dupagepads.org/need/

Questions? Contact Volunteer Manager, Suzanne Thibeault, stthibeault@dupagepads.org
**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Dorothy Tracy, Norma Petersen, Brittany Huizenga, for healing and strength. 
Family and friends of Dolores Nosal for comfort in grief.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**
Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

**Anniversary Wishes:** Ray & Bette Dieter, 61 years on 8/29 and Tim & Jean Derrico, 50 years on 9/30.

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**GraceGives at Barone’s in Glen Ellyn**
**Tuesday, September 13**

Go to Barone’s to eat at the restaurant or take it home to go, just remember to mention GraceGives when you place your order. 20% will go back to Lutheran Hunger Relief.

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**Progressive Dinner**
**Saturday, September 17**

Sign up in the Narthex for the Progressive Dinner. 5:00-7:00pm will be Outdoor Appetizers at the Jacobo’s 7:30-9:30 will be the Dinner & Dessert Houses. You may sign up for one or both sessions. We look forward to dining together with you!

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**People of Grace**
**Tuesday, September 20, 7PM**

We will gather at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn for dinner and drinks. People of Grace is a fellowship event open to all members and friends of Grace. RSVP with Becky Ficarella at bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

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**Altar Flowers**

Would you like to place flowers on the altar to celebrate something, or to honor and remember someone special, or just to make the altar look pretty? One or two flower arrangements may be ordered. They are $15 each and can be ordered by emailing or calling the church office. You may state the reason you are ordering them, which can be put in the bulletin. You can pay for the flowers along with your regular offering, just make a note indicating the Sunday you ordered them for.

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**Weekly Gospel Lesson Discussion**
**Wednesday Mornings 7:30-8:30AM**

Our Wednesday morning bible study group discusses the gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. It is a small, but dedicated, group of members and non-members of Grace Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend. Vince Hardt emails out the lesson and questions in advance or you may pick them up from the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room. Please contact Vince if you would like to receive that weekly email. vvince2001@hotmail.com