

## 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 FEBRUARY 2023**  
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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

What do you want from God? Lent will be starting in a few weeks, and many of us will be thinking about the emphasis of “returning to God” and “Lenten disciplines” and various other confession-oriented things. Have you asked yourself *why*, though? What is it you hope to receive from God in your Lenten practice?

I ask myself this question now and then, and usually I find my thoughts running along a familiar track. Am I hoping to score points? Earn credit? Of course not! I’m Lutheran; I know better than that. Then what? Make myself a better person? Take a second run at the failed New Year’s resolutions in the hopes that this year, unlike all the years up to now, they’ll somehow stick and I’ll stop doing the stuff I need to stop and start doing the things I need to do but don’t want to? Am I hoping God will somehow help me stick to my latest self-improvement goal? Make me more faithful? Make me *better*?

The more I dig into this, the more I realize how much I don’t love most of the answers I come up with. Too often I have a vague sense that I’m still missing the point somehow, but I’m not always sure how. To be honest, all too often I’m not sure at all what I want— from God or from myself. Other times I’m well aware that what I want is really just a way to justify myself, or be more content, or some other thing that, when I think about it, Jesus has never, ever asked me to do.

That’s when I find myself asking, “What does God want me to want?”

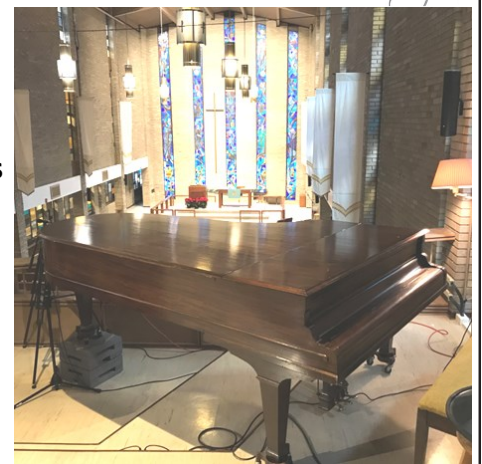
I’m not sure I have any easier answers to that, but it does help me clear my head of much of the unhelpful stuff. And there is certainly more scriptural guidance on this particular question. Like, “The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

There is something about asking what God wants me to want that is clarifying for me. It seems to shed a bit more light on what’s right in front of me, and simplify choices that at first seemed overwhelming.

The season of Lent was never meant to weigh us down, or make our faith more difficult. It’s meant, I think, to offer us the chance to lay down pretense and false expectations, stand in honesty and clarity before God, and remember how to want what God wants us to want. How to want what matters most. How to want God.

*Pastor Melody*

**Read about Grace’s new 9’ concert grand piano on Page 4.**



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



## SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by fellowship at 11am.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE?

### JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, TO LEARN MORE!

From its beginning in 1988, the ELCA has made a firm commitment to become an increasingly multicultural and an intentionally anti-racist church. How are we doing here at Grace, living up to this commitment?

Is there interest in starting an open-ended conversation about the ways in which experiences of race and racial disparities are affecting our lives and our community? One possible outcome of such a conversation could be to explore ways in which we can take action together to work toward racial healing.

Other communities on this journey have found the format of a sharing circle helpful. This format is based on a mutual agreement to create a safe space for all who choose to participate and to practice deep listening as we talk about difficult topics.

Join us after worship on **Sunday, February 5** for coffee and conversation to learn more. During this discussion, we will address the following questions:

- What is racial healing and why is it important to talk about it?
- What is a sharing circle and how does it work?
- What are the ground rules we agree upon to facilitate a safe sharing space for all?

Is there interest in starting a Sharing Circle on Racial Healing at Grace? - If there is, we will discuss next steps.

Karin Slenczka, Member of Grace



## FAITH TALK

Last month we explored the liturgical calendar, and how the year's cycle tells a story of discipleship. This month we explore the "story" of worship. What exactly is "liturgy?" What do all the parts mean? Why do we do what we do? How much of it is considered "necessary," and what's the purpose of ritual? How, when and why do we change things up or decide to leave things the same?

All the questions are welcome, and we almost always find some fascinating rabbit holes, too. Lots of insight, wisdom and laughter—you're welcome to join us!

Join us in the downstairs Kitchen Meeting Room on **Thursday, February 2 from 12:30-2:00pm**. Everyone is welcome!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 29th at 11:15am**. Grace will have its annual congregational meeting following our Sunday worship service. Your attendance is needed to reach our 50 member quorum requirement. The meeting will be conducted in the Sanctuary and on **Zoom**. We will be voting to approve the 2023 budget and electing new Church Council members. We will also share with the congregation our vision and plans for a new and exciting ministry partnership that will carry Grace into the future. Come and be a part of this exciting time at Grace.

## PEOPLE OF GRACE

Please join the People of Grace for dinner and fun conversation on the dates below. The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 7pm. The location will vary each month to keep it fresh. Please contact Jeff Nelson at [jeff.nelson@vlses.com](mailto:jeff.nelson@vlses.com) if you are interested in attending these events. **February 21; March 21**

## 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

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

### FAITH FORMATION

**February Faith Formation:** 2/5; 2/12; 2/19 no class; 2/26

**March Faith Formation:** 3/5; 3/12; 3/19 no class; 3/26

**April Faith Formation:** 4/2 no class; 4/9; 4/16 no class; 4/23; 4/30

**May Faith Formation:** 5/7 Possibly a Children & Youth Sunday Service



### Faith Formation for Children Ages 2 up to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**9:00-9:15am:** All ages gather for fellowship time in the Narthex with music and art or games - parents are welcome to drop off or stay

**9:20am:** Group Prayer and Sending Song

**9:20-9:45am:** *Spark Preschool-Kindergarten Class* heads to classroom downstairs with Mrs. Graf and Mrs. Hutzler for a craft and lesson (toys available for young children)

**Shine 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class** joins Mrs. Drager and Mrs. Kregor downstairs in the multi-use room (with kitchen).

### Faith Formation for Middle School Grades 7 & 8

Middle School will be doing their own at home study during this season.

***We currently have two teacher/parents for each age group, but if you would be willing to fill in as a back-up for either age, please email [heather.m.graf@gmail.com](mailto:heather.m.graf@gmail.com) or [mmscyndy@aol.com](mailto:mmscyndy@aol.com)***

### PADS UPDATE

It's time for PADS again which is the first Tuesday of every month, in this case **February 7th**.

The families are in a bad situation and need a little help to get back on their feet. They stay in the interim housing for up to three months. Then PADS helps with the startup costs of an apartment as well as job assistance. Our guests are 1/3 children.

If you'd like a closer look at what we do and who we serve, please join us at the IHC (Interim Housing Center) - previously a red roof inn - east side of the building Room 106 - on the south side of Butterfield just west of Highland Ave between 5 and 5:30pm.

For February 7th, we're looking for meals - fresh cooked hot or cold that can be put in the containers that we already have. For example: We are making Mac & Cheese along with slices of sausage for our guests. Frozen or Shelf stable foods are also welcome.

Of course, all donations are appreciated. If anyone has contacts with restaurants or stores who would like to help, please let us know.

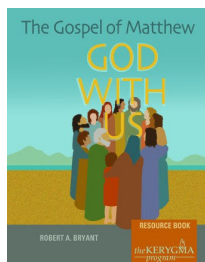
Please leave donated food for PADS (**1st Tuesday of the month**) upstairs in the Gym Kitchen. Food from the Church is picked up about 2pm on Tuesday. Or it can be dropped off at our house (1N346 Prairie Av, GE - last house on the left). We usually leave for the site around 4:30.

A group of people come over the Sunday before PADS Day at 1pm to help prepare food. If you have any food that needs to be separated or packed in individual bags or containers, it would be wonderful if you could bring it to our house prior to 1pm on Sunday.

Thank you so much for all your support.! Joe and Donna Jacobo



## MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY



The Monday evening Bible study group, starting on **Monday, January 30 at 7:00pm**, will study the Gospel of Matthew. This is the primary Gospel we are hearing in church in the current church year which began in late November.

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. Participation will be possible in person in Becky's previous office (note new location) and via Zoom link. 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.

vvince2001@hotmail.com, marham999@gmail.com



## GRACE'S NEW CONCERT GRAND PIANO!!!

As of November of 2022, Grace has welcomed a new addition to its worship landscape. Say hello to our new (to us) concert grand piano!!!

For many years, Grace's sanctuary has been blessed with a beautiful Yamaha baby grand piano. However, after many years of working with this instrument, it became clear that we needed a bigger boat....I mean... piano.

It's nothing short of a miracle that this 1925 Henry F. Miller concert grand piano showed up for EXACTLY the same price for which we sold our Yamaha! We could have budgeted \$30k or more and still not have found such an interesting and beautiful instrument.

Henry F. Miller was a Boston concert pianist of considerable renown in the latter half of the 19th century. As a young man he worked in his father's watch shop, taking special interest in mechanics and mathematics. He spent over a decade working for two different premier Boston area piano manufacturers, only to conclude that he believed he could build a better piano. Given his unique perspective as an accomplished performer, he sought to design instruments that pianists of any level would thoroughly enjoy playing. He wanted an instrument that could communicate softer pianissimos and richer, more robust fortissimos, and he wanted the pianos to sound good regardless of the genre of music played on them. The instruments were so sought after that Miller quickly had to bring all five of his sons on board to help him run the company, one of which he also sent to MIT, to study acoustics.

In the late 1920's, Miller's sons sold the company, but before they did, they built our piano, which is a mathematical and musical masterpiece. It was built BY HAND in Boston, and is one of the only surviving Henry F. Miller concert grands of the 20th century. It came to us extensively rebuilt (new strings, new hammers, refinished cabinet and plate), and has been very well-cared for.

We are so blessed to now own a unique piece of American music history. We have gone from a 5'7" baby grand to a one of a kind 9' concert grand. It makes me happy every time I see it, and even happier when I play it. The truth is that a 9' piano has far more colors and dynamics than any 5'7" can offer. This stands to reason—the bass strings are literally three feet longer!

You should have heard the five movers shout as they fought this monster of a piano up the gym stairs. According to them, it was heavier than a Steinway D (Steinway's concert grand).

I'll admit it—the piano (in general) is my best friend. It has been for nearly my whole life, and I'm so very excited and grateful that Grace now houses one of the finest pianos in Glen Ellyn.

As ever, thank you all for your endless support for the music ministry here at Grace!!!

Peace, and much love,  
Bradford



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Thom Griffin, Rich Davison, Dorothy Derrico, Brittany Huizenga, Dorothy Tracy for healing and strength.

**Prayers for our Homebound Members:**

Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

**SR. CENTER ACTIVITIES WITH SUE DAVISON**

The Glen Ellyn Senior Center is supported by the Village of Glen Ellyn and provides many different services to Glen Ellyn Seniors 60 years of age and older, as well as to their families. Senior Center services include a monthly newsletter, a flu shot clinic and transportation services including Ride DuPage and reduced fare cards for Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Information and referral services for seniors and their families on issues related to senior citizens are also available at the Glen Ellyn Senior Center.

**Chair Exercise classes** in the Gr. Room. Classes are held every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 10am. Classes are designed to strengthen your core and balance to help prevent falls.

A **movie** is shown in the Gr. Room every fourth Friday of the month at 10am. Light refreshments are served.

The Sr. Center also has a monthly **book club** that meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am.

Space is limited so please contact Sue at 630-858-6343 or sdavison@glenellyn.org to reserve your spot or to find out the book and/or movie of the month.



Unfortunately, the Pantry will not be moving in January. Fingers crossed for sometime in the first quarter of 2023.

Thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,  
 Laura Glaza, Executive Director  
 630.469.2819  
 LGlaza@GlenEllynFoodPantry  
 www.glenellynfoodpantry.org

**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  
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[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**Every Member: Minister & Missionary!**

Melody Eastman, Pastor  
 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
12/4	48	8
12/11	84	7
12/18	57	12
12/24	139	24

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room. Arrangements are \$20 each. Sign up on the chart in the Fellowship Room or you may email or call the church office. Please indicate how you would like the flowers noted in the bulletin.

**JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE**

Our team registered 14 donors: 3 were deferred and they collected 12 units. Because of Grace and the generous donors there – up to 36 lives were saved. Thank you so much! And, once again – Grace hosting the drive this first week of the new year is SO important to us. We are grateful for each and every donation. Versiti