

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 MARCH 2023
1085423-03

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

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Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Permit #104



FROM THE PASTOR

When I was called to Grace over 7 years ago, the Call Committee and Council asked me to assist you with change. Little did any of us know just how much change we would have to navigate. We thought re-visioning the space at the front of the sanctuary, altering worship times, and becoming an RIC congregation would be plenty of challenge. Little did we know that COVID would be coming and the Food Pantry would be going. There hasn't been a single year where we felt we could get a break from "the C word."

One of the biggest changes, though, has been a challenge for the Church all across the US for the last 40 years: How do we change our mindset from "How can we survive?" to "How can we serve?" This is a tough one, and it's one that too many congregations just aren't willing to consider. It's absolutely critical, though, for the future of the Church. Your willingness to embrace servant mode instead of survival mode as Grace faces its own set of ongoing changes is a beacon of hope in a whole lot of ways, and for a whole lot of people.

Of course, it also means more change. Not the least of which is yet another change of pastor, as I plan for my retirement at the end of 2023. As I told the folks at the congregational meeting, I struggled with whether this was an irresponsible decision, what with our plans for developing a community of wellness for seniors aging in place still in such early stages. Honestly, I worried about whether you would feel like I'm abandoning you.

But the truth is, you all are ready for this change. The gifts I brought to support you while you breathe through change which (you told me) you previously resisted are not necessarily the gifts you need to bring your next vision to reality. The gifts I brought to help you *find* the vision are not necessarily the ones you need to *enflesh* the vision. I am so grateful to have been able to work with you as you take on the stress of change, work together respectfully through disagreements, and practice reflection and adaptation. And I am grateful that in the next stage of this mission, you will be supported by a pastor with new gifts for what you need next.

Over the course of this year I will continue to work with you on important next steps to move Grace forward in this process. We're learning a lot and will be determining some beginning programs for implementation, hopefully within the next year. Your faithfulness in your financial support makes this possible; by helping us reduce our deficit each year, you are giving Grace the time we need to get the pieces in place for the full vision to grow. (Do you know, since I got here we have *never* had a budget with such a small deficit gap as we have now? Thank you!!! And please, *keep it up!*)

This next year is going to be exciting, filled with hard work and lots of experiments, maybe a few mis-fires, lots of learning, and even more hope. I look forward to our work together!

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP LUNCH AND SUPPER

Join us on **Ash Wednesday February 22** for soup lunch/supper and worship. Lunch will be served at 11:15 followed by worship service at 12:00. In the evening, soup supper will be served at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:00.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Join us each Wednesday in Lent for a simple soup supper. We will start serving at 6:15 in the narthex. Worship service will follow in the sanctuary. Those Wednesdays might be cold outside, but the soup and fellowship is warm inside. Anyone interested in making a pot of soup for 10-12 people for any of those days can sign up in the narthex. Come be a part of the Lenten fellowship.

WHEN BEING THE CHURCH IS HARD: SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Again this year, you are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings for a time of centering, prayer, and worship following the Simple Soup Supper. This we will talk about *what* the Church is, *why* the Church is, and how God continues to build up and restore the Body of Christ for the future proclamation of the Gospel.

March 1 – Spirit

What exactly does the Holy Spirit do? How do we practice our connection to the work of the Spirit—especially if the work of the Spirit challenges our comfort zones?

March 8 – Suffering

Is suffering good? Why is it such a prominent theme in Christian faith, and how do we know when to accept it and when to fight it?

March 15 – Sacrifice

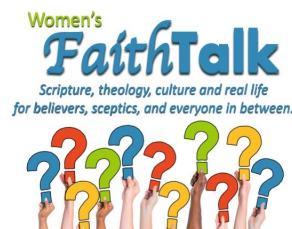
Not the same as Suffering, but with many of the same questions. When is sacrifice good, and when is it harmful? Why does God want it anyway?

March 22 – Sustaining

The sustaining work of the Spirit isn't about making us *feel* better—it's about making us *be* better. How do we recognize this blessing when it can be so uncomfortable?

March 29 – Sign

The ultimate question of "Why Church?" Is it just for the assurance of eternal life, or is there more to it?



This month we're re-visiting Confirmation—but not in a bad way! We're going to look at the somewhat strange and very surprising history of this rite of passage, and explore its development from its original practice as part of the three-fold rite of Entrance to the Church to its current expression. Did you love it? Hate it? Never go through it? (Your pastor didn't!) There will almost certainly be stuff here you've *never* heard, and some interesting ways of thinking about how we pass on the faith. Join us on **Thursday, March 2** in the Lower Level Kitchen Room from **12:30-2:00**. Everyone is welcome!

All 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!

PEOPLE OF GRACE

Please join the People of Grace for dinner and fun conversation on **March 21**. 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 if you are interested in attending.



WE'RE HAVING A POT-LUCK!!

Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fellowship at a **St. Patrick's Pot-Luck** following worship service on **Sunday, March 19**. We'll provide the drinks and paper goods, you just bring a dish to share. See the sign up in the narthex. Come join us!

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 UP TO 6TH GRADE

9:00-9:15am: All ages gather for fellowship time in the Narthex with music and art -

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

- **SPARK** classes will focus on “Fruit of the Spirit” lessons & crafts
- **SHINE** will be learning Bible lessons from Matthew

March

5 – Spark: Patience – planting flower seeds

12 – All ages combine for bread making!

19 – Spark: Goodness – ***Bring canned food donations***

26 – SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

April

2 – SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

9 – Palm Sunday – Classes combining - making unleavened bread & communion recommitment

16 – EASTER NO CLASS

23 – Spark: Gentleness – Gentle words jars

30 – All ages practice for Children & Youth Sunday service

May

7 – Children & Youth Sunday! Service & music practice

With thanks,

Heather Grad, Allison Hutzler, Cyndy Drager, and Karen Kregor



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR POSITION

Grace is seeking someone to fill the position of Children's Ministry Coordinator—a somewhat pared down position previously held by Becky Ficarella. This position will focus on faith formation and events for our kids in Sunday School, and will involve working with teachers and parents, organizing curriculum and materials, working with VBS, and coordinating with the pastor on Confirmation ministry.

The position will require roughly 10-12 hours per week on a flexible schedule. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Melody.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** was held Sunday, January 29 at 11:15am in the Sanctuary. Listed below are the highlights from the meeting.

Pastor Melody's Report: Pastor Melody gave the congregation a summary of the Mission Strategy Team's findings for the past year. With the exit of the Food Pantry, Grace is looking at the possibility of Outreach into the Community. The vision is to help seniors thrive in their own homes with programs designed to help them with nutrition, mental health and physical well being. We are envisioning Grace as a community center of Wellness.

Reverend Sunitha Mortha: Rev. Mortha is the Associate to the Bishop and Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging who visited Grace to give support and encouragement for Grace's Vision.

2023 Annual Budget was Approved: Paul Rom thanked the congregation for their generous support with a 6% increase in pledge donations this year.

New Council Elected: The new *Executive Council* was named: Tim Kelly-President; Paul Rom -Treasurer; Pastor Melody Clergy; Jim Kregor-Vice President; Susi Nelson-Secretary

Members at large include: Mark Hamilton, Rob Granner, Rob Margetts

Newly Elected Members: Karley Solons, Karin Slenczka, Leah Fenske

Synod Assembly to be held June 3 in St. Charles: Two representatives from Grace are needed for this meeting. Please contact Pastor if you would like to attend.

New Business: The 10am Sunday worship time will remain throughout the summer.

Pastor Melody Announces her Retirement:

Pastor Melody announced to the congregation that after seven years at Grace she will be retiring at the end of 2023. We were all saddened by this announcement but wish her well as she spends more time with her family.



PADS

It will be time for PADS again which is the first Tuesday of every month, in this case March 7th.

For March 7th, we're looking for meals - fresh cooked hot or cold that can be put in the containers that we already have. For example: A pan of homemade Chili.

We also need Frozen dinners or Shelf stable foods and fruit like oranges, apples and bananas. Dessert items are also welcome. Please remember that a third of our guests are children when making food selections.

Of course all food 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 Church Kitchen via the gym. - Food from the Church is picked up about 2:00 pm on Tuesday. Or, it can be dropped off here at our house - we usually leave for the site around 4:15. (1N346 Prairie Ave, GE - last house on the left - 630-790-1612)

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 - on the south side of Butterfield just west of Highland Ave between 5 and 5:30 - east side of building room 106. We are always looking for volunteers to help us distribute the food.

A group does come over the Sunday before PADS day at around 1pm to help prepare food. So if you have any food that needs to be separated or packed in individual bags or containers. If possible please bring that food prior to 1pm on Sunday.

Thank you for your support and helping members in our community.

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



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by great refreshments and Christian fellowship at 11am.

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

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.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

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

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
1/7	53	8
1/15	58	8
1/22	62	8
1/29	74	11

