

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 APRIL 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

It's very strange for me to think that this could well be my last newsletter article encouraging people to attend all the services of the Triduum, the three-day liturgical event that comprises

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Resurrection of Our Lord. (Actually, it's supposed to culminate with the Great Vigil of Easter, which is traditionally a 3-hour service that runs from late Saturday night into early Sunday morning. But since it's pretty hard to attract people to even a shortened, earlier version of that liturgy, we're going to count Easter morning as the final part.)

I know some people say they don't like these services (with the exception of Easter, of course!) Some people say they are too "dark" as though that's a bad thing. But I find the "darkness" of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday incredibly nourishing, spiritually. They are quieter, more somber times, to be sure. They create space for reflection. They allow for slow, deep breaths, spiritually speaking.

Some people think Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are all about wallowing in sadness. But I find them just the opposite. These somber times aren't about wallowing helplessly in grief or shame. They are about strength that faces down even the most difficult truths of our lives. They are about steadfastness, a certain calm confidence that harsh realities cannot shake or destroy us—because Christ is with/for us. They are

about Love that is *always* present, *especially* in darkness. For me, the darkness of the worship space on these nights is beautiful, reflecting the rich depths of a cosmic God who finds us everywhere, in darkness and in light. These services strip away so many distractions so that the main thing we experience is the Presence of God.

I absolutely, completely love the Triduum. I feel like everything I am and everything I long for is wrapped up in those three days. I need to be fed and loved. I need to know that I am needed *to* love. I need to know that I am not left alone in my dying. I need to know that I am named and forgiven. I need to know that unexpected, unlimited promise answers my longing.

I need *all* of the Triduum. I wait all year long for the experience of worshipping in this extended, single liturgy. It has been in indescribable honor for me to be able to lead the people of God through it for 35 years. I truly wish I knew how to give everyone the experience of God's grace and power that I find in the full Triduum. But I don't; your experience belongs to you as mine belongs to me. Still, there is a reason this liturgy has been with the Church for so many centuries; the act of worship here is powerful.

If it has not been your habit or practice to attend all three parts of this service, this is my last time inviting you to check it out and see if it feeds your soul as much as it feeds mine. And really, this isn't meant to be pressure. But it is an invitation as full of heartfelt love as I can make it. I hope to worship with you there.

Pastor Melody

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Join us for Holy Week! Sunday services are at 10am; evening services are at 7:00pm.

April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday

This day marks the start of Holy Week with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem—come grab a palm branch and join in the welcoming cries! Then listen with us as the story shifts suddenly and radically into Jesus' arrest and death. The contrast between the two events is intentional, and lifts up for us the tension inherent in our salvation story.

April 6 Maundy Thursday

The first segment of the Triduum, one continuous worship experience that comprises Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Celebration of the Resurrection. The name comes from the Latin for "command" and reflects on Jesus' command to serve one another as he served us. We also join in the meal Jesus instituted with his disciples to give them strength for the days ahead.

April 7 Good Friday

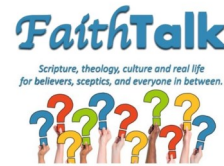
The day of watching with our Lord during his crucifixion, and thanking him for the life he gives us. The Adoration of the Cross is not just an exercise in morbidity, but a reminder that the sins of the world are still carried by Christ out of his undying love for us.

April 9 Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord is the culmination of our worship, as we gather to hear the Good News that Christ has overcome death itself. We rise up with Alleluias to greet our Risen Lord!

April 9 Easter Fellowship

Join us after worship on Easter Sunday for a light reception and opportunity to share in the celebration of our Risen Lord with Grace friends old and new! We will gather in the fellowship room after worship for light refreshments provided by the Social Committee. Happy Easter!



APRIL 6 (MAUNDY THURSDAY)

Join us from 12:30-2:00 for a fascinating look into the **Lord's Prayer**. There's a *lot* going on here—probably more than you realized even if you've repeated it daily for decades! Why do the translations change? How do they compare to other languages? Did Jesus make it up on the fly or "borrow" from another source? And hey—what did it sound like in his native language of Aramaic? As always, everyone is welcome and you can expect lively conversation, great people and a lot of laughter.

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

You are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings for a time of centering, prayer, and worship during Lent. We will start serving a simple soup supper at **6:15pm** in the narthex. Worship service will follow in the sanctuary at **7pm**. 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 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?

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

In April, the sharing circle on racial healing will be meeting after worship on **April 16 and April 30**. We meet to explore the ways in which experiences of race and racial disparities are affecting our lives and our community. The format of the sharing circle 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. We will be meeting in the Great Room and all are welcome to join.

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

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, Alison 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.



NEW WI-FI IN 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM (AKA BECKY'S OLD OFFICE)

The Wi-Fi connection is “Grace Lutheran Conference” in the back conference area.

The password is Guest493. Thank you to Mark Hamilton for working to provide this space with a better signal.

PEOPLE OF GRACE

Please join the People of Grace for dinner and fun conversation on **April 18**. The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday at **7pm**. The location will vary each month to keep it fresh. This month I am thinking **Simply Thai in Wheaton**. It is a BYOB place near downtown Wheaton. Please contact Jeff Nelson at jeff.nelson@vlses.com if you are interested in attending.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN!



PADS

It will be time for PADS again which is the first Tuesday of every month, in this case April 4th.

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

Lenore Dean, Luke Pajowski, Lori Garabrandt, Thom Griffin, Rich Davison, Dorothy Derrico, Brittany Huizenga, Dorothy Tracy for healing and strength. Family of Carol Petersen for comfort in grief.

Prayers for our Homebound Member:

Norma Petersen

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by great refreshments and Christian fellowship at 10:45am. At the congregational meeting in January, it was voted on and passed to keep the 10am worship time year-round. This means we will not have a 9am service over the summer.

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

GLEN ELLYN SR. CENTER

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

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 book club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am in the Gr Room. Light refreshments are served.



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

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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	LENT
2/5	60	7	
2/12	73	10	
2/19	49	6	12 AW Noon
2/26	48	9	29 AW 7pm

