

## 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 NOVEMBER 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

#### How (And How Not To) Welcome a New Pastor

Pastoral transitions are both hard and exciting for congregations. They are hard and exciting for the new pastor, too. We *love* all the potential and possibility that's before us with a whole new community of faith. But joining a community you don't know well is tough for anyone—and even more so when the community starts off with high expectations of you. (Which, of course, is appropriate with a new pastor! But still challenging.)

Here are some ways you can help your new interim and called pastors when they arrive:

1. Introduce yourself over and over and over. (Or use Name Tags on Sunday morning!) When we have to learn 100 new names all at once, after we've already learned 1000s in our ministry, everyone reminds us of someone else and we easily get confused. Be patient when you get called by the wrong one. (I know, some pastors never forget a name or face. Most of us aren't like that, though.)
2. Remind the pastor of the relationships between you. We don't know who is connected to who by family ties, and it might take more than one reminder.
3. Don't talk about how much you miss your former pastor (excuse my assumptions, here!) unless it's part of a conversation processing the grief and hope of change. Instead, focus on what you are learning/seeing/experiencing of your new pastor.
4. Be honest about the ups and downs of our life together. You don't have to look good or make me look good.
5. Respect the boundaries that are recommended by the

synod. Remember that I can't come back for a funeral or wedding or house blessing. Don't suggest to the new pastor that they invite me; that puts them in an awful position.

6. No pastor has all the gifts you would like to find in your new leader. Often, a congregation will call a pastor who is strong in the areas the previous pastor wasn't, because they see the need for those gifts. But then they are surprised or even upset when the gifts they were accustomed to the pastor having aren't present in the new pastor. So ask yourselves how you can help with the difference.

7. Step up! Don't wait to be asked; ask what the pastor needs or offer to take on a specific task. If there's a hole on Sunday morning, offer to help by carrying the cross, assisting at communion, greeting folks at the door, or anything else. Your new pastor won't know everything you are used to, so continue to get in there and support the community with that grace and confidence I have come to love so much.

8. *Avoid Triangling At All Times!* If you have concerns, express them clearly and respectfully directly to your pastor. And yes, you can be very angry and still respectful. None of us loves being confronted with anger but we can bear it when it is done with respect. This kind of honesty shows tremendous respect for your pastor—we appreciate it more than you might think.

9. Always remember that your pastors love you and want what's best for you. Whether we are called to comfort or to challenge, it is always with a heart for God's will and a heart for your ministry.

10. Keep being the gift to your new pastors that you have been to me for the last 8 years!

*Pastor Melody*

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



## LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

In **November**, the Sharing Circle on Racial Healing will meet on the **12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet in the meeting room on the main floor next to the south stairwell.

We are continuing our discussion of *The Little Book of Racial Healing*, by Thomas Norman DeWolf and Jodie Geddes. All are welcome to join! Please contact Karin Slenczka at [slenczka.k@gmail.com](mailto:slenczka.k@gmail.com) with any questions.

## COMMUNITY QUILTERS

With the exit of the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, the **Community Quilters** have been moved to the main floor next to the Sr. Center office. The quilters meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:30-12. Bring a friend. No experience is necessary. Please enter through the west entrance on Forest Avenue.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you like to place flowers on the altar to celebrate an event, or to honor and remember someone special, or just to make the altar look pretty? The sign up chart is in the Fellowship Room. Arrangements are \$20 each and can be ordered on the chart or 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.



**Join us for Grace Café on Wednesday, November 15 at 11am.** Grace is sponsoring this exciting program for Grace seniors and neighboring community seniors!

**What** - Lunch, conversation, and a fun activity

**When** - Every 3rd Wednesday of the month 11am-1pm  
Sign-up is required – look for the sheet posted in the narthex or contact the church office. RSVP is due the Friday prior to the event. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per person.

## SUNDAY AND ZOOM WORSHIP

**Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by great refreshments and Christian fellowship at 11:00am.**

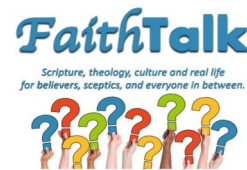
We also offer Zoom for our Sunday worship service for those who are continuing to participate from home. If you need a bulletin, remember you can view (on another device) or download/print a bulletin from Grace's website. Just click on *Quick Link to Worship*.

**Zoom link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031586315>**

**Dial In: 1 312 626 6799**

**Meeting ID: 890 3158 6315**



Since we had a surprise guest at our last FaithTalk, we'll move ahead this month with a conversation exploring the idea of the Trinity. Why is it even a thing? What happens if we don't really get it? How is such a complicated theological doctrine helpful in real life?

Join us on **Thursday, November 2 from 12:30-2:00** on the Lower Level—just follow the signs. Bring a bag lunch if you like, and be ready for almost anything! We are lovers of laughter as well as meaningful reflection and conversation. Hope to see you there!

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**We need people willing to serve as zoom tech, lector, cross-bearer, and communion assistant. We also need a minimum of two ushers for each week.** If you can be a lector/help with carrying the cross and/or assisting with communion, please contact Susan Jacobson or the church office. Mark Drager schedules the ushers. Mark Hamilton works with the zoom techs. Thank you!

## PEOPLE OF GRACE

Please join us for our next People of Grace for on **Tuesday, November 21**. The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday at **7pm**. The location will vary each month to keep it fresh.

Please RSVP to Jeff Nelson if you are planning to attend. [jeff.nelson@vlses.com](mailto:jeff.nelson@vlses.com)



## FAITH FORMATION

Hello Grace Families!

This year we are making some adjustments that we feel will best fit our current needs – providing more robust learning and more FUN as we grow our faith! With the food pantry moved into their new location - we are able to bring back the downstairs Youth Gathering Room with some fun new seating and updates! (The large first classroom at the bottom of the south stairwell).

Mrs. Drager and Mrs. Graf will be combining all ages into one group for this school year, Pre-K through HS. We hope this model will benefit all ages – as older students can learn to mentor younger ages throughout the year along with us.

We have lots of fun activities planned – crafts, baking, games, and music to enhance our faith learning. Bradford will be joining us at the beginning of class each Sunday to assist with all things musical!

### Sunday Faith Formation Format:

9-9:10a – Meet downstairs in the Gathering Room – centers/playtime

9:10-9:30a – Music with Bradford and Story/Lesson

9:30-9:50a – Craft/Activity/Snack/Closing Prayer

### Fall Semester Class Dates:

**10/29 & 11/5, 11/12:** Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a

**11/19:** Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a (**Need a parent volunteer**)

**11/26: OFF FOR THANKSGIVING**

**12/3:** Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a

**\*\*12/6/23 - Wednesday**

- 5:30p - Pizza
- 6:15p – Rehearsal for Nativity service/music
- 7:00p – Cocoa & Carols in the sanctuary

**12/10: Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a – Music Rehearsal (Pastor Melody Leads “Do It Yourself Nativity” Service @ 10:00a)**

**12/17, 24, 31, & 1/7: OFF FOR HOLIDAYS AND SCHOOL WINTER BREAK**

**1/14/2024 – Faith Formation returns!**

We are excited to spend the year ahead helping our children grow in faith! If you have questions or suggestions as we move forward - both are always welcome :)

Grace & peace,

Cyndy Drager & Heather Graf



## SEASON OF CHANGE AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greeting to All,

Here at Grace Lutheran Church we have entered into a season of change and transition. Pastor Eastman stated at the annual meeting in January 2023, that she intends to retire at the end of 2023. In addition to pastor's retirement, the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry moved out of our building this past August.

The Grace Lutheran Church Council is currently working with the Ministry Strategy Team to develop a new ministry/mission partner for Grace Lutheran Church. As of right now, we are looking at developing a not for profit organization to help assist senior citizens as they age in place.

We will be seeking a new pastor after Pastor Eastman retires. Bishop Curry will assign/appoint an Interim Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church to start in January 2024. During our period of transition, weekly worship service and ministry will continue at Grace Lutheran Church. Christian education for all ages, hospitality and social gatherings will continue as well.

In January 2024, Grace Lutheran Church will have its Annual Meeting. During this meeting we will be electing new church council members and executive officers. That said, this is an opportunity for people to serve Grace Lutheran Church. An elected term for church council is a 2 year commitment. Do you feel a nudge from the Holy Spirit to serve? If so, contact me or a member of the Nominating Committee, Eva Holzapfel and John Millville. Do you know a member at Grace Lutheran Church that you think would be a great addition to the church council? Nominate that person by contacting me or a member of the Nominating Committee.

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has already been notified of Pastor's retirement and Grace Church's need for a new pastor starting in January 2024. Pastor Sunitha Mortha is Bishop Curry's Associate who relates to our Conference. She will help us with this process including having an interim pastor at Grace Church. The Synod is committed to us throughout the entire process, until we call a new pastor.

The call process will begin in early 2024 with the new council in place. This process will include the formation of a call committee. Per Synod and ELCA guidelines, the call committee will not be formed until after Pastor Eastman's retirement.

My final thought is that we need all of this change and transition to be first and foremost God's plan. All of us here at Grace Lutheran Church need to pray and discern about this change and transition. I feel that we can accomplish all of this with God's help and guidance!

If anyone has a question about this opportunity or change and transition feel free to talk to or contact me.

Yours in Christ!

Respectfully,

Timothy Kelly, Grace Lutheran Church Council President



**LANDSCAPING AT GRACE**



Thank you to our anonymous donor for securing an outside professional landscaper to enhance the look of our grounds around of Grace. Garden beds were cut in, bushes trimmed up, scrap trees were removed, and edging around the sidewalks and parking lot. It all looks great! Thank you very much for your generous donation.

**BARN DANCE RETURNS TO GRACE**

**2-5pm, the second Sunday of each month**

Join the Fox Valley Folklore Society for an afternoon of fun dancing to LIVE fiddle tunes performed by Jonathan Whitall with caller Meg Dedolph. All dances taught; no partner needed. Come at 2pm for an hour of kid-friendly dances, followed by contras, squares, and more. \$5-\$15 sliding donation. Children must be accompanied by an adult. [allagesbarndance.com](http://allagesbarndance.com) or [foxvalleyfolk.com/barndance.html](http://foxvalleyfolk.com/barndance.html)



**CHICAGOLAND WEST INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  
AND  
CHICAGOLAND WEST ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING**

Join us in Grace’s gym for a fun afternoon of dancing on the **first and third Sundays of the month from 1-5:30pm**. Newcomers are welcome! [ChicagolandECD@gmail.com](mailto:ChicagolandECD@gmail.com) or [ChicagolandECD.org/Chicagoland-West-ECD](http://ChicagolandECD.org/Chicagoland-West-ECD) for more information and to verify the dance will be in session.



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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, Children’s Ministry Coordinator  
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
9/3	28	
9/10	52	7
9/17	55	7
9/24	33	8

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Sue Davison for healing and strength.

**Prayers for Comfort in Grief:**

Family and friends of Jan Longmuir, friend of Tom & Elaine Roete

**Prayers for our Homebound Member:**

Dorothy Tracy

