

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 FEBRUARY 2024
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Grace To You is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

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FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

By Rev. Jeffrey Koth

I attended a pastor conference many years ago. The presenter was Dr. Walter Bouman, at that time, a New Testament professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio.

Dr. Bouman was a coveted speaker for such conferences, being a widely read author of many books, and a popular lecturer and teacher.

As such, Dr. Bouman spent much time on the road. One of the things Dr. Bouman shared with us was his penchant for reading mystery novels. Understandably, these mystery novels gave him an intellectual break from his otherwise steady diet of sophisticated theological abstracts and publications.

But what was *not* so clear about Dr. Bouman's get-out-of-town escape into novels, was his habit of reading the *last* chapter of these mysteries, *first*. "What?" Isn't the intrigue of these books anchored in the suspense of *not* knowing "who did it" throughout the book, and then only in the end, finally putting together all the elements of the story as the mystery is solved?

Dr. Bouman's explanation of his unconventional reading behavior was this: "By reading the *last chapter first*, I am able to better focus on the people and events that, in the end, really matter, while not getting bogged down in, or overly concerned, about fruitless details."

By reading the last chapter of the book first, deeper attention is paid to the people and events which in the end matter. *Their* significance is not missed and comes to light *as* one travels through the text, solidifying greater insight into the things that matter most.

Whether you agree with Dr. Bouman's approach to mystery novel reading or not, know this, it is the methodology that the church has adopted in reading the story of Jesus Christ and his redemption of the world. We begin the story of Jesus by reading how it ends. That methodology is manifest in the liturgical sequence by which the story of Jesus is told.

We *began* the church year with the four Sundays of Advent. "What are the themes of Advent?" They are focused on the return of Jesus...preparing us for the *end*. The chapter of Advent relieved us of unwarranted fear of people, places and events in our lives that ultimately do not matter, thereby keeping us focused on how it all will end. And the very happy (eternal) ending we've proclaimed marginalizes all detours we encounter along the way!

Knowing from Advent how all mysteries of life are finally resolved, we moved forward in the story of our Savior identifying Him as the incarnate Jesus (Christmas) and move on now to the next chapters of His life that unfold: insight into his message to the world (Epiphany) and how redemption is accomplished (Lent).

May God bless your worship this February as mysteries as solved, and the joy of how all things end, comes into your life to focus your concern and attention where it belongs: on the redemption of the world!

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



SUNDAY AND ZOOM WORSHIP

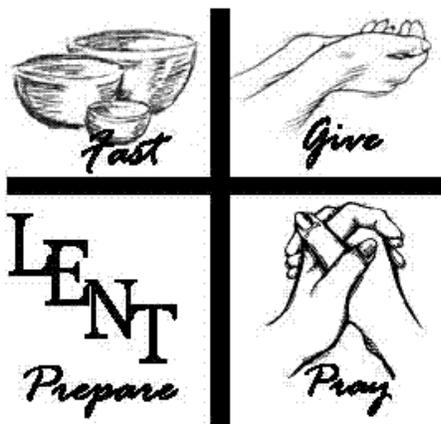
Sunday worship at Grace is at 10am followed by refreshments and Christian fellowship at 11:00am.

We also offer Zoom for our Sunday worship service. 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*.

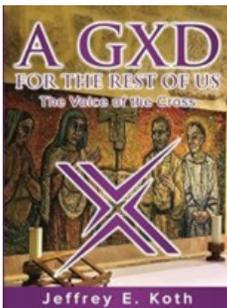
Zoom link:

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

Dial In: 1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 890 3158 6315



RECOMMENDED READING FOR LENT



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. This is a time for reflection and devotion on the cross of Christ. How could such a terrible death accomplish so much good.

Pastor Koth has published a book on the cross of Christ called "A GXD For the Rest of Us." This book explores the *unique* perspective that St. John brings. St. John's is a view of the cross which reveals it, not as a vehicle to pay for the sins of the world, but rather as the place of enthronement of the Son of God and the ushering in of the Kingdom of God.

You can purchase the book at Amazon books.

https://www.amazon.com/GXD-Rest-Us-Voice-Cross/dp/B0BB5KHTGZ/ref=sr_1_1?crid=B5TA08TCTA04&keywords=a+gxd+for+the+rest+of+us&qid=1704306840&sprefix=a+gxd+for+the+rest+of+us%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-1

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 28 at 11:15am**. Grace Lutheran Church 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 church sanctuary and on **Zoom**. Please come and be a part of this exciting time at Grace.

LET'S KEEP TALKING ABOUT RACE

Studying The Little Book of Racial Healing together last year, we learned about the pillars of racial healing: making connections; uncovering history; working toward healing; and championing change. As we reconvene for the spring session in February, we are looking for ways to bring these pillars to life - our goal is to make connections with others pursuing similar goals, both locally and within the Metro Chicago Synod, as well as to learn more about the history of racial trauma in the local community.

February meetings of the sharing circle will be on the 4 and 18 following worship in the ground level meeting room. Please feel free to reach out to Karin Slenczka at slenczka.k@gmail.com for more information.



ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Join us on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**, for soup supper and worship. Supper will be served at 6:15–6:45pm followed by worship at 7:00pm.

GRACE YOUTH

Hello Grace Families!

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:

9:00-9:10a – Meet downstairs in the Gathering Room – centers/playtime

9:10-9:30a – Music with Bradford and Story/Lesson from Mrs. Drager

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

- 1/28 Loving each other (John 13:34)
- 2/4 Valentine making for Seniors
- 2/11 Who is your neighbor (Luke 10:27)
- 2/18 Service project and gym play day
- 2/25 Beginning Lent—Jesus enters Jerusalem
- 3/3 The Last Supper (bread baking)



UPCOMING EVENT:

Friday, 2/23, 6pm-9:30am Third Grade through Middle School Lock-in!

We are excited to spend time helping our children grow in faith! Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions - both are always welcome :)

Grace & peace,

Cyndy, Bradford & Heather



FaithTalk

Scripture, theology, culture and real life for believers, sceptics, and everyone in between.



Our February meeting of FaithTalk will focus on an imperative given by Jesus: 'You must be born from above'. (John 3:3) What did Jesus mean by that? Pastor Jeff will lead us in a discussion that will bring insight into this essential mandate that applies to all people. Join us on **Thursday, February 1** in the lower level kitchen room from **12:30-2:00**.

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.

COMMUNITY QUILTERS



The **Community Quilters** meet on the **2nd Thursday of the month from 11:00-12:30 with Michele Fenske**.

Bring a friend. No experience is necessary. Please enter through the west entrance on Forest Avenue.

PEOPLE OF GRACE

Please join us for our next People of Grace for on **Tuesday, February 20**. 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

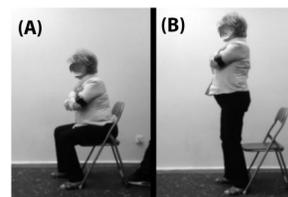
WORSHIP LEADERS

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!

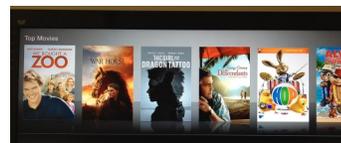
SR. CENTER ACTIVITIES WITH SUE DAVISON

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, insurance information, 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. **You are welcome to drop in on any of the activities listed here. If you wish to meet with Sue in person, please contact her at the phone number listed below to schedule an appointment.**

Chair Exercise classes in the Parish Hall. 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 every fourth Friday of the month at 10am. Light refreshments are served.



A monthly **book club** meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am.

Please contact Sue at sdavison@glenellyn.org or 630-858-6343 with any questions or to find out the book and/or movie of the month.



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR



Here's an easy way to help out at church, volunteer for coffee hour! It's easy to do. Just make coffee, bring some sweets and set it up in the fellowship room for 30-45 minutes after church. This has been a great way to give members an opportunity to catch up with one another and enjoy some fellowship time together. Call the church office if you would like to volunteer, or talk to one of the current coffee volunteers.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

We exceeded our goal of 15 units for the blood drive. We had 14 people donate, however 5 people did a "double red" donation which counts double, so the total was 19! Thank you to everyone who participated. Our next blood drive will be in July. Tim Stephan



FLOWER CHART



The flower chart is in the Fellowship Room. Arrangements are \$20 each, one arrangement per Sunday. Please indicate your name and write out your dedication on the chart if you want it printed in the bulletin.



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
 Emergency Pastoral Contact: 224.355.4213
 Email: info@graceglenellyn.org

www.GraceGlenEllyn.org

Every Member: Minister & Missionary!

Pr. Jeffrey Koth, Interim Pastor
 Bradford Thompson, Minister of Music
 Bradford Thompson, Children's Ministry Coordinator
 Barbara Sudds, Office Manager
 Carole LoGalbo, M.S., LCPC Parish Counselor

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30am - 3:00pm
 Tuesday and Thursday 1:00pm - 3:00pm



ATTENDANCE

DATE	IN-PERSON	ZOOM
12/3	52	8
12/10	76	10
12/17	82	9
12/24	125	—
12/31	108	6

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mara Witt, daughter of Allison and Matt Witt baptized on January 14; Sue Davison and Brenda Dodge for healing & strength

Prayers for our Homebound Member:
 Dorothy Tracy

