FROM THE PASTOR

Aging is a social justice issue.

As I have been continuing to research issues related to our mission strategy, I attended a day-long Aging Summit hosted by AgeGuide Northeastern IL. The conference focused on how we create livable communities that support people as they age, how we design an age-friendly health system, and how we address the needs of the care economy. I learned a lot.

Throughout the day, the realities of agism and the injustice experienced by seniors arose again and again. Did you know that negative messaging about aging has a significant impact on people’s health? People who are exposed to negative messages about aging, like hearing “I’m having a senior moment,” or being called “honey” or “sweetie” by people they don’t know show accelerated loss in the hippocampus, the part of the brain that controls learning and memory. People who are exposed to positive messaging about aging daily for 30 days exhibit improved strength, flexibility and stability.

Did you know that almost 20% of all caregivers in the U.S. are over 65? And only 20% of all caregivers actually identify themselves as caregivers? (Many caregivers say, “I’m not a caregiver; I’m just their daughter.”) Did you know that 59% of family caregivers perform complex medical or nursing care, often without training? Did you know that caregivers over the age of 75 spend the equivalent of a full-time job providing care? The number of caregivers in the U.S. has increased by 10 million in the last 7 years, from 43.5 million to 53 million. They provide $470 billion in unpaid care. 23% of them report that caregiving has made their health worse, and 44% experience social isolation. The chronic stress of caregiving (managing multiple roles, adapting to new roles, taking on increased physical demands, and experiencing isolation) places caregivers at greater risk of experiencing cognitive and physical decline themselves.

Again, almost 10 million caregivers are themselves seniors, functioning with very little or no support. Think of what that means for these caregivers and the loved ones they are caring for.

Jesus was clear that a mark of the reign of God is caring for the marginalized, the unseen, the unnoticed vulnerable people. As Grace moved forward in this new phase of our life in the community of Glen Ellyn, we are about revealing the reign of God by doing justice, as well as by proclaiming God’s Word in worship. What we are looking at in providing a menu of supportive services for the high number of seniors who live in our community isn’t “just” social service. It is faithful witness and discipleship. It is service in the name of Christ, and it is a way of praising and worshipping God.

The people living around us who are aging with very little support, and who are caring for others with very little support, need to hear this: Jesus sees them. Jesus loves them. Jesus cares for them.

And we are called to be the sign of that.

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve
A NOTE
FROM MINISTRY ASSOCIATE, BECKY FICARELLA

To the Congregation of Grace,
The time has come for me to end my career on staff at Grace Lutheran Church. I will continue to serve on staff through December 2022 and help transition Faith Formation planning and scheduling through this time. The economic pressure we are under in these times have made it necessary for me to look for Full Time employment. I have accepted the Full-Time position of Sr. Administrative Assistant for US Foods.

For the past seven years I have had the honor to serve on staff at Grace Lutheran Church. I can remember sitting in the Sanctuary as a kid knowing that someday, I would be working in this space too. God had beautiful plans for me here, and I will be forever grateful for the experience of serving this congregation.

I cannot express how difficult this decision has been for me to make. I have loved this role like no other I have filled before. The staff and members that I have collaborated with here have been one of the best blessings in my professional life. The joys and challenges I have experienced over the last seven years have been instrumental in my growth and I will always love and appreciate all the gifts that serving Grace has brought me. I am still a member here and will always add my hands to the work. A new season of blossoming is coming to Grace, and I look forward to the future with all of you.

Peace Be With You Becky Ficarella

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES
9:00AM-9:45AM

Children and Youth meet upstairs in the Great Room.
Adults meet in the Fellowship Room

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 12:30-2:00PM

MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR A
CHRISTMAS O’CAROLAN CONCERT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 7:00PM

Featuring Irish band Reverie Road and special guest singer, Nora Byrd

Join us for an unforgettable evening that blends traditional and contemporary Irish melodies with beloved Christmas classics.

Delivering the lilts and lifts of Irish music, Reverie Road features Winifred Horan (fiddle), Katie Grennan (fiddle), John Williams (accordion), and Utsav Lal (piano). From studio to stage, festivals to films, these artists have lifted audience’s hearts around the world, combining their well-honed musicianship and stagecraft from their individual stints in Solas, Gaelic Storm, Dreamworks Films, and Carnegie Hall.

This evening—set in Grace’s beautifully decorated sanctuary—will feature stunning, heartfelt pieces composed by Turlough O’Carolan (the blind Irish harper from the 1600s), spirited jigs and reels, and many of those Christmas songs that you know and love. Get ready to clap, dance, and sing along on December 16th at 7pm!

Tickets are $20 and will be available on the Grace’s website or from the Grace office.

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

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION: PREPARING FOR ADVENT SEASON
Spark (Preschool/K) & Shine (1st -6th Grade)
Beginning with our October 30th Faith Formation, we will begin the process of preparing for the Children & Youth Sunday Presentation on December 11th (10am Service) by learning songs and a presentation for the Congregation.
Sunday Dates set aside for preparation: Meet in the Great Room, finish in the Sanctuary
10/30, 11/6, 11/13 (Exciting Activity this day!!), 11/20, & 12/4
9:00-9:45am First 10 minutes to arrive, work on craft as everyone arrives, light refreshment available
9:10-9:45am Groups head to their spaces to teach, rehearse, etc. Pick up in Sanctuary

Faith In Action 7th -12th Grade
10/30 Outdoor Clean Up work on Grace Property (Dress Warm!)
11/6 Prepare the Sanctuary for All Saints Sunday Service
11/13 Set up Angel Tree Display
11/20 Help with Gingerbread House & Ornament Project, prepare decorations advent
12/4 Help Assist with Rehearsal of Children & Youth Sunday

12/11 Children & Youth Sunday Schedule for all Ages
Arrive by 9:10. Rehearse from 9:10-9:45am for the 10:00am presentation during the Worship Service
Those students presenting a music solo will need to arrive by 9am to run through your pieces as we await the arrival of others.
Let Becky Ficarella know if you would like to serve as an Usher, Crucifer, Lector, Communion Assistant, Welcome Minister on this day. bficarella@graceglenellyn.org
Please let Becky Ficarella know if your student wants to present a music solo for this Service. bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAITH FORMATION CONFIRMATION 7TH/8TH GRADE @FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
We will meet at Faith Lutheran Church from 7:00-8:30pm on the following Wednesday nights: 11/2, 11/16, & 11/30.
NO CLASS ON 11/9 & 11/23

GINGERBREAD HOUSE & TREE TRIMMING PIZZA PARTY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH FOR ALL
GRACE CHILDREN, YOUTH & THEIR FAMILY: 5:30-7:30PM
5:30-6:00 Pizza, Salad, Fruit/Veggie Tray
6:00-6:30 Decorate Gingerbread House & Create your own gingerbread treat!

UPCOMING MINISTRY/FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
Cookies, Cocoa & Carols returns on Wednesday, December 14th
6:40-7:00: Grab cocoa, cookies and settle in your favorite singing spot!
7:00-7:30pm Cozy Sing a Long in the Sanctuary. Bring your PJ’s and Blankets for this night of magic!

Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
bficarella@graceglenellyn.org
847-347-0928
FELLOWSHIP EVENTS IN NOVEMBER
GRACEGIVES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

GraceGives will meet at Portillos’s located at 235 North Avenue in Glendale Heights on Tuesday, November 15th. Come between 5:00pm-8:00pm on site and bring your flyer to earn us 20% back in sales from that day. Phone ahead and online ahead orders are ok too, just use code PORTILLOS2.

SIMPLE THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON & WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

Join the Social Committee for a simple soup and sandwich luncheon at 12pm in the Narthex, followed by a Service of Worship at 12:45pm in the Sanctuary. Sign up in the Narthex today!

We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, serving, and clean up for this event. Please let Becky Ficarella know if you can help!

PEOPLE OF GRACE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH AT RESERVE 22!

The Holiday Season Fellowship Gathering is on November 29 at 7:00pm. We will gather at Reserve 22 Restaurant in Glen Ellyn. RSVP with Becky Ficarella at bficarella@graceglenellyn.org.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE & TREE TRIMMING PIZZA PARTY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH FOR ALL GRACE CHILDREN, YOUTH & THEIR FAMILY 5:30-7:30PM

5:30-6:00 Pizza, Salad, Fruit/Veggie Tray
6:00-6:30 Decorate Gingerbread House and Create your own gingerbread treat!
6:30-7:30 Create ornaments and decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Tree.
Come join us for this fun and festive night!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

Poinsettias are now available to order to decorate the altar for Christmas. They are $16 each. Order forms will be available in the narthex, on Grace’s website, or call the church office. Orders are due by December 7. You may take your plant home after Grace’s Christmas eve service or pick it up from the sanctuary before Tuesday December 27.

COOKIES, COCOA AND CAROLS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

6:40-7:00pm: Grab cocoa, cookies and settle in your favorite singing spot!
7:00-7:30pm: Cozy Sing-a-Long in the Sanctuary. Bring your PJ’s and Blankets for this night of magic!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DOLORES NOSAL

A memorial service is being planned for Grace member Dolores Nosal on Saturday, November 26. More information will follow.

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

Kindergarteners having fun making faith/love sharing stones in Faith Formation today :)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lori Garabrandt, Rich Davison, Dorothy Derrico, Susan Yerger, Brittany Huizenga, Dorothy Tracy for healing and strength.

Baptized on October 23: Johnathan and Joseph Streicher

Prayers for our Homebound Members:
Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen

SEPTEMBER PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Here are a few pictures from the progressive dinner :)

Thank you Susi Nelson for organizing and hosting dinner, and Donna & Joe Jacobo for letting us have appetizers in your beautiful yard - such a great night!

The childcare was also much appreciated!

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: 630.674.2887
Email: info@graceglenellyn.org

www.graceglenellyn.org

Every Member: Minister & Missionary!

Melody Eastman, Pastor
Becky Ficarella, Ministry Associate
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

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ALTAR FLOWERS

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