

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 AUGUST 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

As I write this, the Food Pantry is recruiting volunteers to help with their planned move on July 31. It has been a *long* journey to this point! Time and again, they have come to us with what they thought and

hoped were reasonable updates on their anticipated relocation date. And time and again, they have had to come back and explain that there was another delay in supply chain, labor availability, contractor follow-up, Village inspection, etc. etc. etc.

This has been really hard on them. The last thing the Food Pantry wanted was to create any difficulties for Grace, and they have been incredibly, graciously apologetic for myriad things that were never in their control. So we've tried to be as flexible and supportive as we can be, because we understand how critical it is that they continue to serve their clients while trying to manage a rebuild.

And together we've made it. In a time of transition when the Pantry has been *hammered* with increased demand, I am so proud that Grace has flexed and adapted with them to make sure the people who count on them don't go home empty-handed.

Now it finally looks like their vision is coming to fruition, and our prayers, support and good wishes go with them to their new site. And if, by chance, yet another obstacle has prevented their move on the anticipated date, our prayers, support and good wishes will bide with them here for however long it takes until they can make the transition.

And what's next for Grace? Well, we continue to pray about and seek for opportunities to use our building for blessing in the community. We continue to talk with not-for-profit agencies for potential partnerships that will help the community while providing financial support to sustain our building. And we continue to build on our own vision of support services for seniors who live around us.

Our first Seniors Lunch was a resounding success, with a gourmet meal that was greeted with delight by diners. Participants at the gathering shared their concerns about finding ways to address isolation and find more accessible opportunities for fellowship. There was great enthusiasm for the ideas we've talked about to provide cooking classes, exercise groups, mental health support, music and more. As Grace begins to expand on the opportunities, we can begin to think about whether we form another not-for-profit geared toward these specific needs—an organization that would be able to apply for the kinds of grants that aren't designed for religious institutions (like churches), but which *are* available for senior services.

We may be stepping into our ministry future a little more slowly than we hoped originally, but this means we can work to be sure that what we do, we do *well*. The trust and faithfulness we show by taking our time so we can give God our very best will be supported by the ongoing work of the Spirit.

Your faithful presence, your prayers, your steady financial support are critical to moving Grace's witness into its next phase. I thank God that I have been able to do this work with you!

GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

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

A REMINDER ABOUT PASTOR MELODY'S DAYS OFF

Pastor Melody's days off are Friday and Saturday. If you wish to reach out to her for a non-emergency communication, it is best to do so Monday through Thursday. In particular, text messages received on her days off are most likely to get lost in the string of other texts she receives. Email is the best way to be sure she will get your message at a time when she can respond. Of course, in case of a pastoral emergency (death or serious illness/injury) you may reach out to her via phone, text or email at any time.



FaithTalk

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



FaithTalk is taking a break in August and will return on **Thursday, Sept. 7**. See you then!

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!

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. Grace can provide you with any supplies you may need. If you are interested, please contact Pr. Melody.



PEOPLE OF GRACE
Tuesday, August 15 at 7pm

A location has not yet been selected. Please RSVP to Jeff Nelson if you are planning to attend. jeff.nelson@vlscs.com

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for our next " LUNCH BUNCH" gathering on Wednesday, August 16 at 11am. Grace is sponsoring this exciting new program for Grace seniors and neighboring community seniors! Don't miss out on this great new opportunity!

What - Lunch (prepared by Bonnie Paganis), conversation, and a fun activity

When - Every 3rd Wednesday of the month 11:00-1:30

Where - Gr. Room at Grace Lutheran Church

Sign-up is preferred – look for the sheet posted in the narthex or contact the church office.

Suggested donation of \$3.00 per person.

Community Outreach sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church with seniors in mind.



We had close to 25 in attendance at our first Lunch Bunch in June and a great time was had by all!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MELODY ON HER RECENT FOOT SURGERY

Friends,

As you may have already noticed, I am currently wearing a surgical shoe following a procedure to remove a Morton's neuroma in my right foot. For those of you wondering what that is about I thought I'd offer this update:

A Morton's neuroma is when the nerve that runs between the bones in the foot to the toes becomes inflamed/enlarged. It should be about the size of the end of a ballpoint pen. Mine was about the size of a little finger; this means it's constantly getting pinched between the bones and can become quite painful. It can get inflamed from a number of causes—mine first showed up about 13 years ago when I was training for the 500-mile pilgrimage across Spain. I've had it treated a couple of times (injections to kill the nerve near its end) but it keeps growing back. I seem to have annoyingly good regenerative powers!

This latest surgery removed the nerve further back in my foot and will, I hope, provide permanent relief. However, I need to keep pressure off of the front part of my foot for around six weeks.

Among other things, that means Sunday morning will look a little different for a while. I will not be using the altar or pulpit, and will celebrate communion from a table on floor level. I will be preaching while sitting on a stool. We will be doing "standing communion" for a while, which is what we usually do on holidays or days with unusually large attendance. (Actually, *you'll* be standing; I'll be seated on the stool again.) And there may be times when I call on the congregation for support during the service for some facet of worship I hadn't thought of.

One of the things this has brought to mind for me is the way that church configurations can limit full participation for people with disabilities. My ability to negotiate the steps to the altar is limited for a short time, but for many people such limitation is a permanent fact of life—either from mobility changes, vision loss, balance issues.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN

Flexibility in meeting the physical needs of pastors, deacons, and lay people in the church is an important expression of holy hospitality. I'm grateful that my experience of you as a worshipping community has been one of consistent support. You do indeed demonstrate a wonderful level of caring for one another, noticing needs, and responding to one another with loving grace. Continue to hold that mindset of holy hospitality as you move forward in your ministry through the years; it is an incredibly precious characteristic of the Body of Christ in this place!

With gratitude,
Pastor Melody



These are a few notes received at Grace:

Thank you for help with food pantry!
-A Villa Park resident

To our friends at Grace Lutheran,
Thank you so much to all your volunteers that donate their time to help DuPage PADS serve our individuals and families experiencing homelessness at this time in their lives. The delicious meals you provide each month for our guests help keep them fed and healthy. We are so grateful to have this incredible partnership with you and for your generosity.
Thank you for all you do!
-Your Friends at DuPage PADS

Dear Friend of the Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry,
We have received your contribution and deeply appreciate your support of this ministry. Our services provide help to those who are residents of Glen Ellyn, are members of any Glen Ellyn Church or Faith Based Organization or are DuPage PADS clients with a current referral from PADS.

Thank you for your confidence in our Board of Directors and volunteers. They also need your prayers for compassion and discernment as they assist those who ask for help.

Gratefully,
-Donation Secretary

PADS

It will be time for PADS again which is the first Tuesday of every month, in this case **August 1st**. The 4th of July was amazing. The guests were so thankful for the fabulous cook out we brought them. It was a lot of work but you all stepped up to make it happen. Thank you all for everything you do!

Now, for August 1st, we're looking for meals (**that could feed 10 people or more**) - fresh cooked, hot or cold, that can be put in the containers that we already have. For example: a pan of homemade Chili. We do get food donations from the food pantry so give me a call if you think you can use crushed tomatos. We'll have more donations before next month.

If cooking is not an option we can always use frozen dinners or shelf stable foods and fruits 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 2:00pm on Tuesday. Or, it can be dropped off here at our house (1N346 Prairie Avenue, Glen Ellyn - last house on the left - 630-790-1612). We usually leave for the PADS site around 4:15pm.

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 - between 5pm and 5:30pm - east side of the building Room 106. We are always looking for volunteers to help us distribute the food.

Thank you so much for your support and for helping members in our community!

Joe (630-740-4527) and Donna Jacobo (630-740-4542)



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
 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



DATE	ATTENDANCE	
	IN-PERSON	ZOOM
6/4	45	5
6/11	32	3
6/18	41	10
6/25	63	9

PRAYER REQUESTS

Helen Sladek, Greg Barber, Rich Davison, Kathy Nelson, Lori Garabrandt for healing and strength.

Prayers for Comfort in Grief:

Family and friends of Grace member Harold Andersen.

Prayers for our Homebound Members:

Norma Petersen, Dorothy Tracy

