

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

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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

A few weeks back lots of clergy were sharing a blog post by a senior pastor of a large congregation who had decided to leave both his church and pastoral ministry. It's gotten a lot of response—first from a lot of pastors saying “Ohmigosh yes! I relate to this!” to a lot of other pastors and laypeople critiquing the post for what they saw as the pastor’s lack of understanding of his people. I get the tension.

Along with others, I found things in it that I relate to and things that raise questions for me. There was one dynamic the pastor mentioned that triggered a lot of reflection; he said that pastors understand our role to be about helping people *grow* in faith, while the assumption of many church members is that the pastor helps people *sustain* their faith. He used the terms “Growth Mindset” and “Fixed Mindset” to describe a fundamental disconnect—which helps explain why many people were offended. It's easy to take this to mean church members are simply closed-minded and/or lazy. (And while I wouldn't say this as a blanket statement, I have to confess that there have been times when I could relate to his frustration.)

One excellent response from a licensed clinical therapist pointed out that “fixed mindset” is a normal response to an experience of trauma. People who are struggling to just hang on and get through the day hold on tight to what they know, seeking some solid foundation to cope with the chaos life is throwing at them. These days, that can be pretty much everyone. Hence, I suppose, all the conversations we have as a congregation about change and growth. Everyone agrees it's necessary, but a *bunch*

of us hate it anyway, especially in the place that we're looking to for some sense of stability and comfort.

So what do we do with this dynamic? I think a healthy church will understand that faith needs to be sustained but also stretched. Pastors need to understand *why* people want to hold on to the status quo and hear their experience with compassion. Pastors also need to heed the call of the Gospel to lead people through the morass of false promises offered up by our culture/society/systems as an answer to our fears, and point them to the solid promises of God.

And parishioners need to understand *why* their pastors are pushing so hard at their comfort zones. Not out of a sense of superiority or general “I've-had-it-with-you-people!” orneriness, but out of a sincere desire to offer you *more*. More courage, more understanding, more confidence, more and deeper faith. We really do love the Gospel *and* you—and we want to serve both faithfully. There is so much pain in the world, and we believe that much of it could change if we were all better at seeking More God. (Not just what *we* want from God, but what God wants us to want from God.)

When you are weary of changes in your faith community, try to remember that your pastors are trying their best. When you need to catch your breath, let your pastor know. Remember that the things that are wearing you out may be energizing your neighbor. *Talk* to one another. Grow in faith by sharing yours. Remember that faith is about finding comfort but also providing comfort to others—never just one or the other. And remember that God is big enough.

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



BRADFORD THOMPSON ACCEPTS POSITION OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

We are excited to announce that our Director of Music Bradford Thompson has expanded his role with the addition of Children's Ministry Coordinator, effective September 1. Bradford is working with our wonderful lay leaders to support our youth in growing faith, building a nurturing community, and expressing themselves in music, play and service. Bradford will be leading a variety of music experiences for the kids on Sunday mornings and is planning events and programs that will be available during the week. We are grateful for his willingness to bring his gifts to this part of our ministry!

RECONNECT RALLY DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

It was wonderful to reconnect with Grace families and with the new families in attendance that day. The parking lot was closed off for children's activities: face painting, rocket launch, sidewalk chalk drawing, swimming pool with balls, jumbo bubbles, and the parachute! Inside was the cake walk, bingo, lunch, and fellowship. Thank you to the Social Committee and their volunteers for putting on such a delightful morning.

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 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9-10am. 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.

SUNDAY AND ZOOM WORSHIP

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

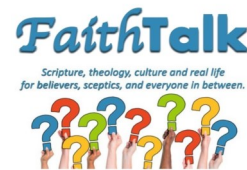
We also offer Zoom for our Sunday worship service for those who are continuing to participate from home. If you need a bulletin, remember you can view (on another device) or download/print a bulletin from Grace's website. Just click on *Quick Link to Worship*.

Zoom link:

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

Dial In: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 890 3158 6315



Join us for a lively conversation on **Thursday, October 5 from 12:30-2:00**. We'll be unpacking the concept of the Trinity. Don't worry, it's not all head-banging theology; as always, there will be plenty of laughs. Feel free to bring snacks if you like, we're a pretty comfortable bunch.

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!

Youth Sunday Worship October 22

Join us for a worship service led by our children and youth filled with music and stories.

FALL FEST AT GRACE

Watch for more information about **Grace's Fall Fest Costume Dance Party** to be held at Grace in mid October. Details are still being finalized, but food, activities, and lots of fun is being planned. Look for more information to come soon, and come join us.

FAITH FORMATION

Hello Grace Families!

We hope everyone has had a GREAT summer and first week(s) of school. As we get back into the swing of fall routines, we would like to welcome our students back to Faith Formation as well!

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:

10/1 & 8: Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a

10/15: Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a **Rehearsal for Youth Service**

10/22: Faith Formation – 9:00-9:50a **Youth Service Sunday! Rehearsal during class**

10/29 & 11/5, 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 HOLIDAY 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



PEOPLE OF GRACE

Thank you to Bob and Patti Lewis for hosting the August *People of Grace* at their home. Bob whipped up a feast of BBQ pork sliders, burnt ends, and potato salad plus a multitude of side dishes were provided by the guests. It was a lovely afternoon and a wonderful time was had by all.



Please join us for our next People of Grace for on **Tuesday, October 17**. 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

HELP US SAVE LIVES THIS OCTOBER



Grace Lutheran's next blood drive will be **Thursday, October 19 from 2:30-7pm**. Appointments are encouraged, walk-ins welcome! Our goal is 15 units, but this drive is able to process 25+ donors!

https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5602182

Thank you to Tim Stephan for organizing this event at Grace.

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 or foxvalleyfolk.com/barndance.html



Join us for Grace Café on Wednesday, October 18 at 11am. Grace is sponsoring this exciting program for Grace seniors and neighboring community seniors!

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

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

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

In **October**, the Sharing Circle on Racial Healing will meet on the **1st, 15th, and 29th**. 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 with any questions.

GO ON, BE BRAVE MOVIE SHOWING AT GRACE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 7:00PM

'*Go On, Be Brave*' is a film about Andrea Lytle Peet's race against time - a diagnosis of ALS and an attempt at the impossible - to be the first person with ALS to complete a marathon in all 50 states. Andrea Lytle Peet, her husband, and the film's two directors will be in attendance at Grace's showing. Tickets are available on Grace's website GraceGlenEllyn.org and from the church office.

Andrea's memoir, *Hope Fights Back*, was released on September 5th.

"Andrea Peet is an example of what happens when hope is met with passion and perseverance. Her story is an inspiration to all of us." - Tony Hawk, Pro Skater, on Andrea's story in *Hope Fights Back*

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Monday evening Bible study group began on Monday, September 11 at 7:00pm and are studying the minor prophets Amos and Hosea.

These minor prophets come from the period when there were two Hebrew kingdoms, Israel in the north which had a succession of dynasties, and Judah in the south which remained loyal to the House of David and contained the Jerusalem Temple. Our featured prophets preached the Word of God in the Northern Kingdom during its declining years. Israel was captured and destroyed by the Assyrians in 721 BCE.

Amos, although a citizen of Judah, was called by God to preach in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, likely during the decade 760 – 750 BCE. During this time, Israel enjoyed peace, and an elite enjoyed great prosperity. However, the society was unjust to the ordinary person. Amos preached against this social inequity. Needless to say, he became unpopular with the king and with the king’s paid clergy in the substitute temples of the Northern Kingdom.

Hosea preached and wrote in Israel from around 750 BCE until the Assyrian capture in 721 BCE. He provided a sharp critique of the political, social and especially religious acts of the Northern Kingdom as related to an idyllic time in the past, using a lot of graphic imagery. He predicted the fall of the Kingdom and considered it to be God’s judgment. Like Amos, he was unpopular.

We will use Kerygma Bible study materials. The writer of the Resource Book for Matthew is Dr. George W. Ramsey, Professor Emeritus of Bible Studies from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. The sessions include a video presentation by the author. Participation will be possible in person in the Education Office and via Zoom link.

The Monday night group has become cohesive over the years, sharing conversation as well as our Bible study. Still, there is always room for more, and we will make you feel welcome. Kindly contact Mark Hamilton or Vince Hardt if you have not participated before so that we may order course materials for you and add you to our Email list.

Mark Hamilton 630-841-2941 marham999@gmail.com
 Vince Hardt 630-415-4600 vvince2001@hotmail.com

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, 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



DATE	ATTENDANCE	
	IN-PERSON	ZOOM
8/6	36	8
8/13	43	10
8/20	37	14
8/27	33	7

PRAYER REQUESTS

Greg Barber, Rich Davison for healing and strength.

Prayers for Comfort in Grief:

Family and friends of Lori Garabrandt, Lois Pertle’s niece.

Prayers for our Homebound Member:

Dorothy Tracy

