

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 JANUARY 2024

1085424-01

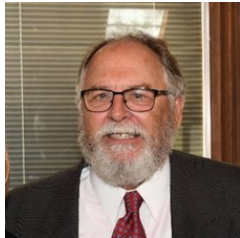
Grace To You is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn.

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Permit #104



FROM THE PASTOR

CHANGE

By Rev. Jeffrey Koth

Blessed *New Year!*

The operative word in this common January greeting is *new*. There is no doubt that there will be *new* things in 2024.

Normally we welcome *new* things. We do not exchange used gifts at Christmas or any other celebratory event like birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, or retirement. *New* implies, however, *different* from what we have known. In short, *new* carries with it the connotation of *change*. We like *new*, but we do not always welcome or like *change*.

It has been said that there are two certainties in life: death and taxes. I would add to those absolutes the experience of *change*. If we are alive, change is inevitable. The Preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes (chapter 3) reminds us of this *wisdom*. There will be *a time to be born and a time to die; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to keep silent, and a time to speak; a time to break down, and a time to build up*. Each of these life experiences will be a predictable part of our individual and corporate experiences in 2024. To expect otherwise is neither wise nor faithful to Christian convictions.

One of the changes that will be a part of our *new* year is the retirement of Pastor Eastman. This is not a choice we would make. But it is *time*. Pastor Eastman has been a good and faithful servant to Grace and most importantly, to the Gospel of God, for a very long time. It is time for her to rest and move on to the next chapter of her spiritual journey toward God. This change incites a time to *weep*, but also an opportunity to *build* as the Holy Spirit leads Grace in *new* ways.

So, our first agenda item in 2024 will be to grieve the loss of Pastor Eastman and her gifted leadership. If we are to move on to *new things* in a healthy, whole, and holy manner, we must address this loss. And when this important time has passed, we will move on to engage the ministry that lies before us in *new ways*.

I am excited about this opportunity to move on together into the next chapter of our spiritual journey toward God, guided by the Holy Spirit, empowered in Word and Sacrament, and with the expectation that *all things work for good, to those who love God*.

So, with all these anticipated changes in mind, confident in God's presence among us, and with love and understanding in ours, let me say, *Blessed New Year*.

GRACE TO YOU
Proclaim, Build, and Serve



DECEMBER 24TH ADVENT 4 WORSHIP SERVICE

We are excited to be part of a joint worship project for the **morning of Sunday, December 24**, partnering with Faith Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran to bring you a **pre-recorded Service of the Word for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**.

Pastor Melody will be joining Pastor Jared of St. Paul for a special dialog reflection on the day's reading, and several Grace members will join Bradford to create a unique and beautiful rendition of *O come, O Come, Emmanuel*. If you like, you can join in the Advent candle-lighting by having your own Advent wreath ready at home. We'll post the link for this special collaborative worship service and you can watch the service at your convenience that morning.

There will be no in-person service at Grace on the morning of December 24. We hope to see you at our Christmas Eve worship at 4:00!

WELCOME THE SAVIOR WITH US!



This year Grace will celebrate with one service at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve. There will not be an in-person Sunday morning service on the 24th or a Christmas Day service on the 25th. Our Christmas Eve service will feature all the traditional Christmas

Eve favorites, including communion and the Candle-light Service. The sermon will be especially designed to appeal to our youngest worshippers, although the message there won't be only for them! Special music, beautifully decorated and lit sanctuary, and best of all, the Word born amid us once again. Family and friends are more than welcome to join us!

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

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**. We will be voting to approve the 2024 budget, electing new Church Council members and electing two voting delegates to Synod Assembly. We will also update the congregation on our vision and plans for a new and exciting ministry partnership that will help carry Grace Lutheran Church into the future. Please come and be a part of this exciting time at Grace Lutheran Church.

FINANCIAL FORUM

The Finance Committee will host a meeting in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, January 14 at 11:15am** to review the 2023 financial status, discuss pledges received for 2024, and present the 2024 proposed church budget. Following the presentation there will be a question and answer session. Please plan on attending.



HELP US SAVE LIVES THIS JANUARY DURING NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH!

Grace Lutheran's next blood drive will be **Thursday, January 4 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/5607194

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



**GIVE BLOOD
SAVE LIFE**

FAITH FORMATION

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 FORMAT:

9:00-9:10a – 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

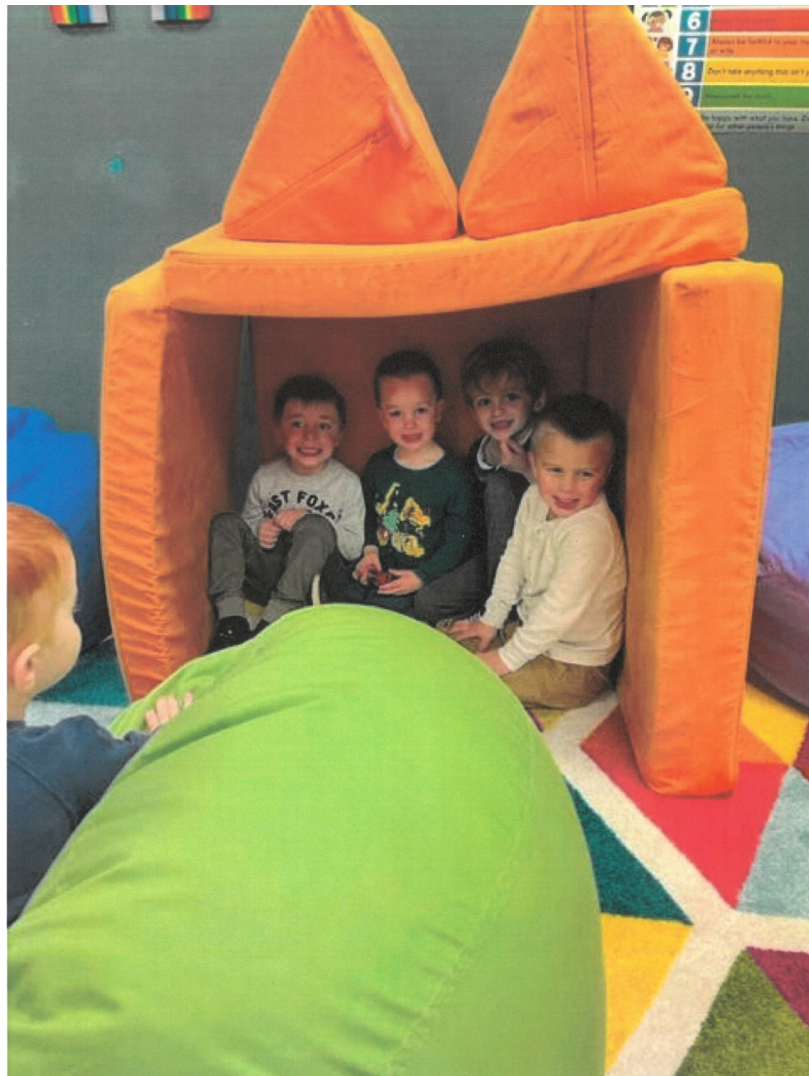
WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE

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, Bradford & Heather





JOIN US FOR GRACE CAFÉ ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Grace is sponsoring this program for Grace seniors and neighboring community seniors! **Join us for lunch, conversation, and a fun activity every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11am-1pm.** Sign-up is required on the sheet posted in the narthex, Grace's website, or contact the church office. RSVP is due the Friday prior to the event. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per person.

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, January 16th.** 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!



LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE - SPRING 2024

The Sharing Circle on Racial Healing will continue in the spring of 2024! Last year, we started our conversation using The Little Book of Racial Healing. This spring, we will be exploring ways to take action together to promote racial healing. The first meeting of the spring session will be after worship on Sunday, 2/4/2024. All are welcome to join! Please feel free to reach out to Karin Slenczka with any questions you may have! slenczka.k@gmail.com

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, a flu shot clinic 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.

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.

GINNY'S FREecycle ON DECEMBER 8

Lots of goodies were donated for the December Freecycling Event. The GEFP clients and seniors in our area were thrilled with their free items. Ginny is not planning another Freecycling event over the winter months but Bradford would like to host a Rummage Sale in the Spring so please hold on to your goodies for that. More information will follow as details become available.



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
 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
11/5	41	7
12/12	51	8
11/19	58	8
11/26	42	11

PRAYER REQUESTS

Michaela Vindel, daughter of Rob Granner; Harrison Jacobson Lechleitner, Grandson of Jake & Sue Jacobson born to daughter Samantha and husband Jimmy; Sue Davison; and Brenda Dodge for healing & strength

Prayers for our Homebound Member:
 Dorothy Tracy

