

## 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

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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

### Resurrection Of the Body AND The Life of the World to Come By Rev. Jeffrey Koth

I want you to imagine, for a moment, a world in which you would never again know the embrace of a loved one; a world in which you would never again feel the texture of the earth between your fingers, the grass underneath your feet, or the warmth of the sun against your face.

I want you to imagine life in a world in which you would not recognize your spouse, your children, or the best of your friends. I want you to imagine a world in which you would never again experience the exhilaration of taking in that first breath of Spring after a long Winter, or the fragrance of blooming flowers. Imagine, never again biting into a cheese-burger freshly grilled in your backyard, or guzzling down a cold, cool, adult beverage to quench your thirst. Imagine a world in which there are no stars in a winter's night sky, no oceans to navigate, no lakes to swim in, or mountains to climb. Imagine a world without sports, playgrounds or recreation of any kind. Imagine a world in which there are no distinctions in age, no diversity of culture, no records to break. Imagine that!!! And you come pretty close to what most people imagine "heaven" to be. Heaven doesn't sound like a place any of us would book for a vacation, much less eternity.

God so loves the world, St. John (3:16) tells us, that God sent Jesus, not to condemn it, but to save the world. St. Paul tells us in Romans (8:19) "the whole creation waits with eager longing for this redemption". And when the prophets speak of God's plan of redemption, it is not

about disposing of the earth (burning it up as some would have you believe!) and abandoning the rest of creation, but from the beginning to the end of the Bible, God's plan of redemption is always prophetically couched in images of new heavens *and a new earth*. An earth where God can once again dwell with His people and all other life forms that God so desperately loves.

Don't minimize the promise of resurrection by spiritualizing it. View resurrection life through the lens of everything you love about this world, and you will get a fore-taste of the feast to come. St. Paul says plainly:

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 *"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, **the first fruits** of those who have died."*

According to St. Luke, this is what those **first fruits** look like:

Luke 24:38-42 *Jesus said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"<sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, Jesus said to them, "**Have you anything here to eat?"<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.***

And so, in this Easter season, let us confess with joyful expectation, *I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come!* Amen!

# GRACE TO YOU

Proclaim, Build, and Serve



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Join us for Holy Week! Sunday services are at 10am; evening services are at 7:00pm.

### March 28 Maundy Thursday

The first segment of the Triduum, one continuous worship experience that comprises Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Celebration of the Resurrection. The name comes from the Latin for “command” and reflects on Jesus’ command to serve one another as he served us. We also join in the meal Jesus instituted with his disciples to give them strength for the days ahead. Seder Meal at 6pm.

### March 29 Good Friday

The day of watching with our Lord during his crucifixion, and thanking him for the life he gives us. The Adoration of the Cross is not just an exercise in morbidity, but a reminder that the sins of the world are still carried by Christ out of his undying love for us.

### March 31 Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord is the culmination of our worship, as we gather to hear the Good News that Christ has overcome death itself. We rise up with Alleluias to greet our Risen Lord!

### March 31 Easter Fellowship

Join us after worship on Easter Sunday for a light reception and opportunity to share in the celebration of our Risen Lord with Grace friends old and new! We will gather in the fellowship room after worship for light refreshments provided by the Social Committee. Happy Easter!

## 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**

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL

Join us on **March 28**, as we gather to share a seder meal. A seder is a Passover celebration. When Jesus was gathering with his disciples at the last supper, they were gathered around this meal to celebrate Passover.

We will have a light dinner served in the fellowship room from 5:30-6:00 followed by the seder service from 6:00-7:00, at which time we will partake in the traditional seder foods and wine served at a seder meal. If you can’t make it right on time, we are flexible and will accommodate you. Please indicate on the sign up sheet in the narthex. Sign-up is requested.

Our Maundy Thursday worship will follow at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

## FAITH TALK

In April we will continue our reading of the book by Pastor Koth, “A Gxd For the Rest of Us”. The book was written for people who feel excluded from the grace and love of God, by those who have judged them because of who they are, something they have done, their religious (or lack thereof) affiliation, or their current disposition to God. The theme of the book is “all people are loved by God and nothing can separate us from that love.” If you know of someone who is struggling in their faith journey, this book is for them. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, April 4** 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.

## SHARING CIRCLE FOR RACIAL HEALING

We meet to learn about the reality of racial trauma and explore ways to promote healing – within our congregation and beyond. All are welcome! We meet after worship on Sundays (starting around 11:15 am) in the ground level meeting room by the South stairwell.

**April meetings will be on 4/7 and 4/21** - stay tuned for updates about additional events.

Please feel free to reach out to Karin Slenczka at [slenczka.k@gmail.com](mailto:slenczka.k@gmail.com) for more information.



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 Youth Gathering Room for centers and playtime

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

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

**On Easter Sunday, March 31, we'll have an Easter Egg hunt at 9:30am.**

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, and Heather









**CROPWALK COODINATOR FOUND**

Thank you to Doris Nelson for stepping up to be Grace’s CropWalk Coordinator for 2024. The 2024 walk is scheduled for **Sunday, May 5** from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton. An abundance of thanks go out to Mike Pertle for his many years of dedicated service to this ministry.

**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.

**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.

**COMMUNITY QUILTERS**

The **Community Quilters** meet on **Thursdays from 11:00-12:30**. We currently have five quilts that are in the finishing stage! 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, April 16**. 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](mailto:jeff.nelson@vlses.com)

**FREECYCLE TABLES**

Ginny Stein will host another **Freecycling Event on Friday, April 5 from 10am-2pm**. Donations may be placed in the metal bin on the front porch at Grace or brought up to the gym. Same as before – items in GOOD condition please, no thanks to furniture, large items, broken/missing pieces, etc.

**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  
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[www.GraceGlenEllyn.org](http://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
2/4	45	6
2/11	57	8
2/14 Ash Wed.	37	
2/18	38	6
2/21 Wednesday	17	
2/25	49	4
2/28 Wednesday	17	

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Rich Davison, Erik Sudds, Jill Geiersbach, Rob Langston, Pat Perry, and Brenda Dodge for healing and strength.

**Prayers for our Homebound Member:**  
 Dorothy Tracy

