

Grace Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn

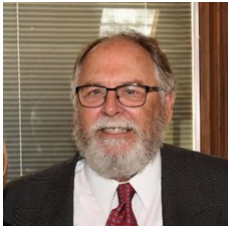
493 Forest Avenue at Pennsylvania
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
www.graceglenellyn.org
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West Conference - Metropolitan Chicago Synod - ELCA

MONTH OF MARCH 2024
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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

Christian DNA

By Rev. Jeffrey Koth

In the ancient church, the 40 days of lent were a time devoted to catechesis: that is teaching. The teaching was directed at those who sought membership in the church.

This time of “quarantine” (40 days) culminated in the reception of these “confirmands” through baptism, confirmation (laying on of hands) and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday...an all-night affair.

I think it valuable that we resurrect this sacred tradition of the church, and devote our 40 days of Lent this year to the study of Christian teaching. For that purpose, I have written a series of sermons to be delivered each Wednesday evening during Lent on a specific topic of Christian faith and being. I call this series, “Christian DNA”. I formulated this series of teaching as part of a post graduate class I took at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago some years ago.

I want to make clear that *this list* of the basic building blocks of Christian life is *not* complete. I have chosen topics that in my experi-

ence, challenge most of us, not only in our understanding of their intended meaning, but also in their implications and application of building a Christian life.

Here is the schedule of the Wednesday evening Christian DNA preaching series:

- February 21 “Heaven and Hell”
- February 28 “The Dope on Hope”
- March 6 “Jesus: Godman”
- March 13 “Love: A Four-Letter Word”
- March 20 “Prayer: Needs and Knees”

This series will culminate in the collective worship services of Holy Week known as the Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then Easter Sunday. Each of these services will also have particular themes that will be published in the bulletin and on-line media. I hope you will “quarantine” yourself, seeking health and wholeness that only God can give, as you revisit the basic building blocks of our faith and salvation during this holy time of Lent.



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 24 Palm/Passion Sunday

This day marks the start of Holy Week with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem—come grab a palm branch and join in the welcoming cries! Then listen with us as the story shifts suddenly and radically into Jesus' arrest and death. The contrast between the two events is intentional, and lifts up for us the tension inherent in our salvation story.

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. Sign Up in Narthex.

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

LENT WORSHIP

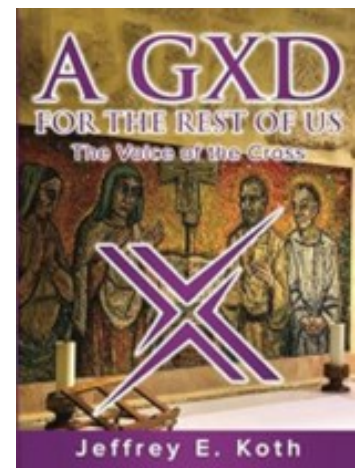
Our Lenten discipline focuses on scripture and worship. We will not be gathering for Wednesday night soup suppers this year, but instead invite you to take part in **Wednesday night Lenten worship services at 7:00** as we focus on scripture and the message of Lent.

During Holy Week we are planning a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday as we recognize and learn more of The Last Supper in a deeper way. Watch for more information and to sign up.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. This is a time for reflection and devotion on the cross of Christ. How could such a terrible death accomplish so much good.

Pastor Koth has published a book on the cross of Christ called "A GXD For the Rest of Us." This book explores the *unique* perspective that St. John brings. St. John's is a view of the cross which reveals it, not as a vehicle to pay for the sins of the world, but rather as the place of enthronement of the Son of God and the ushering in of the Kingdom of God.



You can purchase the book at Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.com/GXD-Rest-Us-Voice-Cross/dp/B0BB5KHTGZ>

GRACE YOUTH

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 Gathering Room – centers/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 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 & Heather



4/14/24

FaithTalk

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



On March 7th we will continue our conversation on Jesus' mandate that "we must be born (again) from above". This mandate calls into question any authority that claims truth and authority over our lives. Applying this principle toward our faith, we will begin reading "A Gxd for The Rest of Us" (written by Pastor Koth) and examining traditional views of salvation and the purpose and function of the cross as viewed from the perspectives of St. John. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, March 7** 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.



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, March 19**. 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



MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning on **March 4 at 7:00pm**, the Monday Evening Bible Study group will read and discuss the book **A GXD for the Rest of Us, The Voice of the Cross** by our Interim Pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Koth. Some of our regular group were introduced to this book by Pr. Koth in the FaithTalk session on February 1 and were so impressed that we decided to make this our next book to read and discuss.

The brief biography of our Interim Pastor on the Grace web page mentions that he is the author of two books, and this is the more recent. The aim of the book is to present the unconditional love offered to the whole world in the voice of the Cross as presented in the Gospel of John. In contrast with the current popularity of ideas of Jesus as a personal savior, the book offers the perspective of the steadfast love of God that cannot be confined within barriers. From the Preface: "Apparently, Gxd was loose in the entire occupied world."

We are not ordering copies of the book together. You can obtain the book in either paperback or e-book versions from Amazon here, although Pr. Koth recommends the paper copy due to problems of formatting with the electronic version: https://www.amazon.com/GXD-Rest-Us-Voice-Cross/dp/B0BB5KHTGZ#detailBullets_feature_div

The Monday night group has become close-knit over the years, but there is always room to add more to our circle. We meet both in person in the Education Office and via ZOOM.

If you have not participated before and wish to join us, please contact Mark Hamiton or Vince Hardt so we can add you to the Email list for weekly reading and study suggestions. marham999@gmail.com or vvince2001@hotmail.com





CROPWALK COODINATOR NEEDED

After his many years of service to the CropWalk, Mike Pertle is stepping down from his role as CropWalk Coordinator for Grace Lutheran. Grace is in need of someone to step in and take Mike’s place.

The 2024 walk is scheduled for **Sunday, May 5** from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton. Please contact Judy Selby at judyselby@comcast.net or Nick Gliha at ngliha@cwsglobal.org for more information.

Thank you, Mike, for your years of dedication 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.

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!

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
 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
1/7	42	5
1/14	55	6
1/21	53	8
1/28	60	8

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rich Davison, Erik Sudds, Rob Langston and Brenda Dodge for healing & strength.

Prayers for our Homebound Member:

Dorothy Tracy

