

TTT 211 SET STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

Affirming, Courageous, Caring

Grace Lutheran Church of Evanston 1430 South Blvd. at Wesley 847.475.2211

Grace Is An Open And Affirming RIC Congregation

OUR MISSION:

To courageously live out our faith by sharing grace with each other and the communities we serve.

OUR VISION:

All God's people will feel accepted, challenged, and cared for by Grace Church.

Rev. Daniel Ruen
Pastor
pd@graceevanston.org

Mark Bowman Music Director

The Rev. Kaari Reierson, The Rev. Jen Rude, and The Rev. Raquel Rodriguez, Colleagues in Ministry

> **Chloe Martinez** Office Manager

Steve Brunger Sexton

Continuing Courage

At the last council meeting John Wright handed me a thank you letter from The Night Ministry, an organization that provides health care, housing and support services to some of Chicago's most vulnerable and underserved populations. It was a special letter that shared a story. We received this letter because Grace's Courage

Fund sent a check to the Night Ministry for \$500.00 a couple of weeks ago. Along with that \$500.00 gift we included a letter of introduction that asked for a story about how The Night Ministry used those funds to inspire hope and courage in their community. This gift was part of a much larger group of recent disbursements to multiple organizations (local, national and international) totaling over \$6,000.00.

The thank you letter from the Night Ministry shared the story of Matt, a young man who'd been homeless because of a verbally and physically abusive family situation. He rode the bus all night, stayed at other peoples' homes, or slept on the beach. Because of the Night Ministry's West Town youth shel-



ter, Matt was able to get the stability and support he needed. He moved on to their Transitional Living Program, recently graduating magna cum laude from a music school in Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. He now teaches music in the Chicago Public Schools. Because of our relationship with The

Night Ministry, we are part of Matt's story and future stories of transformation.

To date, the Courage Fund has received and given away close to \$50,000.00 of a \$75,000.00 goal (to be met next December of 2013). Those funds represent more than dollars; they represent tangible jolts of courage and hope, injected into a world of despair and depression.

At that same council meeting Les Inch, our Council Chair, brought another request. Curt's Café, a new small business in Evanston that employs juvenile ex-offenders, enabling them to have meaningful employment and re-build their lives, is in financial

Continued on next page

ADVENT 2012: "What Are We Waiting For?"

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:30 p.m. Simple Meal in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Adult Study/Conversation and Learning activities for children

7:45 p.m. Worship (multi-generational)

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Sunday, December 23rd during worship

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

Monday, December 24th

Pre-Service Special Music at 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST:

Tuesday, December 25th at 10:00am



Courage, Continued

trouble. We started talking about it, wondering how we might respond. It turns out that, because of ETHS freshman Dajae Coleman's recent and tragic shooting death, a critical mass of interfaith clergy have been meeting and trying to take action on behalf of troubled youth. Why not bring the Curt's Café need to this new consortium of interfaith clergy, have the Courage Fund match their congregations' donations up to a certain amount, thereby multiplying our gift as a partnered and specific action? To that end, I am drafting a letter to the clergy group, and we as a council are moving forward with this idea.

As we were deciding this I realized that, just like Matt, whom The Night Ministry served and empowered, we were also now part of the unfolding story of Curt's Café. If Susan Trieschmann, the struggling owner of Curt's Cafe, were in attendance at our meeting, I believe she would have been filled with courage and hope. The money will be helpful, of course—but I think what would have really moved her would be the way we took her need to heart and creatively addressed it in good faith.

It's not about the money. It never was. It's about the story and the Spirit. Our money and our gifts simply follow those things—without the story and the Spirit there would be no money. The Courage Fund was created out of our stubborn belief in Jesus' message, and was inspired by other stories that infected us. They continue to spread and grow, in spite of all worldly knowledge and cynicism. The council agreed we need to do a better job of sharing these stories about the Courage Fund, especially as we move closer to our 75th Anniversary in 2013. Therefore I have written this article. We plan to update you with more and more stories as we receive them each month.

Share this story amongst yourselves, your family members, and your friends. Then bring some new ones, bring some new needs, bring some new dreams, some new risks. If you'd like a refresher course on the Courage Fund story itself, go to www.mcsletstalk. org/16.2/ruen and re-live the wacky dream of how it all started, or experience it for the first time, and then pass it on.

The Peace and Joy of Christ, Pastor Daniel

New Policies and Procedures for Working with Minors at Grace

Many of you have already heard me making announcements about the new Grace policy for working with minors during Community Time on Sundays, or may have read my blurbs in the Gracenotes. Many of you have also already spoken with me about how grateful you are that Grace is taking steps to safeguard the well-being of our young people. I realize that filling out another form is not the top of anybody's list, but we're asking you to take five minutes out of your time to contribute to our efforts towards serving our children in this capacity. We believe that this policy is a necessary component of our work as a caring community of faith to protect and guide our young people. We also believe this policy protects individual volunteers by providing guidance as to best practices, as well as the broader Grace community by publicly articulating the steps we take to protect our young people. If you still have questions about the policy, or if you would like digital copies of either the policy or the application to work with minors, please send me an email (keifert@gmail.com). Thank you for your understanding and support of the council and churchwide efforts to protect and guide the youngest members of our faith community.

Danielle Kiefert



Summary of 10/10/12 Council Meeting Minutes

The council discussed and approved hosting the Radical Christian Life conference, spearheaded by Joe Flint and Lisa Kosnik including recommending Courage Fund money to support the attendance of those who cannot afford to pay the registration fee. Council also recommended Courage Fund disperse money to the Childcare Network of Evanston diaper drive (\$500); the Interfaith Action Hospitality Center towards groceries (\$500); the Night Ministry (\$500); Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (\$500); Lutheran World Relief for Syria (\$1000); and Bailey's children's center (\$500). Council also approved a payment of \$5,000 to the ELCA towards our yearly pledged benevolences (to be presented to the bishop during his visit on 11/11).

With regard to worship plans over the coming weeks and months, PD presented his thoughts on a new worship committee now that Mark Bowman has joined the staff. Council also discussed the stewardship schedule through to the bishop's visit planned for 11/11 and the budget meeting on 12/9. Council also voted to revise the weekly bulletin design, website, and outdoor sign to include aspects of the new strategic plan, specifically the use of the words Affirming, Courageous, Caring.

During discussion of the liaison posts Danielle Keifert (education) reported progress on the implementation of the new safety policy for working with minors. Dorothy Nagelbach (social ministries) discussed the revival of revivals, and also agreed to speak with Lisa Kosnik about a possible social justice committee. Jon Flaherty (property/Mission of Hospitality (MOH)) requested and received council approval for funds towards window and trim repair and painting. In discussing administration/communication issues council agreed to continue moving forward on the search for a new parish administrator.



Annual MayaWorks Sale, Sunday, December 2 Many New Products This Year

MayaWorks interweaves the lives of women in Guatemala and the United States by finding markets for the work of talented Mayan artisans.

In addition to the beautiful handmade products made by Guatemalan Mayan artisans, we have many new products for your Christmas gifts.

- Cotton scarves in pink, coral, green, blue, and purple
- · Multi-strand necklaces in blue, purple, coral, green, and silver
- · Mayan Beaded infinity bracelet in blue, coral, and green
- Mayan beaded swirl earrings in multi-color, purple, and black
- · Jewel bracelet with magnetic clasp
- · Small pine needle baskets
- Clutch bags, crochet bags, iPod cases, leather key rings
- New Christmas ornaments: Hummingbird, peace dove, polar bear, and Quetzal Bird

MayaWorks provides scholarships to Mayan girls and offers micro-loans to artisans for new business ventures they are starting. If you do not wish to purchase a product, you can make a scholarship donation in your name.

Honor the deepest meaning of Christmas this year. Please your family and friends and at the same time contribute to peace and justice in our world.

I will also need volunteers to help me set up, advertise, and run the sale. Please contact me at 773-728-6768 (home), or 847-373-4587 (cell) or at starkinch@aol.com.

Rachel Stark Inch



GRACE NEWS & EVENTS



BUDGET MEETING and Coffee:

Sunday, December 9th:

Annual Church Budget meeting in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

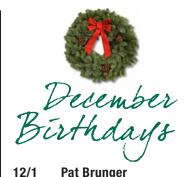
Please mark your calendars and come for a special look forward at and congregational vote on next year's budget!

Narthex Calendar

If you have an event occurring at the church you may place that event on the calendar on the bulletin board in the hallway of the narthex. There is a pen compatible with white boards mounted at the white boards. We encourage anyone with an event to mark it on the calendar so that others may know about the event and if necessary schedule around the event. Be sure to identify time in addition to the actual day of your event. If you have more information you wish to publicize note it in the larger space at the right of the calendar.



Grace has won a Coffee Hour Makeover from LWR and Equal Exchange.



	•
12/1	Dominique Baptiste
12/4	Keith Ericksen

Phyllis Buck

	,
12/8	Kelly Brunger
	Nancy Stewart

12/7

12/10	Christine Collins
	Mark Mathyer
	David Utech

12/14	Cecilia	Galicia	(child)
			(

12/15	Peter	Graef
	Peter	Spies

12/16	Joseph	Flint

12/21

Kim Brown

12/26	Lynn Otte
	Tyler Brunger

12/31 Rina Campbell



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Dec 2nd
_	Megan Sawyer
	Amy Gillespie
Lector	Randy Warren
_	Joanie Daye
	Sydell Reeves and Ann Stevens
	Nancy and Mark Mathyer
	Ann Stevens and Nancy Mathyer
Nursery	Ann Stevens
Burnette	Dec 9th
_	Pastor Daniel Ruen
	Ron Graef
	Bob Lamont
	Logan Spies
	Larry Yarbrough and Jon Flaherty
	Congregational Potluck
	Ann Stevens and Nancy Mathyer
Nursery	Nina Alvarez
	Dec 16th
Preaching	Amy Gillespie
Assisting Minister	Rachel Stark Inch
Lector	Anne Shafer
Acolyte	William Thacker
Ushers	Larry Yarbrough and Jon Flaherty
Coffee Hour	Kim and Danny Brown
Altar Care	Sue Graef and Nancy Schubert
Nursery	Deb Mitchell
Dunashina	Dec 23rd
	Grace Children's Christmas Program
	Carolyn Utech
	Bill Blackburn
	Julia Shoaf
	Russ Kohnken and Nate Brown
	Sue Graef and Nancy Schubert
Nursery	Nancy Schubert and Cecilia Galicia

	Dec 24th
Preaching	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister	rKim Brown
Lector	Larry Yarbrough
1 -	Zora Ruen
Ushers	Russ Kohnken, and Nate Brown
Altar Care	Nell Ferguson and Janet Wright
	Dec 25th
	Pastor Daniel Ruen
	rPaul Bailey
1	Joe Mayne
1	Cecilia Galicia
1	Jan Blackburn and Bob Shoaf
	Jan and Bill Blackburn
Altar Care	Nell Ferguson and Janet Wright
	Dec 30th
	Pastor Daniel Ruen
	rAmy Gillespie
1	Jan Blackburn
1	Joanie Daye
	Jan Blackburn, Cecilia Galicia and Bob Shoaf
	Joe and Vicki Mayne
1	Helen Yarbrough and Susan Sullivan
Nurserv	Ann Stevens



Calling All Singers!

Join other Grace voices for an Advent/Christmas choir that will sing in worship in December. We will also prepare special music for Christmas week services for those who can participate. We will have short rehearsals following the Wednesday night Advent gatherings—from 8:15 to 9:00 p.m. on December 5, 12, and 19. Singers of all abilities welcome. Contact Mark Bowman at markleby@comcast.net or 773-316-8892 with questions or more information.



Eating, sharing, and worship for all ages. Our study and conversation will explore our relationship to food as Christains.

Join as we learn and grow together in faith!



Wednesdays: December 5th 12th 19th



6:30 Simple Meal 7:00 Adult Study and Children's Program 7:45 Worship

What AreWe Waiting For? Our Advent Journey at Grace

Worship Notes

Advent will soon be upon us. With Mark Bowman, Megan Sawyer and Anne Laurence's inspirations and creativity we've settled on the theme, "What Are We Waiting For?" Because Christmas arrives earlier in the last week of the season, there will only be three Wednesday mid-week services. We plan to maximize these three evenings with a simple meal, some short devotional study for children and adults, and a 20-minute service to finish the evening. More info to come. Here's the important information for your planning -- we hope to see you there!

ADVENT 2012 THEME: "What Are We Waiting For?"

FOR: Grace members and friends of all ages

WHEN: 3 Wednesday evenings, December 5th, 12th and 19th

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:30 p.m. Simple Meal in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Adult Study/Conversation and Learning activities for children

7:45 p.m. Worship (multi-generational)

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

Sunday, December 23rd during worship

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

Monday, December 24th

Pre-Service Special Music at 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST:

Tuesday, December 25th at 10:00am

As always, I look forward to greeting you at the Welcome Table every Sunday at Grace!

Pastor Daniel

Rools Jean Honored

Rools Jean has been awarded the Cook County Sheriff 's Youth Service Medal of Honor for completing more than 100 hours of Community Service for the year 2011-2012. He has been invited to attend the Ceremony on Tuesday, November 27 to receive his Award.



PHONE (312) 603-6444

SHERIFF'S OFFICE OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER
50 W. WASHINGTON - ROOM 704
CHICAGO, IL 60602

THOMAS J. DART

November 1, 2012

Rools Jean 2125 Howard St. Apt. 3A Evanston, IL 60202

Dear Rools,

Congratulations! I am pleased to award you with the Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor. Your volunteer service shows your commitment to others as well as demonstrates good citizenship. I would like to invite you to attend the Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor Award Ceremony on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. This ceremony will be held at the UIC Forum located at 725 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago in the Main Hall, Rooms A & B.

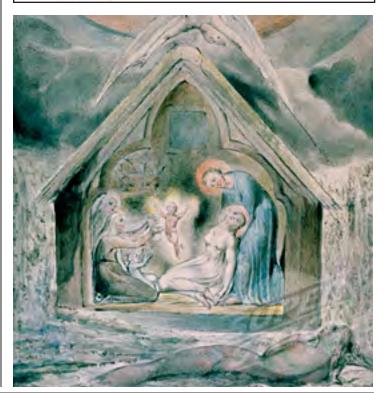
Please RSVP by November 14th to reserve your seat at the ceremony or to request your medal be mailed to you at a later date. Due to capacity restrictions, we ask that each recipient bring no more than 4 guests. For those attending, registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Please allow ample time for parking and registration. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Proper attire is requested.

To RSVP or if you have any questions please contact Maureen Malloy or Hillary Czajka at (773) 674-4698 or ysd.moh@gmail.com.

As Ghandi once said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." By giving of your time, you are making a difference in the communities that you serve. I am impressed with your dedication and involvement in volunteer service, and I look forward to meeting and honoring you with the Youth Service Medal of Honor.

Sincerely

Thomas J. Dart Sheriff of Cook County



Bishop's Visit and Renovation Celebration

On Sunday, November 11th, Bishop Wayne Miller paid Grace a special visit. He led our adult education hour, preached during worship, and was an honored guest during our Celebration Luncheon in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. Bishop Miller also gave a blessing of the new space at the end of the celebration. We were happy to present him with a check for \$5,000.00 as part of our annual stewardship commitment. Last year Grace voted to send these payments in advance as much as possible. Seth Green, the Executive Director of Y.O.U. and Leah Seligman, the Clinical Director, were also present at the luncheon to speak and receive a Courage Fund gift of \$500. Damien and Barbara Mott, who are Family Promise site coordinators with Clare Tallon Ruen, were also there and they also received a \$500 donation from the Courage Fund for the Northshore Family Promise Network.

We filled the new Fellowship Hall with good food from Curt's Café, a small business in Evanston that employs juvenile ex-offenders, as well as special soup recipes from our own Bob Shoaf. More than 100 people were in attendance to watch Martha Fry's excellent retrospective slideshow and video of the renovations, hear testimonies from our special guests, and enjoy one another's presence and great spirit. Special thanks go to the Ministry of Hospitality team (Kim Brown, Lynn Otte, Fred Nagelbach, Mark Mathyer, Jan Blackburn, and Steve Brunger) who were on hand to receive hearty acclamation from the congregation. Also thanks to Dorothy Nagelbach and Bob Shoaf who put together the set-up and meal, as well as all the helpers that day. It was a very special day to recognize and appreciate our shared commitment to maintaining a space that is, first and foremost, geared toward service and mission in God's name.



Speak no evil, hear no evil, and see no evil...











Challenging Our Status Quo

Radical Christian Life webcast postponed until Saturday, December 8th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1430 South Boulevard, Evanston, IL 60202.

"Benedict and his monks were working their fields when the farmer arrived, desperate and looking for miracles. The monastics were their steady, predictable selves. The only thing is that, like us, they forgot that life is not about being steady. Life is about being involved in the right things at the right time. Here it was a matter of life and death. If you are not giving attention to any of the life-and-death matters of this time, the question is not, Are you a good person? The question is, Are you really a spiritual one?"

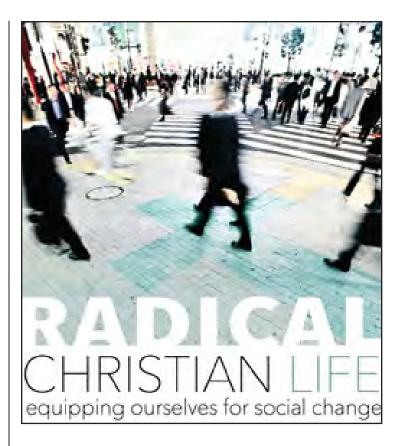
This challenging statement is from one of the daily devotions sent by Trinity Institute, the host of our webcast/workshop recently rescheduled to Saturday, December 8th, and Forward Movement, the organization of Sr. Joan Chittister, our workshop leader. The program will be broadcast from New York and was postponed from November 10th because of the grave aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. It is entitled "Radical Christian Life: Equipping Ourselves for Social Change".

The statement above struck me because of how much I have valued stability in my life. I am the fourth child of Midwestern parents who taught me not to rock the boat -- which accounted for why I did not make some personally difficult changes in my young adulthood. It was only when I started to address my depression at age 32 that I realized "life is not about being steady."

So too as Christians I believe we are asked to respond to injustice in the world. We are to respond to the life-and-death matters of our time. Don't get me wrong, I've spent many years walking away from responsibility for imbalances I've witnessed in our society. Yet, I've also had opportunity, and taken it, to step in and confront some ills of our world. When I have taken this action I have always felt more connected to our God.

I invite you to join me in a day of contemplation on Saturday, December 8th. We'll listen, share, and hopefully be moved to action as a result of the webcasts and creative work sessions that day.





We'll also enjoy a fabulous lunch being catered by Curt's Café (a local café dedicated to offering second chances for young, recently incarcerated women and men) and enjoy our fellowship with Christians from a variety of faith traditions who have already signed up to be with us. Grace Lutheran is the only webcast/workshop site in the Chicago area.

Register at www.graceevanston.org/#/radical-christian-life, or email me at jflintlcpc@yahoo.com or Lisa Kosnik at ligo79@yahoo.com for more information. A donation of \$25 is requested to cover the cost of the webcast and lunch. A special student rate of \$15 and scholarships are available.

Submitted by Joe Flint, co-leader of the new Grace Social Justice Initiative



ELCA Church Council Adopts Message on Mental Illness

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness" as an official social message of the church when it met here Nov. 9-11. The message lifts up the ministries of ELCA congregations, social ministry organizations and others and the urgent need for efforts to make a place for and with people who suffer from mental illness in the church and in society.

One-half of U.S. citizens in their lifetimes will have a serious mental health condition but fewer than half will receive treatment, and the need for understanding and treatment is a crisis affecting the entire nation, according to the statement.

A study in the church found that 16 percent of male clergy and 24 percent of female clergy suffer from depression. Ten years of extended overseas military campaigns have also resulted in a large population of combat veterans who are experiencing mental health issues and are prone to suicide. At the same time, "the veterans' health system is widely deemed inadequate to address the massive mental health needs among our troops," it states.

The ELCA social message serves to encourage learning and moral discourse about mental illness and to shape the ELCA as a church that offers hope, prayer and support for people seeking treatment and support for caregivers and mental health professionals.

The ELCA has 12 other social messages on topics ranging from homelessness to immigration, from AIDS to terrorism.

In recent visits to ELCA congregations the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, told the council in his report that he could "feel the excitement" among ELCA members to bear an evangelical witness "in a culture that often sees a very different face of Christianity, hears the gospel in a different accent, if not a different gospel altogether or no gospel, only the law."

"We can be a different face of Christianity," said Hanson. "We are united in our shared commitment to respond together to human suffering," he said. "It is who we are and what we do."

"We share a commitment to God's baptismal calling to work for justice and peace," and "We share a commitment to the vitality of congregations as centers of proclamation and service," Hanson said. "I believe the moment we have been given as the ELCA is to give a clear, evangelical witness to the gospel and to show forth a face of Christianity that reflects the cruciform, merciful presence of God in the midst of suffering."

The presiding bishop framed his report to the council around four questions: What is the basis of our unity in the ELCA? How is leadership shared, and how and for what are leaders being prepared in this church? How shall we fund the mission of this church? And, for what shall we be known in 2017?

"What a great opportunity we have as the ELCA, celebrating 25 years together in Christ and preparing to mark 500 years of the ongoing Lutheran Reformation to renew our commitment to find ways to share and live this Good News in our rapidly changing, increasingly diverse local and global contexts. We can be a different face of Christianity."

The ELCA will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2013 under the theme, "Always being made new."

"What an opportunity we have been given in our 25th anniversary year to explore what it means to be rooted in the Living Word of God, which is the Word of God incarnate in Jesus the Christ, the Word of God proclaimed as law and gospel, the Word of God recorded in Scripture," said Hanson.

Centering its work and time together in daily worship and frequent prayer, the council commended the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services" as a resource for chaplains and as "a companion for all who serve," and it commended the "Stand for Welcome Sunday" resource for use in congregations seeking mission and ministry opportunities among newcomers.

The council received a progress report from the Living Into the Future Together Advisory Committee. The committee is charged with providing ongoing advice and evaluation on a series of actions taken by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly that sets a course for the church's future, its relationships and structure.

The council acknowledged that the implementation of the assembly's actions remains a "work-in-progress." Actions approved by the 2011 assembly include a call for ELCA congregations to develop plans for mission, leadership development, the building and strengthening of global partnerships, recommendations for renewed and sustainable financial support for the ministries of the church and more.

The council also received a report from the ELCA Mission Funding Task Force and adopted recommendations that acknowledge the need for ongoing conversations on strengthening ELCA Mission Support -- financial contributions from congregations to synods and the ELCA churchwide organization.

The council invited synods to partner with one another to pilot ways to strengthen and build mission support, including ways that emphasizes stewardship and promote lateral accountability among synods. The council requested that the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund explore the development of a "remittance process system" that would improve the process for transmitting mission support and other funds to synods. As part of the action, the council requested that the ELCA Conference of Bishops help monitor the pilot programs.

Pecember Calendar

Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour

Sunday School During Worship

Dec. 9 Congregational Budget Meeting and Coffee after worship

Dec 5, 12

and 19 Wednesday Evening Services: 6:30 Meal;7:00 Adult Study/Children Activities; 7:45 Worship

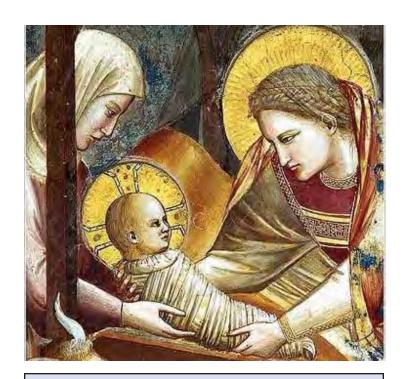
Dec. 23 Children's program during worship

Dec. 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7:30pm Pre-Service Special Music at 7:00pm

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service, 10:00am



Find us at GraceEvanston.org



Grace Church Council

Les Inch, Chair, Jon Flaherty, Nathan Johnson, Danielle Keifert, Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Laura Wally



Grace Lutheran Church of Evanston 1430 South Blvd. Evanston, IL 60202

Voice: 847.475.2211 Fax: 847.869.9442