



**GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH**

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

Pastor

The Rev. Mark Pendleton
markp@
glenviewnewchurch.org
847-724-0057 x101

Assistant Pastor

The Rev. Elmo Acton
elmoa@
glenviewnewchurch.org
847-724-0057 x102

**Director of Church
Operations**

Judy Recht
judyr@
glenviewnewchurch.org
847-724-0057 x100

**Women's Programming
Facilitator**

Coordinator of Volunteers
Martha Heilman
marthah@
glenviewnewchurch.org

**Principal
Glenview New Church
School**

Phil Parker
philp@
glenviewnewchurch.org
847-724-0057 x103

Park News

parknews@
glenviewnewchurch.org
847-724-0057 x100

PARK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

March 2024

Pastoral Message

Happy March 29th!

January 29th, 1688 mean anything to you? Some sharp-minded New Church people might recall that Emanuel Swedenborg was born on that date. Maybe, if you went to a New Church school, it was not so much your sharp mind that helped you remember, but your childhood taste buds that were delightfully awakened as you bit into a Swedish flag decorated cup cake, given to you on Swedenborg's birthday (yum yum!).

How many New Church People (or "Swedenborgians", as they are often labeled) would you guess know when he died? Swedenborg died on March 29th, 1772, at age 84. You probably didn't remember that because you never were given a cupcake to celebrate his death! Amazingly, he predicted the day he would die months earlier in a letter to a stranger, John Wesley — a theologian Swedenborg only reached out to because spirits had told him John had wanted to talk with him (and they were right)! Also amazingly, Swedenborg had recently traveled to London and was lodging in the home of a wigmaker (that's not the amazing part); he thoughtfully, and perhaps a little eerily, paid his rent well in advance... but only up to what he would owe through March 29th of 1772 (cue eerie music). His maid, as well, told people that he had predicted the time of his passing to the day. Wow! Swedenborg's life is fascinating. Even in his death fantastic but true things happened.

I am not someone who loves being called a "Swedenborgian", much like I wouldn't want to be called a "Swiftly" just because I listen to Taylor Swift. However, there is more to it - if I were someone who *was idolizing* Taylor Swift, I would *love* to be called a "Swiftly", because that would make me feel like I was part of something wonderful, and bigger than myself, that had my idol at its center. But that is not what Swedenborg is to me (or what Swedenborg thought he should be either). Swedenborg is not at our center, the Lord is. So, call me a "Lordy", I guess.

So, what is the importance of Swedenborg and how would I suggest we think of him? Well, to the Lord, he is not any more important than you or me. That doesn't mean that Swedenborg was just a man at the right place at the right time; it was his endless study and his extreme passion that placed him in his position with the Lord. There were bigger factors at play that also helped his placement. The advances in the printing press over the decades made bibles more available, helped spread scientific breakthroughs more quickly, and by the 1700s made it far easier to mass produce any book for a lower cost. This flooding in of

Church Calendar

March*

- 3 SUN 10:00 Worship Service—Sanctuary
6:00 Youth Group
 - 4 MON 5:00 Women Unwind—100 Park Drive
 - 5 TUE 7:00 Park Dwellings
 - 6 WED 10:30 Arcana Class
7:00 Pastor's Council
7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
 - 10 SUN 10:00 Worship Service—Auditorium
6:00 Youth Group
 - 13 WED 10:30 Arcana Class
7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
 - 14 THURS 1:30 GNCS Play
7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting
 - 15 FRI 5:30 GNCS Play
 - 17 SUN 10:00 Worship Service—Sanctuary
 - 18 MON 7:00 Chimes Rehearsal
 - 20 WED 10:30 Arcana Class
7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
 - 21 THURS 7:00 MANC Board Meeting
 - 24 SUN 10:00 Palm Sunday Service—Auditorium
 - 29 FRI 7:30 Good Friday Holy Supper Service
Sanctuary
 - 30 SAT GNCS Easter Egg Hunt
1:00 Chimes Rehearsal
 - 31 SUN 10:00 Easter Festival Service—Auditorium
- * all meetings will be held virtually

shared information opened the world up to an "Age of Enlightenment" that still allowed for God to be a part of "reason" (the 1800s would usher in a "Scientific Revolution" in which God was not as much a central component to "reason"). The evolution of mass communication, vast exposure to the thinking of so many great minds at the time, propelled what people were conscious of more rapidly than ever before. We can think of Swedenborg as a beautiful flower surrounded by beautiful flowers, in a well-kept garden with rich soil. What set him out was that the Lord pollinated this specific flower (Swedenborg) with more spiritual "pollen" than any other - the seeds from this flower were going to continue to germinate and create new seeds, creating ever more magnificent gardens, forever. The pollen and seeds were never Swedenborg's, he was just the flower that the pollen rested in. They were always from the Lord. *

Also, in order for the Heavenly Doctrines to see life they had to be published by a man of great integri-

General Announcements

ty, well enough known to have a sound and superior mind, and there had to be a little “mystic magic” to give his spiritual claims some legitimacy. He was the right man for the job.

Swedenborg carried out his part in getting out a great work that the Lord gave light to (the Heavenly Doctrines), much like the men who wrote out parts of the New and Old Testament before it. Do we revere Daniel, Ezekiel, Matthew, or John as great authors or leaders? No, we read these works with the knowledge that the Lord Himself commissioned these works and is communicating through the text. The Lord commissioned Swedenborg, just as He had done before, but Swedenborg had a more rational and evolved mind, therefore the revelation was like nothing before. Time will make accepting the Heavenly Doctrines as revelation an easier thing to do for people in the future. We can be grateful we are part of its cultivation and continued growth.

Swedenborg, like any great thinker, should be remembered as someone who helped push forward our understanding of the world around us. The Lord’s books that Swedenborg published, unlike those of any great thinker, should be revered and studied endlessly into the future in order to push forward our understanding of the *spiritual world* around us. There is no problem in celebrating his life in a secular way, much like that of any great thinker. However, if we are to celebrate the man in any religious context, maybe we should celebrate his heavenly birth on March 29th—the day he could finally make his vacation home his permanent address. Imagine his delight when he had fulfilled his duties to the Lord here and knew he could now continue in those uses in true freedom with the Lord in His heavens.

For when a person dies, the person does not die, but only lays aside the body which had served him or her for use in the world, and the person passes into the other life in a body which serves them for use there. - *Secrets of Heaven* 6008

* Don’t let self vs. cross-pollination confuse this message too much, unless you think it helps. You get the point.

(Rev. Elmo K. Acton)

Women Unwind—March 4

Our once-a-month get-together will take place on Monday, March 4 from 5-6:30pm at Karen Stoeller’s, 100 Park Drive, Glenview. Casual - with wine, soft drinks, cheese, crackers, and conversation. Contact: Sandy Ruch 847-724-0363

Welcome to the Weekend Tea-Sunday, March 10

Please join us from 1-3pm in the Assembly Hall. Contact: Deb Lehne 847-724-3334

Easter Chancel Assistants—March 31

There will be a flower procession at our Easter Festival Service and we are looking for a few young people, 3rd grade and up, who might be willing to serve as cancel assistants helping the ministers receive the flower offerings. Please use the link below to sign-up or email me if your young person would be willing to help.

Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5ae2fa7fc1-gncsunday>

Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator Martha Heilman marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org / 847-302-7619

Now Available in the Sunshine Freezer

- Flu-Fighter Soup - It’s vegetarian, butternut-squash based
- A large variety of bakery cookies.

Please remember to use the calendar posted on the freezer to sign out whatever you take, and who you are giving it to. Thank you to our soup-makers, cookie stockers, and distributors. (The GNC Sunshine Committee: Building Community. No Strings Attached. We All Need It.) Contact: Roxanne Junge, RMJunge@aol.com, 847-962-4073

Sunday Morning – Volunteers Needed

We are offering refreshments after the 10am worship services as volunteers are available. The usher schedule is also open. Anyone is welcome to sign up and students can earn school community service hours for these and other useful duties. Click this link to sign-up (or send me an email). <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5ae2fa7fc1-gncsunday>
Thank you in advance! Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator 847-302-7619

Calling All Bakers and Shoppers

The Glenview New Church has a history of sending care packages to away college students and young adults serving in the military, and this year is no exception. We are looking for baked goods (cookies and bars which travel well) and other fun things that help them feel the love from home. We are looking to send along microwave popcorn, granola bars, hot chocolate packets, tooth brushes, instant mac & cheese and the like. We’d also welcome pens, post-it notes, fun little snacks, life savers, games - whatever strikes your fancy. We’ll gather everything together and



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create a box of tasty, fun, and useful items to keep them studying & serving, while knowing their church friends are behind them.

Here's how you can help:

- * Bake cookies or bars
- * Buy something fun to include in mailing boxes
- * Donate money for shopping and/or mailing (checks can be made out to Glenview New Church Attn: care packages)

Parents - We need to hear from you! Please send us your child's name and address so we can include them in our mailing. Please send addresses to Bronwyn Kossmann bronwynkossmann@hotmail.com, or Owen Smith owen@abbey-paving.com) ASAP so packages can be mailed the week of 3/25.

Cookies and purchased items can be dropped off at the church. Anyone wanting to help prepare packages for mailing would be most welcome! We will be assembling on Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday) from 11:15am-12:15pm in the Assembly Hall. Any questions? Please call or email Bronwyn or Owen. (847-420-5502, 630-327-1966, bronwynkossmann@hotmail.com, owen@abbey-paving.com). (Many thanks, Bronwyn Kossmann and Owen Smith)

Neighbors in Need Fund 2024

This is a small fund that operates confidentially and anonymously to help people with various financial challenges by providing some level of financial assistance in time of need. It is a fund that sits in the structure of the Glenview New Church Operating Budget, but it is funded solely through individual contributions and is managed under the auspices of the Treasurer and Fund Chair. Gifts are small but helpful. Recipients of these gifts often give back when they are able. If you are in a position to contribute to this fund it will be most appreciated. Please send contributions directly to the Glenview New Church Treasurer at 74 Park Drive Glenview, IL 60025 earmarked for the 'Neighbors in Need Fund'. Thank You, Karen Day Stoeller, Chair.

GNCs play: Hyronomous A. Frog March 14 1:30pm, March 15 5:30pm

All are invited to attend the 4th-8th grade production of Hyronomous A. Frog—The Frog Prince. Shows will be at 1:30pm on Thursday, March 14 and at 5:30pm on Friday, March 15 in Pendleton Hall.

Palm Sunday—March 24

The Palm Sunday Service will take place on Sunday, March 24 at 10am in the Auditorium. The festival service will include a palm procession.

Good Friday—Friday, March 29

The Good Friday Holy Supper service will take at 7:30pm on Friday, March 29 in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday—March 31

There will be one service on Easter Sunday taking place at 10am in the Auditorium. The festival service will include a flower procession.

GNCs Easter Egg Hunt

Save the date for GNCs's Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 30th, 9am & 10:30am. Tickets are on sale now Use this link to purchase: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gncs-easter-egg-hunt-2024-tickets-837768687697?aff=oddtcreator>. The school and church family discount code is **schoolfamily2024**. Use this code to receive 50% off the ticket price.

We will also need lots of volunteers to pull the hunt off again this year. Please consider volunteering - smiles and joy guaranteed! Here is the link to [sign up to volunteer](#).

We also are accepting fun-size candy donations. These donations offset the cost of candy and greatly help the school keep its event costs down. Donations can be dropped off at the school's front office until March 15th.

Chimes for Easter!

We are trying to put together a chime group for Easter this year—are you available to join us? Here are the rehearsal times:

- Monday, March 18, 7-8pm
- Saturday, March 30, 1-2pm
- Sunday March 31, warm-up before church 8:15-9am

The performance will be at church on Easter morning, Sunday March 31, at 10am. Please let me know if you can join us. Bonny Lundin-Scheer
bonnys@glenviewnewchurch.org.

Save the Date—Women's Spring Retreat— Honoring the Women Who Inspire Us— April 6

Join us for a day of relaxation, connection, and conversation as we celebrate the women who mentor and inspire us. Activities include meditation, discussions, creative activities, community connections and more. Open to women of all ages. Free childcare. Stay tuned for further details and registration information to come.

Save the Date—Rummage Sale—June 8

The Rummage Sale returns. More details to follow.

Older Adult Services Presentation Wrap Up

Thank you to everyone who attended the adult services presentation on Saturday, February 17th. It was a pleasure seeing so many familiar faces and meeting a few new folks too.



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Special thank you to Kimberly Hand, MS, Coordinator of Senior Services for the Village of Glenview, for sharing her expertise with us. Her presentation was useful and informative, shedding light on the array of services available for older adults and their families in our community.

Additionally, a huge thank you to Carolyn Smith for her idea to offer this program and her efforts in organizing the event! If you missed the program or would like to see a list of services offered, please check out this link:

<https://www.glenview.il.us/Pages/SeniorServices.aspx>

Survey: What Does Having a Relationship with the Lord Mean to You?

I (Rev. Malcolm Smith) would love to hear from you about what having a relationship with the Lord means to you. This is true in general and it's also for a session I'm facilitating at the General Church Assembly. I've put together a survey with questions like "How has your relationship with the Lord changed and evolved over the course of your life so far?" "How have other people played a role in your evolving relationship with the Lord? What have people done that has felt useful or not useful?" Whether you're coming to the Assembly or not, I would love for you to read through the survey and pick one or two questions to respond to. Thanks! Find the survey at [gcassembly2024.org/survey](https://www.gcassembly2024.org/survey). End of March is a good deadline to shoot for, but I will accept responses right up to the time of the Assembly.

2024 General Church Assembly

You are warmly invited to the 2024 General Church Assembly in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania June 27-30. We are excited to offer a wide-ranging program full of opportunities to learn, be inspired, and connect with friends - new and old - in our international church community. Please join us by registering today. For more information: www.gcassembly2024.org

Park Patter

What a day! Even Tom Skilling ran out of words to describe Tuesday, 2/27/24 from start to finish! First, sunshine and gentle, warm breezes of the 71-degree temperature—shorts, tee shirts, and flip-flops were the proper dress mode. But the weather forecasters kept saying "around sundown" winds would become "cyclonic" (i.e. cyclones were coming) and thunder, lightning, hail – you name it—were all on the way. Unfortunately, for once all their bad news was correct, just a little late in arriving. The next morning's drive didn't show any visible damage to the Park and environs, but, boy was it COLD and WINDY! Thursday morning temperature was minus 8 degrees at 10am!

As long as you're out looking, how about a real estate report? First and foremost, the Mayo Mansion is no more—except for the front door. One report was that the new owner was planning an addition to the existing edifice on the south side. Something needs to be done but it can be a "rehab" not a tear down as long as the front door stays put. Nosy neighbors will provide reports as news becomes available.

The two new constructions (houses) on the corner (more or less) of Glenview and Shermer Roads are for sale now. Price? Don't ask!

The Elmo Actons had a SUPER Super Bowl party! Many showed up, some stopping in for just an hour or so. Our new friend from Mexico, Christopher, came with Pastor Mark, and he and Elmo rated the best Arnold Schwarzenegger films together. Their cheerful neighbor, Ellen, showed up later in the game with her two boys (who integrated quickly into the young crowd already at play). All the children had fun playing arcade games, playing with dolls and Lego in the basement... and quite a few were invested in the game (Theo watched intently until the end)! We turned up the volume for the halftime show and people started dancing in their seats. The rib roast was delicious and there was plenty of food to go around. Thanks to all you good people for bringing such good eats! It was an exciting game, even if you didn't know who to root for. Who won the game, you ask? Only the ones who stayed until the end know. The big news - Bruce Horigan won the "prop bet game" by picking in the exact opposite way that Brannon Smith did (Haha, go figure). This may become a new Acton family tradition. Hope to see you next year!

On Saturday, February 23, the school (children) invited the society (adults) to join them in a "movable feast" to celebrate Emmanuel Swedenborg's birthday. Lunch was served in Pendleton Hall and dessert was transported over to the Auditorium to be consumed along with listening to a program on Sweden, Emmanuel Swedenborg, some New Church history, and its religious outlook presented by Rev. Elmo Acton. And, yes, the dessert was properly decorated cupcakes!

If you have noticed a child-size car parked in DuLee Gyllenhaal's front yard, it's because she's enjoying a temporary visitation from her son, Randy, his wife, Leigh, and their



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son, Noah—the owner of the above-mentioned car. Randy and his family have moved to the area because they are employed by NBC5 Chicago. P.S. You might get to see Randy occasionally anchoring the news at 5pm!

One final note on the really weird weather we are “enjoying”. As you are out strolling (on the warm days), please notice all the beginnings of flowers that bloom in the spring and hope that they will not freeze before they can bloom all the way—especially the scilla—the big blue field always heralds the spring. One sign of spring that is on time, however, is the horned owls. They are back and Mom is in her nest in the tree and Dad is up in one of the few pines in the Pineless Grove.

Some light refreshments:

A husband is reading from a cookbook as his wife is drinking wine from a bottle—“I’m not sure that’s what they mean by ‘now reduce the wine’!”

I’m not hard of hearing. I’ve just heard enough.

What do you call two ducks and a cow?
quackers and milk

When I was a kid, my mother told me I could be anyone I wanted to be. Turns out identity theft is a crime.

Instead of the John, I call my bathroom the Jim.
That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim
first thing every morning.