



GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

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PARK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

February 6, 2026

Pastoral Message

Reaching Out and Serving With a Sense of Community

In May 2021, the lead article for Park News was about the importance of community. We said that being together with people in different forms of social contact and interaction, different ways of giving and receiving love, etc., happen as normal parts of everyday life. We also talked about the importance of community to the human spirit and psyche.

In a follow-up article (February 2022) we said that in addition to all of the learning and worship we do as a church, another large part of what we experience together is a sense of community—getting together, doing things together, reaching out to and supporting one another, working on projects together, promoting causes we care about, believe in, and support, etc.

We also reminded ourselves in each of those articles that there are communities in heaven—countless neighborhoods where people with common forms of love, common interests, and common ways of seeing live together and share in community with one another.

And finally, we asked a question: When we strive to reach out, serve, and invite people to our church, what are we inviting them to? What do we have to offer them *beyond* weekly worship and learning? One answer is a sense of community.

Look again at the list of things in paragraph #2 that we experience together here in the Glenview New Church—getting together, doing things together, reaching out and supporting one another, working on projects together, promoting causes that we care about, etc. (And really, the “etc.” could go on and on.) Here in our church, there is such a nice, varied, meaningful sense of community that we enjoy.

Not long ago, I was talking with a friend here in Glenview who was going through a rough time. At one point in the conversation, the person reflected on the sense of community we have in our church and said, “I don’t know what I would do without this community... I don’t know where I’d be without it.” And if you listen to people who come in contact with us—on Sundays, or at picnics by the lake, or at parties we hold or social events we offer, etc.—how often do you hear them say, “You have such a nice community”? Pretty often.

Following one of our recent worship services, I told you that in the coming months we will be gearing up for a new round of strategic planning for our church—slated to begin this coming September. At that time,

Church Calendar

February

1	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
		6:00	Holy Supper
		6:00	Youth Group
2	MON	5:00	Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
3	TUE	7:00	Park Dwellings Meeting
4	WED	10:30	Arcana Class
		7:00	Boys Club/Girls Club
8	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
		11:15	Senior Recruiter Presentation
11	WED	10:30	Arcana Class
		7:00	Boys Club/Girls Club
12	THURS	7:00	Board of Trustees Meeting
15	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
		2:00	Boys Club/Girls Club & Youth Group
			Wolves Game
17	TUE	7:00	MANC Board Meeting
18	WED	10:30	Arcana Class
20	FRI		Boys Club/Girls Club/Youth Group
			Ski Trip
22	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
28	SAT	2:00	Thelma Henderson Memorial Service

we will ask ourselves, “How can we as a church reach out and serve people in the surrounding community with the message and life of the New Church?” In answering that question, I hope one of the things we spend time focusing on is how good we are at being in community with one another, and how much we have to offer on that front to others in the surrounding community. This coming fall, let’s all renew our efforts to reach and serve others around us—in the variety of ways that we do, and especially with a sense of community.

Have a nice month, everyone. Love to all. (Mark)

General Announcements

Women Unwind—February 2

Our once-a-month get-together will take place on Monday, February 2 from 5-6:30 pm at Karen Stoeller's, 100 Park Drive, Glenview. Casual - with wine, soft drinks, cheese, crackers, and conversation. Contact: Sandy Ruch 847-724-0363

Senior Recruiter Visit—February 7 and 8

You are invited to two events on the weekend of February 7-8 involving the Senior Recruiter of teachers and ministers for the General Church. The first event is Saturday evening, the second is after church that Sunday.

Baird Kistner is the newly hired Senior Recruiter of teachers and ministers for the General Church. He is making a swing through North America to educate people on careers as teachers and ministers. His stated hope is to "connect with invested members of the community and partner with any individuals who might be a fit for these professions, so he can fulfill his role of mentoring/guiding them toward these vital careers." Baird's first stop will be in Glenview on the weekend of February 7-8.

On Saturday night of that weekend, you are invited to a "pub night" visit and discussion with Baird on these topics. It will happen at an (as yet to be determined) location from 4-6pm. On Sunday of that weekend, there will be refreshments after church followed by a short presentation by Baird in the auditorium. The presentation will include an opportunity for Q&A and discussion.

If you or someone you know has interest—or may have any *possible* interest—in becoming a teacher or minister someday, please let them know about these events. (This could include people as young as high school age, possibly even 7th or 8th grade. It could also include people who may have interest in terms of a "second" or "next" career.) And even if you're past the time of choosing a career, I'm sure either or both of these events will be interesting and fun.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either me or Elmo. I hope you can come to either or both events. Mark)

Student Care Packages—February 22

We are heading up the student care packages again this year. We like to let our students know that the church society is thinking about them and perhaps provide some stress relief. Parents, we will need current addresses of your college/grad students, trade school students and active military students ages 25 and under. We don't want any students left out! Please send their addresses to Erika.herrera@comcast.net or text them to Erika's cell at 847-421-9902. We will assemble care packages after church on Sunday, February 22. Anyone is welcome to contribute baked goods/food items (no nuts in case of allergies) and any sort of fun things that college students may like. Also any monetary donations to offset shipping fees.

ages are also welcome. Looking forward to envisioning smiles on our students' faces when they receive their surprise boxes! (Erika and Tony Herrera)

Ushers Needed

We would like to increase our usher team at the Glenview New Church. Ushers help greet, post hymn numbers, and assist during the 10am Sunday service. No experience needed - just a friendly smile! High school & up (great for service hours). Interested? Contact Martha Heilman at marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org, 847-302-7619 or use this Sign-Up Genius Sunday Morning Volunteers link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a2fa7fc1-gnccunday>

Thelma Henderson Memorial Service

A memorial service for Thelma Henderson will be held on Saturday, February 28 at 2pm in the sanctuary. Rev. Eric Carswell will officiate.

Trivia Night—Saturday, March 7

Trivia night is returning again this year on Saturday, March 7th from 6-9pm in the Pen Hall gym. We are aiming for all competitions and awards to be over by 9pm, Extra entertainment, announcing some raffle prizes, and finalizing auctions items will go later.

What to expect?

Even more fun than last year!
Trivia, games, and team "challenges"
Amazing Entertainment!

What do you need to do?

Get your team of 8 together—(\$480 per table)

Pick a theme and team name (highly encouraged). The theme this year is: "**Decades, Eras, and Ages**".

Plan food, drink, and decorations for your table. Alcoholic and some non-alcoholic drinks will be available to purchase that night. (Please, donate to the event instead of bringing your own.)

Donate amazing gifts to the raffle/auction—contact Mark or Elmo about that.

Spread the news. The bigger the better. Help make this fundraiser an even bigger success than last year!

It's GNCS Re-enrollment Time!

Re-enrollment for GNCS for the 2026-27 school year is underway! Re-enrollment begins with priority in-house registration for current school families. Those who re-enroll and pay their registration fee by February 27 will be entered into a raffle for gift card prizes.



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After this priority period, GNCS welcomes applications from the general public. Prompt registration helps GNCS make decisions and prepare for the next school year. We hope to gain a picture of what to expect by the end of February and we encourage school families to speak with their child's teacher if they anticipate a change in enrollment.

We would love to give you or your friends a tour and show what makes GNCS so special! If you have any questions, please call Lisa Philbrick at 847-724-0057X104.

Early-Access Easter Egg Hunt Tickets!

Tickets for the annual GNCS Easter Egg Hunt are live on Eventbrite! Get your tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gnscs-easter-egg-hunt-2026-tickets-1981039171490?aff=odddtcreator>

Enter schoolfamily2026 for your GNCS discounted rate.

In place of candy donations, we are seeking monetary donations to help offset the hunt expenses. Checks (payable to GNCS) may be dropped off at the church and school office or mailed to GNCS, 74 Park Drive, Glenview, IL 60025.

Theta Alpha Laws of Life Essay Contest 2026

Eligibility: 15–16-year-old girls worldwide (Sophomores in HS in the US)

Prizes: 1st Place: \$200 USD, 2nd Place 150 USD, 3rd Place 100 USD

Suggested Length: 500-600 words (two pages double-spaced)

Topic: Your Laws of Life.

“Laws of Life” are a set of rules, ideals, or principles by which a person chooses to live. What is important to you? What ideals do you hold deep in your heart? Think about the people and experiences that have helped you form these laws. Pick a topic to write about:

1. A personal experience/lesson learned that affects how you live/view your life now.
2. An aphorism or quote that inspires or guides you.
3. You can use an analogy, a quotation, a story, or a parable.
4. No personal romantic relationships

Form for Submission:

1. Essays are to be in English (Google Translate can be used for this purpose).
2. No name or identification can be on the paper itself to allow impartial judging.
3. Name and address need to be included in the envelope or email.

Submissions are to be sent to Theta Alpha International PO Box 154, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA, or emailed to scholarships@thetaalphainternational.org. They must be received by March 27, 2026.

For exemplars, three winning essays published with permission are available in the May, 2016 Theta Alpha Journal which can be found here: [Theta Alpha Journal May 2016](#) (Pages 18, 21, 24).

Glencairn Award 2026 Program Announcement

On January 5, 2026, the Glencairn Award Committee (“the Committee”) will begin accepting written nominations for the 2026 award.

The award is given to an outstanding teacher or a member of a New Church community for past achievements and/or contributions in the fields of religion, science, education, the arts, literature, or community service. Such achievements are the sole criteria for the award. The award may not be given as compensation for service or as a supplement to salary or based on the financial needs of the recipient.

All nominations must be made on a nomination form and submitted electronically or by mail to Committee’s Secretary, Phillip R. Zuber, Esq. (address, email, and phone below). The Secretary is not a member of the Committee and has no input on who receives a Glencairn Award. Attached to this email is the nomination form, or you can request one from the pastor.

To be given consideration for an award in 2026, the nomination form must be completed and submitted to the Committee Secretary by **March 27, 2026**.

All nominations and any other information provided to the Committee about the nominee will be kept in strict confidence by the Committee.

Further instructions on how to make a nomination are contained in the nomination form.

A subsequent announcement will be made on when and where the 2026 award(s) will be announced.

Phillip R. Zuber, Esq.
Secretary to the Glencairn Award Committee
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Phone: 301-518- 7115
Email: Phillip.Zuber@Anc-Gc.Org

Park Patter...

Park Patter remains on an extended break. Stay warm!



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2-1-2026