



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grace for Today

JANUARY 7, 2014—JANUARY 20, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 1

NEWNESS OF LIFE.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Happy new year, and blessings on these days. In this time of reflecting on what has been and dreaming of what will be, I pray that the light of Christ shines brightly in your lives, in your hearts and minds, on all of creation. The year ahead seems full of possibility, opportunities for more of the same and space for something new, the promising mixture of the familiar and the unknown.

I welcome this time in the new year to mark a new beginning, and I hope you will join me in praying for one another in the year ahead. How might we encourage each other, or even offer a new start? Is there someone you might share your hopes, dreams and resolutions with, that they may hold you in their prayers?

For even when the newness of this year wears off, we are invited to remember that in baptism, we daily die to sin and rise to newness of life. What a gift it is, that we always have a new beginning and newness of life in Christ.

On January 10 & 11, during worship, we will celebrate the “Baptism of Our Lord,” and we will pray for the 17 children of God who were baptized at Grace since this time last year. I invite you to add these people to your prayers. Then, each time you enter the sanctuary, look towards the baptismal font or place your fingers in the water to make the sign of the cross on your forehead. And in doing so, remember your baptism, and remember the promise of newness of life that is given each and every day.



SIMPLY GIVING—Do you know about Simply Giving? Simply Giving is a confidential, no charge, automatic withdrawal program; and it is one option available for giving tithes and offerings. Simply Giving provides an option to give on a regular basis (weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly). Enrollment forms to sign up are available at the Information Desk, and on Grace’s website (under “Communication and Documents,” then “Forms & Documents”). As in our giving and our annual estimates of giving, if your situation changes, automatic giving through Simply Giving can be changed by contacting the church office. Automatic gift amounts can be changed, or put on hold with one week’s notice. Please feel free to contact the pastors or church office with any questions about Simply Giving.



WOMEN’S RETREAT 2015— All women of Grace Lutheran are invited to join together as we explore Personal Peace, Community Peace, and Peace for the World with Rev. Amy Current from Wartburg Theological Seminary. The retreat takes place on **January 24** from 9am—3 pm at The Gardens of Woodstock. Registration fee is \$40, and will be taken through **January 18**. Morning coffee and juice, and a catered lunch are included. Sign-up and registration forms are located in the Women’s Retreat binder at the Information Center. We have plenty of room, so please consider bringing a friend. Please contact Jodi Gibson with any questions at 815-527-7215.

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, January 11, 2015 **Baptism of Our Lord**

INTRODUCTION: Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

READINGS: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 18, 2015 **Second Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 2**

INTRODUCTION: All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and ... the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

PRAYERS—Please lift up these petitions in your prayers—To become a praying member of the Friends in Prayer, please submit name and e-mail address to dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org.

World: Bishop Eaton, Bishop Wollersheim; those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military, Henry Trebes (friend of the Laird family), Army Reserves, deployed to Cuba

Woodstock: Pastor Ken Gibson and his family; Pastor Amanda Bergstrom and her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: Frank Bunch, Gloria & Ken DeRango (mother and step father of Brian Pilgard), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), Juanita Dycus, Tannie Fiorina (mother of John Fiorina), Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, Mary Hurst (friend of Deborrah Evanoff), August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Ruth Iwanicki, Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Donald Janavyak (friend of Shirley Berna), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), Debbi Lynd, Nancy McCormick (cousin of Martha Fleck), John McMahan, Gail Mueller, Jesse Myjak, Herb Neubaum, Don Nusbaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Laura Schoolcraft (wife of Pastor Ed Schoolcraft at Christ Life Church), Dick Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Bob Shook, Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Lauryn Trede (granddaughter of Pat Cervantes), Shelley Tucker, Jerry Virgil (father of Melynda Mauer), Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Rita Specht-Hartwig

If you wish to add a prayer request for this newsletter, please call the church office at 815-338-0554. Your prayer concern will run for one week and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* e-mail and phone teams may also be submitted by telephone to the church office or by e-mail to Gracewoodstock.org. Due to confidentiality laws, hospitals no longer notify churches or pastors when a member is hospitalized. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or is admitted to the hospital, please call the church office at 815-338-0554.

FAMILY BOWLING EVENT—Join us at Kingston Lanes on **January 10** from 1—4 pm for family bowling. Game proceeds and 10% of food/drink will help to support the Grace Preschool Tuition Assistance Program. Information, pricing, and sign-up slips are available in the Preschool or at the Information Center. RSVP by **January 8**.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS—The Spirituality Team and Nancy Kreznor will be offering free blood pressure checks in the narthex between Sunday services, **Jan 11**.

2015 BULLETIN & PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSOR SHEETS are available at the Information Center. A month prior to your sponsoring, a form will be sent to you requesting information and a donation of \$20 for the Bulletins & \$10 for the Presence Light. Thank you for helping fund the weekly bulletins and presence lights.

BREAD FOR THE DAY 2015—Bread for the day is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures; such as a brief scripture reading, a prayer and hymn for each day and more. The devotions begin **January 1, 2015**. If you are interested in having a copy of the devotional they are available for purchase in the office for \$8.00.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION & TYSON PROJECT A+ FUNDRAISERS—By saving



labels from both the Labels for Education and Tyson Project A+ Programs, you are helping our Preschool earn both bonus points and cash that we can redeem for classroom materials, gym & playground equipment as well as teaching aids for our teachers. Both labels can be dropped off in the Labels for Education basket located in the Educational Foyer (under the bulletin board, outside the preschool office) OR the small cardboard box found on the attendance sign-in desk. Each Tyson label will earn us 24 cents! Labels for Education are found on a variety of products and have a wide range of values. For a complete list of participating products, visit both websites: www.labelsforeducation.com & www.projectaplus.tyson.com. Thank you for your help! NOTE: We are not able to participate in the Box Tops for Education program.

2015 WACM Festival of Music

January 25th

7pm Concert • 6pm Dessert Bar & Bake Sale
Community Concert at Grace Lutheran Church
\$5 Admission

All proceeds will support people in need in Woodstock & Wonder Lake.
13.6% of our citizens are living below the poverty line.

In the last 2 years, WACM provided:

- \$53,000 in food
- \$41,000 in clothing, medicine, utilities, transportation, etc.
- assistance for 120 children & 111 adults per month

For more information, visit www.wacmgroup.org

SEWING DONATIONS NEEDED—Once again the sewing circle is asking for sheets, blankets, material, yarn, towels, batting material, and nylons. We just sent 50 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. We also sent 147 walker bags, 82 lap robes, 92 poly bags, 24 neck rests, 36 small pillows, 31 crocheted lap robes and 16 bibs to area nursing homes. Please leave donations in the bin under the coat racks.

CONNECTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDY will start up again on **January 12** meeting for six consecutive Mondays thru Feb 16. Sign-up sheet can be found on the Activity Board. Space is limited, so sign up today.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MEAN THE MOST—THANK YOU—It warmed my heart when Terese Paulson brought a lovely fruit basket and cocoa mix to me as we celebrate our Savior's birthday. Thank you Grace. May God bless our pastors and all of us as we carry on the work of Grace in the coming year. Thank you to those who have sent this act of love to those of us who are unable to attend worship with you each Sunday. We miss that a lot. Your kind thoughts are appreciated! In Christian Love ~ Florence Shawl

YOUNG ADULTS: OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE—The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program offers young adults, ages 21-29, a transformative year of global service in one of more than nine countries. As they grow in their faith and worldview, they support ministries and projects in communities of need. Applications are due Feb. 15 for service beginning in August. Learn more at www.ELCA.org/yagm.



SENIOR LUNCHEON – Tuesday, January 27 We are starting the New Year off with a delicious home cooked meal of Sweet Napa Salad, Chicken Stuffing Bake, Hawaiian Rolls and Pistachio Pudding Parfaits for dessert. Then we have a wonderful program on “Funeral Service Planning”, led by Pastor Ken, Pastor Amanda and Ron Fredriksen. This is something we all should do! Your Funeral Service should be a reflection of you, but so often our loved ones have no idea what we would have wanted. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **January 25** Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

ANNUAL MEETING—Be sure to save the date of **Feb 8** for the Annual Meeting following the 10:45 a.m. service at approximately 12:05. A Ministry Matters presentation will follow the Annual Meeting. Annual reports will be e-mailed and available at the Information Center as of **January 25**.

WANTED: SEVEN GREAT COOKS! - Once again we have our Lenten Soup Lunches starting up on Ash Wednesday, **February 18** following the noon service. The lunch consists of a hearty soup, bread, desserts and beverages. We are in need of seven volunteers to prepare a batch of their favorite hearty soup, we also need some desserts. There is an information sheet in the front of the Activity Binder and a sign-up sheet in the Binder. Please sign up by the **end of January** so we can get a schedule posted. If you have any questions, please call Shirley Busse at 338-9063.



PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE IN—If you had your photo taken last winter with us it's time to pick up your photo directory at the information desk. Please take the one that is labeled for your family. If you did not have your photo taken with us, but would still like a copy of the photo directory they are now on sale at the Information Center for \$10.00. Questions call Carrie Fiorina in the church office, 815-338-0554.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

People in Need FORUM

JANUARY 31, 2015

8 A.M.—12:30 P.M.

MCHEMRY COUNTY COLLEGE, LUECHT CONFERENCE CENTER
8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, IL

REGISTER NOW at www.mchenry.edu/peopleinneed

2015 People in Need Forum (PIN); resources to help your neighbor will be held on **Saturday, January 31, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at McHenry County College**. This Forum is a unique opportunity for human service, government, civic and especially churches and faith-based organizations to learn about local resources available to our neighbors in need. There is no charge to attend the Forum or to receive the directory, but they ask that you please register so they will know how many people and organizations to expect. Sponsored by: McHenry County College. More information can be found at www.mchenry.edu/peopleinneed or by contacting the church office.

COFFEE MINISTRY—We are in need of additional people to either set-up or clean-up once a month for our coffee ministry. This ministry has been in place for a very long time and we would like to continue to have this fellowship time between services on Sundays to catch up with each other and it is a wonderful time to welcome visitors. Many hands make light work. Thank you for considering this ministry and if you would like to volunteer or would like additional information please contact the church office at 815-338-0554.

THANK YOU—Many thanks to my Grace family for the visits, phone calls and cards while I was in the hospital and nursing home. God's Blessings ~ Marge Birk

GRACE PRESCHOOL—Our preschool is in need of substitutes for this school year! If you have experience with young children and/or a background in early childhood education, please consider being on our sub list. Substitutes are a very important part of our preschool program. We are looking for people who enjoy being with young children ages 2 to 5. Duties will include helping the teacher supervise a classroom, playing and reading to the children, setting up classroom activities and some light cleaning at the end of the day. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All substitutes must have all DCFS required documents on file including a mandatory background check and physical exam. Contact Mrs. Chris for a sub packet or additional information. 815-338-0554 x 213 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org

MMAGIC YARD SIGNS—Please return all yard sign & stakes from Mistletoe Magic to Grace as soon as possible. These are reused each year and are expensive to replace. The dates are changed for each year. They may be placed under the coat rack by the bin marked for MMagic. Thanks!



WE NEED YOUR STORIES—Were you moved by the Pastor's sermon, or a choir's hymn? Not every church member can attend all services or events, and we want to hear about your experiences, so we would like you to share your stories here. You can also send a "View From The Pew". You may submit your articles to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org. (Follow-up stories will run as time/space permit, and may be edited.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **January 21** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **January 13**.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

Schedule:<http://www.gracewoodstock.org/WeeklyNews/Monthly%20Worship%20Participants.pdf>

THE WEEKS AHEAD AT GRACE	Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all that is happening at Grace!	GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
<p>Saturday, January 10 9:00 AM Band 1:00 PM Family Bowling Event—Kingston Lanes 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p>Sunday, January 11 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Checks 9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group 9:45 AM Education Hour 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 5:15 PM Youthful Spirit / Laudate 6:15 PM Hand Chime Choir 6:45 PM Graceful Ringers</p> <p>Monday, January 12 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 6:45 PM Connections Class 7:00 PM Troop 153</p> <p>Tuesday, January 13 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s</p> <p>Wednesday, January 14 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Messengers 5:15 PM 2 Year Old Class 5:15 PM PrimeTime — Popeye's Chicken 5:30 PM Cherubs 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Revelation Ringers 6:15 PM Joyful Sound 6:30 PM Grace Dance 7:00 PM Chancel 7:00 PM Graceful Dance</p> <p>Thursday, January 15 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 12:00 PM DAP 7:00 PM Council</p> <p>Friday, January 16 9:00 AM Preschool 4s., 4s & 5s</p> <p>Saturday, January 17 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>Sunday, January 18 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Education Hour/Sunday By Sunday 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 12:30 PM Youth Gathering Bible Study 5:15 PM Youthful Spirit 6:15 PM Hand Chime Choir 6:30 PM Laudate 6:45 PM Graceful Ringers</p> <p>Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Day / Church Office Closed 6:45 PM Connections Class 7:00 PM Troop 153 7:00 PM Faith Circle</p> <p>Tuesday, January 20 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 9:00 AM Sewing Circle</p> <p>Wednesday, January 21 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Messengers 5:15 PM 2 Year Old Class 5:15 PM PrimeTime — Tacos 5:30 PM Cherubs 6:00 PM Confirmation / Revelation Ringers 6:15 PM Joyful Sound 6:30 PM Grace Dance 7:00 PM Chancel 7:00 PM Graceful Dance</p> <p>Thursday, January 22 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 12:00PM Senior Luncheon</p> <p>Friday, January 23 9:00 AM Preschool 4s., 4s & 5s</p>	<p>Senior Pastor Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson kgibson@gracewoodstock.org Office Phone: 815-338-0554 Home Phone: 815-527-7215</p> <p>Associate Pastor Director of Senior High Ministries Rev. Amanda Bergstrom Cell Phone: 630-664-9016 abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Director of Communications Lynn Nattress lnattress@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Director of Music Ministries Ron Fredriksen rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Parish Musicians Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson, Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti</p> <p>Director of Preschool Ministry Chris Learman clearman@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Preschool Staff Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue, Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen</p> <p>Director of Educational Ministries Office Assistant Carrie Fiorina cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Director of Senior Ministries Shirley Busse</p> <p>Secretary Denise Klabunde dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Building Supervisor/Ken Zank Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge</p> <p>Officers & Council Cathy Buhrow; Mike Freeman; Robin Gibbs; Ken Hansing; Claude Hutchens; Sue Olsen; Peter Paulson; Rob Ribbe; Beth Miller; Daniel Nattress council@gracewoodstock.org Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th 8:30 am-12:00 pm, F</p>

