

MARCH 5, 2014—MARCH 18, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 5

**ANOTHER SNOWY WEEKEND!**.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

Ok, so as I am typing this, it is a Saturday night and we are once again seeing snowfall at a pretty good clip. And I, like many, am wondering; “When will it all end?” There is good news in this snow, in that it covers up the dark dirty snow that has been what we were looking at for a couple of weeks now.



So I find it is as we look toward the future, we look to the future really every week when we gather at the font and hear again that our sins are forgiven. The dark and dirtiness of our lives is covered up, no, more than covered up, we are washed clean. It is as if every week when we hear that we are forgiven that we have a little spring. A breath of fresh air, a cleansing of that which we have grown accustomed to seeing as we go about our lives.

The snow will end, rains will come, grass and flower will grow again, of this we are most sure. Until then, we will take our promise of new life each and every week at our font. The winter will end but the love of Jesus will reign forever.

If you have not seen or felt the love and warmth of spring waters in a while, perhaps you have missed out on worship. Come back to the font and together with all of your sisters and brothers feel the warmth of spring in the font of our existence and life together. See you at the font where hope and new life like spring awaits us all. Come on in, the water is fine! 😊 Think Spring!

**LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES**— Beginning **March 5**—“Probing the Parables- Hearing Their Questions for Us.” That is the title of this year’s Lenten series for our mid-week services. These parables (from Matthews Gospel) will ask us some very probing questions and we will take time to consider some important questions regarding our faith. Join us for worship at noon or 7:00 p.m.



**LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES** – Lent begins on Wednesday **March 5!** Come to the noon worship service and then join us in Grace Center, following worship, for a soup luncheon. All are welcome. March 5—Tomato soup with grilled cheese croutons, March 12—Ham and bean, March 19—Fagioli soup. Still looking for cooks (for desserts) to fill out our schedule. Sign -up in the activity binder.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT**—It's not too late to register for the 2014 Congregational Resourcing Event on **March 8**. In addition to keynote speaker, Nathan Dungan, speaking on Money, Meaning, and Faith, you won't want to miss some of the other presentations: Theology and a Brew - God Talk at Your Local Bar, Bethlehem 2014: What's Happening in Jesus' Hometown Today, or Lectio Divina - Praying the Scriptures. There are 44 different sessions to choose from. Come join us! You can register on-line at [nisynod.org/cre](http://nisynod.org/cre). If you are interested in car pooling, please let the church office know

## WORSHIP TODAY

**Sunday, March 9, 2014**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

INTRODUCTION: Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

READINGS: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

**Sunday, March 16, 2014**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

INTRODUCTION: During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

READINGS:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

**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](mailto: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, Tyler Stiemke serving overseas

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

**Health Concerns:** Lori Acosta, Owen Baldwin, Wayne Bell, Lois Bloese, Deanna Bohn, Allison Clark (niece of Martha Fleck), Erin Clark (sister-in-law of Martha Fleck), Caryl Dierksen, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), George Erber, Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Ruth Iwanicki, Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Robert Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Diane Knowles, Dave Krause (Uncle of Lynn Nattress), Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), Cheryl Marback, Tom McGuine, Gail Mueller, Connie Myjak (friend of Shirley Berna), Jesse Myjak, June Noel (mother of Marylee Steinwehe), Herb Neubaum, Don Nusbaum, Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, Charlotte Petersdorf (mother of Gladys Renner), June Pienschke, Hazel Powell, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Jeff Roberts, Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Louise Smith, John Sorensen, Rita Specht-Hartwig, Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Lena Wells (friend of Joe & Deborrah Evanoff)

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](mailto: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.



**AND THE CHILIFEST 2014 BEST CHILI AWARD GOES TO.....Rick Cornell!** Congratulations to Rick on his Ghostly Hot Chili that was voted the favorite. Enjoy your bragging rights until next year Rick! Rick's award-winning recipe appears below.

### Ghostly Hot Chili

#### Meat Preparation:

2 lbs. Beef Chuck 1/4" dice	1 lb. Ground Pork	1 lb. Pork Sausage
1 tbsp Onion Powder	1 tbsp Garlic Powder	1 tbsp Slap Ya' Mama Cajun Seasoning
4 tbsp Mexene Chili Powder	2 tsp Cumin	1 tbsp Hot Chili Powder
1 tsp JD's Bacon Salt	2 tsp Olive oil	

~Heat olive oil over med-high heat in skillet.

~Brown the meat mixture getting good sear on chuck before adding ground pork and sausage, set aside to drain fat; once drained, mix the seasoning into the meat mixture.

#### Vegetable Preparation:

Large Yellow Onion Small dice	Large White Onion Small dice	2 Stalks Celery Small dice
2 Jalapeno Peppers (cored) Small dice	Small Red Bell Pepper (seeds removed) Small dice	
6 Cloves Garlic Smashed	2 tsp Olive oil	1 tsp Salt
1/2 tsp Freshly ground black pepper		

~Heat olive oil over med-high heat in skillet.

~Sweat the onion, celery, jalapenos and red bell peppers w/salt and pepper until soft; add garlic and saute for 1 minute.

~Combine meat/vegetables in crock pot.

#### Final Preparation—Add the following wet ingredients to the meat/vegetable mixture:

2 14.5 oz cans fire roasted diced tomatoes	1 can of refried beans	2 small cans "hot" diced jalapeno peppers
2-3 cups beef broth as needed		

~Stir to mix & cook on low heat setting in crock pot for six-to-eight hours.

\*Mix in 1/4 to 1/2 tsp (to your heat preference!) of "Dave's Ghost Pepper Hot Sauce" one hour before serving.

**SKY RANCH ADULT FORUM PRESENTATION** - You are invited to a special up close and personal meeting with the Director of Sky Ranch, Brad Abbott, during the Education Hour (9:35 a.m.) on Sunday, **March 9**. Come and meet Brad and hear of the wonderful ministry that is Sky Ranch in Colorado. As you know Sky Ranch is a major part of our Grace Confirmation experience and it will be good to receive an update from Brad. All are invited to attend.



**MUSIC-4-MARTIN 2014**, Sunday **March 9**, 3:30 pm at Grace —As always, we have a series of songs reflecting the messages of Dr. King. We will perform songs from past and current artists as well as original songs and spoken word presentations. Gabe Karagianis will again perform his "Live" painting as the program unfolds. Come and enjoy this talented cast as they remind us of the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**SENIOR LUNCHEON** – Tuesday, **March 25** - Which of your five senses is the most valuable to you? I think many of us would say our eyes! Learning to take care of them is a lifelong commitment. Join us this month as Dr Atkinson comes to talk to us about our Eye Health, Macular Degeneration and Cataracts. Our menu features: Cottage Cheese & Peaches, Chili Meatloaf & Potato Casserole, Not the Classic Green Bean Casserole, Rolls, and Ice Cream & Cookies for dessert. Cost is \$5.00. Sign up in the Activity Binder by **March 23**. Questions, Shirley Busse 815-338-9063

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**—We will be holding First Communion on Palm Sunday, **April 13th**, at the 8:30 a.m. service. In order to participate, parent and child must attend the preparation class-luncheon that will be held on Saturday, **April 12th**, from 11am to 1 p.m. In order to plan for the class, we need to know how many people will be attending. Please sign up in the black activity folder by Sunday, March 30th, if you and your child will be participating in First Communion. May God bless you in your deliberations regarding this matter. For more Information please contact Carrie Fiorina at [cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org) or call the church office (815) 338-0554



**ROGATION WEEKEND**— Save the dates of **March 25 & 26**, and join us in celebrating the planting season, and the re-birth of nature which is Spring! On **March 26** we will again have a petting zoo and tractor rides for the young, and young-at-heart.

**ADULT COACH BUS TRIP** - Weds., **April 30** - Join us as we travel to White Fence Farm in Romeoville, IL for their famous fried chicken dinner. After dinner the Legacy Girls will entertain you with the songs that uplifted our nation during the WWII era: Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree and more. On our way, we will be stopping at the Graue Mill and Museum. The only operating waterwheel gristmill in IL, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and offers many artifacts and displays. We'll have a guided tour. Cost is \$65, bring a friend. For more information or to sign up, see the Activity Binder. Questions call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**—Dates have been set, so mark your calendars and start saving your treasures for our annual sale! The sale will be held on **May 15–May 17**. Set-up will be **May 12–May 14**. Watch for more information to come.

**WE NEED YOUR STORIES**— Not every church member can attend all events, and we want to hear about your experiences, so we would like you to share your follow-up stories here. Share a follow-up story with your Grace Family. You can also send a “View From The Pew”. You may submit your articles to Lynn Nattress at [Inattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:Inattress@gracewoodstock.org). (Follow-up stories will run as time and space permit, and may be edited. )

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **March 19** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at [Inattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:Inattress@gracewoodstock.org) or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **March 11**.

## THANK YOU—

Dear Fellow Lutherans and Friends,

I wanted to thank all of you for the many cards we received, both get well and sympathy, for Joe. I know he's looking down and smiling. Also, I want to thank everyone for the prayers. I don't think we would have gotten through it without them.



We will have a memorial service after I get back up in Woodstock in May.

I sincerely thank both pastors for their calls and prayers, and also everyone for the calls, cards, and prayers.

Marilyn Vanskike

**WE STILL HAVE A HANDFUL OF PHOTOS THAT NEED TO BE PICKED UP**—If you elected to have your complimentary 8X10 from the church directory sent to Grace for pick up we have placed them on the Information Center. If your portrait is not in the box please notify Carrie Fiorina in the church office.

**MARTIN LUTHER HERITAGE TOUR**—Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huntley invites you to consider joining them for a Luther Heritage Tour in Germany, **Sept. 12-21, 2014**. For more information see the informational brochure at the Information Center, or contact Sharon Little, [skl55little@mac.com](mailto:skl55little@mac.com).

**ADULT EDUCATION**— The “Sunday by Sunday” Book Group meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 102. All are welcome to attend. The Adult Education committee is in serious need of some assistance in making sure we can offer adult education opportunities at Grace. Please contact the Church office or talk to the Pastors if you are at all interested.



**WARTBURG CHOIR**—On **March 13**, the Wartburg College Castle Singers will perform a joint concert with the Woodstock High School choirs at Woodstock High School at 7:00 p.m. Plan to attend this very special event and support these fantastic choral groups!

**GRACE RECEIVES MATTHEW 25 CHALLENGE GRANT**—Thrivent representative Bill Collingbourne presented a check for \$5,000 to Grace council President Peter Paulson, as Grace was a recipient of a Matthew 25 Challenge Grant sponsored by Thrivent Financial. This grant was made possible through the long time commitment by Grace to meet the needs of the guidelines set forth in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25. Grace has sponsored many events over the years to offer support for those in need. These include our annual Mistletoe Magic event, an annual Arts Festival and a regular financial monthly commitment while also hosting the Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM) Direct Assistance Program DAP on the Grace campus.

**PRESENCE LIGHT & BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2014**— The new sign-up sheets are at the Information Center.

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!

### Saturday, March 8

9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship

### Sunday, March 9

8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group  
9:45 AM Adult Forum-Sky Ranch Presentation  
9:45 AM Education Hour  
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship  
12:00 PM Music4Martin Rehearsal  
3:30 PM Music4Martin 2014  
5:15 PM Youthful Spirit  
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers/Laudate

### Monday, March 10

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
6:00 PM Woodstock Church Volleyball  
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

### Tuesday, March 11

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s

### Wednesday, March 12

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service  
12:30 PM Lenten Soup Lunch-Ham & Bean  
5:00 PM Messengers  
5:15 PM PrimeTime—Potluck  
5:30 PM Cherubs  
6:00 PM Confirmation/Revelation Ringers  
6:15 PM Joyful Sound  
7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service  
7:30 PM Chancel

### Thursday, March 13

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:00 PM DAP  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s  
6:30 PM BSA-Sycamore Dist. Round Table

### Friday, March 14

9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s

### Saturday, March 15

9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee

### Sunday, March 16

8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM Blood Pressure Checks  
9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee  
9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group  
9:45 AM Education Hour  
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship  
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference  
5:15 PM Youthful Spirit  
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers/Laudate

### Monday, March 17

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
6:00 PM Woodstock Church Volleyball  
6:30 PM BSA Troop 153  
7:00 PM Faith Circle

### Tuesday, March 18

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
9:00 AM Sewing Circle  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s

### Wednesday, March 19

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service  
12:30 PM Lenten Soup Lunch  
5:00 PM Messengers  
5:15 PM PrimeTime—Chicken Alfredo  
5:30 PM Cherubs  
6:00 PM Confirmation/Revelation Ringers  
6:15 PM Joyful Sound  
7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service  
7:30 PM Chancel

### Thursday, March 20

12:00 PM DAP  
5:00 PM Preschool Parent/Teacher Conf.  
7:00 PM Council

### Friday, March 21

No Events currently Scheduled

### Saturday, March 22

9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship

## GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson  
[kgibson@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgibson@gracewoodstock.org)  
Office Phone: 815-338-0554  
Home Phone: 815-527-7215

### Associate Pastor

**Director of Senior High Ministries**  
Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
Cell Phone: 630-664-9016  
[abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org)

### Director of Communications

Lynn Nattress  
[lnattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org)

### Director of Music Ministries

Ron Fredriksen  
[rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org)

### Parish Musicians

Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson,  
Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

### Director of Preschool Ministry

Chris Learman  
[clearman@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:clearman@gracewoodstock.org)

### Preschool Staff

Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue,  
Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen

### Director of Educational Ministries

#### Office Assistant

Carrie Fiorina  
[cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org)

### Director of Senior Ministries

#### Secretary

Denise Klabunde  
[dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org)

### Building Supervisor/Ken Zank

Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge

### Officers & Council

Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia;  
Claude Hutchens; Peter Paulson;  
Ken Hansing; Matt Simonton; Rob Ribbe;  
Cathy Buhrow; Joe Pienschke;  
Adele Petersen; Sue Olsen; Abigail Kreznor  
[council@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:council@gracewoodstock.org)

Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th  
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F

