

APRIL, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 5

## WHAT DO THOSE LETTERS MEAN- INRI?.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

For the past two years, while meeting in the sanctuary for First Communion class, someone has asked- what do those letters mean? We have been talking about Holy Communion, but the large wooden cross next to the altar, with those letters INRI at the top, that cross and those letters captures the students' curiosity. And just as we hear the story of the Last Supper, where Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with his disciples, the cross draws us further into the story, to Good Friday when Jesus was nailed to the cross and died.



Those letters, INRI, stand for the Latin words "Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum," or in English, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." In the gospel of John, we hear how this title was inscribed on the cross:

"Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek." -John 19:19-20

Those letters were meant as an insult, a mocking title, the charge of sedition that was brought against this supposed king. And yet, as those words are written, Jesus is lifted up on the cross, drawing all people to himself, and on the cross we see the Savior of the world.

Those letters draw us in, so that our gaze rests on the cross to remember that we arrive at Easter by way of the cross. From glad hosannas and waving palm branches, to the humble act of washing another's feet and a sacred meal shared among friends, to the betrayal and loss upon a cross, to the days of waiting and mourning; somehow, from the depths of that painful journey comes the promise of new life.

We are on the edge of a new reality, and though the way forward may seem uncertain, just as the green blades break through the ground once more this spring, from death to new life, our very different kind of king is raised to show us the way. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

**COME PRAY WITH US**—The Spirituality Team invites you to come pray during the Prayer Vigil, on Good Friday, April 3, from 8 AM - 8 PM in the parlor. Sign-up sheet is on the Activity Board. We are hoping to fill at least all of the time slots. Purple prayer request cards are available at the Information Center, where they will also be collected. These requests will be prayed for during the vigil. What a wonderful way to end our Lenten season. Consider spending some time in prayer at Grace during the Prayer Vigil.



**WEEKENDERS**—Join us for a *Whistlestop Dinner*! On Friday, **April 10**, we'll take the train from Woodstock to Crystal Lake for a relaxing evening at Crystal Lake Brewing. We will depart Woodstock at 5:48 pm and arrive in Crystal Lake at 6:00 pm, then walk a block from the CL station to Crystal Lake Brewing (CLB). Our return trip will be at 9:51 pm (or 10:51 pm for the later crowd). If you are taking the train from a different station, please try to join us around 6:00 pm. If you must drive, CLB is located at 150 N. Main Street in Crystal Lake. Please sign up on the Activity Board by April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have beer and wine samples on the train, plus appetizers when we arrive. We will be ordering dinner from Labemi's Tavern on Main to be delivered (fish fry or ribs, to keep it simple). Cost is \$20 plus train fare and beer. *Your hosts:* Dan & Janette Hess, Paul & Cindy Meyer.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**—It is time for a new member class! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on **April 11, 2015** at 10:00 a.m. in Grace Center. We will be having juice, coffee and some homemade goodies. Those that would like to become members of Grace or get more information on what it means to be a member of the family here at Grace, please sign up at the Information Center in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.



**STEPHEN MINISTRY IS BACK**— This one-to-one lay caring ministry takes place within the congregation. The ministry goal is to support the growth/health of the Congregation through use of trained Lay Leaders. Grace is looking for people interested in becoming either Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers. If you are interested in learning more please contact Pastor Amanda, Pastor Ken, the church office or Claude Hutchens ([claud3hutch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:claud3hutch@sbcglobal.net)). The website also has more information at [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org).

**INVITATION TO THE CONGREGATION**—Open House April 19—1 to 4 p.m. in Luther Hall for the 95th birthday of Marge Birk. Please no gifts.

**SPRING CLEAN UP**—We will be having our annual Spring Clean Up of the property and grounds on Saturday, **April 25**, at 8:00am. We are in need of all skill levels to help maintain the inside and outside of the church and grounds. Look for the poster and sign-up sheet on the Activity Board. This is a great opportunity to work up a big appetite for the Rib Fest later in the day. Come join us, we always have a fun time. In case of inclement weather, our rain date is **May 2**. Contact Tammy Baier, 815-986-6514, for further information.

**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).

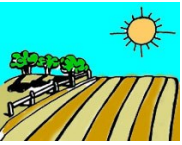
**World:** Bishop Eaton, Bishop Wollersheim; those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military, Henry Trebes (friend of the Laird family), Army Reserves, deployed to Cuba

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

**Health Concerns:** Claire Aeschliman (friend of Tammy Hansing), Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Rita Cosgrove (sister of Diana King), Gloria & Ken DeRango (mother and step father of Brian Pilgard), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), Juanita Dycus, Jerry & Tannie Fiorina (father & mother of John Fiorina), Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Sophie Frazier (great grand niece of Ila Randolph), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Jim Haager, Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, Pam Hull Gray (friend of Cathy Meyer), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborah 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, John McMahan, Gail Mueller, Jack Myers (friend of Betty & Dick Boehmke), Jesse Myjak, Don Nusbaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, June Pienschke, 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), Jerry Virgil (father of Melynda Mauer), Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

**Sorrows:** John Buhrow (father of Tim & Cathy Buhrow), Tom Bradley (father of Bill & Nancy Bradley), Gary Gharidini

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.



**ITS TIME FOR ROGATION DAYS, APRIL 25 & 26! YAHOO!.....**by Pastor Ken Gibson

Can you smell the ribs being smoked in the pit outside the back door? Can you see the farmers market bustling with folks in our courtyard outside the main entrance as they consider the goods produced by our own producers? Can you see the Antique Tractors on display as they parade by, shining tributes to the past as ageless iron? Can you see the young people delight in a hayrack ride or tractor ride? Can you feel the warmth shared and hear the beauty of our special music at one of our three different Rogation Services? Ok, maybe some of you are saying; “No PK I can’t.” LOL! Well I can! I love our Rogation weekend activities and I hope some of you have come to appreciate this weekend as much as I do.

I realize it is in some ways my way of hanging onto my love of rural life, but stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation that God declared good is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people.

I have shared before some of this history but let us remember that Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word Rogation has its roots in the Latin word that means to ask or petition, and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing.

Churches that have maintained the practice of celebrating Rogation Days no longer mark these days specifically before Ascension. Instead, Rogation Days are celebrated at times and places that meet local needs. That is what we are doing at Grace and we have now for, what I think is, four years! With an increased awareness of the need for the stewardship of creation both within the church and within contemporary culture, the themes of thanksgiving for the land and petitions for a fruitful earth are celebrated here at Grace each year during our Rogation Days services.

Again this year we will welcome some of the Illinois Prairie Farmer Master Farmers class of 2015! I am very pleased that two of these Master Farmer Families are longtime friends of mine and they will be with us for the weekend. Let us remember the work and love of the land that producers have as an inherited part of their being. Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. These days underscore the dependence of all people, urban and rural, on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor.

And finally, speaking of dedication, I wish to thank the Hog! Talk about ultimate sacrifice. UMM UMM Good, I can almost taste those ribs! Seriously, I do extend a special thank you to Jim Zei for organizing the Rib fest again this year and to Pork King for once again donating the Ribs as a gift to our youth ministry here at Grace. Bring on Spring and Grace Lutheran’s tradition of Rogation Days!

**SENIOR LUNCHEON – Tuesday, April 28** Come have an afternoon of fun as we play Dubb’s Bridge, which really isn’t bridge at all but a fun card game that will keep you thinking – Prizes for everyone! Our meal begins with lettuce salad and fresh Italian bread, followed by Meatball Sub Casserole, Garlicky Green Beans with Mushrooms and Italian Torte for dessert. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **April 22**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



**AUGUSTANA FOUNDERS DAY REUNION—April 25 & 26** in Andover, IL. All in one weekend, there will be interest groups discussing the Augustana Lutheran Church in America, WGN Radio personality Orion Samuelson, NIS Bishop Wollershiem, ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton, and the Augustana College Choir. Printable copies of the schedule and registration forms can be found at [jenny lindchapel.org](http://jenny lindchapel.org).

**USED SPORTING GOODS SALE, DONATIONS NEEDED**—Grace will have a sale on **April 4** in Luther Hall. We are looking for any used, clean, good condition equipment donations. Anything from hoola hoops, & dance shoes, to baseball & football equipment. Drop boxes will be located in the narthex. Proceeds go to the youth summer trips.

## **A NOTE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL IN HONDURAS!**

Please see below, a portion of a note I recently received, from Ron Hicks and Lunches for Learning, regarding our school in Honduras.

*Dear Pastor Ken,*

*The second kitchen L4L ever built was at Policarpo Paz Garcia Elementary School at el Coyolar (a Power Point of this construction was, at one time, on our website). This was close to 8 years ago. A typical roof construction for most schools was the cement/fiber panels, which we used. We soon came to understand that, while this type of roof panel was cheap, it has significant disadvantages and we soon quit using this type of roof construction. It seems that these cement/fiber panels get brittle and over time they crack and finally break up in the slightest wind or rain event.*

*The roof on the kitchen at Policarpo Paz Garcia is starting to crack and break up. The kitchen was built before Grace Lutheran Church became involved so, I believe the burden of fixing the roof lies with L4L. I will ask Jessica to attempt to involve the Alcalde (Mayor). The total cost for the fix (replacing all kitchen roof panels with sheet metal panels) will cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500.*

Ron does mention above that he believes that the cost of the repairs falls on Lunches for Learning, but I think we all realize that monies from the L4L budget that go to such repairs equates to taking food out of the mouths of some children who most assuredly need it. So then, with this note I am asking those of us who choose to do so to make a gift to this project. Please make a gift to Grace and mark it: "Policarpo; L4L Roof" and we will send one check to cover what we can on this project. If you like, you can use the L4L envelopes which are located at the Information Center.

I know we are in the midst of a capital campaign and we have many other fundraisers for our youth in process, so I simply ask for those who can make a gift to do so. I know I am going to make a gift and remember whatever we can contribute to the project will save on the amount that comes out of the L4L budget. I just feel like this is our school and it is our roof. Please join me if you are able, in this above and beyond gift.

God bless you all in your generosity to our mutual mission!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Ken



**WE NEED YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES**—WACM, Woodstock Area Community Ministeries, is preparing a custom cookbook featuring some of Woodstock's favorite recipes. These cookbooks will be professionally published, and contain special pages of interest, a table of contents, an index, cooking hints, category dividers, and...recipes from you! They will be available for sale all over town, later this year. Please share 3-5 of your favorite recipes with us. Your name will be printed with each published recipe. Your help will ensure our cookbook is very successful and WACM's assistance to our "neighbors-in-need" can continue. Instruction/submission forms are available at the Information Center. The deadline for all recipes is **June 1, 2015**.

**CAR WASH**—The youth of Grace are having a car wash on **May 3**, to help pay for their trips this summer. The kids will be washing cars in the lower level parking lot all morning during services and Sunday School. Just drop your keys and a free will offering to an appointed adult in the narthex. We can move your car for you, get it washed and put it back when it is done. The kids have plenty of elbow grease and smiles.



**LUTHERDALE 2015 SUMMER PROGRAMS**—Programs available for K-12, Adult and Family too. **Something for everyone!** Information/registration online at [www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org). A wonderful experience, and close to home!

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**—Free blood pressure checks in the narthex between Sunday services, **April 19**.

**“WHY CONNECTIONS?”**.....by Tom Goggin

I contemplated for some time what it was that kept me coming back to The Connections small group Bible study. What I came up with was that; “My life was being enriched.”

I found that I was really even proud to be a part of this class. We had met for three sessions, with six weeks of classes in each session, and over all that time, we studied and shared in some really interesting things. We became close to one another in the class at a depth that just would not be possible otherwise. We shared in many different ways how our faith is “Connected” to our daily life all the while I was making some really great new friends. Oh, and I even learned a bunch about myself too!

All In all I would say that connections was a good thing for me and my faith life, and I would recommend this class to any others who might be wondering about joining such a small group session of Connections as it may be offered again. I loved it and you will too! I am excited that our small group is committed to sticking together and doing more shared study and faith “enrichment” in the future.



**RUMMAGE SALE**—Despite the weather, May will be here soon and so will the rummage sale. The set up, drop off, sale event is the week beginning **May 11**. Now is the time to mark your calendar and save items for the sale.

**BLOOD DRIVE**— Grace is holding a blood drive **May 24** from 7:30 am to noon. Together we can share God's Grace by donating blood. Each donation touches up to three people's lives with Gods love. The drive is also a wonderful chance to visit with friends and enjoy a guilt free treat. Please look for Gretchen Hutchens in the narthex between services or call her at 815-341-7544 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

**ADULT BUS TRIP**— Wednesday, **June 10**, we are heading to Mt. Morris, IL to White Pines Inn Dinner Theatre to see “Boob Tube Reruns”, a nostalgic musical comedy variety show based on televisions best loved characters and shows. Remember the Candy Factory on I



Love Lucy? How about Ralph on the Honeymooners or the Dentist on The Carol Burnett Show? A guaranteed laugh filled trip back in time! Their home cooked buffet lunch will feature an assortments of salads, three meats, homemade mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, fresh baked bread, beverages and dessert. On our way there, we will stop at L.O.M.C. for a drive through tour of this 640 acre camp. There will be an optional walking tour of the Freedom Tree Village, an adult retreat center. Cost is only \$50. Deadline to sign up and pay is **April 26**. For questions, call Shirley Busse 815-338-9063

**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.

**COMING TO YOU SOON** — The *Prepare the Way* Capital Campaign is underway, and calls to members have begun. Please allow the callers the opportunity to visit with you and discuss your involvement in the Campaign.

**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.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CHANGE**—Grace for Today is now a monthly newsletter. The article deadline for the May newsletter is April 15. Send articles to Lynn Nattress at [lnattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org), or the church office. Questions: please call the office at 815-338-0554.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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



## HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday**, April 2  
Noon & 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**, April 3  
Noon & 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Vigil** on Saturday, April 4  
7:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday**, April 5  
7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

### PRIMETIME APRIL MEAL CALENDAR

April 1 – Olsen Surprise  
April 8 – Taco's  
April 15 - Popeye's Chicken  
April 22 – Spaghetti  
April 29 - Sloppy Joes



**RIBFEST**—Mark your calendars for **April 25 at 6:00 PM** for the return of Rib fest. Once again we will be selling full slab, 1/2 slab and mac-n-cheese meals. Ticket sales start March 29th between services and will be available in the church office. We have a limited amount of ribs available so get your tickets early.

Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all that is happening at Grace!



### GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Beth Miller; Daniel Nattress

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Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th

8:30 am–12:00 pm, F