



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace for Today

APRIL, 2017 • VOLUME 16, NO. 3

EASTER!..... HE IS RISEN...HE HAS RISEN INDEED!By Pastor Ken Gibson

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” 1 Peter 3a

As we are in the midst of Lent, as this issue of Grace for Today is composed, I find myself deep into readings from Luther. As we know we are dusting off the small catechism and sharing insight into such throughout lent and throughout this year as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the start of the reformation. My studies had me reading an exposition Luther wrote on 1 Peter 3, as listed above. In 1522 Luther wrote;

{One} who would preach the Gospel must go directly to preaching the resurrection of Christ. {One} who does not preach the resurrection is no apostle, for this is the chief part of our faith... the greatest importance attaches to this article of faith. For were there no resurrection, we would have neither comfort nor hope, and everything else Christ did and suffered would be in vain. {One} = “my inclusive insertions as we have more than just men who preach the gospel, we all are called to preach the Gospel.”

As I read these words of Luther, I recalled a sermon I once heard which used this text to celebrate the reality of the difference between all great figures in history to our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the key points made in that sermon was that all others whom some may look to for inspiration examples.... have died period-full stop. But our Lord indeed died, but there is no full stop. While all others in some way have perhaps been good examples. Only Jesus gives us all eternal hope.

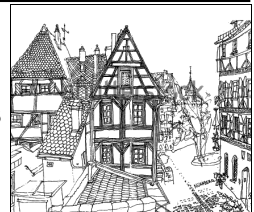
As I look upon our “leaders” of our days, I am perplexed, really, as to how much “glory,” for lack of a another word that fits, we give to the folks of our day. I am amazed at how committed some become to today’s “leaders.” There seems to be a whole lot of misdirected hope placed upon the people of our times, for they can offer so little in terms of our eternal, internal desire for hope. No one can offer us what Jesus has offered us and no one can be for us a better shelter in trouble times and no one can point to the life given through Him who has given himself for us.

So then, let us all do as Luther suggests Preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and go directly to the Resurrection of Christ first and foremost above all others and all false gospels. For you see, in Christ Risen, I know and you do too, I am not afraid. Thanks Be to God for HE IS RISEN...! You know the response. AMEN!



LUTHERLAND TOUR BEING OFFERED DURING NEXT ADVENT SEASON !

We are taking a trip to Germany to be a part of a spiritual journey through Luther Land, all the while visiting some of Deutschland ’s most wonderful Christkindlmarkts/ Christmas Markets.



A tour is planned for us at Grace. Pastor Ken, will host with the assistance of Witte Spiritual Tours, a company recommended by the ELCA. Here is your chance to see the places that Luther lived and changed the world through his passion for the Gospel. A few brief brochures along with a sign-up sheet is in a binder on the welcome desk. Please take a look and if interested please sign up and I will be in touch. The cost is \$3,299 and includes airfare, land transportation, hotel, breakfast daily, 5 dinners, tour manager, and admission fees. The dates are **November 27-December 7, 2017**. The registration *deadline* is **May 15**.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES- We have two soup lunches left in the season of Lent. Please join us for the noon services for Lent and stay for soup, bread, and dessert afterwards. On April 5 we will have Potato Soup, and April 13 we will enjoy Beef Vegetable Soup.



ANOTHER LUTHERLAND TRIP OPTION- If the dates for Pastor Ken's Germany trip don't work with your schedule, Pastor Randy Willers is leading a group to Germany from **June 16-27th**. See Pastor Ken or call Pastor Randy Willers at 309-292-0881.

WILLOW BROOK APARTMENT FIRE- There was a 3:00 AM fire at the Willow Brooke Apartments on Saturday, March 25th. 32 apartments were damaged and 50 people have been displaced, but thankfully there were no major injuries and no fatalities. One person was taken to the hospital and then released. Members of the community have asked if there is anything they can do to assist. The City has established an Assistance Fund and will accept monetary donations to assist victims with financial needs as they deal with their losses. Those who wish to contribute are invited to stop by City Hall and make a donation through check or credit card. Additionally, donations may be sent to City Hall at 121 W. Calhoun Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. Checks may be written to 'City of Woodstock' and all donations should be designated 'for the fire victims.'

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 Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop Jeff Clements, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military, Lt. Thomas Stock serving in Africa (nephew of Tammy Hansing)

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

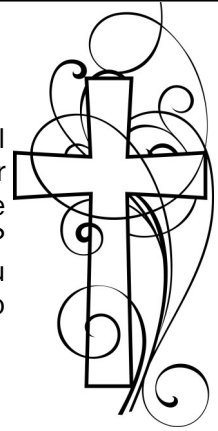
Health Concerns: Rev. Kenneth Ahlstrand, Lois Bloese, John Bloese, Dee Bohn, Ian Clark (uncle of Bill Fleck), Ken DeVogelaere, Patrice Dunn, Verna Eslick, Tannie Fiorina (mother of John Fiorina), Cheryl Flemming (mother of Kristy Nellesen), Paul Gergolla (son-in-law of Eileen Weide), Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Martha & Bill Fleck), Devin Harms (friend of Joe Evanoff), Al Henniges, Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborrah Evanoff), Dwight Jensen, the Kamps family, Diana King, Nancy Knieja (friend of Martha Fleck), Diane Knowles, Keith Kulpinski (friend of Spanbauers & Thurows), Colleen Kuraszek (friend of Adele Petersen), Ken Lindenmier (brother-in-law of Diane Baker-Lockwood), John Mahoney, Renee Merklin (friend of Rachel Bratanick), Tammy Millman (daughter of Karen Millman), Carl Neubaum (son of Donna Neubaum), Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, John Oliver (friend of Ron & Mary Koehn), Sue Olsen, Arne Olson, Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Rene Rebman (uncle of Ron & Mary Koehn), Jean Reed (mother of Mary Hoyt), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Dick Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Bill Seger, Eleanor Setser, John Sorensen, Kathy Stone, Doris Sunday, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), Ellie Mae Thompson (great niece of Gladys & Ken Renner), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bob Unglaube, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Evelyn Ann Freeman (grandmother of Jennifer Freeman)

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.

GO AND TELL . . . By Pastor Amanda

After Jesus' death on the cross, he appears and says "go and tell" so that others will see him too. Go and tell the good news that Jesus lives! This April, as always, we will gather for worship to hear God's good news, we will gather for the end of the season of Lent, and the beginning of the season of Easter. Will you go and tell someone about God's love this month? Could you tell someone the good news of Easter, so that they can see Jesus too? I hope you will gather as a community for worship this month, and we'd love for you to invite someone to join you. Gather for worship, go and tell, see the risen Christ.



Palm/ Passion Weekend ~ April 8, 5 P.M. & April 9, 8:30 & 10:45 A.M.

We wave palms to commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem, and reflect on Jesus' passion and death. We taste and see the Lord is good alongside sisters and brothers who will celebrate their first communion this weekend.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 13, Noon & 7 P.M.

We hear Jesus' commandment to love one another, and enter into the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We confess our sins, share Holy Communion, and remember how Jesus washed the disciples feet as we recall the night he was betrayed.

Good Friday ~ April 14, Noon & 7 P.M.

We hear the story of Jesus' death on a cross, and even on this day, we remember Jesus' triumph through the cross. In worship we will hear the story and respond in song, and then offer prayers for the world for whom Christ died.

Easter Vigil ~ April 15, 7 P.M.

This is the night! We gather around a new fire, hear ancient stories, remember our baptism, celebrate Holy Communion, and celebrate the good news we have been waiting for, Christ is alive!

Easter Sunday ~ April 16, 7, 8:30, & 10:45 A.M.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! We gather to boldly proclaim that death does not have the last say, for Jesus Christ is risen today. Jesus appears and bids us to go and tell that Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Rogation Weekend ~ April 22 & 23

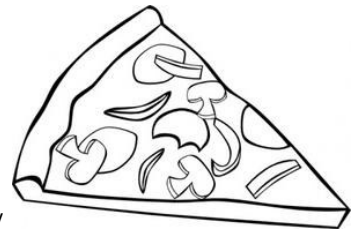
On the Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the promise of new life for the earth and all creation. Gather for worship and community celebrations this weekend.

Go and tell, mark your calendars, invite a friend or neighbor, and let's keep our eyes open to where we will see the risen Christ this month.

SAVE THE DATES– First Communion Class **APR 1**..... DAP **APR 6**... Palm Sunday **APR 9**... Cubs Game Bus Trip **APR 9**... Maundy Thursday Services noon and 7pm **APR 13**... Good Friday Services noon and 7pm **APR 14**... PADS Night **APR 15**... Easter Vigil 7pm **APR 15**... Easter 7:00, 8:30, 10:45 **APR 16**... Rogation Weekend **APR 22/23**... VBS **JUL 17-21**...

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: **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**–The deadline for the May newsletter is April 15. Send articles to Tammy Baier at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.
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SENIOR LUNCHEON – April 25 – Come to our Pizza Party! We have a lot of fun planned for you this month. We'll start out with a delicious tossed salad followed by our homemade delicious Chicago Style pan pizza. We will top it off with a slice of dizzy root beer cake. Then for some more fun, we will learn how to play Bearded Kings, a simple but fun card game that Shirley learned on her Lutherdale trip to Savannah. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend! Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **April 23**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS- You are invited to join Pastor Amanda for a new 6-week adult education class, “Making Sense of the Cross,” on Tuesday evenings after Easter Sunday (April 18 & 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 at 7 p.m.). Please sign-up on the bulletin board so we can order Participant Books for the class.

The course description is as follows: “Listen in on a conversation between two people having an open and candid discussion about the cross. One assumes the role of teacher or coach, someone who has had the time and opportunity to study the faith in some depth. The other is curious, knows a little bit about the faith, and brings a lot of questions: So what’s with the cross? What does the cross say about God? What’s the big deal? Did Jesus have to die? Chapter Titles: A Man Hanging on a Tree; Portraits and Perspectives; Ransom and Victory; Substitution, Satisfaction, and Sacrifice; Example and Encouragement; Event and Experience.”



CUBS GAMES BUS TRIP- WE NEED CUBS FANS – Sunday, April 9–10:00am–6:00pm. We still have a few tickets left for the Cubs vs. Brewers game in Milwaukee. Information sheets are available in the Activity Binder. Cost is \$90. Please pay when you sign up to guarantee your reservation. For more information- call: Shirley at 815-338-9063. The bus will be in the lower left lot at 9:45am for loading. We will depart at 10:00am. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS- Nancy Kreznor will be hosting our next blood pressure check on **April 23** between the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. This is a free wellness service Nancy provides to our congregation.

PRIME TIME– As the days get longer, we realize our school year will come to a close and our Prime Time season shall hit the pause button until next year. Please mark your calendar and join us for our last Prime Time meal of the season on **April 26**. Our church staff will be cooking and we will enjoy some bingo fun! ALL are welcome.

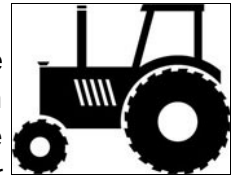
e-GRACE – To receive your *Grace For Today* newsletter online just stop by the Information Center and sign up for this service. No one will be removed from the “hard-copy” mailing list unless they have formally subscribed to the e-newsletter.

FUNERAL PLANNING– Do you have favorite scripture passages and/or hymns? Is there something you hope to have included in your funeral service? We have a simple worksheet where you can note your favorite scripture, hymns, and other details, and we invite everyone to fill one out to share with your family and bring to the church office so we can file it away, and at some point know how to best honor your wishes. Please stop by the church office to pick up a Funeral Planning Worksheet, or you can find a copy on Grace’s website under “Communication & Documents,” and then “Forms and Documents.” Thanks be to God, that even in the face of death, we proclaim the promise of the resurrection.

NORTHERN IL DIAPER BANK - The diaper bank is in need of men’s and women’s adult incontinence products. Undergarments in medium, large, and X large are needed along with pads and guards for men and women. Please use the drop off box in the upper entry.

ROGATION DAYS CONTINUE AT GRACE — APRIL 29-30

Once again Grace Lutheran Church is celebrating the promise of spring and the coming of a new growing season. For the past many years Grace has celebrated through worship the coming of Spring and the promise and hope that comes each year through the blessing of the seed, soil and water. We will once again lift up the value of agriculture in our area with the recognition of Illinois Master Farmers, a special guest speaker will also be a part of the services throughout the weekend. Once again an antique tractor Parade and hayrack ride will be a much cherished treat for young and old alike between services around 9:45 on Sunday morning. Pastor Ken is looking forward to actually driving his own tractor in this year's parade as he now owns a 1938 John Deere B. YAHOO!



This year's **Rogation Dinner** will be on **Saturday, April 22** after the 5:00 service. We will serve a special Farmers Plate Dinner complete with bar-b-que pulled pork sandwiches done once again by pit master Mr. Josh Barnett. The Farmers Plate Special will have all the fixings of coleslaw, baked beans, chips and dessert. We at Grace once again lift up with gratitude the generosity of Mr. Tom Miles of Pork King who is providing the pork shoulders for our event. The proceeds will assist our youth service trips and camping experiences in 2017. Thank you also to Jim Zei our resident "go to guy" in this annual effort. Tickets will be available from our youth or can be picked up in the church office. Make plans to be at this year's Rogation Days **April 22-23**.

EASTER DECORATIONS - Order forms for plants to help decorate our worship area for Easter Sunday can be found at the Sign-Up desk or in your service folders. The deadline for the \$14.00 donation is **April 10, 2017**.



STEPHEN MINISTRY- Grace's Stephen Ministry Training has begun! There are still training opportunities available for this christ-centered, spiritual caregiving ministry. If you feel called to be a Stephen Minister see Katy Sheridan or Pastor Ken for an application. If you're not really sure what Stephen Ministry is or just want more information, bring your questions to Katy or Pastor Ken. They love talking about Stephen Ministry!



RUMMAGE SALE- It is getting to be that time of year, again. Our annual rummage sale will be here, **May 18, 19, and 20**. Please start setting aside items for the sale. Items may be brought to the church on **May 15 through 17**. Please consider setting aside a bit of time to help arrange all the goods or work the days of the rummage sale. This is a large undertaking and helping hands are always a blessing.

BLOOD DRIVE- Our next blood drive will be on **May 21st** at Grace on the Coach Bus. Once again donors get to help save lives in the comfort of "the bus". Please mark your calendars, tell your fellow Grace members, and help our community by donating blood. This is one of the many ways we can share God's Grace.

VBS - Summer will be here before we know it, and that means....Vacation Bible School! **July 17-21**. Our theme this year is Maker Fun Factory, Created by God—Built for a purpose! Kids discover they're lovingly crafted by God. On this interactive adventure, curious kids become hands-on inventors and experience God-the ultimate Maker-in new and wildly creative ways!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION-

Grace Lutheran Preschool has open registration for the **2017-2018 school year**. We have programs available for ages 2-5 years old ranging from 1 to 5 day programs. The non-refundable registration fee is \$50. Please help us spread the word. More preschool information can be found on our church website or by calling Chris Learman at 815-338-0554 ext. 213.



Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

PREPARE THE WAY

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Committed— \$497,556.06
Received— \$484,528.45
Goal— \$780,430.00



Stephen Ministers

Share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting?

Consider serving as a Stephen Minister. For more information, please contact Katy Sheridan or Pastor Ken

WACM COOKBOOKS

Would make a great Gift! They are available for sale at the Information Center. They are \$14.95 each and all proceeds go to support Woodstock Area Community Ministries.

UPDATED PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

Please contact the church office if your contact information has changed, or you no longer have/use a landline phone. Thank you!

SUNDAY MORNING SWEET TREATS

Sundays are available immediately! Info/sign-up on the Activity Board. To volunteer for coffee set-up contact the office.

CHURCH CLOSINGS AND EVENT

CANCELLATIONS - When severe weather arrives, Grace Lutheran Church will follow D200 closing and cancellations. Please check the Emergency Closing Center website or any of the radio stations listed on the D200 website for any severe weather cancellations.

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Building Supervisor/Ken Zank

Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge

Officers & Council

Andy Bellavia, Cathy Buhrow, Beth Miller,

Rob Ribbe: Ryan Baier, Mike Freeman,

Robin Gibbs, Ken Hansing, Gayle Hoch,

Sue Olsen, Adele Petersen

council@gracewoodstock.org

Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th

8:30 am–12:00 pm, F

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

