



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Grace for Today

APRIL 30, 2014—MAY 13, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 9

**FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH.....**by Pastor Ken Gibson

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

*Refrain*

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain* ELW 879



If you are like me, there is no way to simply say these words. The words are sung and they are sung with much delight. The above hymn, which we sang on Rogation weekend at five and eight thirty services, is just one of those favorite hymns that I long to sing every spring season. The season when the whole world around us comes alive again! For us who endured the length and darkness of this past winter a little music, color and new life are just what we need. I would be so inclined to suggest that what we truly need is a little EASTER! Thank God Easter has come. Thank God that the earth is alive and rejoicing, it seems to me, right along with us that Christ is Risen! \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ ! Alleluia! I hope you filled in the blank.

May we, who do so endure dark days and coldness in our lives, take time to give praise that the darkness does not win out. New life wins the day for us as Christians who live in the resurrection promise of forever spring! Forever new life! Christ has triumphed! He is Risen! Alleluia; Alleluia; Alleluia! OOPS I ran off and started singing another Easter Hymn. (ELW 367 for those of you keeping score at home.) I just can't help myself. Easter Blessings to you all! He is Risen! ..... You know what to do! Amen

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY—May 3 from 8 a.m. to Noon.** Come one come all! Help clean up the outside or do painting on the inside. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Activity Board in the narthex. Your help would be appreciated.



**Blood Drive** **SPRING BLOOD DRIVE—May 11** in Luther Hall. During our winter blood drive members of Grace donated **39** unites of blood! Lets see if we can top that during this drive. Sign-up between Sunday services in the narthex or call Gretchen at 815-341-5744.

## WORSHIP TODAY

**Sunday, May 4, 2014**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

INTRODUCTION: Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them, and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

**Sunday, May 11, 2014**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

INTRODUCTION: Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

READINGS:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

**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, Lois Bloese, Deanna Bohn, Allan Busse (father of Adrienne Busse-Kus), Allison Clark (niece of Martha Fleck), Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), George Erber, Mary Figard, Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Ruth Iwanicki, Jacob Janovyak (friend of Shirley Berna), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), Robin Lynd, Sarah Meyer (daughter-in-law of Tom & Cathy Meyer), Gail Mueller, Jesse Myjak, June Noel (mother of Marylee Steinwehe), Herb Neubaum, Don Nusbaum, Gloria Ogle, Irene Onofrey (friend of Shirley Berna), Alice Pate, Hazel Powell, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Dave Ribbe (father of Rob Ribbe), Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), John Sorensen, Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov)

**Sorrow:** Marian Dostal (mother of Anne Panos), Rick Sorensen (son of Jack & Betty Sorensen), Virjeanne Varys (mother of Chuck Varys)

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.

## **EASTER SEASON**.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! I remember writing an email in college to a group from campus ministry to say, "I hope you had a great Easter," when my campus pastor pointed out that Easter is a whole season that lasts beyond one Sunday morning. What good news that our glad alleluias last beyond one day! And so, I hope that you are having a great Easter, a season in life filled with newness and signs of the resurrection.

In our worship over the next few weeks we will continue to give thanks to God and rejoice with one another. I look forward to celebrating Grace's Preschool ministry this coming weekend, May 4 at the 10:45 A.M. worship service, which marks the start of our visitation weekend as we pursue accreditation with the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association. We hope you will continue to keep our preschool students, teachers, committee, and accreditation task force in your prayers as we give thanks for this wonderful ministry.

The following weekend, May 11 will be our last weekend of Sunday School, and I give thanks for another year of Christian education and formation. On May 18, we will recognize high school graduates at the 8:30 A.M. worship service and pray for God's blessings on a new season in their lives.

I am also looking forward to Johanna's baptism May 25, at the 10:00 A.M. worship service, a time and weekend where our family and friends can travel to join us in worship.

May God's grace surround you and keep you, and may the good news that Christ is risen brighten your days this Easter season.

**EXTENDING HANDS ADULT FORUM—May 4** at 9:45 AM in Luther Hall. We, at Extending Hands, are so excited



to share how Grace Lutheran has helped us serve those in Zambia who are poor, oppressed, and spiritually lost. We want to update and thank Grace for what you have already been a part of and we have exciting news to share about how we are moving forward to BETTER serve those God has called us to.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SEASON END—**The last day of Sunday School for the 2013-2014 school year will be Sunday, **May 11**.. Thank you to all the teachers that have made this year possible, all the parents for seeing the importance of a church education, and for getting your children to class each week. Please be sure to register your child for next year, and join us for Rally Day on **Sept. 14** to kick-off the 2014-2015 school year.



**RUMMAGE SALE—** It's time to check closets, drawers and basements for unwanted items so they can be transformed into someone else's treasure! Bring your donations to Luther Hall on **May 12—May 14**, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sale dates are: Thursday, **May 15—3 p.m.—7 p.m.**, Friday, **May 16—8 a.m.**

—3 p.m. Saturday, **May 17—8 a.m.—Noon**. Clothing items should be in clean, wearable condition; household items need to be clean and in workable/useable condition. We do not accept computers, printers, monitors, keyboards, scanners, television sets, paint, hazardous material products, large furniture or child/infant car seats. Your willingness to help with this ministry is needed and would greatly be appreciated. A sign-up sheet is in the Activity Binder at the Information Center where you can indicate the day(s) and hours you are available to help. Join us in making this a successful event to benefit the Family Health Partnership Clinic and the Woodstock Area Community Ministry.

**LOST AND FOUND—** There are many items that have been left at Grace during the last year. These items can be found on the shelves above the coat racks in the Lower Level. Items not claimed by **May 15** will be donated to the Rummage Sale.

**HELP NEEDED—**The rummage sale is in need of people to help build shelves, move tables and assemble racks on Monday, **May 12** at 8 a.m. (bring your power tools for the assembly). We will also need people to help with taking down everything on Saturday, **May 17**, starting just before noon. Please help us and sign up at the Information Center.



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**—"PREPARE The Way" John 19:3, Carrying our faith forward into the future.



Our Capital Campaign is taking shape through careful planning and prayerful deliberation. The process began as part of our Strategic Plan. A task force was established to guide our efforts. We've benefited from Pr. Ken's expertise and a consultant with a proven track record. A grant awarded from the endowment fund will cover the expenses of the campaign. The task force has collected input from every ministry and prioritized our needs and wants. As you would expect, the parking lot and HVAC systems have a high priority.

Pr. Ken will be contacting select members of the congregation this summer to launch the campaign. Additional information will be provided at our congregational meeting in August. The full campaign will be launched next year. If you would like to get involved right away, please contact Pr. Ken.

So, now is the time for us to be the good stewards of our ministry as those before us have done. We need to tend to our facility needs and build a strong future in fulfilling our mission of "Sharing God's Grace". Please keep the capital campaign in your prayers. Also, please prayerfully consider how you will participate in this important work.

Pete Paulson

**MISTLETOE MAGIC CRAFT WORKSHOP**—Monday, **May 19** from 1p.m. to 4p.m. All supplies are provided. Please contact Cathy Meyer at 338-0512 or [tcmeier2@gmail.com](mailto:tcmeier2@gmail.com) with questions.



**SENIOR LUNCHEON - Tuesday, May 27- Home Sweet Home - Helping people live independently at home.** Four-out-of-five seniors believe their current home is where they will always live. 75% of adult children think about their parent's ability to live independently as they get older. Nick Lopez of 101 Mobility will lead this discussion that focuses on new advances in home accessibility solutions that provide many people with disabilities a safe way into and out of their homes. You may not need this information now, but it's always good to learn about what is available to help you or a loved one. 101 Mobility is the nation's leading full-service provider of a complete line of mobility and accessibility products and equipment. Our menu this month is: Tossed Salad, Florentine Spaghetti Bake, Garlic Bread and Rhubarb Pie. Cost is \$5.00 and bring a friend. Sign up in the Activity Binder by May 25th. Questions, call Shirley Busse 815-338-9063

**GRACE FOR TODAY CHALLENGE!** - Where do you read your *Grace for Today* newsletter? Submit a photo of you reading your newsletter to the church office, and we'll choose a winner from all entries received. We can't wait to see your fun photos!



**WE NEED YOUR STORIES**—Were you moved by the Passion Reading on Palm Sunday or by the First Communion Sacrament shared? 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](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org). (Follow-up stories will run as time/space permit, and may be edited.)

**PIANO NEEDS A NEW HOME**—We are looking for a new home for the baby grand piano that is currently in the choir room at church. It functions well for the average player, however it cannot stay in tune with the constant use that it receives at church. There is no charge for the piano, we just ask that you arrange to have it moved. Please contact Ron Fredriksen for details and to arrange for pick-up.



**HELP—WE NEED YOU!**—Meals On Wheels needs 2 volunteers for Wednesday, once every 5 weeks, from 10:45 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Meals are delivered to those unable to do for themselves. If you can help with this ministry, please call Jeannine May at 815-943-4849.

**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.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**—Save the dates of **July 14 –18**. This year we will be exploring the world of Weird Animals “Where Jesus’ love is one-of-a-kind”. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if you are interested in helping. It is a great way to show the children of Grace and beyond the love of a church community.

**ELCA DAY OF SERVICE**— Save the date of **Sept 7** to join with your Grace family and the entire ELCA family as we reach out into communities on this nationwide day of service.

**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).

**SEEKING NURSERY COORDINATOR & VOLUNTEERS**—If you are at least 14 years of age, and would enjoy spending an hour of time watching our youngest members during a church service, **WE NEED YOU!** If you can give of your time, please contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office. Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATES**—New Member Orientation—**July 19**, Rally Day—**September 14**.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **May 14** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at [lnattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org) or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **May 6**.

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

### Saturday, May 3

8:00 AM Grace Property Clean-Up Day  
8:00 AM Preschool Accreditation  
9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship

### Sunday, May 4

8:00 AM Preschool Accreditation  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group  
9:45 AM Education Hour  
9:45 AM Adult Forum—Extending Hands  
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship  
5:15 PM Youthful Spirit  
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers/Laudate

### Monday, May 5

8:00 AM Preschool Accreditation  
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
6:30 PM BSA Troop 153

### Tuesday, May 6

8:00 AM Preschool Accreditation  
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
9:00 AM Sewing Circle  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s  
6:45 PM All Committee Night

### Wednesday, May 7

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:30 AM Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Chancel

### Thursday, May 8

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:00 PM DAP  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s  
6:00 PM BSA-Sycamore District Dinner  
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

### Friday, May 9

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

### Saturday, May 10

9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship

### Sunday, May 11

8:00 AM Blood Drive  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group  
9:30 AM Blood Pressure Checks  
9:45 AM Education Hour  
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

### Monday, May 12

8:00 AM Preschool Vision & Hearing Screen  
8:00 AM Rummage Sale Set-Up  
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
6:30 PM BSA Troop 153  
7:00 PM Faith Circle

### Tuesday, May 13

8:00 AM Preschool Vision & Hearing Screen  
8:00 AM Rummage Sale Set-Up  
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s

### Wednesday, May 14

8:00 AM Rummage Sale Set-Up  
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:30 AM Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Chancel

### Thursday, May 15

8:00 AM Rummage Sale Set-Up  
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s  
12:00 PM DAP  
12:30 PM Preschool 3s  
3:00 PM Rummage Sale  
7:00 PM Council

### Friday, May 16

8:00 AM Rummage Sale

### Saturday, May 17

7:00 AM Rummage Sale  
9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee

## GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson  
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### Associate Pastor

**Director of Senior High Ministries**  
Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
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### Director of Communications

Lynn Nattress  
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### Director of Music Ministries

Ron Fredriksen  
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### Parish Musicians

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

### Director of Preschool Ministry

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### Preschool Staff

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

### Director of Educational Ministries

#### Office Assistant

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### Director of Senior Ministries

#### Secretary

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

