



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grace for Today

MAY, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 6

PASTOR KEN SABBATICAL UPDATE

There is much to share in regards to the Sabbatical time that is fast approaching. Let me first say that it has always been my hope that this time will be shared time. By that I mean, the focus of reconnecting with family and finding some time to be still will be an effort that all of us might consider. Take time this summer to find a place to be still and know that God is God and we are not. See Psalm 46, verse 10. I will be doing just that on a number of occasions, but especially while I am up north in Canada fishing. (See details below) I would also hope that folks might take time to have good and meaningful family time. Take time to make it to those family reunions that might be a part of your summer. PLEASE DO NOT PASS on those opportunities, I plead with you all to take time to go to family events and make memories that carry us forth into the rest of our year. I have a couple of special family reunions scheduled for the month of August. (See below)



Another focus for this time, is to have us all focus again on the Small Catechism. Each family will be given a Small Catechism and, as was intended by Martin Luther when he wrote it, I would like the household to go over it with children and grandchildren. The Small Catechism is a gem of a work and it has much to offer us still today. While in Germany spending time with daughter Lauren, son-in-law Nate, and of course Grandson LUKAS, we will visit many of the Luther sites and I even hope to bicycle the trail that Luther took while he was writing the Small Catechism. To stay up on these visits and to involve us all, a couple of things are happening. First, there will be a coloring book for the younger members of our Grace families. This coloring book will have many different Luther sites inside and, in sharing the coloring book, we hope the parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends of our children here at Grace, can share where Luther lived and what he did for the Church and how his work really has changed the entire world. The Anniversary of the reformation is in 2017 when we will celebrate 500 YEARS of being a Reforming Church. We also will have a web hook-up that I will update from time to time that will post the sites that I have visited. (Please note that these postings will not be done in actual order and even though I post something it does not mean I am at that site at that time. Sorry about that but, unfortunately there are security concerns.)

Finally, I ask us to remember that **all of these expenses**, including the addition of Pastor Rebecca Gordon an ordained pastor to assist Pastor Amanda, Pastor, in my absence, will be covered due to the successful acceptance of my grant request to the Lilly Endowment. There are no regular funds used from our annual Grace budget. All expenditures in this sabbatical plan are 100% covered by the grant. (continued on Page 3)

SPRING CLEAN UP—Due to inclement weather, our Spring Clean-Up Day of the property and grounds was postponed, and will now take place on Saturday, **May 2**, at 8:00am. We are in need of all skill levels to help maintain the inside and outside of the church and grounds. Come join us, we always have a fun time, and can use any and all help, if even for an hour or two. Contact Tammy Baier, 815-986-6514, for further information.



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 all morning during services and Sunday School. Drop your keys and a free will offering to an appointed adult in the narthex. We can move your car for you, **WASH** get it washed and put it back when it is done. The kids have plenty of elbow grease and smiles.

MISTLETOE MAGIC CRAFT SESSIONS— Plan to join in the fun on **May 5** and **May 19**, from 9 - 3 in Grace Center. Questions: Karen Reinhard 815-338-3639, or kereinhard@yahoo.com.



PLANTING OF THE GRACE GRAPES— The plowed strips of ground that look like Sergeant's stripes in the lawn east of the Church is indeed where the Grace vineyard will be located. You can be a part of this new and exciting ministry by attending the **"Planting of the Grapes"** event on **May 9th** at 9:00 AM! The soil has been tilled the fertilizer has been applied and now it is time to plant the grapes. Workers will be needed so, if you have some time that morning, please lend a hand. There will be donuts and coffee, so come lend a hand and be in on this new growth as we get in place the grapes that will one day be providing our own communion wine. **SEE YOU THERE!** (Rain date is the following Saturday morning **May 16** at 9: AM.)

RECITAL—The voice and piano students of Carrie Filetti will present their Spring Recital on **May 10** from 4-6 here at Grace. Admission is free and open to the public.

MOTHER'S DAY DIAPER DRIVE—Celebrate mothers of all ages with a gift of diapers on **May 10**. Diapers of all sizes, from newborn to adult, partial packages and boxes, to single diapers are accepted. Collection box is located in the Narthex area. Monetary donations, and PayPal are also available on their website: www.diaperbankni.org.



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: Claire Aeschliman (friend of Tammy Hansing), Iva Carlson (mother of Dale Carlson), 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, Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Sophie Frazier (great grand niece of Ila Randolph), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Tammy Hansing, Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, Pam Hull Gray (friend of Cathy Meyer), 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, John McMahon, Gail Mueller, Jack Myers (friend of Betty & Dick Boehmke), Jesse Myjak, Don Nusbaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, Dorothy Potoczky, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Nick Resek (son of Tammy Resek-Caccamo and brother of Heidi Olsen), Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Laura Schoolcraft (wife of Pastor Ed Schoolcraft at Christ Life Church), Dick Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Lauryn Trede (granddaughter of Pat Cervantes), Jerry Virgil (father of Melynda Mauer), Faith Watkins, Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

Joy: Baptism of Brooklyn Mae Crowley, Baptism of Quintin William Emery

Sorrow: Raymond Stanger

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.

PASTOR KEN SABBATICAL UPDATE....continued from Page 1

In summary, here is what is happening in a bit of a timeline fashion:

Sabbatical Calendar of Events

- ◆ June 28; A Sabbatical sendoff picnic catered by “BBQ King” will take place in our outdoor area just south of the church. This will take place following our second service that Sunday which we hope will be an outdoor worship experience if the weather cooperates. The picnic will include lunch, along with a program and activities. *(This event is being coordinated by Dr. Corey Tafoya and I thank him very much.)*
- ◆ July; I am in Europe. I will spend time being with my family in Germany and Joy will come for part of that time as well. I am going to spoil Lukas something awful! It is in this month that the Luther sites will be visited.
- ◆ August; This month I will take part in two family reunions one on my father’s side and one on my mother’s side; both are in Iowa. I will also travel to Seattle and spend a week with Scott!
- ◆ September; This month is spent fishing. A week with my brothers in Canada and a week up in Northern Wisconsin with Scott and Kurt and a few days alone to think and write and be still in the UP of Michigan.
- ◆ October 4: This is a special day as we will have an Oktoberfest Celebration here in our outdoor chapel area. This event will have a full “UM PA PA BAND” with German music and German food. Yes, we will ask folks to wear their Lederhosen if they have ☺ them too! This event is not just to welcome me home, but to celebrate our being a family here at Grace, remembering that we were founded by German immigrants over one hundred and eight years ago. I am back serving with all of my heart this first weekend in October. *(This weekend’s events are coordinated by Ken Hansing and I thank him very much.)*

Along with thanking Dr. Tafoya and Ken Hansing, I wish to thank everyone for the love and support that has been given to me over this past month. I will be honest, this is a difficult time in my life and I am most definitely needing some time away, to think and pray and seek clarity on a number of issues.

Remember; “God Loves you and so Do I!”

Pastor Ken

2015 NOMINATIONS—The Nominating Committee invites you to prayerfully consider serving as an elected committee member for terms beginning in fall 2015. Please complete a nomination form found on the information desk, and return your form to the nomination box by **May 10** for consideration. Committee member openings include: church council, nominating committee, endowment committee, preschool committee, and delegates for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.



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 beginning on **May 11–May 13**, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sale dates are: Thursday, **May 14**—3 p.m.–7 p.m., Friday, **May 15**—8 a.m.–3 p.m., Saturday, **May 16**—

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. Join us in making this a successful event to benefit the Family Health Partnership Clinic and the Woodstock Area Community Ministry.

LOST AND FOUND— Many items 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 without a home will be donated to the Rummage Sale.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION— This year’s graduates are invited to process and be honored with their Grace classmates during worship on **May 17** at 8:30 a.m. Graduates are invited to wear their graduation robe and/or cap, and any awards. Please call the church office to let us know you will be joining us in worship that day.

GETTING READY FOR DETROIT.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Over the past several months, Grace's high school youth group and confirmation classes have been preparing for their upcoming trips. Confirmation students and small group leaders will be traveling to Colorado in June for a week of camp at Sky Ranch. Our high school youth group and their chaperones will be traveling to Detroit in July for the ELCA Youth Gathering with thousands of other high school students from Lutheran congregations across the country. We give thanks for your support for Grace's youth, through your prayers, donations, and support of fundraisers such as Crandall's, Chili Fest & the Youth Auction, Used Sporting Equipment Sale, Ribfest, and the upcoming Car Wash.



In preparation for the Youth Gathering, your High School Youth Group has been meeting for monthly "Getting Ready" Bible Study trip meetings. We have studied the gospel of Mark, discussed what it means to be theologians of the cross, and most recently we have started to learn more about Detroit, the city we will be visiting this summer. We have heard a brief overview of Detroit's history, and our chaperones prepared different stations to explore parts of Detroit's culture. We talked about entrepreneurship and the efforts to welcome new businesses and innovation. We learned the history of and tasted Coney Island Hot Dogs. We heard music and discovered the history of Motown. We heard key points in a timeline of Motor City and its impact on Detroit. Next month, we will continue to learn about Detroit, racism and the cross.

I greatly appreciate the "Getting Ready" materials that have been prepared by the ELCA Youth Gathering because the summer youth trips that we talk about and fundraise for are far greater than the days we will be in Detroit, or the days away at camp. There is a foundation of faith formation that begins in the waters of baptism, and in the early days of worshipping in a community of faith as Jesus' love is proclaimed. Through Sunday School and Vacation Bible School we teach the stories of our faith, in confirmation we explore our Lutheran identity and the Bible, and in Youth Group we examine faith in our daily lives. And then, after a mountain top experience at the Youth Gathering or camp, we come back to this community of faith, stretched and strengthened by the experience. And our faith formation continues.

We are going about the hard work of getting ready to go to Detroit so that we can be immersed in a new place, be prepared to hear the stories of people we meet, and be embraced by the love of Christ that unites people from near and far. Thank you for walking with your middle school and high school sisters and brothers in Christ as they get ready for summer trips, and thank you for being here to welcome them back to this place.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – Senior Luncheon – Tuesday, **May 26**. Our healthy menu this month offers: Cottage Cheese topped with crushed Pineapple, Citrus Fish, Asparagus, Seasoned Rice, bread, and Deluxe Lemon Bars for dessert. For our program we have Jaci from Jaci's Cookies on the Square coming and sharing the secrets of her successful business and just maybe a cookie or two! Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **May 24**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



2015 BULLETIN & PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSORS 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.

**COME
WORSHIP
WITH US!**

SUMMER WORSHIP—On **May 24**, our Contemporary Service switches from 10:45 am to 10:00 am. The first outdoor Contemporary Service will be **June 28**, and will be the 2nd weekend of each month beginning in July through September.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS—On April 19, Grace welcomed the following families and individuals into our Grace family: Ray & Kim Anderson; Jeremy & Michelle Bidwell and Abigail; Van Brautigam; Zachary Cook; Alta Hutchens; Yvonne Nowak; Conor O'Leary & Olivia Liedtke, Davan, Blake, and Braxton; Traci Slavin.

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

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 God's 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.

HEALING SERVICE— The Spirituality team will have a healing service on Saturday, **May 30** at 5:00pm and Sunday, **May 31** at both the 8:30am and 10:00 am services (summer schedule).

SUNDAY MORNING SWEET TREATS—To keep this available, we are asking families, individuals, committees, etc. to participate in providing a sweet treat for a Sunday of their choosing. Any type of sweet will be enjoyed. (Coffee and lemonade will be provided as usual) Additional information and sign-up on the Activity Board. Many dates still available beginning on **May 31**.



PREPARE THE WAY; CARRYING OUR FAITH INTO THE FUTURE UPDATE.....by Bill Nattress

The Capital Campaign has now officially begun as we work to communicate to all of the members of the congregation and start on the many projects that will occur over the next three years. The first round of visits with the members is in progress and we will be scheduling training of the next wave of key communicators to go out and visit with the members to present the program, answer questions, and ask for your support. As of this moment we have \$343,590.50 committed and about \$177,910.50 collected toward the campaign. You may have noticed the new choir robes that debuted at the Easter Sunday services along with the new ceiling tiles in the Narthex. Some smaller, less noticeable projects have been started like the repair of operable windows in the basement. The Task Force has been working on prioritizing the work based upon the cash flow projections. As the campaign progresses we will be able to provide a calendar of anticipated timeframes from all of the work being performed.

One key donation that was made to the Church is a new Assistive Listening System for the Sanctuary. These devices will allow those with hearing impairments to hear the service with greater clarity. This device will replace the current units that were installed when the building was first built in 1983. As they are a new technology, the new devices will work with hearing aids that have T-Coil channels providing a more positive audio experience. The new devices will be installed in the Sanctuary in the coming weeks once they are received from the manufacturer.

Please answer the call to help us celebrate the campaign as we are on our way carrying forward this gift of faith and Sharing God's Grace! Thanks Be To God!

TORNADO RELIEF—Lutheran Social Services of IL with Lutheran Disaster Response and the Northern Illinois Synod have created a "Tornado Relief Fund". Your generous support will provide direct assistance to survivors as well as long term assistance as people rebuild their lives, homes, and businesses. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to this fund. Gifts may be marked "tornado relief" and made out to Grace to be forwarded, or sent directly to: Northern Illinois Synod, Tornado Relief Fund, 103 W. State St., Rockford, IL 61101.



WE NEED YOUR RECIPES—WACM, Woodstock Area Community Ministries, 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. Deadline for recipes is **June 1**.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CHANGE—Grace for Today is now a monthly newsletter. The article deadline for the June newsletter is May 15. Send articles to Lynn Nattress at 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>



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



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UPCOMING EDUCATION DATES:
Last Day of Sunday School - **May 10**
Vacation Bible School - **July 20 -24**



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