



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace for Today

APRIL, 2016 • VOLUME 15, NO. 4

HERE WE GO! ROGATION DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

As you all read this it will be post Easter and the Joyous event that defines us all as Christians will be past. HE IS RISEN!

With Easter behind us, we at Grace for the last many years, have found a special weekend that celebrates the season of new life. We lift up the season of planting through, what is actually a long time church tradition, known as Rogation Days. We at Grace continue the tradition that has its roots in the Church.



Rogation Days allow a way for us in the church to celebrate the creation that God declared “good”. 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. The tradition here at Grace celebrates these days with many of the events we have come to enjoy. These include: Rib Fest on Saturday night, April 23, Celebration services that lift up the seed, soil and water, the gifts of God’s earth that grant all with the food of God’s good world. We will also once again, enjoy tractor rides and a tractor parade from my friends of The McHenry County Antique Tractor and Machinery Club. We will host a spring farmers market and enjoy our youth and adult choirs presenting special music that lift up the character and special essence of these days.

And finally, I am pleased to share this year’s special guest Preacher! This year we will welcome Rev. Steve Meysing, who currently serves as assistant to the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA. Rev. Meysing is a wonderful person and one whom I have come to know as a friend for more than 20 plus years. Rev. Meysing will speak to us from his unique perspective of being a Nebraska native and a person who has his thumb on the pulse of rural America and the church’s role therein. I so look forward to being with and hearing from Rev. Meysing and I do think all of us will.

VINO AND VINYL WEEKENDERS EVENT— Friday, **April 22**, 7:30 pm. All are welcome! Join us for an evening of fellowship, listening and dancing to music played on the turntable, and a blind wine tasting. Bring your favorite white or red wine, and your favorite albums. Not a wine lover, or don’t have any albums handy? No worries, bring your own beverage, and join us for fellowship and music! Prizes awarded for best wines, album cover, and more! Details and sign-up on the Activity Board. Hosted by Rick and Billie Cornell, Bill & Lynn Nattress.

RIBFEST RETURNS ON April 23rd at 6:00 PM. Once again we will be selling full slab, 1/2 slab and mac-n-cheese meals. Tickets are on sale **NOW** between services and will be available in the church office. We have a limited amount of ribs available, so get your tickets early. What a delicious way to support the Confirmation Class and High School Youth Group as they fundraise for their summer trips.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – April 26 “All Hands Stand By To Repel Boarders”, tales from life as a Lutheran Pastor. Cordell Strug, who served as a Lutheran Pastor for almost 28 years in rural Minnesota, will give us a picture of a pastor’s life from the inside. Our meal begins with a Cheese n’Fruit Tossed Salad, Chicken Pot Pie, French Bread, and Chocolate Cake with Peanut Butter Frosting for dessert. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **April 24** Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

OPENING THE BOOK OF FAITH AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY—All are welcome to a drop in bible study. Pastor Ken will be leading the group in Lutheran insights for the bible. Classes meet weekly from 1pm-2pm. Check church calendar for upcoming dates.

"LET'S GET MOVING" - A walking group has formed here at Grace. Time to step into spring! Walks in the early evenings starting at Grace are in progress. Contact Jim Zei or Pastor Ken for more information.

SEWING CIRCLE UPDATE—The Sewing Circle recently sent 38 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. We also delivered 195 walker bags, 78 lap robes, 48 crocheted lap robes, 73 poly bags, 42 small pillows, 11 neck rests and 47 bibs to area nursing homes. Donations of sheets, blankets, material, yarn, towels and nylons are much appreciated.

WACM COOKBOOKS are available for sale at the Information Center. They are \$14.95 each and all proceeds go to support Woodstock Area Community Ministries.

HELP WANTED—Meals On Wheels needs a volunteer to deliver meals to our homebound. The routes are composed of 2 volunteers-you have a partner. The commitment is on Friday, every five weeks, from 10:45–12:00. Questions: Jeannine May 815-943-4849 or 815-382-1897.

THANK YOU—Dear friends, my thanks to all of you for your cards, notes and prayers while I have been unable to come to church. They really brighten my days. I hope to be coming back to church little by little as I continue to get stronger. God's blessings to all of you. Sending love and hugs. ~ Diane Knowles

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, Tyler Stiemke serving in the military

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

Health Concerns: Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Jim Davis, Nancy Davis, Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Clark Drennen (cousin of Bill Fleck), Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), Sophie Frazier (great grandniece of Ila Randolph), Marcella Groskinsky (sister of Ken Renner), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Patrice Hoover, Mary Hurst (friend of Deborah Evanoff), Lynell Ingram (friend of Kathy Stone), Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), the Kamps family, Jonathan Koehn (son of Ron & Mary Koehn), Diane Knowles, Philip Kreznor, Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), Gail Mueller, Jesse Myjak, Roberta Nielsen, Don Nusbaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Arne Olson, Alice Pate, Ferd Raffel, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), 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, Sharon Stahlecker, Suzanne Stumpff, Doris Sunday, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Ellie Mae Thompson (Great niece of Gladys & Ken Renner), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Lauryn Trede (granddaughter of Pat Cervantes), Bob Unglaube, Eileen Weide, Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Carole Foreman

Joys: Birth of Tyson John on March 3rd to John & Jessica Hanlin, baptism of Brandon James Resek and Ryan Matthew Resek, baptism of Tyson John Hanlin

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

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BE NOT AFRAID, SING OUT FOR JOY.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

“Now the Green Blade Rises” (ELW 379) has become one of my favorite Easter hymns. Set to the tune of a French Christmas carol, this song sings of the green blade rising from buried grain, Jesus rising from the grave where they laid him, our hearts being called back to life again, “love is come again like wheat arising green.”



Yet with snow this past Maundy Thursday, and more snowflakes appearing in the upcoming forecast, somehow we're not quite in spring. So to that reality, I hear the words of another Easter hymn (ELW 388):

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

It is a simple song, sung repeatedly, and yet the words speak such truth and wonder in these Easter days. Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen! Though spring may be delayed, and though we may be unsure of what the new season before us may bring, be not afraid. May our speaking be filled with joy in these days as we remember and celebrate that Christ is risen!

RUMMAGE SALE! - It's time to check your home for unwanted items so they can become treasures for others! The donation days are Monday May 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Wed. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sale dates are Thursday, May 12, 13 and 14. 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, cribs or child/infant care seats. We need help during donation days to receive, sort and price items. Come when you can to help and leave when needed. Donations benefit the Family Health Partnership Clinic and the Woodstock Area Community Ministry (with a tithe to Grace Lutheran).

GRACE BLOOD DRIVE—NEW DATE On **May 22** we can share God's love with the community through our blood donations. Sign-up between services in the narthex or call Gretchen Hutchens at 815-341-7544.

INTERGENERATIONAL COACH BUS TRIP – Wednesday, **May 25, 2016** “Buffet, Bingo & Ballgame” The Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland Indians. We arrive for an hour long pre-game all you can eat buffet in the patio area featuring: Cajun Chicken, fried chicken, hot dogs, BBQ ribs, hamburgers, salads, beer, wine & soft drinks. Then enjoy Free Bingo with promotional prizes & lower level tickets. Cost is \$75 for Adults, \$50 a Child, & Children under 36” are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up in the Activity Binder. We have 30 tickets reserved – please pay to reserve your seat. Questions: call Shirley Busse @ 815-338-9063

GRACE PRESCHOOL/ LABELS FOR EDUCATION: We have been notified that the Campbell's Labels for Education Program will be ending. Grace Preschool will be collecting any additional labels through the end of this school year. We thank those who have been saving these labels for us over the years, and ask anyone that has labels to drop these off soon. Drop boxes are located upstairs and downstairs. By June we will be redeeming any unused points and closing our account. Our preschool has received some great items for free in the past. Please note: Box Tops is a different program and we are not able to collect Box Tops. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Chris at 815-338-0554 x213.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION —All are welcome to join us from 9:45-10:30 in Luther Hall for our series Realizing The Social Truths In Our Community—**April 3:** CASA of McHenry County, **April 10:** Big Brothers Big Sisters, **April 17:** Helping Paws, **April 24:** Grace Lutheran Preschool

SAVE THE DATE: CPR Class—June 2, Preschool Summer Camp—June 13, Vacation Bible School—July 18—22, Preschool Open House—August 6, Adult Bus Trip to see Million Dollar Quartet—Sept. 17

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—The deadline for the May newsletter is April 15. Send articles to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Office at 815-338-0554.

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—\$483,456.06

Received—\$355,380.88

Goal—\$780,430.00

UPDATED PHONE AND ADDRESSES—

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

UPCOMING DATES:

Adult Bus Trip—May 25

CPR Class—June 2

Preschool Summer Camp—June 13

VBS—July 18-22

**2016 BULLETIN AND
PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSORS NEEDED**

Sign-up is 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.

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

KUBOTA—Grace has a Kubota Zero Turn, 2G327P-60, lawn mower in good condition for sale. 60 inch deck and 27 hp. There are 1091 hours on the mower. We are asking \$4,500. Offers considered. Inquiries and questions call the church office at 815-338-0554.

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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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