



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace for Today

MAY 14, 2014—MAY 27, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 10

“WHEN WILL YOU GO TO GERMANY, PASTOR KEN?”.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



The above question is one I have been asked often of late and in fact it is one that I have been asking myself. My answer has always been; “I really don’t know when I might be able to go and see Lukas.” Well I have decided to stop using that answer and start using the following with much gusto and excitement. “I am going to see Lukas Patton Schindler, my grandson, the last week of July from July 27-August 3rd!” YAHOO!

I must say it is a much anticipated journey. Not only will I be holding my grandson for the first time but I will also be thinking about the first time I held my precious little Lauren as she was first born. My feelings then were amazing! I so marveled at the beauty of such a gift! Tears filled my eyes then and I am sure they will flow again when I first hold “little” Lukas. Not sure how little he will be by then as he was already a big boy at birth checking in at over nine pounds. I am sure he will always be her little boy, just like Lauren will always be my little girl.

It is also going to be interesting to see the girl I have watched grow and mature from that tiny precious little infant, into an energetic spirit filled young girl, into a wonderful adventurous athletic young woman now being a beautiful brilliant mother. What a joy to see and experience it all. I truly must just give thanks to God for the gifts of life lived.

I know many of you have already experienced the joy of grand parenting and have shared how wonderful it truly is, and all I can say is; “I can’t wait, get me on the plane!” Oh, and auf Wiedersehen!



RUMMAGE SALE— Stop by and find some gently used treasures! Sale dates are: Thurs., **May 15**—3 p.m.—7 p.m., Fri., **May 16**—8 a.m.—3 p.m., Sat., **May 17**—8 a.m.—Noon. Join us in making this a successful event to benefit the Family Health Partnership Clinic and the Woodstock Area Community Ministry.

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 with questions.

SUMMER SCHEDULE TO BEGIN— On **May 25**, we begin our summer worship schedule which means that the Contemporary Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. instead of the usual 10:45 a.m. Outdoor Contemporary Service begins on **June 8**, and occurs the 2nd Sunday of each month through September.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP HELP NEEDED—Outdoor Contemporary Worship starts **June 8**, and help is needed: 7:45 – 8:15 am – move music and sound materials from church band area to set up in outdoor worship area. After 10 am service – move same materials back to the church band area. Outdoor Worship is the 2nd Sunday of each month, June through September, weather permitting. Contact Sue Olsen at either Sunday service or sign -up on one or more of the four weeks in the Activities Binder at the Information Center. Thank you.

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, May 18, 2014
Fifth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION: As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

READINGS:

Acts 7:55–60

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16

1 Peter 2:2–10

John 14:1–14

Sunday, May 25, 2014
Sixth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION: Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

READINGS:

Acts 17:22–31

Psalm 66:8–20

1 Peter 3:13–22

John 14:15–21

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 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, Allison Clark (niece of Martha Fleck), Jim 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), 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), Betty Rooney (mother-in-law of Judy Rooney), 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)

Sorrows: Allan Busse (father of Adrienne Busse-Kus), Sharyn Pierce (friend of Diane Baker-Lockwood and Paul Lockwood), Elmer Vanderpluym (grandfather of Amy Mach)

Joy: Baptism of Ysabella Teperance Troglia

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.

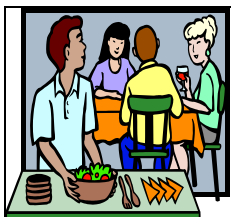
ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom



As a college student and seminarian, I usually enjoyed the second semester of each school year a bit more than the first semester. The second semester, though paired with difficult goodbyes, would always bring something new, a certain hopefulness in the spring season. At the end of a school year, days are filled to the brim with final sporting events and concerts, recognition ceremonies, and ritual ‘last’ classes, papers, and exams. In these liminal days, students are still officially completing one grade in school and yet can almost taste the freedom of summer, and imagine themselves as students in the next class, as college students or new employees.

As we near the end of the school year in Woodstock, and as we prepare to celebrate high school graduates in worship on **May 18**, I pray that you may all know God’s ever-present love for you in these exciting and sometimes challenging days. As we recall the story of the Road to Emmaus, which we recently heard in worship, we remember Jesus walks with us even when we cannot recognize him. How wonderful to know that when our next steps are uncertain, when summer or fall plans are yet to be determined- Jesus walks with us. How comforting to know that as children are about to leave home, when the house seems quiet and empty- Jesus walks with us. And how amazing to know that when our paths meet each other once more, when we find ourselves reunited with friends and family- Jesus walks with us.

May these days of endings and beginnings be a joyful time, and through the difficult goodbyes and in the exciting possibilities, may we rejoice in Jesus’ faithful companionship.



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

MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS) - Join us here at Grace on Wednesday, **May 28**, from 9–10:30 a.m. This month we will learn about summer hair, hair tools and products from a local licensed cosmetologist. Childcare provided.

CHILDCARE NEEDED FOR MOPS—if you can volunteer your time during the MOPS meeting to watch children, we can use your help. Please contact Anne Bierman at 815-337-0974.

ADULT EDUCATION— 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.



MEN’S BIBLE STUDY— The men meet weekly on Tuesday’s @ 6:15 a.m. at Three Brothers Restaurant. They are walking their way through the bible. All men welcome.

FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE— Taken from *Inspired Faith 365 Days A Year* by Thomas Nelson
You've Been Sent

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14

Lord, make my life a window for Your light to shine through and a mirror to reflect Your love to all I meet
—Robert Schuller

Moses was raised and educated in Pharaoh's court as a young nobleman. But when God called him to lead his people from slavery he was terrified. He was afraid to speak, much less lead. He had good excuses. He stuttered. He had a criminal past. He had been abandoned by his mother as a baby.

But then he saw God in a burning bush. One by one his excuses were stripped away. His doubts and questions were answered as only God can answer. And he, a refugee far from home, was sent with a message from God.

You've been sent too. With a message from God. No excuses. No giving in to fear. Are you ready to say yes?

The Evangelism Committee has been trying to think of ways to get more people involved in service at church. When we read this motivational reading, we felt everyone has a gift to share.

We would like to compile a list of volunteers who we could contact to help with specific events that might arise and need a few extra helping hands. For example, WACM concert greeters, or lighting of the square cookie distributors, etc. If you would be interested in sharing your gift as a volunteer to be on this list, please contact Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or phone 815-337-6119.

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!



PRESCHOOL RECEIVES FULL ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDATION! - After a two year self-study process, the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association Visitation Team completed a full evaluation of our preschool. We are very excited to announce that the Accreditation Visitation Team has recommended our preschool for a full accreditation to the ELEA!!!

What does this mean for our preschool ministry and our church? We are officially an ELEA Accredited Early Childhood Center. This is an important milestone for our school and is the highest honor a school can achieve within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Our congregation, community and perspective preschool families can be assured that we are a strong Christ-centered, developmentally appropriate program that offers a solid educational foundation for children ages two through five. The ELEA standards give us a sharpened focus on our spiritual development and curriculum as well as our overall mission. We have also put into place an ongoing strategic improvement plan that keeps us on track as our school grows. We look forward to our achievement becoming a powerful marketing tool to help us grow and become eligible for future grants.

This amazing moment in our preschool's history is not possible without the support and dedication of so many people. We thank Pam Richards & Sue Aavang for serving on the ELEA Visitation Team. Thank you to the Accreditation Steering Committee who was a part of this journey from the beginning. We recognize Mike Kozlow, Linda Mindrum, Mary Noe, Tammy Baier and Erica Schwanke. A very big thank you also goes to our teachers, Preschool Committee Members, Congregational Council, Pastor Ken & Pastor Amanda as well as the entire congregation. Our preschool ministry is blessed because of your support and continued prayers.

SABBATICAL LEAVE PROCESS – Renewal, Reflection and Growth

The sabbatical process provides an opportunity for our pastors to step away briefly from their daily obligations to the Church and our congregation and to engage in a period of renewal, reflection and growth. This is not a vacation but time for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining enthusiasm and creativity for their ministry, and for personal growth. The sabbatical is for the sake of the Church as much as it is for the pastor. It is our investment in our pastors and the future.

Much has been accomplished on this strategic goal. Immediately following the strategic planning process, a task group drafted a sabbatical policy that was approved by Council in May 2013. Our continuing support of the sabbatical process is included in the by-laws of the proposed revision of our constitution. Pastor Ken, with assistance from his Mutual Ministry Committee and colleagues, prepared and submitted a grant application to the Lilly Endowment Foundation last month. The Lilly Endowment funds the expenses of congregations and their pastors for about 125 sabbaticals each year. The awards will be announced this August.

Pastor Ken's sabbatical in the summer of 2015 will focus on family, Luther's writing of the Small Catechism and the impact local geography may have had on Luther as he wrote the small catechism, and finally, rest and renewal. Accompanying congregational activities will include Grace family reunions, a web link with a travel guide and information to follow Pastor Ken's travels as he retraces the locations of Luther's writing, and there will be a Luther sites coloring book for the youth. Detailed plans will be shared as they are developed. ~ Ken Hansing



THANK YOU—Mary and I thank you all so much for your get well wishes, and most of all, your prayers. To God's Glory, Mary is improving each day, and gaining strength to be able to come home. I look forward to that day. God's blessings to you. ~ Terry Figard

LIBRARY NEWS - The library has recently received in 8 fiction books by Karen Kingsbury who writes some very touching stories, as well as other fiction books by Terri Blackstock, Randy Alcorn, Lori Wick and Leisha Kelly. Also received in is "The Geo Principal" by Tom Bengtson. If you missed the Women's Retreat this year, we have copies of "Two Scoops of Grace With Chuckles on Top" by Jeanette Lovellie, and for your enjoyment there is a DVD copy of "The Festival of the Arts" concert that was held here at Grace in February. Stop by and check out these new items! Please remember to sign the library card when checking out a book or DVD and place it in the card holder for items borrowed from the library.



"THE LUTHERAN" - The April issue of "The Lutheran" magazine begins with an especially appealing page 3 column by regular contributor, Pastor Peter Marty, titled "Science and Faith". A quote from the article : "The Genesis story was never meant to tell us how the world was created. It is rather a masterful treatise for informing us who created this flying orb in its magnificent universe." Pastor Marty's common sense explanation is well worth seeking out. The issue is waiting for you in the magazine box on the right hand wall just past the bookshelves in the Grace Library. And while you have it open consider the "inside the back cover" column by our new bishop, Bishop Eaton. ~ Howard Hoyt

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—VBS—July 14–July 18, New Member Orientation—July 19, ELCA Day of Service—Sept. 7, Rally Day—Sept. 14

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **May 28** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **May 20**.

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 17

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

Sunday, May 18

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee
9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference

Monday, May 19

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-1/2s, 5s
1:00 PM Mistletoe Magic Craft Workshop
6:30 PM BSA Troop 153

Tuesday, May 20

6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s
9:00 AM Sewing Circle
12:30 PM Preschool 3s

Wednesday, May 21

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

Thursday, May 22

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-1/2s, 5s
12:00 PM DAP
12:00 PM Naomi Circle
12:30 PM Preschool 3s
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Friday, May 23

No Events Currently Scheduled

Saturday, May 24

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, May 25

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day / Church Office Closed



Tuesday, May 27

6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, May 28

9:00 AM MOPS
12:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, May 29

12:00 PM DAP
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Friday, May 30

No Events Currently Scheduled

Saturday, May 31

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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8:30 am-12:00 pm, F

