

JUNE, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 7

“BUT PASTOR KEN, CAN I CALL YOU ON YOUR SABBATICAL?”by Pastor Ken Gibson

Well, not really, as much as I do love all of you I do need this time to be away and to truly spend time with my girls and LUKAS and it will just be really impossible to stay in touch. I will blog and send some pictures from my stops at the Luther Sites, and when I return I will hold an adult forum to share the whole experience.



In fact, the date for that sharing is set so watch for more details. I will present on November 1, All Saints Day. I will be doing some prayerful thinking and reflecting during this time and I just very much need this time now in my life. I will miss you but I will not be able to be contacted. But that doesn't mean I don't love you; it is more like, because I do love you all so much that I need the time for me. That is a hard thing for me to do in general; taking time for me is not something I am very good at. The Bishop is really pretty insistent that I take this time and to pray and reflect. In fact, if I had not scheduled this time, he would have insisted that I get away for a good while with all that is happening in my life.

The truth of it all is that we have Pastor Amanda and she will have Pastor Rebecca Gordon assisting her in my stead so we will have two pastors just like we always do. So then: “No, I will not be able to take calls.” But remember, God loves you and so do I!

ADULT BUS TRIP to L.O.M.C. & White Pines State Park Theatre– Wednesday, **June 10**. A reminder for those of you attending: the bus will be in the lower left parking lot at 8:15 a.m. for loading, please be punctual.

GRACE PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP— All children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us for a fun week of preschool summer camp the week of **June 15th-19th, 2015**. Our theme is Deeper with God: An Under The Sea Adventure! Each day the children will experience Chapel Times, Bible stories, Bible points and games. Camp is a mixture of a regular preschool day and VBS excitement!! Registration fee is \$80.00 for the week. (Receive \$10.00 off with a paid Fall 2015 registration.) The fee includes daily juice & snack, tote bag, and photo & frame. Children will also receive daily Bible Buddies, crafts, souvenirs and trinkets that all relate to our daily Bible lesson. This is a great chance for our current preschoolers to return for a week of summer fun at Grace. It is also a great way for new perspective preschoolers to get to know our teachers. Questions: Contact Mrs. Chris at 815-338-0554 x213 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org.

THANK YOU—Many thanks to all those who prepared food and to everyone who provided their services for our luncheon. ~ the family of Robert Tompkins. I thank everyone who helped me celebrate my 95th birthday. The cards, phone calls, food, doctor's appointments and all the help everyone has given me. ~ Love, Marge Birk



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—Save the dates of **July 20–24!** This year we will be exploring EVEREST, “Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power”. Both student and volunteer registrations are available at the Information Center & online. It’s never too early to register! Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if you have any questions or can help out in any way. This year we are in need of many new adult helpers as well as 5th grade through High School age helpers. It is a great way to show the children of Grace and beyond, the love of a church community.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – Tuesday June 23– Our summer menu has us serving you a Deluxe Cheeseburger Salad with toasted Rolls, Sweet ‘n Sour Beans, Potato Chips and a Red, White and Blue Dessert. For our program I have my Friend Eleanor Station, a lifelong quilter, coming to share with you her “Family Quilted Treasures.” She has some generational quilts that have very interesting stories behind them. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder at the Information Center by **June 21.** Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



SABBATICAL SEND-OFF FOR PASTOR KEN— All Grace families are invited for a “Grace Family Reunion” picnic Sunday, **June 28th** to wish Pastor Ken well on his sabbatical. BBQ King will cater a luncheon to celebrate family and kick-start Pastor Ken’s journey. Lemonade, water, place settings, coleslaw, and delicious pulled pork sandwiches will be provided for each family. The picnic will begin shortly before noon or as soon as the second service ends near the outdoor sanctuary. Following this luncheon, there will be a short program to wish Pastor Ken well on his spiritual journey that will take him initially to Germany. The presence of congregation will be a perfect way to show him the love he has from all of us—his Grace family. If you have any questions, please reach Corey Tafoya at coreytafoya@gmail.com.

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), Marge Birk, Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Rita Cosgrove (sister of Diana King), Jim Davis, Gloria & Ken DeRango (mother and step father of Brian Pilgard), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Clark Drennen (cousin of Bill Fleck), Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), Juanita Dycus, Sophie Frazier (great grand niece of Ila Randolph), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Michael Hansing, Tammy Hansing, Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, Erika Hoppe (mother of Monica Hoefling), Pam Hull Gray (friend of Cathy Meyer), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborrah Evanoff), Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), 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, Ron Pawelczak (father & father-in-law of Andrew & Telina Behrns), 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), Suzanne Stumpff, 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

Sorrows: Helen McClain, Florence Iva Carlson (mother of Dale Carlson)

Joys: Baptism of Gage Richard Medley, baptism of Meghan Adele Reilly

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.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Blessings on these beautiful spring days, filled with rain and delightful glimpses of the summer sun. As we look forward to summer and the accompanying ministries of the season, I give thanks for you, sisters and brothers in Christ who have gathered together at Grace.



Thank you for showing up, for being here to hear God's good news and love one another as Jesus loves us.

This summer brings great opportunities to connect with so many other sisters and brothers in Christ beyond our worshipping community. Throughout June and July our congregation's youth will be meeting new people through confirmation camp, preschool camp, the ELCA Youth Gathering, and Vacation Bible School.

Just as our congregation's youth connects with new people near and far, individuals and families will also spend time traveling and welcoming guests who visit here at Grace. I give thanks for all of these sisters and brothers in Christ that we have yet to meet. May the Holy Spirit bless our traveling and meeting this summer.

In June, a group from Grace will also travel to the annual Synod Assembly for the Northern Illinois Synod to meet with sisters and brothers in Christ from the 150 congregations of our synod. Grace's representatives and guests this year are: Robin Gibbs, Cooper Goerlitz, Russ Goerlitz, Elizabeth Karagianis, Daniel Nattress, and Ken Zank.

I invite you to join me in giving thanks for the people and ministries of our neighboring Lutheran congregations, and for the ministries of the Northern Illinois Synod. Through the work of congregations, synod staff, and synod committees, we are able to share in mission beyond Grace in Woodstock. If you are interested in learning more about our synod's committees, I encourage you to talk with the following Grace members who currently serve on a synod committee: Andy Bellavia, Nominating; Denise Hoover, Social Ministry; and Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, Congregational Life.

The Northern Illinois Synod supports the camping ministries of Lutherdale and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, and supports the seminaries that Pastor Ken and I attended, Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Through our synod, we are connected with companion congregations of the Arcot Lutheran Church in India and the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Thanks be to God for all of these sisters and brothers in Christ that united in Christ we can be partners in mission with so many beautiful children of God.

May this summer season be filled with renewal and recreation, and may you be blessed by meeting new people this season as we continue to share God's grace.

~ Pastor Amanda Bergstrom



RUMMAGE SALE— Thanks to all that participated in the rummage sale (donators, sorters, those that assembled and disassembled the racks, sellers, packers, buyers, etc.). We had a successful sale, \$3,284 was collected. Ten percent will be given to the church (tithe) and the remainder to WACM and The Family Health Partnership. Without so many participants this out-reach to the community would not be possible. Thank you again!

LUTHERAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS—If you are heading to an accredited Lutheran college this fall, you are eligible for the Allen Memorial Scholarship. To apply, go online to the Grace website and download a scholarship form. Simply click on the "Communications and Documents" tab, then scroll over to the "Forms & Documents" section, and scroll down to the Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund Application. Then fill out the form and bring it to the church office by **July 1st**. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

FALL ADULT BUS TRIP - Saturday, **September 26** - "West Side Story" at The Fireside Dinner Theatre in Fort Atkinson, WI. Cost is \$88. For more information please take a flier out of the front of the Activity Binder.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—The article deadline for the July newsletter is June 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>



SUMMER WORSHIP—
Our Contemporary Service has switched 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.

2015 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!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2015: Registration is underway and classes are beginning to fill up for the upcoming school year. Help us spread the word to families looking for a preschool for children ages 2 to 5. We offer programs from 1 day a week up to 5 days a week! Registration forms & tuition rates can be found online @ www.gracewoodstock.org. Contact Mrs. Chris for more information at clearman@gracewoodstock.org. **SAVE THE DATE: August 8th, 2015** is our OPEN HOUSE!!

**PREPARE THE WAY—
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**
Committed—\$351,035.50
Received—\$183,254.50

UPCOMING EDUCATION DATES:
Preschool Summer Camp—**June 15–19**
Vacation Bible School—**July 20–24**



GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
Senior Pastor/Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson
kgibson@gracewoodstock.org
Office Phone: 815-338-0554
Home Phone: 815-527-7215
Associate Pastor
Director of Senior High Ministries
Rev. Amanda Bergstrom
Cell Phone: 630-664-9016
abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org
Director of Communications
Lynn Nattress—lnattress@gracewoodstock.org
Director of Music Ministries
Ron Fredriksen
rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org
Parish Musicians
Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson,
Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti
Director of Preschool Ministry
Chris Learman—clearman@gracewoodstock.org
Preschool Staff
Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue,
Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen
Director of Educational Ministries
Office Assistant
Carrie Fiorina
cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org
Director of Senior Ministries
Shirley Busse
Secretary—Denise Klabunde
dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org
Building Supervisor/Ken Zank
Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge
Officers & Council
Cathy Buhrow, Mike Freeman, Robin Gibbs,
Ken Hansing, Claude Hutchens; Sue Olsen,
Peter Paulson, Adele Petersen, Rob Ribbe,
Beth Miller; Daniel Nattress
council@gracewoodstock.org
Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F