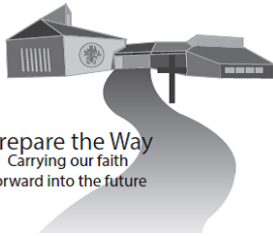


MAY, 2016 • VOLUME 15, NO. 5



Prepare the Way: Capital Campaign Update

Thanks be to God for the generosity and support of our Prepare the Way Capital Campaign! As we approach the half-way mark of our 3 Year Campaign, we would like to celebrate the progress of the campaign projects as well as strive for the potential of all that may be accomplished.

Goal: **\$780,430**
Commitments: \$495,156.06
Received: \$396,016.88

516 Giving Units (Households) at Grace
91 Giving Units committed to campaign
134 Giving Units giving to campaign

Title: 10% of gifts received will be tithed to the Northern Illinois Synod and Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

Priority A Items Completed (amount below or above estimates) *partial= additional areas of building in estimate

Robes	\$5,857.45	(-\$4,142.55)	Furnaces	\$9,393	(-\$27,028)
Narthex Ceiling Tiles	\$4,243.20	(partial project)	Windows	\$2,153.59	(-\$346.41)
Parking Lot	\$231,640	(+\$51,640)	Desktop Printer	\$301.21	(+\$1.21)
Sidewalk lower lot	\$7,498.31	(+\$3,498.31)	Narthex Flooring	\$19,088.79	(partial project)

Priority A Items in Progress (estimate comparisons)

Duplo	~\$5,196	(-\$13,804)
Fire Alarm Upgrade	~\$19,000	(-\$6,000)
Parking Lot Lights	~\$6300	(+\$3,900)

Upcoming Priority A Items (estimates)

Sanctuary Sound System	\$25,000
Organ Repair	\$46,000
Lower Level Ceiling	(partial project)



We prayerfully invite the remaining 382 households who have yet to commit to this Prepare the Way Capital Campaign to consider making a gift to join us in Preparing the Way for the continued and future, life-giving mission and ministries of Grace Lutheran Church.

Remaining A Items: Directional signage denoting sanctuary and school (\$7,000), Dumpster area cap and seal brick (\$600), Commercial freezer (\$3,000), Dishwasher (\$30,000), Paint all interiors (\$2,500), New flooring in preschool room (\$2,400), Remaining flooring, Auto tabletop folder (\$5,300)

Priority B Items: Air conditioning (\$40,081), Power entry doors (\$10,000), Seamless gutters above sanctuary (\$4,000), Refurbish all restrooms (\$12,000), Video displays in narthex for overflow worship (\$7,000), Choir chairs (\$2,625), Music folders (\$550)

Priority C Items: Stoves (\$10,000), Clearstory blinds in sanctuary (\$4,000), Replace sanctuary shades (\$5,000), Snow blower (\$1,700), Electronic sign at property entrance (\$15,000), Bass amplifier (\$400), Guitar amplifier (\$400), Cords, jacks and miscellaneous equipment (\$350), Music stands (\$876)

“SPRINGTIME”**Pastor Ken Gibson**

“Springtime” - when new life comes into bloom and all that once seemed dead comes into new life.

I learned just this afternoon that a farmer I once knew had been killed when he was struck by a train near his farm as he was hauling a load of grain to market. I knew of him, and I can recall sharing time with him discussing life events about his kids, the realities of the markets and genuinely just talking about life and such. I can't say he was a friend but we knew each other and I thought well of him and I hope he did of me. But I do know that he was a man of faith and that the One who brings us all to our “Springtime” knew him too, and that makes all the difference.



“Springtime”; when new life comes into bloom and all that once seemed dead comes into new life.

Thanks Be to God! Rest now Rod, rest in the beauty of “Springtime” forever. Amen



RUMMAGE SALE! - 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 PRESCHOOL/ LABELS FOR EDUCATION: 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. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Chris at 815-338-0554 x213.

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, Spc. Michael Picard, Army Reserves, Corps of Engineers, deployed to Kuwait (friend of the Laird family)

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

Health Concerns: Gerry Bergstrom (friend of Martha & Bill Fleck), Jay Burnette (brother in law to Mike Kozlow), Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Jerry & Tannie Fiorina (parents of John Fiorina), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Patrice Hoover, Mary Hurst (friend of Deborah Evanoff), Lynell Ingram (friend of Kathy Stone), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), the Kamps family, Jonathan Koehn (son of Ron & Mary Koehn), Diane Knowles, Jon Nattress (brother of Bill Nattress) Roberta Nielsen, Don Nusbaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Arne Olson, 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, Doris Sunday, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), Ellie Mae Thompson (Great niece of Gladys & Ken Renner), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Lauryn Trede (granddaughter of Pat Cervantes), Eileen Weide, Karen Wells, Ruth Zirves

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.

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.

GOD, YOU MAKE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

At last summer’s ELCA Youth Gathering, we heard a song that has become a new favorite of mine. It’s simple beauty and powerful words become wonderfully stuck in my mind. Here are a few lyrics from this song, “Beautiful Things,” by Gungor:



“All around	You make beautiful things
Hope is springing up from this old ground	You make beautiful things out of the dust
Out of chaos life is being found in You	You make beautiful things
	You make beautiful things out of us”

As the green blade finally rises this spring, and as signs of hope and Easter new life are budding around us, I cannot help but stand in awe of the beautiful things God creates in nature, out of the dust, and out of us.

My family also gives thanks in sharing our exciting news that we are having a baby. I am due mid-October, and I cannot wait to welcome this new child of God, one more beautiful thing that God creates. We thank you for your support and welcome your prayers.

May this spring be filled with all kinds of beautiful things, and even out of chaos, may life continue to be found in Christ and the promise of the resurrection.

CHOIR CONCERT—The University of Dubuque Choir will be presenting the final concert on their spring tour here at Grace. We look forward to welcoming them on Tuesday, **May 24** for a 7 p.m. choir concert which is open to the public. Grace member Morgan Kunzie is a member of the choir. There is no cost for admission, but a free will offering will be taken at the event.

INTERGENERATIONAL COACH BUS TRIP – Only a few tickets remaining! Wednesday, **May 25, 2016** “Buffet, Bingo & Ballgame” The Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland Indians. Buffet dinner, free Bingo with prizes, Tom Skilling & lower level tickets. Cost is \$75 for Adults, \$50 a Child, & Children under 36” are free. Sign-up in the Activity Binder. please pay to reserve your seat. **The bus will be in the lower left parking lot at 9:15am for loading.** Questions: call Shirley Busse @ 815-338-9063.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – **May 24** Come for a fun afternoon learning how to play the latest dice game: Farkle, which is also called Zilch or Ti Tusen. This fun game is for all ages and any number of players. Our wonderful menu starts out with homemade Spinach Dip with Celery & Carrots, Country Ham Steak with Glazed Apples, Garlic Basil Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hawaiian Rolls and Crater Cake for dessert. Cost is only \$5.00, so invite a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **May 22** Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

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—**May 1:** GI GI’s PLAYHOUSE provides educational and therapeutic programs to families; and in a format that individuals with Down syndrome learn best. **May 8:** HABITAT FOR HUMANITY providing safe and affordable places to live.

"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.

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

NEW BISHOP SURVEY— In anticipation of the June election of a new bishop to serve the Northern Illinois Synod, our synod Transition Team is seeking input from the members of the congregations of our synod. The results of this online survey will be used to create a “profile” of the Northern Illinois Synod for our candidates and could also be used as a beginning point for setting mission and ministry goals for the future. Thank you for taking the time to give your input, you can complete the survey at: <http://nisynod.org/new-bishop-survey/>

BISHOP RETIREMENT FUNDS— At our Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in June, we will be honoring Bishop Wollersheim and Polly upon Bishop Wollersheim’s retirement. In honor of the Bishop and Polly, two funds have been established in their names. They are “The Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Educational Debt Retirement Fund” and “The Polly Wollersheim Fund for Literacy and Education – Arcot Lutheran Church, India.” Additional information about these funds can be found on the synod website or posted on the Activity Board in the narthex. If you would like to make a gift to either of these funds, you can write a check to Grace by **June 1** and note the fund in the memo line: “Bishop- Debt Retirement” or “Bishop- Literacy and Education,” and Grace will send all funds received to the synod office for announcing gifts at synod assembly.

CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING—All are welcome to join the preschool teachers on **June 2**, as we attend our yearly CPR & First Aid Certification Training. With a minimum of 8 people, we are able to hold class here at Grace. The class is \$40.00 a person payable to Grace Lutheran Preschool. The class will cover CPR & First Aid procedures such as caring for burns & wounds, AED training, epi-pen training and the Heimlich maneuver. At the end of the class attendees will receive a CPR/First Aid Certificate from Emergency Response Health & Safety Services good for one year. We have an excellent instructor! Please contact Mrs. Chris @ 815-338-0554 if interested.

2016 NOMINATIONS—The Nominating Committee invites you to prayerfully consider serving as an elected committee member for terms beginning in fall 2016. Please complete a nomination form found on the information desk, and return your form to the nomination box by June 5 for consideration. Committee member openings include: church council, nominating committee, endowment committee, preschool committee, and delegates for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.

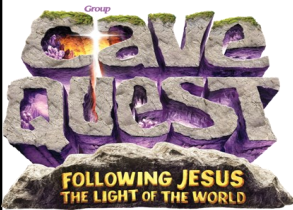
SYNOD ASSEMBLY IN-KIND OFFERING. Grace’s voting members and pastors will attend the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly this June 16-18. Congregations across our synod are invited to send in-kind offering survival packages to be donated to local domestic violence women’s shelters. You can drop off completed kits at Grace by **June 12**. Survival Kit Instructions: Fill a reusable grocery bag with one of each of the following items: shower gel/soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, brush and comb, full size shampoo and conditioner, razor for shaving (women’s), floss, face wash, one package diapers (choose one size newborn through 5), deodorant, baby wipes and diaper rash cream.

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.

 **PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP**—All children ages 3 to 5 are welcome to our F.R.O.G.!! Fully Rely On God Summer Camp Week at Grace Preschool! This week is a mixture of a VBS & preschool experiences. Each day the children learn a new Bible message & theme along with arts & crafts, games inside and outside and special snacks. Camp fee is \$80.00/week. This includes snacks & juice, daily crafts, tote bag to use for the week, picture & picture frame, daily Bible buddies & trinkets. Please contact Mrs. Chris at 815.338.0554 x213 for more information or visit our website www.gracewoodstock.org for a registration form.

SAVE THE DATE: Adult Bus Trip to see Million Dollar Quartet—Sept. 17

GRACE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS—The Endowment Committee at Grace Lutheran Church is responsible for administering the Readel Memorial Scholarship Fund and Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund. Both of these scholarships are for post high school education. The Readel Memorial Scholarship Fund is available to students pursuing a full-time Christian vocation or related areas. The Allen Memorial Scholarship is for students attending an accredited Lutheran institution. These funds are for active members of Grace Lutheran Church who are in good standing. The money awarded each year depends on the amount available. Monies are to be paid directly to the institution and not to the student or parents. Applications are available in the Church Office or on the Grace website in the File Cabinet under Resources. Scholarship applications for both the Readel and Allen funds are due into the Grace Lutheran Church Office by **July 1, 2016**. All scholarship applications are reviewed by the Endowment Committee and voted on during the quarterly meeting in July; payments are made in August.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—Save the Dates of July 18–22 for another exciting VBS. This year we will be gearing up for an over-the-top underground adventure! At Cave Quest vacation Bible school, kids experience God’s Word in surprising and unforgettable ways! We will ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God’s love, a love that takes us through life’s dark times. Register today online or at the information desk. Volunteers needed. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office with questions.

GRACE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL— Fall 2016 Registration is now open! Classes are beginning to fill up. Sessions are offered from 1 day a week up to 5 days a week for children ages 2 through 5. A registration form can be found on www.gracewoodstock.org, the Information Center or Education Foyer (downstairs). A completed registration form and paid \$50.00 fee guarantees your child a spot in our school. To schedule a tour of our preschool or for any questions, please contact Mrs. Chris @ 815.338.0554 or at clearman@gracewoodstock.org. Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE...AUGUST 6TH, 2016...** Grace Preschool OPEN HOUSE!!

2016 BULLETIN & PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSOR DATES AVAILABLE— This is a great way to honor/memorialize a loved one or special occasion while helping to defray the cost of these items. Sponsor sheets 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.

KUBOTA—Grace has a Kubota Zero Turn tractor in good condition for sale. Kubota Zero Turn 2G327P-60 lawn mower. 60 inch deck and 27 hp. There are 1091 hours on the mower. We are asking \$4,500.00, offers considered. Inquiries and questions call the church office at 815-338-0554.

FUNERAL PLANNING— Do you have favorite scripture passages and/or hymns? Is there something you hope to have included in your funeral service? We have a simple worksheet where you can note your favorite scripture, hymns, and other details, and we invite everyone to fill one out to share with your family and bring to the church office so we can file it away, and at some point know how to best honor your wishes. Please stop by the church office to pick up a Funeral Planning Worksheet, or you can find a copy on Grace’s website under “Communication & Documents,” and then “Forms and Documents.” Thanks be to God, that even in the face of death, we proclaim the promise of the resurrection.



SIMPLY GIVING—Do you know about Simply Giving? Simply Giving is a confidential, no charge, automatic withdrawal program; and it is one option available for giving tithes and offerings. Simply Giving provides an option to give on a regular basis (weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly). Enrollment forms to sign up are available at the Information Desk, and on Grace’s website (under “Communication and Documents,” then “Forms & Documents”). As in our giving and our annual estimates of giving, if your situation changes, automatic giving through Simply Giving can be changed by contacting the church office. Automatic gift amounts can be changed, or put on hold with one week’s notice. Please contact the church office with any questions about Simply Giving.

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—\$495,156.06
Received—\$396,016.88
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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Home Phone: 815-527-7215

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Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

Director of Preschool Ministry

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Preschool Staff

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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