



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grace for Today

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A BIT OF PERSONAL NEWS..... from Pastor Ken

As most of you know, Yvonne Nowak and I feel very blessed to have found each other, and it is with pleasure that we announce our plans to be married on June 3 in the Wartburg Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa. We wish we could invite all of you, but it is really not possible. This does not mean that we don't love each and every one of you, and we want to thank you in advance for your love, support and good wishes.



In an effort to share our happiness and express our thanks for all you mean to us, we will sponsor an Oktoberfest event much like the one we all shared back in 2015 when I returned from Sabbatical. In this 500 anniversary year of the Reformation, we think it is in good order to have such a celebration. The German "Ump-Pa- Pa" band is reserved and the meal is being planned for a splendid OKTOBERFEST here at Grace, **October 1**. So break out your lederhosen and your polka spirit and make plans to join us in celebration. Thank you all so very much.

RUMMAGE SALE - Collection dates are **May 15** from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., **May 16 and 17** from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sale dates are **May 18** (3 p.m. to 7 p.m.), **19** (8 a.m. to 3) and **20** (8 a.m. to noon). Everyone is welcome to help sort items and help with the sale (much help needed). 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, tvs, paint, hazardous materials, large furniture and large appliances, cribs or car seats.

QUARTERLY BUDGET INFORMATION: In an effort to keep the congregation in the loop with budget matters, a quarterly report will be published that will show the quarter's income and expenses; what was budgeted for the quarter as far as income and expenses are concerned; and what the total 2017 budget allocated for income and expenses. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Cathy Buhrow at buhrowfamily@sbcglobal.net, or call 815-451-1768.

	Giving	Expenses	Net Income
Actual 1 st Quarter	\$125,884.56	\$151,852.43	\$-25,967.87
Budgeted for 1 st Quarter	\$136,771.65	\$149,160.13	\$-12,388.66
Total Year Budget	\$591,200.18	\$605,442.69	\$-14,242.51

LIFE LINE SCREENING- Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Grace Lutheran Church. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; Carotid Artery (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a Heart Rhythm Screening (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your Community Circle discount and your Preferred Appointment!

GRACE SCHOLARSHIPS- 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 Christian vocation or continuing education. 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 section *Forms and Documents* under *Communication and Documents*. Scholarship applications for both the Readel and Allen funds are due into the Grace Lutheran Church Office by July 1, 2017. All scholarship applications are reviewed by the Endowment Committee and voted on during the quarterly meeting in July; payments are made in August.

In 2016 Allen Scholarships of \$1,092 were awarded to Andy Buhrow, Zachary Cook, Rebecca Einspahr, Sierra Meiners, Abigail Roberts, and Amber Roberts. Katy Sheridan was awarded a Readel scholarship of \$5,000 to attend Stephen Ministry training.

Members of the Endowment Committee are Bill Kreznor, Byron Peterson, Cindy Meyer, Hugh Frisbie, and Chuck Varys, President.

BLOOD DRIVE– Our next blood drive will be on **May 21st** at Grace on the Coach Bus. Once again donors get to help save lives in the comfort of "the bus". Please mark your calendars, tell your fellow Grace members, and help our community by donating blood. This is one of the many ways we can share God's Grace.

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 Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop Jeff Clements, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military, Lt. Thomas Stock serving in Africa (nephew of Tammy Hansing)

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

Health Concerns: Rev. Kenneth Ahlstrand, Keith Bentley (friend of Diane Baker-Lockwood's niece), Lois Bloese, John Bloese, Dee Bohn, Jan Cawvey (friend of Kathy Stone), Ian Clark (uncle of Bill Fleck), Ken DeVogelaere, Patrice Dunn, Verna Eslick, Tannie Fiorina (mother of John Fiorina), Cheryl Flemming (mother of Kristy Nellessen), John W. "Jack" Fylpaa (father of Stephane Fylpaa-Asher), Paul Gergolla (son-in-law of Eileen Weide), Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Martha & Bill Fleck), Devin Harms (friend of Joe Evanoff), Al Henniges, Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborrah Evanoff), Dwight Jensen, the Kamps family, Diana King, Nancy Knieja (friend of Martha Fleck), Diane Knowles, Keith Kulpinski (friend of Spanbauers & Thurows), Colleen Kuraszek (friend of Adele Petersen), Ken Lindenmier (brother-in-law of Diane Baker-Lockwood), John Mahoney, Renee Merklin (friend of Rachel Bratanick), Tammy Millman (daughter of Karen Millman), Carl Neubaum (son of Donna Neubaum), Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, John Oliver (friend of Ron & Mary Koehn), Sue Olsen, Arne Olson, Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Sheila Readel, Rene Rebman (uncle of Ron & Mary Koehn), 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, Ginny Stroh (mother of Fay Wilson), 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), Bob Unglaube, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Patrick Tindall

Joy: Baptism of Aynsley May Young (daughter of Dever & Tanya Young)

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.

CHRIST OUR COMPANION.....by Pastor Amanda

"Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes.

Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise." ELW 374



Blessings on this Easter season, where the joy of Easter morning carries us forward into spring and into newness of life in Christ. In this season of life together as a community of faith, we will mark memorable endings and beginnings. May the risen Christ indeed be our companion, our hope for the journey, and may our eyes be opened.

In the weeks ahead, we will give thanks for faith formation through Sunday school, early education in Preschool, and for music ministries, as classes and choirs pause for the summer months. Thanks be to God for these students, teachers, singers, musicians, and leaders.

I look forward to new beginnings in the season ahead as well. The faithful ministry of PADS volunteers will shift to summer lunches and support of Compassion for Campers and the ongoing Old Firehouse Assistance Center. Grace's church council will meet in May for a council retreat, praying indeed for the risen Christ to grant us vision and hope for the journey. And in this month ahead we will celebrate high school graduates, and prepare for summer camp ministries and Vacation Bible School.

I invite you to take note of times that you are aware of Christ's presence this month. When are the times that you feel companionship, hope, or nourishment and compassion? Will there be a time you feel your eyes opened to Christ's vision, or feel your heart burn? My prayers are with you for this Easter season and month of May.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – May 23 – We're having an indoor cookout; grilled turkey burgers on a bun with all the trimmings, macaroni salad, copper penny salad, corn salad and Oma's rhubarb cake with iced tea & lemonade. Then, Jeff Bluhm, Executive Director of Lutherdale, will tell us about the "54 Word Program" a new adult program they are offering. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend or two! If your friend hasn't attend a Senior Luncheon this year, both you and your friend will receive a dollar off coupon toward a future Senior Luncheon. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by May 21. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

COACH BUS TRIP- Sunday, August 6 – *Church Basement Ladies* – We are going to the Fireside Dinner Theatre to see this great musical that takes place in a rural Minnesota church. It features four distinct characters who run the kitchen as they organize a record breaking Lutefisk Dinner, a funeral of a dear friend, a Hawaiian Easter Fund raiser and a steaming hot July Wedding. Our three course, Boneless Pork Chop Dinner, sounds wonderful and of course their shops will have new merchandise to browse through. For more information or to sign up, see the Activity Binder. Cost is \$90 Sign up and pay before July 2 to avoid the \$10 late registration fee. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- Our VBS theme this year Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose. This will be a great week of innovation and science fun. Kids discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Mark your calendar for **July 17-21**. Vacation bible school needs up to 75 volunteers(ages 6th grade to adult) to help out throughout the week from small jobs to running stations. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if interested.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION— Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on Sunday **June 25, 2017** at 11:00 a.m. following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will be having juice, coffee and some sweet treats. Those that would like to become members of Grace or get more information on what it means to be a member of the family here at Grace, please sign up at the Welcome Center in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.

LUTHERLAND TOUR DEADLINE ! Grace's trip to see the places that Luther lived and changed the world through his passion for the Gospel is planned and the deadline is close. The cost is \$3,299 and includes airfare, land transportation, hotel, breakfast daily, 5 dinners, tour manager, and admission fees. The dates are **November 27-December 7, 2017**. The registration deadline is **May 15**. Call the church office for more information.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—The deadline for the June newsletter is July 15. Send articles to Tammy Baier at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: 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>

PREPARE THE WAY



Committed—	\$497,556.06
Received—	\$486,722.45
Goal—	\$780,430.00



Stephen Ministers

Share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting?

Consider serving as a Stephen Minister. For more information, please contact Katy Sheridan or Pastor Ken

WACM COOKBOOKS

Would make a great Gift! They are available for sale at the Information Center. They are \$14.95 each and all proceeds go to support Woodstock Area Community Ministries.

SAVE THE DATES-

Blood Pressure Checks **MAY 7...**
Rummage Sale **MAY 18-20...**
Blood Drive **MAY 21...**
Senior Lunch **MAY 23...**
Sky Ranch **JUN 9-19...**
NIS Assembly **JUN 16-17...**
Senior Lunch **JUN 27...**
Life Line Screening **JUL 13...**
VBS JUL 17-21...
Senior Lunch **JUL 25...**
Senior Lunch **AUG 22...**
Senior Lunch **SEP 26...**

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.

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



GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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