

JUNE 25, 2014—JULY 8, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 13

CONFIRMATION CAMP(S) LET THE EXPERIENCES BEGIN.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



As you all read this issue of Grace for Today, I will be engaged with 18 of our confirmation youth attending a week of confirmation camp at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, WI. There will be a second week of campers in July. In finding words to describe a week of camp with our young people the words that come to my mind are: energizing, spirit-filled, joyful, emotional, and perhaps even life changing. Survey after survey report that a high percentage of pastors first feel a sense of call toward being a pastor while attending a week like the ones we will be experiencing. These are amazing days and we do it all with each other and WITHOUT any electronics! Yes, that’s right; “NO CELL PHONES.” Just time spent with other young people exploring what it means to be a person of faith.

Grace has a long standing tradition of attending confirmation camp and it is my joy to serve with our young people as they grow toward affirming their faith in Christ through our confirmation program. I must confess a little here; “I love these young people, and I love going to camp with them each year. It is usually hot and very humid and I still love every minute of the time we spend together.”

I do ask that you pray for our young people during these weeks of camp for Spirit filled days and safe camping, because the experience you will be praying for may very well be life changing!

VINEYARD UPDATE: LET THE PLANTING PREP BEGIN!...

”Jesus said; I am the vine and you are the branches!”



On Saturday June 21, 2014 a meeting was held that laid out the steps that will be taken to start putting in our Grace Vineyard. By way of a wonderful power point, and personal knowledge, Steve DeBerg presented to all who were in attendance the ground preparation that we will undertake this late summer and fall in preparation for planting our grapes in the spring of next year. The plan was actually to perhaps plant grapes this year but, due to a winter that we would all like to forget, there are actually no grapes to purchase until next spring. Decisions on types of grapes to grow and location of the vineyard were presented and we do still invite others who are interested to be a part of this exciting Grace opportunity. Watch for further updates and work days that will offer opportunities for members of ALL ages to take part in this project. This will be a fun community building experience for all who wish to take part. I ask that if you are interested in supporting this new ministry, to be a branch, it will be fun!

LUTHERAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS—Are you heading to an accredited Lutheran college this fall? Did you know that Grace has an Allen Memorial Scholarship fund available for students going to Lutheran colleges? 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.



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, June 29, 2014
Lectionary 13, Proper 8
Third Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

READINGS:

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday, July 6, 2014
Lectionary 14, Proper 9
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

READINGS:

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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, Katie Arana, Shirely Berna, Lois Bloese, Deanna Bohn, Frank Bunch, Jim Davis, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), George Erber, Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Debby Hoeflich (daughter of Bill & Marlene Botts), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Ruth Iwanicki, Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Art Koeller, Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), John McMahan, Melissa McMahan, Gail Mueller, Jesse Myjak, June Noel (mother of Marylee Steinwehe), Herb Neubaum, Don Nusbaum, Gloria Ogle, Irene Onofrey (friend of Shirley Berna), Alice Pate, Dorothy Potoczky, Hazel Powell, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Dave Ribbe (father of Rob Ribbe), Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox

SORROW: Doris Zank (mother of Ken Zank)

JOY: Marriage of Julie Antonello & Gary Gharidini

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.

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Last weekend, I traveled with a group from Grace to Augustana College in Rock Island, for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Grace's delegates and visitors were: Elizabeth Acosta, Gayle Hoch, Denise Hoover, Chris Olsen, Amber Roberts, Mark Schwanke, Pastor Ken, and Johanna. 😊 At Synod Assembly, we joined with members and rostered leaders of congregations throughout Northern Illinois for worship, workshops, and the voting work of the church. It was a joy to spend this time with fellow sisters and brothers, gathered together in the name of the triune God.



The theme for this year's assembly, "We Are Church Together," invites us to celebrate community and rejoice that we are not alone in life, in faith, or in ministry. We are church together, with each other at Grace, with neighbors in Woodstock, with congregations in Northern Illinois, and with nationwide and global partners. I give thanks for the reminder that God's church is wide, varied, and diverse, and that in Christ we are united as one with people near and far.

This year at synod assembly, we also shared in worship and celebrated the ordination of three new pastors in the synod. I remember with thanksgiving my ordination at synod assembly three years ago, and am so glad to be 'church together' with you at Grace these past three years. Thank you for sharing in life and ministry together, I look forward to seeing how God will lead and guide us in mission and ministry in the years to come.

(photo: Grace Synod Assembly delegates enjoying lunch and catching up on news in *Grace for Today*.)



NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE NOW—Do you know of someone that would be a benefit to one of our committees or our council here at Grace? Are you interested in one of these positions? Please take the time to fill out a 2014 nomination form. Forms and nomination box are available at the information Center until **July 1st**. Don't wait, fill out a form today.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—Registration Forms available on-line and at the Information Center. VBS dates are July 14th –18th. This year we will be exploring the world of Weird Animals "Where Jesus' love is one of a kind". Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if you are interested in helping. 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.



"SHARE THE BOUNTY"— Sunday's there will be a table in the front courtyard. If you have extra plants or produce to share please place your items on the table. If you can use any of the items, please feel welcome to take them home. It's all about "Sharing" God's Grace.

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.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION—It is time for a new member class! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on July 19, at 10 a.m., in Grace Center. We will be having juice, coffee and some homemade goodies. 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 Information Center in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **July 9** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **July 1**.

ADULT COACH BUS TRIP – Saturday, **August 2**, 10:00am – 8:00pm “Wine Me, Dine Me”

Kick back, relax and enjoy a fun filled day. We begin our day shopping at Crimson Ridge in Rockford, a shop full of unique and quality name brand items. Ride in air conditioned comfort as you enjoy a Jimmy Johns sub lunch on the bus. Relax at Silver Moon Winery in Lanark for a wine and food tasting, take home the souvenir glass. Then we travel to Timber Lake Playhouse in Lake Carroll to see Les Miserables, the most popular musical in the world! For your dinner pleasure we will be stopping at Famous Fossil Winery in Freeport for their annual Smoked Pork Chop Dinner. **Non-alcoholic beverages will be offered at the wineries.** Cost: \$80. For more information or to sign up, please see the Activity Binder. Questions: Shirley Busse 815-338-9063



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! Look who we found reading the newsletter:



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.

MISTLETOE MAGIC is **November 1, 2014**: Our annual benefit to raise funds for Turning Point, Direct Assistance Program and the Wednesday Nite PADS homeless shelter. Last year through our combined efforts, we raised \$22,000 to serve these local charities. There are many places for participation in this program. This is an Evangelism, Fellowship, Stewardship, Social Ministry multigenerational event. That means YOU! This event celebrates all of us, who we are as God's people ready to serve and become a part of the family. Find a place to be a part of the Magic! Mistletoe Magic! It's a party and you are ALL invited.



New Gourmet Food Department: This department will include home canned items including: jams, jellies, salsa, relish and other garden produce. Also baking mixes, cookies, tea (beverage) mixes and other specialty foods. The Fair Trade coffee items will be featured here as well. This new section will be artfully displayed as a specialty shopping area and will give more room for our Bake Sale section. If you'd like to help plan/organize this new department please contact Cathy Meyer at tcmeier2@gmail.com, 815-338-0512.

Artisan Jewelry Department: Sue Beckman is heading up this popular department. We have many talented people who love to craft one of a kind beaded jewelry. We invite persons to create a couple of pieces of jewelry (or more) that you would donate. This may include earrings, or earring/necklace sets, and or bracelets. A variety of styles would be welcome for our eclectic group of shoppers. Think contemporary, upscale, and fun! If you desire a workshop atmosphere to collaborate on projects please let us know. Contact Sue Beckman 815-338-7965 or 4beckman@comcast.net, or overall chair Cathy Meyer.

Grace Sewers: Carol Baker has graciously opened her home for sewing dates (338-2976). This talented group of regulars are busy creating wonderful handcrafted items for our shoppers. We have many kits all cut and ready to sew, including fun play clothes for children, items for the baby nursery, home decor, accessories, pet blankets, tea cozies and much more. As space is limited, you can still be involved by sewing at home. If you need suggestions or would like a ready made project to begin, please contact, Karen Reinhard at 815-338-3639, kereinhard@yahoo.com or Cathy Meyer 815-338-0512, tcmeier2@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES—VBS—July 14-July 18, New Member Orientation—July 19, ELCA Day of Service—Sept. 7, Sunday School Meet & Greet—Sept. 7, Rally Day—Sept. 14, PADS Meal—Sept. 15



CONNECTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDY—Update

We are thrilled to have ten people participating in Unit Two of our Connections Small Group Study. This unit, Living Confidently, focuses on The Apostles' Creed. During Session Two, participants read Psalm 27 and then created their own prayer based upon that reading which we'd like to share with you:

Lord of my light and salvation hear the cries of your people for help, strength and guidance.

Be with us under all circumstances.

Guide us in your ways, O God, on a level path that we might have peace, courage and wisdom along the path of our lives.

For all your strength, protection and connections, we give you thanks. Amen

Our next unit, Living Spiritually, will examine the Lord's Prayer and it's connections to our lives today. Watch for sign-up information for this third unit later this summer.

ADULT EDUCATION— The “Sunday by Sunday” Book Group is also now on Summer Schedule and meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor, immediately following the Contemporary Service. All are welcome to attend.



PIANO NEEDS A NEW HOME—We are looking for a new home for the baby grand piano that is currently in the choir room at church. It functions well for the average player, however it cannot stay in tune with the constant use that it receives at church. There is no charge for the piano, we just ask that you arrange to have it moved. Please contact Ron Fredriksen for details and to arrange pick-up.

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE— We are excited about all of the new projects to work on this year, and the planning has begun. If you know of any projects within the community, or within our church family, please contact Pastor Amanda, or the church office. Watch for sign-up sheets and more information to come soon! Save the date of **September 7** to join with your Grace family and the entire ELCA family as we reach out into communities on this nationwide day of service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET & GREET— Mark your calendars to attend the Sunday School Meet & Greet on Sunday, **Sept. 7** at 9:35 a.m. This is a great way to get the children introduced to their new Sunday School teachers and classrooms before the first day of Sunday School on **Sept. 14**.



COMPASSION 4 CAMPERS— Grace will once again be serving a summer lunch for our neighbors, many of whom are without shelter this summer while the PADS sites are closed. Each of the congregations in WACM are joining together to provide a meal every Monday during the summer at the PADS permanent site, just down the street from Grace on

Kishwaukee Valley Rd. Please see the sign-up sheet on the board to donate food items or to volunteer to cook and serve. Grace's meal will be Monday, **Sept. 15**, donated items should be in the kitchen by Sunday morning **Sept. 14**. Volunteers on Monday will meet to serve food from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please contact Lanna Einspahr or a member of the Social Ministry Committee with any questions, or to volunteer for this meal.



WE NEED YOUR STORIES— Were you moved by the Passion Reading on Palm Sunday or by the First Communion Sacrament shared? Not every church member can attend all services or events, and we want to hear about your experiences, so we would like you to share your stories here. You can also send a “View From The Pew”. You may submit your articles to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org. (Follow-up stories will run as time/space permit, and may be edited.)

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, June 28

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, June 29

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, June 30

6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
6:45 PM Connections Bible Study

Tuesday, July 1

6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
9:00 AM Sewing Circle
6:45 PM Evangelism Committee

Wednesday, July 2

9:30 AM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM New Praise Singers

Thursday, July 3

12:00 PM DAP

Friday, July 4

Independence Day / Church Office Closed

Saturday, July 5

High School Youth Group Summer Trip
9:00 AM Band & New Praise Singers
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, July 6

High School Youth Group Summer Trip
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group

Monday, July 7

High School Youth Group Summer Trip
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
6:45 PM Connections Bible Study

Tuesday, July 8

6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
9:00 AM Sewing Circle

Wednesday, July 9

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, July 10

12:00 PM DAP

Friday, July 11

No Events Currently Scheduled

Saturday, July 12

7:00 AM Run for Hope
9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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