

JUNE, 2016 • VOLUME 15, NO. 6

“The Truth”.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

Ok, so I have more devotional books than I can use on a daily basis, really. At the time I purchased them, they all spoke to me making me add them to my shelves. On most occasions I usually find my way back to my old faithful. A devotional that I have used to help me in my prayer life, time and time again. Interestingly enough, that devotional is called; “A Guide to Prayer“ and indeed that is exactly what it does for me. Consistently that text guides me into a place of prayer and devotion. On this day however, (the first day after the feast of the Pentecost), I was moved, I would suggest, thru the power of the Holy Spirit, to read from a more recent purchase.

The text is titled; “Martin Luther, Day by Day We Magnify You. Daily Readings for the Entire Year.” These are, as the title suggests, daily readings and writings by the Good Doctor Luther himself. Therein I read the following;

Monday

We Begin in Weakness.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. (1Corinthinas 1:27)

Christ began his kingdom through the untaught laypersons and simple fishermen who had not studied the Scriptures. It sounds very foolish that the Christian church should have begun with those poor beggars and the scandalous preaching of the crucified Jesus of Nazareth, who was mocked, defiled, slandered, scourged, and finally as a blasphemer and rioter nailed to the cross and shamefully done to death, as his title on the cross proves: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” So on Pentecost the apostles preached that he suffered wrong and violence, and that those who nailed him to the cross and killed him had gravely sinned. Through this preaching, Christ’s kingdom and the Christian church began. This is a daring deed of the apostles and disciples, and it is a great comfort to them that they were given power to preach such tidings openly on Pentecost.

In what does that might and strength consist? In nothing but the Word and the Spirit. See what power Peter has-indeed not Peter only but all the others as well! How sure they are of their message, how mightily do they use the Holy Scriptures! I could not master the Scriptures as well, and though I am doctor of divinity and these are fishermen who had not read the Bible.

Thus Christendom began with the word of the poor fishermen, and with the despised and disdained work of God, which is called Jesus of Nazareth, nailed to the cross. {Sermon for Pentecost, 1534.}

So then; the truth is that I, and maybe all of us, need not be so concerned about which devotional aid to choose and to seek. For it seems the whole Church started from very humble beginnings and I am reminded that; “God’s foolishness is wiser than wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.” (1 Corinthians 1:25)

So then HAPPY PENTECOST! May the SPIRIT OF TRUTH fill you up each day as we dwell with the Word!



Synod Assembly Prayers.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

I invite you to pray for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly which will meet at Augustana College on June 16-18. This year, your pastors, Judy Rooney (Grace member and Diaconal Minister), and Grace's lay voting delegates: Carrie Fiorina, Brian Gerloff, Paul Lockwood, Daniel Nattress, and Martha Fleck will travel to participate in this 29th Annual Synod Assembly.

In addition to the worship services, annual elections, Bible studies, workshops, guest speakers, resolutions, and work of the synod, this year we will be electing a new bishop. Bishop Gary Wollersheim has served as bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod for the past 18 years. We give thanks for his service and look forward to recognizing and celebrating his time as bishop. I also invite you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the bishop election process. This is an exciting, new time for our synod, and your prayers are greatly appreciated. If you have questions about the bishop election process, or have in mind gifts and qualities of the next bishop, please be sure to talk with me, Pastor Ken, or one of our lay voting delegates.

I am grateful for the ways in which Grace and the Northern Illinois Synod share in mutual ministry. Through our congregation's tithes of mission support, members who serve on synod committees, camps and campus ministry, and the sharing of resources and events from various synod committees and leaders, we are connected to a great group of sisters and brothers in Christ throughout Northern Illinois, the ELCA, and across the world in our companion synods.

Thank you for keeping the upcoming synod assembly and bishop's election in your prayers. We look forward to sharing with you about the event when we return. May the Holy Spirit, whose gifts we celebrate in this season of Pentecost, be with us all in the changing seasons ahead.



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 & his family; Pastor Amanda Bergstrom & her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: 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, 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 McMahon), Ellie Mae Thompson (Great niece of Gladys & Ken Renner), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Warren W (friend of Kimberly Troutman), Eileen Weide, Karen Wells, Ruth Zirves

Joy: Baptism of Oliver Osvaldo Hernandez, Michael James Dantino, Lillian Algene Nulle, Rayce James Nulle, Mason Thomas Schultz and Ellis Robert Hall. Birth of Liam Michael Schaefer on May 15, 2016 (grandson of Sheri & Michael Conover). Marriage of Joshua Einspahr & Kailey Anderson on May 28, 2016.

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.

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 or any items listed 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.

GRACE COOKS COMMITTEE - Spirituality Team is looking for a few individuals for this committee. We have the need for a coordinator and cooks. The coordinator arranges meals for families going through life changes and meets with our team approximately 3-4 times a year to give a report about this committee. Requests come through the pastors and the coordinator would contact the rotating cooks list. The cooks prepare three meals per request. In 2015 there were 3 requests. Pray and ponder these vacancies with an open heart and let us know if you have any questions or are interested. Please contact Terese Paulson 815-337-7633 or the church office 815-338-0554.



RUMMAGE SALE! - Thanks to everyone who donated, setup, sorted, priced, cashiered, put up & took down signs, took down tables, and packed items not sold. Without all the help, the sale would not be successful. We raised \$2,866 that will be given to Woodstock Area Community Ministries, Family Health Partnership Clinic, and a tithe to the church. A majority of items not sold were donated to Salvation Army and the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Woodstock.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS- We give thanks to Lynn Nattress for her time of faithful service as Grace's Director of Communications. We are grateful for the time she has shared to assist our congregation in communicating and sharing God's grace. We wish Lynn all the best in her new leadership role at Apple Creek Flowers. We are glad to welcome Tammy Baier as Grace's new Director of Communications. Tammy also serves as Director of the Cherubs, Messengers, and Joyful Sound Choirs and as one of Grace's Preschool Teachers. For future news or article submissions for Day One or Grace for Today, please email Tammy at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org.

SENIOR LUNCHEON - June 28 Grace is well known for having the best funeral luncheon in town. Penne will be helping us make a fabulous funeral luncheon for you to enjoy. This is an all you can eat buffet that will feature ham, turkey, cheeses, breads, relishes, salads, and desserts- along with iced tea & lemonade. After lunch, Donna Pfeiffer from the Schneider, Leucht, Merwin & Cooney Funeral Home will share with us how to have our funeral, the way we desire! Cost is only \$5.00, so invite a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by June 26 Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

SCHEDULE A VISIT FOR PRESCHOOL- Help us spread the word about our great preschool. There will be summer visiting opportunities during the time of Summer Camp, **June 15th, 2016** .

Morning times: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

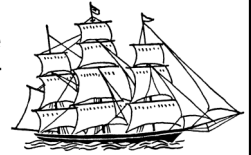
Evening times: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This is a great time to see the classrooms and meet the teachers. For more information or to schedule a visit please call Preschool Director Chris Learman at 815/338-0554 x213



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-The deadline for the July newsletter is June 15. Send articles to Tammy Baier at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Office at 815-338-0554.

COACH BUS TRIP – Thursday, July 28 from 9:00am – 7:00pm “Tall Ships Chicago”- 2016 is the year that these 13 beautiful ships will come and dock at Navy Pier for one weekend only. To enjoy Navy Pier and Dockside viewing of these ships the cost is only \$45. If you would like a “Boarding Pass” to go aboard and tour 8 of these ships the cost is \$65. If you would like all the above, plus a 75 min. “Sail Away” voyage on your choice of 5 different ships the cost is \$115. Please sign up and pay by June 28. A \$10 late fee will be added to payments made after this date. For more information or to sign up see the Activity Binder. Questions: call Shirley Busse @ 815-338-9063



LIBRARY NEWS- Stop by and check out several books and DVD's that were recently received into the library. They are on the back display rack.

Some of the new books are: “When God Winks at You”, “All Hands Stand By to Repel Boarders”, “The Reason for God”, “Heaven is for Real”, and “Grace Eventually”.

The DVD's are - *David & Saul*, *Great People of the Bible*, *Greatest Story Ever Told*, *Veggie Tales-Bob Lends a Helping Hand* and *Veggie Tales -The Ultimate Silly Song*.

WORK DAYS SCHEDULED- July 23 and July 30!!!

As was stated, as we started the Prepare the Way Capital Campaign, there will be sweat equity involved in making so many things happen here at Grace. Such is the case as we begin work in Grace Center. Just like the narthex, new ceiling tiles will be installed in Grace Center. Two days will be needed as we are going to do a little extra sprucing as we install these new tiles. So then, here is what we will be doing:

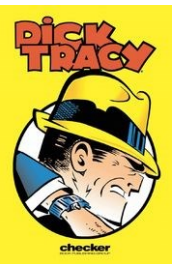
Saturday, July 23 at 8:00AM, we will be removing all the old ceiling tiles and paint the hanging strips that hold the tiles. We will then need to let those strips dry.

Saturday July 30 at 8:00AM, we will install all the new tiles!

During that week, we will also be updating the communication capabilities in Grace Center (See Bill Nattress if you can assist him running cable etc. during the week between)

Come out on one or both work days and join in the fun! **YES FUN!** These, “work /sweat equity days” are indeed fun. Many hands make light work and together we share in the commitment to enhancing our space for our continued mission and ministry now and for the future. Yes we will have fun “Preparing the Way” for generations to come. A sign-up sheet for each day can be found in the green activity binder at the welcome center. We will make sure there is coffee and some goodies so come out and lend a hand, it will be **FUN!**

TRACING DAYS FOR COMIC STRIP- Help trace a section of the Dick Tracy comic strip and be part of a community wide event as the Friends of the Old Courthouse bring back Dick Tracy Days to Woodstock. Volunteers are needed to help trace a section of the cartoon that will be a part of the Guinness World Record of the longest comic strip. On Wednesdays, **June 1st** and **June 8th** from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** @ Grace Lutheran Church in Grace Center. We welcome volunteers from ages 10 and up. Pizza, salad and lemonade will be served on June 1st. (Bring your own sack dinner on June 8th.) Please contact Chris Learman @ clearman@gracewoodstock.org or Cayla Learman @ clearman9088@gmail.com with questions and to RSVP for pizza dinner. Bring a friend or two!!! We can use all the help we can!



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.

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.

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!!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP VISITED WARTBURG- On Thursday, April 28th, Pastor Ken and the Grace Ladies Bible Study drove to Dubuque, IA to visit Wartburg Theological Seminary. Our visit began with an enlightening service in the Leohe Chapel with guest speakers from Africa. They explained the melding of Lutheran Churches in Africa and the need for more pastors there. After service was coffee time in the Augusta Von Schwartz Refectory. Services are a daily morning activity at Wartburg. We then met with Dr. Craig Nessen, Academic Dean, who explained some of the Wilhelm Loehe legacy. Dr. Norma Cook Everest spoke with our group next and explained parts of her latest book. We each purchased a signed copy of "Seventy Images of Grace in the Epistles" from Norma. We will use this book in our next bible study session. The book is written about the life stories of people who have received grace or are in need of grace. Lunch in the refectory was shared with students and proved to be very interesting. We heard the stories of what led them to Wartburg and their hopes for the future. Following lunch, we received a private tour of Wartburg from Pastor Ken, who was warmly greeted by everyone we met. He explained the different phases of construction of the current building and showed us where he spent his time while a student. When we left Wartburg, we were led on a personalized tour of downtown Dubuque and saw the house where Pastor Ken's lived while attending graduated school. After we left town, we drove to Sinsinawa Mound in Wisconsin where we viewed the beautiful chapel and walked through the museum. We learned about the first pioneers to live there. The museum highlights the Dominican sisters and the life of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, who established parish communities in the area. The day was enlightening and made all the more interesting by our tour guide, who was a fount of information. Thank you, Pastor Ken.

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

Fully Rely On God



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, June 13-17, 9 to Noon! 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, 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.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

Schedule:<http://www.gracewoodstock.org/WeeklyNews/Monthly%20Worship%20Participants.pdf>

“A PLACE FOR ALL” - ELCA RACISM WEBCAST VIEWING & CONVERSATION

June 1, 7 p.m. Presiding Bishop Eaton invites us to the next webcast, "A Place for All," as a part of the ELCA's continuing conversation on racism in the US. We'll meet in the parlor to watch the webcast & share in conversation. All are welcome, please join us, or view the webcast on your own at elca.org/webcast.



PREPARE THE WAY

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Committed— \$495,156.06
Received— \$401,947.88
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!

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.

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.

KUBOTA—We are happy to announce the Kubota mower has been sold.

UPCOMING DATES:

Preschool Summer Camp—June 13
VBS—July 18-22

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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Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

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Preschool Staff

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Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellessen

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Shirley Busse

Secretary—Denise Klabunde

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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 Natress
council@gracewoodstock.org
Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F

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

