

JUNE 11, 2014—JUNE 24, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 12

PREPARE THE WAY; CARRYING OUR FAITH FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



Prepare the Way
Carrying our faith
forward into the future

Where are we on the Capital campaign?" This question was raised recently at a committee meeting in June and a quick answer to that question might be; "It is in process." But let me explain with a bit more detail what "having the campaign in process" truly means. As we recall, in approving the strategic directions that came out of the strategic planning process, that took place in 2013, one of the strategic directions was to put in place a capital campaign to address the issues of capital needs that have, for some time, been put on a lower priority. With all this in mind, a working task force was put in place to put a campaign in process. At the same time all committees were asked to submit a list of items that they might think are important to be a part of a capital needs campaign. These were submitted to the council, and the council appointed task force was then tasked with synthesizing all the needs from the committees, staff and generally understood capital needs, (i.e. parking lot resurfacing would be an example). The council, at the same time, moved for the assistance of hiring Rev. Dr. David Solberg as a consultant to the campaign. Rev. Solberg is an associate of mine and one whom I have worked with for many years. Over the past many months I have had several one on one meetings with David and he has met with our task force and in those meetings some ideas for the name of the campaign were considered and approved as the above title of this article. "Prepare the Way; carrying our faith forward into the future." The council also submitted a grant request to our endowment to cover the expenses of a consultant and to cover the design and development of the campaign materials. You may be happy to know that we are doing ALL of this type of work "in house" in an effort to allow our funds collected to be truly funds used toward our capital needs and not on materials and promotion.

All of this has led us now to this point. With campaign packets in hand, Denise will be contacting some of our membership over the summer months to arrange for meetings where I will be seeking early commitments toward our campaign. The folks I am planning on seeing over these summer months are those who gave at a certain level in Grace's last capital campaign, all council members, and Grace Staff. However, if you would like to be contacted in these months, PLEASE, let the church office know and we will be glad to add you to the list. In time, all members of Grace will be contacted to be a part of the "Prepare the Way; carrying our faith forward into the future" campaign. Please watch for further updates on the campaign and as always, just ask myself, Pastor Amanda or any council member if you have questions. There is much more about the campaign that we can share in future articles in Grace for Today. Let me just add one more thing; I like "campaigns" I get excited in these efforts and I hope we can all do the same. Let's have a blessed summer! See you in the pews and out and about doing the work of the church, God's work our hands!

SUNDAY BY SUNDAY BOOK CLUB – meets with the Author on **June 15** at 9:45am in the Parlor. We are thrilled to have Cristy Fossum join us in worship on **June 15** and be willing to meet with us afterwards. If you have wondered what sustains this long term small group ministry, this would be a great time to join us. We are only halfway through the three book series that delves into today's issues as we reflect on the Bible's teachings. Cristy has the unique gift of tying in the scripture readings of the day with everyday life in the form of a weekly journal. Questions, call Shirley Busse 815-338-9063 or Ila Randolph 338-7380

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, June 15, 2014

The Holy Trinity, First Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

READINGS: Genesis 1:1–2:4a Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11–13 Matthew 28:16–20

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Lectionary 12, Proper 7

Second Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: Jeremiah knew the frustration of having his words rejected. Jesus declares that his words may not bring peace, but division. In baptism we are buried with Christ that we may walk in newness of life. As we take stands for the sake of justice and lose our lives for the sake of others, we need not be afraid. The hairs of our head are counted. In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7–13

Psalm 69:7–18

Romans 6:1b–11

Matthew 10:24–39

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, Jim Davis, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), George Erber, Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), 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, Sarah Meyer (daughter-in-law of Tom & Cathy Meyer), 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, Doris Zank (mother of Ken Zank)

Joys: Baptism of Haley Jo Sciluffo, Austin Ray Sciluffo, Maci Annelynne Sciluffo

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.

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE, "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.".....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

"We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work." At Grace we roll up our sleeves and get to work in a host of ways, such as: serving monthly meals at PADS, crafting and baking for Mistletoe Magic, volunteering at the Direct Assistance Program, volunteering in the community at resale shops and in classrooms, delivering Meals on Wheels, and so much more. Last year, in celebration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's 25th anniversary, we joined with Lutherans across the country for a day of service, and we are excited to share in another church wide day of service on **Sunday, September 7.**



We had over 110 volunteers from Grace last year, and we look forward to another opportunity to serve with one another, participating in God's work with our hands. Together with the Evangelism Committee, we are beginning to identify service projects and sites, as well as team leaders for each site. Do you have suggestions for service projects, sites, and/or team leaders? Please contact me with any suggestions that we can follow up with as we prepare for this day of service.

Keep your eyes out for sign-up sheets and donation opportunities that will be posted on the Activity Board in the coming weeks and months. If you still have your bright yellow t-shirt from last year, we ask you to wear it again; and if you do not have a t-shirt, we will be placing another order in the beginning of August (t-shirt sign up deadline is **August 3**).



Last year's ELCA Service Day remains one of the highlights of 2013 for me, and I so look forward to seeing you this year on **September 7** as we meet new people, share of our time and talents, and roll up our sleeves to get to work as neighbors and partners in our community.

GRACE KNITTERS—is a group of talented people who create beautiful needle crafted items for Mistletoe Magic, our Christmas bazaar on November 1, 2014. Please join us on **June 18** in room 101 from 9—11 am to share ideas and completed projects. We have the supplies, but need willing hands to make things happen. Questions? Call or e-mail Judy Reilly 353-4638 jreilly038@gmail.com



SENIOR LUNCHEON— Tuesday, **June 24th** Your Legacy: Family, Church and Charity" A Thrivent Financial Seminar. Bill Collingbourne and John Drafall are coming to present this seminar on how you can remember those people and projects that are dear to your heart. A complimentary lunch is being provided by Thrivent. Sign up is required in the Activity Binder by **June 22nd**. Questions, call Shirley Busse 815-338-9063.



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.

"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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **June 25** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **June 17.**

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 for pick-up.



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!

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.



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.



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.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS—Our Mother's Day blood drive was a success. Members of Grace donated 24 units of blood. Twenty four peoples lives were improved by Gods blessing through you, the members of Grace. Thanks to all who donated. We will be hosting another drive sometime in August.



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.)

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 ques-



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 GRADUATES: Elizabeth Acosta, Sarah Baier, Maura Beattie, Zachary Bellavia, Nicholas Brown, Tyler Brown, Erica Christmas, Cody Fetzner, Zachary Fleming, Alexandra Glod, Joseph Goodman, Shannon Grossen, Leiana Haanio, Nathan Hathcock, Grant Hughes, Troy Klabunde, Riley Kohler, Mitchell Kohley, Abigail Kreznor, Sarah Kuespert, Morgan Kunzie, Alexa Kuziel, Colleen Laird, Jeremy Lambrecht, Amber Learman, Andrea Learman, Dylan Manke, Alexandra Marks, Sierra Meiners, Evan Petersen, Hannah Pilgard, Rebecca Potoczky, Amber Roberts, Cody Ruschke, Kellie Smith, Kaitlyn Wietermann. Also congratulations to all of our graduates from higher education.



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.

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, **September 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 which begins on **September 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, **September 15**, donated items should be in the kitchen by Sunday morning **September 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.

CHURCH WIDE PRESS RELEASE

'Time for Israeli-Palestinian peace is now,' say ELCA bishop, U.S. religious leaders May 21, 2014 07:00 pm
 CHICAGO (ELCA) -- More than 30 U.S. Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders -- including the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop -- have declared that "the time for Israeli-Palestinian peace is now." In a May 21 letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, the leaders also wrote that "achieving peace needs your continued, determined engagement."

PRESENCE LIGHT & BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2014— The sign-up sheets are at the Information Center.

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**

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 14

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee

Sunday, June 15

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee
9:45 AM Sunday by Sunday—Meet the Author
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, June 16

9:00 AM Grace Preschool Summer Camp
6:45 PM Connections Bible Study

Tuesday, June 17

6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
9:00 AM Grace Preschool Summer Camp
9:00 AM Sewing Circle

Wednesday, June 18

9:00 AM Grace Knitters
9:00 AM Grace Preschool Summer Camp
9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, June 19

9:00 AM Grace Preschool Summer Camp
12:00 PM DAP
7:00 PM Council

Friday, June 20

9:00 AM Grace Preschool Summer Camp

Saturday, June 21

9:00 AM Band
10:30 AM Vanskike Visitation
11:00 AM Vanskike Memorial Service
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, June 22

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group
12:30 PM Confirmation Camp—Meet to Leave

Monday, June 23

Confirmation Camp
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

Tuesday, June 24

Confirmation Camp
6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, June 25

Confirmation Camp
9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, June 26

Confirmation Camp
12:00 PM DAP
1:00 PM Naomi Circle
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Friday, June 27

2:00 PM Confirmation Camp Pick-Up—Lutherdale

Saturday, June 14

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F

