

Grace *for Today*

Aufwiedersehen!By Pastor Ken

As you all read this I will be thinking “Germany” and I send to you my best greetings and love. I know that we have scheduled a fine sendoff family style picnic on Sunday, June 28th and I hope as many as possible can attend. This is a catered picnic and all you need to bring is yourselves and maybe some folding chairs if you would like but we will also have chairs available. Please know I will be thinking of you and missing you all but I do need this time away. I ask for your prayers as I pray and think and about my future life.

Know that I intend to love Lukas and Lauren and my even my Green Beret son in law with all my heart while with them and do so hope to spoil Lukas as only a grandpa can. I will be keeping a blog especially in the second half of the month when I do touring of the Luther sites. You can follow my blog at the following site; pklutherland.blogspot.com and I hope you will take a look as I start entering in pictures and thoughts as I visit the sites where Luther lived and taught.

Be well and remember that God Loves you and so do !!



“PREPARE THE WAY”—We have not been able to get to individual homes fast enough. We would like to share an opportunity with all of you to hear about how we are increasing our discipleship and upgrading our facilities. We are presenting the “Prepare the Way” campaign **July 12**, 9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m./parlor. Please come join us and help carry our faith forward into the future.

SUMMER IN THE PARK—Come on out to Emricson Park this July and enjoy the second annual Summer in the Park. Sponsored by the City of Woodstock, this new community festival will be held July 15th thru July 19th. On **July 19th**, noon—6:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Preschool & the Evangelism Committee will have a booth where we will share all about the many opportunities we have to offer. We will have a game for the children, and literature for the adults. These committees need your assistance in staffing the booth. If you can help for an hour or more, we could really use the help. Please contact Chris Learman at 815-338-0554, x213 if you can lend a hand.

RUMMAGE SALE ROUND-UP—Thank you to everyone that proudly displayed a Rummage Sale sign helping to promote our event. If you still have a sign, please return it to church and place it in the vestibule. Thank you!

SHARE THE BOUNTY—Bring any extra plants or produce to share and help yourself to what you can use. We could also use some help with clean up. Contact Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia (mbmartinbellavia@gmail.com or 815-338-5194) with any questions.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—Save the dates of **July 20–24!** This year we will be exploring EVEREST, “Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power”. Both student and volunteer registrations are available at the Information Center & online. It’s never too early to register! Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if you have any questions or can help out in any way. 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.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – Tuesday July 28, “Know the 10 signs: Early detection Matters” If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes; it’s time to learn the facts. Susan Skiar of the Greater Illinois Chapter of The Alzheimer’s Association, will separate myth from reality and address commonly held fears about Alzheimer’s in America. Our meal features: Chinese Chicken Salad, Sliced Melons, Fresh Baked Bread and Angel Lush with Pineapple for dessert. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Sign up in the Activity Binder by **July 26**. Questions, Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING- Please keep our 20 high school students and chaperones in your prayers as they travel to Detroit **July 15-19** for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Grace’s youth group will join with thousands of other youth groups from across the country. You are invited to check out the evening gatherings- filled with speakers, music, and worship- by live-streaming from the ELCA website each evening and on Sunday morning: <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering> . Thank you once more for your financial and prayerful support!

GRACE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE—Join us **August 8** from 10am—noon! Meet the teachers, visit the classrooms, play on the playground. Fall registration is now open offering classes for children ages 2 through 5! Information & Registration forms available online at gracewoodstock.org. For more information or to schedule a visit please call Preschool Director Chris Learman at 815-338-0554, x213. Grace Lutheran Preschool is accredited by the ELEA.

SUNDAY MORNING SWEET TREATS—Sundays are available immediately! Info/sign-up on the Activity Board. To volunteer for coffee set-up contact the office.

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, Rev. George Lockwood (brother of Paul Lockwood), Tyler Stiemke serving in the military, Henry Trebes (friend of the Laird family), Army Reserves, deployed to Cuba

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

Health Concerns: Claire Aeschliman (friend of Tammy Hansing), Marge Birk, Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Rita Cosgrove (sister of Diana King), Jim Davis, Nancy Davis, Gloria & Ken DeRango (mother and step father of Brian Pilgard), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Clark Drennen (cousin of Bill Fleck), Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), Juanita Dycus, Sophie Frazier (great grand niece of Ila Randolph), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, Erika Hoppe (mother of Monica Hoefling), Pam Hull Gray (friend of Cathy Meyer), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborah Evanoff), Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), Debbi Lynd, John McMahon, Gail Mueller, Jack Myers (friend of Betty & Dick Boehmke), Jesse Myjak, Don Nusbaum, Carol O’Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, Ron Pawelczak (father & father-in-law of Andrew & Telina Behrns), Dorothy Potoczky, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Nick Resek (son of Tammy Resek-Caccamo and brother of Heidi Olsen), Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Laura Schoolcraft (wife of Pastor Ed Schoolcraft at Christ Life Church), Dick Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter- in-law of Diane Schulz), Suzanne Stumpff, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Lauryn Trede (granddaughter of Pat Cervantes), Jerry Virgil (father of Melynda Mauer), Faith Watkins, Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

Joy: Baptism of Lilly Grace Christensen

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.

SABBATH AS RESISTANCE.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

One of the books I am reading right now is *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*, by Walter Brueggemann, and it is a wonderful little book that explores the idea of the Sabbath in light of Old Testament scriptures and the commandments. Brueggemann explores how Sabbath is resistance to anxiety, coercion, exclusivism, and multitasking, and how Sabbath is an alternative.



The practice and keeping of the Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word Shabbat, שַׁבָּת which means a ceasing, a day of rest. This Hebrew word is also at the heart of sabbatical, the time Pastor Ken is now entering into where he will break from work and rest over the next three months. In this book, Bruggemann explores what it means to align one’s self with the God of rest, our God who on the seventh day rested, and gave the gift of rest to a people who had been previously held captive to Pharaoh’s unceasing demand for productivity.

Ceasing from, breaking and resting are in many ways counter-cultural today, and to find ways to keep Sabbath seems beyond our habit and routine. And yet, God invites us to rest and to remember that God is God.

Lately, I have been trying to find small ways to tend to this concept of the Sabbath. I am trying to take a break from checking my phone and emails when I am at home and not in an evening meeting. I waited till I was back in the office after a couple days of time off to reply to emails. I am trying to be more intentional about rest and renewal on my Friday day off.

I am finding that Sabbath keeping certainly is resistance and alternative to a lot of things and ways. And I am finding that I am far more present and joyful with more consistent experiences of Sabbath. I am eager to tend to this God-given alternative of rest, be centered in Christ’s love and renewed to be fully present with you, family, and friends.

How might you join in tending to this gift of ceasing and resting? In what ways may the Sabbath strengthen you to resist and find alternatives in your daily and weekly life? Blessings on your summer and your moments and days of Sabbath.

KITCHEN CLEANING DAY— Thursday, July 30, 8:30am - noon. Volunteers are needed to help us give the kitchen a thorough cleaning. We particularly need some men to tackle the stoves! Bring your favorite cleaning supplies. Come when you can & leave when you must. For information contact Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

ADULT EDUCATION HOUR—This fall, during the Education Hour, a local nonprofit organization will educate us about the population they serve. We are looking for table facilitators. No preparation is required. Just come, meet and greet, and help keep the conversation going. Contact Rebecca Stiemke at rlstvolunteer@gmail.com.

FALL ADULT BUS TRIP—Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:00am – 5:30pm. “West Side Story” at the Fireside Dinner Theatre, Fort Atkinson, WI. Join us for a delicious sit down dinner and an award winning performance of West Side Story. For more information or to sign up see the Activity Binder. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

MISTLETOE MAGIC BOUTIQUE—Sharing God’s Grace by raising funds to support Social Ministry needs in our community. Our 31st annual Boutique will be held Saturday, Nov. 7 and Sun. Nov. 8. Each year members of Grace work tirelessly to make and prepare merchandise for our guest shoppers. Woodcrafters, Sewers, Felters, Knitters and Crocheters and countless others share their love of creating beautiful handcrafted items to donate. Bakers prepare wonderful sweet delights for the Cookie Walk and the fantastic Bake Sale. Grace photo enthusiasts help us design beautiful note cards. Decorations are designed to transform Luther Hall and Grace Center into a Holiday Wonderland. It is a very special tradition at Grace that has grown over the years. All Grace members are invited to participate in this Evangelism, Social Ministry, Fellowship, and Stewardship opportunity. If you have ideas to share, or want to participate please contact Leaders: Cathy Meyer, 815-338-0512 or tcmeier@gmail.com, Judy Reilly, 815-353-4638, Karen Reinhard 815-338-3639 or Sue Aavang, 847-989-5889 or taavang@yahoo.com.

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

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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



SUMMER WORSHIP—
Our Contemporary Service has switched from 10:45 am to 10:00 am. The next outdoor Contemporary Service will be **July 12**, and will be the 2nd weekend of each month through September.

2015 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!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2015: Registration is underway and classes are beginning to fill up for the upcoming school year. Help us spread the word to families looking for a preschool for children ages 2 to 5. We offer programs from 1 day a week up to 5 days a week! Registration forms & tuition rates can be found online @ www.gracewoodstock.org. Contact Mrs. Chris for more information at clearman@gracewoodstock.org. **SAVE THE DATE: August 8th, 2015** is our OPEN HOUSE!!

**PREPARE THE WAY—
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**
Committed—\$434,560.06
Received—\$274,663.56

UPCOMING EDUCATION DATES:
Vacation Bible School—*July 20–24*



GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
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Beth Miller; Daniel Nattress
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Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F