

JULY 9, 2014—JULY 22, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 14

TWO WEEKS TO GO UNTIL LUKAS TIME!.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



As you all begin to read this it will be right at two weeks until I am holding Lukas, my grandson, for the first time. The true question is, will I need only one handkerchief or two to hold the tears of joy that we all know I will be shedding. If I seem to be bothering many of you with pictures from time to time just let me know, but I must say being a grandpa is starting to set with me. As the saying goes; “I can get use to this.” Such it is with stations and transitions in life.

In our Monday evenings “Connections” class we recently discussed our many different stations in life and how it is that in all these different stations we are always called to deliver the good news of Jesus Christ. Stations are the roles that we find ourselves in as we live out our lives. Sometimes we are in many different stations in a day. For example, (plumber, parent, friend, accountant, nurse and so on,) these are our stations. In these stations we have a vocation. Our vocations are rooted in Christ’s work of redeeming us, freeing us for our calling as Christians. So then, in my station as grandparent, I may fulfill the vocation of a self-esteem builder for Lukas. Helping him to know that he is saved by grace alone by faith alone on account of Christ alone and that, with this truth, he is free to love and serve God and others without fear and with complete confidence of Christ’s love for him.

I so look forward to my being with Lukas, Lauren, Nate and of course Slinky, the wonder dachshund, that I may just be a bit giddy over the next couple weeks. But it is ok, it is just me finding my way into a new station in life. Thanks be to God.



GRACE GOLF CLINIC— Hosted by Grace Lutheran Thrivent Financial Rep. William Collingbourne. Join him on **July 11**, 6:00 p.m., at Redtail Golf Club in Lakewood. Our own Chris Neuhart, PGA Professional, will be teaching the clinic, and a brief educational presentation will take place followed by Lou Malnati’s Pizza for dinner. Space is limited so please RSVP to Bill as soon as possible: 815-546-3160 or bill.collingbourne@thrivent.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—**July 14 to 18** -REGISTER TODAY!!! We are fast approaching our start date and it helps us plan for the week when as many people as possible register in advance. We are still in need of volunteers so if you can help, please fill out a volunteer form online or at the Information Center. We will be setting up for VBS on Sunday **July 13** from 1:00 until done so if you are able to help come on out. Vacation Bible School takes many Grace members working together to make it a success.



VBS DONATIONS NEEDED—The activity board is still filled with a list of items needed to help VBS. Each year we try and keep cost down by collecting items from members of the congregation. Consider helping out our VBS by taking an item or two from our donation list. If you can’t help volunteer your time, this is a great way to be a part of such an important ministry at Grace.

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, July 13, 2014
Lectionary 15, Proper 10
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

READINGS:

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 20, 2014
Lectionary 16, Proper 11
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

READINGS:

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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: Katie Arana, Shirely Berna, Lois Bloese, Deanna Bohn, Frank Bunch, Bonnie Cupples, Ramond Cupples Jr. (parents of Carrie Fiorina & Amy Piquette), Ryan Daily (friend of Marilyn Vanskike), Ken DeVogelaere, 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), Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), John McMahon, Melissa McMahon, 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, Kathy Zank

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.

GROUP T-SHIRT DAY, COMING YOUR WAYby Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

While it might be embarrassing to show up to a formal event and discover you're wearing the same outfit as someone else, sometimes it can be a fun experience to dress alike. Did you ever wear the same outfit as your best friend in grade school? Do you have a favorite sports jersey or run/walk t-shirt that you love to wear? Have you seen pictures of our youth groups sporting tie-dye t-shirts from various trips?



Well, we have an exciting "group t-shirt day" coming your way on Sunday, **September 7** (also known as the "God's work. Our hands." ELCA Service Day). We will be wearing these awesome gold t-shirts that boldly say we are Lutherans who love to serve our neighbors.

Please see the Activity Board to sign-up for a service project. If you sign up by **August 3**, we will order a t-shirt for you. If you volunteered last year, please wear your t-shirt from 2013. Also, if you have a suggestion for a volunteer site, or would like to be a team leader for a site, please let me know.

Last year we had 110 volunteers. How many pairs of hands will join in God's work this year? I can't wait to see you gather for an afternoon of fellowship and service. Did I mention, I think you'll look great in a gold t-shirt?



COME JOIN THE GRACE KNITTERS! - We meet once a month from April to November to work on projects for Mistletoe Magic, our church's annual Christmas boutique. Bring projects you have been working on and ideas for knitted/crocheted/felted/woven items for Mistletoe Magic (Nov. 1.2014). Questions? call Judy Reilly 815 353-4638 or jreilly038@gmail.com.

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.



MMAGIC 2014—Join us on **July 22** for another creative craft session preparing items for our Mistletoe Magic Benefit. All supplies are furnished. This session takes place from 9 am-1 pm in room 102. Please contact, Cathy Meyer at 815-338-0512, tcmeier2@gmail.com, Karen Reinhard 815-338-3639, or Sue Aavang 847-989-5889 for questions. Come and join the fun and fellowship.

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.



"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.

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



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING— Mark your calendars to attend on **August 17** at 11:15 a.m. Come and learn about all that is happening in our life together as Grace Lutheran Church.



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.



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:



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.



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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the **July 23** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **July 15**.



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.

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 new sign-up sheets as more projects to comes in! 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**.



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.)

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

SOUTH AFRICA: Helping girls be all they can be—Abby Henderson, an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission participant, is making a difference. Through her work with the WOW Movement and the Proudly Female program in Bellville South, where violence against women is a problem, she is helping South African girls realize they are valued and deserve an education. See www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand/422.



SOUTHERN AFRICA: Support and follow Young Adults in Global Mission! - Ten young adults are serving for a year in Southern Africa in children and youth ministries, after-school programs, community development, HIV and AIDS ministries and care for the elderly. Learn more about their work and make a gift for their support at <http://search.ELCA.org/Pages/OurWork/South-Africa.aspx>. Request a profile and their blog listings by contacting globalchurch@elca.org.

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**

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, July 12

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

Sunday, July 13

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group
1:00 PM VBS Set Up

Monday, July 14

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

Tuesday, July 15

Vacation Bible School
6:15 AM Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, July 16

Vacation Bible School
9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, July 17

Vacation Bible School
12:00 PM DAP
7:00 PM Council Meeting

Friday, July 18

Vacation Bible School

Saturday, July 19

9:00 AM Band
10:00 AM New Member Orientation
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee

Sunday, July 20

Confirmation Camp
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group

Monday, July 21

Confirmation Camp
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

Tuesday, July 22

Confirmation Camp
9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Workshop
10:00 AM NE Conf. Youth Planning Meeting
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, July 23

Confirmation Camp
9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, July 24

Confirmation Camp
12:00 PM DAP
12:00 PM Naomi Circle Picnic
7:00 PM New Praise Singers /Women Praise

Friday, July 25

Confirmation Camp

Saturday, July 26

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

