

JULY 23, 2014—AUGUST 5, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 15

VBS, CONFIRMATION CAMP, = SUMMER TIME IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



As of the writing of this article, we are exactly one month away from the first day of school here in Woodstock. Sorry young people, (moms and dads try not to smile too broadly). But until the first day of school, we are actively doing things that we do in the summertime while being a part of the Church. How many of you remember your summer filled with an amazing Vacation Bible School experience? How many of you remember a tremendous week attending a summer Bible Camp? How many of you remember the joy it is to worship in our beautiful outdoor chapel here at Grace?

This week, we are in the middle of a wonderful Vacation Bible School experience. The greatest joy I experienced this week, besides the smiling faces of the little ones, is seeing the wonderful volunteering that happens to make such an experience possible. My heart jumps for joy when I see so many of our confirmation and high school age students volunteering to make VBS so special. If you ask them; “Why they volunteer?” They will most often reply; “I remember how much I loved coming to VBS and I want them to experience the joy of such a week.” So then, many thanks to all those young people and parents of young people, who volunteered to make this year’s VBS another wonderful success. Your efforts make sure that this summertime in the Church experience continues!

Another wonderful summertime experience is summer Bible Camp and for us here at Grace that means confirmation age students spend a week at camp somewhere. This year it is just up north at Lutherdale in Elkhorn, WI and next year it will be to Sky Ranch in Colorado. Summer Bible Camp is a time for our young people to seek out what it means to be a person of faith today. As I write this week’s article, I am in the process of packing my bags for the final week of confirmation camp. This second group of Grace Youth will journey together in faith next week at camp. I look forward to the time spent with these young people and, even though it is supposed to be hot and muggy, I realize how a week in Summer Bible Camp is a part of what it means to be a member of the church in the summertime. Thanks be to God for our life together in the Church!

All of the above also reminds me of another reality of this time of year; that being that many of you are gone for a number of Sundays in the summertime and that too seems to be what it means for us all in the church in the summertime. For all of you who are traveling or will travel yet on some vacation/re-creation time, please know that your church is praying for you in your travels and that we look forward to welcoming you home to the pews and our mutual worship time when you return. Remember the traditions of summertime in the church and be safe out there! And remember, as the children have been saying all week in our Weird Animals VBS; “JESUS LOVES YOU!”

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—Please plan to attend on **August 17** at 11:15 a.m. and learn about life as a church & congregation.

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, July 27, 2014
Lectionary 17, Proper 12
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

READINGS:

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday, August 3, 2014
Lectionary 18, Proper 13
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

READINGS:

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

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, 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), Michelle Manke (friend of Shirley Berna), John 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, 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

Sorrow: Hazel Powell

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.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS, WORSHIP, SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom



Over the 4th of July weekend, Grace’s High School Youth Group traveled to Chicago for a Summer Trip, a time of holy conversations, worship, service, and fellowship. We enjoyed spending time with one another, forming and nurturing relationships, and we spent time meeting new people, trying new things, and exploring the city. I give thanks for an awesome group of high school students, and for the support and leadership of our chaperones: Chuck Varys, Sandy Roberts, Lark Meiners, and Jon Bergstrom.

Holy conversations. On Saturday, we spent the afternoon sharing a meal, playing Bingo, and sharing stories with our new friends at a senior apartment complex in Lincoln Park. We heard stories about one woman’s life growing up in the South, or of one man’s work as a lawyer in the early days of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. We practiced a sometimes awkward life skill of slowing down and taking time to meet someone new and listen to their stories. We also shared in holy conversations with one another during our trip as we watched the documentary “The Line” and talked about personal awareness and hidden realities of the poverty line.

Holy worship. During our trip, we worshipped at Trinity UCC (United Church of Christ) on 95th Street, and we shared the Holy Communion meal and heard God’s good news proclaimed through word and song. Rumor has it that there was a bit of a groan during announcements at Grace when you heard we were off to a 2.5 hour worship service, but I can assure you there were no such sighs or complaints in our group. I give thanks for our group’s openness to a worship experience that is different than ours, and for the ways in which we were welcomed into worship in a new place.

Holy service. As we lived out our lives in love and service to our neighbors, God worked through our hands as we prepared sandwiches and then delivered meals to people who are homeless. Grace’s youth group joined with South Loop Campus Ministry in their weekly “Takin’ It to the Streets” ministry. We remembered Jesus’ words “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,” and we tried to plan more ways to daily live lives of service and love for all our sisters and brothers.

Holy fellowship. Woven throughout our conversations, worship, and service, we shared in the great gift of fellowship with one another. We explored and learned about God’s beautiful world at the Lincoln Park Zoo and at the Museum of Science and Industry. We tried new foods at a Korean BBQ restaurant, a Middle Eastern restaurant, and in Chinatown; and we delighted in the wonder of creation with an afternoon at the beach.

When two or three are gathered in God’s name, there is a holy and sacred time and space. I give thanks for the holy conversations, worship, service, and fellowship that we shared on our Summer Trip, and I give thanks for your support of our high school youth group. Next summer we will travel to Detroit for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, and I trust that we will continue to learn and grow in faith in the year ahead.

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



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. **Please note that the Men’s Bible Study is on a summer break and will resume on August 12.**

NEEDED BEGINNING SEPTEMBER: PROJECTIONISTS for approximately one Sunday per month for 10:45 services. If you have basic computer skills YOU CAN do this job. Training on specifics is available now through August. Check with a projectionist, Billie Cornell or Ron Fredriksen for details or to sign up. Thank you.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS....by Martha Fleck

Last year when the bulletin posted “Help Wanted” to “Spruce Up” different places around town, I jumped at the opportunity to help in the “Gardening Area” doing outdoor work for a couple who can no longer do it themselves. Not only did I enjoy the yard work; trimming bushes, pulling up lots of weeds, I had the opportunity to get to know more members of Grace. It was a very gratifying and fun day. It is such a blessing that I am willing and able to help others. Although cleaning is not my favorite thing to do, I do enjoy painting. To do God’s work is what the day is all about so I am always willing to do what is needed. I hope you will join us this next work day in September and get to know others while doing God’s work!



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. Sign-up sheets are posted, and there is something for everyone from children to seasoned adults. Some projects are at Grace and some are out in the community. 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.



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:



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **August 6** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **July 29**.



BAKE DAYS FOR MISTLETOE MAGIC COOKIE WALK - On Oct. 23rd and 24th, Mistletoe Magic leaders will be preparing and baking a large amount of cookies for our popular Cookie Walk. Donations of cash and supplies to defray the costs would be greatly appreciated. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Activity Board for baking supplies needed, and also to sign-up for the luncheon. Additional information is also available there. Thanks!

MISTLETOE MAGIC GOURMET FOODS—Please save a few jars of your favorite preserved garden produce for our Gourmet Food section. Homemade jams, jellies, pickles, salsa, plus beverage mixes, such as teas and cocoa mixes all sell well at Mistletoe Magic.



PETS UNLIMITED—Do you love to come up with great gift ideas for the Pet Lovers in our lives? The leadership of MMagic is looking for another person to help round out the gift ideas for this much loved shopping corner. We have a list of great ideas, we are just in need of a leader for this department. This could be just what you are looking for. Please contact: Cathy Meyer, 815-338-0512 or tcmeier2@gmail.com or call 815-338-0512.

MISTLETOE MAGIC ALL THAT GILTERS—Don't forget Mistletoe Magic is still accepting previously loved jewelry. Have any jewelry you just don't wear anymore? Have something that is just not your style anymore? Donations can be left at the Information Center. If you have questions, contact Katie Reilly 815-355-3899.



“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 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.

HELLO HONDURAS! - Our trip to Honduras to visit our school and take part in the graduation ceremony will be here before we know it. The trip does require persons to get some shots, take some pills and get one’s passport in order, so please contact Pastor Ken, Byron Petersen or Ric Larson with any questions so that you can join us in this wonderful ministry. This year’s trip will be **November 16-19!** Temperature is around 82 degrees almost every day and the children are beautiful all year round!



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.

PRESENCE LIGHT & BULLETIN SPONSORS STILL NEEDED FOR 2014— The sign-up sheets are at the Information Center and spots remain available. Sign-up today!

SAVE THE DATES—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	GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
Saturday, July 26 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship	Sunday, August 3 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group	Senior Pastor Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson <i>kgibson@gracewoodstock.org</i> Office Phone: 815-338-0554 Home Phone: 815-527-7215 Associate Pastor Director of Senior High Ministries Rev. Amanda Bergstrom Cell Phone: 630-664-9016 <i>abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org</i> Director of Communications Lynn Nattress <i>lnattress@gracewoodstock.org</i> Director of Music Ministries Ron Fredriksen <i>rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org</i> Parish Musicians Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson, Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti Director of Preschool Ministry Chris Learman <i>clearman@gracewoodstock.org</i> Preschool Staff Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue, Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen Director of Educational Ministries Office Assistant Carrie Fiorina <i>cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org</i> Director of Senior Ministries Shirley Busse Secretary Denise Klabunde <i>dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org</i> Building Supervisor /Ken Zank Custodians /Chris & Kim Ethridge Officers & Council Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia; Claude Hutchens; Peter Paulson; Ken Hansing; Matt Simonton; Rob Ribbe; Cathy Buhrow; Joe Pienschke; Adele Petersen; Sue Olsen; Abigail Kreznor <i>council@gracewoodstock.org</i> Office Hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, M-Th 8:30 am-12:00 pm, F
Sunday, July 27 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group 2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference	Monday, August 4 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153	
Monday, July 28 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153	Tuesday, August 5 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:45 PM All Committee Meeting Night	
Tuesday, July 29 No Events Currently Scheduled	Wednesday, August 6 5:00 PM Exultation!	
Wednesday, July 30 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	Thursday, August 7 12:00 PM DAP	
Thursday, July 31 12:00 PM DAP 7:00 PM Women Praise	Friday, August 8 No Events Currently Scheduled	
Friday, August 1 No Events Currently Scheduled	Saturday, August 9 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship	
Saturday, August 2 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship	Sunday, August 10 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group	

