



**GRACE**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Grace *for Today*

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**WOW WHAT A TRIP! ..... A report on SKY RANCH 2017..... BY Pastor Ken**

Well as you read this article our youth who attended this year's confirmation trip to Sky Ranch will already have presented a bit about the trip to all of us in attendance at worship. But, still I would like to offer my sense of the magic of this trip. Some of you may be wondering what this trip is all about. There are many reasons and hopeful objectives for this trip, we take biennially, as a part of our Grace Confirmation Program. Not in any particular order but here are some of the things we hope to have happen with this experience.

We hope that our youth will be engaged in an experience that allows them to grow in their faith in a safe fun-filled environment while being surrounded by other youth from across the country.

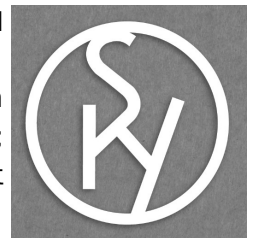
We hope that our youth will come to realize that we are a part of a large denomination called the ELCA and as such we have many offerings as a church body. We explore, along the way-to and from camp, some of these offerings, including ELCA colleges and seminaries and even by worshiping in some other houses of worship. This year that included First Lutheran in Kearney NE and Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, IA. Both of these churches are in our larger ELCA and yet both are very different. We attended a Saturday evening service at First in Kearney where we doubled the worship group with us being a group of 32 folks. When we worshiped at Hope in West Des Moines (a congregation of nearly 18,000 members), we were hardly noticed in the worship amphitheater. Yet in both places the sacrament of Holy Communion was offered in Christ's name.

We further hope that our youth will garner, as it will, "tools for their faith tool kit". We hope that they, in the time spent at Sky Ranch encountering Christ on the Mountain, have faith tools in remembering the experience that will guide them when they are down the mountain and facing life choices and realities. We hope that such faith tools allow them to keep strong as life goes forth.

We also hope our youth gain useful experience doing tasks to accomplish a goal. This is done while doing fundraising prior to the trip, to allow such a trip to go forth. Other experiences that we hope are gained is when we do service work at Sky Ranch each and every year. This year we lined a trail with woodchips that connects the campground with the new shower houses. The trail, by the way, was created by digging a trench when the new water line was put into place. This water line was made possible thru a grant sponsored by Grace Lutheran's endowment.

Finally, we hope our youth enjoyed themselves. Yes, had fun, and to have this fun, most of the time, away from any electronic media. AND... we hope for them to stay IN THE BOAT as they white water raft down the rapids of the Poudre River. This year ALL stayed in the boat and that was a first. Well done campers!

Overall we had a wonderful trip and I want to thank the sponsors who assisted with this years' trip. They were absolutely wonderful and most helpful. These sponsors were; Tony Walker, Vicki Rank, Bob Hagger, Cindy Rowe, Jen Freeman, Kristin Thurow, Bryant Williams, & Yvonne Gibson. (nice honeymoon aye?)



**LIFE LINE SCREENING-** Life Line Screening uses ultrasound to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on **July 13** at Grace. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word circle to 797979.

**KITCHEN CLEANING DAY - Wednesday, August 2 from 8:30am - noon.** Come join us as we give our two wonderful kitchens a thorough cleaning. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies or use ours. Come when you can, leave when you must. Many hands make light work!



**SUMMER CHRISTMAS FOR TURNING POINT-** Turning Point in Woodstock provides shelter and care for women and children affected by domestic violence. The summer season presents different needs for the shelter. Please consider donating to Turning Point as your are able. Collection dates will be the weekends of July 1st and July 8th. Please drop items in the Turning Point box at the church entry. The following are needed items: Frisbees, soccer/kick balls, bubbles, hula hoops, coloring books & crayons, decks of cards, UNO game, Connect 4 game, checkers, bug spray, sunscreen, gift cards for Woodstock pool, Dairy Queen, Culvers (for ice cream treats) and the movie theatre.

**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](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org).*

**World:** Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop Jeff Clements, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military

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

**Health Concerns:** Keith Bentley (friend of Diane Baker-Lockwood's niece), Marge Birk, Lois Bloese, John Bloese, Mary Sue Boerner (friend of Paul Lockwood & Diane Baker-Lockwood), Dee Bohn, Frank Bunch, Allison Clark (niece of Martha & Bill Fleck), Ian Clark (uncle of Bill Fleck), Patrice Dunn, Verna Eslick, Russ Freeman, John W. "Jack" Fylpaa (father of Stephane Fylpaa-Asher), Paul Gergolla (son-in-law of Eileen Weide), Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Maroulla Hahne (friend of Martha & Bill Fleck), Wallace Halvorson (father of Shelley Tucker), Devin Harms (friend of Joe Evanoff), Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborrah Evanoff), the Kamps family, Nancy Knieja (friend of Martha Fleck), Diane Knowles, Keith Kulpinski (friend of Spanbauers & Thurows), Colleen Kuraszek (friend of Adele Petersen), Ken Lindenmier (brother-in-law of Diane Baker-Lockwood), John Mahoney, Renee Merklin (friend of Rachel Bratanick), Tammy Millman (daughter of Karen Millman), Carl Neubaum (son of Donna Neubaum), Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, John Oliver (friend of Ron & Mary Koehn), Sue Olsen, Arne Olson, Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Sheila Readel, Rene Rebman (uncle of Ron & Mary Koehn), Jean Reed (mother of Mary Hoyt), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Dick Schroeder, Sandy Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Bill Seger, Eleanor Setser, John Sorensen, Elsie Stoddard, Ginny Stroh (mother of Fay Wilson), Doris Sunday, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), Ellie Mae Thompson (great niece of Gladys & Ken Renner), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bob Unglaube, Bev Visconti, Bud Winter, Harold "Woody" Wolff (friend of Adele Petersen), Ruth Zirves

**Sorrows:** Hartzel Zimmerman (father of Sara Mark), Marie Svoboda (mother of Mary Noe), Herbert W A Guenther (father of Gretchen Hutchens), Tannie Fiorina (mother of John Fiorina), Sally Downs (aunt of Paul Lockwood), Sheri Webster, Evelyn Schuring, Diane Thurow, James Ingemanson

**Joy:** Baptism of Jaxson Arthur Pilgard (son of Hannah Pilgard)

If you wish to add a prayer request for the 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](mailto: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.

## A PLACE AT THE TABLE.....by Pastor Amanda

On June 16 & 17, a group from Grace traveled to Augustana College in Rock Island to participate in our Northern Illinois Synod's annual Synod Assembly. I am grateful for our Grace voting members, delegates & guests: Terry Aavang, Mitch Anderson, Jan & Ron Fredriksen, Debbi Lynd, and Deacon Judy Rooney; and I am grateful for being "called forward together in Christ" alongside our fellow congregations of this synod.

One of the songs we sang during worship services spoke of a place at the table for everyone born, and it reminds me of our greater church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, where we proclaim "This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here."

As a denomination, synod, and congregation- how might these words guide our life together? In these summer months, whether they are filled with continued routines or restful travels, how might we consider how God prepares a place at the table for everyone born? We are a part of a great community of faith, and there is such life and joy in caring for one another. And, who else might we invite to the table?

The gospel compels us to share the good news of Jesus, and we do so knowing that we are in good company. Thanks be to God for the communities of congregations, synods, and churchwide mission.



**SENIOR LUNCHEON – July 25** – Come enjoy a crunchy Asian salad with grilled pork, sweet n' sour cucumbers, fresh baked bread, frosty orange dream square for dessert, and cool iced tea or lemonade. Then listen as Veronica Myers, Dorr Township assessor, explains your Real Estate Tax Bill line by line and ways you can reduce it. Bring along your 2016 tax bill and your newest Property Assessment Notice that you should receive in the mail shortly. This will be a great time to check if you are really getting all the exemptions that you are entitled to. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend or two! If your friend hasn't attend a Senior Luncheon this year, both you and your friend will receive a dollar off coupon toward a future Senior Luncheon. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by July 23. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-** VBS is just around the corner...**AND WE ARE GETTING VERY EXCITED!** Our VBS theme this year Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose. This will be a great week of innovation and science fun. Mark your calendar for **July 17-21**. Vacation bible school needs up to 75 volunteers( ages 6th grade to adult) to help out throughout the week from small jobs to running stations. We are in **desperate need for helpers**. Please keep an eye out for donation needs that will be posted on the Activity Bulletin Board. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if interested in signing up your child or volunteering.

**COACH BUS TRIP– Sunday, August 6-** "Church Basement Ladies" at the Fireside Dinner Theatre. Fireside has brought in Curt Wollan, the original director who conceived and created the show. Curt is a 1973 Graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He commissioned the writing team of Jim Stowell, one of Minnesota's favorite storytellers and Jessica Zuehike, a performance arts educator and daughter of a Church Basement Lady to develop the script based on a set of books by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. For more information about Curt, our Menu or to sign up, see the Activity Binder. Cost is \$90 Sign up and pay before July 2 to avoid the \$10 late registration fee. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063 This trip is handicap accessible.

**4th OF JULY PARKING-** Are you going to Emricson Park on the 4th of July to watch the fireworks? If you are, please consider parking at Grace. Our high school youth will be selling parking spots to help fund their trip to the ELCA youth gathering next year.

### **PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION-**

Grace Lutheran Preschool has open registration for the **2017-2018 school year**. We have programs available for ages 2-5 years old ranging from 1 to 5 day programs. The non-refundable registration fee is \$50. Please help us spread the word. More preschool information can be found on our church website or by calling Chris Learman at 815-338-0554 ext. 213.



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-**The deadline for the August newsletter is July 15. Send articles to Tammy Baier at [tbaier@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:tbaier@gracewoodstock.org), or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

#### PREPARE THE WAY

##### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Committed— \$497,556.06  
Received— \$492,892.95  
Goal— \$780,430.00

**LOWER LEVEL PAINTING**— We have started on the trim work in the lower level. We are opting out of the walking park, but if you would like to come help with the painting we would love to have you. Tammy is there from 7:30 to noon on Tuesdays. We will continue on **July 11, 25, August 1 and 8** Please let her know if you are interested, or if another time works better for you. Tammy-815-687-6910.



**LIBRARY NEWS** - If you get a chance - stop by the church library and see the beautiful new wooden book display rack that is replacing the previous cardboard display. A big "thank you" to Howard Hoyt for his time and talent in making this new addition to the library, and while you are there - check out a book or DVD to enjoy!

#### SAVE THE DATES—

July 4th parking **JUL 4**  
Welcome New Members **JUL 9...**  
Life Line Screening **JUL 13...**  
Fair Trade Coffee **JUL 15 &16...**  
VBS **JUL 17-21...**  
Senior Lunch **JUL 25...**  
Preschool open House **AUG 5...**  
Fair trade Coffee **AUG 19 & 20...**  
Senior Lunch **AUG 22...**  
Chancel Choir Starts **AUG 23...**  
Fair trade coffee **SEP 16 & 17...**

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



#### GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

**Senior Pastor**/Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson  
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**Director of Communications**

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**Director of Music Ministries**

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Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

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Nancy Mojica, Erica Schwanke

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Shirley Busse

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**Custodians**/Chris & Kim Ethridge

#### Officers & Council

Andy Bellavia, Cathy Buhrow, Beth Miller,  
Rob Ribbe: Ryan Baier, Mike Freeman,  
Robin Gibbs, Ken Hansing, Gayle Hoch,

Sue Olsen, Adele Petersen

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Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th

8:30 am–12:00 pm, F