

AUGUST 6, 2014—AUGUST 19, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 16

CHILDREN, THE HOLY LAND, AND PRAYERS FOR PEACE.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

My heart breaks with each notification on my phone and the latest headlines I have read online the past few weeks. From news of unaccompanied and migrant children with no shelter, food, or safe place to live to the back and forth news of death tolls and violence in Gaza, my heart cries out, *kyrie eleison*, Lord have mercy. How long must we fight with each other and fail to care for those in need? How long will we take sides as people are killed each day? “How long, O Lord,” is a cry that echoes the psalmists, and resonates with the deep brokenness of the world.



In the midst of such uncertainty, danger, and violence, I have been glad to turn to our greater church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be connected to vital ministries of accompaniment and compassion. I invite and encourage you to keep these children, and the people of Palestine and Israel in your prayers. I urge you to read and learn about the ministries of our greater church, the ELCA. I pray you will discern how God is calling you to pray and act out of compassion for our sisters and brothers in Christ.

¹ [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) is coordinating a gracious and welcoming ministry for the many unaccompanied and migrant children seeking safety and shelter. After reading about this effort, I encourage you to read a ² [blog post](#) by the Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission, as he shares about his recent journey to meet children at the border.

Our Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Eaton has written a public ³ [letter](#) to Bishop Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. After reading her words, you might turn to the ELCA's ⁴ [Peace Not Walls](#) campaign to read more about partnership and advocacy for peace in the Holy Land.

Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy. May God gather and keep us all in God's tender compassion.

¹ <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Unaccompanied-and-Migrant-Children>

² <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCALutheranDisasterResponse/263>

³ http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Letter_To_Bishop_Younan_July_2014.pdf

⁴ <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls>

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—Please plan to attend on **August 17** at 11:15 a.m. and learn about life as a church & congregation. Congregational reports have been sent electronically via Constant Contact, and are available in paper form at the Information Center in the narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT—Reports have been emailed out and copies are available at the welcome desk. Please bring with you a copy of the report since only a few will be available the day of. If you aren't able to print it out at home and would like a copy, please notify the church office.



KITCHEN CLEANING—We are so blessed to have such a wonderful kitchen to use. Please come and help us to do a thorough cleaning on **Friday, Aug. 8**, from 9 am-noon. No sign-up required...we'll see you in the kitchen!

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, August 10, 2014
Lectionary 19, Proper 14
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

READINGS: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 17, 2014
Lectionary 20, Proper 15
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

READINGS: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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, Ramond Cupples Jr. (father of Carrie Fiorina & Amy Piquette), Ryan Daily (friend of Marilyn Vanskike), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), 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), Gerard Jordan (friend of Shirley Berna), Ken Lindenmier (brother-in-law of Diane Baker-Lockwood), 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, Alice Pate, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Marty Reading (friend of Bill & Lynn Nattress), 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: George Erber, Janet Fiene (grandmother of Kristy Nellesen)

Joy: Marriage of Brigitte Jarnecke and Shaun Baker

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.



MISTLETOE MAGIC WORKSHOP DAY—Come join the Mistletoe Magic busy bees on Tuesday, **August 12**, from 9am-4pm as we create items for our upcoming bazaar in November. We have all the supplies and tools. Just bring yourself and your willing hands! If you can be there for the morning or the afternoon or if you only have an hour to spare, we can use your help. Any questions contact

Judy Reilly jreilly038@gmail.com or Karen Reinhard kereinhard@yahoo.com

SENIOR LUNCHEON – Tuesday, August 26— Are you ready to just have some fun!? We are going to play **Crazy Bingo for Surprise Prizes!** Our warm weather lunch will consist of Layered Tuna & Pasta Salad, Rye Bread, Sliced Melons and Cheese Danish for dessert. Cost is only \$5.00 so invite a friend! Please sign up in the Activity Binder by August 24th Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



SINGERS SOUGHT—Music is a significant part of worship in this congregation. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining our adult choir which sings regularly at 8:30 or as part of the musical team to lead contemporary worship on a monthly basis. Talk with any Grace singer, our Music Director or a pastor or call the office and we will contact you with information. The start of the program year is a great time to join us as we reorganize. Rehearsals for Autumn will begin **August 27** (traditional) and **August 28** (contemporary).

PRESCHOOL PARENT ORIENTATION NIGHT—Join us for Parent Orientation Night on Thursday, **August 28** at 6:30 p.m. This is a chance for parents to meet their child's teachers, visit their classroom and learn of our daily school routines. Parents will have a chance to complete all required enrollment papers and have questions answered before school begins. Parents will also receive an orientation packet that includes; parent handbook, classroom calendar & yearly school calendar. Orientation night makes for an easy transition on the first day of school for both child and parent. Please join us! Any questions, contact Mrs. Chris at 815-338-0554 x213 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org



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.**



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.

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE LUNCHEON— **Sept. 7** - Help us put together a Salad Lunch for all our workers! Please sign up on the Bulletin Board to bring an ingredient, salad or dessert. You may bring your donation to the church kitchen before church on Sept. 6th or 7th. Questions: call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



ELCA SERVICE DAY SIGN UP! Last year over 110 people volunteered for our ELCA Service Day, "God's work. Our hands." We are excited to serve our sisters and brother in the community once again this year on Sunday, **September 7**. Service projects include: Lutheran World Relief School Kit assembly & making "Thinking of You" cards (all ages in Luther Hall), a variety of cleaning/yard work/painting/dusting/etc. at Turning Point, McHenry County EMA, PADS Permanent Site, NAMI Phoenix House, and the McHenry County Historical Society, and preparing/serving/clean-up for our group lunch. Please see the Activity Board for service project sign-up sheets, school kit donation items, food items to prepare or donate, or envelopes for monetary donations.



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN— Grandpa Pastor Ken is doing fine in Germany and will be ready to share lots of pictures upon his return!

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET & GREET— REGISTER NOW OPEN—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**.



CONNECTIONS SMALL GROUP UPDATE— "It is amazing how something written all those years ago pertains to life today as much as life back then. Lutheranism is truly timeless!" (Comment from a Connections Small Group member) In the Connections Small Group study, we have examined the Ten Commandments and the Apostle's Creed using materials from Luther's Large and Small catechisms and how those insights connect to our daily lives. Our next session, which runs **September 8** through **October 20**, will focus on the Lord's Prayer with continued focus on Luther's writings and integration into our lives today. If you'd like to join us, watch for a sign-up sheet on the Activity Board soon!



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:



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.

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 tcmeyer2@gmail.com or call 815-338-0512.



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 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.



GOLF CLINIC REPORT - On Friday July 11, Chris Neuhart, RedTail Golf Club Pro and Grace member, provided a golf clinic on sand shots, chipping and putting. After an hour of playing in the sand, chasing balls and laughing at ourselves we could see real improvement thanks to Chris' skills as a teacher of the game. The clinic and the Lou Malnati's pizza that followed were provided by Bill Collingbourne, our Thrivent representative. Bill also shared with us the services available through Thrivent. Thanks again to Chris and Bill for an enjoyable evening. ~ Ken Hansing

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!



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.)

"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.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the August 20 issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, August 12.

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, August 9 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship	Sunday, August 17 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting	Senior Pastor Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson kgibson@gracewoodstock.org 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 abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org Director of Communications Lynn Nattress lnattress@gracewoodstock.org Director of Music Ministries Ron Fredriksen rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org Parish Musicians Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson, Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti Director of Preschool Ministry Chris Learman clearman@gracewoodstock.org Preschool Staff Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue, Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen Director of Educational Ministries Office Assistant Carrie Fiorina cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org Director of Senior Ministries Shirley Busse Secretary Denise Klabunde dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org 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 council@gracewoodstock.org Office Hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, M-Th 8:30 am-12:00 pm, F
Sunday, August 10 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group	Monday, August 18 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153 7:00 PM Faith Circle	
Monday, August 11 6:30 PM No Events Currently Scheduled	Tuesday, August 19 6:15 AM Men's bible Study 9:00 AM Sewing Circle	
Tuesday, August 12 6:15 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Workshop	Wednesday, August 20 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	
Wednesday, August 13 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Exultation!	Thursday, August 21 12:00 PM DAP 7:00 PM Council	
Thursday, August 14 12:00 PM DAP 6:30 PM BSA, Sycamore Dist., Round Table	Friday, August 22 No Events Currently Scheduled	
Friday, August 15 No Events Currently Scheduled	Saturday, August 23 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship	
Saturday, August 16 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee	Sunday, August 24 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group 2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference	

