



**GRACE**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Grace for Today

**AUGUST, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 9**

Dear Friends in Christ,

These are exciting days at Grace Lutheran Church! They are days filled with God’s blessings and gratitude. Blessings and gratitude are the focus of this year’s stewardship program, First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude. Together, we will explore the many ways we are blessed by God, especially with God’s grace in Christ and how a response of gratitude moves us to be a blessing to others.



Over the next number of weeks, through Bible Study, sermons, opportunities to acknowledge and express gratitude, and congregational activities expressing gratitude, we immerse ourselves in the delight of blessing and thanksgiving. These weeks will focus our attention on God’s gracious giving in Christ and how gratitude for these blessings enable us to grow in our lives as disciples and in our sharing of blessings – to give of ourselves in gratitude.

The Kick Off Weekend for “First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude” will be **September 5 & 6**. On Saturday & Sunday, **October 10 & 11** we will celebrate Gratitude Weekend, which focuses on the blessings God has shared with us and our cumulative expressions of gratitude as individuals and a congregation. Our Celebration and Commitment Weekend will be Saturday & Sunday **October 17 & 18**. At this service, we will celebrate the ministry we have as a congregation and indicate how we will share our gifts in gratitude for God’s blessings and the ministry of our congregation.

An integral component of our program is an all congregation Bible study, “Giving in Gratitude”. This is a four week series that explores God’s giving and our response of gratitude. Together, we explore questions such as God’s blessings, their impact upon our lives, how we receive and use God’s blessing, and the difference gratitude makes in our lives as disciples and stewards. The Bible Studies will be available on our website and at the Information Desk. Please join the conversation and share a brief Bible study with friends, family, a small group, or in your personal devotions.

Plan to be in worship this fall as we consider how “First, We Give of Ourselves”. How exciting it will be to grow together in discipleship and the delight of gratitude.

Serving Together in Christ,

Your Stewardship Committee: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom, Bill Fleck, Claude Hutchens, Jill Menge, Alan Wilson

**NEW DATE, NEW TIME CAMPFIRE**—*rescheduled* to SUNDAY, August 2, 5 p.m. (due to a family funeral on Saturday). We will have hot dogs & s'mores supplies, and will sing songs, tell stories & play games. You are welcome to bring a side dish to share if you'd like. All are welcome, we hope you can join us!

**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](http://gracewoodstock.org). For information or to schedule a visit contact Director Chris Learman at 815-338-0554, x213. Grace Lutheran Preschool is accredited by the ELEA.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**—Plan to join us on **August 23 @ 11:15 a.m.** reports will be available on or before **Aug. 8th**. Watch for them on the welcome desk and in your email inbox.

**WEEKENDERS TRIP**—Day trip to Monroe, WI to visit the Minhas Brewery and Distillery on **August 22**. Links are up on the Grace Facebook Group. Contact Billie Cornell with questions. Sign up on the Activity Board. Regular Cost \$10 per tour, per person. (Groupon offer available) This is an adult only activity. Singles and couples invited. Car-pool from Grace at 9:30 am.

**SENIOR LUNCHEON – August 25** “Palliative Medicine - What Is It and Do I Need It?” by Mary Helen of JourneyLife. Come and learn what palliative medicine is and how it is used to manage pain and symptoms when dealing with a variety of illnesses and declining health. Our menu features: Crispy Sesame Pork, Hawaiian Rolls, Hawaiian Fruit Salad, Chocolate-banana Refrigerate Cake with Iced Tea & Lemonade. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **August 23**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



**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 three course sit down dinner, time for shopping their fabulous stores and a fabulous performance of West Side Story. **Deadline to sign up and pay is August 30.** Seats are limited. For more information or to sign up see the Activity Binder. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

**THANK YOU**—Thank you to all of our vacation bible school volunteers from all that donated food, money, supplies, to each and every one that took time out of their week to spend time at Grace teaching and leading our smallest members. I can truly say Grace has some of the best youth and dedicated adults around. The week was a great success with smiles all around. God truly is good and so are all of you.

~ Carrie Fiorina, Director of Educational Ministries

**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 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 Thuro), 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 Deborrah Evanoff), Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Kit Klabunde (father of Karl Klabunde & Linda Kuziel), 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), Jim Pierce (friend of Paul Lockwood), Dorothy Potoczky, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), 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), John Sorensen, 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

**Sorrow:** Robert Haning

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](mailto:Gracewoodstock.org). Due to confidentiality laws, hospitals no longer notify churches or pastors when a

**RISE UP TOGETHER...** by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Thanks be to God for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit! Thanks be to God for you, for your financial and prayerful support of your youth group. Thanks be to God for our group that traveled, cheered, praised, served, and joined with 30,000 of our closest friends to rise up together.

This Youth Gathering was an incredible opportunity for our students and adults, for our new friends that also participated, and for many of the people we met along the way. I hope you had a chance to see some of the live stream, and invite you to view more if you'd like at <http://elca.org/youthgathering>.

It has also been a joy to read how others have experienced this event. One of my favorites is this article, Why Downtown Detroit 'Looks Like a Skittles Factory Exploded', where one reader describes the view of 30,000 people roaming around in brightly colored t-shirts by saying "[it looks like a skittles factory exploded](#)," and another said, "they are insufferably cheerful."

Then there is the article, [5 Things We Learned About Lutherans From Their Youth Event](#), where observations are made about the Lutheran youth- that they're unpretentious, they tackle social issues head-on, they're not shy about pushback, they're humble, and they tolerate news site slips. You are welcome to read more to see these insights and affirmations of who we are and who we might continue to be as Lutherans.

And finally, another favorite article I have seen is, [American Christianity Has Been Hijacked](#), where the writer expresses the great difference it is to experience, know, and witness the good news of our faith instead of the negativity that seems to have hijacked American Christianity.

Beyond these neat articles, I'd invite you to hear from one more perspective, your very own youth group. I so hope that you will join us in worship on **August 15 & 16**. Grace's youth group that traveled to Detroit will be present in worship to sing and speak about the good news of Jesus Christ and what it means and looks like to rise up together.

Thank you once more, for supporting this opportunity, for experiencing a bit of the ELCA Youth Gathering through the videos, for hearing about the impact of the Youth Gathering through the writing of others, and for hearing about this event's effects from our own high school youth. See you soon!

[http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/12746/why\\_downtown\\_detroit\\_looks\\_like\\_a\\_skittles\\_factory\\_exploded](http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/12746/why_downtown_detroit_looks_like_a_skittles_factory_exploded)  
[http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/12760/5\\_things\\_we\\_learn\\_about\\_lutherans\\_from\\_their\\_youth\\_gathering#.VbDSRPIViko](http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/12760/5_things_we_learn_about_lutherans_from_their_youth_gathering#.VbDSRPIViko)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mikah-meyer/american-christianity-has\\_b\\_7839704.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mikah-meyer/american-christianity-has_b_7839704.html)

**THE SEWING CIRCLE NEEDS ASSISTANCE**—We are in need of helpers in our Sewing Circle. With so many of our members on the prayer list, we cannot continue making items for Lutheran World Relief, nursing homes etc., without your help. Contact Marge Birk to learn more.  
**In addition**, the Sewing circle is looking for a few gently used sewing machines. Do you have a sewing machine in good working order that you could donate? They will except either cabinet style or portable machines, as long as it works and can sew a simple stich forward and backward. Each year these ladies make hundreds of projects from quilts to neck pillows to walker bags that they donate to our community and around the world. Contact the office if you have a machine you can donate.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THRIVENT**—Grace is very appreciative of additional funding given to us by the North McHenry County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for two spring projects. We received \$500 for the May youth group carwash and \$500 for the May rummage sale split between WACM and Family Health Partnership Clinic. Thank you to all who contributed to these two fundraisers.

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

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

**SCHOOL KIT SUPPLIES**—Mark your calendar for **September 13**, God's Work Our Hands Sunday! As a part of this day focused on service, we will again be assembling 100 school kits for distribution by Lutheran World Relief. These kits help to make school possible for children around the world and recently particularly for those who are refugees of the conflict in Syria. We need your help to collect the supplies needed to create these kits. Starting July 25, please visit the activity board in the narthex to see what items are needed. Back to school sales are starting, so it's the perfect time to help provide the school kit items. Cash donation are also welcome to fund non-donated items. It is a huge help to have all of these items returned to the church by **August 31** in order to allow time to purchase any additional items needed. Contact Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia (815-338-5194, [mbmartinbellavia@gmail.com](mailto:mbmartinbellavia@gmail.com)) with any questions about the school kits. Thanks!

**PRESCHOOL PARENT ORIENTATION NIGHT** is Thursday, **September 3**, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. This is a great time for parents to complete all required enrollment forms for the new school year, confirm emergency information, meet the teachers and visit their child's classrooms. In addition, parents can be sure to submit the required birth certificate and physical examination forms. A back to school packet is put together with important information for the first day of school such as classrooms calendars and tuition payment information. School supplies can be dropped off. Child care is not available for this evening. Questions, please email Mrs. Chris at [clearman@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:clearman@gracewoodstock.org) or call at 815-338-0554 x213.

**GRACE TO HOST FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**—Grace will host Financial Peace University **September 3rd**. The 9-week class will show individuals how to get rid of debt, manage their money, and spend and save wisely. Classes are open to the public and will take place from 6PM to 8PM. The registration fee is \$95 per couple or individual. To register for the class visit <http://www.gracewoodstock.org> or call 815-338-0554. This life-changing class, taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video, will be challenging and motivating.

- ~ **September 3** - SUPER SAVING: Common sense for your dollars and cents. Why do we need to learn how to save money? Why should we start now? Learn the seven baby steps that will guide you throughout Financial Peace University.
- ~ **September 10** - RELATING WITH MONEY: Learn why it is important for spouses to communicate and work together toward success. Singles will learn the importance of accountability, and parents will find out how to teach their kids about money.
- ~ **September 17** - CASH FLOW PLANNING: The Nuts and Bolts of Budgeting. Learning how to take control of your money starts with a budget. Unlock the secret of developing a monthly spending plan that really works.

Other weekly topics include: Dumping Debt, Buyer Beware, The Role Of Insurance, Retirement and College.

**FALL DISCIPLESHIP GATHERINGS**— Each fall, the Northern Illinois Synod hosts Discipleship Gatherings in each of our eight conferences. The 2015 Gatherings will focus on Church Leadership and the election of a new Synod Bishop. The Northeast Conference gathering will be on Thursday, **September 10** at First in DeKalb. (Or if that date does not work, the North Conference gathering will be on Thursday, **September 17** at Shepherd of the Valley in Rockford.)

**ELCA SERVICE DAY**— **Sept. 13**—"God's Work. Our Hands." See the Activity Board to sign up for service projects, and for your yellow t-shirt if you do not already have one. Help us increase our participation number from 2014! If you can help with planning, serve as a site team leader, or have a service project idea, contact Pastor Amanda, 815-338-0554 or [abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org).

**LIBRARY NEWS**—Grace library has received a new Superbook DVD for children that is a cartoon Bible story called "Tower of Babel." There will be a series of these DVDs that have been donated to the library by Shirley Busse and we would like to thank Shirley for her generosity. A notice will be posted when a new DVD arrives in the library. So if you should get bored this summer and are looking for something to do - stop by Grace library and check out a DVD or a book or two!

**PREPARE THE WAY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**– The paving is complete! In the coming weeks the contractor will be addressing the punch list items associated with their work. The Capital Campaign Task Force is now turning their focus to the interior projects such as mechanical systems and interior finishes in the lower level of the building. These projects will be worked on as funds become available through the ongoing giving of congregation members. The Task Force has also been trying to reach every member of the congregation to speak with them about the campaign. If we have not reached your household yet, we will very soon. Please feel free to contact the Church office and we will get something scheduled with you.



## MISTLETOE MAGIC

**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. Departments for Merchandise displayed in Luther Hall for Mistletoe Magic include:

~ Children's Area: Includes, 18" inch Doll Clothes and accessories, Play clothes, Handcrafted wood toys and Sock Monkeys. Crocheted and knitted hats and mittens and scarves. Step stools for children.

~ Pet's Unlimited: Pet treats, blankets, dog coats, ornaments and items geared for the animal lovers.

~ Fair Trade and Gourmet Foods: Our familiar Fair Trade coffees, teas, chocolates etc. Including all home-made canned Garden produce, jams, jellies, salsa, pickles, noodles and more!

~ Themed Christmas Tree Ornaments: New to 2015 Woodland: Including Fox and Owl ornaments.

~ Handcrafted Wooden Gift ideas for the home. Turned pens, pencil, and stylists. Bowls, Cutting boards in quilt patterns. Salad and toast tongs, & wood turned wine stoppers. Bird Feeders and many other decorative items for the home.

~ Women and Men Accessories: Totes, Purses, scarves, travel, makeup, jewelry bags.

~ All That Glitters: Hand crafted and beaded jewelry including earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

~ Home decor: Crocheted and quilted pot holders, dish cloths and lovely pieced and quilted tea towel sets. Table Toppers and Runners. Chalk table toppers for entertaining.

~ Notes from Grace: Note Cards made from floral photos taken by Grace Members. Photos are matted and attached to note cards and sold in boxed sets.

~ Signature Mistletoe Magic Ornament: 2014 began this new department with a felted sprig of Mistletoe beautifully gift boxed and handcrafted by three Grace Leaders. We have another Mistletoe themed ornament for 2015!

Bakers prepare wonderful sweet delights for the Cookie Walk and the fantastic Bake Sale. 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. Does this spark any interest? Do you have a talent you'd like to share? Please contact Mistletoe Chairpersons with any questions or thoughts about Mistletoe Magic. Cathy Meyer, 815-338-0512 or [tcmeier2@gmail.com](mailto:tcmeier2@gmail.com), Judy Reilly, 815-353-4638, Karen Reinhard 815-338-3639 or Sue Aavang, 847-989-5889 or [taavanf@yahoo.com](mailto:taavanf@yahoo.com).

**GRACE ART**— Photographer Alert! Do you love to photograph florals? Consider submitting a few photos for selection for the beautiful note cards we make for Mistletoe Magic. Contact Cathy Meyer 338-0512 or [tcmeier2@gmail.com](mailto:tcmeier2@gmail.com).

**GOURMET FOODS**— Please consider making additional jars of those fantastic jellies, jams, pickles, salsas and garden produce for Mistletoe Magic. Contact Cathy Meyer for questions.

**PREVIOUSLY LOVED JEWELRY**—Mistletoe Magic is continuing to accept previously loved jewelry. If you have any pieces that need a new home, or have any great garage sale finds we are always accepting donations. Donations can be left at the Information Center, or call Katie Reilly at 815-355-3899.

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 **August 9**, 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 under way 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. Registration forms & tuition rates can be found online @ [www.gracewoodstock.org](http://www.gracewoodstock.org). Contact Mrs. Chris for more info. [cleaman@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cleaman@gracewoodstock.org). **SAVE THE DATE: August 8th, 2015** is our **OPEN HOUSE!!**

**PREPARE THE WAY—  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

Committed—\$441,260.06  
Received—\$292,889.06

**UPCOMING EDUCATION DATES:**

Confirmation Parents meeting—**Sept. 2**  
Financial Peace Univ.—**Sept. 3 - Oct. 22**  
Primetime Starts—**Sept. 16**  
Rally Day Meet & Great—**Sept. 20**



**GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL**  
**Senior Pastor/Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson**  
*(currently on Sabbatical)*  
**Associate Pastor**  
**Director of Senior High Ministries**  
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Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti  
**Director of Preschool Ministry**  
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**Building Supervisor/Ken Zank**  
**Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge**  
**Officers & Council**  
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Ken Hansing, Claude Hutchens; Sue Olsen,  
Peter Paulson, Adele Petersen, Rob Ribbe,  
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