

AUGUST, 2017 • VOLUME 16, NO. 8

SUMMERTIME, TIME FOR RE-CREATION.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

I often tell folks that I hope they enjoy their re-creation time as they head out on vacation or simply take some time off from what they are normally doing in their daily life. Some look at me a little funny, but the truth of the matter is, I mean it. I truly do hope folks have time for re-creating. Taking time to re-create is a good thing for all of us to do as it allows us, or should at least allow us, time to rest and relax. In that resting and relaxing, we should come to realize that all these “re” words are good in that these are the things that we remember about life. Not many of us remember the daily routines of each day, but rather as we re-call our lives, most often we remember the times we spent re-creating. Those times we spent with family or friends relaxing, sharing special meals, and enjoying time together. So then, I do think it is important to take time to re-create and summertime is often the time when most of us find the time to do such. I am truly happy for all who take time to do such over these summer months.

What I also know is that worship time is our daily re-creation time. Worship is our time to be with family and friends, and remember the one who makes our recreation possible each and every day. For in worship we recall the story of Jesus and each week we recall how he too enjoyed time with friends and sharing meals with them. Jesus even found time in the midst of his ministry to set aside time to be resting, even in a boat while others were with him. He found time to get away, rest, pray, and to be with his father. He shared meals with old friends, new friends, and even some friends who would not dine. Jesus also shared one special meal that we recall each week. In that special meal, he reminded those gathered that through him we are able to recreate our lives every day. For in that special meal, he reminded us that through him we find forgiveness and through him we are promised re-creation and new life, here and now and eternally.

So then, I do hope and pray that all have a good and wonderful re-creation this summertime. I hope and pray we always remember that in ALL times Jesus is the ultimate provider of our re-creation time!

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE- Preschool is excited to announce their Fall Open House on **August 5th from 10:00a.m. to Noon**. All are welcome to meet the teachers and visit the classrooms in preparation for our new school year. Classes are offered for children ages 2 through 5, and we have new program options available this year. Please help us spread the word about our fantastic ELEA accredited school.



SENIOR LUNCHEON- August 22- Everyone who wants to keep driving as they age needs to attend this program! Charlene Sligting, a AAA Motor Club Traffic Safety Representative, is coming to present “Keeping the Keys.” She will tell us about how aging affects the skills and abilities necessary for safe driving and how we can adjust to these changes. She will also tell us about the tools and resources available to help seniors extend their safe driving careers. Our menu is cornbread salad, melon platter, rocky road freezer pie, and iced tea and lemonade. The 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 August 20. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS- Mark your calendar for **September 10**, 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.

We need your help to collect the supplies needed to create these kits. Starting July 29, please visit the bulletin 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) with any questions about the school kits. Thanks!

COACH BUS TRIP- Sunday, August 6- "Church Basement Ladies" at the Fireside Dinner Theatre. The bus will be in the lower left lot at 12:45 PM to load.

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!



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 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; Grace Council

Health Concerns: 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), Karen Dahlen (friend of Jerry & Mary Johnson), 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), Carmen Goodmon (mother of Jennifer Robbins), 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 Deborah 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, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Bill Seger, Eleanor Setser, Sharon Sinkoske, 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

Joys: Baptism of Hollis Joy Shutt, Sonia Victoria Brzezinski, and Chase Dwight Sphar, marriage of Scot Bradley & Sarah Korizon, marriage of Tammy Resek-Caccamo and Tom Goggin

Sorrows: Elaine Steinwehe, Maria Perez (mother of Dora Reyes and grandmother of Claudia Mendez), Lillian Granger

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. 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.

“GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS”By Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, this **September 10**, we will join in the 5th Annual ELCA Service Day! For the past four years, we have gathered as a community to celebrate God’s work in the world through our hands. Will you join us this year for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and service?

On Sunday, **September 10** we will gather in Luther Hall for lunch at noon, and then set out for 2-3 hours of volunteer work in the community. We will share our time and talents with local partners, and there are service opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

Here are a few ways you can support this 5th ELCA Service Day:

- Pray. Join in giving thanks and praise to God for God’s work through our hands.
- Donate. See the Activity Board for a list of items to donate. (school kit items for Lutheran World Relief, food items for lunch, etc.)
- Volunteer. Sign up on the Activity Board to join a team. (each sheet will have a description of the service opportunity).
- Lead. We’re still looking for Team Leaders who are willing to communicate with the partner organization and the small group to lead the volunteer work at each site.

Each year I am overjoyed by the joy of this day: breaking bread together in worship and at lunch, wearing bright yellow t-shirts, getting to know the people we serve alongside, learning about our neighbors, serving Christ, and being God’s church in the world.

I hope you’ll join in this afternoon of service on **September 10!**

“The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live.” ELW 538

VBS THANK YOU– We had a fabulous week at Vacation Bible School! We were creative and inventive and learned that God made each one of us as special as can be. Thank you to all the fabulous student and adult helpers. It takes a huge village to make this week a success! BRAVO!



DECEMBER COACH BUS TRIP – Wednesday, December 6 8:30am – 5:00pm Join us as we travel to the Paramount Theatre in Aurora to see *Elf*, based on the hilarious 2003 Will Ferrell movie. *Elf* is one of those rare holiday shows that will have you lighting up with laughter, humming tunes like “A Christmas Song” and “Sparklejollytwinklejingley” for days. Paramount has become the place to head to for memorable holiday experiences. From the two-story Christmas tree in the lobby, to the thousands of sparkling lights adorning the banisters, to the carolers filling the air with song. You can’t help but get into the spirit the minute you walk through the doors. This holiday season, join us before the show as we head over to Oberweis Dairy for a tour of their plant and a tasting, then have lunch just across the street from the theatre. Cost is \$90. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

WACM MOVIE FUNDRAISER - Thrivent is sponsoring the movie *Smurfs, The Lost Village* at Classic Cinemas in Woodstock on **Wednesday, August 9 at 10:00 AM**. This is a great family friendly event that will benefit Woodstock Area Community Ministries. WACM helps organizations such as PADS, Fire House Assistance, and DAP. Free tickets are available in the office on a first come first served basis. A free will offering will be collected at the theater.

CHANCEL CHOIR STARTS SOON - As we approach the new school year, we have a lot of programs and opportunities starting back up. One of those opportunities is singing in the chancel choir. Chancel will start up on **Wednesday, August 23**. If you love to sing, please consider joining us. New singers are always welcome!

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, 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— \$495,700.95
Goal— \$780,430.00

SAVE THE DATES—

Senior Lunch JUL 25
Kitchen Cleaning Day AUG 2
Preschool Open House AUG 5
Smurfs Movie for WACM AUG 9
Fair trade Coffee AUG 19 & 20
Senior Lunch AUG 22
Chancel Choir Starts AUG 23
Congregational Meeting AUG 27
Prime Time Starts SEP 6
Thrivent Workshop SEP 7
God's Work Our Hands SEP 10
Fair Trade Coffee SEP 16 & 17
Rally Day SEP 17
Senior Lunch SEP 26
Octoberfest reception OCT 1
Fair Trade Coffee OCT 14/15

FIRST PRIME TIME

It's hard to imagine, but we are thinking about our first Prime Time. We will start this year's Prime Time year on September 6th. We are looking forward to more great meals and fellowship!

THRIVENT WORKSHOP

A Social Security and retirement workshop presented by Thrivent Financial will be on September 7. The first workshop is at 2:00 pm and the second workshop is at 7:00pm.

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F

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

