

AUGUST 20, 2014—SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 17

CELEBRATING WITH OTHERS JOYS.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



In my years of serving as a pastor I have come to see some things about folks that, to be honest, somewhat trouble me. Luther made the point that we are at the same time saint and sinner, and if we watch, we can see such in people every day.

I hope that over the last six years you have genuinely felt me share when anyone of you has a great event in your life; “I am happy for you!” The event might be as nice as an award achieved or a chance to take a good vacation with family or even just a moment when you were feeling good about your life at any given time. I also hope you know that when I say those words I truly mean them. I am happy for you when you have good things happen in your lives.

The other side of the human condition, that side that bids us to sin, reacts in a different way when hearing of another’s good news. Perhaps you have experienced such. It might be a simple side comment like; “Huh, didn’t see that as deserved.” Or even, “Hmm, not sure I would think that is such a good thing.” It just amazes me when I witness such things. What stops us from rejoicing in the good things that happen in our brothers’ and sisters’ lives? When I witness this I wonder; “What is it in the life of the person that is causing them to be so unable to rejoice with the other?” “What pain is keeping them from being able to be happy for someone else?” “What is keeping them from experiencing God as love in all things?”

I write this to ask us to be aware of how it is that we are capable of being joy for each other or not. I write this to ask us all to try and be the joy in each other’s lives that I believe we so desperately need. The scripture verse that is echoing in my thoughts as I pen this article is 1 John 4:7-8:

Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

May it be said of us that we know God and we know how to love!

BLOOD DRIVE—Grace is hosting a blood drive on **August 24** from 7:30 to noon in Luther Hall. Please donate blood to help the many people in our community who need blood to regain their health. We as a congregation have shown a strong commitment to sharing Gods grace in this way. Lets keep up the good work. Sign-up in the narthex, or contact Gretchen Hutchens at 815-341-7544, or hutchens1314@sbcglobal.net.



MISTLETOE MAGIC CRAFT WORKSHOP DAY—Come join the Mistletoe Magic workers on Tuesday, **August 26**, from 9 A.M.- 4 P.M. as we create items for our upcoming bazaar in November. We supply all the materials and tools. Come join us for an hour or two or for the entire day. Any questions contact Judy Reilly at jreilly038@gmail.com or Karen Reinhard at kereinhard@yahoo.com or Sue Aavang at taavang@yahoo.com

“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.



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, August 24, 2014
Lectionary 21, Proper 16
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

READINGS:

Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 31, 2014
Lectionary 22, Proper 17
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

READINGS: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

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), 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, Dwight Jensen, 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), 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), 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

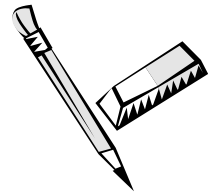
Sorrow: Christopher Schauer, Marguerite Kaufman

Joy: Baptism of Courtney Elizabeth Sciarro and Nathan Ronald Sciarro,

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.

A NEW START.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Sometimes after a weekend of worship, Jon and I will share phrases or comments we heard about Johanna that day. Common themes have been about how quiet she was in worship (just wait, you've yet to hear her lungs at work), how big and wide open her eyes are (a fun change after weeks of sleeping through church), or how long her hair is (yes, it is still growing!). This past weekend though, while talking about how quickly the past 6 months have gone by, several people said, "just wait, soon she'll be in high school," or "before you know it, you'll be dropping her off at college." As I heard that I had to reply, "whoa, not so fast!"



It is amazing how time can fly by, and that yes, before I know it, Johanna will be off to her first day of Grace Preschool. As many of you marked the start of the new school year last week, I pray that your first few days brought a welcome new start. I remember the excitement and nerves of going back to school, and I look forward to those preparations in the near future.

One of my favorite parts of going back to school was the 'school supply' list. I enjoyed the chance to pick out folders or pens, all the while imagining what a new year in school might be like. This year, I'm looking forward to a bit of school supply shopping once more, in support of one of our upcoming service projects for the "God's work. Our hands." ELCA Service Day on September 7. One of the ways we will celebrate God's work through our hands will be in assembling 100 school kits to give to Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief sends schools kits to children across the world, because the supplies inside can make the difference between getting an education or not. Each fair trade drawstring backpack will contain: 4 notebooks, 1 ruler, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 pair of scissors, 5 pencils, 5 pens, 1 box of crayons, 1 eraser, and will be hand packed with love and prayers for a new start.

If you still have a few items to pick up in your back to school shopping or if you too miss those days of shopping for school supplies, I invite you to join me in donating a few items for the LWR School Kits. A sign up sheet is posted on the Activity Board in the narthex with details about each of the items, or you can provide a financial donation towards the bags and ELCA Service Day as a whole.

God's peace and blessings be with you in these days of change, from summer to fall, from camps to a program year, and at the new start of the school year.

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 24** Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



GRACE KNITTERS—Do you knit, crochet, weave, felt? Come join our Grace Knitters group and put your skills to work making items to sell at Mistletoe Magic. We only have 2 months to go until the bazaar, but there is still time to create wonderful things to benefit our local charities: PADS, Turning Point, and DAP. Our next meeting will be **Wed. Aug. 27** from 9-11am in room 102. Come join us! Hands to work/ Hearts to God. Any questions? contact Judy Reilly 815 353-4638, jreilly038@gmail.com

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



NEW MUSIC PROGRAMS PART OF COMING SEASON AT GRACE—Two new offerings, a Hand Chime Choir and a Liturgical Dance Program are included in our fall music line up this year. The Hand Chime choir is available for children grades 2-4. These just purchased chiming instruments are similar to our existing Hand Bells but are lighter weight so easier to handle for younger children and have a more mellow sound. They will be used in worship and also will be training tools to prepare our younger children for participation as 5th – 8th grade members of Graceful ringers Hand Bells choir.

Rehearsals for this new choir will be Sundays 6:15-6:45 pm beginning September 14 (Rally Day)

Our Liturgical Dance program is a wonderful opportunity for people of any age (above three) who both love movement and love to praise God. This program puts movement and praise together. New member to Grace, Kim McLaughlin will “meet you where you are” showing what liturgical dance looks like and how to convey the great messages of the church through dance.

Kim will be available during Primetime on September 17 & 24 to meet with parents and others who are interested in knowing more about the program. Rehearsals will not conflict with singing choir rehearsals. In fact, children will have time for other choir rehearsals or for confirmation class in addition to the age appropriate dance session and dinner. The plan is to have a dance presentation be part of one of our Christmas services this year and other special services thereafter.

Our adult choral music program begins next week. If you worship in our contemporary setting, become a member of our praise singing team or work as a projectionist or sound person. These are all “learnable” jobs. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, August 26 @ 7 pm. Come see what it is all about or contact Ron Fredriksen to discuss opportunities. High school youth are also welcome as contemporary leaders.

For those whose worship preferences are traditional, Chancel Choir will begin its season Wednesday, August 27 also at 7 pm and Wednesdays thereafter. You are welcome to join this choir or one of our smaller ensembles as may be appropriate. Again, please contact Ron or a choir member for more information.

Children and youth singers will begin choir rehearsals in mid-September. Mark your calendars so your children are set to participate. Director Tammy Baier will meet Messengers (grades 2 & 3) starting September 17 (start of PrimeTime meals) at 5 pm. Cherubs (age 4 through grade 1) meet at 5:30pm September 17 and Joyful Sound (grades 4-6) at 6:15 pm for their first rehearsals. The service singing schedule will be distributed at the first rehearsal.

Graceful Ringers Hand Bell choir (children grades 5-8) this year will rehearse Sundays beginning September 14 (Rally Day) 6:45-7:30 pm in room 102, following the hand chime rehearsal.

Our grades 7-8 choir, Youthful Spirit rehearsals again this year will be Sundays from 5:15 to 6:15 pm followed by Laudate, our high school (grades 9-12) choir rehearsing from 6:30-7:30 pm beginning Rally Day, September 14 in the choir room off Grace Center.

Like the hymn familiar to most of us, “Gather Us In”, we are now called to use our talents in our congregational community. Let’s become energized through worship to do the work God calls us to in this time and place. Join the gathering as we move into our fall season with special programs and regular service. Fun, rewarding experiences await you.

BRING A CROSS TO CHURCH DAY—Pastor Ken is inviting everyone to bring their favorite cross to worship on **August 30 and 31**. This can be a wall cross, a neckless, a pocket cross, or whatever cross you choose to carry.



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



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **September 3** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **August 26**.



CONFIRMATION PARENT/STUDENT MEETING—A confirmation parent/student meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **Sept 3 at 6:30 PM** in the church sanctuary. Confirmation is for all 7th and 8th grade students. The meeting will include an overview of the program, a schedule will be passed out, a student covenant will be signed, registration will be completed, there will be discussion about confirmation camp and parents will be able to select acolyte dates for their student. Please make every effort to attend the confirmation meeting. However, if you do have a conflict, you can register your child in the church office Monday – Thursday from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM no later than **August 28**.



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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET & GREET— REGISTRATION 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**. Registration forms available at the Information Center.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP— Join us at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, **Sept. 7** for a Kickoff Meeting. Students and parents are invited to meet in Luther Hall for the start of a new year of H.S. Youth Group, and to learn more about the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. Please contact Pastor Amanda for Youth Group & Youth Gathering information if you are not able to attend.



RALLY DAY—Sign-up and come join us on Sunday, **Sept 14** after our 10:45 outdoor service for our annual Rally Day. This year we are going old school picnic. We will be providing the hamburgers, hotdogs and games. We ask each family bring a dish to pass. Details are on the Activity Board sign-up sheet. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office with any questions.

RALLY DAY SET-UP—We are looking for a few good people to lend a helping hand to set up on Sat. **Sept 13th** at **9:00 a.m.** We will be setting up table and chairs. With many hands this should not take very long at all. Sign up on the activity board and contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office with any questions.



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.

SAVE THE DATES—Connections Bible Study—**Sept. 8**, Mistletoe Magic Baking Days—**Oct. 23 & Oct. 24**, Honduras Trip—**Nov. 16**

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

Saturday, August 23

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, August 24

7:30 AM Blood Drive
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 25

6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

Tuesday, August 26

6:15 AM Men's Bible Study
9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Workshop
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Wednesday, August 27

9:00 AM Grace Knitters
9:30 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 28

12:00 PM DAP
1:00 PM Naomi Circle
6:30 PM Preschool Parent Orientation Night

Friday, August 29

No Events Currently Scheduled

Saturday, August 30

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship



Sunday, August 31

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, September 1

Labor Day / Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

9:00 AM Sewing Circle
5:00 PM Exultation!
6:45 PM All Committee Meeting Night

Wednesday, September 3

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-5s
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Confirmation Parents Meeting
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 4

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-5s
12:00 PM DAP
7:00 PM Endowment
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Friday, September 5

9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4-5s

Saturday, September 6

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, September 7

ELCA God's work. Our hands Sunday
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School Meet & Greet
9:45 AM H.S. Youth Group Meeting
9:45 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
12:00 PM Gods work. Our hands. Luncheon

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

