



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Grace for Today

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014—SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 18

**PREPARE THE WAY; CARRYING OUR FAITH INTO THE FUTURE UPDATE**.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



As many of you may recall, I have spent a good deal of time over the summer months making calls to some of us in regards to securing commitments to our campaign. I did give a report, on the success of those calls, at the congregational meeting held on August 17. Now, in order to keep all of us up to date, as many of you were absent from the meeting, let me share an even more updated report with everyone.

I am pleased to share that to date I have made 17 personal visits. I have also made presentations to all of the Church Council and the Campaign Task Force. Which means a great deal more people are yet to be contacted. One quick point; If Denise calls you to set up a time with me to discuss the campaign, as I will continue a bit more into the month of September, please give her a date and time when we might get together.

😊 Thank you.

With the above calls made, I am very much pleased to report to you that we, at the time of my penning this article, have \$208,000 committed and \$124,011 collected toward the campaign. While this is a good start we have a fair amount to go to complete our goal so let's keep up the good work. During the fall months, which are basically upon us, our focus will be on our regular stewardship campaign and we will return to the Prepare the Way Campaign early again in 2015. So, even though you may not see much in the way of the Capital Campaign I can assure you that the task force will be meeting and making plans for the future success of this effort. Please watch for more information in the months to come.

I am pleased to report that the response, to the needs and all that we hope to achieve in this campaign, has always been well received. Like I mentioned in earlier articles, regarding this effort, this campaign gets at many of the things that we know we need to give attention to that we have put off for some time. (For example see our parking lot.) While most of these items are not real flashy they are of vital importance and our success in this campaign will secure our efforts to do successful mission from this place for generations to come. Those who came before us carried their faith into the future in securing this beautiful property and constructing this amazing worship and ministry building, and we enjoy the fruits of their faith. Now it is our time to carry OUR faith into the future and thereby securing our place as good stewards of all that has been gifted to us. Then all those who come after us will be able to say of us that we were up to the challenge and faithful in our response to God's mission, indeed preparing the way for those who came to this place in the future. It is a wonderfully connected family of faith that to which we belong. My heart is gladdened when I think of the Saints of old, the Saints of now and the Saints of the future.

Let me finally, thank the Prepare The Way Campaign Task Force for their excellent work in getting us to this point and let me announce that Bill Nattress has stepped forward to serve as Chair of our Prepare the Way; Carrying our Faith Forward into the Future Campaign, and Chris Olson has agreed to serve as Vice Chair. Thank you to both of these people and let us celebrate that we are on our way carrying forward this gift of faith and Sharing God's Grace! Thanks Be To God!

## WORSHIP TODAY

**Sunday, September 7, 2014**  
**Lectionary 23, Proper 18**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

INTRODUCTION: Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

**Sunday, September 14, 2014**  
**Lectionary 24, Proper 19**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

INTRODUCTION: In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

READINGS: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

**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, 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, 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 Thuro), Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Ruth Iwanicki, Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), 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

**Joy:** Wedding of Katey Hahn & T. J. Clifton

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 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.


**SUMMER TO SEPTEMBER.....**by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom





Can you believe it's already September? I'm not sure if it was the odd weather of the past summer, or the fullness of the season, but this change from summer to September seems to be so soon this year. And yet, I feel this change is brimming with possibility and newness. There are so many things to look forward to in this new program year of our life together at Grace. A new year of education and music, a new time to share God's grace, a new start for so many fulfilling ministries.

I give thanks for the time spent in community this summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you again soon. I look forward to full worship services, where we gather in Christ's name to hear God's good news and share the communion meal. I am eager to see the preschool and Sunday school classrooms filled once more with the teaching and learning of God's love. September also brings the return of PrimeTime, yet one more opportunity to gather together and share a meal.

As summer fades into September this year, I pray that God's peace surrounds you in all of life's seasons, changes, and new beginnings. See you soon!

 **ELCA SERVICE DAY IS HERE!** 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 or envelopes for monetary donations. It is never too late to come and join a group!



 **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

**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.

**CONNECTIONS SMALL GROUP** - 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, there are 2 spots still open. Sign-up on the Activity Board.

**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.



**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.

## **WATCH/RECORD DOCUMENTARY ABOUT AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL ON SEPTEMBER 14—**



Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries and Tim Frakes Productions present *Sanctuary* - a documentary on the Augusta Victoria Hospital for Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza on Sunday, **September 14**, from 11:30 a.m. to noon on ABC-7 Chicago. (Record & watch later so you can join the Rally Day worship and picnic).

The production will journey to the Holy Land and the Mount of Olives through the doors of Augusta Victoria Hospital, a program of the Lutheran World Service, serving Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Visit <http://www.gcbm.org/> for a clip.

The summer of 2014 has seen a renewal of fighting in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, resulting in more death, destruction, and hardship. Throughout the armed conflict, the Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital has served in partnership with the United Nations as a major medical facility for Palestinian refugees.



**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.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS**—Hand Chime Choir, open to children in grades 2-4 will rehearse Sundays at 6:15 pm beginning on **Sept. 14**. See Jan Burns with questions. Tammy Baier will meet Messengers (grades 2 & 3) starting **Sept. 17** at 5 pm. Cherubs (age 4 through grade 1) meet at 5:30pm **Sept. 17** and Joyful Sound (grades 4-6) at 6:15 pm for their first rehearsals. Graceful Ringers Hand Bell choir (children grades 5-8) this year will rehearse Sundays beginning **Sept. 14** at 6:45. Youthful Spirit rehearsals (grades 7 & 8) will be Sundays at 5:15 pm, followed by Laudate, (grades 9-12) at 6:30 pm beginning **Sept. 14**. Our new Liturgical Dance program is for people of any age (above three) and dance skill level. New Grace member Kim McLaughlin will be available during Primetime on **Sept. 17 & 24** to meet with dancers & parents who are interested in knowing more about the program.



**LET THEM PRAISE GOD'S NAME WITH THE DANCE.....PSALM 149:3**—So the Bible says, and now – whatever age you are – if you like to move to music, you can find out for yourself that DANCE IS a WONDERFUL way to PRAISE GOD (and have fun)! Grace Lutheran is excited to provide the opportunity for you to participate in the new Liturgical Dance Ensemble! Contemporary dancer/choreographer Kim McLaughlin will be leading this program. She brings over 30 years of dance experience to the Grace team and is excited to see what the Lord will do through this ministry. Kim received a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College, Chicago, in Dance Performance/Choreography. She also teaches 5th grade at Olson Elementary, Woodstock and is certificated as a Type 75 Administrator. So find YOUR DANCE GROOVE age group and join in. Enjoy the dance and learn how it will enhance worship for you and for those who worship with you. Contact Kim by phone at 815- 347-9307 or drop by one of her 15 minute info-tons during our first PrimeTime Meal, Sept. 14 @ 5:15, 5:45 or 6:15 pm. Rehearsals will be by age group at times convenient for those involved and determined following the info-tons. The dance ensemble will first participate in one of our Christmas Eve services this year and then other services thereafter.

**FAITH CIRCLE BEGINS NEW BIBLE STUDY SEPT. 15**—Faith Circle meets at 7 p.m. the third Monday of the month at church. We are a group of women who gather for fellowship and an informal Bible study. The new study is titled "Transforming Life and Faith." We will consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events we experience and the people we meet. The study is taken from GATHER magazine, which costs \$15 for a 1-year subscription. Our next meeting will be **Sept. 15**. All women of Grace Lutheran are welcome to join us. Questions? Call Marylee Steinwehe at 815-338-7323.

**80 & OVER SENIOR LUNCHEON** – Tuesday, **September 30**— Once again it's time to honor all those who are 80+ years old. We will begin at 11:30am in the Sanctuary for a short worship service followed by a special luncheon in Luther Hall. Our menu is: Vegetable Trio, Pork Tenderloin with Glazed Onions & Apricots, Sweet Potato Pear Bake, Baby Green Beans, Dinner Rolls and Cherry Lemon Icebox Pie. For your listening pleasure the Kishwaukee Ramblers, a trio of multi-instrument musicians, are coming to entertain you. Grace members will be receiving a special invitation in the mail with a "free" meal ticket. Everyone else still pays only \$5. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **Sept 21**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



**KITCHEN CLEANING:** A big thank you goes out to all the ladies who helped clean and tidy our church kitchens: Nancy Berkholtz, Donna Bungard, Shirley Busse, Carrie Fiorina, Roberta Herzog, Barbara Japp, Karen Reinhard, Judy Reilly, Penne Slavin, and Marylee Steinwehe. We are so blessed to have such wonderful kitchens at our disposal, please help keep them clean and tidy when you use them.

**NEWS FROM THE NIS CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE**—The Northern Illinois Synod's Congregational Life Committee met August 23rd. At this meeting upcoming Synod events were highlighted.

This fall the NIS Discipleship Events are focusing on Invitation and Congregational Hospitality. We are fortunate to have an event in Woodstock hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church on **November 13**. Registration starts at 6:30 pm and the program begins at 7:00 pm. Please consider joining with other Lutherans from the area for inspiration and fellowship.

Mark your 2015 calendars for **March 14**. That's the date of the next Congregational Resourcing Event. It's a great day of worship, keynote presentation and a multitude of workshops designed to provide inspiration and practical tips in a wide variety of ministry areas. The keynote speaker this year is Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Executive for Administration of the ELCA. The keynote topic is still being refined, but everyone who has heard Rev. Bullock speak says she is dynamic! Please plan to attend.

For more information please contact Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, [mbmartinbellavia@gamil.com](mailto:mbmartinbellavia@gamil.com) or 815-338-5194.



**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 supplies needed, or to sign-up for the luncheon.

**"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.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **September 17** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at [lnattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org) or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **September 9**.

**SAVE THE DATES**—Honduras Trip—**Nov. 16**

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

<b>THE WEEKS AHEAD AT GRACE</b>	<b>Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all that is happening at Grace!</b>	<b>GRACE STAFF &amp; COUNCIL</b>
<p><b>Saturday, September 6</b> 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 7</b> God's work. Our hands. ELCA Service Day 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Meet &amp; Greet 9:45 AM H.S. Youth Group Kick-Off Meeting 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 12:00 PM ELCA Service Day Luncheon 12:30 PM Service Day Photo Shoot/Prayer</p> <p><b>Monday, September 8</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s &amp; 5s 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153 6:45 PM Connections</p> <p><b>Tuesday, September 9</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s &amp; 5s 9:30 AM Staff Retreat</p> <p><b>Wednesday, September 10</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s &amp; 5s 6:00 PM Confirmation Acolyte Training 7:00 PM Chancel</p> <p><b>Thursday, September 11</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s &amp; 5s 12:00 PM DAP 6:30 PM BSA—Sycamore District</p> <p><b>Friday, September 12</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4s &amp; 5s</p> <p><b>Saturday, September 13</b> 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 14</b> 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:45 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 12:00 PM Church Picnic 5:15 PM Youthful Spirit 6:15 PM Hand Chime Choir 6:30 PM Laudate 6:45 PM Graceful Ringers</p>	<p><b>Monday, September 15</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s &amp; 5s 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153 6:45 PM Connections 7:00 PM Faith Circle</p> <p><b>Tuesday, September 16</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s &amp; 5s 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 7:00 PM Prepare The Way Task Force Mtg.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, September 17</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4-5s 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Messengers 5:15 PM PrimeTime— Sloppy Joes 5:30 PM Cherubs 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Revelation Ringers 6:15 PM Joyful Sound 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p><b>Thursday, September 18</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-5s 12:00 PM DAP 7:00 PM Council</p> <p><b>Friday, September 19</b> 9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4-5s 5:30 PM Confirmation Fellowship— Richardson's Farm</p> <p><b>Saturday, September 20</b> 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 21</b> 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:45 AM Sunday by Sunday Book Group 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 5:15 PM Youthful Spirit 6:15 PM Hand Chime Choir 6:30 PM Laudate 6:45 PM Graceful Ringers</p>	<p><b>Senior Pastor</b> Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson <i>kgibson@gracewoodstock.org</i> Office Phone: 815-338-0554 Home Phone: 815-527-7215</p> <p><b>Associate Pastor</b> <b>Director of Senior High Ministries</b> Rev. Amanda Bergstrom Cell Phone: 630-664-9016 <i>abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p><b>Director of Communications</b> Lynn Nattress <i>lnattress@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p><b>Director of Music Ministries</b> Ron Fredriksen <i>rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p><b>Parish Musicians</b> Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson, Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti</p> <p><b>Director of Preschool Ministry</b> Chris Learman <i>clearman@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p><b>Preschool Staff</b> Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue, Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen</p> <p><b>Director of Educational Ministries</b> <b>Office Assistant</b> Carrie Fiorina <i>cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p><b>Director of Senior Ministries</b> Shirley Busse</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Denise Klabunde <i>dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p><b>Building Supervisor/Ken Zank</b> <b>Custodians/Chris &amp; Kim Ethridge</b></p> <p><b>Officers &amp; Council</b> Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia; Claude Hutchens; Peter Paulson; Ken Hansing; Matt Simonton; Rob Ribbe; Cathy Buhrow; Joe Pienschke; Adele Petersen; Sue Olsen; Abigail Kreznor <i>council@gracewoodstock.org</i> Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th 8:30 am–12:00 pm, F</p>

