



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace for Today

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014—SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 19

FALL, A TIME OF THANKFULNESS.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

Well it's here. Did it sneak up on you? Anyone notice the shortness of daylight the cooler nights and the feeling of acorns falling across the lawn? Yes, "Fall" is upon us. Even though we may be a bit greener than normal this year, due to the great gift of adequate late summer rains, we are definitely in the season of change. We see so much change as we journey through these next three months. The leaves of our trees will change color, the grass will cease growing at such an active pace, the days will grow shorter and the wildlife will begin to prepare for what follows after. (I am not going to print here the name of the season that follows fall, you all know what it is.) But before that season is upon us it has always been a sense of great gratitude that permeates my sense of life during these autumnal months. Perhaps this gratitude comes from my rural background and the great joy of gathering in with thanksgiving the bounty of another crop. Even when the crop is not large it is always considered bounty and one for which we give thanks.



These days, I am thankful for so much more it seems to me, and as is my habit, I try to place in my journal all the things of which I am thankful every fall. I invite you to make a list as well, it is far better to make a thankful list than to make a list of things that are wrong or upsetting in one's life. Try it; it will do your heart good, I promise.

This year my list includes, for the first time, the thankfulness of being a grandfather and the heart full of joy that has come to me in the life that is Lukas! My family continues to be a thankful spot for me and I hope for all of you as well. For me that family includes all of you and the family that we call Grace Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Illinois and the ministry in which God has called us to share. Just some of the ministry notes of thanks are listed below, believe me the list is truly much larger and all of you are on it. This year as I reviewed the new Church Directory and looked at all your smiling faces I gave thanks for each and every one of you and lifted each up in prayer. Here is a portion of my thankful list:

- ~ Mistletoe Magic and all the volunteers who work so hard to put together such a wonderful heart giving event.
- ~ Grace Pre-School which has obtained Full Accreditation as a premier Pre School in our area.
- ~ A dedicated Church Staff who work very hard and do such in great harmony and skill.
- ~ A confident, competent and cooperative church council.
- ~ The youth of our congregation whose very presence makes my heart smile.
- ~ Our Senior Ministry at Grace which continues each year to be a great source of fellowship and strength for so many in our community.
- ~ For good health and the ability to serve which brings happiness to me everyday.

And finally, for the Love of Jesus which guides me in all things, in all ways, and in whose name I give thanks, this season, all seasons, and for this life. Be thankful it does a body good!

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, September 21, 2014
Lectionary 25, Proper 20
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

READINGS: Jonah 3:10–4:11

Psalm 145:1–8

Philippians 1:21–30

Matthew 20:1–16

Sunday, September 28, 2014
Lectionary 26, Proper 21
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

READINGS: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Psalm 25:1–9

Philippians 2:1–13

Matthew 21:23–32

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: Mitch Anderson, Katie Arana, Frank Bunch, 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, Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Gerard Jordan (friend of Shirley Berna), 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), Jerry Virgil (father of Melynda Mauer), Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox

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.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom



Thanks be to God for a beautiful ELCA Day of Service on Sunday, September 7. After gathering for word and sacrament in our weekend worship services, 125 people shared lunch in Luther Hall and then were sent forth to “go in peace and serve the Lord.” Thanks be to God!

Thanks be to God, for his amazing, creative, and redeeming word, and the work that God does through our hands. As 125 people gave of their time and talent on Sunday, we give thanks too for the many families who gave of their treasure through the donations of food items, salads, desserts, school supplies, and financial offerings. Thank you to all of the team leaders, the Evangelism Committee for their planning, and Rebecca Stiemke’s work through Volunteer McHenry County in connecting us with many of the volunteer sites.

It is a joy to serve with you as we gather as a community for the greater community. In hearing stories from the various sites, I have heard how hard people worked, how well teams worked together, and how good it was to serve at each of the sites. Teams of 6-40 people gathered to serve at the following places in our community: Grace’s kitchen- to feed the whole group, Lutheran World Relief & Golden Diner- to pack 100 school kits and make cards for homebound seniors, the City of Woodstock- to paint park entrance signs, McHenry County EMA- to clean response trailers, McHenry County Historical Society- to dust and clean, a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Group Home- to do yard work and clean, the PADS Emergency Shelter- for a deep cleaning of facilities, and Turning Point- for yard work and sorting donations.

God has surely worked through our hands this past week, and God certainly continues to work through us each day. I pray that this day of service might kindle in us a more fervent love of God and neighbor. Thank you for sharing of your time, talent, and treasure; and thank you for the continued and new ways you join in sharing God’s grace in love and service.



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

MMAGIC CRAFT WORKSHOP—Please join us for a Mistletoe Magic workshop on **Sept. 23**, from 9 am to 4 pm. We are finishing projects for our benefit on Saturday, Nov. 1. All supplies are provided. Please bring lunch if you plan on staying for the day. Come for whatever time you have available. We appreciate the help.




H.S. YOUTH GROUP FALL BBQ— Join us Sat., **Oct 4**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Goerlitz Home for dinner, games, & s’mores as we welcome freshmen students to youth group. Sophomores please bring an appetizer/snack, juniors & seniors please bring a side dish (main dish & drinks will be provided). Invite a friend and sign up in advance!

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD GLOBAL MISSION TEAM NEWS— For the last 18 years, Mwangaza Education for Partnership has focused on leadership development by linking 20 Synods of the ELCA with 20 Dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. In October, Mwangaza Program Coordinators John Kavishe and Salome Lally are coming to the Northern IL Synod! Accompanied by Consultant Shoonie Hartwig and Friends of Mwangaza Board Chair Jim Unglaube, they will be spreading the word at First Lutheran DeKalb on Sunday, **October 5**, from 5:00—8:00 PM. A sandwich meal at 5:30 is followed by an hour long presentation and Q & A, about volunteering, partnerships, mission and literacy. Everyone is welcome!

GRACE FELLOWSHIP GOLF OUTING—Fun Scramble Event! Put your team together or we will pair you up. All are welcome to join us **Sat., Oct 4**, at 10:00 a.m. at Oak Grove Golf Course in Harvard, IL. Cost: \$40.00 per person includes cart. Fellowship after golf, location to be announced. Questions contact Tom Prudden (815-337-8262) or Frank Olson (815-404-3368). Sign-up/info on the Activity Board.



Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries
815-962-4279
www.RALMmail@aol.com

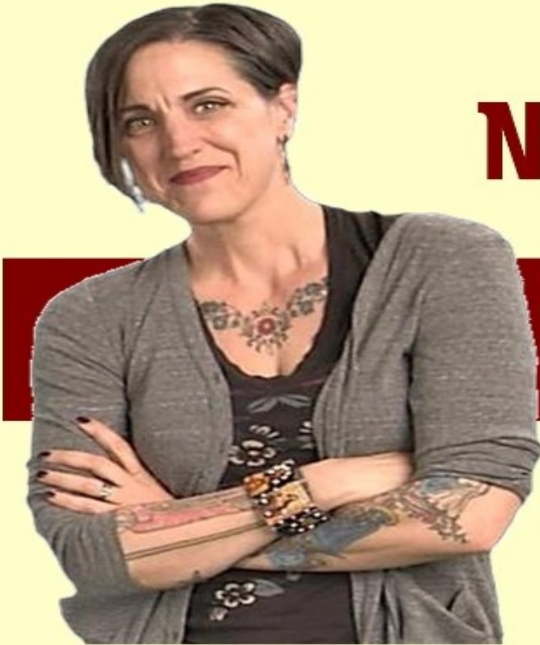


Nadia Bolz-Weber

Monday, October 6



6:30 - 8:30


Belvidere Community Building 111 N 1st Street, Belvidere, IL
get free tickets at www.RockfordAreaLutheranMinistries.com




Heavily tattooed and no holds barred, Nadia, sure as *hell* didn't consider herself to be religious leader material—until the day she ended up leading a friend's funeral in a smoky downtown comedy club. Surrounded by fellow alcoholics, depressives, and cynics, she realized: These were her people. Maybe she was meant to be their pastor. Nadia brings her message of acceptance of all people and how to be real and relevant as people of faith.

Thanks to our Sponsors

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www.facebook.com/RockfordAreaLutheran



THRIVENT NEWS—Grace Lutheran Church is very grateful to the North McHenry County Illinois Chapter of Thrivent Financial for financially helping support some of our projects. Through Care Abounds in Communities matching funds from our spring fundraisers, we received \$750 for the Grace Lutheran Church Preschool. Through matching funds from our May rummage sale, we were able to add additional \$500 checks to both Family Health Partnership Clinic and Woodstock Area Community Ministry. Thank you all for your support!

Also, Thrivent Financial would like to remind those who hold eligible Thrivent policies that allow "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to be designated to a variety of benefit agencies that our own church, Grace Lutheran-Woodstock, can be designated as a "Thrivent Choice Dollars" recipient. If you have any questions, please check with your Thrivent Financial representative or visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836. ~ Mary Noe, Grace Lutheran's advocate to North McHenry County IL Chapter

WOODSTOCK HUNGER WALK—Hosted by Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM) on **Oct. 19** at Grace Lutheran Church. 1:30 Registration, 2:00 Walk. Please join us for a pleasant 5K walk through Emricson Park in Woodstock to raise awareness/funds about hunger and how to combat it. The route is fully marked, police escorted, and will have a water/washroom stop. The walk is stroller/pet-friendly. Runners are welcome and will be cheered on first! All proceeds support people in need in the Woodstock & Wonder Lake communities. Registrations and donations are being accepted in person before the walk, or online at www.wacmgroup.org.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **October 1** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at Inattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **September 23**.



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.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE IN—If you had your photo taken last winter with us it's time to pick up your photo directory at the Information Center. Please take the one that is labeled for your family. We will be selling any extras we may have at a later date. Questions call Carrie Fiorina in the church office.

THANK YOU—To the Pastors, Congregation, and Staff of Grace Lutheran Church: The girls (now young women) and leaders of Girl Scout Troop 1306 offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your constant support of our Troop and activities over the past 12 years. Our Troop has been blessed by the many ways Grace Lutheran Church has been our generous partner. You have provided a safe and peaceful home for our meetings. You have served as our “base of operations” and supported us in our activities, great and small, that ranged from community-wide dances to Troop sleepovers. You continually and faithfully supported our fundraising activities such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Some of you graciously volunteered to work with our Troop on specific activities. And many of you unselfishly sacrificed dietary commitments as reliable customers for our cookies. Those young girls (several of whom are members of the Congregation of Grace Lutheran) are 12 years older now and their time as rostered Girl Scouts has come to an end. Their aspirations and interests are varied. Some are starting careers. Some will continue as college students beginning this fall. Some will remain in Woodstock. Some will be leaving for places near and far. But there is a commonality among these young women. All will continue to develop into, and serve as, active and productive members of their communities in great part as a result of the kindnesses extended to Troop 1306 by all of you.



With sincere thanks,
Nancy Kreznor, Leader, Girl Scout Troop 1306



MISTLETOE MAGIC BAKE SALE—Mistletoe Magic Boutique is coming **Nov. 1**. Now is the time to set aside your canned or frozen fruit to be used for the bake sale. Fruit pies, cobblers, muffins, etc., are always popular at the sale. Pull out some of those special dessert recipes and plan to donate some delicious goodies. Thank you! Watch for more information. Questions? Call Marylee Steinwehe at 815-338-7323.

MISTLETOE MAGIC GUEST ARTISTS—Do you know of someone who has artistic talent that is not a member of Grace. The past several years we have included other artists in the community who have donated a piece of their art to Mistletoe Magic. The circle of giving to MMagic, and then back into the community is ever expanded by including others to participate. In the past Jill Witty, Tom Trausch, and many people from Material Things and others have helped us by making donations of their art. Questions, please contact Cathy Meyer, Karen Reinhard, Judy Reilly or Sue Aavang. Thanks!



“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.

SAVE THE DATES—MMagic Craft Workshop—**Sept. 23**, 80+ Senior Luncheon—**Sept. 30**, H.S. Youth BBQ—**Oct. 4**, Golf Outing—**Oct. 4**, Hunger Walk—**Oct. 19**, MMagic Bake Dates—**Oct. 23/24**, Confirmation Rehearsal and Photos—**Oct. 25**, MMagic Boutique & Bake Sale—**Nov. 1**, NIS CLC Meet—**Nov. 13**, Honduras Trip—**Nov. 16**, Adult Bus Trip—**Dec. 4**.

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 information for all that is happening at Grace!	GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
<p>Saturday, September 20 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee</p> <p>Sunday, September 21 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee 9:45 AM Education Hour/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>Monday, September 22 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153</p> <p>Tuesday, September 23 9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Craft Workshop 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 7:00 PM New Praise Singers</p> <p>Wednesday, September 24 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 5:00 PM Messengers 5:15 PM PrimeTime 5:30 PM Cherubs 6:00 PM Confirmation/Revelation Ringers 6:15 PM Joyful Sound 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>Thursday, September 25 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 1:00 PM Naomi Circle</p> <p>Friday, September 26 9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4s & 5s</p> <p>Saturday, September 27 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p>Sunday, September 28 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Education Hour/Sunday Book Group 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference 5:15 PM Youthful Spirit 6:15 PM Hand Chime Choir 6:30 PM Laudate 6:45 PM Graceful Ringers</p>	<p>Monday, September 29 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153 6:45 PM Connections</p> <p>Tuesday, September 30 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 11:30 AM 80+ Worship Service 12:00 PM Senior Luncheon 7:00 PM New Praise Singers</p> <p>Wednesday, October 1 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Messengers 5:15 PM PrimeTime 5:30 PM Cherubs 6:00 PM Confirmation/Revelation Ringers 6:15 PM Joyful Sound 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>Thursday, October 2 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-5s 12:00 PM DAP</p> <p>Friday, October 3 9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4-5s</p> <p>Saturday, October 4 9:00 AM Band 4:30 PM H.S. Youth Group Fall BBQ 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p>Sunday, October 5 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 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>Senior Pastor Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson <i>kgibson@gracewoodstock.org</i> Office Phone: 815-338-0554 Home Phone: 815-527-7215</p> <p>Associate Pastor Director of Senior High Ministries Rev. Amanda Bergstrom Cell Phone: 630-664-9016 <i>abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p>Director of Communications Lynn Nattress <i>lnattress@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p>Director of Music Ministries Ron Fredriksen <i>rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p>Parish Musicians Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson, Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti</p> <p>Director of Preschool Ministry Chris Learman <i>clearman@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p>Preschool Staff Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue, Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen</p> <p>Director of Educational Ministries Office Assistant Carrie Fiorina <i>cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p>Director of Senior Ministries Shirley Busse</p> <p>Secretary Denise Klabunde <i>dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org</i></p> <p>Building Supervisor/Ken Zank Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge</p> <p>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 <i>council@gracewoodstock.org</i> Office Hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, M-Th 8:30 am-12:00 pm, F</p>

