

SEPTEMBER, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 10

HERE IN THIS PLACE.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

“Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.”
“Gather Us In” ELW 532



Here in this place, Grace in Woodstock, we are entering a new season in our life together. It is a time of reconnection, how lovely it is to see you again after the travels of summer. This is the season of beginning again, for Sunday school, PrimeTime, choirs, dance, chimes, bells, youth group, confirmation, and fellowship hour. And here in this place, there is time for newness too, a newly paved drive to prepare the way, an adult forum series of realizing the social truths in our community, and new adult education offerings such as Financial Peace University and Animate.

Here at Grace as we embrace God’s work through our hands this season, we gather to give thanks for God’s grace and blessings. In this second year of our “First, We Give of Ourselves” stewardship program, we center on Giving in Gratitude. Towards the end of September and the beginning of October we will hear from fellow sisters and brothers in Christ as they share about their faith during Stewardship Temple Talks. Our stewardship committee is also preparing a space in the narthex to share notes of what we are grateful for in the shape of leaves on a tree.

Here in this place, we gather to be church together. In the lovely words of this hymn, “Gather Us In,” we hear a song praying that God gathers us in, “the lost and forsaken, the blind and the lame, the rich and the haughty, the proud and the strong, hold us forever, make us your own, all peoples together.” Here in our greater denomination, the ELCA, our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has invited us to conversations and action on confronting racism*. Here in this place, may we join the conversation and faith in action so that we are equipped to confront racism and love one another as God gathers us in, all peoples together.

Blessings on the season ahead, and thanks be to God for the mission and ministry we share in this place, this community of faith at Grace.

*If you were not able to watch the live webcast conversation, “**Confronting Racism**” between Bishop Eaton and William B. Horne II, you can still view the video through a link at www.elca.org.

MISTLETOE MAGIC GENERAL CRAFT WORKSHOP—Sept 1, 9am-4pm. Come when you can, leave when you must. All supplies are donated. Bring lunch. Questions: Cathy Meyer, Judy Reilly, Karen Reinhard or Sue Aavang.

CONFIRMANDS AND PARENTS MEETING—On **September 2**, there will be a meeting of parents and potential confirmands in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting we will share more about what the confirmation experience will be here at Grace Lutheran Church. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office for more info.

PRIME TIME COOKS NEEDED—Love Prime Time or love to cook consider making a meal or two for our Prime Time. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office. **First Prime Time is Sept. 16.**

STEWARDSHIP—Kick Off Weekend for “First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude” will be **Sept. 5 & 6**. On **Oct. 10 & 11** we will celebrate Gratitude Weekend, which focuses on our blessings. Our Celebration and Commitment Weekend will be **Oct. 17 & 18**, where we will celebrate our ministry, and how we will share our gifts of blessings and the ministry of our congregation.

ADULT BUS TRIP – to Fireside Dinner Theatre Saturday, **September 26**. The bus will be in the lower left lot at 8:45am for loading. Please be punctual. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

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. 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.. Child care is not available for this evening. Questions, please email Mrs. Chris at cleaman@gracewoodstock.org or call at 815-338-0554 x213.

GRACE SUPPORT AT OLSON ELEMENTARY— The school is looking for items to have on hand in the nurse's office. Lists available at the Information Center. Collection bin in the narthex. The clothing drive will run through the month of **September**.

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

THANK YOU!! - At the annual Woodstock Summer In the Park event this past July, Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool put together a booth to Share God's Grace within our community. A special thank you goes out to Lynn Nattress, Heidi Olsen, Patty Kozlow, Darcy Kniola, Karen Millman and Claudia Mendez for all their help. Our booth offered a fun bozo bucket game with prizes and we passed out information about our church & preschool. Our volunteers braved the heat and mud to share their excitement about Grace! Join us next year!

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 in the military

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 Thurow), 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 Deborah Evanoff), Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), 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 Behrens), Jim Pierce (friend of Paul Lockwood), Dorothy Potoczky, Ferd Raffel, 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), Bob Unglaube, Jerry Virgil (father of Melynda Mauer), Faith Watkins, Karen Wells, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

Sorrows: Tiffany Freier (cousin of Pastor Amanda), Carolyn Olson (mother of Frank Olson), Helen Mavis, Virginia Anderson, Kit Klabunde (father of Karl Klabunde & Linda Kuziel), Tim White (son of Jim White)

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.

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. Help with cooking or clean-up for the luncheon, assist with interior or external site projects, or help stuff backpacks here at Grace. Help is needed in ALL areas. Please sign-up as soon as possible, so we know how many participants to expect. 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.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION—School has started and Sunday school will soon too. Register today either online at gracewoodstock.org or on a registration form found at the Information Center. Our meet and greet (ice cream social) will be on **Sept. 20** between services, first day of classes will be on **Sept. 27**. Contact the church office if you have questions.

RALLY DAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL– This year instead of a Rally Day picnic we will be having an ice cream social between services on **Sept. 20**. Come meet your teachers and get an ice cream sundae on a Sunday. Everyone of all ages are welcome. Come celebrate the beginning of our educational year. If you’re looking for a picnic join us on **Oct. 4** as we welcome Pastor Ken back with a German style picnic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED—We are in need of a few good people to help teach our youngest members. As part of our baptismal promise to everyone we promise to help guide and teach our kids in the ways of the church. So why not be a part of our teaching teams here at Grace. The curriculum is very easy to follow and the reward will be the smiles on the kids’ faces week after week as they learn about God’s wonderful world. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office if you are interested.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – **September 22** - Fall is here and so is our menu of Oktoberfest Casserole, Rye Bread and Cranberry Apple Crisp with Ice Cream for dessert. Our program is “Music and the Brain”, we will explore using music to enhance your mind, body, and spirit. Music enhances memory and can enrich your life during daily stressors and challenges. Cost is only \$5.00, so bring a friend. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **September 20**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



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

GRACE CHOIR YEAR BEGINS— Another sign that autumn is approaching is the return of choirs to the worship services at Grace. Chancel Choir, which leads most of our traditional 8:30 am services, leads the way. This adult choir's weekly rehearsals are underway from 7-9 pm in the church sanctuary on Wednesday evenings. Doors are always open to new members either as full time singers or when personal schedules don't allow for a full season commitment. Contact Director of Music, Ron Fredriksen, for more information.

This year in conjunction with two special scrap-booking sessions, our Wednesday children's choirs will start their weekly rehearsals on **Sept. 2** in the lower level choir room. While Primetime doesn't begin until Sept. 16, food will be part of the singing and scrap-booking sessions in the early start season.

Our Chime choir for children grades 2-4 will join the Wednesday schedule in order to accommodate more families. Grace Chimes will lead off the Wednesday music opportunities with 30 minute rehearsals beginning at 4:45 pm each week. All ringing choirs will rehearse in room 102.

Singing choirs begin at 5:15 with a weekly 15 minute Cherub Choir rehearsal for our youngest (age 4 to Grade 1) singers. All our Wednesday children's singing choirs will rehearse in the building's lower level choir room. Parents should plan to attend the first rehearsal to complete the registration forms. Contact our director of choirs through grade 6, Tammy Baier, for more information.

Children grades 2-4 are encouraged to be part of Messengers and rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm – 6 pm. Our remaining Wednesday children's choir, Joyful Sound for grades 5-6 will rehearse in the 6 pm – 6:45 pm time slot.

Our newest music offering is the Grace Liturgical Dance teams. The youngest of these children rehearse from 6:30 to 7 pm with the next age up rehearsing from 7-7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. These rehearsals will be in the upstairs narthex, outside the sanctuary. Contact Kim McLaughlin, our coordinator for dance, to learn more.

Children will participate with their choir or dance team in Sunday services about every 5-6 weeks, with Joyful Sound singing first on Rally Day, **Sept. 20**.

The Sunday afternoon-early evening choir rehearsal schedule begins **Sept. 13**. Our Youthful Spirit choir, grades 7-8 rehearse 5:15-6 pm. High school age singers who comprise Laudate will rehearse 6:30-7:30 pm. Finally, our grades 5-8 Graceful Ringers also begin at 6:30 but generally end by 7:15 pm. Contact Carrie Filetti about these singing choirs and Jan Burns for information on Graceful Ringers.

Ringers grade 9 and above are encouraged to join Revelation Ringers who rehearse Wednesdays from 6 to 6:45 pm following dinner at Primetime each week starting **Sept. 16**. The contact for this ringing choir is Terry Aavang.

In addition to all of these offerings, our contemporary singers continue their leadership. All who have interest in singing monthly in our contemporary worship setting are invited to join New Praise Singers. This team rehearses (usually Tuesday or Thursday) twice during the last two weeks before singing the 10:45 am service on the first Sunday of each month. Obtain more information from Ron Fredriksen.

Come sing, ring and praise God as a part of the Grace music team.

SCRAPBOOK—While Pastor Ken is on sabbatical we are putting together a Grace Scrapbook. Families can create their page(s) at home or join us for some scrapbook workshops on **Sept. 2nd, 9th**, (pizza served), **16th & 23rd** (PrimeTime). Supplies available. Drop off by **Sept. 23rd, 2015**. Questions: Mrs. Chris @ 815-338-0554.

LUNCHES FOR LEARNING LETTER—

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

We want you to know how much your sponsorship means to the Policarpo Paz Garcia community and its residents. The students are thriving under your sponsorship and we hope that you will join us on one of our visionary trips to your school in the near future. We would love to be able to reach out with this information directly to those addresses. In the future we will communicate to your group directly with feedback from your school. Also, you can now find travel logs and school information on our new website (www.lunchesforlearning.org) and on Facebook. Please take a look at the website and comment or find us on Facebook where you can like/share our posts and even friend us! Thank you for your continued support of L4L and Policarpo Paz Garcia elementary school.

Best, Craig Simons, Lunches For Learning Chairman & the Lunches For Learning Board of Directors

OUTDOOR WARSHIP AND SERVICE TIME CHANGE—Our Contemporary Service will switch back to 10:45 am with the next outdoor worship on **September 13**.

OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION—All Grace families are invited to an Oktoberfest Celebration and Reunion on Sunday, **October 4**, to welcome Pastor Ken back from his sabbatical. There will be live German music, good food and a short program to welcome Pastor Ken back and hear a few highlights from his travels and family celebrations.

The picnic will begin shortly after the 10:45 service near the outdoor sanctuary. In case of inclement weather, we will utilize Luther Hall. Look for sign-up sheets on the activity board and additional information in Day One as the celebration approaches. Funding for this celebration and the June send-off picnic are provided by the Lilly Endowment grant.

Come celebrate Grace's German heritage and show Pastor Ken the love and support his Grace family has for him. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Hansing at hansings@att.net.



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 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. All Grace members are invited to participate. Please contact with any questions or thoughts: Cathy Meyer, 815-338-0512 or tcmeier2@gmail.com, Judy Reilly, 815-353-4638, Karen Reinhard 815-338-3639 or Sue Aavang, 847-989-5889 or taavanf@yahoo.com. Mistletoe

BAKE SALE— Now is the time to set aside your canned or frozen fruit to be used for the Bake Sale. Fruit pies, cobblers, etc., are always popular at the sale. Our shoppers love breads, muffins, bars, brownies, cakes, and fudge, too! Pull out your dessert recipes and plan to donate some delicious goodies. Questions? Call Marylee Steinwehe at 815-338-7323.

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.

GRACE ART— Photographer Alert! Consider submitting a few photos for the beautiful note cards we make for Mistletoe Magic. Contact Cathy Meyer 338-0512 or tcmeier2@gmail.com.

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>



OUTDOOR WORSHIP—
Our Contemporary Service will switch back to 10:45 am with the next outdoor worship on **September 13.**

SHARE THE BOUNTY—Bring extra plants/produce and take what you can use. Questions: Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia.

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! 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. Contact Mrs. Chris for more info. cleaman@gracewoodstock.org.

**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**
First day of Sunday school— **Sept. 27**
Walk for Hunger—**Oct. 25**



GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
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