

OCTOBER 1, 2014—OCTOBER 14, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 20

LILLY AWARDS SABBATICAL GRANT TO GRACE!.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

As was discussed at the annual meeting last Spring, I had applied for a grant to support all that I had planned for “US” during my sabbatical time in 2015. At this time, we are able to report with much joy that Lilly liked the proposal and has awarded us together a maximum award of \$50,000.00 to support Grace in our effort for this sabbatical. Let me say two truths up front. #1, I am so very thankful for the support that this congregation is making in its pastors by approving a sabbatical time for its clergy. I am, as I just stated most thankful and realize that this does not come without an effort by many and for that again I say; “Thank you” as my #1 truth. I am indeed very grateful. My #2 truth is this; **“I need this time away.”** I can honestly say that at this time in my life it is very important for me to take this time away and get regenerated for the ministry and years that lie ahead. At the time of this Sabbatical I will have served 20 years in ministry, and in all my ministry settings over those 20 years one thing is for sure, just as it is here, I have often put family second and my ministry first. With this sabbatical time I will, in some small measure, be able to put them first for awhile in a very real way. This is my focus and a focus that I think would be important for all of us as a people of God in this place at this time.

This leads me to share the areas of focus in this sabbatical time. I have three foci, **my main and first focus is; put family first!** Not just me, but all of us! I specifically will spend one month in Germany with Lukas, oh and yes Jodi, Lauren, and Joy also will be with me in Germany too! That will take care of my first month away. Some very specific family reunions will be held in the month of August. Reinstating family reunions is the activity for the whole month of August.

My second focus is to explore the role that geography plays in our spiritual development. I hope to do so by exploring the “*Umgebung*” (translated; “environment” in German) that Luther experienced while writing the small catechism; (I hope to do this while riding a bike to the churches of rural Saxony where Luther wrote the SC. Luther walked; I will ride a bike. 😊 This time will be done with my son-in-law who, if I am slow, I am sure he can pull me along. **My third focus is rest and renewal.** I plan to spend time completely away in the remote great North Country. I will spend time in what I know is one of my special spiritual places in a remote fishing camp about 8.5 hours north of the Canadian border with crystal clear water and silence as the order of most of the days. I will spend one week alone and a week hosting my brothers for a week of fellowship and fishing together up north. But this is not just about me! It is my hope that all of us will strive to put things of import in place. Relationships that mean the most to us must become the most important! Family first, in however you define family and that means our GRACE FAMILY TOO!

Highlights for Grace include;

- ~ Special **Grace Family Reunion** at the start of the sabbatical time (a Lilly catered event)
- ~ **Oktoberfest celebration** at the conclusion of the sabbatical time (sponsored event by the grant)
- ~ **Special “family kits”** will be sent to each household which will include a copy of “Luther’s Small Catechism”, along with study/conversation questions of import to today. Also included will be an informational “Luther Lived Here” map and historical study guide, and a “Luther Sites” coloring book for younger members

(continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, October 5, 2014
Lectionary 27, Proper 22
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

READINGS:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 12, 2014
Lectionary 28, Proper 23
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION: In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

READINGS: Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23 Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

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, Pfc. Henry Trebes (friend of the Laird family), Army Reserves, deployed to Cuba

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, Gertrude Cox (grandmother of Angie Ribbe), Dennis 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), 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, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Audrey Haager

Joy: Baptism of Mia Grace Ruiz, baptism of Declynn Skye Young, birth of Quintin William Emery, son of Marc & Helen Emery on September 21, 2014

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.

(Lilly Awards...continued from Page 1)

~ An on-line available, ***"Where in the world is Pastor Ken?"*** Power Point to highlight the daily places that Pastor Ken will be visiting with his family, INCLUDING LUKAS, while in Germany.

The grant will also support;

- ~ Financial assistance for increased hours for office staff
- ~ Financial support to assist to provide for a rostered ordained clergy person to assist in Pastoral care and other duties during my time away.
- ~ Financial support to assist our web master in developing the on-line additions to our web page

I will be hosting an Adult Forum between worship services at some point in the future to review all of this in more detail, but in the meantime, if you have questions, ask me. I will be happy to explain all that we will do together in this special sabbatical time.



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!

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.




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!



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 desk. Please take the one that is labeled for your family. If you did not have your photo taken with us, but would still like a copy of the photo directory they are now on sale at the Information Center for \$10.00. Questions call Carrie Fiorina in the church office, 815-338-0554.

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.

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BLESSED TO BE CHURCH TOGETHER.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Last week I had the great joy of gathering with rostered leaders from our Northern Illinois Synod for the annual Professional Leaders Conference. The Dominican Sisters at Sinsinawa Mound Center were gracious hosts, and it was a wonderful time to connect with other pastors and leaders from neighboring congregations.

Our Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Elizabeth Eaton, met with us and shared news of the many ministries we share across the ELCA. What a gift it is to be connected with sisters and brothers in Christ in our local and global ministries: in the nationwide day of service, through the Malaria Campaign and ELCA World Hunger ministries, responding to the Ebola crisis through ELCA Disaster Response, and sharing the good news of Jesus with neighbors near and far. Bishop Eaton spoke with us and invited us to remember that we are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and church for the sake of the world.

I give thanks for you, dear friends who gather at Grace Lutheran Church, and give thanks that we are a part of the Northern Illinois Synod and the ELCA. Blessings as we gather as a church to hear God's word and share the communion meal, as we live out our Lutheran identity, as we support and care for one another, and as God continues to call us into mission and ministry for the sake of the world.



OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATING ELEANOR SETSER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY— Friends and family are invited to celebrate Eleanor Setser's 90th birthday on Saturday, **October 18th**, by attending an open house at Grace Lutheran Church. The Open House will be from 1pm–3pm in Grace Center. A light lunch will be served.

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.



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.

DRIVER NEEDED—New resident in Woodstock has asked if a member of Grace could bring her to worship about once a month, any service is okay with her. If you are able and interested please contact the church office for more details. 815-338-0554

GRACE PRESCHOOL—Our preschool is in need of substitutes for our new school year! If you have experience with young children and/or a background in early childhood education, please consider being on our sub list. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact Mrs. Chris for a list of duties, requirements, a sub packet or additional information. 815-338-0554 x 213 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—All *Grace for Today* articles for the **October 15** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **October 7**.



MISTLETOE MAGIC... Sharing God's Grace by raising funds to serve Social Ministry needs. We look forward to our annual benefit held Saturday, **November 1st** from 9a.m. to 3p.m. for our guests and 9:30a.m. to noon on Sunday for Grace members only. We are committed to serving three local agencies who serve those in need in our community. Turning Point of McHenry County fights against domestic violence, Direct Assistance Program addresses immediate concerns and the Wednesday Nite PADS site provides shelter and meals.

How can you help? Handmade items for the Household, Kitchen, Accessories for Men and Women. We have a new area for children, which includes the 18" doll clothes, play clothes, for boys and girls, handmade heirloom toys, and our new Gourmet Foods section, which includes Fair Trade items and canned garden produce, plus cookie mixes! Donate a beautiful craft, sewing, knitting, crocheted or other hand made item(s). Bake something for the Bake Sale or Cookie Walk. . Sign up to bring food items for the luncheon. Give of your time by serving as a waiter for the luncheon, greeting at the entrance, being a personal shopping assistant, selling tickets at the donation table...there are numerous places to serve. Prices of supplies for projects and food items for our luncheon rise every year. To help defray these costs please consider making a cash donation to Mistletoe Magic to the general fund or the luncheon. Our goal is to raise funds, but Mistletoe Magic is so much more...Fellowship, Evangelism, Stewardship...We've been invited to the party to celebrate all that is good at Grace...YOU!

For questions please contact: Cathy Meyer, 815-338-0512, Sue Aavang 847-989-5889, Karen Reinhard, 815-338-3639, or Judy Reilly 815-353-4638

Thanks,
Cathy Meyer, Chairperson

ADULT COACH BUS TRIP— Thursday, **December 4** from 9:45 – 5:30. Come join us as we travel in time to Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace to experience Camelot, an exciting tale of love and chivalry. We will enter the magical and mythical days of Medieval England and meet King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, Sir Lancelot and Merlyn. Marvel at the costumes, enjoy the romantic songs, sit back and just relax. Our pre-show luncheon comes with the soup of the day, garden vegetables, potato, fresh baked bread, dessert, a beverage and your choice of Traditional Roast Turkey dinner or Salmon Filet. The cost of this all inclusive trip is only \$65. Please sign up in the Activity Binder. Deadline to sign-up is **Nov. 9**. This trip is handicap accessible. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063



"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.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL PRESENTS: Social Security: Strategies to Maximize on **Nov 9**, 9:45–10:30 a.m.. The workshop will discuss some of the different ways to take Social Security. For additional information, contact Bill Collingbourne at 815-546-3160, or bill.collingbourne@thrivent.com

NIS CONGREGATION—This fall 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 **Nov 13**. Registration 6:30 pm/program 7:00 pm. Please join other Lutherans for inspiration and fellowship. Contact Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, mbmartinbellavia@gamil.com or 815-338-5194.

SAVE THE DATES— 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**, Thrivent Social Security Seminar—**Nov 9**, 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, 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>Monday, October 6 9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic General Pricing 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153</p> <p>Tuesday, October 7 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 5:00 PM Exultation! 6:45 PM All Committee Meeting Night</p> <p>Wednesday, October 8 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 12:30 PM Staff Meeting <i>NO PRIMETIME/CONFIRMATION/ OR KIDS CHOIRS</i> 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>Thursday, October 9 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s 6:30 PM BSA, Sycamore District</p> <p>Friday, October 10 9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4s & 5s</p> <p>Saturday, October 11 9:00 AM Band 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p>Sunday, October 12 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 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, October 13 Columbus Day / Church Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153 6:45 PM Connections</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 14 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s</p> <p>Wednesday, October 15 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Messengers 5:15 PM PrimeTime –Italian Beef 5:30 PM Cherubs 6:00 PM Confirmation/Revelation Ringers 6:15 PM Joyful Sound 6:30 PM Grace Dance 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Grace Dance</p> <p>Thursday, October 16 9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4-5s 12:00 PM DAP 5:00 PM Exultation! 7:00 PM Council</p> <p>Friday, October 17 9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4-5s</p> <p>Saturday, October 18 Stewardship Commitment Weekend 9:00 AM Band 1:00 PM Eleanor Setser 90th Birthday Party 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee</p> <p>Sunday, October 19 Stewardship Commitment Weekend 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee 9:45 AM Education Hour/Sunday by Sunday 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship 2:00 PM Hunger Walk 3:30 PM HS Youth Gathering with NE Conf. 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 kgibson@gracewoodstock.org 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 abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Director of Communications Lynn Nattress lnattress@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Director of Music Ministries Ron Fredriksen rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Parish Musicians Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson, Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti</p> <p>Director of Preschool Ministry Chris Learman clearman@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Preschool Staff Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue, Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen</p> <p>Director of Educational Ministries Office Assistant Carrie Fiorina cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Director of Senior Ministries Shirley Busse</p> <p>Secretary Denise Klabunde dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org</p> <p>Building Supervisor/Ken Zank Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge</p> <p>Officers & Council Cathy Buhrow; Mike Freeman; Robin Gibbs; Ken Hansing; Claude Hutchens; Sue Olsen; Peter Paulson; Rob Ribbe; Beth Millar; Daniel Nattress council@gracewoodstock.org Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th 8:30 am-12:00 pm, F</p>

