

OCTOBER 29, 2014—NOVEMBER 11, 2014 • VOLUME 13, NO. 22

**CONFIRMATION!**.....by Pastor Ken Gibson



By the time you all are reading this article we will have just finished a weekend where we celebrated the anniversary of the Reformation. One of the highlights of this past weekend was witnessing 13 of our young people, (Sean Devinger, Jocelyn Eisenmenger, August Hutchens, Theopolis Hutchens, Nicholas Ihssen, Jackson Parrish, Courtney Sciarro, Hannah Seils, Taylor Spanbauer, Camryn Tafoya, Alexander Williams, Hannah Wilson and Amanda Zingre), take part in the Service of the Rite of Confirmation aka, Affirmation of Baptism. These are wonderful young people and it has been a joy to share in this special part of their faith journeys. I thank God for them and look forward to watching them grow in faith and love over the next many years.

Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation is an intentional act for affirming the gift that was placed upon these young people at their Baptism. Truth is, it was placed upon all of our heads and we all from time to time, I believe, need to claim this gift for our lives. Think of it this way and consider this question “How often do you take a bath?” “Each day or every other day at the least” for most of us I suspect would be the answer. So I now ask you “Why?” Again, I suspect most of us would reply “Because we are dirtied from the work of our days and because a bath or cleansing allows us to feel clean and refreshed for the work and life of the next day.” Now I ask you “How often do you claim the same from the waters of your baptism?”

Each week we at Grace gather around a font and it is as if we were gathering at the same “bath house” to be washed clean again. To be refreshed and to feel ready to go again into a world that stains us and tries to claim us away from our baptismal identity as a child of God. Perhaps you have heard me say at the start of worship, when folks might be arriving late to service and I am giving the announcements “Come on in the water is fine!” I truly mean it! I sometimes think I should shout it for all of us to hear and claim. “COME ON IN THE WATER IS FINE!” Let’s all dive in and splash around and enjoy the refreshing waters as they cascade upon us like we were all under a waterfall of perfectly clean waters.

My heart aches when I hear of people caught up in the dirtiness and “stain-full ness” of the world. It especially hurts when these folks feel they have no place to go and no way to be refreshed and made clean. Talk about an identity crisis! Way too often I find that the most troubled in our world are those who have had the identity, which they thought defined them, turned upside down and their sense of the world order is put into a major flux. It is in times like these that we especially need to claim again the gifts of that “bath”! To have those waters wash over us again and again and to cleanse us from all that covers us up and dirties our lives and to be affirmed/confirmed in our true identity! “Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation” indeed!



### **MISTLETOE MAGIC**



**MISTLETOE MAGIC IS HERE SATURDAY, NOV. 1st!** - Come one, come all and bring your friends and neighbors too! Doors open 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. Offering unique, finely handcrafted items by members of Grace. Don’t miss the luncheon, bake sale, cookie walk and live entertainment. All proceeds benefit: Turning Point, Direct Assistance Program and Wednesday Night PADS homeless site.

## WORSHIP TODAY

### **Sunday, November 2, 2014** **All Saints Sunday**

INTRODUCTION: All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

READINGS: Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

### **Sunday, November 9, 2014** **Lectionary 32, Proper 27** **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

INTRODUCTION: Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

READINGS:

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

**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, 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:** Katie Arana, Frank Bunch, Gertrude Cox (grandmother of Angie Ribbe), Dennis Daily (friend of Marilyn Vanskike), Gloria & Ken DeRango (mother and step father of Brian Pilgard), Ken DeVogelaere, Marge Dierksen, Betty Dusthimer (sister of Diane Thurow), Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Maroulla Hahne (friend of the Flecks), Gloria Holy, Patrice Hoover, August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Ruth Iwanicki, Christina Jaggi (friend of Adele Petersen), Donald Janavyak (friend of Shirley Berna), Fila Johnson (sister-in-law to Roberta Herzog), John Johnson (brother of Jerry Johnson), Vincent Lopez (father of Tom Lopez), Nancy McCormick (cousin of Martha Fleck), John McMahon, Gail Mueller, Jesse Myjak, Daniel Nattress, June Noel (mother of Marylee Steinwehe), Herb Neubaum, Don Nusbaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Joshua Rumschlog (great grandson of Eileen Weide), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover) 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

**Joys:** Those that have affirmed their faith in the rite of confirmation this past weekend; Sean Devinger, Jocelyn Eisenmenger, August Hutchens, Theopolis Hutchens, Nicholas Ihssen, Jackson Parrish, Courtney Sciarro, Hanna Seils, Taylor Spanbauer, Camryn Tafoya, Alexander Williams, Hannah Wilson and Amanda Zingre

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.

## CONVERSATION AS HOSPITALITY....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

In the current words of Confession and Forgiveness that we speak at the start of each worship service, there is one phrase that has grabbed my heart the past few weeks: "Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion." It sounds terrible, and yet, in many ways, this confession speaks to a new norm in our world, culture, and lives; we treat strangers with suspicion. Who are they? Why are they here? Can I trust this stranger? Oh God, grant us your mercy, forgive us, and give us a new heart and a new spirit.

I get it, I do. I've been there, and I, like you perhaps, hope for a change and a new way of being. It's been said in church leadership circles that every congregation thinks they are the most welcoming congregation of all, and yet, to be a welcoming community can be one of every congregation's greatest challenges.

There are some days where I have been blessed to witness beautiful hospitality here in this place. I've seen you stay after worship to explain how service folders and hymnals work. I've heard you invite someone new to an upcoming gathering, or tell more about a specific ministry.

And then there are days where I see someone new gather for worship in this place, and I only see Pastor Ken or myself say hello or welcome. Or, there are the days where we do not have a chance to greet someone, and I have not seen anyone else do so either. And as one of my mentors once shared with me, pastors are the least permanent things in congregations; so it is my prayer that far more than Pastor Ken and myself find ways to welcome, get to know, and spend time with strangers, new visitors, guests, and even those who sit in the same pew and yet we do not know.

Our synod, the Northern Illinois Synod, has been hosting Discipleship Gatherings this fall in each of the conferences around the topic of "Conversation as Hospitality- Helping make the faith connection." and I am eager to learn and grow with others in this area. Grace is located in the Northeast Conference of the synod, and our gathering will be held just down the street at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Will you join us at our synod's upcoming Discipleship Gathering? Pastor Ken and I plan to attend, church council has the date on their calendar, and our Evangelism committee has invited people from Committee Night to attend. Will you join us? I hope so! And I pray we all find ways to engage in intentional conversations as an extension of God's hospitality and welcome.

Northeast Conference Discipleship Gathering  
Thursday, Nov. 13 at Redeemer, 1320 Dean Street, Woodstock  
6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Registration and Light Supper  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Worship and Program



### **MISTLETOE MAGIC OPPORTUNITIES**



**MISTLETOE MAGIC BAKE SALE**—The countdown for Mistletoe Magic has begun, and everyone at Grace is encouraged to donate homemade items for the bake sale. Sorry, we cannot accept store-bought items for this sale. Specialties such as homemade pies, fruit desserts, yeast breads, rolls, sweet breads, cakes, muffins and coffee cakes are popular at the sale. Special cookies and bars are appreciated, too, as well as candy, fudge and confections. All items should be labeled with added ingredients listed, such as nuts and fruit. Our helpers will divide the items and package them in special containers. Please bring items to Luther Hall in covered and labeled containers (disposable containers are preferred) on **Friday, Oct. 31**, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Be sure to come and shop for a variety of quality items from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 1**. All Grace members can help make Mistletoe Magic a success to help people in our community who are in need. Thank you. For information, call Marylee Steinwehe at 815-338-7323.

**MISTLETOE MAGIC MERCHANDISE DONATIONS**— Small items may be put in the bin under the coat rack from now until Sunday, **October 26th**. After that date, please bring items to the lower level beginning Wednesday October 29th from noon to 5p.m. thru Thursday. Friday delivery from 8:30 a.m. until noon.



**COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING**—Our Thrivent Financial Representative, William Collingbourne is offering a college planning workshop for all families on **Nov 3 and Nov. 4**. Key points include; projected future college costs, tax-advantaged ways to save for college and the basics of financial aid. Space is limited. Please reserve your place with him at 815-546-3160 or bill.collingbourne@thrivent.com by **October 31**. Lunch will be served.

**FALL CLEAN UP**—Who doesn't like to play in the leaves? We will have a fall clean up on **November 8** from 8:00am-noon. We will primarily be raking and moving the leaves. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, and extension cords and join us in this annual fall fun. Contact Tammy Baier for more information, 815-986-6514.



**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



**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

**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.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**—The Spirituality Team and Nancy Kreznor will be offering free blood pressure checks in the narthex between Sunday services, 9:30–10:30 am. The dates for 2014 are **Nov. 16** and **Dec 21**.



**CRANDALL'S CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER**— Grace's confirmation class & high school youth group invite you to an all-you-can-eat chicken dinner on Monday, **November 17**, 4-8 p.m. at Crandall's in Hebron. This combined fundraiser will support next summer's trips to Sky Ranch Confirmation Camp in Colorado and the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. Tickets will be available with our confirmation & high school youth (\$15 adults, \$12 kids under 12). Thank you for supporting these youth ministries, see you at Crandall's for a great evening of Grace fellowship.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**—It is time for a new member class! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on **November 22**, at 10 a.m., in Grace Center. We will be having juice, coffee and some homemade goodies. Those that would like to become members of Grace or get more information on what it means to be a member of the family here at Grace, please sign up at the Information Center in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.



**LIGHTING OF THE SQUARE COOKIE DISTRIBUTION**— Join fellow congregation members on the Woodstock Square on Friday, **November 28**, at 6:30 p.m. as we distribute home-made cookies and spread the joy of the season. Watch for a sign-up sheet coming soon on the Activity Board.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** —All *Grace for Today* articles for the **November 12** issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Tuesday, **November 4**.

**WACM THANK YOU**— Woodstock Area Community Ministries would like to thank everyone who participated in the Hunger Walk on October 19th. Whether you walked, made a monetary contribution, distributed the information, set up the route, provided water, or helped out at registration, you helped to make the walk a success. To date the amount collected to help those in need is \$4,300. Also thank you to everyone that contributed to Share the Warmth Clothing Drive. Many coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and sweaters were collected to help provide warm clothing to many area families this winter.



**YOUNG ADULT BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTORS**—College students & young adults are invited to breakfast with the pastors on Wednesday, **November 26** at 9 a.m. at Three Brothers Restaurant. See you soon!



**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.



**SHOPPING DAY / CHILD CARE FUNDRAISER**—The Preschool Committee will be holding a special child care day on Saturday, **December 6**, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. \$15 per child or \$30 for a family. Children will enjoy crafts, movie time and free play in the classrooms & gym. Watch for more details, and for more information please contact Heidi Olsen or Patty Kozlow.

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER AND CHRISTMAS PARTY**—The Weekender's Progressive Dinner and Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, **December 6** starting at 6:00PM at Grace with appetizers in the Narthex. Parties will then divide off to hosts homes for salad and dinner and then meet back at the Cornell house for Dessert and fellowship. Cost is \$15 per person for non-hosts which includes beverages and dinner. All adults are invited to attend. Couples and singles are welcome, young, old and anywhere in the middle. We are currently looking for 6 to 8 people to host dinner in their homes for approximately 8 people. If you would like to host please contact Billie Cornell at 815-334-0729 or email [billie@b-goat.com](mailto:billie@b-goat.com). Dinner should include a salad and main dish, something that you can easily put together ahead of time. Can't host, you can sign up to bring either an appetizer or dessert. This year we will be having the confirmation students (7th and 8th graders) and high school youth offering childcare in the Grace lower level while parents are enjoying the Dinner and Christmas Party. Fun activities, movies and gym time will be organized and pizza and snacks will be provided. Donations will be appreciated to go toward Sky Ranch Confirmation camp and the High School Youth Gathering. Sign up will be posted in the Narthex. Please mark your calendars and signup early. We will need to know how many hosts we need and how many youth for babysitting. Hope to see you there!



**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2015—SAVE THE DATE**—The Women's Retreat will be on **January 24, 2015**. This one day retreat will be held at The Gardens of Woodstock from 9 am — 3 pm. This year's theme is Seeking Peace, and the guest speaker will be Amy Current. Registration will start in December. Watch for more details to come!

**SAVE THE DATES**— M Magic Boutique & Bake Sale—**Nov. 1**, Thrivent College Financial Planning—**Nov 3 & 4**, Fall Clean-Up Day—**Nov. 8**, Adult Bus Trip Sign-Up Deadline—**Nov. 9**, Thrivent Social Security Seminar—**Nov 9**, NIS CLC Meet—**Nov. 13**, Crandall's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser—**Nov. 17**, New Member Meeting—**Nov. 22**, Adult Bus Trip—**Dec. 4**, Preschool Shopping Day—**Dec. 6**, Progressive Dinner—**Dec. 6**, Women's Retreat—**Jan. 24**

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

## THE WEEKS AHEAD AT GRACE

### Saturday, November 1

9:00 AM Band  
9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Boutique  
11:30 AM Mistletoe Magic Luncheon  
5:00 PM Worship

### Sunday, November 2

8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Education Hour/Sunday by Sunday  
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

### Monday, November 3

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s  
10:30 AM Thrivent College Workshop  
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

### Tuesday, November 4

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s  
9:00 AM Sewing Circle  
6:45 PM All Committee Night

### Wednesday, November 5

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s  
12:30 PM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Messengers  
5:15 PM 2 Year Old Class  
5:15 PM PrimeTime—Olsen Surprise  
5:30 PM Cherubs  
6:00 PM Confirmation  
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers  
6:15 PM Joyful Sound  
6:30 PM Grace Dance  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Grace Dance

### Thursday, November 6

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

### Friday, November 7

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

### Saturday, November 8

9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship

Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all that is happening at Grace!

### Sunday, November 9

8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Adult Forum—Thrivent Social Security  
9:45 AM Education Hour/Sunday By Sunday  
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

### Monday, November 10

Veterans Day / Church Office Closed  
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

### Tuesday, November 11

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s  
9:00 AM Sewing Circle

### Wednesday, November 12

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 4s, 4s & 5s  
12:30 PM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Messengers  
5:15 PM 2 Year Old Class  
5:15 PM PrimeTime—Sloppy Joes  
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/Grace Dance

### Thursday, November 13

9:00 AM Preschool 2s, 3s, 4s & 5s  
6:30 PM BSA—Sycamore Dist.

### Friday, November 14

9:00 AM Preschool 4s, 4s & 5s  
11:15 AM Adoration

### Saturday, November 15

Christmas Family Sharing  
9:00 AM Band  
5:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee

## GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson  
[kgibson@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgibson@gracewoodstock.org)  
Office Phone: 815-338-0554  
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### Associate Pastor

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### Director of Communications

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### Director of Music Ministries

Ron Fredriksen  
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### Parish Musicians

Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson,  
Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

### Director of Preschool Ministry

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### Preschool Staff

Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Julie LaGue,  
Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen

### Director of Educational Ministries

#### Office Assistant

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### Director of Senior Ministries

Shirley Busse

### Secretary

Denise Klabunde  
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### Building Supervisor/Ken Zank

Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge

### 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](mailto:council@gracewoodstock.org)

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

