

OCTOBER, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 11

**Gratitude** .....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

I can still remember my disbelief in grade school when I learned how to spell the word “grateful.” I was quite upset actually, because this discovery occurred as I was eliminated from the final rounds of the school spelling bee, for it turns out “g-r-e-a-t-f-u-l” is not the correct spelling. Painful spelling bee memories aside, I think it is great to be grateful.

At this time, as we near the beginning of October, I am grateful for the past three months of ministry at Grace. I am grateful for the people of Grace, for your discernment and implementation of the strategic planning goal to support sabbaticals for the well-being of the congregation and your pastors. I am grateful for Pastor

Rebecca Gordon, our sabbatical pastor who has faithfully preached and presided, assisted with pastoral care and memorial services, and has prayed for our congregation. I give thanks too for our guest preachers during this time, Rev. Gary Erickson, Rev. Cordell Strug, and Rev. Trish Baik. I am grateful for the rest and renewal these three months have granted to Pastor Ken, and I am grateful for his return this October when we will continue serving as colleagues, as your pastors. It is great to be grateful.

I am grateful for so many people, gifts, and blessings; and this fall, we are all invited to reflect on giving in gratitude. On behalf of Grace’s stewardship committee, we look forward to hearing and seeing your stories of gratitude: through the Gratitude tree in the narthex, in video responses, in our Sunday school student’s artwork, in Temple Talks, and in estimates of giving. Thanks be to God, for God’s abundant giving and blessings, and thanks be to God for the joy of being a beloved and grateful people.

#### “First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude” Stewardship

**Gratitude Tree:** share what you are grateful for on a leaf on the tree in the narthex.

**Bible Studies:** 4 weekly Bible studies are available at the Info Desk, website, and via email.

**Temple Talks:** we give thanks for Hannah Wilson, Daniel Nattress, Mary Beth & Andy Bellavia, Angie & Rob Ribbe, Heidi & Chris Olsen, and Jordan Conerty for sharing their faith in worship.

**Gratitude Weekend:** October 10 & 11 we celebrate Gratitude during worship services.

**Commitment Weekend:** October 17 & 18, we bring our Estimates of Giving for 2016 and Time & Talent cards to give in gratitude during worship services.



**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. Additional tables will be available in the parking lot area for those that cannot manage the hill. In case of inclement weather, we will utilize Luther Hall. Everyone is welcome, even if you did not sign-up! 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](mailto:hansings@att.net).

**WALK FOR HUNGER—October 25** with a 1:00pm registration and a 1:15pm start time. We are starting at Grace Lutheran Church and then walking a 5K around Emricson Park. The website [www.wacmgroup.org](http://www.wacmgroup.org) is updated with more information and ready to take donations and registrations.

**SENIOR LUNCHEON – October 27** at 11:30am. – Honoring those who are “80 & Over” We begin this month with a short worship service in the sanctuary followed by a delicious family style meal in Luther Hall. Our dinner features a Tossed Salad, Hearty Ham Loaf with Sweet Tangy Sauce, Baked Potato Casserole, Green Beans Almondine, Applesauce, Dinner Rolls and Maple Pumpkin Pie Bars for dessert. After this delicious dinner, sit back and enjoy the songs of “Clef Hangers” a barbershop quartet. Grace members who are “80 & Over” will receive a special invitation in the mail with a FREE lunch ticket. All others pay \$5.00 Please sign up in the Activity Binder by October 25. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM—REALIZING THE SOCIAL TRUTHS IN OUR COMMUNITY—** Do you hear someone calling out to you? Every day in McHenry County, there are people desperate for help. This fall during Sunday morning Adult Forums, Grace is inviting human service organizations to tell their story. Find out who is in need and discover steps you can take to “Share God’s Grace”. Invite others to come with you. Class meets Sunday mornings 9:45AM to 10:30AM  
**October 4:** CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OF MCHENRY COUNTY, INC. Helps people manage their money more effectively. **October 11** – no class. **October 18:** TURNING POINT OF MCHENRY COUNTY confronts violence against women and children in McHenry County, Illinois. **October 25:** ROSECRANCE provides mental health and substance abuse treatment in an environment that fosters lasting recovery. **November 1:** PASTOR KEN will give a report on the places Luther traveled as he wrote and preached while he wrote the Small Catechism. “What did Luther see, sense and think as he traveled to the six churches in Rural Saxony”

**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 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, Larry Bohn, Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Rita Cosgrove (sister of Diana King), Nancy Davis, Ken DeRango (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 Deborrah 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 McMahan, Gail Mueller, Jack Myers (friend of Betty & Dick Boehmke), Jesse Myjak, Don Nusbaum, Carol O’Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Alice Pate, 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), Dick Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Eleanor Setser, John Sorensen, Suzanne Stumpff, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), 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, Lois Wiecek, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

**Sorrows:** Gloria DeRango (mother of Brian Pilgard), Stephen Wood (son of Alice Erber), Alice Bornhoff (mother of LaVerne Foerster)

**Joys:** Marriage of Gabrielle Ray and Brett Bullman on September 5, 2015; marriage of Jacob Combs and Shannon Madsen on September 26, 2015.

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.

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.** Thank you, dear people of Grace, for a wonderful 3rd ELCA Day of Service, "God's work. Our hands." On Sunday, September 13, 57 volunteers celebrated God's work in the world through our hands. Thank you, for your time, your commitment to this community of faith, and your service to our greater community. At Grace, we give thanks for the lunch teams that set-up, served, and cleaned-up after our lunch. We also had volunteers of all ages prepare 100 School Kits to be given to children around the world through Lutheran World Relief. At Turning Point, volunteers sorted through a large donation of beauty products, organizing and preparing items. Through Pioneer Center, a team of volunteers cleaned windows and screens, and sorted through a garage at a group home. At Home of the Sparrow, Grace volunteers fixed and strengthened a fence, and cleaned and stained a picnic table and playground set. Thank you to our generous donors of school supplies and funds, our site leaders: Andy Bellavia, Jon Bergstrom, Denise Klabunde, Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, and Paul Meyer, our volunteers, and our partners in the community.

**JOIN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY AT OUR SCHOOL IN HONDURAS**—November 15th – 18th—For the past four years Grace has been sponsoring a school in Honduras through the Lunches For Learning organization. By supplying free lunches to the students they can stay in school instead of working menial jobs for food. We also recently raised funds to repair the roof on the school's kitchen. Every year members of Grace are invited to attend our school's graduation. This year the trip will be from November 15th – 18th. Several people can go and the cost is moderate, about \$1,000-\$1,300 per person total depending on the available airfare, and it is tax deductible. Just ask anyone who has been there before – Ric Larson, Byron Peterson, Pr. Ken, or myself, and they will tell you it was a most memorable and inspiring trip. Now is your chance! If you would like more details or to sign up, contact Andy Bellavia at 338-5194.



### **MISTLETOE MAGIC**



**MISTLETOE MAGIC FACEBOOK PAGE**—Find us at Mistletoe Magic GLC, and see lots of pictures of workshops and items being made for Mistletoe Magic this year. Find things on the Grace Lutheran Church website too.

**MERCHANDISE COLLECTION**—Handcrafted items may be brought to Grace beginning on **Nov 4** at 1:00 pm, through **Nov 6** at 3 pm.

**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, brownies and bars are appreciated, too, as well as candy, fudge and confections. Please bring items to Luther Hall in disposable containers on Friday, Nov. 6, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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 help make Mistletoe Magic a success. All the profits will support people in need. Thank you. 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. We are also looking for pint canning jars, jelly jars, canning lids (can be used), canning rings, decorative tins and boxes to package items in. 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 [tcmeyer2@gmail.com](mailto:tcmeyer2@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.

**ADULT COACH BUS TRIP - Thursday, December 17, 2015 - "White Christmas"** - Our three course dinner and show cost is \$75. More info. & sign up, please see the Activity Binder. Questions: Shirley Busse 815-338-9063

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**—The article deadline for the November newsletter is Oct. 15. Send articles to Lynn Nattress at [lnattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org), or the church office. Questions: Office at 815-338-0554.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:  
Schedule:<http://www.gracewoodstock.org/WeeklyNews/Monthly%20Worship%20Participants.pdf>

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**—Grace is hosting a new member orientation breakfast on Oct. 31 at 10 am in Grace Center. We will have a light breakfast for those that would like to become members, and those wanting more information on what it means to be a member of the Grace family. Please sign-up in the Activity Binder at the Information Center or call the church, 815-338-0554.

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

**UPCOMING EDUCATION DATES:**  
Financial Peace Univ.— *Thru— Oct. 22*

**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](http://www.gracewoodstock.org). Contact Mrs. Chris for more info. [cleaman@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cleaman@gracewoodstock.org).

**FALL CLEAN-UP—NEW DATE** Join us for a Fall Clean Up on **Oct. 31** at 8 am. We will be raking leaves, and additional grounds projects. Come join the fall fun!

**OLSON ELEMENTARY**— The school is looking for items to have on hand in the nurse's office. Lists at the Information Center. Collection bin in the narthex.

**PREPARE THE WAY—  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**  
Committed—\$474,986.06  
Received—\$303,396.06

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