



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd
Woodstock, IL 60098
815 338-0554 - Fax 815 338-0913
E-mail grace@gracewoodstock.org
www.gracewoodstock.org

Grace for Today

NOVEMBER, 2015 • VOLUME 14, NO. 12

"I NEED TO GO FOR A RUN!" by Pastor Ken Gibson

The above quote is not something a year or so ago I would have ever thought I would utter from my lips, but life does bring about change. Now the reason for my needing to say such a statement has become more about a spiritual reality than a physical reality. Ok, I have enjoyed losing the weight and getting into much better physical shape but when I think about why; "I need to go for a run." These days it has more to do with my needing to think uninterrupted and to find a peaceful place to contemplate all that is happening in my life and to seek God in that contemplative journey.



To be honest, it started as a walk and I continue to sometimes walk on my runs. I run, I walk, I run some more and then I walk some more. It is a pattern, that when I think about it, has become very much a way of life for me these days and I am thankful for such. For in this rhythm I have come to experience the realities of my life, and the ways in which God has been a part of it all. Over the past many months I have seen the beauty of God's earth while running and walking from the banks of the Neckar River in Central Europe and the banks of the Mississippi River along the Iowa-Illinois border. From the rolling hills of the beautiful Schwaben Countryside in SW Germany to the beauty of the square around Woodstock. In these "runs," I have also found a peace that comes through my actually being quiet enough to listen for God. So, as I think to myself these days; "I need to go for a run," I am really thinking I need to be still enough to contemplate God in my life and to put aside all the other stuff that keeps me from, at the very least, listening for God.

Now, does this mean I think we should all start running? Well no, of course not. But I will suggest that finding a space and time to be still enough, to be quiet enough to seek God is paramount to being a person of faith and being in tune with the intricate desire that God has to be in conversation with all of God's children. That includes me too, and it was in these runs that I have found peace at a very chaotic and potentially spiritless time in my life. Yet in this journey I have felt God's presence and much of your love for which I am very thankful.

Someone asked a few weeks back: "How did you lose the weight PK?" I can't really recall my answer but probably I said something like "diet and exercise;" but the more truthful and thoughtful answer should be "I took a walk to look for God and in the process I lost a whole bunch of myself." Yes, now more than ever; "I need to go for a run."



MISTLETOE MAGIC IS HERE



SATURDAY, NOV. 7th!

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.





Mistletoe Magic



COOKIE WALK—Lots of your favorite Christmas Cookies and bars are needed for the Cookie Walk,. Fudge recipes and candies too!! Please deliver cookies on **Friday, Nov. 6, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to Rm. 102.** Questions contact Penne Slavin 815-338-8283 or Barb Japp 815-388-3996

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 Mistletoe Magic Bake Sale needs your homemade items to sell. Please bring your items to church on **Friday, Nov. 6, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** in Luther Hall. Please place items in disposable containers. We'll package them for the sale. We would appreciate your special desserts, pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, bars, muffins and breads, as well as candy and fudge. Questions? Call Marylee Steinwehe 815-338-7323.

MISTLETOE MAGIC LUNCHEON TICKETS—Are NOW available before worship on Saturdays, between services on Sundays, or in the church office during the week. Tickets are \$13.00. Get your early as limited tickets are available

*Find more information on their Facebook site at Mistletoe Magic GLC
or on the Grace website at www.gracewoodstock.org, Ministries tab.*

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: Marge Birk, Larry Bohn, Bob Clemons (friend of Cathy Meyer), Rita Cosgrove (sister of Diana King), Cary Crisp (friend of Lynn Nattress), Jim Davis, 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), Eric Gibbs, Maroulla Hahne (friend of Bill & Martha Fleck), Donnie Hertrampf (brother-in-law of Tammy Hansing), Patrice Hoover, Erika Hoppe (mother of Monica Hoefling), 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), Wilma Malinasky (mother of Janice Laird), 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, Dorothe VonBergen, Faith Watkins, Karen Wells, Lois Wiecek, Jeannie Wilcox, Ruth Zirves

Sorrows: Nancy Wilson, Jason Learman

Joys: Birth of Ellis Robert Hall, son of Amanda & Josef Hall; baptism of Owyn David Baker, son of Jonathan Baker & Britt Ehardt; baptism of Skyla Ryleigh Young, daughter of Dever & Tanya Young; marriage of Amber Kiefer and Kent Baehman

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.

GIVING THANKS.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

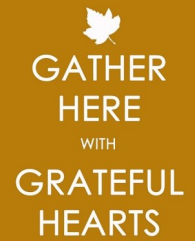
This fall, our stewardship theme has been “First We Give of Ourselves- Giving in Gratitude.” In our prayers, Bible studies, Temple Talks, Gratitude Weekend and Commitment Weekend we have reflected and shared with one another what it means to give in gratitude. As we return Estimate of Giving Cards and Time & Talent Cards, I give thanks for your sharing in Christ’s mission.

Our posture of giving in gratitude prepares us well for the month of November. We will gather for worship on October 31 & November 1 and give thanks for the gift of baptism and for the lives of those who have died. On this All Saints weekend, we will light a candle for the 10 children of God who have been baptized at Grace since last All Saints, we will read the names of those who have died and were laid to rest from Grace since last All Saints, and you will be invited to light a candle to remember and give thanks for loved ones who have died.

Our practice of giving in gratitude equips us too for our great partnerships in the community that we support this month: Mistletoe Magic, our Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Food Pantry, and our Christmas Family Sharing giving.

Then on November 25, we gather for our Thanksgiving Eve worship service and Pie Fest, yet another time to give thanks to God.

Blessings on this time of thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing you in worship this month, to giving in gratitude as individuals and as a community, and to continuing our thanks and praise to God.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM—REALIZING THE SOCIAL TRUTHS IN OUR COMMUNITY— 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
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” **November 8:** JAIL BRAKERS provides support groups to families affected by incarceration. **November 15:** VETERANS ASSISTANCE OF MCHENRY COUNTY provides services to the local veteran’s community in the areas of Financial Assistance, VA Claims & Advocacy, Transportation to the North Chicago VA Medical Center, and Referrals Assistance. **November 22:** FAMILY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP CLINIC provides healthcare to the underinsured. **November 29** – no class.

CONGRATULATIONS! To our young congregation members who reaffirmed their baptism on October 24: Evan Bridges, Gavin Butenschoen, Sarah Cornell, Brooklyn Crowley, Alexander Fetzner, Derek Freeman, Leyla Kohley, Olivia M. Hungness, Nichole Piquette, Madelyn Rank, Stephanie Shook, Elena Thurow, Katie Walsh, Lauren Wietermann

YOUTH GROUP LUNCH AND CORN MAZE—Meet at Grace at noon on Sunday **Nov 1** for pizza lunch, then drive to Richardson’s for the World’s Largest Corn Maze. Please bring \$18 and sign up in advance; Parents- let Pastor Amanda know if you can help drive.

PRESCHOOL YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER—The preschool will be holding a holiday fundraiser with Yankee Candles this year. All orders are due by **November 11** and will be received before our Christmas Break. So this is a great chance to complete some of your holiday shopping. Catalogs and order forms are available at the Information Center or the Education Foyer (area right outside the preschool office).

LIGHTING OF THE SQUARE, COOKIE BAKING AND COOKIE DISTRIBUTION—Join us in making cookies at 9am on Saturday, **November 14**. All are welcome! Come when you can, leave when you must. Then, join us at 6:30pm on Friday, **November 27** to distribute the cookies at the Lighting Of The Square. Please sign-up to distribute cookies on the Activity Board, and bring a basket or bag to hold the cookies. Watch Day One for more details.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY SHARING—Christmas is coming! That means the Christmas Family Sharing (CFS) ministry will be coming even sooner. We will again partner with Bethel New Life and the Family Health Partnership Clinic (FHPC). For CFS we will have two Christmas trees set up in the narthex with ornaments for you to choose – one tree for each organization. Each ornament will have an item which you can purchase to help that organization. For FHPC, these are items that they distribute regularly such as small bottles of OTC medicines and food items for their food pantry. Bethel is no longer offering the Christmas Store as it had become too time intensive for their staff, however, they will still be offering items for participants to purchase at greatly reduced prices just in a different format. Items on the Bethel tree will be for their Christmas Child Program – baby and toddler toys, clothes, and other items and their Christmas Elder Program – household items, gloves, hats, and coats. A new program is their Adopt a Grandchild Christmas Stocking Program in which you can donate a fully stuffed Christmas stocking for a child aged 3-12. See the table in the narthex for more information on the Stocking program or with any other questions. The ornaments will be available starting Saturday, **November 14**. Final gift collection will be on Sunday, **December 6**. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of this ministry!

SENIOR LUNCHEON – November 24, 12:00 pm – We have a special treat for you this month. Everyone will have the opportunity to make an advent wreath to take home and use this advent season. Please check off if you will be making a wreath so we have enough supplies on hand. There will be a free will offering taken to help cover the cost of the wreaths. Our Greek menu starts off with Aegean Salad, Mediterranean Lasagna, Garlic Bread , with Coffee and Butter Cookies for dessert. Cost is \$5.00 Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **November 22**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTORS—College students & young adults are invited to breakfast with the pastors on Wednesday, **November 25** at 9 a.m. at Three Brothers Restaurant. See you soon!

BLOOD DRIVE—Celebrate the holidays by giving back. We are holding our last blood drive of 2015 on Wednesday **Dec 2**. Lets make it the biggest one yet. Come help save up to three lives by donating blood at Grace. Appointments available from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Look for Gretchen Hutchens in the narthex between services to sign up or give her a call at 815-341-7544.

ADULT COACH BUS TRIP – Thursday, **December 17, 2015** – “White Christmas” Celebrate the coming winter season with this wonderful stage performance at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. When two former Army buddies, who are now Broadway performers, follow a sister act booked at a charming Vermont Inn, they soon discover that the Inn is owned by their former commander and nearly bankrupt. The two act team up to put on a festive show with Irving Berlin favorite like Blue Skies, Count Your Blessing and of course, White Christmas. Our three course, sit down dinner starts with Spinach Mandarin Salad, your choice of Chicken Breast Mediterranean or Lemon Sole, along with potato, vegetable, rolls, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$75 For more information or to sign up, please see the Activity Binder. Deadline to sign up and pay is **November 15**. Questions: call Shirley Busse @ 815-338-9063

CHRISTMAS BREAD BAKING—Come join us to make bread for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day visitors. We will start at 9:00 am on Saturday, **December 19**. All are welcome. Stay as long as you are able. All hands are welcome!

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



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP AND PIE FEST! - NOVEMBER 25—Drop off a pie in the kitchen before gathering with us for worship at 7pm. Then join us after worship in Luther Hall to enjoy pies of every kind!

SIMPLY GIVING—Do you know about Simply Giving? Simply Giving is a confidential, no charge, automatic withdrawal program; and it is one option available for giving tithes and offerings. Simply Giving provides an option to give on a regular basis (weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly). Enrollment forms to sign up are available at the Information Desk, and on Grace's website (under "Communication and Documents," then "Forms & Documents"). As in our giving and our annual estimates of giving, if your situation changes, automatic giving through Simply Giving can be changed by contacting the church office. Automatic gift amounts can be changed, or put on hold with one week's notice. Please feel free to contact the pastors or church office with any questions about Simply Giving.

FUNERAL PLANNING— Do you have favorite scripture passages and/or hymns? Is there something you hope to have included in your funeral service? We have a simple worksheet where you can note your favorite scripture, hymns, and other details, and we invite everyone to fill one out to share with your family and bring to the church office so we can file it away, and at some point know how to best honor your wishes. Please stop by the church office to pick up a Funeral Planning Worksheet, or you can find a copy on Grace's website under "Communication & Documents," and then "Forms and Documents." Thanks be to God, that even in the face of death, we proclaim the promise of the resurrection.



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

GA-GA BALL HAS ARRIVED— Grace is now the owner of a brand new Ga-Ga Ball Pit. Ga-Ga Ball is a modified version of dodge ball played inside 8 walls that is great fun for all. The project was built for the church as an Eagle Scout Project by Adam Tooke of our own Boy Scout Troop 153. Contact the church office to learn more about playing. Time to have some fun!

UPDATED PHONE AND ADDRESSES— Please contact the church office if your contact information has changed, or you no longer have/use a landline phone. Thank you!

HELP US GROW! - Every year our preschool is very grateful for the donations we receive from our parents and Grace Church families. This year we are kicking off a Helping Hands: Help Us Grow campaign. Helping Hands will be posted around church that list items we are in need of. Some examples might include; batteries, mailing labels, copy paper, Walgreens gift cards for photo printing or laminating sheets. If you are able to donate an item, please take that hand with you and return your item to the office. Include your name with your donation, we want to be able to give you a big thank you.

SHARE THE BOUNTY—Thank you to everyone who participated in Share the Bounty this past summer! We appreciate all the wonderful produce and plants which were shared. Also, a big thank you to the Usher teams which set up the table each week and the individuals and families who cleaned up at the end of the morning. See you in the Spring!

2016 BULLETIN & PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSOR DATES AVAILABLE— This is a great way to honor/memorialize a loved one or special occasion while helping to defray the cost of these items. Sponsor sheets are 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.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION—Grace hosts a New Member Orientation Breakfast on a quarterly basis. We 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 for the next New Member Orientation date 815-338-0554.

UPCOMING EDUCATION DATES:

Adult Education—Sundays at 9:45 am

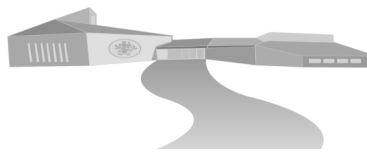
2015 & 2016 BULLETIN AND PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSORS NEEDED

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 underway! 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.

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



**PREPARE THE WAY—
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**
Committed—\$483,456.06
Received—\$316,629.56



GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL
Senior Pastor/Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson
kgibson@gracewoodstock.org
Office Phone: 815-338-0554
Home Phone: 815-527-7215
Associate Pastor
Director of Senior High Ministries
Rev. Amanda Bergstrom
Cell Phone: 630-664-9016
abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org
Director of Communications
Lynn Nattress—lnattress@gracewoodstock.org
Director of Music Ministries
Ron Fredriksen
rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org
Parish Musicians
Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson,
Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti
Director of Preschool Ministry
Chris Learman
clearman@gracewoodstock.org
Preschool Staff
Tammy Baier, Amy Flores,
Nancy Mojica, Kristy Nellesen
Director of Educational Ministries
Office Assistant
Carrie Fiorina
cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org
Director of Senior Ministries
Shirley Busse
Secretary—Denise Klabunde
dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org
Building Supervisor/Ken Zank
Custodians/Chris & Kim Ethridge
Officers & Council
Cathy Buhrow, Mike Freeman, Robin Gibbs,
Ken Hansing, Claude Hutchens; Sue Olsen,
Peter Paulson, Adele Petersen, Rob Ribbe,
Beth Miller; Daniel Nattress
council@gracewoodstock.org
Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F