



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace for Today

NOVEMBER, 2017 • VOLUME 16, NO. 11

“CAN WE TALK?” Five Hundred Years Laterby Pastor Ken



As you all read this month’s Grace For Today, we will have completed our Reformation services and begun the next five hundred years of reforming the church. Much of our study offerings here at Grace, this past year, have had us in relationship with Dr. Luther and the roots of the reformation. In these studies, we have recalled the basis for Luther’s desire to have conversation around items that he felt needed discussion within the teachings of the church. The nailing of the 95 theses on the castle church doors in Wittenberg was Luther’s way of saying; “Can we talk?”. I am sure he had no idea that 500 years later we would still be talking about and studying the action he took in order to bring about, what Luther thought as a more faithful way of understanding scripture. For at the heart of Luther’s theses was in fact scriptural interpretation and teaching.

I am a bit of a student of history and have enjoyed all that we have discussed this year and am always amazed at what things are recorded in history. By that I mean, “What are the events and people that we recall as we think of our past.” Luther and the Reformation are an example of what I mean. A monk professor in the church starts a reform movement in a little town in Germany and still 500 years later we are discussing and, I think, enjoying the fruits of his effort.

All of this study and thinking about our place in that history always causes me to wonder; “What will they say about us here at Grace in the future?” Will those who come after us read of our life together in our church histories and find us faithful conveyers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Are there any actions that we are taking that will be remembered 100, 200, or even 500 years from now? Will they say of us; “There were good and faithful servants living and sharing in Christ during those years?”.

Our Prepare the Way Capital Campaign has in fact been our effort to make sure that there will be future ministries coming from this place and that our future Grace members will be able to have their own reformation celebrations. I don’t hold any illusion that I will be remembered much in the future annals of history, but I give thanks to God for having this time, right here and now that we all share in this place, in our life together. For it is here that we share the good news and we love and serve Christ in our loving and serving each other.

So then; “Can we talk?”. I believe we can and we must in Jesus name always be talking, living, and sharing the fruits of faith.



SENIOR LUNCHEON – November 28 – Calling all baby boomers and all who are interested in healthy aging. Attend this engaging one hour seminar by Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital to learn about the key factors for a healthy lifestyle and aging. It's never too late to make healthier lifestyle choices. Our meal features a healthy tossed salad, gnocchi Bolognese, green beans, Italian herb focaccia bread, and rustic peach custard pie for dessert. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by **November 26**. If you have any questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTORS- All young adults and college students are invited to join Pastor Ken & Pastor Amanda for breakfast on **Wednesday, November 22, at 9 a.m.** at Three Brothers. This is an annual tradition that allows all of our young adults to share a meal with the pastors and to catch up with all the happening in their lives. Come have breakfast and see your Grace friends!

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 Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop Jeff Clements, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military, Chaplain Major Darrell Kyle deployed with the United States Air Force.

Woodstock: Pastor Ken Gibson and his family; Pastor Amanda Bergstrom and her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: Richard Anderson (Uncle of Beth Miller & Carole Gerloff), Lori Armstrong Reeter (friend of Karl & Denise Klabunde), Gina Aweve (friend of Paige Conerty), Mike Bellino (son-in-law of Martha & Bill Fleck), Lois Bloese, John Bloese, Ray Bock (husband of Sharon Bock), Mary Sue Boerner (friend of Paul Lockwood & Diane Baker-Lockwood), Dee Brown, Frank Bunch, Dale Carlson, Allison Clark (niece of Martha & Bill Fleck), Jasper Clark (grandson of Joe Evanoff), Patrice Dunn, Verna Eslick, Russ Freeman, Paul Gergolla (son-in-law of Eileen Weide), Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Carmen Goodmon (mother of Jennifer Robbins), Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Wallace Halvorson (father of Shelley Tucker), Jerry Johnson, the Kamps family, Nancy Knieja (friend of Martha Fleck), Diane Knowles, Brenden Krol (friend of Adele Petersen), Keith Kulpinski (friend of Spanbauers & Thurows), Ken Lindenmier (brother-in-law of Diane Baker-Lockwood), John Mahoney, Renee Merklin (friend of Rachel Bratanick), Meredith Miller (niece of Mark & Beth Miller), Tammy Millman (daughter of Karen Millman), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Carl Neubaum (son of Donna Neubaum), Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, John Oliver (friend of Ron & Mary Koehn), Sue Olsen, Arne Olson, Vicki Pilgard, Bert Rank, Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Johnny Rankin (friend of Joe Evanoff), Sheila Readel, Rene Rebman (uncle of Ron & Mary Koehn), Jean Reed (mother of Mary Hoyt), Dora Reyes, Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Colton Sciluffo (infant son of a friend of Joy Oberman), Ann Dick Schroeder, Ellen Schulz (daughter-in-law of Diane Schulz), Bill Seger, Eleanor Setser, Sharon Sinkoske, John Sorensen, Keith Steinwehe, Elsie Stoddard, Ginny Stroh (mother of Fay Wilson), Doris Sunday, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), Ellie Mae Thompson (great niece of Gladys & Ken Renner), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bob Unglaube, Bev Visconti, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrows: John W. "Jack" Fylpaa (father of Stephane Fylpaa-Asher), Juanita Dycus

Joy: Baptism of Selena Danielle Dantino

If you wish to add a prayer request for the 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.

TIME.....by Pastor Amanda

“It’s a funny thing when you think about it – time.” A couple weeks ago during the TV Show “This Is Us,” one of the endless emotional moments of that show, there was a scene reflecting on time. In a cameo appearance, actor Sylvester Stallone talks of hearing someone’s childhood memory and then experiencing his own vivid recollections, and replies, “In my experience, Kevin, there’s no such thing as a long time ago. There’s only memories that mean something and memories that don’t.”



In November, we’ll keep wondering about time in many ways. On All Saints Weekend, (**Nov. 4 & 5**) we remember those who have died, and whether the saints on our hearts died recently or years ago, we know that in waves of grief and remembrance, there are meaningful memories that seem to defy the bounds of time.

Perhaps you’ll make time for fellowship this month too- at the Bonfire (**Nov. 4**) where Daylight Savings Time promises to give us extra time that night, or perhaps on Thanksgiving Eve (**Nov. 22**) where evening worship and Pie Fest bid us to reconnect, call upon memories of the past and cherish new moments in the present.

And then, in the church year, we’ll keep marking time on the church calendar. The last weekend of the month is the festival of Christ the King, the last weekend in the church year before we begin anew in the season of Advent.

In the wonders of time, in the days that are painfully slow, and in the weeks and years that fly by, in the remembrances of saints of old and the welcoming of the newly baptized, in the countless memories formed around sacred food, may this November be a time filled with memories that mean something, something heart-warming and good and lovely and holy.

MEALS ON WHEELS- Meals on Wheels is a service delivering meals to those who cannot cook for themselves. They deliver between 10:45am and Noon. Meals are picked up at Centegra Woodstock and delivered in the area. Meals on Wheels is in need of a team of two people on Mondays every five weeks. They are also in need of 1 driver with a car to partner with an existing volunteer on Thursdays. They really need you. If you can help with this ministry please call Jeannie May 815-943-4849.

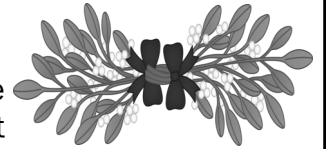
READERS NEEDED- “Proclaiming our lessons in worship is a vital part of each service, and we can use some new proclaimers! Please consider joining the rotation for 5pm or 10:45, or both – right now there is a very short list for the rotation of those services, which means the turns come up much more often. You’ll receive a 4-month schedule so you can switch or changeup your date, there are subs listed, you’ll receive the lessons during the week in advance of your assignment, and you can get assistance from a pastor for any pronunciations that are unfamiliar. Please consider joining us – hearing different voices proclaiming THE WORD is vital! Contact the office or Sheri Conover at flutemomma@foxvalley.net”



PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER- Grace Preschool is having a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. Catalogs and order forms are on the Welcome Desk and are due back to the Preschool by November 10. There are some great Christmas present ideas in the catalog and orders will be here before Christmas. For further information or questions, contact Chris in the Preschool or at clearman@gracewoodstock.org .

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: **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**-The deadline for the December newsletter is November 15. Send articles to : Tammy Baier at tbairer@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.
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MISTLETOE MAGIC-



The committee for Mistletoe Magic has been meeting and planning throughout the year. There are incredibly exciting changes taking place. The committee has met with the pastors, and in an effort to ensure success, they will be foregoing the bazaar for 2017. We will be launching a brand new online platform for 2018!

What will this look like?

- The online platform will open prior to the November bazaar and patrons will be able to pre-order your items.
- The committee will continue reaching out to congregation and community members for donations of items to be sold through the shop.
- The committee will still hold the traditional bazaar at Grace in November of 2018. Pre-sale items will be available for pick-up during shopping hours.
- The committee is looking for volunteers to help pack pre-sale orders.
- There will be an added Kids Shop where our youth will have an opportunity to shop with a helper for gifts for their loved ones.

A huge thank you to those that have donated items and supplies. The committee has been creating wonderful items that will be sold in our new shopping experience. They are passionate about continuing the program with your help! If you have craft supplies or a special talent for crafting you would like to share with them, please contact them at mistletoemagic1@gmail.com. There is also Facebook page at "Mistletoe Magic GLC", check it out for frequent updates.

We are very excited and feel extremely blessed to have this opportunity to serve. We are looking forward to a great start for 2018!

Patty Kozlow, Alyssa Crown, Melissa Manke & Lynda Rohe

GRACE VINEYARD HAS BEEN NAMED-



The entries have been submitted, and the winner has been chosen. Bill Kreznor has submitted our winning entry with.....**GRACE KNOLL VINEYARD** and the wine will be called **REDEMPTION!** Once we have our first vintage, we will be ready to taste Redemption. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry and to Bill for his entry and wine label idea too!

DECEMBER COACH BUS TRIP – Coach Bus Trip – ELF - **Wednesday, December 6** 8:30am – 5:00pm
Come join us as we travel to the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, IL. to see the musical comedy "Elf"; the story of a baby (Buddy) who crawled into Santa's sack and was raised at the North Pole as an elf. Once he finally realizes he is human, he goes off in search of his father, a workaholic publisher who doesn't even care about Christmas. Can Buddy get his father into the Christmas Spirit? This is a new destination for us and the Paramount Theatre at Christmas is known for its wonderful decorations, you can't help but get into the Christmas Spirit the minute you walk through the doors. We'll begin the day with a tour of the Oberweis Dairy Plant in Aurora to tour behind the scenes and then enjoy a sampling of their Ice Cream. Lunch will be at the Meyer Ballroom: garden salad, baked ham potatoes, broccoli, soda, coffee and a brownie for dessert. Deadline to sign up and pay is **November 12**. For more information or to sign up see the Activity Binder Cost is \$90. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

BOOK STUDY GROUP- The Cross and the Lynching Tree. In September, a small group gathered for conversation about the ELCA Social Statement, “Freed in Christ,” and discussed possible ways to continue the conversation. All are invited to gather for a book study group this fall. We will be reading *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone, and will meet for three Monday evenings for conversation from 7-8:30 P.M... Please sign up on the Activity Board if you are able to gather for conversation, and books are available for purchase in the office (\$20). Here’s a reading plan for group conversations: Oct. 30: Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2; Nov. 6: Chapters 3 & 4; Nov. 13: Chapter 5 & Conclusion.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION— It is time for a new member class! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on **November 19, 2017 at 9:45 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 Desk in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.

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.

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND BONFIRE-

Thank you to Ken, Tom, Jack, & Casey for spending a week removing dead trees around the Grace property, and for all who will share in the Fall Clean-Up Day! We are grateful for the time and care of the Grace grounds.

Now that we have all these trees cut down, and a weekend ahead with an extra hour of sleep from Daylight Savings Time . . . let’s have a bonfire!

On **Saturday, November 4 at 6:15 P.M.,** gather for an evening of fellowship and camp songs around a big bonfire at Grace. Hot dogs & buns, s’mores, & water will be provided. Please bring lawn chairs, and roasting sticks to share.

On this weekend in worship we give thanks for all the saints by lighting candles in remembrance of both the newly baptized and those who have died. Gather around the light of the bonfire on Saturday night to celebrate life among God's faithful people!



THANK YOU!!! Grace Preschool gives a very big thank you to everyone who helped with our annual Fall Fest Family Fun Night held in September. Thank you to everyone who donated such great prizes for our raffles and to our Preschool Board for putting together those prizes. Thank you to the Preschool Board for the delicious dinner and your time in serving and cleaning. Thank you to Mike Kozlow, our head chef, for cooking the main course. Thank you to our Confirmation students for helping our young children enjoy the games. Thank you to the teaching staff for their time in setting up the gym with such fun games and prizes! Our fundraiser brought in over \$1,700.00 this year. This would not be possible without the help of so many people! Our preschool ministry is truly blessed.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

PREPARE THE WAY

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Committed— \$497,556.06
Received— \$506,435.95
Goal— \$780,430.00

SAVE THE DATE:

Committees Meeting Night NOV 7
Blood Drive NOV 12
Fair Trade NOV 18 & 19
Breakfast w/the Pastors NOV 22
Thanksgiv. Eve/Pie Fest NOV 22
Senior Luncheon NOV 28
Committees Meeting Night DEC 5
Advent Midweek Service- DEC 6
Bus Trip- ELF DEC 6
Fair Trade Coffee DEC 16/17
Senior Luncheon DEC 19

BLOOD DRIVE- Mark your calendars for November 12 for our next blood drive. This is a must needed ministry that Grace provides to the community and the local blood banks count on us! With all the hurricanes, earthquakes, and fires going on in the world, the need is that much greater.

WACM COAT DRIVE- It is that time of the year again for the annual WACM coat drive . Please consider donating your gently used coats, scarves, mittens and blankets and place them in the container by the library from October 22nd - November 5th. These items will be available for distribution to those in need at Redeemer Lutheran Church from November 8th - November 11th.

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



GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Rob Ribbe, Hannah Wilson

Office Hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, M-Th

8:30 am-12:00 pm, F