



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grace *for Today*

OCTOBER, 2017 • VOLUME 16, NO. 10

CRISP IS IN THE AIR.....by Pastor Ken

Having read a bunch of wonderful poems about autumn, I was unable to find one that captured all that this season speaks to me, so I ventured to write my own. Blessings to you all this fall. May we all pause just a bit and enjoy the crispness of the air and God's presence with us there.

Crisp Is the Air
By
Pastor Ken Gibson

It is a special time of year for sure when crisp is the air,
and the birds by my feeder are fewer there.

I know they have started their journey south again,
as I wait for the fall to begin.

Maybe someday I will go with them as the chilliness of the season starts to share.

I love the color that brightens now, even as the days are shorter and less with light
There is a beauty that causes me to pause and marvel with delight
the natural wonder that appears in my every sight.

The corn is turning yellow the beans are turning brown,
and soon the combines will be humming as they bring the crop from the ground.

The fruits of this year's harvest come to us each year,
Yet, I wonder if we realize just how such is dear.
To grow a crop is a gamble that we take each time,
not knowing if the bet will be worth the cost and potential fine.
I further wonder; does God think the same,
even as God calls us each by name.

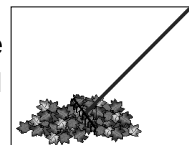
I am thankful for every season true;
But nothing causes me more happiness than another fall with you.



RE-MARK-ABLE Conversations with the Bishop – As we move toward REvitalizing, REforming and RENewing, Bishop Jeff Clements and the synod staff invite you to an evening of conversation. We want to hear what you're experiencing right now and with what you are experimenting. The guided conversation will allow congregations of each conference to hear more of what others are doing, too. ALL are invited – young and old; rostered ministers and congregational members; long-term members and brand-new members. RE-MARK-ABLE Conversations begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and continue at 7:00 with the opening devotion and continued conversations. **Tuesday, October 24** – NE Conference – Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, 10805 Main St., Huntley

SUNDAY BOOK CLUB- Sunday Book Club is in room 102 between services. This year we are starting out with the book "Luther's Fortress" by James Reston, Jr. This biography of Martin Luther draws on Luther's correspondence, notes and other writing. James Reston is an acclaimed historian who presents a gripping portrait of the Reformation's architect and how he kept the movement alive despite his hiding out in fear for his life. Come and explore what it means to be Lutheran and how Martin truly changed the world. Join us for a lively discussion and home baked treats. Questions, call Shirley Busse 338-9063.

FALL CLEAN UP- Please join us on **October 21** at 9:00 am (rain date is November 2) to help spruce up our grounds. We will be raking leaves and other such duties. Please come with gloves, rakes and leaf blowers.



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), Frank Bunch, Dale Carlson, Allison Clark (niece of Martha & Bill Fleck), Patrice Dunn, Verna Eslick, Russ Freeman, John W. "Jack" Fylpaa (father of Stephane Fylpaa-Asher), Paul Gergolla (son-in-law of Eileen Weide), Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Carmen Goodmon (mother of Jennifer Robbins), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Wallace Halvorson (father of Shelley Tucker), Devin Harms (friend of Joe Evanoff), Mary Hurst (friend of Deborrah Evanoff), 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), 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, Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Sheila Readel, Rene Rebman (uncle of Ron & Mary Koehn), Jean Reed (mother of Mary Hoyt), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), 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: Maroulla Hahne (friend of Martha & Bill Fleck), Shirley Hunter (sister of Pat Hahn), Charles Koltz (father of Kim Beystehner), Karen Dahlen (friend of Jerry & Mary Johnson)

Joys: Marriage of Caleb Smith & Abigail Liedtke and Marriage of Jeffrey Kurka & Amanda Appner

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.

FOR BY GRACE.....by Pastor Amanda

Here we are in October 2017, ready to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Throughout the past year we have noted worldwide efforts towards Lutheran-Catholic dialogue, beginning with a memorable ecumenical event in Lund, Sweden held by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Roman Catholic Church last year on October 31.

As we prepare for Reformation weekend this year at Grace, **October 28 & 29**, please see the events and opportunities listed on page 4 of Grace for Today. We hope to see you there!

I also invite you to join in reading through Luther's *Small Catechism* once more during this month. Our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton invited us all to read and talk about the Small Catechism and we had an opportunity to do so during the Adult Forum and Wednesday midweek Lent worship services this spring. Perhaps you'll make time to read this piece once more in your own devotional and prayer time in the coming weeks.

And once the 500th anniversary of the Reformation comes and goes, we remember that even as we give thanks for the witness of the early reformers we are a church that is still reforming. God is always making us new, and our life and witness as a church strives to point to Christ.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

Ephesians 2:8-10

Blessings on this month of October, the change in seasons, Reformation commemorations, and life as God's people; for by grace we have been saved through faith, thanks be to God!

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"



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.

WACM REP NEEDED- Grace is in need of a Woodstock Area Community Ministries representative. We have a long history of supporting this community wide ministry. After many years our representative Joe Pienschke is retiring from this position. If interested please contact Pastor Ken, or talk to Joe and thank him for his many years of service.

ELCA Youth Gathering 2018. Grace's youth group is preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston next summer. Please keep Grace's Youth Group and the Houston area in your thoughts and prayers this year. High school youth & parents, if you missed the trip meeting, please see Pastor Amanda with questions. Registration forms are due October 15. "This Changes Everything!"

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: **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-**The deadline for the November newsletter is October 15. Send articles to : Tammy Baier at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554. :
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OCTOBER REFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS!

With the 500th anniversary of the start of the reformation, here is a little quiz and some events that you may want to be a part of to lift up the celebration of this literal world changing event. Submit your answers to PK and there is a prize!



1. What event is considered to be the start of the reformation?
2. What German City did the above event happen?
3. What Church door did the reformation have its beginning?
4. What event sealed Luther's fate in regards to the Dr. Luther ever finding a way to reconciliation with Rome? Hint; "Worms" is not only a fish bait.
5. What castle did Luther "hide out" after Rome had issued a "papal bull" that would allow anyone to kill Luther and not be prosecuted?
6. In what city is the castle hiding place found? Hint; J. S. Bach was from here.
7. Luther burnt the "papal bull" at a particular site where he lived; what "sprung up" in the spring, on that site the next year?

The team of folks from Grace heading to Germany this Advent season will visit each of these sites and we look forward to returning to share in our trip. Those attending are; Mitch Anderson, James Ferguson, Janice Burns, Robert and Nancy Berkholtz, Pastor Ken and Yvonne Gibson, Laverne Forrester, and Gayle Hoch!

GRACE REFORMATION CELEBRATION EVENTS for 2017!

OKTOBERFEST-

October 1. Come and enjoy a German meal with Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, and all the trimmings. A true German Um Pa Pa band will join us to add to our festivities. Awards will be given to the best dressed authentic Oktoberfest attire. Grab your Lederhosen and Dirndl's!

REFORMATION MOVIE-

Martin Luther: the Idea That Changed The World Showing of this Luther and the Reformation movie by Rick Steves is **October 15!** Stop down between worship services and watch this wonderful ELCA Lutheran producer, known for his in depth touring of all of Europe, present this excellent Public Television special. We will start the movie promptly at **8:38**, so don't be late!

REFORMATION SERVICES-

October 28 . We will begin the special weekend of Reformation Services with a large celebration service at 5 PM **Saturday October 28**. This Saturday service highlight will be the **rite of confirmation** for our young people will affirm their baptism. Rev. Gary Erickson, assistant to the bishop, will be present to bring remarks on behalf of the whole church.

Sunday October 29. The 8:30 AM service will include a number of our youth and adult choirs and bells presenting special reformation pieces. This service will be truly celebratory in nature and full of Lutheran Tradition. The 10:45am service will have special music highlighted by Cayla Learman as vocal lead.

You won't want to miss services that only happen once in 500 years!



SYNOD WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE- Sunday afternoon SPECIAL synod wide worship. We as Lutherans will honor this important occasion on **Sunday, October 29**, with a special synod -wide Reformation/Ordination Worship and Celebration. This service will take place at **4:00 p.m.** at St. John's Lutheran Church, 607 10th Avenue, Mendota, Illinois. All are invited to attend this special service and if you are interested in singing in the synod choir please see Ron Fredriksen for more details

Walking Together- Synod News. Walking Together is the weekly e-news of the Northern Illinois Synod. Everyone is encouraged to subscribe by using the online form at <http://nisynod.org/pubs/wt/> or by sending names and email addresses to karin@nisynod.org.

ELCA SERVICE DAY- Thank you! Thank you for sharing in the 5th annual ELCA “God’s work. Our hands.” Service Day. Once again, Grace responded generously in giving time and talent and donations for this event as 86 people gathered for an afternoon of service- thank you! We give thanks for our community partners: Lutheran World Relief, Turning Point, Home of the Sparrow, and Lutherdale, it is a joy to serve alongside our neighbors. And we give thanks for our team leaders: Shirley Busse, Martha & Bill Fleck, Pastor Ken, Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, Al Wilson, and Ken Zank. Thank you all!

WACM CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER – WACM will sponsor an All-You-Can-Eat Chicken Dinner on Monday, **October 16th** at Crandall’s Restaurant in Hebron from 4pm – 8pm. The cost will be Adults - \$15, Kids – (6-12 yrs.) \$10 and Kids – (5 yrs. and under) \$5. You also have an option to purchase a meal for a Veteran. Carry-outs are available and walk-ins are welcome.



HURRICANES- Lutheran Disaster Response. We pray for our neighbors recovering from hurricanes Harvey and Irma. And we invite you to give to Lutheran Disaster Response to accompany those affected through every phase of these disasters. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for “Hurricane Response- US” will be used entirely (100 percent) for these disasters until the response is complete. Checks can be made to Grace with subject: “Hurricane Response- US”, and funds will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.

80 & Over SENIOR LUNCHEON – October 24 – We will be honoring all Octogenarians this month at a special worship service at 11:30 in the sanctuary, followed by a spectacular home cooked dinner in Luther Hall. After dinner, we will have a presentation of Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls by Alison Hubbard, a lifelong collector. Our menu on this special day will begin with a Strawberry-Rhubarb Gelatin square, followed by orange spice pork roast, Mediterranean rice pilaf, broccoli with red onions and bacon, rolls & butter, pumpkin squares, coffee & tea. Cost is only \$5, so invite a friend. Grace members who are “80 & over” this year, will receive a special invitation in the mail with a free meal coupon. Please sign up in the Activity Binder by October 22. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

NAME THE GRACE VINEYARD CONTEST- As you can see, if you look just to the East of the Church Building, there is a beautiful vineyard growing well on our Grace property. These grapes will produce enough wine to supply our communion needs for a year once it is up and producing as we have planned. This marks the third year of these grapes and we will be harvesting grapes and making some wine in 2017. This project has not cost the church budget one dime as a group of dedicated folks have made this vineyard possible. If you would like to be a part of this effort, all are welcome, just let Pastor Ken know you are interested. Grapes do take pruning and care so, many hands make the work lighter. As we look toward harvest time, soon this late summer or early fall, we would like to have a contest as to the naming of our vineyard. Have a clever name for our vineyard and our wine in mind? If so submit your idea to the church office and we will conduct a bit of a survey as to what might be the new name of the vines and wine. Do you have some artistic talent? If so, design a label that fits with your naming. My idea is, *Grace Holy “Spirit” Communion wine*. OK I am sure there are better ones out there. Have fun and submit your ideas soon!

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. For more information or to sign up see the Activity Binder Cost is \$90. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

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— \$503,716.45
Goal— \$780,430.00

SAVE THE DATE:

Octoberfest reception OCT 1
Crop Walk OCT 1
Martin Luther Movie Event OCT 15
Fair Trade Coffee OCT 14/15
Martin Luther Movie OCT 15
Confirmation Corn Maze OCT 20
Grace Fall Clean Up OCT 21
80 & Over Service & Lunch OCT 24
Albums of Hope OCT 28
Confirmation OCT 28
Reformation Service OCT 29
Blood Drive NOV 12
Fair Trade NOV 18 & 19
Thanksgiving Eve/Pie Fest NOV 22
Senior Luncheon NOV 28
Bus Trip- ELF DEC 6
Fair Trade Coffee DEC 16/17

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

8:30 am-12:00 pm, F