

APRIL 2023 ▪ VOLUME 22, NO. 4

## Now

*“Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” -John 4:38b*

Recently in worship, this verse was a part of one of our long gospel readings from John, and it calls to mind for me, the breadth and depth and wonders of the body of Christ. We are a part of a long line of faithful people, beloved of God, saints, and sinners who follow Christ.

From generation to generation, God’s faithfulness endures, and we follow the generations before us who have lived in faith and enter into the stewardship of the gifts we have been given. By God’s grace and gift of faith, we are entrusted with the commitment to love and serve God and neighbor.

By connecting with this faith community, Grace Lutheran Church, you are entering into the ministry of countless saints who have gone before us. When a mighty team of six showed up to clean up after the ice storm, we stood on the grounds that have been tended and shaped by many people before. When students (youth and adults) gather for Sunday school, confirmation class, and Bible studies, they are learning the stories of God’s faithful people that have been studied and taught by many before who likewise love to tell the story of Jesus and God’s love.

**“Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat  
that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again,  
that with the dead has been; love is come again like  
wheat arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter like the rising grain, he that for  
three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead,  
my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat  
arising green.”**

*ELW 379, vs. 1 & 3*

When people give of their time, and money, and talents, distributing food, meeting with guests at DAP, delivering meals, volunteering for worship, counting offering, sewing quilts, assembling mailings, serving in elected leadership, and more—they too are entering into the labor of those who have served before—faithfully living into God’s call to follow and be the body of Christ together.

One of the clearly expressed hopes for our community that was named a couple years ago was a desire to be here for people—when they’re ready to return, when they’re in need, when there’s a seeking for faith and connection to

God. This is the heart of tending, and taking care, and stewarding the gifts of God for the sake of the world—to cultivate relationships and spaces to wonder and gather together in Jesus’ name and be ready for the unknown ways God is calling us to live and love and be and serve.

In thanksgiving for what has been, in faithful stewardship of what is already, and in a hopeful leaning into God’s future—how are you stewarding the gifts of God in this season? Will you join in considering all that God has given, and how you are being called to respond?

For now the green blade rises. God is at work in you, in our community, and the world around us right now. And the ministry that God is calling us to is always new, timely, different, and faithful. I pray that the movement of the Three Days in the worship services of Holy Week, the joy of Easter, and the season of newness and renewal ahead are a blessing to you. I pray that you will be blessed by God and respond generously in your giving and sharing in the body of Christ, for the sake of the world God so loves. See you soon.

*Peace,  
Pastor Amanda*

# 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 Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop Stacie Fidler, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish)

**Woodstock:** Pastor Amanda Bergstrom & her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

**Health Concerns:** Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), Nancy Brown, Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Jim Davis, Lori Dechant, Patrice Dunn, Joe Evanoff, Lucille Fergen (mother of Karen Hansen), Barbara Gehrke, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Leonard Haulotte (brother of Laura Boal), Gloria Holy, Denise Hoover, Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Steve Kosmen (loved one of the

Koehn family), Judie Kunzie, Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Linda Nogan (sister of Sheila Readel), Gloria Ogle, Georgia Petersdorf (sister-in-law of Gladys Renner), Pat Peterson, Dorothy Potoczky, Ila Randolph, Barbara Readel, Sheila Readel, Jayne Reicher (great niece of Barb & Wayne Japp), Herb & Bev Renner (brother- & sister-in-law of Ken & Gladys Renner), Nick Resek (son of Tammy Resek-Goggin), Jessie & Sue Robertson (friends of Ron, Mary & Kimberly Koehn), Diane Rouse (cousin of Lisa Washkowiak), Nathan Ruffino, Nicholas Ruffino, Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Nathaniel Shipp (family friend of Brian Meyers), Hollis Shutt, Ann Sinnett (friend of Shirley Berna), Kathy Stone, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Addie Jo Wedoff, Nick Wedoff, Caitlin Wilcox (niece of Anne Johnson)

**Sorrow:** Mary Sue Boerner (friend of Paul Lockwood & Diane Baker-Lockwood), Kylee Larson (sister of Dallas Larson), Beverly Trumble

## Prayer Requests

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 month and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* email may be submitted by telephone to the church office or via email to [grace@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:grace@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 **(815-338-0554)**.

## Current Openings

Job descriptions have been posted and applications are requested for the following part-time positions:

1. **Director of Youth Education;** and
2. **Director of Worship & Music**

We invite you to encourage interested candidates to submit a cover letter and resume; job descriptions are posted on the front page of the website until positions are filled.

## Kitchen

Do you enjoy cooking and hosting meals? Are you already or would you be willing to become a Certified Food Safe Manager and support the use of Grace's kitchen? If so, please call the church office **(815-338-0554)**.

## Grace Building Closure

We recently experienced some severe weather that required Grace to close the building.



Please know that after the Grace Executive Committee decides to close the building, we attempt to pass along closure information as quickly as possible. The committee communicates this decision in the multiple methods as listed in our Closure Guidelines.

During the school year, we do use the D200 information as a primary source for our decision making. Please remember that our number one concern is your safety.

**GRACE FOR TODAY**—The deadline for the May 2023 newsletter is April 15. Please send articles to Kari Gippert at [kgippert@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgippert@gracewoodstock.org), or the church office. Questions: Call the office at **815-338-0554**.

## Worship this April

Join us in worship this April as we gather for Holy Week and enter the Easter season. We worship on Sundays 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

**Worship Volunteers.** As we gather for worship and keep welcoming people into community, we need additional volunteers to support worship. If you have questions about how you might participate, please ask people listed below, or call the office if you'd like assistance in signing up for an opening..

- Could you consider serving as an [Usher](#), [Greeter](#), [Reader](#), or [Communion Assistant](#), once a month or every other month? If you have questions about volunteering as an Usher, Greeter, Reader or Communion Assistant, please contact Faye Wilson at [faymwlsn@yahoo.com](mailto:faymwlsn@yahoo.com);
- Or would you be willing to learn more about joining the A/V team? There are currently three people who facilitate worship being audible in the sanctuary and accessible via livestream. If interested, please contact Bill Nattress at [bill.nattress@gmail.com](mailto:bill.nattress@gmail.com).
- The altar guild teams are expanding and welcoming new volunteers to join the rotation. To learn more, please contact Karen Reinhard at [kereinhard@yahoo.com](mailto:kereinhard@yahoo.com).
- Our choirs and music groups continue to gather and welcome new musicians and singers. If interested in rehearsal dates, contact Jan at [shelty2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelty2@sbcglobal.net), Carrie at [bcfilet@att.net](mailto:bcfilet@att.net), Terry at [taavang@yahoo.com](mailto:taavang@yahoo.com), Tammy at [baier5@comcast.net](mailto:baier5@comcast.net), or Jon at [jon.bergstrom2@hotmail.com](mailto:jon.bergstrom2@hotmail.com).
- If you are interested in joining the rotation for Children's Sermons, please contact Carrie Fiorina, at [cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org).

## Holy Week & Easter Sunday

At the start of April, we enter into Holy Week and hope you will be a part of these important worship opportunities. You are welcome to gather in the Parlor from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on April 2 for the last drop-in Lent devotions conversation.

### **Palm Passion Sunday, April 2**

#### **9 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)**

From sounds of praise singing "Hosanna" as we wave palm branches to hearing shouts of "crucify him," we gather for worship on Palm Passion Sunday. Join us for worship as we enter Holy Week and draw near to Easter.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 6**

#### **Noon (Sanctuary) & 7 p.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)**

We hear Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loved us, and we enter into the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We confess our sins, share Holy Communion, and remember how Jesus washed the disciples' feet as we recall the night he was betrayed.

### **Good Friday, April 7**

#### **Noon (Sanctuary) & 7 p.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)**

We hear Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loved us, and we enter into the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We confess our sins, share Holy Communion, and remember how Jesus washed the disciples' feet as we recall the night he was betrayed.

### **Good Friday Prayer Vigil, April 7**

#### **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Parlor)**

You are invited to participate in this Good Friday Prayer Vigil. Prayer request cards are available on the Welcome Center table. This is available for individual or family prayer time. No sign-up is needed.

### **Easter Sunday, April 9**

#### **7 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream) & 9 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen today. We gather to boldly proclaim that death does not have the last say, for Jesus Christ is risen today. Join us in worship to share the good news of the empty tomb and celebrate the amazing promise of Jesus' resurrection.

Then, the joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection continues. See you in worship on **Sunday, April 16**, the second Sunday of Easter, as we rejoice with those receiving their first communion and stay after worship for an all-church Pray & Play!



## Living Generously

*"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."  
2 Corinthians 9:11*

	February 2023				3/31/23 Year-to-date		
Operating	Actual	Budget	Difference		Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$44,375.60	\$34,300.00	\$10,075.60		\$78,238.78	\$67,000	\$11,238.78
Expense	\$39,749.21	\$41,307.09	(\$1,557.88)		\$83,130.53	\$83,173.98	(\$43.45)
Balance	\$4,626.39	(\$7,007.09)	\$11,633.48		(\$4,891.75)	(16,173.98)	\$11,282.23

Quarterly giving statements will be sent by mail this year in mid-April/July/October (or placed in mail if we do not have your email address). Please contact the church

office with any questions (**815-338-0554**). Thank you for your financial offerings in support of mission and ministry through Grace Lutheran Church.

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### Grace Welcomes 13 New Members in February



Pictured Top left: Melissa Krause, Emma Krause and Carol Hyde; top middle: Bruce Rosborough; top right: Faith Metze, Robert Metze, John Metze and Ann Metze. Bottom left: Madeline Thomas, Norah Thomas, Kendrick Thomas, Tanya Thomas and Andrew Thoms. Next month *Grace for Today* will help you get to know everyone a little bit more.

### Adult Sunday Book Club

The Adult Sunday Book Club will finish the book "Under a Cloudless Sky," this month and after a celebratory brunch, participants will vote on the next book. Meetings are in the Parlor. If you have been thinking of joining the group, this

would be a good time to check it out. The *Chicago Tribune* recently ran an article about memory boosting and reported that reading a novel is even better than puzzle-solving for preserving memory skills!

### Grief Support Group

Deacon Judy Rooney will present a four-week grief support group on Tuesdays, April 11 and 25 and May 9 and 23 at 1 p.m. in the Parlor.

Faith-based, the group will offer biblical insights on grief, as well as an education about the many aspects of the grieving process. Time will be given to reflect and share or just to listen.

Those interested in attending, can contact the church office at **815-338-0554**, or drop in. If this time does not fit into your schedule, but you are interested in a grief support group, let the church office know your availability for a possible future group.

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### Pinochle

Pinochle continues in April and meets on the first and third Wednesday afternoons (April 5 and 19) at 1 p.m. in Room 101.

On April 11, play at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101. Enter the lower level. Beginners are welcome! For more details, contact Sally Sheahan at **314-910-0541**.

## YSJ—High School Youth “Youth Standing with Jesus”

**FUN OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN ACTION!**

**High School Families** Please check your INBOX for YSJ updates via email ... These updates will include event information, sign-up links and more. Also, follow Grace Lutheran Church on Facebook for announcements and to learn about what YSJ is up to!

**Mobile Food Pantry** - High Schoolers needed for this local ministry. If you can help distribute food to more than 500 community members in need, then we could use you on the first Monday of each month from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

**Please help whenever you can!**

**\*RSVP's are needed by the Thursday prior to our service date so we know how many volunteers to expect!**

**Wednesday Drop-In Nights** - YSJ meets EVERY 2 WEEKS for pizza, fun connection, meaningful conversation, activities, service planning, and more! (No RSVP necessary and you can even bring a friend!) **YSJ Welcomes all high schoolers ... this is YOUR**

**SPACE!** Join the fun from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Remaining **Drop-In Dates: April 5, April 19, and May 3.**

**Fundraiser** - Keep your eyes open for information about a future YSJ fundraiser with Savers of Crystal Lake. Please, start looking through your closets and basements for clothing and items to donate! More information to follow.

**HIGH SCHOOL and current 8th GRADE**

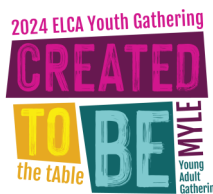
**students. SAVE THE DATES!!!**

The ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in NEW ORLEANS July 15-21, 2024,

and we want you to attend this incredible experience! We will announce the information meeting this month.

Contact Kirsten Green at **815-236-6904** or at [stylin1020@gmail.com](mailto:stylin1020@gmail.com), with any RSVP's or questions.

**Your YSJ Co-Leaders are Al Wilson, Gretchen Hutchens, and Kirsten Green.**



## Sunday School News

### Easter Candy

Last year, Grace's Sunday School Children were showered with love by church members with their wonderful donations of festive Easter candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We once again are asking for candy donations by Palm Sunday. The candy can be placed in the designated basket in the narthex. Thank you!

The children love the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

### Easter Sunday

Everyone is welcome to join Sunday School after the 9 a.m. service on April 9 in back of the church for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. It will take hours to prep but only minutes to claim!

### First Holy Communion

If your child currently is in first grade or higher and would like to receive their first Holy Communion, please know that we have class from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15. Then on Sunday, April 16, they will receive their first communion. Participants (or children's parents) interested in taking part can contact Sunday School Coordinator, Jamielynn Wedoff, at

[jamielynn@wedoffphotography.com](mailto:jamielynn@wedoffphotography.com).

Then following the service all are invited for an **intergenerational Pray & Play**. We will be hosting a game hour filled with oldies but goodies as well as new games! Please consider joining us that morning!

## Summer Camp Scholarship

We would love for families with elementary age children to consider summer camp as a part of their faith formation. Sunday school families have received information about financial support for registration fees, and how to learn more regarding two local ELCA camps, [Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center](#) in Oregon, IL and [Lutherdale](#) in Elkhorn, Wis. If you have questions about summer camp, or about this new camp scholarship opportunity, please contact Pastor Amanda. See you soon!

## Grounds Clean up

All hands are needed on deck in May! Our spring grounds clean up is slated for Saturday, May 13 from 8 a.m. to noon. The rain date will be May 20. See you there!

## 12.12.12

The Grace Senior Phone Ministers will sponsor a kindness project and invite other Grace members to participate. The project code name: "12.12.12." If you want to learn the code meaning, join the group on April 12 at 2 p.m. in the Parlor for the project kickoff and initial brain storming session. Can't make it but want to participate? Contact Sally Sheahan at **314-90-0541**.

## Presence Light Sponsors:

### April 2:

- In memory of Bud Schulz, given by the Schulz Family.

### April 9 Holy Week/Easter:

- In honor of Jerry's 86th birthday, given by Mary Johnson.

### April 16:

- To the glory of God, Jerry & Mary Johnson.

### April 23:

- In honor of the 25th birthday of our grandson, Jakob, given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

### April 30:

- In celebration of Gerald Malinasky's 85th birthday, given by Janice & Bob Laird.

## Bulletin Sponsors:

### April 2:

- In memory of Mary's mother, Linda Holman, given by Jerry & Mary Johnson.
- To the glory of God, given by Diane Schulz.

### April 9 Holy Week/Easter:

- To the glory of God, given by Don & Marylee Steinwehe.
- In memory of Bob Shook's 90th birthday, given by Robin Gibbs.

### April 16:

- In memory of Mary's father & brother, Arnold & John Holman, given by Jerry & Mary Johnson.

### April 23:

- In honor of the 25th birthday of our grandson, Jakob, given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

### April 30:

- In honor of family, given by Diane Schulz.
- In honor of Zach's birthday, given by Andy & MB.

## eGiving Options

In addition to weekly offering envelopes, Grace provides electronic giving options. Please give in the way that is most convenient for you and let us know if you have any questions.

**Give Online** at our website or via our QR code



**Give by Text** by texting **877-698-3604**

Enter the 10-digit number (877-698-3604) and the amount you wish to donate, then press send, and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

**Give through Vanco Mobile App** by downloading the app

- Go to the App Store or Google Play and search "**Vanco Mobile**" to quickly find and download the app for free.
- Search "**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**" to select Grace in Woodstock, IL, then select Give to select an amount, General Operating Fund, and frequency, and the app will prompt you through completing your donation.

**Give through automatic withdrawal program.** To participate, please complete an enrollment form and return to the church office to schedule pre-authorized electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank account. You can change, stop, or temporarily hold your giving by contacting Grace's church office four business days in advance of a scheduled contribution.

*Please contact the church office (815-338-0554)  
if you have any questions.*

**Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all  
that is happening at Grace! [gracewoodstock.org](http://gracewoodstock.org)**

### **GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL**

#### **Lead Pastor**

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
[abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Administrative Secretary**

Denise Klabunde  
[dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Financial Secretary &**

**Asst. Administrative Secretary,  
Confirmation Coordinator**

Carrie Fiorina  
[cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Communications Coordinator**

Kari Gippert  
[kgippert@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgippert@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Organist & Interim Coordinator of Worship & Music**

Jan Burns

#### **Music Group Directors**

Terry Aavang, Tammy Baier,  
Jon Bergstrom, Carrie Filetti

#### **Sunday School Coordinator**

Jamielynn Wedoff

#### **Building Supervisor**

Ken Zank

#### **Custodians**

Chris & Kim Ethridge

#### **Officers & Council**

Diana Frisbie, Lisa Gerloff-Banker,  
Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Kleinjan,  
Mike Liedtke, Paul Lockwood,  
Matt Meiners, Mark Miller, Mary Noe,  
Robert Teuber