

JUNE 2023 • VOLUME 22, NO. 6

## Summer & Psalms

*“Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.” Psalm 1:1*



Do you have a favorite psalm? Or a few that you turn to on occasion? In a recent conversation, someone recalled a treasured psalm somewhere in the teens, so we turned to a psalm there, and while it wasn't the one they were thinking of, it spoke to that moment.

Psalm 13 begins with questions, “How long, O Lord?” How long, how long, how long? And then it shifts, it moves to a prayer, “give light to my eyes,” and into trust, “But I have trusted in your steadfast love,” and then a promise, “my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord.”

The psalms, the gathering of hymns, prayers for deliverance or healing, songs of ascent and journey, laments, praises, of royalty and wisdom, the psalms vary in naming the breadth and depth of creation and experiences of faith and of living.

This summer, I invite you to turn to the psalms. If you start now and read 1-2 brief psalms a day (there are 150), we'll have read and prayed through them all by fall. In worship, we'll keep reading them together, too, and perhaps you'll find a few that speak to you in the season ahead.

Let me know if you're looking for a Bible to read at home, or you can spend a few minutes in the pews reading the psalms that are located in the front of the hymnals, or search for them online (I like this site, <http://bible.oremus.org/>, for quick access to the NRSV).

I'd be interested in hearing a few of your favorite psalms, and in reading and praying together. If you're in town, let's meet at Grace on **Thursday, June 22 at 6 p.m.** at the outdoor sanctuary area (between the lower parking lot and gazebo) for time to read a few psalms and pray as we dwell in God's word together. (In case of bad weather, we'll meet inside the sanctuary).

Blessings as you carve out a few moments in the season of rest and recreation for reflection and devotional reading and prayer. I pray that these words may be a blessing to you, and in the words of the 121<sup>st</sup> Psalm, may the Lord *keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore* as you enter a new rhythm, travel, or season of renewal this summer.

*“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”*

*Psalm 150:6*

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), Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane

Baker-Lockwood), Donald Miller (brother of Mark Miller), 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)

**Sorrows:** Robert Nattress (brother of Bill Nattress), Jean Niestroj (aunt of Mike Phillips)

**Joy:** Baptism of Nelson Fredrick Nichol (son of Cayla Learman & Zachery Nichol)

## 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**).

## Support our LGBTQIA+ Family in Christ

Grace will participate in Woodstock's Pride Parade on June 11 at the Woodstock Square. All Grace members are welcome to walk with Grace in this family-friendly opportunity to show love and support for the LGBTQIA+ community. Many plan to wear "God's Work. Our Hands." T-shirts. If you need a shirt and would like to wear one for the parade, please look in the church narthex to pick up one. More information about our gathering location and time will be posted in *Grace Notes*. Call **Gretchen Hutchens** at **815-341-7544** with any questions.



## Current Opening

Applications are requested for the following part-time position:

### Director of Worship & Music

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



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## 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 FOR TODAY**—The deadline for the **July 2023** newsletter is **June 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 June

Happy summer & blessings on this season of Sundays after Pentecost. We gather for worship this June and celebrate The Holy Trinity, welcoming a sibling in Christ through the waters of baptism, and blessing and sending confirmation students for a week at camp.

Each Sunday, in addition to staff support for weekly worship, we gather for worship alongside the hospitality, hospitality, generosity, and talents of the following volunteers: 1 or more A/V technicians, 2 greeters, 3 ushers, 1 to 3 acolytes, 1 reader, 1 children's sermon presenter, 2 to 5 communion assistants, an altar guild team, and musicians.

We'd love for you to share your time and gifts in support of our worship life. If you have questions about how you might participate, please ask people listed below or call the office at **815-338-0554** 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 Fay 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).
- If you play an instrument and/or are interested in solo/ensemble opportunities to support worship, please contact Jan Burns at [shelty2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelty2@sbcglobal.net); our choirs will regather in the fall.

See you soon for worship on Sundays **9 a.m.** in the sanctuary, via [YouTube livestream](#), or the posted worship videos on our website.

## Synod Assembly

Grace's synod assembly voting members, Andy Bellavia, Cindy Meyer, Mark Miller, and Sally Sheahan, along with Deacon Judy Rooney and Pastor Amanda, will be participating in the upcoming Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 16-17 at Augustana College in Rock Island.

Please join in prayer for this upcoming event; here are a few ways that you can participate in this Assembly:

- **Watch the forums** when they are posted online;
- **Watch the live stream** of the plenary sessions. The video



feed will be available on the Northern Illinois Synod website [here](#).

- **Support the in-kind donation** drive by donating [personal care kits](#) (a bath towel, two bars of soap, a toothbrush, a comb, and, nail clippers). \*Drop off at Grace by June 15.
- Donate to the Innovations Fund online [here](#). Choose "2023 Synod Assembly Offering" from the drop-down menu.
- **Talk to your congregation's voting members** and visitors about their experiences at the assembly.

## Labyrinth

Watch for a day this summer when we'll have the chance to spruce up the area surrounding our prayer labyrinth, located southeast of the gazebo.



This month, you'll have the chance to meet the designer of this elaborate creation, Eric Peterson, who completed this for an Eagle Scout project. You can hear him explain the importance and meaning of a prayer labyrinth and the back story behind his design.

## Welcome Tyler Palak

Tyler Palak recently joined Grace Lutheran as director of youth education.

"I speak for church council when I say we are extremely excited to have Tyler as part of Grace's staff," said Mary Noe, council president.

"I am looking forward to working with the wonderful congregation of Grace Lutheran," Tyler said. "A fun fact about me is that I am both an American and Polish citizen, although my command of the Polish language still has much room to grow!"

"Besides general information about my own cultural background, professionally, I have been an educator for the past four years at Marian Central Catholic High School." Tyler added, "where I have pursued my passion working with the youth and developing a love of service and sense of community that my school has helped to create. I hope to share my passion with Grace Lutheran as I flex into this new role as a director of youth education."



Tyler Palak

## Confirmation's 2022-23 Class Completes Year

We completed another successful year of confirmation. What a great group of young people we had again this year. Our year ended with a lovely service that included our eighth-grade students affirming their baptism. We also gathered for a class picnic where our students played games and met Tyler Palak, our new director of youth education.

This month confirmation ventures out of state to Michigan where Pastor Amanda and many of our students will spend a week at

[Living Waters Ministries at Stony Lake](#) in New Era, Mich. This is an ELCA camp where the youth will learn and grow in their spiritual journeys. (Visit the camp's Facebook page [here](#).) Students will have the opportunity to soar on ropes courses, spend a day at a beach on Lake Michigan, meet daily for worship and bible studies, and a variety of other activities. Please mark your calendars for the Send-Off Service Sunday, June 25 during our 9 a.m. worship. Then, please keep them all in your prayers during their June 25 - 30 camp week.



The 2022-23 Confirmation Class held a year-end picnic gathering. Tyler Palak, director of youth education, (pictured far left) joined in on the fun.

## Leadership Nominations

As we look ahead to our Congregational Meeting in August, you are invited to prayerfully consider submitting a nomination form for positions of leadership on Church Council, Endowment Board, and Nominating Committee. Please consider how you might be called to serve in our faith community and return a completed nomination form by July 2 to the church office (printed copies available at the Information Desk or electronically through our Grace Notes weekly email.).

## Fellowship Opportunity for Grace Lutheran ...

On June 7, the Woodstock City Band Season in the Park presents "The Night Sky," marking the first band concert of the summer season.

Grace members are invited to a bring-your-own picnic at 6 p.m. at the Woodstock Square for food, fellowship, and fun. You bring your picnic meal, chairs and blankets for sitting.

We will choose an area near the Cass St. entrance to picnic together. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and lasts nearly an hour with one intermission. An Ice Cream Social is presented that evening by the Groundhog Day Committee.

If you have questions, contact **Gretchen Hutchens** at [gretchenhutchens@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenhutchens@gmail.com) or 815-341-7544.

## ... More Fellowship Opportunities with Dinners on the Lake & Travel Ministry

Lutherdale (camp in Elkhorn, Wis.) offers an opportunity to come to camp for Fish Fry dinner on the second Friday of each month through September. All proceeds from the dinners support the ministry at Lutherdale.

In addition, each month from now until December 2023, Lutherdale offers day travel trips planned for adults. Overnight housing is available for those who would like to make it a retreat. Visit the Lutherdale website [here](#).

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## Adult Book Club Sunday School

On Sunday, June 4, the Adult Book Club Sunday School meets in the Parlor at 10:15 a.m. (in person or via Zoom). A new book will be introduced. Check the Grace Notes weekly email for the new book selection.



## YSJ—High School Youth

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

**Savers Fundraiser** - YSJ is collecting clothing and household donation items from the Grace community, ending on June 4. [Here](#) is all the information you need about what to donate. Please deliver your items on Sunday, June 4 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the High School Youth Room in the lower level. *\*\*\*Teens are needed to help collect from 8 to 11 a.m. Sunday June 4 at the Church.\*\*\**

**\*\*\*PARENT & HIGH SCHOOLER MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, AT 7:30 P.M.\*\*\***  
This is a great time to get info about the ELCA youth event and ask questions.

**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. Summer drop-in dates: June 14, 28; July 12, 26; and Aug. 9.

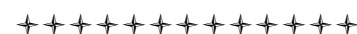
**HIGH SCHOOL and 8th GRADE STUDENTS** (at the end of this last school year). **SAVE THE DATES!!!** The ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in NEW ORLEANS July 15-21, 2024, and we want you to attend this incredible experience! Contact Kirsten Green at **815-236-6904** or at [stylin1020@gmail.com](mailto:stylin1020@gmail.com), with any questions.

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

## 2023 Confirmation Class



**Congratulations to our 2023 confirmands. Pictured (front row, left to right:) Liliana Wietermann, Maren Filetti, and Mackenzie Green. (Back row, left to right:) Pastor Amanda Bergstrom, Clementine Arana, and Teagan Jones.**



## 2023 Graduation Class

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Adeline E. Arana, Nicole Behm, Mark Duenas, Gabe Filetti, Kyle Freeman, Faith Roush, and Nathaniel Ruffino.



**Congratulations to our First Communion participants. Pictured (front row, left to right:) Tyson Hanlin, Samuel Given, Kaylee Lanham. (Back row, left to right:) Jace Hanlin, Braxton O'Leary, and Lark Gibbs.**



## Summer Camp Scholarship

We would love for families with elementary age children to consider summer camp as a part of their faith formation. June 18 is the start of the camp season! 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!

## Due Date Reminder for Grace Scholarship Funds

Scholarship applications for both the Readell and Allen funds are due to the Grace Lutheran Church Office by July 1, 2023.

As a reminder, the Endowment Committee at Grace Lutheran Church is responsible for administering the Readell Memorial Scholarship Fund and Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund. Both of these scholarships are for post high school education.

The Readell Memorial Scholarship Fund is available to students pursuing a full-time Christian vocation or related areas. The Allen Memorial Scholarship is for students attending an accredited Lutheran institution.

These funds are for active members of Grace Lutheran Church who are in good standing. The money awarded each year depends on the amount available. Monies are to be paid directly to the institution and not to the student or parents.

Applications are available through the Church Office or on the Grace website (on the navigation bar at the top of the website go to education, then scholarships).

All scholarship applications are reviewed by the Endowment Committee and voted on during the quarterly meeting in July; payments are made in August.

## Presence Light Sponsors:

### June 4:

- In memory of Jim Reinhard, given by Karen Reinhard..

### June 11:

- In honor of Pasto Amanda, given by the John Sorensen family.

### June 18:

- In memory of the dads in our family, Stanley Russell, Scott Conover & Jack Meyer, given by the Conover family.

### June 25:

- In memory of my parents, Marion & Betty Smith, & my sister, Maureen Smith Spoerlein, given by Marilyn Smith Rice.

## Bulletin Sponsors:

### June 4:

- In memory of Jim Reinhard, given by Karen Reinhard.

### June 11:

- In memory of my daughter, Heidi Hauschild, given by Judi Koeller.
- To the glory of God, given by Don & Marylee Steinwehe
- In memory of my parents, Marion & Betty Smith, given by Marilyn Smith Rice.

### June 18

- In honor of Ryan's birthday on June 25, given by Mark & Beth Miller.

### June 25:

- In memory of Maureen Smith Spoerlein, given by Marilyn Smith Rice.

## 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  
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#### **Financial Secretary &**

**Asst. Administrative Secretary**  
Carrie Fiorina  
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#### **Communications Coordinator**

Kari Gippert  
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#### **Director of Youth Education**

Tyler Palak  
[tpalak@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:tpalak@gracewoodstock.org)

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

Jan Burns

#### **Music Group Directors**

Terry Aavang, Tammy Baier,  
Jon Bergstrom, Carrie Filetti

#### **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