

OCTOBER 2023 • VOLUME 22, NO. 10



*Where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name—Jesus is there, about the work of forgiveness and reconciliation.*

Over the past several weeks in worship, we've heard Jesus' teaching about living in community: how to practice healthy communication, how the goal of speaking the truth in love is to bring the one who is apart back to community, how to practice forgiveness in relationships, how to live among God's faithful people. The difficult and intentional work of being in life-giving relationships with others is worth the effort, for God has created us for relationship—with God and with one another.

*"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness." Romans 12:4-9*

In Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear about just a few of people's unique gifts. And as a part of this faith community, can you see how we are better together? Here, at Grace Lutheran Church, how beautiful it is when the talents of one uplift another, how the sharing of oneself blesses the whole. God's gifting reveals in our midst the variety and diversity of our passions and resources and personalities and interests that are wonderfully woven together to strengthen the whole.

I keep being drawn to different pieces of conversation and writing on our country's growing epidemic of loneliness. In different circles, I've reflected with others how we are increasingly tempted to believe we can go it alone, that we can be self-sufficient and not need each other. And perhaps alongside that, we've forgotten how to receive support from others, or lean into a spirit of generosity to lend a hand. Again and again though, we are reminded of how deeply we do need one another. Perhaps we have some communal relearning to do to dare to enter into a mutuality of care that invites a degree of vulnerability and trust as well as incomparable connection and abiding in love.

In the changing season ahead, join me in considering anew how you and I are called to love and serve God and neighbor. For *together* as a congregation, we are committed to sharing God's grace with one another and with all. *Together* as a faith community, we rely on each other and get to gather together—to share in conversation, to get to know each other, to rejoice with one another to grieve with one another, to show up for one another and remember together that you are not alone. *Together* in Christ, hear again that are loved. You are loved into being by God and created to be in life-giving relationship with one another. 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 Fidar, 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), Bob & Carolyn Brackett (parents of Kari Gippert), Nancy Brown, Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Barb Carmichael, Jim Davis, Lori Dechant, Patrice Dunn, Joe Evanoff, Lucille Fergen (mother of Karen Hansen), Connie Fischer, Barbara Gehrke, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Liz Henniges, 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), Tom Meyer, Ben Miller (nephew of Jerry & Mary Johnson), 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), Don Rooney, Diane Rouse (cousin of Lisa Washkowiak), Nathan Ruffino, Nicholas Ruffino, Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Sally Sheahan, 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:** Kent Frisbie, Gregory Goodmon (father of Jennifer Robbins), Jim Haager Sr.

## 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)**.

## Kitchen Cleaning

As we move closer to reopening the kitchen, it still could use some TLC.

Thank you to BSA Troop 153 and several others who cleaned up parts of the room these last few weeks.

Contact the church office if you are willing to schedule and coordinate a kitchen cleaning day so we can resume kitchen use.

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## Current Opening

Applications are requested for the following part-time job:

### 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.

## Watercolors & the Bible



The PreK-K Sunday School class used watercolors to bring Bible stories to life on Sept. 17.

**GRACE FOR TODAY**—The deadline for the November 2023 newsletter is **October 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 October

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

**ANIMAL & PET BLESSING.** You, your pets, and/or pictures of beloved animals in your life are invited to gather on **Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 6:15 p.m.** for a brief service of scripture, song, and blessing for all of God's beloved creation. We meet at the outdoor chapel (just off the lower-level parking lot). Come join us! All creatures, worship God most high!

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY.** Together, your gifts to God for the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church equip our faith community to share God's grace. As we give thanks for God's love, rejoice in gathering among God's faithful people, and strive to live as Jesus calls us—thank you for your support. Grace Lutheran Church's community, place, faith formation, outreach, and care for one another would not be possible without your generosity. As we look to a new year of sharing God's grace in 2024, you are invited to prayerfully consider and communicate your giving intentions for the year ahead by returning your estimate of giving commitment card—either during worship on **Sunday, Oct. 29** or in advance in the church office.

**REFORMATION & ALL SAINTS SUNDAY.** Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed. You are invited to worship with us on **Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29**, in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church. The following week, **Sunday, Nov. 5**, is **All Saints Sunday**.

**Thank you** to all who volunteer their time in support of weekly worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please reach out to the people listed below or call the office at **815-338-0554** if you'd like assistance in signing up for an opening.

- 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);
- There are currently four people who facilitate worship being audible in the sanctuary and accessible via livestream. If interested in joining this A/V team rotation, please contact Bill Nattress at [bill.nattress@gmail.com](mailto:bill.nattress@gmail.com).
- The altar guild teams are setting up or cleaning up after worship, and there's room for you to join or form a team. To learn more, please contact Karen Reinhard at [kereinhard@yahoo.com](mailto:kereinhard@yahoo.com).
- Please contact Jan Burns at [shelty2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelty2@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in learning more about a choir, band, or opportunity to share your gifts with a vocal or musical instrument solo/ensemble.

## Revised Constitution First Vote Scheduled

We have received notification that our revised constitution involving changes from the 2019 and 2022 ELCA churchwide assemblies has been approved by the Northern Illinois Synod on Sept. 9.

Our next step is to have two congregational meetings to approve it.

We scheduled our first meeting for Sunday, Nov. 12 immediately after our 9 a.m. service.

Quorum of 50 voting Grace members is needed. Copies of the revised constitution will be made available soon. Our second meeting will be our February annual meeting.

We are making progress!



## Learning Communities

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago invites you to participate in this fall's online learning community held four-consecutive weeks either on Sundays (Oct. 8 through Oct. 29) from 6 - 7:30 p.m. or Wednesdays, (Oct. 11 through Nov. 11) from 7 - 8:30 p.m. For more information or to register online for free, click [here](#).

## Save the Dates!

### **Thanksgiving Eve Eve:**

Tuesday\*, Nov. 21 @ 7 p.m.

### **Christmas Eve:**

Sunday Dec. 24 @ 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.



# 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*

	August 2023				2023 Year-to-date		
Operating	Actual	Budget	Difference		Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$46,366.22	\$33,000.00	\$13,396.22		\$314,259.69	\$281,500.00	\$32,759.69
Expense	\$41,067.88	\$41,092.09	\$24.41		\$321,700.74	\$334,581.52	(\$12,880.78)
Balance	\$5,328.54	(\$8,092.09)	\$13,420.63		(\$7,441.05)	(\$53,081.52)	\$45,640.47

The final Quarterly giving statements of the year are sent by email this month (or placed in the mail if we do not have your email address). Please contact the church

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

## Choir Rehearsal Schedules:

It's never too late to join our choirs. If you are interested in being a part of the worship life of our congregation through music, feel free to reach out.

- **Cherub Choir** (3 years - 1<sup>st</sup> grade), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:30 - 5:45 p.m.; contact Tammy Baier, [baier5@comcast.net](mailto:baier5@comcast.net)
- **Joyful Messengers Choir** (2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.; contact Tammy Baier, [baier5@comcast.net](mailto:baier5@comcast.net)
- **Laudate Choir** (7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade choir), occasional Sunday morning rehearsals after worship; contact Carrie Filetti, [bchandle@att.net](mailto:bchandle@att.net)
- **Chancel Choir** (adult choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7 - 8 p.m.; contact Carrie Filetti, [bchandle@att.net](mailto:bchandle@att.net)
- **Revelation Ringers** (adult handbell choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 6 p.m.; contact Terry Aavang, [taavang@yahoo.com](mailto:taavang@yahoo.com)
- **Contemporary Band** (instruments & singing), occasional evening rehearsals; contact Jon Bergstrom, [jon\\_bergstrom2@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_bergstrom2@hotmail.com)
- **Instruments & Small Groups**- do you play an instrument or would you be interested in singing occasionally in a small group?, contact Jan Burns, [shelty2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelty2@sbcglobal.net)

## Pinochle

Ready for some friendly games of Pinochle this month? Join the group either during the day or at night in Room 101. Haven't played before? That's ok, they teach novices.

Players meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and the second Tuesday evening of the month.

In October, play on Wednesday, Oct. 4 and/or Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. or on Tuesday, Oct. 10. at 6:30 p.m. Enter at the lower-level parking lot entrance.

## Vineyard

If you would be interested in learning how to tend to the vineyard plus assisting with it, contact Ken Hansing at 815-529-7042.

## More than 90 Grace Members Wrapped up 10 Years of ELCA Service Day Projects

On Sept. 10, we gathered for worship, shared in a prayer celebrating vocation

and blessing for ministry. Then, volunteers gathered into teams for a variety of service



Participants in the Sept. 10 ELCA 10th annual "God's work. Our hands." Thank you to all who participated in this Day of Service.

projects, including: Turning Point; Home of the Sparrow; Vierda Dierzen Early Learning Center; Lutheran World Relief; Woodstock Food Pantry; and Sewing Circle.

Mike Neumann, development director of Turning Point Domestic Violence Services said, "It's always great to have a partnership with the local community. We are grateful to Grace Lutheran for its volunteerism. From a financial standpoint, volunteers allow us to direct funds toward those we are trying to help. The most important thing is that this gives us an extra voice for when someone is searching for help."

## 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 info., sign-up links, and more. Follow Grace Lutheran Church

on Facebook for announcements and to see what YSJ is up to!

### 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 - 8:30 p.m. Fall drop-in dates: Oct. 4 & 18; Nov. 1 & 15.

Call Kirsten Green at **815-236-6904** or email her at [stylin1020@gmail.com](mailto:stylin1020@gmail.com).

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

## Sunday Book Club Votes For New Book Title This Month

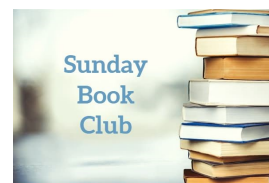
The Sunday Book Club meets on Sunday, Oct. 1 after worship for its last session with the book

"Dogwood,"

authored by Chris Fabry.

A breakfast brunch will

be held to celebrate the final session with this book. Immediately following the brunch, a vote will take place for the next book choice. The results will be immediately shared. Have questions? Contact Sally Sheahan at 314-910-0541 by telephone call or text.



## Sunday School & Confirmation

Both our Sunday School and Confirmation Classes are kicking into full swing with some exciting opportunities up ahead this month

On Sunday, Oct. 1, families will drive to Aldi. The teachers and Tyler will meet families there at 10:15 a.m. to shop for the Blessing Box.

On Oct. 15, our 10 a.m. Sunday School Lesson will focus on Adam & Eve.

Our Confirmation students have the opportunity to go on a Northern Illinois Synod middle school retreat hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rockford on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

"'CREATED to be Active' will engage our students to volunteer at Spring Ridge Affordable Housing in Rockford," said Tyler Palak, director of youth education.

"After volunteering and lunch, youth will gather back at Our Savior's for games and worship," Tyler added.

As a reminder, members of the congregation are invited to guest teach a confirmation lesson this school year.

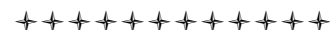
Contact Tyler, at



**Tyler Palak and Pastor Amanda presented third graders with their Bibles on Sunday, Sept. 17. Those receiving their Bibles were (front row, left to right): Celeste Schaaf, Madeline Thomas, and Eleanor Wedoff. Congratulations!!**

[tpalak@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:tpalak@gracewoodstock.org) if you are interested.

As always, it's not too late for families to join in on the fun for either Sunday School or Confirmation. If anyone has questions contact Tyler Palak, director of youth education, at [tpalak@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:tpalak@gracewoodstock.org). You can register for either Grace youth program [here](#).



## Property Fall Cleaning

We plan to prep for winter by having a Fall Cleaning of the church grounds on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 8 a.m. - noon. The rain date will be scheduled on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. - noon. See you then!



## Sewing Circle

We continue to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in Grace Center. from 8:30 a.m. - noon. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship of creating quilts and other items for local nursing homes and Lutheran World Relief. We have jobs—both to work on at church, and kits to take home to sew—for sewers as well as non-sewers.

"Thank you" to the congregation for your continued support of our group through the generous donations of fabric, sheets, quilt batting, yam, pillow stuffing, thread, and Thrivent Action Team Cards.

Are you considering revamping your bedroom(s) with some new sheets? Please consider donating old sheets to Sewing Circle to repurpose into quilt backing. Questions? Contact Tammy Hansing at 815-338-5387.

## Presence Light Sponsors:

### Oct. 1:

- To the glory of God

### Oct. 8:

- To the glory of God

### Oct. 15:

- In memory of my dad, Ferd Raffel, given by Janette Hess

### Oct. 22:

- To the glory of God

### Oct. 29:

- In honor of the birthday of our son, Philip, given by Bill and Nancy Kreznor

## Bulletin Sponsors:

### Oct. 1:

- In memory of my husband Art Koeller, given by Judi Koeller
- In honor of our (Mike & Sheri's) 44th wedding anniversary, given by the Conover family

### Oct. 8:

- In memory of Dale M. Stenoien, given by Borghild E. Stenoien

### Oct. 15:

- To the glory of God

### Oct. 22:

- To the glory of God

### Oct. 29:

- To the glory of God

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

#### **Communications Coordinator**

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

#### **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, Carrie Jarnecke,  
Kevin Kleinjan, Nancy Kreznor,  
Amanda Kurka, Matt Meiners,  
Mark Miller, Mary Noe,  
Bruce Rosborough