

JUNE 2024 • VOLUME 23, NO. 6

That's ____ church!

I once cringed as I overheard a couple of people who were standing at the threshold of a gathering space to a place of worship, as they silently handed out a service folder, then said to each other, "who's that?," "I don't know, but they're sitting in *my* pew." I regret my silence.

Lately, I have had more conversations than I can count along the lines of some deep or apathetic wrestling with faith and questioning of religious organizations as people see growing harm and injustice done in the name of Christianity, and say with resignation or resistance, "*that's not what I believe it means to be a Christian.*"

And then, last summer, as Grace walked together in Woodstock's Pride Parade, I heard a few of Grace's teenagers and young adults from the crowds of people exclaim with what sounded like a mixture of delighted surprise and joy and pride, point out and wave, "*that's my church!!*"

As we live out a mission of sharing God's grace, our practices of welcome and belonging are key to our identity. We can be faithful people on our own, but together we can tend to life-giving relationships and seek out meaningful connections and care as a community that nurtures and practices belonging. For at the heart of our congregational life is that none of this is ours—it's not our pews or preferences for comfort or convenience, it's not our beautiful grounds or property or community—this is Christ's church. All that we have, all that we are—we belong to Christ—and we have been gifted and entrusted with stewarding the gifts of God for the sake of the people and world that God so loves.

As you continue to live out your faith, and as we keep living among God's faithful people as a faith community, may we keep sharing the good news of Jesus and God's love—ever striving to love and serve all people. May your summer season ahead include opportunities to gather with others—here at Grace, with friends and neighbors, and wherever you may travel. Thank you for being a part of Christ's church together.

Summer Travels- please hold in prayer and watch Lutherdale's social media as Grace's confirmation students participate in Confirmation Camp June 16-20. Also, check Grace Notes (weekly email) for more information about a chance to visit during camp on the evening of June 19 for a special concert!

Worship- if you'll be away this summer, join us in worship via YouTube, or find a congregation to connect with. Here's the "[Find a Congregation" tool](https://www.elca.org/tools/FindACongregation) (<https://www.elca.org/tools/FindACongregation>) to find a nearby place to worship.

Peace,
Pastor Amanda



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

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 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: Phyllis Aavang, Bob Beardsley (brother of Charlotte Beardsley), Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), Betty Boehmke, Nancy Brown, Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Barb Carmichael, Jim Davis, Lori Dechant, Patrice Dunn, Lucille Fergen (mother of Karen Hansen), Connie Fischer, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Gloria Holy, Denise Hoover, Jerry Johnson, 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), Natalie Miller (sister of Mary Johnson), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Gloria Ogle, Jenny Perrone (friend of Cindy Walters), Georgia Petersdorf (sister-in-law of Gladys Renner), Pat Peterson, Dorothy Potoczky, Ila Randolph, Barbara Readell, Sheila Readell, 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, 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), Marilyn Vanskike, Bev Visconti, Addie Jo Wedoff, Nick Wedoff, Caitlin Wilcox (niece of Anne Johnson)

Sorrows: Joan Butenschoen, David Fish (son of Millie Luallen), Bob Beggs (significant other of Adele Petersen), Scott Gibbs, Orvis Goad (husband of Elaine Goad)

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.

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 Job 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.

Book Club

The Sunday Book Club finishes its current book, "The Blue Bottle Club," on Sunday, June 23 after worship in the parlor. A potluck lunch will follow plus a vote to determine the next book the club will read. If you haven't attended the group, you are welcome to join. Even on June 23.. Contact Sally Sheahan at 314-910-0541 by text or phone call.

Pinochle

Daytime pinochle will meet on June 5, the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in Room 101, enter through the lower level. On the second Wednesday, June 19, the church building is closed for Juneteenth. Daytime pinochle will meet at Sally Sheahan's home for a potluck at noon followed by cards. Contact Sally Sheahan for more information or to RSVP.

Evening pinochle plays on June 11, the second Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101.

Sewing Circle

Grace's sewing circle meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. - noon in Grace Center. Come when you can, leave when you must (enter through the lower entrance). All are welcome! Both sewing and non-sewing projects are available either at the church during our gatherings or at your home.

GRACE FOR TODAY—The deadline for the July 2024 newsletter is June 15. Please send articles to Kari Gippert at kgippert@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at **815-338-0554**.

Worship this June

Following the Day of Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday, we enter into the long season of Sundays after Pentecost. The liturgical color of the season is green, and in worship we hear scripture guiding us through a season of rest, growth, and renewal.

Join in worshipping God, in the company of God's people on Sundays at 9 a.m. or connected through the gifts of technology and volunteers via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

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 people listed below, or call the office 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.
- There are currently four people who facilitate the worship audibility in the sanctuary and accessibility via livestream. If interested in joining this A/V team rotation, please contact Bill Nattress.
- The altar guild teams are setting up before or cleaning up after worship, and there's room for you to join or form a team. To learn more, please contact Karen Reinhard.
- Please contact Jan Burns 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. Or reach out if interested in joining a choir when they regather after summer break.

Grace Scholarship Funds Due Date

Scholarship applications for both the Readell and Allen Funds are due to the Grace Lutheran Church office by July 1, 2024.

The Endowment Committee reviews all scholarship applications and votes during its quarterly meeting in July. Payments are made in August.

For more information about the scholarships, visit the Grace website at <https://www.gracewoodstock.us/education/scholarships/>.

Obtain applications from the website or through the church office.

Grace Community Fellowship

Woodstock City Band Concert Night with Grace

Come join us for an evening of Grace Lutheran Church fellowship: Wednesday, June 26 and Wednesday, July 24.

Bring a dish to pass, table setting, drink and a chair.

We'll start gathering at the Park in the Square across from "Read Between the Lynes" (that side of the Square) at 5:30 p.m. Eating will be at 6 p.m. Concert begins at 7 p.m., in case you just want to come for the music!

Concert Themes:

June 26--"For Kids from One to Ninety-Two"

Ice Cream Sponsor is Farm Bureau of McHenry County

July 24--"Galloping Through the Gallery"

Ice Cream Sponsor is Real Woodstock

Grill Night Potluck July 9

Save the date and plan to join us on the beautiful Grace grounds for dinner on Tuesday, July 9. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and fellowship. The main dish off the grill will be provided, and you are invited to bring a side or dessert to share.

2024 Synod Assembly

Open God's Story: The 36th Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15, at Augustana College in Rock Island. The theme for this assembly is "Open God's Story." We will focus on God's stories - both in scripture and in our lives - and how these stories change us.



Please pray for Grace's voting members Carrie Jarnecke, Mike Liedtke, Sally Sheahan, Bob Teuber, and Pastor Amanda, and assembly visitors Lisa Gerloff-Banker and Mary Noe, who will be traveling to participate in this year's synod assembly. For more information, or to follow along, visit <https://nisynod.org/programs/2024-synod-assembly>.

Save the Dates

•The Worship & Music Committee will host a Grace Hymn Sing-along on Saturday, Aug. 17. A potluck supper begins at 6 p.m. and will be followed by the sing-along. Bring the names of your favorite hymns to this event. More information to come.

•Church Council set Aug. 25 as Grace's Congregational meeting held at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Leadership Nomination

As we look ahead to our Congregational Meeting on August 25 (after worship at 10:15 a.m.), 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 June 23 to the church office (printed copies at the Information Desk or electronically through *Grace Notes* weekly email).

- **Church Council** members are

elected to a three-year term, (four positions of 10 are up for election this year). Council members meet monthly, typically third Thursday evenings and as needed, serve as a liaison to a committee and tend to the mission and leadership, finance and property matters, and general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation.

• Endowment Board

members are elected to a five-year term (one position of five to be elected this year), to administer the Grace Mission Endowment Fund per the Endowment Fund Investment

Policy and Guidelines. The Endowment Board meets quarterly.

• Nominating Committee

members are elected to a one-year term (all three positions to be elected annually) to prepare the slate of names for elections for the Congregation Council, Grace Mission Endowment Fund Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly voting members. The Nominating Committee meets to prepare nominations before the Annual & Congregational Meetings.

PrideFest & Parade on June 9

Join Grace Lutheran Church, neighbors near and far, (and Tom Skilling), for the upcoming Woodstock PrideFest parade and events. We hope you can join us in sharing God's grace and love.

- **Parade, 11 a.m.:** to walk in the parade, check "Grace Notes" for a final meeting time (~10:30 a.m.) and meeting spot, then join Grace Lutheran Church in walking the route from Dean Street School to & around the Square and back. Contact Gretchen Hutchens with questions.

- **Fest, 12 - 5 p.m.:** following the parade is a festival on the Square with community participants. Grace Lutheran Church is partnering with four other ELCA congregations in McHenry County to support a booth. Stop by "ELCA Lutherans for Inclusion and Belonging" to say hello, and/or contact Pastor Amanda to sign up for one of the shifts at the table with members of local congregations.



Synod Assembly In-Kind Offering: Food Drive to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger

To honor this ministry milestone, our synod's Social Ministry Committee encourages the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod to have a food drive for local food pantries during the time that an in-kind

Blessing Box

The Grace Blessing Box (at driveway entrance on Kishwaukee) is intended to be a way to give what you can & take what you need. The best items to donate are ones that will not deteriorate in summer heat or winter cold. The blessing box is relatively small so no large sized items is best.

- healthy dry cereals, dry beans, dried grains, lentils, rice, pasta, oatmeal, coffee, tea, dried seasonings, salt, sugar, baking soda, dried chilis, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, tissue paper, sanity products, diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash paste-travel size, pacifiers, baby thermometer

Food Pantry

The Woodstock Food Pantry welcomes continued donations noted below, but already has an abundance of canned goods. Cash donations are always welcome as they are in the process of finding a larger location and will need community financial support to make that happen.

- healthy cereal, brown rice, strawberry jam/jelly, boxed mashed potatoes, pasta (not spaghetti), Sloppy Joe, side dishes, apple sauce, pinto beans and any bagged beans, condiments, toilet paper, paper towels, tea bags (not flavored), shampoo, toothpaste, soap, detergent

offering would have been collected for Synod Assembly.

You are invited to bring in any of the above items to the narthex by June 9, to stock the Blessing Box and donate to the Woodstock Food Pantry.

YSJ News

Youth Standing with Jesus!" FUN OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN ACTION!

Wednesday Drop-In Nights Due to the ELCA Youth Gathering, YSJ will meet once this summer in June for refreshments, 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. on June 26.

ELCA Youth Gathering

G-Learn Nights: June 26

Parent Meeting: Sunday, June 23 at 10 a.m. *Meet downstairs after church for important Gathering trip details.

Youth RSVP's or Questions: contact Kirsten Green at 815-236-6904 or stylin1020@gmail.com.

Your YSJ Co-Leaders are Gretchen Hutchens, Kirsten Green and Tyler Palak.



June 25 - 27, kids will celebrate God's creation by attending "ReNew," an environmentally green vacation bible school designed to help grow our children's faith while educating them about recycling and the needs of the environment.

The three-day event takes place 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Supply Donation requests

Your donations will help support Grace & its ministry to create a fun & educational VBS for our congregation's youth. Check out the variety of materials needed at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050544A5AB29A0F94-49611330-vbsdonation#/>

2024 Graduation Class

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Joseph Robert Gerloff, Robert Brian Gerloff, Colin Given, Benjamin Walter Lagerhausen, Madeline Manke, Blake O'Leary, Keaton Parrish, Logan Romano Cohen Shutt & Abby Steele.

Congratulations to Army Basic Training graduate: Gabriel Filetti.

Congratulations to our college graduates: Aidan Filetti and Hannah Paulson.



2024 Confirmation Class

Five second-year confirmands affirmed their baptism on May 5. (Pictured front row, left to right:) Zachary Kniola, Easton Klesch, & Grace Nellessen. (Back row, left to right:) Pastor Amanda, Wilson Robbins, Logan Hanlin and Director of Youth Education Tyler Palak.

2024 First Communion

Five children attended first communion on April 14. Pictured: (left to right) Jack Shanklin, Gabriela Ayala, Olivia Patterson, Hollis Shutt, and Jaxson Pilgard, along with Pastor Amanda and Director of Youth Education Tyler Palak.



Summer Hand Chimes Return

Grace will host a three-day hand chimes workshop June 11- 13 from 6- 6:30 p.m. for any child entering second through ninth grades in the 2024-25 school year.

The children will learn a piece that they will ring during the worship service on June 16. Attendance at two rehearsals is required to participate at the service. Workshop

participation sign up is available now in the black "Activities Sign-up Book" binder at the Information Desk.

The deadline to sign up is June 5. No experience is necessary and returning hand chimers are welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to learn something new!



Presence Light Sponsors:

June 9:

- In memory of Jim Reinhard, given by Karen Reinhard

June 16:

- In memory of Marlene Teuber, given by Robert B. Teuber

June 23:

- In honor of David & Bailey's anniversary, given by Dan & Janette Hess

June 30:

- In honor of our 63rd wedding anniversary, given by Jerry & Mary Johnson

Bulletin Sponsors:

June 9:

- In memory of Jim Reinhard, given by Karen Reinhard

June 16:

- In memory of loved ones, given by Marylee Steinwehe
- In memory of Marlene Teuber, given by Robert B. Teuber

June 23

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

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**

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Jan Burns

Music Group Directors

Terry Aavang, Jon Bergstrom,
Carrie Filetti, Cindy Meyer

Building Supervisor

Ken Zank

Custodians

Chris & Kim Ethridge

Council

Michelle Anderson, Diana Frisbie,
Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Kleinjan,
Nancy Kreznor, Matt Meiners,
Mark Miller, Mary Noe,
Robert Teuber

Treasurer

Jane Gerloff