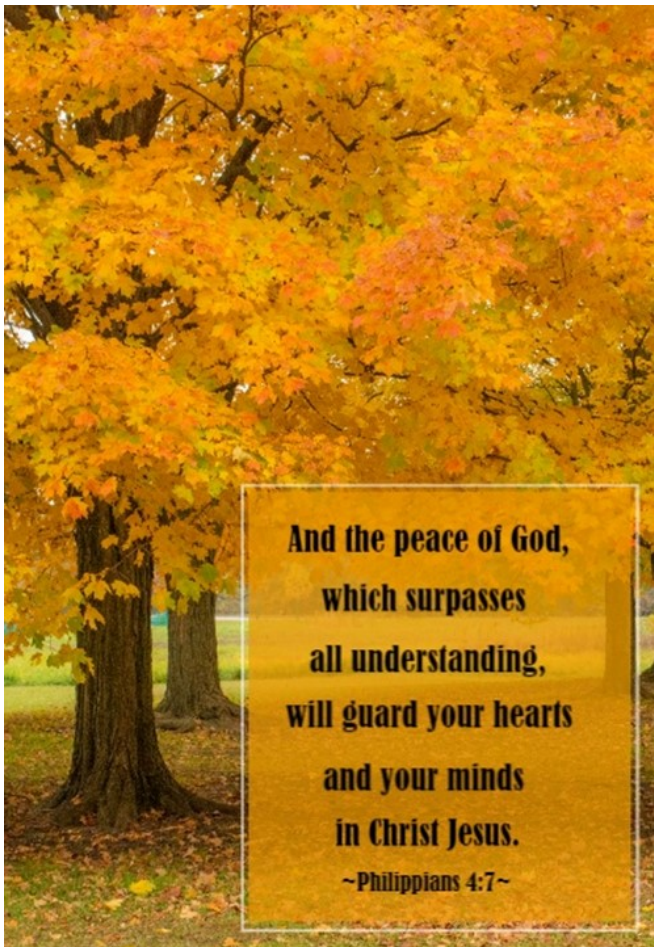


NOVEMBER 2024 • VOLUME 23, NO. 11

## Peace be yours.



Several years ago, during a Lenten season, we gathered around and on a beautiful map of the world on the sanctuary floor. In a service of prayer, we heard a litany of prayer for the healing of the nations, naming country after country, some known well and others largely unknown, and sometimes countries with long standing conflicts named side by side.

And after each phrase, we replied in song, “peace be yours.” Peace be yours. A hope, a wish, a good intention, a fervent prayer.

For the healing of the nations, for the healing of this nation, for the well-being of all people, for your spiritual, mental, physical wholeness in joyful and turbulent times, our prayer remains: peace be yours.

There’s a sense of mystery to peace, perhaps because it seems elusive, but in the moments it’s felt and known—it reminds us how it is so worth striving for, yearning to know once more and to know fully an abiding sense of peace—peace within, between peoples and not just for you, but for all.

This month, we begin with prayers for peace as we give thanks for all saints, grieving for all who have died. We’ll gather for prayer on the eve of election day, and prayers will continue through the days and weeks to come. We’ll mark the end of the church year, gather in thanksgiving to God, and carry with us that hope and prayer for peace to be yours and to be known by all, here and now.

Jesus speaks peace into fearful spaces, in all kinds of unknown and uncertain times, and grants peace to his followers even when they cannot quite see the way forward. And while we have yet to know the fullness of God’s peace, we lean into the mystery of it—the peace of Christ that surpasses all human understanding, and we call upon God’s promised peace and presence now and all times. May you find glimmers of kindness, acts of love, courage in compassion, and a sense of the peace of Christ this November, and always.

*Peace,  
Pastor Amanda*

# Prayers

## Home Communion

If you are unable to gather for worship and would like communion to be brought to you at home, please reach out to the church office. Grace has a team of home communion ministers who visit and bring communion from worship to you.

## Senior Phone Calling

If you are interested in joining the senior calling team or are a senior who would be interested in learning more about this ministry of conversation and prayer, please call the church office.

## 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:** Phyllis Aavang, Brenda Barr (mother of friend of Kari Gippert), Susan (Kyle) Bates (friend of Barb Aavang), Bob Beardsley (brother of Charlotte Beardsley), Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), 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, Wayne Japp, Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Steve Kosmen (loved one of the Koehn family), Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Carolyn Liedtke, Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Ben Miller (nephew of Mary Johnson), Natalie Miller (sister to Mary Johnson), Kern Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Karen O'Brien, Jenny Perrone (friend of Cindy Walters), Pat Peterson, Anna Pienschke (granddaughter of Joe & June Pienschke), 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), Ken 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), Gail Zapchenck (aunt of Josef & Amanda Hall)

**Sorrow:** Jack Nieman, David Schreiber (brother of grade school friend of Kari Gippert)

## 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**).

## Pinochle

Evening Pinochle will mix it up for November, playing Mexican Train Dominoes on the second Tuesday this month. They'll gather Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101. If you've never played, the group will help you learn how to play! Daytime Pinochle gets together on the first and third Wednesdays, Nov. 6 & 20 at 1 p.m. in Room 101. Enter the lower level of the church for all events. Contact Sally Sheahan for more information.



Pie Fest will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 26 after the Thanksgiving Eve service. Drop off your homemade or store-bought pies downstairs in the kitchen beginning at 6 p.m. and up until the service starts.

Many Youth Standing with Jesus (YSJ) members will provide the many hands needed to receive your delicious donations.

Please mark if a pie contains nuts, and label your pie plate if you need it returned to you.

**GRACE FOR TODAY**—The deadline for the **December 2024** newsletter is **November 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 November

*"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."*  
-Revelation 21:3b-4

God chooses to dwell among us, to make God's home here among us, and God claims us as belonging to God as we wait for the fullness of God's kingdom—where death and mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

This November, we give thanks for God's tender compassion as we cling to the promise of Jesus' resurrection and remember those who have been baptized and those who have died. Gather in worship on **All Saints' Sunday**, November 3, 9:00 a.m. to hear God's good news, sing, pray, and light candles before we gather with one another around the communion meal.

Then, as we pray and watch and wait, you are invited to a time of evening prayer on the eve of election day. We'll gather in the sanctuary for a time of scripture, quiet, prayer, and song, for **Evening Prayer**, Monday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. Take a break from news coverage, pause to pray, and listen for God's presence in all times.

Throughout the month we draw near to the end of the liturgical year, and will gather for a festive worship service on **Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday**, November 24, 9:00 a.m. Join in worship as we recall the ways God shows up through all seasons.

As we give thanks for God's goodness, join in worship and stay for Pie Fest on **Thanksgiving Eve Eve**, Tuesday, November 26, 7:00 p.m.

See you soon, for worship together on Sundays **9:00 A.M.** in the sanctuary, or worship wherever you are via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

### Upcoming Worship Save the Dates

**Advent Holden Evening Prayer**- Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve**- Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 & 7:30 p.m.

**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 worship by being audible in the sanctuary and accessible via livestream. If interested in joining this A/V team rotation, please contact Bill Nattress.
- 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.
- If you are interested in more information about trying or joining a choir or music group (youth to adult choirs, adult handbell choir, and band), contact Jan Burns for more information.

**See page 4 for more details.**

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON: (Please print)

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY : \_\_\_\_\_







On Reformation Sunday, we received commitments for ministry support in 2025 and celebrated together with brunch. Thank you for sharing your giving intentions for the year ahead. If you have yet to return your estimate of giving card, you are welcome to place it in the offering during worship, or mail or drop it off in the church office. Thanks be to God for the wonders of creation, and the gift and responsibility of stewarding God's gifts.

## Christmas Flowers At Grace

Help provide decorations for our sanctuary this Christmas. Give a gift in "honor of someone" or "in memory of a loved one" or "to the glory of God."

Mail in or drop off your coupon (*find on page three*), along with your

\$17 gift to Grace Lutheran Church, 1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Please **print clearly**, as you want it to appear in the bulletin. Payments due in the office by **Friday December 13, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.**

## Thanksgiving Altar Display

We need pumpkins, squash, colorful gourds, apples, potatoes, Indian corn, and corn stalks for our Thanksgiving altar display. Please be sure that these items are cleaned of any dirt or mud before you bring them into the building.

All edible produce will be donated to the Food Pantry after Dec. 2. Please leave your donations in the entryway on the upper level from Sunday, Nov. 17 through Sunday, Nov. 24. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Reilly.

## WACM Share the Coat Drive

Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM) will hold its annual Share the Warmth Coat Drive on Friday Nov. 15 from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. - noon.

Please donate gently used or new men's women's and children's coats, hats, gloves, boots, sweaters or other warm winter wear until Nov. 12.

Items may be dropped off at First United Methodist Church or in the bin outside the Grace library.

## Welcome Grace's Newest Members



Alex & Jake Bissell with son, Colton, & daughter, Ava



Briana & CJ Clancy with daughter, Ivey



Tina & Greg Jonas



Carrie & David Steckl with daughter, Ettalyn



Blake Wickham

On Sunday, Sept. 29, we warmly welcomed a group of new members into the congregation.

Joining us that day, were Alex & Jake Bissell, along with their son, Colton, and daughter, Ava; Briana & CJ Clancy, along with their daughter, Ivey; Andrea & Tom Dahl (*not pictured*); Tina & Greg Jonas; Carrie & David Steckl, along with their daughter Ettalyn; and Blake Wickham.

The Clancys enjoy family walks and movie nights, while the Bissells love swimming in the summer and snowmobiling in the winter.

Greg & Tina Jonas recently joined the empty nesters' world. And, an interesting fact about the Steckls: each one stands in the 99th percentile for height.

Please greet our newest members.

## YSJ News

**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.

**Wednesday Fall Drop-In Nights** Nov. 13 & 26 (*PIE FEST*); & Dec. 11 (Christmas party). YSJ meets EVERY 2 WEEKS 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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, Nov. 3: 10 - 11 a.m. DOWNSTAIRS** We need extra hands to help our Sunday Schoolers make their ornaments for the Christmas tree. PLEASE lend a hand ... Besides, our youngsters think YOU are pretty COOL!

**Monday, Nov. 25: 4 - 5 p.m. Opera House on the Square.** We will set up and decorate the Grace Christmas Tree. \*Any changes will be announced as we get closer to that date. DECORATE and GRAB a TREAT at STARBUCKS on US!

**Tuesday, Nov. 26: 6 p.m. DOWNSTAIRS FOR PIE FEST.** Meet to set up and receive pies before the Thanksgiving Eve Service then stay to serve and enjoy PIE with friends and family. YSJ hosts PIE FEST and all good will offerings are collected toward our future trips.

**Youth RSVP's or Questions:** contact Kirsten Green at 815-236-6904 or [stylin1020@gmail.com](mailto:stylin1020@gmail.com).

**YSJ Communications:** contact Tyler Palak to subscribe to YSJ communications.

**Your YSJ Co-Leaders are Kirsten Green and Tyler Palak.**



### Sunday Book Club

The Sunday Book Club will meet all four Sundays this month after church in the parlor. They'll start with Delilah on Nov. 3 (the first cut is the deepest), Sapphira on Nov. 10 (generous to a fault), Rehab on Nov. 17 (knocking on Heaven's door) and finish the month with Jezebel on Nov. 24 (gruesome ending?). Interested to hear more? Join the Book Club for inspiration from "Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them," and lively discussion. Contact Paul Lockwood or Sally Sheahan.

-Sally Sheahan

## Sunday School

Sunday School is looking for children who would like to volunteer for a variety of roles in the Nov. 24 Christ the King worship service.

Volunteers will have a choice of duties that include reading scripture, playing musical instruments, setting up, greeting and ushering,

If your child(ren) have interest,

please contact Tyler Palak or Pastor Amanda.

In addition, this month Sunday School's project will be completed on Sunday Nov. 3 and encompasses an All Saints' Day lesson. On Nov. 17, the Sunday School lesson focuses on Abram's Call.

### Bulletin, Presence Light Sponsors

Bulletin & Presence Light sponsor sheets are available in the white binder at the Information Desk. A month prior to your sponsoring, a form will be sent to you requesting information and a donation of \$20 for the Bulletins & \$10 for the Presence Light. We do have dates available for 2024, also. Thank you for helping us fund these weekly.



### Christmas Family Sharing News Coming Soon

Watch "Grace Notes," the weekly email Grace sends on Thursdays, for information regarding the 2024 Christmas Family Sharing.

### A Few Good Women, Men, Children Needed

Grace Sewing Circle is in constant production and we are in need of sewers who would be willing to pick up a packet of pre-cut squares and assemble them into a quilt top at home and return.

The packets are arranged in order for ease of assembly, but if you so choose, you can mix them up and design your own. **(There is a bin above the coat rack in the narthex containing kits.)**

We also have need of non-sewers who would be willing to trim off strings from assembled quilt tops, which can be done in front of your TV so you could be productive while relaxing.

In addition, you are **always welcome** to join us at church for our twice monthly meetings on the **first and third Tuesdays of every month from 8:30 - noon**. Any questions, please contact Tammy Hansing.

-Tammy Hansing

## Presence Light Sponsors:

### Nov. 3:

- In memory of Reed G. Larson, given by Dallas, Ellen, Kirk & Evan

### Nov. 10:

- In honor of Al & Fay Wilson's wedding anniversary, given by Al & Fay Wilson

### Nov. 17

- In memory of Marlene L. Teuber & in honor of Robert W. Teuber, given by Bob Teuber

### Nov. 24:

- In memory of Dorothy (Mrs. B) Bartram, given by her family

## Bulletin Sponsors:

### Nov. 3:

- In memory of Marlene L. Teuber & in honor of Robert W. Teuber, given by Bob Teuber

### Nov. 10:

- In honor of our granddaughter Emerson's first birthday, given by Dan & Janette Hess

### Nov. 17

- Given to the glory of God

### Nov. 24:

- To the glory of God for all our blessings, given by Don & Marylee Steinwehe

## 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, Jon Bergstrom,  
Carrie Filetti, Cindy Meyer

#### **Building Supervisor**

Ken Zank

#### **Custodians**

Chris & Kim Ethridge

#### **Council**

Michelle Anderson, Brian Gerloff,  
Carrie Jarnecke, Nancy Kreznor,  
Luigi Licastro, Michael Liedtke,  
Mark Miller, Mary Nae

#### **Treasurer**

Jane Gerloff