

OCTOBER 2025 • VOLUME 24, NO. 10

That All May Be Fed

Beloved of God, in baptism, we are called to strive for justice and peace in all the world. One of the ways we live into this call is work toward a just world where all are fed.

As a people of faith gathered at Grace Lutheran Church — we live into this call through a variety of ministries. I give thanks to God for your generosity of time and financial support and invite you to pray and support these ministries of care in such a time as this.



Blessing Box – At the top of the main drive is a Blessing Box, a space to give as able and take as needed. If donating, non-perishable items are welcome to best weather temperature changes. Please pray for our Sunday School students who will be shopping and restocking the Blessing Box for their October service project.

Meals on Wheels – It is with tremendous gratitude that we give thanks for Jeannine May who has coordinated Meals on Wheels, and for Becky Stiemke who is now coordinating Grace volunteers. Volunteers pick up meals from Northwestern Hospital-McHenry and deliver to homebound seniors throughout the county. Call the church office if you'd like to join a meal delivery team.

WACM's DAP – Woodstock Area Community Ministries' Direct Assistance Program meets at Grace on 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month and comes alongside feeding ministries with financial assistance for transportation, clothing, utilities, prescriptions, car repairs and rent. If interested in learning more, please contact Grace's WACM Representative, Michelle Anderson.

Woodstock Food Pantry – At our past service day, two teams learned more about the current and future site of the Woodstock Food Pantry, striving to meet growing need in our community. To learn more about this critical mission of care, to support or volunteer, please connect with Grace's representatives, Nancy Kreznor & Mike Phillips.

Mobile Food Pantry – The St. Ann's Episcopal & Grace Lutheran mobile food pantry gathers on the second Monday of the month in the parking lot across from Woodstock High School to distribute food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, alongside volunteers from neighboring faith communities. To learn more about volunteering, Mike Phillips coordinates Grace's volunteers each month.

ELCA World Hunger – As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond to eradicate poverty and hunger. Our Northern Illinois Synod just exceeded a

\$100,000 matching gift giving challenge (from March-October of this year) and we rejoice in the national and worldwide ministries of ELCA World Hunger. Learn more and connect with advocacy efforts through ELCA World Hunger.

Blessings on your commitments to caring for neighbors as we live among God's faithful people.



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.

World: Bishop-Elect Yehiel Curry, 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: Wayne Aavang (son of Joy Aavang and brother of Barb Aavang), Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), Butch Borchardt (friend of Barb Aavang), Marlene Botts, Elaine Burcham, Barb Carmichael, Jim Davis, Patrice Dunn, Sean Ferrell (friend of Kari Gippert), Marshall and Paige (Behrens) Fink (great granddaughter of Joy Aavang and great niece of Barb Aavang), Connie Fischer, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Marie Grob

(family member of Kevin & Carrie Jarnecke), Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Dan Hess, Gloria Holy, Denise Hoover, Wayne Japp, Anne Johnson, Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Elminster Lovejoy, Hudson May (great grandson of Karen Klabunde), Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Ben Miller (nephew of Mary Johnson), Natalie Miller (sister to Mary Johnson), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Jenny Perrone (friend of Cindy Walters), Joe Pienschke, Dorothy Potoczky, Ila Randolph, 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), Diane Rouse (cousin of Lisa Washkowiak), Orest Rychtytzkyj, Ryan Rychtytzkyj, Nathaniel Shipp (family friend of Brian Meyers), Ann Sinnett (friend of Shirley Berna), Kathy Stone, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Marilyn Vanskike, Mary Widmayer, Caitlin Wilcox (niece of Anne Johnson)

Sorrows: Randy Amerson (father of Kirsten Green), Charlotte Beardsley, David Payne

Joys: Baptisms of Norrie Katelyn Legare and Emma Diane Legare

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**).

Grace Hymn Sing

YES, the Worship and Music Committee will host another Grace Hymn Sing! It will be Saturday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. and open to all ages. Bring your list of hymn suggestions as we will pick hymns that evening.

Since we are not live streaming this, we can sing any of the hymns in our hymnals accompanied by our own Jan Burns on organ or piano. In addition, everyone is invited to a dessert fellowship time afterwards. This has been a really fun night in the past, and we hope to see many of you there!

--Judy Reilly

Current Job Openings

Applications are requested for the following part-time jobs:

- **Director of Youth Education**
- **Director of Worship & Music**

We invite you to encourage interested candidates to submit a cover letter and resume. These job descriptions are posted on Grace's website at <https://www.gracewoodstock.us/current-openings/>.

Pinochle

This month, Pinochle will play on Wednesday, Oct. 1 and 15, at 1 p.m. Meet in Room 101. All are welcome to attend.

--Sally Sheahan

GRACE FOR TODAY—The deadline for the **November 2025** newsletter is **October 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 October



“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Come gather among God’s faithful people for worship. Be still, and hear God’s word proclaimed. Cling to the promises of baptism, be nourished by bread and cup. Go forth into the world, knowing that God is with you, God is your stronghold in all things and all times.

We hope to see you soon for worship together on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., or wherever you are via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

Animal & Pet Blessing. In addition to weekly worship, you and your pets (and/or bring pictures of beloved animals in your life) are invited to gather on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. for a brief service of scripture, song, and blessing for all of God’s beloved creation. We’ll meet at the outdoor chapel (just off the lower-level parking lot). Come join us! All creatures, worship God most high!

Reformation & Commitment 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. On Sunday, Oct. 26, we gather for worship, responding to God’s generosity as we gather our Estimate of Giving Cards to communicate our commitment for ministry in the year ahead.

80+ Senior Worship Service. The senior calling team and worship & music committee look forward to hosting a dessert reception following the 80+ Senior Worship Service on Oct. 30, at 1 p.m. Please RSVP to the church office, or in the Activity Binder. If you are interested in a ride to worship that day, please contact Sally Sheahan.

Upcoming Worship Save the Dates

All Saints Sunday	Sunday, November 2, 9:00 a.m.
Thanksgiving Eve Eve	Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m., followed by Pie Fest
Christmas Eve	Wednesday, 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.
- If you’d like to join in sharing a children’s sermon message, please contact Mary Noe.
- There are currently four volunteers 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.
- 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.
- Make a joyful noise and consider trying a choir or music group (youth to adult choirs, adult handbell choir, and band)! Contact the group’s director or Jan Burns for more information.

Northern Illinois Synod Offers Anti-Racism Training

The Racial Justice team of the Northern IL Synod is offering anti-racism training in Joliet for rostered ministers and lay church people across two Saturdays, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15, at Faith Lutheran in Joliet.

This two-day training is an important way to widen our awareness and understanding of the subtle and obvious ways that racial bias continues to shape our communities. The training spans two days, which means attendance is required at both to complete the work. Participants will leave with greater knowledge and encouragement to continue the conversation in their local community. Training runs from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. each day.

This is a free event hosted by the Northern Illinois Synod Anti-Racism team. Snacks and coffee are provided, but lunch is on your own at various restaurants in the Joliet area.

Registration is now open and closes on Oct. 10.

Questions can be directed to the [Rev. Josh Ebener](#) or by calling the Northern Illinois Synod at (309) 794-4004 are to attend Anti-Racism training every three years. To register for this FREE training, visit: <https://www.nisynod.org/events/anti-racism>.



responding to
God's generosity

	August 2025				8/31/2025 Year-to-date		
<i>Operating</i>	Actual	Budget	Difference		Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$32,182.57	\$43,312.17	(\$11,129.60)		\$291,500.82	\$292,236.78	(\$735.96)
Expense	\$38,851.88	\$41,998.87	(3,146.99)		\$323,270.75	\$333,636.26	(\$10,365.51)
Balance	(\$6,669.31)	\$1,313.30	(\$7,982.61)		(\$31,769.93)	(\$41,399.48)	\$9,629.55

Thank you for your financial offerings in support of mission and ministry through Grace Lutheran Church. Quarterly giving statements will be sent by email in

mid-October (or placed in mail if we do not have your email address). Please contact the church office with any questions (815-338-0554).

2025 'God's work. Our hands.' at Grace



More than 90 volunteers served on Sunday, Sept. 7, sharing in the ELCA Service Day! Thank you to those who participated, giving your time and talents as well as making connections and conversations that were shared while serving together. All volunteers served between six differing communities:

- We served a coming-soon location for the Woodstock Food Pantry by cleaning inside the building and weeding outside.
- Volunteers served Home of the Sparrow in Crystal Lake, staining decks and providing general outside cleanup.
- Many joined together to help Sewing Circle, to create quilts,

walker bags and more.

- Children and parents were invited to serve Aarrk Gardens where they picked pumpkin and tomatoes and learned about Aarrk's Gardening programs.
- After many family and friends donated school supplies to be used in school kits, volunteers created 120 school kits to be utilized for Lutheran World Relief.
- Volunteers participated in regular weekend donation pick up at Aldi and then helped the current Woodstock Food Pantry location with donation sorting, light cleaning, and shelves stocking.

Each and everyone of you helped us make a difference for our neighbors!

Sewing Circle Helps Others

Last month, Grace Sewing Circle continued to help many people in need. The group sent Lutheran World Relief 97 quilts.

We continue to meet on the first and third Tuesday (Oct. 7 & 21) from 8:30-noon in Grace Center.

Please remember that we would be happy to recycle your old sheets and blankets. We also would welcome Thrivent Action Team cards to purchase batting. The items most used by our group are the following: fabric, sheets, batting, pillow stuffing, sewing and embroidery thread, yarn and rotary cutting blades. Any questions please contact Tammy Hansing at hansings1981@gmail.com.

--Tammy Hansing

New Members Meet & Greet

If you are interested in learning more about Grace or interested in becoming new members, you are invited to a Meet & Greet on Sunday, Oct. 19, following worship in the lower level of Grace. A few of Grace's church staff and council members will

be there to share Grace's mission and ministries, and we look forward to getting to know you. If you are able to join us on Oct. 19, please reply to Kim in Grace's office at ksmith@gracewoodstock.org or 815-338-0554) or sign up at the

Information Desk. If you would like to be a member but are unable to join us that day, please tell us and we can send paperwork and find another time to meet with you to share about Grace's ministries and answer questions.

Fall Fellowship

You are invited to gather at Grace on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 6:15-7:00

p.m. for s'mores and a campfire. Park toward the lower level and meet

at the gazebo and fire pit for good conversation and a tasty treat this fall.

YSJ News--High School Youth Group

Kristen Green has served with other volunteers as adult leaders for Grace's high school youth group and is looking for 1-2 new adults to join the coordinating team. YSJ has gathered for service opportunities, Wednesday night drop-ins, and summer trips such as the ELCA Youth Gathering. *Please let Kirsten Green or Pastor Amanda know if you'd be willing to learn more about supporting high school youth group at Grace.*



First-Day Sunday School & Bibles & Teacher installation on Sept. 14.



News From Columbarium Task Force

Last June, our Church Council moved to establish a columbarium task force to respond to some interest from our earlier March Council Conversation meetings.

A columbarium is a building, section of building or wall designed to hold cremated remains in niches or compartments. It provides a structured and designated space for memorializing individuals after cremation. A columbarium comes in all shapes and sizes. At our meeting on Sept. 3, members looked to see if we have locations on Grace property that can be used to meet requirements of an easily accessible, restful spot that would meet the emotional needs of families.

During our meeting, we located a few spots along our building on the parking lot side that could be appropriate. Our next step is to distribute a survey (primarily via email) to gather congregational interest and feedback. As we poll to determine if we have enough interest to pursue this further, we suggest that you view the columbarium display board. Please respond by returning your family survey by Dec. 1. Any questions? Please email me at mnoe48@outlook.com or call my cell at 815-347-5988. Thank you.

--Mary Noe, Columbarium Task Force Chair

Sunday School. We celebrated starting Sunday School classes this fall with a wonderful day of worship and learning. Our youngest students have been gifted story Bibles to enter the word of God, 3rd grade and older students received NRSV Bibles, and our first year confirmation students received study Bibles, as we blessed and prayed for the incredible teaching team.

If your children are interested in joining Sunday School classes, we look forward to seeing you soon. Sunday School meets most 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for lessons and service projects. Oct. 12, will be a family service project and Oct. 26, returns to a lesson at Grace; reach out for more information.

Confirmation. Our 7th & 8th grade confirmation students are a wonderful group gathering on Wednesday evenings as we journey through scripture in the Hebrew Bible, Old Testament this fall. Thank you for your prayers and support for students and teachers as they learn and serve in community.

Fall Cleanup

Fall Cleanup of the church grounds will be Saturday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m.-noon. The rain date will be scheduled on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 8 a.m.-noon. See you there!

Sunday Book Club

The Sunday Book Club will begin a new book study on Oct. 5, after church in the parlor.

What would you discuss over dinner with Jesus? From the book review by author Liz Curtis Higgs, "The choice is yours: enjoy a delicious meal of, say, veal fantarella with grilled vegetables or spend some time reading David Gregory's book, "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger." You may find an altogether different sort of hunger has been satisfied by the final page. Brilliant in its simplicity, fearless in its presentation of the truth, this book is one invitation you'll want to RSVP. All are welcome.

--Sally Sheahan

Presence Light Sponsors:

October 5:

- Given to the glory of God.

October 12:

- On the joyous occasion of our son's marriage this weekend to Megan Celona; given by Bob & Janice Laird.

October 19:

- In memory of Gayle Hoch; given by Bev Unglaube & Marylee Steinwehe.

October 26:

- In honor of our son Philip's 38th birthday; given by Bill & Nancy Kreznor.

Bulletin Sponsors:

October 5:

- In Memory of Dick Petersen, loving father and husband; given by Adele Petersen.
- In honor of Sheri & Mike's 46th wedding anniversary; given by the Conover Family.

October 12:

- Given to the glory of God.

October 19:

- In memory of Marlene L. Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber; given by Robert B. Teuber.

October 26:

- In memory of Gayle Hoch; given by Bev Unglaube & 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**

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Chris & Kim Ethridge

Council

Carlos Acosta, Michelle Anderson,
Brian Gerloff, Carrie Jarnecke,
Nancy Kreznor, Luigi Licastro,
Michael Liedtke, Mary Noe,
Adele Petersen, Jeremy Schaaf

Treasurer

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