

MAY, 2019 • VOLUME 18, NO. 5

## SPRING WARMTH.....By Pastor Ken Gibson



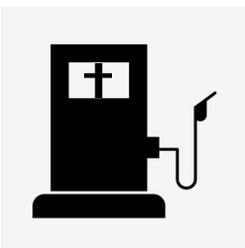
At the penning of this article for May we are just two days past Palm Sunday and have eight inches of spring surprise snow on the ground which belted our outdoor world. While the reality of this was indeed a cold slap in the face, so to speak, I was mostly warmed by what was happening inside our walls here at Grace. What a special day our Palm Sunday was for us all. We welcomed eight young persons to our altar to taste and see the goodness of the Lord for the very first time and our overall worship spirit filled with the traditions of palm waving and wonderful music once again did not disappoint. A big thank you goes to all the persons who assisted in making our Palm Sunday weekend services so very warm indeed.

And as the snow mounted up outdoors we gathered between services for the first, (maybe becoming annual), pancake and sausage breakfast supporting our confirmation youth. What a successful event and by success I am not counting just the monetary results, which were around \$1,200.00 dollars for their trip to Colorado, but I am talking of the success of such a fellowship event for us all on that special day. Thank you to the confirmation youth, our small group leaders and the parents for a wonderful event and yes, I hope we can do this again next year. John F. please start making the sausage they were great, I am willing to be your taste tester anytime.

I am unable to report on the Holy week worship experiences and the wonderful Easter Celebrations I am sure we shared, but I do know that the Spirit is present and that is the assurance of God's love for us all here at Grace.

Last month I shared how I needed Easter and how we all perhaps were desiring such in our lives with the promise of new life and warmth and hope for the re-creation of our topography around us, and in our hearts within us. As I complete this month's article I note that the sun is shining, and the warmth is coming. Happy Easter everyone! May the warmth of Christ's never-ending love fill our hearts and souls now and forever. HE IS RISEN!

## GRACE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE- Refresh and Refill- May 5, 2019- Women's Conference. Please join



us to refresh and refill your soul as we will be inspired by a speaker who will help us have meaningful conversations to grow with our love for Christ, family and friends. Please invite your family, friends, and sisters in Christ to join us on May 5th at 2 pm. Light refreshments will be served and the cost will be \$5 per person. "God is within her she will not fall" Psalm 46.5.

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**- Effective immediately, applicants are being accepted to fill the positions of Director, Teacher, and substitutes. Please contact the church or Preschool offices for the job description and qualifications. Information is also posted on indeed.com. When applying please submit a resume, transcripts, and any additional qualifications.

**AMAZON SMILE**– Do you shop online at Amazon? If you do, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Grace Lutheran Church. You can learn more and start your shopping at smile.amazon.com.: just search Grace Lutheran Church Woodstock, IL.

**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 Jeff Clements, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Scott Bunch serving in the military.

**Woodstock:** Pastor Ken Gibson & his family; Pastor Amanda Bergstrom & her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

**Health Concerns:** Rev. Jim Berg (friend of Marlene Botts), Shirley Berna, Lois Bloese, Angela Boe (friend of Hanlin Family), Mary Sue Boerner (friend of Paul Lockwood & Diane Baker-Lockwood), Sheila Boggess (friend of Kathy Stone), Frank Bunch, Judy Button (friend of Martha Fleck), Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Allison Clark (niece of Martha & Bill Fleck), Dot Clark (mother of Martha Fleck), Jim Davis, Nancy Davis, Patrice Dunn, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Sue Hanson-Smith (friend of Barb Aavang), Liz Henniges (wife of Al Henniges), Todd Hovey (brother of Tammy Resek-Goggin), Baby Jaxson L. (friend of the Wedoff family), Nancy Knieja (friend of Martha Fleck), Steve Kosmen (loved one of the Koehn family), Ray Krosnicki (friend of the Koehn family), Elayna Kuipers (friend of the Wedoff Family), Anna Larsen (sister of Al Henniges), Wilma Malinasky (mother of Janice Laird), Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Karen Millman, Tammy Millman (daughter of Karen Millman), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Andrea Paetsch (aunt of Debby Lynd), Linda Page (friend of Joe Evanoff), Linda Peterson, Bruce Randolph (husband of Ila Randolph), Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Carol Rank), Sheila Readel, Herb & Bev Renner (brother & sister in law of Ken & Gladys Renner), Jessie & Sue Robertson (friends of Ron, Mary & Kimberly Koehn), Larry Rowe, Nicholas Ruffino (brother of Nathan Ruffino), Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), Orion Samuelson, Vern Sarbaugh, Colton Sciluffo (infant son of a friend of Joy Oberman), Bill Seger, Eleanor Setser, Betty Sorensen, Orion Stine (friend's grandson of Kathy Stone), Elsie Stoddard, Ginny Stroh (mother of Fay Wilson), Doris Sunday, Dave Sundby (brother-in-law of Deborrah Evanoff), Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahan), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

**Sorrows:** Rosemary Strand (niece of Marge Birk), John Bloese, Ron Bendis (friend of Gordon Tebo)

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 week and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* e-mail and phone teams may also be submitted by telephone to the church office or by e-mail to [Gracewoodstock.org](mailto: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 office.

## **ABOUT TO TURN.....by Pastor Amanda**

One of my favorite hymns is the “Canticle of the Turning,” hymn 723 in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. In this hymn, Mary’s song (the Magnificat) gives voice to the world about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Throughout the verses of this song, there is the following progression: Could the world be about to turn? The world is about to turn. God is turning the world around.

I’d like to join Mary in her song of faith and this gradual wondering about the world about to turn. As I write this article in mid-April, just after that unexpected snowfall, I wonder- could the seasons be about to turn and stay in the warmth of spring? And as I write in the midst of Holy Week too, I trust the season is about to turn- from a Lenten journey to the great Three Days to the promise of Easter.

Whatever season we find ourselves in, winter, spring, summer, fall, Lent, The Three Days, Easter, the Time after Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, or the Time after Epiphany; I believe God is always turning the world around.

From the devastating crucifixion and shock of an empty tomb- God changes the story from death to life. God turns the world with the love of Christ with a promise to make all things new.

In the month of May, I hope we will see signs of God moving in this world. I pray that the Holy Spirit will stir up within us a sense of curiosity and wonder about the signs of new life around us. I give thanks for the shepherding guidance of our God who will walk with us through a season of graduations and end of school year events. May our hearts sing for each new day that God brings, and may we keep bearing God’s creative and redeeming word in this world that is always about to turn.

**MISTLETOE MARKETPLACE**– Mistletoe Marketplace is the new Mistletoe Magic and it will be held on November 1 and 2, 2019. Jen Robbins and Tony & Sarena Romano are working on this revamped ministry and they need your help. Crafters and volunteers are needed. Please contact them at [gracemistletoemarketplace@gmail.com](mailto:gracemistletoemarketplace@gmail.com) if you have a special talent to share, have input/comments, or would like to volunteer.

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND**– As we see the flooding in the U.S. and cyclones and floods abroad, we can always be supportive of the relief effort through the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund. If you feel led to help with these efforts please send contributions to “Lutheran Disaster Response” and mail to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. You can go to the ELCA web site and make a contribution also.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**—Do you know about Electronic Giving? Electronic Giving is a confidential, no charge, automatic withdrawal program; and it is one option available for giving tithes and offerings. Electronic Giving provides an option to give on a regular basis (weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly). Enrollment forms to sign up are available at the Information Desk, and on Grace’s website (under “Communication and Documents,” then “Forms & Documents”). As in our giving and our annual estimates of giving, if your situation changes, automatic giving through Electronic Giving can be changed by contacting the church office. Automatic gift amounts can be changed, or put on hold with one week’s notice. Please feel free to contact the pastors or church office with any questions about Electronic Giving.

.....  
**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**–The deadline for the June newsletter is **May 15**. Send articles to Tammy Baier at [tbairer@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:tbairer@gracewoodstock.org), or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.  
.....

## LUNCHES FOR LEARNING- Exciting news regarding our schools (yes, schools) in Honduras!

As many of you know, for the past six years we have been supporting a primary school, Policarpo Paz García, in Honduras through Lunches for Learning. The premise is simple: Kids who would otherwise be working street jobs for a meal are able to attend school with a healthy lunch provided by Lunches for Learning with our support. Graduates have a better chance to earn a Honduran living wage than those who are not educated. It has been a joy to support Policarpo Paz García school these past years with lunches and also necessary projects with the congregation's generous support above our regular giving. Most recently this included materials for a new latrine and a new metal roof after termites attacked the wooden beams of the original.

Grace's annual giving to the program has been running higher than is needed for our school. Lunches for Learning has been using the excess to support other schools on an ad-hoc basis as part of a "pool" of periodic donations. The program works best when schools have dedicated sponsors rather than relying on less certain ad-hoc funds. However our excess was not enough to support an entire second school.

Now an exciting new opportunity has come our way. We learned that Peace Lutheran Church in Spring Hill, TN was looking to sponsor a school together with another organization. After discussions with both Lunches for Learning and Pr. Ann Bassett of Peace Lutheran, we have committed to sponsoring a school together under the rather appropriate name "Gracia y Paz" (Grace & Peace). For our part the excess contribution which was going into the "pool" can now be leveraged together with Peace Lutheran

to bring a new school, Francisco Morazán, into the program. I'll write more about the school in a future article. In the meantime if you would like to know more about Peace Lutheran, check out their website <http://www.peace-lutheran-springhill.org/>.

I'll be making my 4th trip to Honduras this November to attend both schools' graduation. I would be delighted to have company. If you would like to know more or have any other questions, just ask.

Wishing you God's grace & peace,

Andy Bellavia



New Latrine in Policarpo Paz García, Honduras

**SENIOR LUNCHEON – May 28** – Serving Pork chops with Scalloped Potatoes, Pineapple Beets, Rye Bread, and Almond Rhubarb Coffee Cake for dessert. By far the best home cooked meal in town – so come join us!! For our program, we welcome Dan Cooney & Kate Schaefer from Schneider, Leucht, Merwin & Cooney Funeral Home to tell us about "Pre-arranged Funerals", contracts and ways to fund them. Bring your questions and concerns, leave with information. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend! Sign up in the Activity Binder by May 26 Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

**FALL 2019 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**– Registration for the upcoming fall semester is currently open to all preschool families and Grace Lutheran Church members. We have a place for all God's children, ages 2-5 years old, in this loving Christian school where we learn, play, grow, and share Jesus' love. Help us spread the word with other families with young children. Registration forms can be found on our website and at the Welcome Center.

## Preschool Registration



**BULLETIN & PRESENCE LIGHT SPONSORS-** 2019 Bulletin & Presence Light sponsor sheets are available in the green binder at the Welcome Center. 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. Thank you for helping us fund the weekly bulletins and presence lights.

**e-GRACE** — To receive your *Grace For Today* newsletter online just stop by the Information Center and sign up for this service. No one will be removed from the “hard-copy” mailing list unless they have formally subscribed to the e-newsletter.

**SPRING CLEAN UP-** As I am typing this, we have 8.5 inches of snow on the ground. I am very hopeful spring will be here in time for Spring Clean Up. We have a lot of leaves to gather and some other sprucing up of the grounds. We will also have inside trim painting work scheduled. We started painting all the trim in the lower level, but have not finished this project. This painting will take place rain or shine. Please mark your calendar and join the crew on **May 4** (rain date **May 18** for outside work) from 8:00 A.M. to noon. Keeping our building and grounds in good shape is a constant effort and cannot happen without YOU! Thank you, Tammy- Contact Tammy Baier 815-687-6910, for more information.

**GRACE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS-** 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 in the Church Office or on the Grace website. On the navigation bar at the top go to education, then scholarships. Scholarship applications for both the Readell and Allen funds are due into the Grace Lutheran Church Office by **July 1, 2019**. All scholarship applications are reviewed by the Endowment Committee and voted on during the quarterly meeting in July; payments are made in August.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-** Blast off to Mars this July 8th through the 12th for fun as we go To Mars And Beyond. This exciting journey will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. Mark your calendar for an out of this world adventure. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Melissa McMahon at [mmcmahon@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:mmcmahon@gracewoodstock.org) to volunteer or for more information.



**WORLD VISION INVITATION-** On March 16 & 17, Anne Weirich visited Grace to invite people to join Team World Vision to move our feet at the Chicago Marathon or the Run for the Hills Half Marathon and change the lives of people around the world through clean water. Feel free to reach out to Anne Weirich the local World Vision representative at [aweirich@worldvision.org](mailto:aweirich@worldvision.org) if you have questions. If you are ready to join the mission to move your feet and provide clean water, you can join the Chicago Marathon team or the Half Marathon team. Everyone runs and walks together!

**SOUP MINISTRY** – Has been successful and will continue! Please, pick up a container of homemade soup to take to someone who has been ill or is a shut-in. Soup will be in the Parlor Refrigerator (in the freezer), more in the kitchen freezer. Please help yourself and spread the love. Denise Klaubunde and Shirley Busse will be making soup on a monthly basis. Anyone interested in making soup for this ministry is asked to call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063

**e-GRACE** — To receive your Grace For Today newsletter online just stop by the Information Center and sign up for this service. No one will be removed from the “hard-copy” mailing list unless they have formally subscribed to the e-newsletter.

**UPDATED PHONE AND ADDRESSES**— Please contact the church office if your contact information has changed, or you no longer have/use a landline phone.

#### **SYNOD NEWS-**

Walking Together is the weekly e-news of the Northern Illinois Synod. Everyone is encouraged to subscribe by using the online form at <http://nisynod.org/pubs/wt/> or by sending names and email addresses to [karin@nisynod.org](mailto:karin@nisynod.org).

#### **SAVE THE DATE-**

Women’s Conference- MAY 5  
Boy Scouts Court of Honor- MAY 6  
WACM Meeting- MAY 6  
Men’s/Afternoon Bible Study- MAY 7  
Sewing Circle/ Committe Meet-MAY 7  
Staff Meeting- MAY 8  
Boy Scouts Round Table- MAY 9  
Vitality Workshop- MAY 11  
Men’s/Afternoon Bible Study-MAY 14  
Staff Meeting- MAY 15  
DAP/ Council- MAY 16  
Spring Clean Up Rain Date- MAY 18  
Faith Circle- MAY 20  
Men’s Bible Study-MAY 21  
Sewing Circle- May 21  
Confirmation/Class Picnic- MAY 22  
Preschool End of Year-MAY 23  
Memorial Day- MAY 27  
Men’s Bible Study- MAY 28  
Senior Lunch- MAY 28  
Staff Meeting- MAY 29  
Life Line Screening- MAY 30  
New Praise Singers- MAY 30  
Haanio/Egan Wedding- JUN 1  
Sewing Circle- JUN 4  
Committee Night- JUN 4  
Staff Meeting- JUN 5  
DAP- JUN 6  
Meiners/Reasoner Wedding- JUN 8  
Staff Meeting- JUN 12  
No. IL Synod Assembly- JUN 14-15

**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**

**Senior Pastor**/Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson  
[kgibson@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgibson@gracewoodstock.org)  
Office Phone: 815-338-0554  
Cell Phone: 815-861-9554

#### **Associate Pastor**

#### **Director of Senior High Ministries**

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
Cell Phone: 630-664-9016

[abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor/Secretary**—Denise Klabunde

[dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Office Assistant/Bookkeeper**

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

#### **Director of Senior Ministries**

Shirley Busse

#### **Director of Communications**

Tammy Baier -[tbaier@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:tbaier@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Director of Music Ministries**

Ron Fredriksen

[rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Parish Musicians**

Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson,  
Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

#### **Interim Director of Preschool Ministry**

Chris Learman

[clearman@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:clearman@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Preschool Staff**

Tammy Baier, Lauren Kleinjan, Nancy Mojica

#### **Director of Educational Ministries**

Melissa McMahon

[mmcmahon@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:mmcmahon@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Building Supervisor**/Ken Zank

**Custodians**/Chris & Kim Ethridge

#### **Officers & Council**

Andy Bellavia, Cathy Buhrow, Mike Freeman,  
Lisa Gerloff-Banker, Gayle Hoch, Gretchen  
Hutchens, Kevin Kleinjan, Mike Liedtke, Matt  
Meiners, Hannah Paulson, Jessica Potoczky  
[council@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:council@gracewoodstock.org)

Office Hours: 8:30 am–3:30 pm, M–Th  
8:30 am–12:00 pm, F