

JUNE, 2019 • VOLUME 18, NO. 6

SUMMERTIME HAPPENNINGS.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

June is a time for many to find time doing something one does not always do. These often are trips, vacations, or simply being outdoors for longer extended periods of time. In short, a break from the daily routines that become so much of what we find ourselves doing day in and day out. Most times this means the work we do for a living is put aside for a bit in order that we may be rejuvenated in our very lives. Such is the case for me each summer when we take the confirmation youth to camp and I believe it is true for them as well.

Camp allows our youth to be in a spirit filled environment that reaches out, often while in the great outdoors, to awaken the youth to the realization that life with Jesus and people of faith is not all about the offerings of weekly worship etc., but it is so much more.

This year our annual camp experience is our bi-annual trip to beautiful Sky Ranch in Colorado. I think to simply say that this trip is “church camp just in the mountains” does not catch the totality of what this trip entails. I like to refer to this trip as our awakening to the vastness of our Church, (capital C) and our God. For this trip we travel through five states and in that process we do not, I repeat we do not once, stay in a hotel. No, rather we explore the greater church by stopping at, and learning about two ELCA colleges. One on the way out, (Wartburg College in Waverly Iowa), and one on the way back, (Midland College in Freemont Nebraska). While at these colleges we learn of their offerings in education and specialties and stay in the dorms to experience a bit of what college life can be for our youth at a Lutheran college of the ELCA. We also stay on church floors and experience worship with other ELCA Lutherans along the way. All in all, we spend zero dollars on hotel rooms.

During our travels I do ask our youth to journal about their faith and the experience as we drive along the way. A daily bible study is also a part of our experience as each night, while we travel, I do lead a study. Once at camp, such study continues led by the camp staff. Also, at camp each of our youth are invited to help lead one of the daily worship events. I have often marveled at the leadership our youth put forth in these worship events. Further experiences include hiking in the majestic Rocky Mountains in some of the most spectacular scenery of God’s great earth. All of this is done with our Grace youth mingling with and experiencing new friendships in faith with youth from across the country.

I do thank you all for your support of our confirmation programs and our trips to Bible camps. Your support is an extension of the promise we make at our youths’ baptisms that we promise to support these youth and pray for them in their new life in Christ. Indeed, summer camp can bring about continued growth in and life with Christ. Surveys show that summer bible camps are often sited as the place where pastors first felt God’s calling to serve the church. Even if they do not go on to serve as pastors, ALL go on to serve God and one another in faith forever.

Thank you and happy summer to you all. We promise to bring back lots of joy and faith stories.

ELCA CHURCH WIDE ASSEMBLY- The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will take place **Aug. 5-10** in Milwaukee, Wis. Each congregation of the ELCA may register one congregation observer. Congregation observers will be seated in the observers' section of the plenary hall and have access to the ELCA Guidebook app as well as materials distributed on the plenary floor to voting members. Are you interested in serving as a volunteer at the assembly? In the upcoming months, the Greater Milwaukee Synod will be recruiting about 600 volunteers to greet guests at the airport, help with worship services and work as microphone pages. Learn more at <http://www.cwa19.org/volunteer-positions/> .

LIBRARY NEWS – Grace Library has recently received in several books that are now on display on the wooden book rack – stop by and check them out!

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 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, Russ Freeman, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Jace Hanlin, Sue Hanson-Smith (friend of Barb Aavang), Liz Henniges (wife of Al Henniges), Baby Jaxson L. (friend of the Wedoff family), Steve Kosmen (loved one 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), Bruce Randolph (husband of Ila Randolph), Carol Rank, Shawn Rank (son of Carol Rank), Sheila Readell, Herb & Bev Renner (brother & sister in law of Ken & Gladys Renner), Jessie & Sue Robertson (friends of Ron, Mary & Kimberly Koehn), 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, Bridget Sharpe, 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 Deborah Evanoff), Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Gino Visconti, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Roslynd Gehrke, Vivian Schutzman (mother of Cheryl Johnson), Tom McGuine, Larry Rowe, Eileen Weide

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. 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.

SUMMER AND FUTURE SABBATICAL.....by Pastor Amanda

May the upcoming summer season be a blessing to you! After the past winter and fleeting glimpses of spring- I pray that the next season is filled with light and rest and wonder.

At Grace, we will shift to a summer worship schedule (10:45 a.m. changes to 10:00 a.m.), and we'll worship outdoors at the 10 a.m. service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. In June, our liturgical season will change too- after 7 Sundays in Easter we will celebrate the birth of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost on June 8 & 9.

In June, members of our faith community will venture out for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, a Youth Group Summer Kickoff, and Confirmation's trip to Sky Ranch in Colorado for confirmation camp. Then, on June 22- all are welcome to a picnic and bonfire at Grace.

I pray for safe travels for all who spend time away this summer. Here's a way to find local ELCA churches while you are away: go to <https://www.elca.org/tools/FindACongregation> and you can search by zip code or city and state to find nearby congregations. Then click on their website, or call, to find out when their worship services are held. Let me know if you find somewhere new to worship while you're away, I'd love to hear about your worship experience.

As I give thanks for this summer season ahead, I am also looking forward to a time of intentional renewal next summer. After conversation and planning, at our March council meeting Grace's council approved a sabbatical leave for next summer, June 1-August 31, 2020. We have applied for a Lilly National Clergy Renewal Program grant, and we will hear back about this possible \$50,000 grant award in late August. We have also applied to Grace's Readell Endowment for sabbatical leave funding if Grace does not receive a Lilly grant.

I look forward to sabbatical next summer where I intend to engage in a time of renewal by marveling, paying attention to God's presence revealed in relationships, creation, and travel. I plan to rest and renew for ministry through time nurturing relationships and exploring physical self-care and spiritual faith practices. Please let me know if you have questions or would like to learn more and thank you for your support and sharing in ministry at Grace.

I hope that you will find ways to connect or reconnect with God and one another this summer. May God's blessings surround you in this season, and always.

SUMMER PICNIC AND BONFIRE- Celebrate summer and community on **Saturday, June 22 at 6 P.M.** with a summer picnic and bonfire at Grace. Please bring a lawn chair to gather for fellowship & camp songs around a big bonfire. Hot dogs & buns and s'mores will be provided, you are welcome to bring a dish to share. Invite a friend or neighbor, we hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION- It is time for a new member class! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on **June 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.** in the parlor. We will be having juice, coffee and some homemade goodies. Those that would like to become members of Grace or those that would like more information on what it means to be a member of the family here at Grace, please sign up at the Information Desk in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.

2019 NOMINATIONS—The Nominating Committee invites you to prayerfully consider serving as an elected committee member for terms beginning in fall 2019. Please complete a nomination form found at the Information Center, and return your form to the nomination box by **June 23** for consideration. Committee member openings include: church council, nominating committee, endowment committee, preschool board, and delegates for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Nomination forms & a collection box are on the Info Desk.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—The deadline for the July newsletter is **June 15**. Send articles to Tammy Baier at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.

HANDS OF GRACE MINISTRY OFFERING- A possible new ministry is being considered that will serve as a one time offering to assist Grace members who may have a special need and need a small labor force to get it done. An example might be a member is ill and a project needs to be done, like perhaps fixing a hand rail, raking up some leaves and sticks, hauling out an old refrigerator from the basement, or something along those lines. These offerings of assistance would need to be in line that a small group of us could assist in helping at the members request. Major repair projects or continual needs would not be a good use of this ministry. The member would need to think along the lines of: "I need this done one time, then that will be good." If you are interested in being a part of this potential new ministry offering, please see the sign-up sheet in the green activity binder. Both men and women are welcome to take part. Once we have a good core group onboard, we will call a meeting and get ourselves organized.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP EVENT – Saturday, July 20. Join us as we head over to Ridgefield, IL for a fabulous Dinner/Theatre presentation of the play- "Morning's at Seven", featuring our very own Paul Lockwood. This comedy focuses on four aging sisters living in a small Midwestern town in 1938. It deals with the ramifications within the family when two of them begin to question their lives and decide to make some changes before it's too late. A delicious three course dinner is served at 6:30 P.M. followed by the play. The cost is: \$40 adult; \$35 if over 60. All proceeds to benefit Living Waters of the World. To pick up a flier or sign up, see the Activity Binder. Deadline to sign up and pay is **June 30**. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



HELP WITH OUTDOOR SERVICES– We are in need of helpers to set up and take down the outdoor summer services. Both 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. attendees are needed.

When: Outdoor Sundays - June 16, July 21, August 18, Sept. 15 Who: TWO CREWS - "8:30 People" from 7:45- 8:15 am to load equipment and set up in the worship area. "10 am People" after the outdoor service to take down equipment, load and help reset it in the sanctuary (about a 20 minute job).

Talk to a pastor, see Sue Olsen or email rfredriksen @ gracewoodstock.org. Email Ron if you can help with any or all dates. Thank you.

PARKING LOT SEALING– During the days of June 4th and 5th the parking lot will be sealed. Access to the building will be from one entrance only, either the main entrance or the Claussen entrance. Please be aware that one entrance may be closed if you come to church and parking will be in one lot only. Please feel free to call the office if you would like to know which entrance is closed that day.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – Senior Luncheon, June 25 – Learn about the many services offered to Seniors. Mary Brieske from Senior Services of McHenry County will come and tell us what is available for you and ways you can help. Our delicious menu features a Three Meat Stromboli (hot sandwich loaf), Spaghetti Salad, Spinach Strawberry Salad, and Chocolate Lasagna for dessert. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend! Sign up in the Activity Binder by June 23 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



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE- Our summer worship schedule started May 26th. Starting the 26th through the beginning of September the 10:45 a.m. contemporary service moves to 10:00 a.m. Outdoor services will be held the 3rd Sunday of the month running June thru August at the 10:00 AM services. Then on September 8th the contemporary services will move back to 10:45 a.m.

4th OF JULY PARKING- Are you going to Emricson Park on the 4th of July to watch the fireworks? If you are, please consider parking at Grace. Our church youth group will be selling parking spots to help fund their activities.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE MEETING- On **Monday, June 17** The Kitchen Committee will be meeting to set a date and talk about the upcoming Kitchen Clean Up . A representative from every group that uses the kitchen is asked to come and share how the kitchen serves their group and if there are any needs or concerns. It is at this meeting that we will choose a date to schedule a thorough kitchen cleaning. Please contact Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063 or shirleybusse@comcast.net.

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.

CLEAN UP THANK YOU- Thank you to all the wonderful workers who came out to help with our spring cleaning and painting. Your handiwork was much appreciated and we value your time and sweat equity.

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.

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY- This **June 14-15**, voting members from Grace will travel to participate in the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly at Augustana College. We will join with voting members from congregations across our synod to worship, vote in elections and on resolutions, hear guest speakers, and attend workshops. You can learn more at <http://assembly.nisynod.org/> or talk with Grace's participants after they return: Caryl Dierksen, Carrie Fiorina, Evan Fiorina, Tom Prudden, Deacon Judy Rooney, Al Wilson, and Pastor Amanda.

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.

SAVE THE DATE-

Youth Group Summer kick Off- JUN 3
Sewing Circle- JUN 4
Driveway Sealing- JUN 4/5
Committee Night- JUN 4
Staff Meeting- JUN 5
DAP- JUN 6
Meiners/Reasoner Wedding- JUN 8
New Member Breakfast- JUN 9
Staff Meeting- JUN 12
No. IL Synod Assembly- JUN 14-15
Outdoor Worship- JUN 16
Sewing Circle- JUN 18
Staff Meeting- JUN 19
DAP/Council- JUN 20
Bonfire/Picnic- JUN 22
Senior Lunch- JUN 25
Staff Meeting- JUN 26
Youth Group Baseball Outing- JUN 26
Sewing Circle- JUL 2
Staff Meeting- JUL 3
Office Closed- JUL 4
Fireworks Parking- JUL 4
VBS- JUL 8-12
Sewing Circle- JUL 16
Staff- JUL 17
DAP/Council- JUL 18
Adult Fellowship event- JUL 20
Outdoor Worship- JUN 21
Senior Lunch- JUL 23
DAP- AUG 1
Sewing Circle/Committee Night- AUG 6

**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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