



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace *for* Today

JULY, 2019 • VOLUME 18, NO. 7

RAIN AND THINGS AND OTHER THINGS.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

OK, here is one thing, “Oh, how I wish I did not have to write this article just yet.” It is not that I don’t like to write these monthly articles, as I very much do, it is just that it’s prior to our leaving for Colorado with our youth and when it’s an amazing time of excitement for me and for our confirmation youth. I wish there was a way to bottle the excitement that we feel as we begin this journey in that way we would be able to open it up from time to time and wash ourselves in the energy that is this trip.

Here is another thing. Today the weather man is predicting about five or six days in a row without rain! That is a forecast that so many have desired all thru this spring. I know it has been hard to get in soccer matches and baseball games and many other outdoor activities, but I want us to consider the backbone or our Midwest economy. We are, you and I, living in the heart of the nations corn belt and our economy in many ways has a connection to it all. Now with all this rain, there are a number of corn and soybean fields that will not get planted. And while there is a thing called crop insurance for the producers, I don’t think we understand the trickle effect of no crops being planted. Producers/farmers need fuel to power their tractors, spare parts when they breakdown, tires, plow shears, field cultivator sweeps, nuts and bolts, fertilizer, and ag chemicals... on and on the list could go. If there are no crops there is no need for the inputs and thus all the people who make their living from those supply industries and the supply industries that supply them. It causes me to realize that problems are not easily defined and things are not easily categorized or dismissed as we see that crop insurance does not cover the interconnectedness so many have to each other. Taking it further, there will be less crops to harvest this fall and thus less fuel to dry corn and less of the costs and such associated with bringing in the harvest.

I have no solution to all this, but I do think we can learn that things are not as simple as we may think.

And another thing; Summer worship. I wish I could share with you how wonderful it is to see our attendance go up every summer. To share in the joy it is when we bring family members who are visiting over the summer months to share in our wonderful worship offerings here at Grace. But alas, that is not the case, but it could be. Just remember please that the needs of this ministry we share, called Grace, go on thru the summer and as such we are fed by the wonderful repeating of worship every week. We need to worship, not just to keep the budget in tack, but even more so that we keep each other in tack. We need the community to gather and relive the Easter experience and to share in the connectedness that comes when we share together in Christ’s name. See you in the pews, I need you and we need each other.

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/> .



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, 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), Donna Neubaum, Carol O'Brien (sister of Bill Larsen), Gloria Ogle, Andrea Paetsch (aunt of Debbi Lynd), Linda Page (friend of Joe Evanoff), Steve Potts (friend of Pastor Ken), 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), Dora Reyes, 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, 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 McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Gino Visconti, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Neil Smith

Joys: Baptisms of Olivia Aine Schultz (daughter of David & Kara Schultz), Hailey Grace Kurka (daughter of Jeffrey & Amanda Kurka), Marriages of Leiana Haanio & Joseph Egan and Lark Meiners & John Reasoner

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.

CHURCH TOGETHER.....by Pastor Amanda

In June, members from Grace traveled to Augustana College in Rock Island for the 32nd annual Synod Assembly. It is a joy to be reminded of and connected to the greater church. We gathered alongside members of other Lutheran congregations across Northern Illinois for worship, the business work of the church, learning, and fellowship.

Our synod's bishop, Bishop Jeff Clements, shared and spoke about our synod's new mission statement during his report: "Walking together . . . loving Christ, loving all, for the sake of the world.," as well as the identified core values of: worship/prayer, innovation, leadership, equipping, and evangelism. You are invited to see his report, and other synod assembly highlights online at <http://assembly.nisynod.org/highlights/>

I am always grateful for synod assembly as a chance to gather with people from across the synod, and to get to know Grace's voting members through shared experiences, meals, and carpooling. I hope you will consider attending synod assembly if you have not yet had the chance, as an elected-from-Grace voting member or as a visitor.

This year, I am particularly grateful for the guest speaker who guided the assembly in theological reflection. The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen is a freelance theologian, creator of OMG: Center for Theological Conversation, and host at The Spent Dandelion Theological Retreat Center in Two Harbors, MN. As the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen spoke to and with the assembly, we heard the interweaving of quantum physics, process theology, personal story, and hope. Two of the theological reflections she offered spoke tremendous words of grace to me, the notion that "all we know is what we have in this moment," and that "in every single moment of time, God is operating, acting, and involved, and in each moment, God is luring us into the next moment."

Today, right now as you read this far into a newsletter article, may this known moment in time be a blessing to you. I hope and pray that as you reflect on past moments or anticipate moments in the future- that this moment may be a revealing of God's active and redeeming love. Peace and joy to you in this summer season, may we indeed find time and ways to be church together and to be attentive to the present moment.



VBS DELAYED FOR ONE YEAR- Due to unforeseen circumstances we will not be able to offer Vacation Bible School here at Grace this summer. Please note this is not what many of us would like to see happen, but at this time it is not feasible to make our effort what we need to make sure we have a successful event. VBS is intended to be in place again in the summer of next year. If you have questions please contact the Pastors for discussion. Thank you.

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.

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-The deadline for the August newsletter is **July 15**. Send articles to Tammy Baier at tbair@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.
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JOB OPPORTUNITY HERE AT GRACE- We are currently looking for applicants for the position of Director of Educational Ministries. Please give prayerful consideration to this position and if interested you may contact the church office for a job descriptions. If you have any questions, please direct these to Pastor Ken or Pastor Amanda. We thank Melissa McMahon for her service and dedication in this position.

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.

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 - 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.

SENIOR LUNCHEON - July 23 - We start our summer meal off with an assorted platter of cheese and crackers followed by an impressive looking layered chicken salad served with croissants and a melon platter. For dessert we have a strawberry banana split cake. Cool off with iced tea and lemonade. Just for fun we will play Bingo and there will be some fabulous prizes . Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend! Sign up in the Activity Binder by July 21 Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP EVENT - "Mornings at Seven", Saturday, **July 20** A complete list of paid reservations will be in the Activity Binder. Those attending, please plan to arrive between 6:00pm and 6:15pm at the Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, 8505 Church St in Ridgefield. Just tell them you are with the Grace Lutheran Church group and be seated. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

FALL 2019 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION- Registration for the upcoming fall semester is currently open. 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 to other families with young children. Registration forms can be found on our website and at the Welcome Center. Please contact our new director Dawn Domanus at ddomanus@gracewoodstock.org, if you have any questions about our program.

PRESCHOOL UPDATES-



We are pleased to announce the addition of our NEW director, Dawn Domanus. Dawn has Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education and Lutheran Teacher Colloquy. Dawn has taught preschool thru 2nd Grade and was a Preschool director in AZ. She has 2 children, a son in the Marine Corps and a 17 year old daughter. We welcome Dawn and are looking forward to a fabulous preschool year.

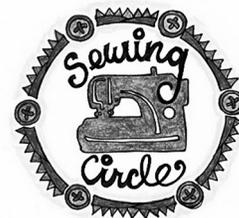
4th OF JULY PARKING- Are you going to Emricson Park on the **4th of July** to watch the fireworks? If you are, please consider parking at Grace. Our church High School Youth Group will be selling parking spots to help fund their Summer Trips. Please help us spread the word to others that this parking service is offered.

GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS- Dear friends, the Bears play the Packers on Thursday night, September 5 this year. I am so excited, because on **Sunday, September 8 at 12 p.m.**, I would love for you to join me on one of my favorite days of the year, the “God’s work. Our hands.” ELCA Service Day. Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. Mark your calendar today! Since 2013, Grace Lutheran Church and thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this dedicated day of service, gathering to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people. The event has quickly become an anticipated way to be “church together” and “church for the sake of the world.”

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Please let me know if you would like to help plan this year’s day of service, if you would be willing to serve as a team leader at one of our sites, or if you have an idea for a community partner or service project this year. I hope to hear from you soon and I can’t wait to see you all on **Sunday, September 8!** ~Peace, Pastor Amanda

SEWING CIRCLE- Grace’s Sewing Circle has given 91 quilts to Lutheran World Relief so far this year. The sewing ladies are once again in need of sheets, material, yarn, batting/filler, and blankets for their projects. Finished items go to area nursing homes and quilts go to LWR . A drop off bin is located under the upstairs coat rack. Thank you for giving what you are able.



KITCHEN CLEANING – July 18, 9:00am. – noon. Come one, come all for our annual Kitchen Cleaning! We are so blessed at Grace to have such a wonderful Kitchen that is used frequently throughout the year, please help us keep it in tip top shape. Come when you can, leave when you must. Questions: call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

WACM FUNDRAISER- WACM will be hosting a fundraiser on **Sunday, August 25** at 2:00 P.M. to help the Direct Assistance Program, DAP. Charles Troy will present "Charles Troy's Creation of King and I" at Grace. The tickets will be \$15 per person and include the presentation, a question and answer session, and some light refreshments. Please join us for this fun learning experience and help DAP at the same time.

SOUP MINISTRY- Our Soup Ministry has been successful! Shirley Busse & Denise Klabunde will be making soup for this ministry on **July 20, 2019 at 9:00 AM.** If anyone is interested in joining on the 20th, please call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063. The cooking will take place in the church kitchen.

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-

Sewing Circle- JUL 2
All Committee Meeting- JUL 2
Staff Meeting- JUL 3
Office Closed- JUL 4
Fireworks Parking- JUL 4
Staff Meeting- JUL 10
Sewing Circle- JUL 16
Staff- JUL 17
Kitchen Clean Up- JUL 18
DAP/Council- JUL 18
Soup Making- JUL 20
Senior Lunch- JUL 23
Staff Meeting- JUL 24
BSA Patrol Leaders Conf.- JUL 25
Staff Meeting- JUL 31
DAP- AUG 1
Sewing Circle- AUG 6
All Committee Meeting- AUG 6
Staff- AUG 7
Boy Scout Round Table- AUG 8
Staff- AUG 14
DAP/ Council- AUG 15
Outdoor Service- AUG 18
Faith Circle- AUG 19
Sewing Circle- AUG 20
WACM Fundraiser- AUG 25
Senior Lunch- AUG 27
Labor Day/ Office Closed- SEP 2
Sewing Circle- SEP 3
All Committee Meetings- SEP 3

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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Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

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Dawn Domanus

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Preschool Staff

Tammy Baier, Lauren Kleinjan

Director of Educational Ministries

Position Open

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

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