



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace *for* Today

AUGUST, 2019 • VOLUME 18, NO. 8

AUGUST ALREADY!!!.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

Wow! I am not sure about all of you, but having this month upon us already seems a bit rushed to me, for some reason. So many things will happen this month. For me it means a family reunion that has become tradition thanks in great part to its start up during my sabbatical time in 2015. One of the primary purposes of my sabbatical was to reconnect with my family and not always ask them to be put on the back burner. I, like so many I am afraid, always seem to find time for my work and not as much time for family. I am a bit lucky that in my vocation I consider you all family, but still time with my brothers is so very rare. I need them in my life and it only happens if we make it happen. Thus, I will be out the first Sunday in August, but know that I am with my brothers and a whole slew of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

This month is also the time when we begin so many things. School begins again for so many of our households and with it all the school activities that are so much a part of our lives. My hope is that, if possible, you all have had time or will make time before things really get busy to spend some time re-creating. Time to be with your family and to be about the business of being connected to the ones whom we love so much yet perhaps we often simply pass each other in hallways and such and do not take time to truly BE with one another. I pray such is possible for you all.

We here at Grace will once again hold our Congregational meeting where we will elect new leadership for our council and other positions within our ministry. All of this is good, and I pray that you take time to read over the reports that we will have available and see again just all the mission and ministry and life together that we share all year around.

And finally, it means the county fairs. I will not be able to attend the McHenry County fair as my time with my family will overlap with such, but I will try and make it to the Boone County fair or some other fair nearby. I just must be around livestock, farm machinery, and the whole fair atmosphere; it is in my DNA I think. Be well everyone and may the Lord Bless and keep you till we see you in the pews!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING– Please mark your calendar and then join us for our next Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, August 25 at 11:05 a.m.** It is important for everyone to join us and learn what is going on at Grace. Reports will be available by August 11 at the Information Center and in your email inbox.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH BLOOD DRIVE- The high school youth group at Grace is holding a blood drive to help supply life saving blood to our surrounding community on **August 11th** from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please come support our high school youth in helping in this important service by donating blood. To make an appointment go on line at https://ht.heartlandbc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5575033 or call/text Gretchen Hutchens at 815-341-7544.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY — livestream

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the church's primary decision-making event, is a process of communal spiritual discernment — a time for us to be the living body of Christ, guided by the Spirit and conformed to God's will. Watch the livestream of the 15th Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 5 through 10, at www.elca.org/churchwideassembly

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 , about our program.

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: Linda Aavang (daughter-in-law of Joy Aavang), 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, Lori Dechant, 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), Lorraine Hetland (mother of Scott Baier), 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), John Rust (Aavang family friend), 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 Deborah Evanoff), Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Valarie (friend of Martha Fleck), Bev Visconti, Gino Visconti, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrows: Lois Meiners (mother of Matt Meiners), Caryl Montgomery, Gregory Carlstedt, Vern Sarbaugh

Joy: Baptism of Nolan Ryan Schaefer (son of Ryan & Samantha Schaefer)

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.

LOVE AND SERVE.....by Pastor Amanda

I recently traveled to a week-long continuing education event and I am returning refreshed and inspired from my encounters with the greater church. Last month I shared how meaningful it was to gather with people for synod assembly alongside members of congregations in Northern Illinois, and this month I write with great joy and appreciation for the people and congregations across our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As I engaged in a time of learning and conversation, I met with pastors and deacons from across the country. I am grateful for the love of God and faithful service of these colleagues. I am hopeful for the greater church, as we uniquely discern mission and identity as congregations in the ELCA and in the world.

As we enter the whirlwind of August- the quickly approaching school year and nearing new start of our program year- I invite you to remember we are not alone in this call to love and serve God and neighbor. We are a part of a beautiful and diverse expression of faith, and we have so much we can share and learn from one another.

Here are a few ways you might connect with the greater church this month, I'd love to hear what you see and learn.

- ◆ Our denomination will meet in Milwaukee **August 5-10** for Churchwide Assembly, perhaps you will hold this gathering in prayer, drive up for worship or follow along on the livestream, <https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly>
- ◆ If you will be away traveling, perhaps you will find a place to worship with another faith community, <https://www.elca.org/tools/FindACongregation>
- ◆ We have a great source of ministry stories and news through Living Lutheran, there are copies of the magazine in Grace's library, and you can also sign up for emailed notices, <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>
- ◆ Maybe you'll join in planning for the ELCA Service Day "God's work. Our hands." on **September 8**; let me know if you have a community partner in mind, if you'd like to serve as a team leader, or how you might participate in this day of service, <https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>

I am grateful for you and for the wonders of sharing in life as a faith community. I hope you too will be inspired and encouraged by the many expressions of church, and I hope to see you soon!

LEARN ABOUT BEING A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER- Join Jen Freeman on August 18 before and after services to learn about being a Sunday School Teacher. Jen can answer questions about our curriculum, time commitments, and more. Please visit her if you think you would be interested in teaching or being a substitute. Our children would love to have you help them learn about God!

SUNDAY BOOK CLUB- Mark your calendars and join us for a book club for parents of all ages! *Sabbath in the Suburbs* by Maryann McKibben Dana is a perfect read for busy families. This is a story of a family's quest to seek a faithful balance while dealing with the endless demands placed on families today. This book club will begin **September 22nd** and will meet in the gym from 9:45-10:30 during Sunday School each week.

THANK YOU KIM - We are very grateful for Kim McLaughlin's dance expertise with our dance program here at Grace. She has given several years of volunteer time working with dance related instruction. We thank and appreciate Kim very much. Bravo!

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◆ **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**-The deadline for the September newsletter is **August 15**. Send articles to Tammy Baier at tbaier@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.
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A MESSAGE FROM JEN FREEMAN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION- A fun fact about me is I love to write, but I'll keep this short and sweet! I'm very excited to dive in to a new ministry for me at Grace this school year. I enjoy working with the confirmation youth and now I will get to know our younger youth better as well as their families. My husband Mike and I have four boys of our own so being a positive part of the youth around me is a very fulfilling part of my life in helping others connect faith to their daily lives. I hope to strike up many conversations with members I have never met as well as working together as a growing congregation with all of the volunteers I've come to know well through our confirmation program. I would like to thank Pastor Ken for giving me this opportunity to share my time and ideas with our congregation! I have new church email and can be reached at jfreeman@gracewoodstock.org.

SENIOR LUNCHEON- August 27 – Please join us and enjoy an indoor “End of Summer” picnic in Air conditioned comfort! We're going to have “Grilled Build a Burger”, Funeral Barbeque Beans, Red Potato Summer Salad, Turtle Sundae and unlimited Iced Tea & Lemonade. Then we will play a few games of Bingo for some great NEW prizes. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend! Sign up in the Activity Binder by August 25 Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

JOIN A CHOIR- We have so many opportunities for all ages to sing and ring in a choir here at Grace, and we would LOVE to have you!!!! Look below to find which choir best suits you....

Vocal Choirs:

Cherubs (4 years old– 1st Grades): 5:15 P.M.-5:30 P.M. on Wednesdays starting AUG 28

Messengers (2nd and 3rd Grades): 5:30 P.M.– 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays starting AUG 28

Joyful Sound (4th–6th Grades): 6:00 P.M.– 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays starting AUG 28

Youthful Spirit (7th-8th grades): 5:15 P.M.– 6:15 P.M. on Sundays starting TBA

Laudate (High School): 5:15 P.M.– 6:15 P.M. on Sundays starting TBA

Chancel Choir (Adults of all ages): 7:00 P.M.– 9:00 P.M. on Wednesdays starting AUG 28

Contemporary Singers and Soloists are on a less permanent schedule, please see Ron Fredriksen for more information fredriksen@ameritech.net.

Bell/Chime Choirs:

Chimes (2nd-4th Grades) 4:45P.M.- 5:15 P.M. on Wednesdays starting AUG 28

Graceful Ringers (5th- 8th Grades) 6:30 P.M.– 7:30 P.M. on Sundays starting TBA

Revelation Ringers (Adults of all ages)6:00 P.M.– 7:00 P.M. on Wednesdays starting TBA



PRIMETIME- We're not sure where summer went, but it's time to start thinking PrimeTime. PrimeTime is our Wednesday night meal and fellowship, with many of families here that night for confirmation class or children's choirs, it's a no brainer to be together to share God's Grace. We are looking for meal teams to prepare, serve, and clean up these meals. Bring your favorite family recipe to feed a 100 or use one of ours. Grace will pay for all ingredients and supplies so please don't let that hold you back. It is only because of you that we are able to continue to offer PrimeTime to our church family. Please consider signing up for a meal or two. Contact Jen in the education office or jfreeman@gracewoodstock.org to sign up or get more information about PrimeTime or meal teams.

MISTLETOE MARKETPLACE UPDATE- Due to lower than expected involvement, there will not be a Mistletoe Marketplace this year. Please consider any way you can help in the future to make this ministry come to fruition.

SOUP MINISTRY- We have some new homemade soup varieties! Various size containers are available in the Parlor refrigerator/freezer. Please help yourself to take to a shut in or someone who has been ill.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE- Please help spread the word that Preschool will have their Open House on **Saturday, August 24th** from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. This is a great opportunity to look at the classrooms, meet some of the staff, and find out all the wonderful things our preschool has to offer.

BACKPACK BLESSING- August 10 & 11. Students are invited to wear their backpacks to worship the weekend of August 10 & 11 for a time of blessing before the school year begins. Invite a friend, wear your backpacks to worship, and gather in prayer with our faith community for the school year ahead.



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

WACM FUNDRAISER- WACM will be hosting a fundraiser on **Sunday, August 25** at 7:00 P.M. to help the Direct Assistance Program, DAP. These funds help offset expenses that emergency situations have caused neighbors who live in district 200. Charles Troy will present "Charles Troy's Creation of King and I" at Grace. Mr. Troy is recognized throughout the country for his presentations that unearth surprising facts surrounding the creation of the world's best known musicals. The tickets will be \$15 per person and include the presentation and a question and answer session. Live music will be provided via solos by Carrie Filetti and a duet by Hannah Paulson and Brian Jozwiak. Please join us for this fun learning experience and at the same time reach out your hand to help the most needy.

BLESSING BOX TO BE INSTALLED AT GRACE- A Blessing Box is a box stocked with nonperishable food items and hygiene products for those in our community who need extra support. The idea behind a Blessing Box is to take what you need and leave what you can. The box, also known as a Little Pantry, is open and free to everyone in the community. On **August 10th**, the box will be installed at Grace by Girl Scout Troop 510. There will be a food drive on **August 11th** to help stock it for the first time! Please show your support by bringing an item for donation! The box was approved by council in June and building is underway! We look forward to sharing more about this project in the coming weeks during worship!

SCHOOL KIT DONATIONS- Mark your calendar for **September 8**, God's Work Our Hands Sunday! As a part of this day focused on service, we will again be assembling 100 school kits for distribution by Lutheran World Relief. These kits help to make school possible for children around the world. We need your help to collect the supplies needed to create these kits. Starting **July 27**, please visit the bulletin board in the narthex to see what items are needed. Back to school sales are starting, so it's the perfect time to help provide the school kit items. Cash donation are also welcome to fund non-donated items. It is a huge help to have all of these items returned to the church by September 1 in order to allow time to purchase any additional items needed. Contact Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia (815-245-1242, mbmartinbellavia@gmail.com) with any questions about the school kits. Thanks!

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- AUG 6
All Committee Meeting- AUG 6
Staff Meeting- AUG 7
Boy Scout Round Table- AUG 8
Blood Drive- AUG 11
Staff Meeting- AUG 14
DAP/ Council- AUG 15
Sunday School Teacher Info- AUG 18
Faith Circle- AUG 19
Sewing Circle- AUG 20
Confirmation Meet/Greet- AUG 22
Preschool Open House- AUG 24
Congregational Meeting- AUG 25
Senior Lunch- AUG 27
Staff Meeting/ 1st PrimeTime- AUG 28
Labor Day/ Office Closed- SEP 2
Sewing Circle- SEP 3
All Committee Meetings- SEP 3
DAP- SEP 5
God's Work Our Hands- SEP 8
Return to Fall Worship Times- SEP 8
Rally Day- SEP 15
Outdoor Worship Service- SEP 15
Sunday School Meet/Greet- SEP 15
Faith Circle- SEP 16
Sewing Circle- SEP 17
DAP/Council SEP 19
Sunday School Starts- SEP 22
Family Book Club Starts- SEP 22
Senior Lunch- SEP 24

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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8:30 am–12:00 pm, F