



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grace *for* Today

OCTOBER 2019 • VOLUME 18, NO. 10

IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL, YOU ARE THERE- A PASTOR'S PRAYER.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

In the Midst of it all You are there;

There are times when I feel You so close, and I just know You are there.

When I see the beauty of the children of whom you have called me to serve, I know You are there.

When the joy of your promise is revealed in a baptism with child and families smiling so bright, You are there.

When a hymn is sung, and my voice cannot sing, as the joy overwhelms me so deeply, not a note can I bring, You are there.

When I gaze upon your creation in the fall of the year when colors are so bright, and I cannot help but delight, You are there.

In the stillness of a clear blue lake, with my line in the water and the sky so blue, and I squint as I ponder all that is you, I know You are there.

Yes, in the joy of all that life brings, I know You are there.

I Pray this day that You help me to accept in my heart what I know in my mind, yet is not as easy to define when life is not as fine, that, You are there

When I rise in early darkness of the morning, unable to rest, thinking of all the things that I think need to be done, You are there.

When I forget that some of the things that seem so important and feel terrible that somehow I did not get them done, You are there.

When I struggle to know just what to do, and the busyness seems to overbear, You are there.

When I fail to know just how to present your love, when hate seems to be the day's fate, You are there.

When I am lost and the darkness closes in, and my sin of thinking that I am alone seems to take hold, Help me, I pray, to accept that You are there.

Help me dear Lord, I solemnly pray, to know that in the midst of it ALL, YOU are there.

ADULT EDUCATION WEEKEND- OCT 11-13– Fall Adult Ed Retreat Returns. In past years, Grace has offered some very fun and educational adult ed fall retreats. Some may recall going over to Wartburg and spending a weekend with others from Grace and enjoying a Bible Study presented by Dr. Winston Persaud while we toured local vineyards in the tri state area of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Still another year we enjoyed a similarly rewarding weekend with Dr. Sam Gerrie presented as we traveled to different venues. These events are low key and pleasant but filled with great study presented by some excellent professors. This fall the Retreat returns with an event we are calling “The Saint and Sinner Tour.” With Dr. Martin Lohrmann, Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage, along with a friend of his, Dr. Jake Kohlkaas from Loras Collage, presenting conversations and study along the lines of Lutheran and Roman Catholic Dialogues. Many of the favorite things from past offerings are included in the 2 plus day event, including meals at some wonderful and special places and stops in some historically significant Lutheran and Roman Catholic sites around the Tri-State region. Please see the activity sign up sheet for further information and or talk to Pastor Ken! SIGN UP IS NEEDED ASAP.

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), Dee Bohn, Frank Bunch, Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Allison Clark (niece of Martha & Bill Fleck), Dot Clark (mother of Martha Fleck), Bonnie Cupples (mother of Carrie Fiorina & Amy Piquette), 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), 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 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, Jayne Reicher (great niece of Barb & Wayne Japp), 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), Eleanor Setser, 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), Valarie (friend of Martha Fleck), Bev Visconti, Gino Visconti, Bud Winter, Ruth Zirves

Sorrows: Bill Seger, Robert “Dutch” Steinwehe, Jack Johnson

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.

ONE IN MISSION.....by Pastor Amanda



My heart was filled with joy last month as we gathered for the 7th “God’s work. Our hands.” ELCA Service Day. On a day where the rain cleared just in time, we were one in mission—to do God’s work with our hands. I give thanks to our team leaders and the generous volunteers who gave of their time and talents to serve. I also give thanks for our community partners near and far—Lutheran World Relief, Turning Point, Home of the Sparrow, Verda Dierzen ELC, and the McHenry County Historical Society.

One of the great joys of this day is to be able to see the variety of ways we are each gifted and called to serve. Sometimes giving looks like a team of four preparing a meal for over a hundred people, sometimes it looks like cutting or tying pieces of a quilt or walker bag, sometimes giving looks like the labor of weeding, or the skill and art of painting, or the repetition of assembling a large mailing. Sometimes, we feel like we have received far more than we have given.

Beyond this annual service day, we are blessed to be able to give and serve in countless ways through the many ministries at Grace. And just like the service day, it is my hope that you will consider your talents, passions, and resources, and find a way to share your variety of gifts in mission. Sometimes giving looks like preparing the table for Holy Communion on altar guild, sometimes giving sounds like a joyful noise in a choir, sometimes giving tastes like the comfort of a home cooked meal or soup, sometimes giving looks like volunteering for PADS (Public Action to Provide Shelter) or DAP (the Direct Assistance Program), and sometimes giving involves leadership on a committee or board. How is God calling you to use your gifts to meet the world’s greatest needs?

Thank you for your generosity and for the mission we share. Blessings on this new fall season ahead, may God continue to gather us into one in Christ.

COFFEE MINISTRY- Coffee Ministry has started providing coffee, lemonade, and a treat weekly on Sundays, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. It is the coffee ministry’s goal is to continue fellowship between services and that donations are needed to maintain this important fellowship event.

ADULT FORUM WITH JUDY ROONEY- Please join Judy Rooney for an Adult Forum on **October 27** at 9:40 in Luther Hall. We will be exploring what it means to be prayerful. This discussion will be based on the book, ‘The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life’. Excerpts are taken from well known contemporary spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen. Hope to see you then.

SENIOR LUNCHEON- October 22- This month we will be honoring everyone who is “80 & Over”. We begin with a short worship service in the sanctuary at **11:30 a.m.** Followed by a formal dinner in Luther Hall: Tossed Salad, Balsamic Roasted Pork Loin, Couscous, Broccoli Polonaise, Applesauce, Rolls & Butter, with Cherry Cheesecake Puff Pastry for dessert. After this delightful meal, we have Neal Brown & Amy Beth coming to perform fiddle tunes, folk music and old time songs on various instruments. Cost is only \$5, so bring a friend! Grace members who are “80 & Over” will receive a special invitation in the mail along with a free meal ticket. Sign up in the Activity Binder *by October 20* Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.



WELCOME CENTER HOST- There is a need for the 2nd Sunday of the month before the 8:30 A.M. service for a welcome center host. Substitutes are always needed and welcome as well. If you are interested in spreading the Grace please Janette Hess at rdbj210@gmail.com or the office.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-The deadline for the November newsletter is **October 15**. Send articles to Lauren Kleinjan at lkleinjan@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.

NEW eGIVING OPTIONS THIS FALL- Many people give their offerings by cash or check, over 50 households currently give through our automatic withdrawal program, and beginning this fall Grace has additional electronic giving options available. Please give in the way that is most convenient for you and let us know if you have any questions.

To participate in the automatic withdrawal program, 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 4 business days in advance of a scheduled contribution

New eGiving Options, beginning Fall 2019

Give Online at our website: www.gracewoodstock.org

Give by Text by texting **877-698-3604**

1. *Get Started:* Enter your 10-digit GivePlus Text number and the amount you wish donate, then press send.
2. *Register:* You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process."
3. *Give:* After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.

Repeat: For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Give through Give+ Mobile App by downloading the app

- Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone by searching for "GivePlus Church" in your app store
- Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account
- Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password
- Log in or donate as a guest

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS- Nancy Kreznor will be providing free blood pressure checks between services on the last Sunday of the month... **Oct 27, and Nov 24** in the narthex.

FREE PARENT COLLEGE WORKSHOP-

Become a Wise College Parent Workshop to be held on **October 22** at Grace.

Are you wondering how to pay for your student's college education?

Are you and your child at a time in your life when thinking college is right around the corner?

Have you heard of FAFSA and how to fill out said forms?

Are you concerned that the cost of college for your child/children might affect your ability to retire at a time you had hoped?

Do you wish to not have college loans for you and or your child?

You should consider attending this free seminar sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Come and explore these and many other questions. The workshop, unlike a college education, is free. Gather in Grace center, both parents and youth, on **October 22 at 7:00PM**. Light refreshments will be offered.

FALL CLEAN UP DATE- Mark you calendar for **October 19** for fall clean up. We are a little earlier this year because we will get to all those leaves. Please join us at 8:00 a.m. to do outside and inside work. Inside we will be working on the lower level painting of the door frames and outside will be yard work. Our rain date will be the following Saturday, October 26.

NURSERY UPDATE- We are pleased to announce that Catherine Roush will be heading up the Nursery ministry! Please take a moment to read her note. Hello, My name is Catherine Roush, some of you may remember me as Catherine Aavang. As a young confirmation student here at Grace, I assisted in the care of our young people in the Grace Nursery. Now as a mother of a toddler, I am hoping to once again assist in making our Grace Nursery a good and safe place for parents to bring a young person on Sunday Mornings. As such, I am working at getting the Nursery back up and running and in good safe shape for our use on Sunday mornings. While I am willing to do my share in supervising on a Sunday or so along the way, I/we need to do this ministry together. The Nursery is such an important ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church. It is the first memory a child has of church. It services the congregation by allowing more parishioners to focus on worship. The Grace Nursery is a place where volunteers are trusted with the most precious members of the church family. Please drop me a note if you would be willing to assist in this ministry. The more volunteers we have the more wonderful this ministry will be in meeting the needs of our congregation. I will also be contacting the confirmation and High School youth to see if any of our wonderful young people would be willing to assist, as well. Please be assured we will always need an adult along with the youthful volunteer. So here is my email and please know I look forward to hearing from you soon. See you in the pews or in the Nursery soon!
Catherine Roush, croush78@gmail.com.

HURRICANE DORIAN RELIEF- A note from Lutheran World Relief- “The people hardest hit are the ones who can least afford it. Now they are homeless, desperate and in shock. They need your immediate support. The greatest need now is for donations. We’re working with our partners on the ground to rush emergency supplies like food, clothing, shelter, medical aid, hygiene kits and other necessities. Thank you for being so generous during this unfolding humanitarian catastrophe. Your gift will help people in desperate need. God bless you. “ Donations can be sent to LWR, 700 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230, or go to donate.lwr.org for more information.

SUNDAY BOOK CLUB- Sunday Book club continues between services in room 102. On October 6 and 13, we will read and discuss William Wilberforce and on October 20 and 27, we will discuss Eric Liddell. Come and learn what made these men great! Bring down some coffee and enjoy some homemade treats along with the lively discussion. Questions, call Shirley Busse at 815-338-9063.

FALL STEWARDSHIP- *a variety of gifts, united by Christ.* Thanks be to God for the incredible variety of gifts that are shared in this faith community, and for the way Christ unites our giving for the mission of sharing God’s grace. In response to God’s love and grace, it is a joy to be able to give to God of our time, talent, and treasure. We encourage you to pray about the variety of gifts you have been given as you consider how you intend to give in 2020. We invite you to bring your **Estimate of Giving Card** and **Time & Talent Card** to worship on **Commitment Weekend, October 19 & 20**, or mail or drop off the cards in the church office. These estimates mark our intentions to give and can be changed as needed. Thank you for sharing in faithful and generous giving, and thanks be to God for uniting our gifts in Christ.

HOPE TAKES ACTION- The Society of St Vincent de Paul Rockford Diocesan Council has developed ‘Hope Takes Action’ (HTA) an education and mentoring program with a mission to ‘Empower individuals in poverty to transition to self-sufficiency with community support’. This program is currently operating in Aurora, St. Charles and McHenry. Similar programs are operating in over 300 other communities throughout the United States. Due to a heightened interest in the program from social service agencies and religious congregations in our area, we are expanding the program to Woodstock. This program requires many volunteers to be successful some of the needs are for mentors also childcare and food service. If you feel called to help with this program, consider attending the seminar on Oct 3rd at Grace at 7 p.m. in the parlor. If you want more information contact Alan Cichon at 630-567-5400 or email at arcichon72@gmail.com. Is God calling you? Come and see how you can help people transition out of poverty. All are welcome.

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/PM Bible Study- OCT 1
PraiseSingers/Committ. Night- OCT 1
DAP- OCT 3
Hope Takes Action- OCT 3
Adoration- OCT 4
Boy Scouts Court of Honor- OCT 7
Afternoon Bible Study- OCT 8
No PrimeTime- OCT 9
BSA Roundtable- OCT 10
Columbus Day/Office Closed- OCT 14
Sewing Circle- OCT 15
Afternoon Bible Study- OCT 15
DAP/Council- OCT 17
Fall Clean Up- OCT 19
Faith Circle- OCT 21
80 and Up Worship/Lunch- OCT 22
Afternoon Bible Study- OCT 22
College Planning Workshop - OCT 22
Albums of Hope- OCT 26
Rite of Confirmation- OCT 26
Blood Pressure Checks- OCT 27
Grace/Resur. Youth Lunch-OCT 27
Afternoon Bible Study- OCT 29
Confirmat./Richardson's Farm- NOV 1
Office Closed/Veteran's Day- NOV 11
Women's Health Event- DEC 1
Women's Outdoor Adventure- APR 25

Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all that is happening at Grace!

gracewoodstock.org

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8:30 am–12:00 pm, F