

JUNE 2022 • VOLUME 21, NO. 6

HOW LONG?

My husband loves the band U2 and we often listen to their music at home, but even without their music playing, the following words of theirs ring out in my mind far too often. “I can't believe the news today / Oh, I can't close my eyes and make it go away / How long, how long must we sing this song? / How long? How long?”

These words from their song, “Sunday Bloody Sunday,” are in part a response to the violence and hatred of Bloody Sunday and The Troubles in Northern Ireland. And still, they speak to too many days where we wake up and can't believe the news.

How long will we learn of the hatred that targets and takes the lives of people—grocery shopping in Buffalo, NY, or gathering at church in Southern California? How long will we see the evil and sins of racism and white supremacy, and stay silent? How long will war displace and destroy people? How long?

The psalmists and the prophets shared this question too. Their writings ring out with cries of ‘how long?’, so we join in the company of generations of people nearby and around the world who cry out in grief, anger, pain, lament, prayer, and action.

In March and April I met with people from across our Northern Illinois Synod, members of congregations, pastors, and deacons, for a four-part anti-racism course. We read and watched documentaries between sessions, heard from leaders and shared in important and challenging conversations—and this work is long. How long will I need to pay attention and learn and listen and speak and strive to be anti-racist? My whole life long.

The love of God in Christ commands us to love and should compel us to see the world as it is and name how it differs from the world as God intends. We have a long way to go until all are welcomed and fed and safe and well—so I pray for the Holy Spirit to gather and bless a diverse church to be united in Christ, as the Spirit did at Pentecost. I pray for the Holy Spirit to intercede for us when our cries of ‘how long’ are like sighs too deep for words to express. And I pray for God's Holy Spirit to stir up in us the courage to live and love as God created us.

Peace,

Pastor Amanda

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Lord, hear our prayers as we remember, repent, and pray.

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, 2015. On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

-To read more & find additional resources, visit: www.elca.org/emanuelnine

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS- As we look ahead to our Congregational Meeting toward the end of summer, you are invited to prayerfully consider submitting a nomination form for positions of leadership on Church Council, Endowment Board, Nominating Committee, and as voting members for the 2023 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Please look for nomination forms in mid-June (printed copies at the Information Desk or electronically through *Grace Notes* weekly).

CURRENT OPENINGS- After gathering for conversation and listening sessions as a congregation at the beginning of the year, Grace's council met to review themes for future mission priorities, which included worship & music, relationships, education & youth, outreach, and communication. Last month job descriptions were posted and applications requested through May 20 for the following part-time positions: Director of Youth Education, Director of Worship & Music, and Communications Coordinator. We invite you to encourage interested candidates to submit a cover letter and resume; job descriptions will be posted on the front page of the website until positions are filled.

WEEKLY GRACE NOTES - In addition to this Grace for Today newsletter, we have additional updates and news shared through our weekly Thursday emails. Please call the office or email Carrie Fiorina cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org to add or update your email address if you do not already receive these emails.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK - If you are on Facebook, please join us at the public group "Grace Lutheran Church, Woodstock, IL" for community news, pictures, and event information.

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)

Woodstock: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom & her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), Mary Sue Boerner (friend of Paul Lockwood & Diane Baker-Lockwood), Nancy Brown, Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Jim Davis, Lori Dechant, Patrice Dunn, Joe Evanoff, Stephane Fylpaa-Asher, Barbara Gehrke, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Stuart Given, Tom Goggin, Hal Goodman (friend of Bob & Janice Laird), Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Leonard Haulotte (brother of Laura Boal), Denise Hoover, Anne Johnson, Marcia Kalisik (daughter of Barb Murray), Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Steve Kosmen (loved one of the Koehn family), Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Linda Nogan (sister of Sheila Readell), Gloria Ogle, Alan Page (friend of Joe Evanoff), Linda Page (friend of Joe Evanoff), Georgia Petersdorf (sister-in-law of Gladys Renner), Pat Peterson, Barbara Readell, Sheila Readell, Jayne Reicher (great niece of Barb & Wayne Japp), Herb & Bev Renner (brother & sister in law of Ken & Gladys Renner), Nick Resek (son of Tammy Resek-Goggin), Jessie & Sue Robertson (friends of Ron, Mary & Kimberly Koehn), Diane Rouse (cousin of Lisa Washkowiak), Nathan Ruffino, Nicholas Ruffino, Joan Russell (mother of Sheri Conover), John Rust (Aavang family friend), Colton Sciluffo (infant son of a friend of Joy Oberman), Nathaniel Shipp (family friend of Brian Meyers), Hollis Shutt, Ann Sinnett (friend of Shirley Berna), Kathy Stone, Dave Sundby (brother-in-law of Deborah Evanoff), Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Addie Jo Wedoff, Nick Wedoff, Esther Wienke

Joys: Baptism of Jack Robert Vande Logt (son of Zachary & Jessica Vande Logt) & Milo James Hernandez (son of Osvaldo & Jamie Hernandez)

Sorrow: Anna Larsen (sister of Al Henniges)

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.

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

Worship this June

Happy Pentecost! On June 5 we celebrate the day of Pentecost—the birth of the church and the wondrous gift of the Holy Spirit to advocate for and accompany us. Here are a few notes about this particular Pentecost Sunday's worship at 9 a.m.

- Come as you are, always welcome to worship God. On Pentecost, the color of the day is red, so you're welcome to wear the color red, and/or pajamas would be welcome too if you'd like to join the group camping out on the church grounds the night before.
- In worship at 9 a.m. this Sunday we'll share in both welcome and sending. We'll welcome new members to our community of faith, and we'll share in a time of Farewell and Godspeed for Shirley Busse as she moves out of Woodstock and concludes her role as Director of Senior Ministries. We give thanks to God for Shirley, and we will so miss her active participation and leadership in our congregation.
- We hope you'll be able to share in worship this Pentecost Sunday, June 5—please join in welcoming new members, and sharing gratitude and blessing for Shirley.

Then, June 12 is Holy Trinity Sunday and we continue in the summer months through the season of Sundays after Pentecost. We gather for worship on **Sundays at 9:00 A.M.** in the sanctuary, via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

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 through 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, 2022**. All scholarship applications are reviewed by the Endowment Committee and voted on during the quarterly meeting in July; payments are made in August.

CARD SHOWER- JUNE 5- On June 5 in worship we will share in a time of Farewell & Godspeed for Shirley Busse as she moves out of Woodstock and concludes her role as Director of Senior Ministries. If you wish to write a card or letter, please drop off or mail it to Grace (1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098). Please address cards to Shirley Busse and they will be held in the office to be presented on June 5.



June 4-5
at Grace

SUMMER KICKOFF -

There's still time to sign up & show up for a summer kickoff on the Grace grounds. Beginning at 4 p.m. on **Saturday, June 4** we'll gather for fun, games, food, s'mores around a campfire. You are welcome to camp out overnight or return to the comfort of your own home if you'd prefer. [Sign-ups](#) are requested by May 30 to help with meal planning. We hope to see you Saturday evening and Sunday morning for breakfast before worship at 9 a.m.

PASTORAL CARE- As a reminder, hospitals do not notify churches or pastors when a member is hospitalized; please call the church office if you or a member of your family would welcome prayer and pastoral care. When Pastor Amanda is away for continuing education or time off, our office staff will connect you with the pastor available for pastoral coverage while she is away.

KITCHEN- Do you enjoy cooking and hosting meals? Are you already or would you be willing to become a Certified Food Safe Manager and support the use of Grace's kitchen? If so, please call the church office (815-338-0554).



SHARING GOD'S GRACE THROUGH GIVING- Endowment Update

Grace Lutheran's endowment committee members provide guidance in allocation of funds to support social services, mission and community. Each year the committee reviews several grant requests to support these initiatives. This year the committee is blessed and honored to approve \$55,558 to the following entities:

Community

Credit Counselling Services of Northern IL	\$ 3,000
Family Health Partnership	\$ 5,000
Home of the Sparrow	\$ 5,000
New Directions Addiction Recovery Services	\$ 5,000
NAMI of McHenry County	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
<u>Community Total</u>	<u>\$23,000</u>

Congregational

Grace Child Safe Haven Program	\$ 558
Grace-Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,000
Grace High School Youth	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
<u>Congregational Total</u>	<u>\$ 6,058</u>

Global

Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$ 5,000
One Collective	\$ 5,000
Lunches for Learning	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
<u>Global Total</u>	<u>\$16,000</u>

Synod

Wartburg Theological Seminary	\$10,000
Lutheran School of Theology	<u>\$ 500</u>
<u>Synod Total</u>	<u>\$10,500</u>



FIRST COMMUNION



SPRINGTIME AT GRACE

YSJ "YOUTH STANDING WITH JESUS!"

Mobile Food Pantry- YSJ is committed to helping distribute food to over 500 community members in need on the first Monday of each month 3-5:30pm. Future pantry dates are **June 13**. Please join in whenever you can! RSVP's are preferred by the Thursday prior to our service date!

SUMMER CAMP at LOMC July 24–29th— Does hiking, canoeing, team building, a service project and worship around a campfire sound GREAT to you? Please contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office for registration information if you were unable to attend the parent meeting in January. YSJ has room for a few more campers! :)

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT NEEDED- It is a joy and gift to be able to gather for worship as a faith community and your support for our shared worship life is needed. Please **sign up to serve** as [Ushers](#), [Greeters](#), [Reader](#), and [Communion Assistants](#), and see additional opportunities to volunteer below:

If you are interested in learning to be a camera operator, sound, or livestream technician, please contact Bill Nattress bill.nattress@gmail.com

If you would like to join the newly reforming altar guild rotation, please contact Karen Reinhard, kereinhard@yahoo.com

If you are interested in joining the rotation for Children's Sermons, please contact Carrie Fiorina, cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org

If you have questions about volunteering as a Reader, Greeter or Usher - please contact Fay Wilson faymwlsn@yahoo.com

ART AND MEDITATION - ADULT EDUCATION- Sunday, June 12

The word “spirit” derives from the word “breath,” (spiritus in Latin). To breathe is the first thing we do and the last thing in our journey of life. Connecting with our breath is a common way of practicing meditation or mindfulness. Connecting to our breath can help us slow down and be more present, more aware, more conscious of God working in our lives, of God’s love for us.

Art has been called the language of the soul. Creativity of all forms brings forth something new. Like the Great Creator, in whose image we are made, we find joy, satisfaction and pleasure in creative pursuits of all kinds, from baking and gardening, to painting, photography, to wood carving, music, writing.... the list is endless.

Using creativity, to connect art and our breath, is to make Spirit visible. In this short workshop, we will combine art materials and meditation to draw or paint our breath and explore a new way to pray. Prayer can be defined as any practice that brings us closer to God. If you are looking for a new way to pray, connect with your creative Spirit, or just curious, sign up to learn more. You can sign up in the activity folder at the welcome desk or you can call the office, 815-338-0554 All materials will be provided. Please register in advance so we can have appropriate supplies. No art experience is necessary. Suggested for adults and teens over 16.

Rachelle Barmann will be facilitating this artful meditation, she is a Registered Art therapist and Licensed Professional Counselor working at Turning Point.

REAFFIRMING OUR BAPTISM THROUGH COMMUNITY-

This year we were super excited to be back to in person confirmation classes. Our 7th and 8th grade students met in Grace center each week to learn and grow together. This year our students learned about the bible. We started the year off with the Old Testament and finished the year up with the New Testament.

During the lessons on the New Testament, our class enjoyed learning more about the Gospels and about all the different books in the bible that were letters to the many different people and communities of the time. During one of our lessons our class got a chance to write some letters of their own. Please, if you get a chance, check out the bulletin board in the narthex to see some of those letters.

We are very thankful for members of the congregation that came into our classroom to help with some of our lessons. This allowed our students to learn from others and to see that everyone at Grace was excited to help teach and mentor them.

We will miss our time together and are looking forward to next year and our 8th graders reaffirming their baptism during their Rite of Confirmation.



SAVE THE DATES- Please save the following dates:

August 21 – We will be holding a ministry fair in Luther Hall after worship. More information on committees and other ways to volunteer and serve will be available.

August 28 – Congregational Meeting after worship. Ministry updates and elections.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD ASSEMBLY- Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. This year, the Northern Illinois Synod’s annual Synod Assembly will be held over several evenings in June (via Zoom) and conclude on Friday & Saturday, June 17 & 18 (at Augustana College in Rock Island). Jen Freeman, Brian Gerloff, Paul Lockwood, and Kristin Thurow will be representing Grace Lutheran Church as our elected voting members, as well as Pastor Amanda & Deacon Judy Rooney who are participating as rostered ministers in our synod.

Please join in praying for the Northern Illinois Synod as a new bishop will be elected at synod assembly. You are also invited to follow along through a livestream and election updates at <https://nisynod.org/programs/assembly>.

Presence Light Sponsors:

June 12th:

- In honor & celebration of the marriage of our son David to Bailey on June 11th, given by Dan & Janette Hess.

June 19th:

- In honor of our family, given by John & Judie Kunzie.
- In honor of our 36th wedding anniversary on June 21, 1986, given by Dee & Darby Brown.

June 26th:

- To the glory of God, given by Andy and Mary Beth.

Bulletin Sponsors:

June 5th:

- In honor of the A/V Team, given by Judy & Don Rooney.

June 12th:

- In honor & celebration of the marriage of our son David to Bailey on June 11th, given by Dan & Janette Hess.

June 19th:

- In memory of Shelley Tucker on her birthday June 19, given by Marylee Steinwehe.
- In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, given by John & Judie Kunzie.
- In honor of our 36th wedding anniversary on June 21, 1986, given by Dee & Darby Brown.

June 26th:

- In honor of our son Ryan's birthday on June 25th, given by Mark & Beth Miller.

eGIVING OPTIONS- In addition to weekly offering envelopes, 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.

Give Online at our website: gracewoodstock.org

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

- Enter the 10-digit number (877-698-3604) and the amount you wish donate, then press send, and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

Give through Vanco Mobile App by downloading the app

- Go to the App Store or Google Play and search “**Vanco Mobile**” to quickly find and download the app for free.
- Search “**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**” to select Grace in Woodstock, IL, then select Give to select an amount, General Operating Fund, and frequency, and the app will prompt you through completing your donation.

Give through automatic withdrawal program. To participate, 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.

*Please contact the church office (815-338-0554)
if you have any questions.*

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

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom
abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org

Administrative Secretary

Denise Klabunde
dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org

Office Assistant/Bookkeeper

Carrie Fiorina
cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org

Interim Director of Communications

Tammy Baier
tbaier@gracewoodstock.org

Parish Musicians

Terry Aavang, Jan Burns,
Tammy Baier, Carrie Filetti

Building Supervisor

Ken Zank

Custodians

Chris & Kim Ethridge

Officers & Council

Andy Bellavia, Lisa Gerloff-Banker,
Diana Frisbie, Gayle Hoch,
Kevin Kleinjan, Paul Lockwood,
Mike Liedtke, Matt Meiners, Mary Noe,
Robert Teuber
council@gracewoodstock.org