

SEPTEMBER 2022 • VOLUME 21, NO. 9

Rally

Of the three entries for “rally” (per m-w.com), several of the definitions could apply to us right now, dear Grace Lutheran Church. Rally: as a transitive verb, “to muster for a common purpose, or to arouse for action,” as an intransitive verb, “to come together again to renew an effort, or to join a common cause,” or as a noun, “a mustering of scattered forces to renew an effort, or a summoning up of strength after weakness or dejection.”

It is time to rally, indeed, dear church. As we enter into September, I hope you will show up for the mission God is calling us to, to the community God gathers, and rally together as God’s church.

As we enter into a time often referred to as the start of the program year, I am deeply grateful for the people who are stepping up to serve and giving their time to create and facilitate mission opportunities. Thank you for your leadership, presence, and commitment to ministry.

While we continue to seek applicants for two staff openings, Director of Youth Education and Director of Worship & Music, I am grateful for the staff members who will be renewing or beginning interim positions in this in-between-time.

Like last school year, Jamielynn Wedoff is coordinating our Sunday School program and Carrie Fiorina is coordinating our Confirmation program. Please respond to their invitations to complete registration forms for your children and/or volunteer your time for sharing the faith through substitute or guest teaching.

This year, we give thanks, too, that Carrie Filetti will be directing Chancel Choir (in addition to middle & high school choir), and on an interim basis Jon Bergstrom will coordinate the contemporary band, and Jan Burns will be our Interim Coordinator of Worship & Music (in addition to Organist). Please see page 5 for information on how to connect with all directors for the upcoming choirs & music group rehearsals.

Throughout this month’s *Grace for Today*, consider the upcoming invitations to worship, participate, serve, gather, and connect in meaningful Christian community.

As fall draws near and as we keep adapting and trying new things, let’s go. It is time for our congregation to rally- to renew giving, participating, worshipping, and volunteering. Encourage one another, invite each other, *summon up the strength to gather around the common purpose of being church* together for the sake of sharing the good news of Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor Amanda

Prayers

Please lift up these petitions in your prayers—To become a praying member of the *Friends in Prayer*, please submit name and email address to dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org.

World: Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop-elect Stacie Fidler, 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, Lucille Fergen (mother of Karen Hansen), Stephane Fylpaa-Asher, Barbara Gehrke, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), 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, Marcia Kalisik (daughter of Barb Murray), Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Steve Kosmen (loved one of the Koehn family), John Kunzie,

Judie Kunzie, Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Linda Nogan (sister of Sheila Readel), Gloria Ogle, Alan Page (friend of Joe Evanoff), Linda Page (friend of Joe Evanoff), Georgia Petersdorf (sister-in-law of Gladys Renner), Pat Peterson, Ila Randolph, Barbara Readel, Sheila Readel, Jayne Reicher (great niece of Barb & Wayne Japp), Herb & Bev Renner (brother- and 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), 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

Sorrow: Don Burns (father of Jan Burns)

Joy: Birth of Hudson John Potoczky (son of John & Jessica Potoczky)

Prayer Requests

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* email and phone teams also may be submitted by telephone to

the church office or by email to grace@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.

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.

Not On Our Weekly emails mailing list?

In addition to this *Grace for Today* newsletter, we have additional updates and news shared through our weekly Thursday emails (*Grace Notes*). Please call the office to add or update your email address if you do not already receive these emails from Grace.

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).

Adult Sunday School Book Club

Looking for a way to make connections with others at Grace? Adult Sunday School book club will resume with a new book on Sunday, Sept. 18 after service from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Join us in person or on Zoom.

Contact Sally Sheahan, Paul Lockwood or Howard Hoyt for more information. Check *Grace Notes* in the coming weeks for the book selection.

GRACE FOR TODAY—The deadline for the **October** newsletter is **September 15**. Please send articles to Kari Gippert at kgippert@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at 815-338-0554.

Worship this September

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.

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

Helpers Needed Before, After Preschool Closing Sale

A Preschool Closing Sale is scheduled for three days this month. It begins on Thursday, Sept. 22 (9 A.M. to 3 P.M.), carrying over onto Friday, Sept. 23 (9 A.M. to 3 P.M.) and ending on Saturday, Sept. 24 (9 A.M. to noon).

Gayle Hoch is looking for a few strong helpers on the Sundays before and after the event for set up and take down.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, Gayle needs help putting up tables after the 9 A.M. service. On Sunday, Sept. 25 after the 9 A.M. service, she needs helpers assisting to take down tables.

Please call Gayle at 815-338-5812 if you can help.

More information about the sale will be available in future editions of *Grace Notes*.

Coffee Hour Returns

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 18, Nancy and Bill Kreznor, with coffee ministry, will provide coffee, lemonade and a snack after church on Sundays when Sunday school is scheduled, which is the first and third Sundays of the month.

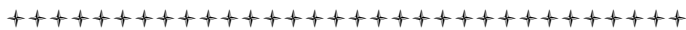


BRINGING THE WORD TO LIFE BEFORE YOUR EYES

Join us in worship on Sunday, October 16 at 9 A.M. as we share in a special worship service as a part of our congregational renewal activities from Grace's Lilly National Clergy Renewal Grant.

Experience a *Drawn to the Word* worship and artistic experience

where Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural before your eyes at Grace Lutheran Church, October 16 at 9:00 A.M. This story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively and Scripturally during the event. All are welcome. Come and see!



Evening Pinochle Introduced This Month

Can't make the daytime pinochle card parties? Well, you are in luck. On Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. those who cannot attend during the day parties are invited to attend an evening of card fun by taking part in a pinochle card party at night. It takes place in room 102. Enter the church through the door at the lower entrance of the church.

A short devotion is given at the beginning of the evening and then the organized activity starts. Refreshments will be served.

A minimum of three participants are needed, preferably six

participate, so you can rotate from one table to another and visit with all attending. This is a great way to get to know others in the church in an informal, casual setting and have a good time all the while exercising your brain muscle!

If you are interested in participating, email Sally Sheahan at sally.sheahan@gmail.com or call her at (314) 910-0541 or just drop in.

Daytime pinochle continues to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. This month daytime pinochle takes place on Sept. 14 and 28.



ELCA Service Day: Sept. 11

Sign up now and make plans to serve on this year's 10th annual "God's work. Our hands." ELCA Service Day on September 11.

We gather for worship at 9 A.M. and will then be sent out to serve. This year's service opportunities include the following: Sunday School's Rally Day

(preparing birthday bags to donate to the Food Pantry), joining the Sewing Circle (in Grace Center), assembling 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief (in Luther Hall), sidewalk painting at Verda Dierzen, and outdoor projects with community partners in Woodstock. (check the bulletin board in

the narthex or call the office to check for additional sites).

We've placed an order for more yellow "God's work. Our hands." t-shirts this year and hope you will share in this day of service and fellowship.

Door Dash Service Introduced To McHenry County Faith Leaders Food Collaborative

Since Spring 2021, Grace Lutheran Church has participated in an effort to ensure our community neighbors have food support.

In partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Faith Leaders from Grace, St. Ann's Episcopal Church, and the McHenry County Jewish Community are a part of the McHenry County Faith Leaders Food Collaborative. Those leaders along with volunteers from each congregation gather in Woodstock on alternate Mondays for a mobile food distribution for people in need. From 4 to 5:30 P.M. the event is held in the South St. parking lot behind St. Ann's (the lot can be found across from Woodstock High School via the South Street entrance.)

"We've grown in visibility and awareness," said Mike Phillips, Grace parishioner and lead program organizer for the church. "When we first began more than a year and a half ago, we served about 90-100 families. Today, we average around 175-200 families.

There is a food need in our area, and we are fortunate that the Food Bank has recognized the need and supports us fully."

Now, those in need of food who do not have access to vehicles can participate, too, through a Door Dash program. United Way partnered with the McHenry County

Food Collaborative by means of United Way's Ride United Last Mile Delivery initiative, which incorporates Door Dash's Couriers to make deliveries free to the recipients.

"The Door Dash initiative has expanded awareness," Mike said. "The drivers didn't know we did this but now they are helping to spread the word."

Pastor Amanda adds that the service is anonymous. When someone drives up, they're only asked the number of households being covered, the number of adults in the household and the number of kids.

If you or anyone you know needs either the free food pantry or Door Dash services, call St. Ann's in Woodstock at 815-338-0950.

Confirmed mobile distribution dates through the end of the calendar year, include Sept. 12 and 26; Oct. 10 and 24; Nov. 7 and 21; and Dec. 6 and 19.

"We have neighbors who need this assistance, and they are very grateful," Mike said. "We do our best to spread kindness to our neighbors who come by...and it's great to part with a smile and wave as each car is loaded and we get ready for the next ones."

All are welcome to join our group of volunteers or just come by to see our ministry in action.



Loading cars with food, Ken Zank (background) is pictured on the front page of the July 15, 2022 Northwest Herald as a Grace volunteer for the McHenry County Faith Leaders Food Collaborative.

Faith Mentors Needed For One-Time Commitment to Classes

Again this year, we hope to have the confirmation class utilize faith mentors. In addition to having Pastor Amanda present during classes, we are calling on congregation members of all ages to

sign up to teach a single class (we would love it if you take a couple of classes). Our focus is on learning about the Lutheranism and Lutheran history through a curriculum called

"Colaborate" published by Augsburg Fortress.

If you are interested in teaching a lesson, please contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office. You will be given all the support materials needed. Our

hope is to come together as a faith community and show the students that the members of Grace love and support their faith journeys.

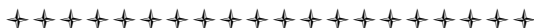
Worship & Music

Each week we gather around word and sacrament, in the pattern of gathering, word, meal, and sending.

A part of our shared act of worshipping God includes the gift of music. This fall, you are invited to join a musical group or reach out to learn more if you are interested in being a part of the worship life of our congregation through music.

Each of these groups will be gathering for rehearsals in the coming weeks, consider trying something new and reaching out with any questions.

- **Cherub Choir** (3 years-1st grade), Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:30-5:45 P.M.; contact Tammy Baier, baier5@comcast.net
- **Joyful Messengers Choir** (2nd-6th grade choir), Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:45-6:15 P.M.; contact Tammy Baier, baier5@comcast.net
- **Laudate Choir** (7th-12th grade choir), occasional Sunday morning rehearsals after worship; contact Carrie Filetti, bcfilet@att.net
- **Chancel Choir** (adult choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7:00-8:00 P.M.; contact Carrie Filetti, bcfilet@att.net
- **Revelation Ringers** (adult handbell choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 6:00 P.M.; contact Terry Aavang, taavang@yahoo.com
- **Contemporary Band** (instruments & singing), occasional evening rehearsals; contact Jon Bergstrom, jon_bergstrom2@hotmail.com
- **Instruments & Small Groups**- do you play an instrument or would you be interested in singing occasionally in a small group?, contact Jan Burns, shelty2@sbcglobal.net.



Confirmation Camp



At the end of July, confirmation students shared a week of camp at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL around the themes of sanctuary, water, creation, friendship, God's love, and sharing joy.

YSJ—High School Youth “Youth Standing with Jesus”

Mobile Food Pantry YSJ is committed to this important, local ministry helping distribute food to over 500 community members in need on the first Monday of each month 3 to 5:30 P.M.

Fall pantry dates are Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5. Please join in whenever you can! RSVP's are needed by the Thursday prior to our service date so we know how many volunteers to count on!

Sunday, September 11 ELCA “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Day of Service. YSJ will be offering our hearts and hands to assist Home of the Sparrow outreach.

Wednesday Drop-In Nights This year, YSJ will meet EVERY TWO WEEKS for connection, conversation, activities, service

planning and more! (You can even bring a friend) Join the fun from 7:30 - 8:30 P.M. Sept 14 and 28; Oct. 12 & 26; Nov. 9 & 23; and Dec 7 & 21. **OUR FIRST WEDNESDAY DROP IN is a night of pizza, games and prizes...SEE YOU THERE!!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! YSJ will head to Lake Geneva on Saturday, Sept. 24 for a day of team building and ziplining! Approximate time is 9 A.M. - 2 P.M., with more details on the way. **LET’S GO CONNECT in the beauty of God’s creation while having a ton of fun!** PLEASE RSVP as soon as you are able to Kirsten Green at 815-236-6904 or stylin1020@gmail.com.

Your YSJ co-leaders are Al Wilson, Gretchen Hutchens, and Kirsten Green.

Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle meets in the lower level on the first and third Tuesdays from 9 A.M. to noon for fellowship and create quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome, so please join us. Call Tammy Hansing at 815-338-5387. Check us out on Sept. 11 at “God’s work. Our hands.”

Confirmation Class

All seventh and eighth grade students wishing to affirm their baptism will meet Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. downstairs in Grace

Center. If you have a student interested in our class, please join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 P.M. in Grace

Center. Contact Carrie Fiorina in the church office with any questions.

Presence Light Sponsors:

September 4:

To the glory of God, given by Diane Schulz.

September 18:

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

September 25:

In honor of our 38th wedding anniversary, given by Karl & Denise Klabunde.

Bulletin Sponsors:

September 4:

To the glory of God, given by Diane Schulz.
In honor of my Faith Circle sisters, given by Marylee Steinwehe.

September 11:

In memory of my sister, Kathy Kessinger, given by Nancy Kreznor.

September 18:

To the glory of God, given by Bob & Joyce Shook.

September 25:

In memory of Bud Schulz, given by Diane Schulz & Family.

egiving options

In addition to weekly offering envelopes, Grace has additional electronic giving options. 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 to 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 four 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

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Administrative Secretary

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Office Assistant/Bookkeeper & Confirmation Coordinator

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Communications Coordinator

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Organist & Interim Coordinator of Worship & Music

Jan Burns

Music Group Directors

Terry Aavang, Tammy Baier,
Jon Bergstrom, Carrie Filetti

Sunday School Coordinator

Jamielynn Wedoff

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