



GRACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815 338-0554 - Fax 815 338-0913  
E-mail [grace@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:grace@gracewoodstock.org)  
[www.gracewoodstock.org](http://www.gracewoodstock.org)

# Grace *for* Today

## By Grace Through Faith

Why are you Lutheran? For some people, perhaps it's because their grandparents were Lutheran, or because this is the place where their parents drop them off, or because they happened upon a Lutheran congregation and kept coming back. For some people, it's because of practices of welcome and inclusion, repentance and forgiveness, and commitments to justice and peace. For some people, it's because of the theology, justification by grace through faith—the incredible good news of Jesus, of God's love for God's creation. How would you respond, why are you Lutheran? I'm curious and would love to hear from you.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:8-10

This month, we will practice living out our Lutheran identity with attention to the word of God. We will present Bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and continue in prayerful support of our Sunday school and confirmation students as they study God's word. Mid-October we gather for a special worship opportunity, "Drawn to the Word," and I hope you'll make plans to share in worship as we hear God's word. And by the end of October we'll worship on Reformation Sunday as we keep centering ourselves in the word

of God and God's constant presence in the ever changing and reforming church.

This October, I invite you to join me in opening your Bibles one time more than you typically do. If you can't recall the last time you picked up a Bible (in print, or on your phone) and read the Bible—find one time this month to dwell in God's word. If this is already part of your daily practice, find one more time to open, read, and hear God's word.

And if you're up for another commitment, find a moment to refresh your memory on Luther's Small Catechism (it's printed at the back of each hymnal in our pews). Read those words, either for the first time or for the first time in a long time, and consider the questions: What is this? What does this mean?

Blessings on the fall season ahead, on our always reforming church, and these changing times; may the love and grace of God bless you, now and always.

Martin called for a church that was always reforming itself, in order to keep its focus on scripture and God, rather than on a religious figurehead, like the pope, which can disrupt human connection to the divine.

Colaborate Confirmation:  
Martin Luther Video

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 e-mail address to [dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto: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, 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 Readell), Gloria Ogle, Georgia Petersdorf (sister-in-law of Gladys Renner), Pat Peterson, Ila Randolph, 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), Nathaniel Shipp (family friend of Brian Meyers), Hollis Shutt, Ann Sinnett (friend of Shirley Berna), Kathy Stone, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Addie Jo Wedoff, Nick Wedoff, Esther Wienke. Vicki Wisser (friend of Kari Gippert)

**Joys:** Baptism of Caleb Donovan Kosmen (son of Kimberly & Nicholas Kosmen), baptism of Casey Lucas Kurka (son of Amanda & Jeffrey Kurka)

**Sorrow:** Margie Neverdosky

## 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

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Quarterly giving statements will be sent by email in mid-October (or placed in the mail if we do not have your email address). Please contact the church office with any questions at **815-338-0554**. Thank you for your financial offerings in support of mission and ministry through Grace Lutheran Church.

the church office or by email to [grace@gracewoodstock.org](mailto: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 (**815-338-0554**).

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## 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**).

## Current Openings

Job descriptions have been posted and applications are requested for the following part-time positions:

1. **Director of Youth Education;** and
2. **Director of Worship & Music**

We invite you to encourage interested candidates to submit a cover letter and resume; job descriptions are posted on the front page of the website until positions are filled.



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

## Worship this October

This fall, we hope you'll share in worship on **Sundays at 9 a.m.** in the sanctuary, via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

**ANIMAL & PET BLESSING.** All creatures, worship God most high! You, and your pets, are welcome to worship in Grace's outdoor chapel on **Sunday, Oct. 2 at 3:30 p.m.** Let's gather to give thanks and praise to God for the beauty and wonders of all of God's creatures and creation. We'll sing, pray, and share a time of blessing.



**DRAWN TO THE WORD. Sunday, Oct. 16 at 9 a.m.**

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY.** Thank you for prayerfully considering your giving intentions for the year ahead. On **Sunday, Oct. 23**, you are invited to return your estimate of giving commitment card during worship or mail it to the church office. In response to God's generosity and grace, we look forward to faithful ministry planning for 2023. Thank you for your commitment to our church and to each other.

**REFORMATION & ALL SAINTS.** Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church continually will be reformed and renewed. You are invited to worship with us on **Reformation Sunday, Oct. 30**, in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church. The following week, **Sunday, Nov. 6**, is **All Saints Sunday**.

**Thank you, worship team volunteers!** We look forward to seeing you soon and welcome your continuing support for worshipping as a gathered community. *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, sound, & livestream technician, please contact Bill Nattress [bill.nattress@gmail.com](mailto:bill.nattress@gmail.com)
- If you would like to join the altar guild rotation, please contact Karen Reinhard, [kereinhard@yahoo.com](mailto:kereinhard@yahoo.com)
- If you are interested in joining the rotation for Children's Sermons, please contact Carrie Fiorina, [cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org)
- If you have questions about volunteering as a Reader, Greeter, Usher, or Communion Assistant - please contact Fay Wilson [faymwlsn@yahoo.com](mailto:faymwlsn@yahoo.com)



**BRINGING THE WORD TO LIFE  
BEFORE YOUR EYES**

Join us in worship on Sunday, Oct. 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. A Gospel story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively, and Scripturally during the event. This is something for all generations to experience. All are welcome. Come and see!

### Share the Warmth: Winter Coat

Please consider donating your gently used winter coats in all sizes, in bins located in the narthex. This is our first coat drive since the start of the pandemic so we're hoping for many outgrown coats. The collection will go until Oct. 23. Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM) will sponsor the coat drive at the First Methodist Church on Oct. 28 and 29.

### Bishop Installation

You are invited to attend the Installation of the Fourth Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 11 a.m.

The Rite of Installation for The Reverend Stacie Fidlar takes place at Trinity Lutheran Church, 200 N. First St., Rockford.

### Property Fall Cleaning

We are prepping for winter by cleaning the church grounds on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 8 a.m. - noon. The rain date will be held on Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. - noon.

### email Scam Alert

Grace's pastor, staff, and leaders will never text or email you to request gift cards or fund transfers. If in the future you receive a strange request, contact the church office at **815-338-0554** before responding.





Pictured, left to right: Pastor Amanda, Gianna Romano, Ellery Shutt, Aubrey Bennett, Gracie Duenas.

## Save the Date

All are invited to attend the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Program on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 1 - 3 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Conservation Area, 13119 Pleasant Valley Rd., Woodstock. This family-friendly interfaith experience is a collaborative effort between the McHenry County Conservation District and FaithBridge. They've developed a gratitude, planting, and remembrance community service project.

Parts of the project include:

- Songs from different traditions, storytelling and drumming;
- Sustainable service of acorn planting;
- Warm food and beverages (vegan and non-alcoholic)
- Help the hungry through a food and coat drive

For the food and coat drive, it would be appreciated if event attendees would bring clean, like-new coats and other outerwear and non-perishable foods within the expiration date.

Also consider bringing for your enjoyment reusable mugs and spoons; weather-appropriate clothing and work gloves and a drum or bucket.

## Hearing Assist Devices Available for Worship

Grace has hearing assist devices for anyone who would like to use them during worship. These are small radio receivers that pick up a special live broadcast. A lightweight earpiece rests comfortably on the ear without blocking it, delivering excellent clarity. See Andy Bellavia before service and he will show you how to use it.

If you wear hearing aids like Andy Bellavia, there are a couple of ways to use the receivers depending on the hearing aid style. Talk to him especially if yours has a "T-Coil." (If you're not sure, ask your audiologist and get instructions for how to turn it on.)

## Congregation Rejoices for Affirmation of Baptism

On Sunday, Aug. 21, Grace's ninth grade students affirmed their baptism after completing confirmation classes last spring. We rejoice with **Aubrey Bennett**, **Gracie Duenas**, **Gianna Romano**, and **Ellery Shutt** in the life of baptism. May we keep giving thanks and praise to God and proclaiming the good news to all the world.

## What You Need to Know about 2022-23 Confirmation Class

Grace's 2022-23 confirmation class is off to a great start. The group is diving into our Lutheran History and learning about what it means to be Lutheran.

"We are excited that our students will be seen at services throughout the year, filling volunteer opportunities," said Carrie Fiorina, confirmation coordinator. "This helps them learn what it means to be part of a faith community."

Carrie added, "We are still looking for faith mentors to help teach a class or two throughout our year."

Please contact Carrie Fiorina at [cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org) if you have any questions about faith mentoring.

If you have a student either in seventh or eighth grade and would like them to take part in our confirmation program, it is not too late to sign them up. Just contact Carrie Fiorina for more information.

## Grace Serves Local, Global Communities On Sept. 11



Thank you to the more than 75 parishioners who gathered after service on Sept. 11 to serve our local and global communities through "God's work. Our hands." service Sunday.

Grace built 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief, 40 birthday bags for the Woodstock Food Pantry and handcrafted an assortment of items for local nursing homes and Lutheran World Relief.

"Lutheran World Relief promotes education to disadvantaged communities by building school kits," said Brittany Hinderlider. "Families can actively be involved in building these kits. My husband and I realized we could teach our young daughters that they can help others in a way that they are able."

## Worship & Music

Music rehearsals have resumed!

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.

- **Cherub Choir** (3 years – first grade), Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:30 – 5:45 p.m. contact Tammy Baier, [baier5@comcast.net](mailto:baier5@comcast.net)

- **Joyful Messengers Choir** (2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade choir), Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.; contact Tammy Baier, [baier5@comcast.net](mailto:baier5@comcast.net)
- **Laudate Choir** (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade choir), occasional Sunday morning rehearsals after worship; contact Carrie Filetti, [bcfilet@att.net](mailto:bcfilet@att.net)
- **Chancel Choir** (adult choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7 - 8 p.m.; contact Carrie Filetti, [bcfilet@att.net](mailto:bcfilet@att.net)
- **Revelation Ringers** (adult handbell choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 6 p.m.; contact Terry Aavang, [taavang@yahoo.com](mailto:taavang@yahoo.com)
- **Contemporary Band** (instruments & singing), occasional evening rehearsals; contact Jon Bergstrom, [jon\\_bergstrom2@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_bergstrom2@hotmail.com)
- **Instruments & Small Groups** do you play an instrument or would you be interested in singing occasionally in a small group? If your answer is "yes," contact Jan Burns, [shelty2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelty2@sbcglobal.net).

## This Month in Sunday School

The Sunday School year started off by serving others as the children made 40 birthday bags on Sept. 11. All bags were donated to the Woodstock Food Pantry.

We will continue to meet this month on Oct. 2 and 16 after the 9 a.m. services. On the 16th, we will focus on the biblical passage, "House on the Rock." This will be a traditional lesson on how the message from the Bible verse relates to our lives.

Current third graders will be presented with their own bibles during worship on Oct. 2. As a Sunday school that morning around 10:15 a.m. we will meet at Aldi's for a shopping trip to restock the Blessing Box. If you have any questions please reach out to Jamielynn Wedoff at [jamielynn@wedoffphotography.com](mailto:jamielynn@wedoffphotography.com)

## YSJ—High School Youth "Youth Standing with Jesus"

### Attention high school families:

Please check you email inbox for regular YSJ updates. These postings will include event information, sign-up links and more. Follow Grace Lutheran Church's group on Facebook for info and to see what YSJ is up to!

**Mobile Food Pantry YSJ** is committed to this important, local ministry, helping distribute food to community members in need on the first Monday of each month from 3 - 5:30 p.m.

Fall pantry dates are 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!

### Wednesday Drop-In Nights

This year, YSJ will meet EVERY TWO WEEKS for connection,

conversation, activities, service planning, and more! (No RSVP necessary; you can even bring a friend!) Join the fun from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Oct. 12 & 26; Nov. 9 & 23; and Dec 7 & 21. You'll find a night of pizza, games and prizes ... SEE YOU THERE!!

YSJ needs volunteers to help at the WACM Crandall's Fundraising Dinner, which supports the Direct Assistance Program (see information below) Students and parents are invited to work a two-hour shift on Monday, Oct. 24. please contact the church office at **815-338-0554**. If you have questions about YSJ, contact Kirsten Green at 815-236-6904 or at [stylin1020@gmail.com](mailto:stylin1020@gmail.com).

In addition to Kirsten Green, your YSJ co-leaders are Al Wilson, and Gretchen Hutchens.

## Winner! Winner! Chicken Dinner

**Win #1:** You, your family, and friends enjoy a delicious, all-you-can-eat, broasted chicken dinner at Crandall's Restaurant. Maybe you even win a gift basket in the raffle.

**Win #2:** You support this fundraiser for Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM), whose mission is providing emergency

assistance to people in need within the District 200 school boundaries. Grace is a longtime member of WACM.

Mark your calendar for Monday, Oct. 24, from 4 - 8 p.m. Crandall's is located at 10441 Illinois State Rte. 47 on the north side of Hebron, Ill.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages six to

12, and \$5 for children five and under. Carry-out dinners are available, and walk-ins are welcome.

Tickets will be for sale in the church office in October or online at:

[WACM Fundraisers - woodstock area community ministries \(wacmgroup.org\)](http://www.wacmgroup.org)



all proceeds help the needy in our community with clothing, medicine and other necessities.  
[www.wacmgroup.org](http://www.wacmgroup.org)

## Presence Light Sponsors:

### October 2:

- In memory of Richard Petersen, given by Adele Petersen.

### October 9:

- In honor of our son Phil's birthday, given by Nancy & Bill Kreznor.

### October 16:

- In memory of my dad, given by Janette Hess.

### October 23:

- To the glory of God in honor of my family, given by Diane Schulz.

### October 30:

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

## Bulletin Sponsors:

### October 2:

- For all God's blessings, given by Gayle Hoch.

### October 16:

- In memory of my dad, given by Janette Hess.

### October 23:

- To the glory of God in honor of my family, given by Diane Schulz.

## 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](http://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](http://gracewoodstock.org)**

### **GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL**

#### **Lead Pastor**

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
[abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Administrative Secretary**

Denise Klabunde  
[dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Office Assistant/Bookkeeper & Confirmation Coordinator**

Carrie Fiorina  
[cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **Communications Coordinator**

Kari Gippert  
[kgippert@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgippert@gracewoodstock.org)

#### **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**

Diana Frisbie, Lisa Gerloff-Banker,  
Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Kleinjan,  
Mike Liedtke, Paul Lockwood,  
Matt Meiners, Mark Miller, Mary Noe,  
Robert Teuber