

NOVEMBER 2022 • VOLUME 21, NO. 11

It Is Indeed Right, Our Duty, and our JOY!

“Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ...”*

-Holy Communion liturgy

Thanks be to God for the love of God in Christ Jesus, the amazing gift of grace, the fellowship and community of God’s faithful people. Thanks be to God for Jesus calming storms and being in the middle of all things ushering in good news and a constant promised presence.

Thanks be to God for this place to gather in Jesus’ name, for food to eat and resources to share, and for the people we have met and have yet to meet. Thanks be to God for family and friends and the kind and compassionate ones who show up for you lending a helping hand or listening ear.

Thanks be to God for simple joys and the possibilities of change.

In worship, “The Great Thanksgiving” begins “The Lord be with you,” and continues through the Lord’s Prayer. We remember and give thanks for the sacrament of Holy Communion, recalling Jesus’ command and promise to do this in remembrance of him. And within those words, I am so often struck by the pairing of right, duty, and joy. This is the right thing to do, this is ours to do, this is a joyful thing to do—to give thanks and praise to God in all times and all places.

Last month I invited you to find at least one more time than you usually do to open up scripture and dwell in the word of God. This November, I invite you to find a few more places and times to give thanks and praise to God.

In the month ahead, we will begin by giving thanks for all saints, past and present, beloved and fellow children of God, and by the end of the month our typical weekday schedules will pause for a day of thanksgiving.

For what else do the people of God give thanks? I invite you to join me in the faithful practice of expressing gratitude. Join me in giving thanks and praise to God the next time you are at Grace, stop by and add a note of thanks to the bulletin board in the narthex. We will gather those notes of thanksgiving into our shared prayers on Thanksgiving Eve.

I give thanks to God for you, dear people of Grace Lutheran Church; and I give thanks for your sharing in life as a part of this faith community. See you soon!

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.

World: Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop 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), Barbara Gehrke, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Leonard Haulotte (brother of Laura Boal), Gloria Holy, Denise Hoover, Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff),

Steve Kosmen (loved one of the Koehn family), John Kunzie, Judie Kunzie, Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Linda Nogan (sister of Sheila Readel), Gloria Ogle, 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- & 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 McMahan), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Bev Visconti, Addie Jo Wedoff, Nick Wedoff, Esther Wienke, Vicki Wisser (friend of Kari Gippert)

Sorrow: Stephane Fylpaa-Asher

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 month and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* email 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 (**815-338-0554**).

Bread for the Day

Bread for the Day is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures, such as a brief scripture reading, a prayer, and a hymn for each day and more. The devotions begin Jan. 1, 2023. If you are interested in having a copy of the devotional book, purchase it in the office or at the Welcome Desk for \$10.

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 **December** newsletter is **November 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 November

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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. At the beginning of November, we gather for worship on Sunday, **Nov. 6 on All Saints Sunday.** Our time shared in worshipping God includes a time of candle lighting and reflection. First, a candle will be lit for each person baptized at Grace this past year. Then, those gathered in the sanctuary will be invited to come forward to light a candle in remembrance of family and friends who are now with God eternally. If you are worshipping via the livestream or worship video, you are invited to share in this time of remembrance and prayer in your home.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY. On **Nov. 20**, we mark the end of the liturgical calendar year on **Christ the King Sunday.** Then on Wednesday, **Nov. 23**, you are invited to worship at 7 p.m. on **Thanksgiving Eve.**

On Sunday, **Nov. 27**, we begin the season of Advent, a time of hopeful waiting, watching, and preparing for the good news of Jesus' birth.

Wednesday, **Nov. 30, 7 - 7:30 p.m.**, will be the first of four **Advent Midweek Gatherings**, and we'll meet in the sanctuary on this first Wednesday in Advent for an Advent hymn sing. Save the dates for additional half hour midweek gatherings on **Dec. 7, 14, and 21.**

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
- If you would like to join the 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, Usher, or Communion Assistant - please contact Fay Wilson faymwlsn@yahoo.com

Drawn to the Word Service Delivers Hope

Multiple generations sat in awe in the Grace Lutheran pews on Sunday, Oct. 16 as artist and pastor Paul Oman depicted the entire service through his artwork titled, "Jesus Calming the Storm" on a 54" x 60" canvas.

As Paul began painting, young children could be heard asking their parents what they think the image might be. About 30 minutes into the service, Paul performed something unique with the canvas as the congregation then too, saw his vision. Parents and grandparents could be heard explaining the meaning behind the painting of Jesus with his disciples.

"I thought it was reflective of our current world situations," said Fay Wilson. "It was not just a focus on our own personal struggles."

Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia added, "His painting was amazing to watch, and I felt blessed to be part of the service."

Kristin Baldwin agreed, saying, "The artist was wonderful. It was a nice way to pull all the parts of the service together."

Said 13-year-old Teagan Jones, "I really liked the service."

Parishioners who want to own a smaller version of the original print can pick up an order form at the welcome desk. Follow the ordering instructions on the form.



Paul Oman stands in front of his artwork "Jesus Calming the Storm."

Ministry Opportunities

Several of Grace's committees are continuing or restarting to support ministry opportunities within our congregation and community.

Committee Night is held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and church council members serve as a liaison to one of Grace's committees.

If you would like to participate and connect with people with similar interests, we hope to see you soon. Please call the church office at 815-338-0554 or reach out to a council member or Pastor Amanda if you are interested in learning more.

Pinochle

Wanna play pinochle? Meet in room 102 on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 1 p.m.; Tuesday Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, No. 16 at 1 p.m.. Enter the building on the lower level.

Living Generously

As we look forward to faithful ministry planning for 2023, we thank you for your sharing in the life and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. If you have not already done so, we invite you to return your Estimate of Giving Card to the church office as you prayerfully consider your giving intentions for the year ahead. Thank you for your commitment to our church and to each other.



You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.
2 Corinthians 9:11

Nov. 6 Forum To Explain Grace's Hearing Assist Devices

There are multiple reasons why people might have difficulty understanding one or more of the worship leaders. Since being able to hear everyone without straining is integral to a meaningful worship experience, Grace offers listening assist devices for anyone to use. They are small, battery-powered units that work with or without hearing aids.

Stay in the sanctuary after service on Nov. 6, and Andy Bellavia, himself a hearing aid wearer, will show the various ways one can use Grace's listening devices. If you have hearing aids and don't already know if they have a "T-Coil," before the forum, ask your audiologist and learn how to switch it on.



Christmas Flowers at Grace

Help provide decorations for our sanctuary this Christmas. Give a gift in "honor of someone" or "in memory of a loved one" or "to the glory of God." Mail in or bring in your coupon below, along with your \$15.00 gift to Grace Lutheran Church, 1300

Kishwaukee Valley Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098. Please print clearly, as you want it to appear in the bulletin.

Payments due in the office by Dec.12, 2022. Poinsettias will be available for pickup after our service on Dec.25.

Amount: _____

CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON: (Please print)

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

GIVEN BY: _____



Find us on Facebook

You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news and ministry opportunities. You will be directed to the site via this QR code.



Christmas Family Sharing

By Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia

While many are still sipping pumpkin spice lattes, my thoughts are turning to peppermint mochas and our Christmas Family Sharing (CFS) ministry. (I do enjoy my coffee!) Our CFS Giving Tree will be available **Nov. 6.**

Please come visit the tree before or after worship on any Sunday in November and choose an ornament or two or three in support of our ministry partners – ELCA Good Gifts, Family Health Partnership Clinic, and Turning Point.

The ELCA Good Gift ornaments allow you to purchase items that will help families throughout the world. Ten chicks grow up to provide eggs for meals and ongoing income. Or maybe you like goats or honeybees? There are many options to give through ELCA Good Gifts! You may also access ELCA Good Gifts online at ELCA.org/goodgifts or at www.GraceCFS.org.

Family Health Partnership Clinic (FHPC) hopes Grace will help provide Walmart gift cards to make Christmas a bit brighter for a particular family this year. The father of this family was severely injured in an accident and originally paralyzed from the neck down several years ago. Since they had no insurance, FHPC worked with him regularly, and he has regained some mobility in his arms. He regularly comes into the Clinic for

Continued on page 5

Sunday School in November

Sunday School will continue to meet this month on **Nov. 6 and 20**. On the 6th, a traditional lesson takes place after the 9 a.m. service. Plus, the students will be signing up for their service roles for the 20th. On the 20th, Sunday School students will serve the church as greeters, ushers, and door holders. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jamielynn Wedoff at jamielynn@wedoffphotography.com

Bible Sunday



Sunday School Coordinator Jamielynn Wedoff presented Bibles to students in the third and fourth grade Sunday School class. Those who received their bibles included Bennett Washkowiak, Norah Thomas, Johanna Bergstrom, and Owen Kleinjan.

Sewing Circle

The Sewing Circle meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 8:30 a.m. - noon. All are welcome to join in on the fun. Projects exist for sewers and non-sewers and some can be picked up at the church and worked on at home to be returned at a later time.

Fabric, batting, pillow stuffing, sheets thread, and Thrivent Action Team card donations are welcome. Check out the Grace website to see what Sewing Circle distributed in October.

YSJ—High School Youth “Youth Standing with Jesus”

Attention high school families:

Please check your 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.

Pantry dates are 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 we can expect!

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. Nov. 9, Dec 7 and 21. You'll find a night of pizza, games and prizes ... SEE YOU THERE!!

If you have questions about YSJ, contact Kirsten Green at 815-236-6904 or at stylin1020@gmail.com.

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

Christmas Family Sharing

Continued from page 4

therapy and then stays to volunteer in a variety of ways.

Turning Point is looking for donations to stock their “Holiday Toy Shop” which they offer free of charge to their clients. They need gifts of toys, games, arts and crafts, and gift cards.

Please stop by the CFS Giving Tree to get some ornaments or for more information. Items can be returned to labeled bins in the narthex anytime with all donations needing to be at Grace by Dec. 4. Please call or email me with any questions, Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, 815-245-1242 or mbmartinbellavia@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your support!

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.

Book Club

The Adult Sunday School Book Club begins a new book this month. Meetings are held after church every Sunday in the parlor. New members always welcome.

Bulletin & Presence Light

The 2023 Bulletin & Presence Light sponsor sheets are available in the white binder at the Welcome Center. A month prior to your sponsorship, a form will be sent to you requesting information and a donation of \$20 for the Bulletins and \$10 for the Presence Light. We do have dates available for 2022, also. Thank you for helping us fund the weekly bulletins and presence lights.

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.

Presence Light Sponsors:

Nov. 6:

- In memory of Reed G. Larson, given by Dallas, Ellen, Kirk & Evan Larson.

Nov. 13:

- Thanks to God for all the blessings received, given by Karen Reinhard.

Nov. 20:

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

Nov. 27:

- In memory of Dorothy Bartram, given by her family.

Bulletin Sponsors:

Nov. 6:

- To the glory of God for blessings, given by Diane Schulz.

Nov. 20:

- Thanks to God for all the blessings received, given by Karen Reinhard.

Nov. 23:

- To the glory of God in thankfulness for our blessings, given by Marylee Steinwehe.

Nov. 27:

- In honor of family, given by Diane Schulz.

eGiving Options

In addition to weekly offering envelopes, Grace provides 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 via our QR code



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

Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom
abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org

Administrative Secretary

Denise Klabunde
dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org

Office Assistant/Bookkeeper & Confirmation Coordinator

Carrie Fiorina
cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org

Communications Coordinator

Kari Gippert
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