



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd
Woodstock, IL 60098
815 338-0554 - Fax 815 338-0913
E-mail grace@gracewoodstock.org
www.gracewoodstock.org

Grace *for Today*

FEBRUARY 23, 2011 — MARCH 8, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 4

Update and Many Thanks...by Pastor Ken Gibson

As you are all reading this edition of Grace for Today, Jodi and I will be taking some time off with our younger daughter Joy, to spend some time with Lauren. This was a scheduled spring break that was to be a skiing event with all of us in the beautiful Colorado Rockies, but as we all know, life events change plans and lives. We will of course not be putting Lauren on the slopes, as her injuries are now affecting so much of her life going forward, after the accident that occurred on January 17th. We have come to witness how important it is to have a faithful community of believers who offer, in these life events, the heart and arms of Jesus Christ on earth. This past month has affirmed our faith in so many ways and Jodi and I, and Lauren and Joy too, want you all to know we have felt your prayers and we thank God for them and for all of you.

May we continue to live out our life together as the visible image of the love and Grace that is known to us in Jesus Christ, and may you know we are most blessed by your love. Thank you all. Pastor Ken, Jodi, Lauren and Joy.



First Blood Drive of 2011 – Have you ever wondered where our local hospital's blood supply comes from? Hartland Blood Center. Where does the blood supply come from that Hartland Blood Center provides to these many hospitals? YOU!

What happens if you, a loved one or friend needs blood from a blood bank at the local hospitals? The blood received during Grace's Blood Drive goes to our local hospitals and provides care for those in need.

Please participate by donating your life-saving blood on Sunday, February 27, 2011, 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. Call Pam Roberts at 847.659.1569 to schedule your appointment or sign up on the poster located in the church narthex.

Congregational Resourcing Event—The Northern Illinois Synod is hosting their congregational resourcing event on March 19, 2011. The registration can be found at www.nisynod.org/cre. If you are interested, please complete the registration form and bring it into the office. There are also copies in the office if you need one. We will do a group registration through the Synod and Grace will pay for the cost. Please have the registration form into the office by February 25.

Grace Preschool Open House—Grace Lutheran Preschool will hold an Open House on Saturday, March 5th, 2011, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Registration begins for the 2011/2012 school year. Come meet and visit with those who make our preschool so great, our teachers and Preschool Committee Members. Children can explore the classrooms and enjoy preschool activities. Morning and afternoon sessions offered for children ages 2 to 5. For more information contact Chris Learman, Director @ 815-338-0554 x213.





WORSHIP TODAY

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

Sunday, February 27, 2011 Eighth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 8

INTRODUCTION

Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field. We rejoice that we are held in the palm of God's hand. God cannot forget us any more than a woman could forget her nursing child. Nourished at the Lord's table, we share these gifts with those who are anxious, hungry, poor, or in any kind of need.

READINGS

Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

Sunday, March 6, 2011 Transfiguration of Our Lord

INTRODUCTION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On the mount of transfiguration Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem.

We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

READINGS

Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

PRAYERS-Please lift up these petitions in your prayers—To become a praying member of the Friends in Prayer prayer chain, please submit your name and e-mail address to dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org.

World: Bishop Hanson, Bishop Wollersheim; those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Amanda Meyer teaching in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma), 2nd Lt. Dennis R. Smith II, serving in Iraq (grandson of Louise & Don Smith), PVT Darryl Wolff, serving overseas (son of Debbie & Darryl Wolff)

Woodstock: Pastor Ken Gibson and his family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: Robert Berkholtz, Shirley Berna, Shirley Busse, Frank Davis (friend of Rick & Billie Cornell), Patricia Dunn (friend of the Hoover Family), Anthony Enlow (friend of Kim May-Zelle), Debbie Enseleit (sister of Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia), David Evanoff (brother of Joe Evanoff), Betty Fischer (mother of Connie Fischer), Matt Gerloff (grandson of Bob Gerloff), Lauren Gibson (daughter of Pastor Ken and Jodi Gibson), Olga Grasser, Mary Guyett (sister of Doris Sunday), Ruth Hemmingsen-Case (mother of Tammy Hansing), Frank Holy, Patrice Hoover, Shirley Hubert (niece of Marge Birk), Theopolis Hutchens, Teddi Martin (sister-in-law of Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia), Evette Nagel (grandmother & great-grandmother of the Karner Family), Kathy Nordin, Gloria Ogle, Richard Petersen, Claudia Poloz (friend of Joe Evanoff), Hazel Powell, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Wayne Reckamp (husband of Monica Reckamp and co-worker Nora Combs), Ken Renner, Jeff Roberts, Floyd Rosenquist (father of Sue Beckman), Bud Schulz, Eleanor Setser, Peter Stumpf (friend of the Cornells), Tim Slevin (brother of Elizabeth Karagianis), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Eileen White, Jack Wienke

Sorrows: Gene Fuller, Virgil Boal

If you wish to add a prayer request for this 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 at 815-338-0554.

Chili Fest/Potluck Luncheon—

Transfiguration Sunday means “Chili Fest” here at Grace!



Beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 6th, you can enjoy a hot bowl of chili among friends. Even if chili isn't your thing, we will be offering a potluck.

The deadline to sign-up is February 27th, and the sign-up sheet is located on the Activity Board in the narthex.

Please bring yourself, or if you wish, bring your favorite chili or potluck dish and show off your recipes!

Cost: Free will offering



Adult Coach Bus Trip

- Saturday, June 18, 8:30am - 5:00pm— Join us for a fun filled day traveling the USA! We'll start off with a ride on Wisconsin's Last Original Electric Railroad Line as we travel to The Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago. Enjoy time to shop their bakery, deli and market, be sure to pick up one of their famous Brown Bag

Apple Pies! We ride the train back & have some time for the train museum before heading over to Millie's for our fabulous lunch of Tossed Green Salad, their famous Chicken & Dumplings, Carrots, Cheese Bread, Beverage and Coconut Caramel Dutch Pie for dessert. The musical show will feature famous songs from across the USA. After the show enjoy a nice stroll in the gardens and shops before boarding our bus. Cost is \$55 Please sign up in the activity binder and pay by June 4th.

Service Opportunity—The Evangelism Committee is looking for several volunteers to take turns staffing the Information Center in the narthex. It only requires about 15 minutes of commitment after the 10:45 a.m. service. This will be a rotating shift of one or two people depending upon how many volunteers are signed up. The only requirement is a friendly smile and warm hand shake. You will be handing out visitor gifts and answering questions about Grace. The sign-up sheet is located in the binder at the Information Center. For more information please contact Billie Cornell at 815-334-0723 or e-mail billie@b-goat.com If you are regularly in attendance at the 10:45 service please consider volunteering for this great opportunity to meet new people and welcome them to Grace!

Meet a New Member

—My name is Brian Meyers. I am fifty-three years old and have lived in Woodstock since 2006. I am in my 24th year as a full-time teacher, currently a bilingual teacher at Streamwood High School, and I teach AP Spanish online for Illinois Virtual School. My strongest interests and hobbies are politics (I am the secretary of the McHenry County Democrats) and reading, as well as various other media (especially music, computers, movies and television). I am from La Porte, Indiana, but I lived in Chicago from 1982 to 2006, and was very active in my Lutheran church there, serving as an assisting minister and teaching adult Bible study.

Lenten Soup Cooks Needed - We still need a few more cooks in order to offer a nice hot soup lunch after our noon Lenten services. Lent begins March 9. This year more than ever, we are in need of some volunteer cooks. You can make the soup at home and freeze it or bring it in that morning or you can make it here with helpers. Desserts are needed also! For more information or to sign up see the Activity Binder at the Information Center or call Shirley Busse 815-338-9063.

MOPS - Mother's of PreSchoolers - Join us for a monthly gathering from 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. We have guest speakers, adult activities, inspiring conversations and a lot of fun! Child care is provided in the nursery for 6 months to 2 years old and the gymnasium for 3 to 5 years old. All moms are welcome to come and enjoy some “mommy time”! Upcoming dates are: March 9, April 13 and May 11. Contact Kelly Tafoya at 815-337-2855 or tafoya5@att.net for more information.

“Online” Lenten Bible Study With Camano Lutheran—



As Lent approaches there is a desire for us to once again spend time in reflection. Lent leads us to a natural forty day plus period, similar to the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness just prior to beginning in his ministry. Might we find some daily time to read and reflect upon all that God might be calling us to as congregations and as people who claim Jesus as the fulfillment of scripture and our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Scott Brents, (my dear friend from seminary and now Pastor in Camano Island) and I, have arranged for us to again offer an online study, similar to what we did last year, with a bit of a twist. This year the study will be based upon the daily lectionary that is always available for us to read and contemplate. The other new item is that there will be a series of questions online that are available for us to consider, pray on, and yes, even comment on and question in regards to where and how we are thinking in this time and place.

Please watch for this unique opportunity as we approach Ash Wednesday, March 9, and the Lenten season. Thanks to Billie Cornell, you will be able to get to this wonderful opportunity through the Grace Website through Facebook. —Pastor Ken Gibson

Woodstock Diaper Bank Partnership Connection— The Vine Ministry Center in Woodstock has entered into a partnership with St. Paul’s Diaper Bank and will begin the process of providing this service to folks in our Woodstock area. Applications will start being accepted on March 29th, 10-12 am, for delivery on April 11th, 6-8 pm. This is a simple application to track who gets what. There are no real requirements. All who ask will receive. NOTE: elderly in need of diapers should apply as well. The Vine Ministry Center is located at 1132 North Madison St., Woodstock. If you need diapers for the month of March, please contact The Vine at 815-338-3380.



Mistletoe Magic 2011:

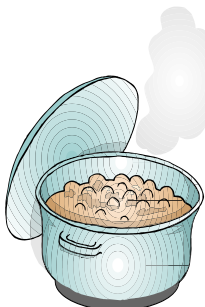
Wanted - Merchandise ideas! What would you like to see presented at Mistletoe Magic? We present a wide variety of food products & gift ideas for individuals and your home, but we are always looking for new ideas that will bring people in and help increase our offering to the community.

Please contact the following committee leaders with your ideas: Cathy Meyer, Sue Aavang, Karen Reinhard, Judy Reilly, or Eileen White.

Rummage Sale—Start saving today! The annual Grace rummage sale will be the evening of May 12th, all day on May 13th, and the morning of May 14th.

Set-up for the sale will be May 9th through the morning of May 12th. Volunteers are always needed to help with set-up and clean-up as well as working during the sale.

Watch future newsletters and Day One inserts for more details. Any questions, please contact Borgie Stenoin.



Grace Cooks—Do you like to help others when they are in need? Do you like to cook? Grace Cooks may be the perfect team for you! This group of men and women are called upon to make and deliver one meal to the Grace family that is in need. Our team provides up to 3 meals to those that have experienced a death of a loved one, are recovering from an illness or surgery, or have just brought a new baby home from the hospital. We could use more people on our team. If you think this might be a way for you to serve our congregation, please call Ellen Lohmeyer at 815.338.3562 for more information.

Short Term Singing Opportunities

—Do you find yourself blasting the radio in your car, and singing at the top of your lungs? Do you find yourself singing in the shower every day? If so, do we have an opportunity for you! Our choir is still in need of additional voices for Sunday Lenten services, as well as for Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning services.



Check the Activity Board in the narthex for dates/times of rehearsals and services. Set aside time now to participate in these rewarding and meaningful musical/worship experiences. All levels of experience are welcome!

Faith In Action

— is a volunteer organization that promotes keeping our seniors independent in their homes. We are in need of a few people who would have 1 or 2 hours per week (or month) to help transport a few members of our community.

One person needs to be driven to the VA bus stop at the train station. Another person would like to be taken shopping and to the laundry mat. A dialysis gentleman needs to go for treatment three times per week.

If you can help with even one of these things, please contact Caryn Rigsby at Faith In Action 815-455-3120 x223.

For more information about FIA visit their website at www.fiamchenrycounty.org



Articles Wanted

—As the Director of Communications, I am here to help Grace, its committees/groups, spread the news of Grace to the rest of the congregation and the community.

The Grace for Today newsletter (bi-weekly) and Day One insert (weekly) can help you announce upcoming activities, as well as inform everyone of the success of your past events. Photos and announcements can also be submitted through me to the Northwest Herald, and the Woodstock Independent.

Submissions can be placed in my mailbox in the church office, or sent to my e-mail at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org. Note: photo submissions must be at least 1 MB (or 1000 K) to be placed in the newspapers. The article deadline for Grace for Today and Day One is end of day Thursday, a full week before they run.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone—847-366-9097 cell. Thank you to everyone for your contributions and continued support. —Lynn Nattress

News Shorts...What's Happening At Grace

SENIOR LUNCHEON—Tuesday, March 22 at noon. Our home cooked meal features Easy Pleasing Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Carrots, Rolls, Applesauce and Banana Pudding Cake for dessert. After eating we will once again enjoy a fun, fast paced game of Bunco - bring your lucky dice rolling and you may win a prize. Cost is \$5. Please sign up in the activity Binder by March 20th.

ELW HYMNALS—Orders are still being taken for the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* “cranberry” hymnal. The base price of a hymnal is \$22.50. Members can order by completing the special pew envelopes. Include your check and place it on the offering plate or bring it to the office.

ADULT CAFÉ - We are currently in a series titled “Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith,” studying and comparing Christian and non-Christian religions and their differences to the Lutheran faith. Feb 27—The Salvation Army (as a religion), March 6—Roman Catholic Church, March 20—Buddhism Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45a.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL—Join us for some exercise and fun on Wednesday nights in Luther Hall at 7:00 PM.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the March 9th issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on March 3rd.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

Schedule:<http://www.gracewoodstock.org/WeeklyNews/Monthly%20Worship%20Participants.pdf>

THE WEEKS AHEAD AT GRACE

Sunday, February 27

7:30 AM Blood Drive
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fellowship Committee Meet.
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
12:30 PM Music4Martin Rehearsal
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference
3:30 PM Music4Martin 2011
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
6:30 PM HS Choir/Graceful Ringers

Monday, February 28

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
5:30 PM Church Volleyball League
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Preschool Committee Meet.

Tuesday, March 1

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3 and 4 & 5
9:00 AM Sewing Circle
6:30 PM Evangelism Comm. Meeting
6:30 PM Spirituality Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 2

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
5:15 PM Prime Time Dinner
5:30 PM 2-Yr. Old Class/Cherubs
6:00 PM Band
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Festival Choir
7:00 PM Men's Basketball

Thursday, March 3

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
7:00 PM Worship & Music Comm. Meet.

Friday, March 4

9:00 AM Preschool 4 and 4 & 5
10:30 AM Adoration

Saturday, March 5

10:00 AM Grace Preschool Open House
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, March 6

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
12:00 PM Chili Fest/Potluck Lunch
12:30 PM Decoration Team
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
6:30 PM High School Choir
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers

Monday, March 7

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
12:30 PM Grace Circle
5:30 PM Church Volleyball League
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

Tuesday, March 8

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
7:15 PM Stewardship Comm. Meet.

Wednesday, March 9

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
9:30 AM MOPS
12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
12:30 PM Lenten Soup Lunch
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
5:15 PM Prime Time Dinner
5:30 PM 2-Yr. Old Class/Cherubs
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 PM Men's Basketball
8:00 PM Festival Choir
8:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 10

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3 and 4 & 5
5:00 PM Junior Girl Scout Troop 230
6:30 PM Sycamore Dist. Round Table
7:00 PM Exultation!

Friday, March 11

9:00 AM Preschool 4 and 4 & 5
10:30 AM Adoration

Saturday, March 12

5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

Senior Pastor

Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson
kgibson@gracewoodstock.org

Office Phone: 815-338-0554
Home Phone: 815-527-7215

Director of Communications

Lynn Nattress
lnattress@gracewoodstock.org

Director of Music Ministries

Ron Fredriksen
rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org

Parish Musicians

Terry Aavang, Jan Burns, Dale Carlson,
Larry Lagerhausen, Tammy Baier

Director of Preschool Ministry

Chris Learman
clearman@gracewoodstock.org

Preschool Teachers

Tammy Baier, Amy Flores,
Kelly Kordes, Nancy Kurcab
Director of Educational Ministries
Carrie Fiorina

cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org

Directors of Senior High Ministries

Jay and Deb Fuller
jfuller or dfuller@gracewoodstock.org

Director of Senior Ministries

Shirley Busse

Secretary/Denise Klabunde

dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org

Office Assistant/Carrie Fiorina

cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org

Wedding Coordinator Leader

Dee Brown

Building Supervisor/Ken Zank

Custodian/Kim Brink

Officers & Council

Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia; Cynthia DeBerg;
Brian Gerloff; Nan Goerlitz; Claude Hutchens;
Peter Paulson; Elizabeth Karagianis;
Joe Pienschke; Tim Stumpff; Chuck Varys
Youth Reps: J.D. Fuller - Rebecca Einspahr

council@gracewoodstock.org