



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

MARCH 23, 2011—APRIL 5, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 6

It is a wonder to me...by Pastor Ken Gibson

As we enter into the middle of our Lenten journey I remember a poem I wrote some time ago. It is a poem I penned once while in retreat. I thought it might speak to my fellow clergy but over time I wonder if it might speak to us all. In any case I so thank God for all of the Saints of Grace that allows me to faithfully be.

“It is a Wonder to me.”.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

It is a wonder to me, all that does get done.

With all this busyness, that claims our hurried days

Somehow we sometimes even seem to have fun

Yet still we do not dare, it seems, to change our hurried ways

Else we lose what we believe makes you and me

“Lots to do and not much time;” we say

“This is who I am, it is what I do” we claim

Amazingly we still are blessed with many a beautiful day,

In this identity we even at times flame

Days that bid us to stop and see along the way

The wonder of the gift so freely given to all

What is given to all that be?

Winter! Spring! Summer! Fall!

The Lord God gave us, a call.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHEON—After the Wednesday noon Lenten service all are welcome to join us in Grace Center for soup, bread & dessert. Upcoming soups include: March 30—Chicken Noodle, and April 6—Cream of Potato. A free will donation will be collected.

LOST AND FOUND—There are several items in the Education Foyer (downstairs) in the Lost and Found. Some things include; sweatshirts, snow pants, vest, hat, and jackets. All items not claimed by April 30th will be donated to the Rummage Sale held this May.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—Save the dates! VBS will be July 11—July 15. More details to come.



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, March 27, 2011 Third Sunday in Lent

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Sunday, April 3, 2011 Fourth Sunday in Lent

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

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), Laura Miller on a Mission Trip to Nicaragua (daughter of Beth and Mark Miller)

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

Health Concerns: Shirley Berna, Shirley Busse, Frank Davis (friend of Rick & Billie Cornell), Leona DeVogelaere, Patricia Dunn (friend of the Hoover Family), Anthony Enlow (friend of Kim May-Zelle), David Evanoff (brother of Joe Evanoff), Betty Fischer (mother of Connie Fischer), Donald Fylpaa (uncle of Stephane Fylpaa-Asher), Matt Gerloff (grandson of Bob Gerloff), Lauren Gibson (daughter of Pastor Ken and Jodi Gibson), Olga Grasser, Mary Guyett (sister of Doris Sunday), Paul Hain (friend of Julie Miller), Ruth Hemmingsen-Case (mother of Tammy Hansing), Frank Holy, Patrice Hoover, Shirley Hubert (niece of Marge Birk), Theopolis Hutchens, Ginger Knowles (daughter of Diane & Rich Knowles), Susie Maitke (neice of Diane Thurow), Evette Nagel (grandmother & great-grandmother of the Karner Family), Kathy Nordin, Gloria Ogle, Richard Petersen, Ann Phillips (sister-in-law of Cindy Meyer), 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), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Bud Schulz, Gladys Smart (mother of Deborrah Evanoff), Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Peter Stumpf (friend of the Cornells), Tim Slevin (brother of Elizabeth Karagianis), Alan Swanson (friend of Joe Evanoff), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Eileen White, Jack Wienke

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.

Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief—On March 11 an 8.9 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage and led to a devastating tsunami in Japan. ELCA Disaster Response is monitoring the situation and preparing this church's response, both internationally and domestically as needed. **Your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response, designated for the Pacific Earthquake & Tsunami, will be used entirely (100%) in response to this disaster.** Check or money orders may be sent to: ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300. Please write "Pacific Earthquake & Tsunami" on your check's memo line. You may also use a credit card by calling 800-638-3522. Visit elca.org for additional information.



Confirmation Camp—Mandatory Meeting—On April 3rd, after the second service at approx. 11:45 a.m. there will be a mandatory meeting for all camp participants and their parents. You should have received a packet of information which includes checklists, permission slips and health forms. Please bring all of these papers with you, as we will be discussing the details of them, and letting you know the exact deadlines when they will be due. Any questions, please contact Carrie Fiorina.

Preschool Visitors Invited—Grace Preschool enjoyed celebrating Lutheran Schools Week with Chapel time each morning and hearing Bible stories such as Jonah & The Whale and Moses. We also had some fun throughout the week with Crazy Hair Day & Pajama Day. Teachers encourage anyone interested in visiting our classroom to share a story with the children or to play some educational games. The preschoolers would love to share their school with you. During March the preschoolers are looking forward to a week of transportation and train fun & exploring the color yellow. In April we begin discussing Holy Week and the story of Easter. Please contact director Chris Learman with any questions at 338-0554.”

Preschool Registration Open—Registration is open at Grace Preschool for the 2011/2012 school year. We offer classes for children ages 2 through 5. Our variety of sessions offer 1 to 5 days, morning or afternoon. Enrollment packets are available at the preschool office for further details. Some classes are beginning to fill up quickly. Please contact director Chris Learman at 338-0554 x213 to schedule a visit or visit our website at www.gracewoodstock.org.

Woodstock Diaper Bank—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, 815-338-3380.

Study Group—The first Adult Education Study Group, to be facilitated by Jane Gerloff, will study the Lord's Prayer, using the book *Prayers of the Cosmos: Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus's Words* by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Together, we will explore what effect the author's insights can have on our own prayer life. The study group begins Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. For more info, including how to order the book, call Jane Gerloff, 815-338-1649.

Holy Week Worship Schedule—

Palm Sunday Weekend: April 16 & 17, 5:00 p.m. (Saturday),
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. (Sunday)

Maundy Thursday: April 21, Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: April 22, Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil: April 23, 7:00 p.m. (Saturday)

Easter Sunday: April 24, 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



Grace Gives \$40,000! - The Grace Endowment Committee, recently distributed \$40,000 to the following groups and organizations throughout the church, synod, community and world:

- Grace Preschool, Confirmation Youth and Pastor's Discretionary Account
- Consumer Credit Counseling of McHenry County
- Faith in Action
- Family Health Partnership Clinic
- Habitat for Humanity
- Woodstock Area Community Ministry
- Woodstock Food Pantry
- Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- ELCA Global Missionary Support
- Mount of Olives Housing Project

These grants, as well as scholarships, are made possible by gifts given to the church primarily through the generosity of members remembering Grace in their estate plans.

Grace is blessed with three different endowment funds, each with a specific purpose. The Allen Fund provides scholarships to members of the church attending a Lutheran college, while the Readell Fund is for individuals pursuing a full time Christian vocation. The Grace Mission Endowment Fund distributes monies in the form of grants to various ministries of the congregation, community, synod, and the world.

The Grace Lutheran Endowment Board of Trustees, better known as the Endowment Committee, recently confirmed its mission statement: "The mission of the Grace Lutheran Endowment Board of Trustees shall be to expand and enhance the mission outreach of Grace Lutheran Church through scholarships and grants beyond and apart from the programs, ministries and work of the congregation which are normally supported through regular offerings and pledges."

Ric Larson, chair of the committee that meets quarterly, feels especially privileged to serve with this group that has the honor of supporting members of the congregation, as well as community and broader ministries. The committee has a total of five members, each serving a five-year term on a rotational basis. Other members include Bill Kreznor (treasurer), Cindy Meyer (secretary), Sue Olson and Byron Peterson. Chuck Varys currently serves as the committee's Council liaison.

Scholarship applications are due each July 1st. In 2010, nine Allen scholarships and one Readell scholarship were awarded totaling over \$13,500. Grant applications to the Grace Mission Endowment Fund are due by October 1st. The committee reviews those applications in the fall, and then distributes the money after the close of the calendar year. The actual amount available for distribution is based on the year-end investment results for the fund. The committee tries to balance the awards across the four categories of congregation, community, synod and global ministries, with an emphasis on special projects.

Scholarship and grant application forms can be found on the church website.

Task Force Invite—The Property Stewardship Task Force, and Church Council, would like to invite you to a presentation by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) on affordable senior housing on April 10, 2011 at noon in the sanctuary. This hour long session is intended to provide information and allow time for questions and comments.

The Property Stewardship Task Force has been investigating and evaluating options for the use of Grace's property. The Task Force has been in conversation with a variety of agencies and most recently had an interesting meeting with representatives of LSSI. Please join us to learn more about LSSI and affordable senior housing.

Plant Sale—Announcing the 1st Annual Gracescape Community Garden Plant sale to be held on Saturday May 14 and Sunday May 15. The profits of this sale will help to benefit the Sky Ranch Confirmation Campers this year. So, gardeners as you plant this spring, start a few extra seedlings for the sale. If you divide plants this spring, pot your extras also. More details will follow. Any questions, please contact Jodi Gibson or Howard Hoyt.



First Communion—We will be holding First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 17th at the 8:30 a.m. service. First Communion is offered to all First Graders, and any older child or adult. In order to participate, children and parents must attend the preparation class-luncheon held on Saturday, April 16th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. (child care will be available) Please sign-up in the Activity Binder at the Information Desk by Wednesday, April 6th,



Grace Knitters—Our first meeting for MM 2011 will be on Tuesday, March 29 at 9:30am. If you are interested in making items for the bazaar that are knitted or crocheted, please join our group of creative artists! We have lots of lovely yarn and needles just waiting for the right project and artist. All are welcome! Call Judy Reilly for more information at 815 353-4638.

Wanted: Dramatic Readers—After a hiatus of a few years, we have decided to again present the extended Gospel Lesson assigned for Passion aka Palm Sunday weekend (April 16-17) as a dramatic reading. The reading will be presented at all three services that weekend. Readers can participate in one, two or all of the readings. There are large and small parts in the Matthew version. Participation will require two rehearsals; one for individual interpretation and one with the entire cast of nine readers. Individual rehearsals can be scheduled when mutually convenient for reader and director. Full rehearsal will be set when best for the entire team. Most likely times are on of these: Sunday, April 10 at noon; Monday or Thursday evening, April 11 or 14, following the soup lunch on Wednesday, April 13 or Saturday, late morning, April 16. Contact Ron Fredriksen @ rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org to indicate your interest. Also note interest in any particular part and the times above that you would be available for the group rehearsal.

We plan to have the cast selected in the next 7-10 days.

News Shorts...What's Happening At Grace

EASTER DECORATIONS—Plants to decorate our worship area for Easter Sunday can be sponsored for \$12.00 each. Order forms are available at the Information desk. The deadline for the \$12.00 donation is April 18.

SENIOR LUNCHEON—Tuesday, April 26th at noon. Once again we have Elmer Lange coming to entertain us with his accordion! Our menu is Herbed Baked Fish & Rice, Quick Fruit Salad, Rye Bread and Lusciously Lemon Cake for dessert. Cost is \$5. Please sign up in the activity Binder by April 24th.

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 - No class on March 27th due to Spring Break. Please come join us for coffee and stimulating conversation beginning again on April 3rd. We meet in the lower level at 9:45a.m. on Sunday mornings.

MEN'S BASKETBALL—Join us for some exercise and fun on Wednesday nights in Luther Hall at 7:45 PM.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the April 6th issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on March 31st.

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, March 27

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
6:30 PM HS Choir/Graceful Ringers

Monday, March 28

No Preschool—Spring Break
5:30 PM Church Volleyball League
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

Tuesday, March 29

No Preschool—Spring Break
9:30 AM Grace Knitters
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Women Praise

Wednesday, March 30

No Preschool—Spring Break
12:00 PM Lenten Noon Service
12:30 PM Lenten Soup Lunch
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Lenten Evening Service
7:30 PM Festival Choir
7:45 PM Men's Basketball
8:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 31

No Preschool—Spring Break
7:00 PM Exultation!

Friday, April 1

No Preschool—Spring Break
6:00 PM Band

Saturday, April 2

5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, April 3

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
11:45 AM Confirmation Camp Meeting
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
6:30 PM High School Choir
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers

Monday, April 4

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, April 5

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
9:00 AM Sewing Circle
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Evangelism Committee
6:30 PM Spirituality Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 6

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
12:00 PM Lenten Noon 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 Lenten Evening Service
7:30 PM Festival Choir
7:45 PM Men's Basketball
8:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 7

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
5:15 PM Exultation!
7:00 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Friday, April 8

9:00 AM Preschool 4, and 4 & 5
6:00 PM Band

Saturday, April 9

5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade

Sunday, April 10

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour/Fair Trade
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
12:00 PM LSSI Presentation
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
6:30 PM HS Choir/Graceful Ringers

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