

APRIL 20, 2011—MAY 3, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 8

Sayings We Know as Truth.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

In my youthful years as a child, I longed to be around my elders. I loved to listen to all of the interesting life sayings they would share, if you listened to them long enough. One of my favorite sayings, that I recall hearing almost every spring from the old farmers, was *“Don’t plant corn until the oak tree’s leaves are the size of a squirrel’s ear.”* Now the truth of that saying is known only through many years of experience. How many times do you suppose that some of our nations early farmers planted corn before the oak leaves were the “right size,” only to see the crop come up and be frosted off by Mother Nature? In reality, I can see how this saying works, for if we think about it, the oak tree is slow to “green up.” We witness each spring as the oak takes its cues from the warmth of the soil from whence it is drawing its nutrients, and we know that the oak tree’s roots run deep. It takes a while for the warmth of the earth to push that leaf to a size that resembles a squirrel’s ear, but eventually it does so, and once it does, it seems then that growth really starts to happen. It is as if nothing can stop the sturdiness of the oak and its desire to spring forth new growth and stand in defiance of wind, rain, and storms. It is as if the oak tree cannot be denied. So when we see this happening, we can be assured the corn seedling will also be secure in its attempt to generate new life.

So what about us? Where are we taking our “truth sayings” from these days? What saying each spring comes to your heart and mind as we contemplate the Easter event? How about; “He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!” Now to know this bold proclamation does not come to those who do not know Christ and Christ’s Church. This truth saying, it seems to me, comes to us only if we are deeply rooted in The Church having spent many a day deeply rooted in the soil of a congregation. Perhaps it comes by sitting on the sturdiness of an oak pew, hewn from the old oak trees grown for harvest. We must grow in the midst of such fertile soil, sitting there for many a year garnering and gleaning the wisdom and truth of the elders around us. Coming to know and experience, as **truth**, that on Easter Sunday a whole congregation will reply, with gusto, to a Pastor’s Ultimate Gospel Proclamation; **“CHRIST IS RISEN!”** with; **“CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!”** is a learned truth for all the ages.

So then, as this year’s ultimate truth event comes once again for our hearing and experiencing as a congregation rooted in Christ, I invite us all to bring a friend to share in this wonderful truth. Especially bring the children, the little seedlings if you will; for if we don’t, we risk them taking root in other soils and falling prey to “untruths” that fail to root them deep. Then we risk our most precious seeds being washed away in the rains, blown away by the winds, or ruined by life’s storms. What “truths” are we passing on to the ears that will listen? Try **“Christ Is Risen”** it has been cultivated for over two thousand years.

Holy Week Worship Schedule—

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.





WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, April 24, 2011 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

INTRODUCTION

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

READINGS

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, May 1, 2011 Second Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

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 military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Amanda Meyer teaching in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma), PVT Darryl Wolff, serving overseas (son of Debbie & Darryl Wolff), Bill Nattress on an extended work trip in Saudi Arabia

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), John Fylpaa (father 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), Ruth Haby (sister of Cindy DeBerg), Paul Hain (friend of Julie Miller), Frank Holy, Patrice Hoover, Shirley Hubert (niece of Marge Birk), Theopolis Hutchens, Ginger Knowles (daughter of Diane & Rich Knowles), Susie Maitke (niece of Diane Thurow), Evette Nagel (grandmother & great-grandmother of the Karner Family), Kathy Nordin, Gloria Ogle, Rev. Roger Olson (father of Terese Paulson), 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), Jeff Roberts, Floyd Rosenquist (father of Sue Beckman), Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), 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.

Come Pray With Us—The Spirituality Team would like to invite you to come pray with us during the Prayer Vigil, which will be held on **Good Friday, April 22**, from 8 AM until 8 PM in the parlor at church. Look for the sign-up sheet to make sure all our time slots are covered, but there can be many more than one person praying at one time. The congregation has had the opportunity to fill out the purple prayer request forms during the services, and these requests will be made available for everyone to pray for during the vigil. There will also be art supplies available in the parlor for other expressions of prayer. The Prayer Vigil is open to all ages. This would be a wonderful way to end our Lenten season. Won't you please consider spending some time in prayer at Grace?



Easter Egg Hunt—Girl Scout

Troop 1306 will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday **April 24**, 2011 from 10:00 am to 10:30 am. The hunt will take place on the church grounds. (or in the gym if the weather is bad) The cost is \$2.50 per child (small children need to bring adult to help them), and families are asked to sign-up in the binder located at the Information Center.



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. Many species of perennials, veggies and more will be available. Bring your friends and neighbors! Any questions, please contact Jodi Gibson or Howard Hoyt.

Easter Liturgical Dance—Haley Varys has again choreographed dances for several of our high school youth to present in this Sunday's Easter worship. "In the Fair Morning" will be danced by Elizabeth Acosta, Andi Learman and Haley Varys, to music sung by our combined High School and Chancel Choirs at 8:30. A solo dance "I Am" by Haley will be presented at the 10:45 am service to a solo sung by Nan Goerlitz. Based on their Christmas Eve offering, this is definitely one more reason to bring a friend to worship this week.

Spring Cleaning—The Spring Cleaning Task Force is asking the various areas of our church to come together **before or on Saturday, April 30th**, and give some attention to our downstairs back storage area. Our goal is that all shelves and storage spaces be reorganized and condensed so that we can gain the most out of our space and accommodate everyone utilizing this wonderful building. The task force will be available on **April 30th** to offer help. As you make decisions to eliminate items we have two resources (besides the dumpster) that will help. First, our annual rummage sale to be held in May or the Northern Illinois Synod website has a page in place that churches can post items they no longer need but other churches may be looking for. Please check out www.nisynod.org. Happy Spring Cleaning!!!

Chris Learman, Ken Zank & Carrie Fiorina—Spring Cleaning Task Force.

Rummage Sale—Are you a bargain hunter? If so, a great place to look for real bargains is the Grace Rummage Sale. We usually have a great variety and one might find just what he/she is looking for. The sale dates are **May 12, 13, and 14**. Acceptable donated items include clean clothing of all sizes, shoes/boots, bedding, towels, household items, dishes, pictures, books, toys, and appliances that are in working condition. Yard tools, bicycles and small pieces of furniture are good items as well. Items that we cannot accept are computers, printers, TVs, extra large furniture or appliances, paint or hazardous waste materials. Donations of items will be accepted in Luther Hall **May 9-11** from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Proceeds from the rummage sale will go to Family Health Partnership Clinic and to Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM). Would you be willing to help with this ministry of Sharing God's Grace? If so, please sign-up in the binder at the Information Center. If you have any questions, please contact Borgie Stenoien at 815-338-3735.



Council Report on LSSI Presentation—On Thursday, April 14, 2011, we (the Grace Lutheran Church council) voted unanimously to pursue further discussions with Lutheran Social Services on the possibility of selling to them a 3 to 5 acre parcel of land at the northeast corner of our property (the Tower property) for the purpose of building a facility for affordable housing for senior citizens. Our Property Task Force, led by Frank Bunch, has been exploring different options for the long term development of our property, keeping in mind suggestions from the cottage meetings two years ago, and our mission. One of these options, high on the priority list, was the possibility of developing housing for senior citizens. In March, the Task Force contacted Lutheran Social Services to discuss whether there could be an option for a partnership with LSSI in the development of this type of housing. This contact occurred at the same time that LSSI had just learned that a building site in McHenry, IL for one of their projects for 60 affordable senior housing apartments was unsuitable. LSSI needed to find a replacement location as quickly as possible. LSSI has a \$9 Million HUD grant to build 60 affordable senior apartments in McHenry County, and they need to have their project “shovel ready” by next February, 2012. Thus their need for a replacement site and our desire to further our mission with a suitable long term use of our property may be closely aligned. Representatives of LSSI were at our church on April 10 and hosted a discussion on this potential project, which approximately 50 members were able to attend. DVD recordings of the LSSI presentation from April 10 are available in the church office if you missed the presentation and would like to see it.

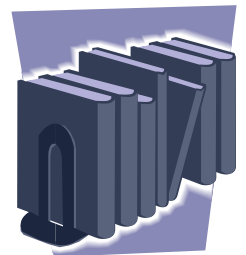
We believe using this property as a way to facilitate development of affordable senior housing would fill a need in our community, and be consistent with our Christian mission in the world. We know that there are many steps that are needed within a quick timeline for this project to happen; as yet there are many unanswered questions from the council and the congregation about the details of such a project; that this kind of project should be done as an integrated piece of our entire potential property development and use; and that its approval will rest with the congregation, not the council alone. Nonetheless, we also believe this may represent a truly unique opportunity to advance our mission and we should fully examine the options this may present to us.

In the next few weeks we will get some more specific answers to many of our questions from LSSI, and we will have several opportunities to share them with the congregation. Claude Hutchens is our council contact person with LSSI. Feel free to talk to Claude or any other member of council with your ideas, questions, and suggestions, and watch for more information and updates.

Grace Lutheran Church Council -- Mary Beth Martin Bellavia, Cindy DeBerg, Brian Gerloff, Nan Goerlitz, Claude Hutchens, Elizabeth Karagianis, Pete Paulson, Joe Pienschke, Tim Stumpff, Chuck Varys

Visit Grace Library—The church library is open whenever the building is open.

Members are welcome to come in and browse. New on the shelf -- We now have a selection of books with great ideas and helpful instruction for anyone interested in knitting or other crafts. The books are located along the right wall as you enter the library, below the magazines. Look for the pink shelf marker and the Grace Knitters shelf label. A sign-out sheet for the books is located on top of the book case. Questions? Call Marylee Steinwehe, 815-338-7323.



Campbell's Soup Labels —Grace Preschool would like to thank everyone who has saved Campbell's Soup Labels. We have earned over 4,000 points and will be able to choose some free equipment and/or learning materials for next school year. Please continue to save Labels for Education from such products as: Campbell's and Select Harvest soups, Pepperidge Farm and V8 products. A complete list of products is available on the preschool news bulletin board. (Unfortunately, we do not qualify for the Box Tops for Education program, so we are not collecting those.) Thank you!!

Grace Scholarship Funds—The Endowment Committee at Grace Lutheran

Church is responsible for administering the Readel Memorial Scholarship Fund and Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund. Both of these scholarships are for post high school education. The Readel Memorial Scholarship Fund is available to students pursuing a full-time Christian vocation. The Allen Memorial Scholarship is for students attending an accredited Lutheran institution. These funds are for active members of Grace Lutheran Church who are in good standing. The money awarded each year depends on the amount available and the number of students applying for scholarships. Monies are to be paid directly to the institution and not to the student or parents.



Applications are available in the Church Office or on the Grace website in the *File Cabinet* under *Resources*. Scholarship applications for both the Readel and Allen funds are due into the Grace Lutheran Church Office by **July 1, 2010**. All scholarship applications are reviewed by the Endowment Committee and voted on during the quarterly meeting in July; payments are made in August.

Tour the Holy Land—You are invited to join Shepherd of The Prairie Lutheran Church, Huntley, IL on a trip to the Holy Land October 24th to November 2nd, 2011. The trip will be led by Pastor Mark Boster, with Chuck and Sharon Little handling all of the organizational details. This is a 10 day, fully escorted tour with all lodging, meals, and transportation included. The cost of this trip is \$3,298.00 (Optional trip insurance and tips not included). An optional 6 day pre-trip to Jordan, and an optional 7 day post-trip to Egypt are available. Chuck and Sharon Little, former members of Grace, will be at the adult forum on Sunday, **May 1, 2011** to make a presentation about this trip and share some of their experiences of their 2007 Holy Land trip. Please contact Chuck & Sharon Little at (847) 961-6172 or chuck@ntt.biz or sharon@ntt.biz, if you have questions or wish additional information.

News Shorts...What's Happening At Grace

LOST AND FOUND—There are several items in the Education Foyer (downstairs) in the Lost and Found. All items not claimed by **April 30th** will be donated to the Rummage Sale held this May.

DIAPER BANK—The Vine Ministry Center will take applications on **April 26th**, for diapers to be distributed on May 9th. This is for both infant and adult diapers. For more info. call the Vine Ministry Center at 815-338-3380.

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.

GRACE KNITTERS—Come join us on Tuesday, **May 10th** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. No experience? No problem, we can teach you. All are welcome! Many projects to work on for MMagic. Call Judy Reilly for info. 353-4638.

MISTLETOE MAGIC SESSIONS— On **May 10th**, from 8:30 a.m. -9:30 a.m. in the parlor, there will be a planning and brainstorming session for woodworkers. On **May 12th** and **May 19th**, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in Grace Center, there will be a workshop for general craft projects. Sign-up in the binder at the Information Center, and contact Cathy Meyer for further information at 815-338-0512, or tcmeier2@sbcglobal.net.

ADULT CAFÉ - Please come join us for uplifting conversation on Sunday mornings at 9:45a.m. in the lower level.

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 May 4th issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on April 28th.

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, April 24

No Sunday School Classes
7:00 AM Sunrise Easter Service
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, April 25

Church Office Closed—No Preschool
5:30 PM Church Volleyball League
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Preschool Committee Meet.

Tuesday, April 26

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon
5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 1306 Meet.
7:00 PM Women's Praise

Wednesday, April 27

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
5:30 PM Cherub Choir
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Chancel Choir
7:00 PM Men's Basketball

Thursday, April 28

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
1:00 PM Naomi Circle
5:00 PM Junior Girl Scout Troop 230
7:00 PM Committee Chair Meeting
7:00 PM Exultation!

Friday, April 29

9:00 AM Preschool 4, and 4 & 5

Saturday, April 30

5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, May 1

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, May 2

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

Tuesday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 4

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Chancel Choir
7:00 PM Men's Basketball

Thursday, May 5

9:00 AM Preschool Mother's Day Tea
9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
5:00 PM Junior Girl Scout Troop 230
7:00 PM Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.

Friday, May 6

9:00 AM Preschool Mother's Day Tea
9:00 AM Preschool 4, and 4 & 5

Saturday, May 7

5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade

Sunday, May 8

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fair Trade
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, May 9

8:00 AM Rummage Sale Set-up
9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Property & Grounds Comm.
7:15 PM Social Ministry Team

Tuesday, May 10

8:00 AM Rummage Sale Set-up
9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
7:15 PM Stewardship Committee

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