

MAY 18, 2011—MAY 31, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 10

Living life Together..... by Pastor Ken Gibson

Well, I sit here at my computer on Thursday May 12th and it is a special day in that it is my brother Larry's birthday today; and in a couple of days, on May 14th I will have the pleasure of presiding at my niece's wedding. It will be a grand time. I so look forward to being with my family over the next couple of days. My younger brother Joe will be at the wedding, as well as all of the Gibson descendants. It is really very nice to have the chance to celebrate together, as it has been a tough past few years for us. We have had several losses in what really is a very short period of time. These losses began with the loss of our father in the fall of 2007, the loss of our mother three and a half months later in the start of 2008 and the loss of our dear sister Terry last year in 2010. Yet, through it all, we have found a way to remember the life we have shared together as children and for all of it we give thanks together; we live, laugh and cry together. I know that for me the only way to have been able to come through it all, is in fact, by knowing that we have done it all "together".

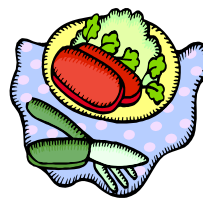
Such is the way it is for family, and I believe such is the way it is for us as a church family at Grace. We live life "together". We choose to be as sisters and brothers, just as Christ chose us, with all our humanness, laughing, crying, living and yes, even dying; "together". As members of a faith community we say, through our mutually shared moments, that we are together through all that life brings. In our second service we share in the creed, (as we do all services) but in this creed we boldly profess that we believe in the Church, a community of **Easter** people called to caring and sharing, seeking and finding, loving and laughing - life beyond dying. This is life together and this is what we commit to each week and in *this commitment* that we come to find Christ. We become the community of saints; living *life together* - not apart. There is far too much "apart-ness" as it is in our world today. I for one, give thanks to God for our togetherness and I know that in Christ's love we shall never be apart. Thanks be to God, Amen.



Lord's Prayer Study Group—

There is still space available in the Lord's Prayer Study Group. Even if you missed our first

meeting, you can still join. The remaining meetings will be Saturdays **May 21, June 11, and July 16**, at 10:30 a.m. in the church Parlor. You can order the book from ReadBetween the Lynes in Woodstock (815-206-5967) or you can read the one in our church library. Contact Jane Gerloff at 815-338-1649 or janegerloff@yahoo.com to get the next assignment.



Senior Luncheon—

Tuesday, **May 24th** at noon. "A Lost Adolescence: Surviving the Blitz" This is Joy Aavang's latest book. Come and enjoy as she recounts her experiences as a child in England during Germany's attacks.

Our menu is Crunchy Chicken Tenders with Herb-Buttermilk Dressing, Fresh Vegetables, Pasta Wheels with Cheese and Dirt Cake for dessert. Cost is \$5.

Please sign up in the activity Binder by **May 22nd**.



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, May 22, 2011 Fifth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

READINGS

Acts 7:55–60
Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
1 Peter 2:2–10
John 14:1–14

Sunday, May 29, 2011 Sixth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

READINGS

Acts 17:22–31
Psalm 66:8–20
1 Peter 3:13–22
John 14:15–21

PRAYERS—Please lift up these petitions in your prayers—To become a praying member of Friends in Prayer, please submit 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), Tyler Stiemke, serving in the Navy, 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, Steve Clark (son of Edna Clark), Howard Cox (grandfather of Angie Ribbe), Frank Davis (friend of Rick & Billie Cornell), Leona DeVogelaere, David Evanoff (brother of Joe Evanoff), Betty Fischer (mother of Connie Fischer), Jean Fleck (mother of Bill & Martha Fleck), 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), Jeff Moritz (friend of Bill & Lynn Nattress), 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), Kyle Renner (grandson of Ken and Gladys Renner), 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), Doris Sunday, Alan Swanson (friend of Joe Evanoff), Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Eileen White, Jack Wienke

Sorrow: Robert Shanahan (uncle of Kim Stone)

Joy: Baptism of Caden Jameson Medley

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.



Habitat for Humanity

of McHenry County has announced that another Thrivent Builds project will begin in our area this summer. This is an opportunity for Lutherans to work together with a low-income family to make the goal of home ownership attainable for the family. The house will be built in Marengo in the Brookside Meadows subdivision. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for **May 21** at 2 p.m., and construction will start June 4. Volunteers from Grace will be needed on Saturday, **June 11**. There are two ways to help: 1) Join the construction crew. Construction experience is not required, but volunteers must be at least 18 years old (16- and 17-year-olds may work if a parent is present) 2) Donate sandwiches, side dishes, or other items for the workers' lunch.

Please sign up at the Information Center or contact Kristin Thurow (815-337-8214, ekthurow@owc.net). For more information about Habitat for Humanity, visit www.habitatmchenry.org (click on "Our Projects" to see progress and a map for the Marengo house).

For more in depth information on Thrivent Builds, and this HFH build, you are also invited to attend a gathering on Saturday morning, **May 21**. The meeting will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 412 Jackson St. in the Multipurpose Room, Marengo. The meeting will be approx. 9:00 am - 10:30 a.m. Any questions, please contact Kimberly L Spayer, Lutheran Engagement Consultant, Office: 630-200-8934, Email: kimberly.spayer@thrivent.com.



Second Blood Drive of 2011

– Did you miss your chance to help others by donating blood in February? You now have another opportunity to participate in Grace's second blood drive on Sunday, **May 22nd** from 7:30 a.m. to noon. To the 23 Grace Lutheran Church members who gave the gift of life in February, a big **Thanks!** Your gift of one pint of blood can save up to three lives; and because someone needs blood every two seconds in the U.S. and Canada, only you and other healthy adults who are at least 17 years old and at least 110 pounds can donate this gift of life. Become a new Grace donor along with the already 23 successful Grace Member donors on **May 22nd**. Call Pam Roberts at 847.659.1569 to schedule your appointment or sign up on the Activity Board in the narthex.



Adult Café

—Please join us for the last Adult Form of the season. On **May 22**, Howard Hoyt will be presenting on the United Church of Christ. Our next Adult Café after that will be in the fall, unless we have a special event. Please join us on this last Sunday for uplifting discussions and fellowship. We meet in the lower level at 9:45 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Calling All Graduates

—If you are graduating from High School, MCC, or another institution of higher learning, and would like to process with your fellow Grace graduates, please make plans to be a part of our special 8:30 service on **May 22**. On that day, all graduates will gather in the parlor at 8:10 a.m. to line-up and march in triumphantly. Congratulations to all of our graduates this Spring!



Mistletoe Magic Workshop

GENERAL CRAFTERS: Join us on Thurs., **May 19** and **June 16** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Grace Center for a craft workshop filled with fun and fellowship. We provide all materials and ideas, or bring your ideas and samples that you would like to share with us. Come for whatever time you are able. Contact Cathy Meyer at 338-0512 for more info. or see the MMagic sign up book at the Information Center.

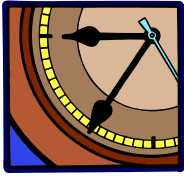


Grace Knitters

—Come join us on Tuesday, **June 23rd** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. No experience? No problem, we can teach you. An expert? Have we got the yarn for you!

All are welcome! Many projects to work on for MMagic. Call Judy Reilly for info. 353-4638, or e-mail at jreilly038@gmail.com.

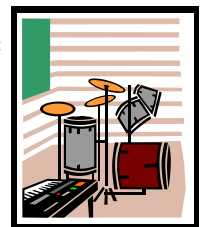
Bible Study Opportunity—Women of the ELCA are invited to attend Wartburg Theological Seminary’s annual Bible Study Seminar. This year’s topic is “To Lead and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark.” It will be Monday, **May 23** to Tuesday **May 24** at the Wartburg campus in Dubuque, Iowa. The Rev. Dr. Patricia Lull will be the speaker. She has designed the seminar for experienced and novice readers of the Bible, challenging us to read Mark’s gospel as an invitation to discipleship. See the Wartburg Seminary website (www.wartburgseminary.edu) for registration and housing information.




Late Service Time Change—Beginning **Memorial Day** weekend through Labor Day weekend, the late service will begin at **10:00 a.m.** instead of the usual 10:45 a.m. Don’t be late, be sure to reset your alarm clocks!

Outdoor Worship Season—Although the weather may not be indicating it, we are heading into summer, and the start of our outdoor worship season. The 2nd Sunday of each month, **June through September**, the **10:00 a.m.** service will be in our outdoor worship area; in the sun, and under the wonderful canopy of trees. Plan to bring your blankets and folding chairs, and join us for these special shorts and sandals services.

Outdoor Worship Help Needed—To make our outdoor service run smoothly, we are looking for several people to help set-up equipment from 7:45 a.m. - 8:25 a.m. and take-down equipment for about 30 minutes after these services. No experience is necessary. Please add your name to the list in the binder at the Information Center by **May 21** or contact Sue Olsen if you can help with any or all of these special worship services.



 **VBS Decorating Committee**—
Pandamania VBS is right around the corner, and we are looking for a few artistic/crafty individuals to help with backdrops and props. This is the perfect opportunity for anyone that would like to lend a hand behind the scenes. The backdrop and props really set the stage for all that the children learn and make VBS come alive right before their eyes. High School or College students this is a unique way in which you can contribute. The decorating committee needs to get started right away, so don’t delay, sign-up today! VBS is an experience that everyone should see and be involved with. Contact Carrie Fiorina at cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org or call the church office for more information or to volunteer. VBS dates are **July 11—July 15.**



High School Youth *Leadership Lab*—
Leadership Lab is designed to assist youth, and youth leaders in acquiring skills that will be useful in youth ministry settings as well as in their local communities and throughout the world. Leadership Lab is an intense week of study, worship, and building relationships. The participants spend each day in small and large group gatherings, planning, learning, prayer, and discovering where they are in their faith journey.

This unique experience is open to adults, and youth who have completed 8th grade. The Lab takes place **July 18—23** at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. Registration is due by **June 15th**. Prayerfully consider this alternate opportunity to the High School Mission Trip. Please contact the church office for additional information.

“Share the Bounty” is Back! -
Each weekend throughout Spring/Summer/Fall, there will be a “Share the Bounty” table in the church courtyard. If you have extra plants or produce to share with your Grace family please place your items on the table. If you can use any of the items, please feel welcome to take them home. It’s all about “Sharing” God’s Grace.



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**.

Preschool Playground News —As we begin to spend time outside enjoying the nice weather, Grace Preschool asks for your help in taking care of our playground. Please remember that our playground is designed for children 8 years old and under. Adult supervision is required. As part of our licensing requirements we are required to keep the playground clean of garbage or toys that may be unsafe. After enjoying the sandbox the lid **MUST** be replaced before leaving the area. We are excited to announce an addition to the playground designed especially for 2 year old children and under. Please help us to maintain those age limits. 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.



2011 Synod Assembly In-Kind Offering benefiting LSSI's Storybook Project—The Storybook Project of the Prisoner and Family Ministry program helps parents who are incarcerated remain connected to their children. Volunteers record parents reading books, then the books and recordings are sent to the child. Supplies collected will be used by volunteers and participants at the Dixon Correctional Center. **Items to be collected:**

- New paperback books for children aged infant to 15 years.
- Blank CDs (CD-R)
- Envelopes in several sizes (6-1/2" x 9-1/2"; 7-1/2" x 10-1/2"; and 9" x 12")
- Plastic sleeves used to package CDs

Bring to church no later than **June 16** so we can take the items to the Synod Assembly on June 18. For more information on the Storybook Project go to the LSSI webpage at www.lssi.org. Please contact the church office with any questions.

The In-Kind Offering is sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod Social Ministry Committee.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the June 1st issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on May 26th.

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, May 22

7:30 AM Blood Drive
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Adult Café
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference

Monday, May 23

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

Tuesday, May 24

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon
7:00 PM Women Praise

Wednesday, May 25

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4 and 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting

Thursday, May 26

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, and 4 & 5
1:00 PM Naomi Circle
1:30 PM Food Pantry Mtg.
6:30 PM Grace Preschool—
End of Year Celebration

7:00 PM Exultation!

Friday, May 27

9:00 AM Preschool 4, and 4 & 5
11:00 AM Grace Preschool—
End of Year Picnic

Saturday, May 28

5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, May 29

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 31

No Scheduled Activities

Wednesday, June 1

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, June 2

5:15 PM Exultation!
7:00 PM Women Praise

Friday, June 3

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, June 4

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, June 5

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, June 6

12:30 PM Grace Circle
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Preschool Committee Mtg.
7:00 PM WACM Meeting

Tuesday, June 7

9:00 AM Sewing Circle
6:30 PM Evangelism Committee
6:30 PM Spirituality Team Meeting

Wednesday, June 8

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, June 9

6:30 PM Boy Scouts Round Table
7:00 PM Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.

Friday, June 10

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, June 11

9:00 AM Band
10:30 AM Lord's Prayer Study Group
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade

Sunday, June 12

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fair Trade
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship

Monday, June 13

6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Property & Grounds Comm.
7:15 PM Social Ministry Team

Tuesday, June 14

7:15 PM Stewardship Committee

Wednesday, June 15

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

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