

JULY 27, 2011—AUGUST 9, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 15

Late Summer... by Rev. Ken Gibson

Many years ago I penned the poem below. It came to my mind as all this past week we experienced so much humidity. The inspiration for this poem came as I was doing what I loved to do this time of year and that is “road farming”. Road farming is where I drive down the road assessing the potential crop that is growing in the fields. This inspiration also came to me in a time in my life when both our daughters were about to head off to college leaving Jodi and I alone as “empty nesters”.

Recently our Grace Endowment Committee met and was pleased to find some 11 of our youth qualifying for the Allen Scholarship. The Allen Scholarship assists students who are choosing to attend a Lutheran School of higher learning. How exciting for those students and for the Church to assist them in their educational pursuits within the church. I think also of the parents of all our students who will be going off to school this fall and realize that when we let them go it is a hard time but an inspirational time of longing hope as well. I pray this poem speaks to you as it has to me.

Late Summer

Nothing much to do these days
 Crops are growing steadily in the humid haze.
 This is a time when all is done,
 that can be done.
 No more cultivation,
 no more weed control.
 The crop is out of our hands now.
 Nothing much to do but be still and wait.
 Perhaps this time is meant to be;

To cause us to realize there is only
 so much we can do, you and I.
 Just wait and see.
 This is a time for thinking and waiting.
 What will the harvest be?
 A time for realizing it is not just up to me
 But rather mostly trust in Thee
 Oh how I wonder,
 What will the harvest be?



Micah 6:8...by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

It seems that on nearly every “mission trip” I have participated in as a child, college student, chaperone, and now as a pastor, I have heard and prayed Micah 6:8. Elsewhere in the Bible, we hear from the prophet Amos of justice rolling down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. From Jesus we are sent forth to care for the least, feeding the hungry and thirsty, clothing the naked, and looking after the sick. It’s not that there is a shortage of scripture pertaining to justice, mercy, compassion, and living as God calls us, it’s just that these words from Micah stick for some reason. “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (continued on Page 3)



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, July 31, 2011 Lectionary 18 Proper 13 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 7, 2011 Lectionary 19 Proper 14 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the Eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

READINGS

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

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 Hanson, Bishop Wollersheim; those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Sgt. Scott Bunch, serving overseas (son of Frank & Joan Bunch), Tyler Stiemke, serving in the Navy on the USS Bush

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

Health Concerns: Laura Boal, Deanna Bohn, Dee Brown, Shirley Busse, Steve Clark (son of Edna Clark), Frank Davis (friend of Rick & Billie Cornell), Roberta Deitchler (mother of Katie Arana), Betty Fischer (mother of Connie Fischer), Matt Gerloff (grandson of Bob Gerloff), Lauren Gibson (daughter of Pastor Ken and Jodi Gibson), Mary Guyett (sister of Doris Sunday), Ruth Haby (sister of Cindy DeBerg), Darrin Hansing (nephew of Ken & Tammy Hansing), Frank Holy, Patrice Hoover, Shirley Hubert (niece of Marge Birk), Theopolis Hutchens, Dwight Jensen, Merry Miller (friend of Ruth Iwanicki), Kathy Nordin, Gloria Ogle, Rev. Roger Olson (father of Terese Paulson), Alice Pate, 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), Russ Reed, Kyle Renner (grandson of Ken and Gladys Renner), Jeff Roberts, Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Rob Shook (son of Bob & Joyce Shook), Gladys Smart (mother of Deborrah Evanoff), Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Kim Stone, Tom Stone (brother Kathy Stone), 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, Lois Wiecek, Richard Young (nephew of Marge Birk)

Joys: Baptisms of Leslie Kathleen Warmbier, Teagen Kathleen Warmbier, Jackson Branum, Brayden David Christensen and Elena Victoria Ayala; birth of David Lawrence Ackerman to Aaron & Michelle Ackerman; marriage of Steven Prorok and Laura Frisbie

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.

Micah 6:8 ...by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom (continued from Page 1)

As I traveled with the high school youth group and leaders to Grand Rapids, Michigan, we again reflected on these verses, and even saw them tattooed in Hebrew across one of our host's forearms. What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. These seemingly simple responses can be both our inspiration and challenge each day. How do we live out each component, in balance and harmony with one another? As I joined this faithful group from Grace, our eyes and ears were opened to surprising sights and stories, and together we tried living into these well-referenced words. I am thankful for an awesome trip, and am looking forward to a great year ahead spending time with our high school youth. Thank you for your prayers as we traveled and I pray you may hear these words from Micah anew today, whether you too have heard them on a mission trip before, or whether you are hearing them for the first time today.

Joplin Tornado Assistance—

As we look for the best way to facilitate the needs of the teachers in Joplin MO in partnership with two ELCA Lutheran Churches in that area, it seems best that we try and be a supplier of monetary gifts. With shipping of items down to the area it would be the best use of our resources if we try and raise funds to assist with this project and not try and accumulate items. Gifts can be given to Grace Lutheran Church and we will send one gift down there on behalf of our collective generosity. They have assigned us two class rooms: Debbie Stanton a 4th grade teacher and Maggie Adams a 5th grade teacher. Both are so very thankful for our support. Please make your gift check out to Grace and place on the memo Joplin Tornado Fund for Teachers. It seems that each classroom needs about \$900.00 worth of items and much of it is special order. I do thank you for our collective efforts in this area. Thank you so much. - Pastor Ken (Watch the "Teacher's Tornado" on the Activity Board to see how quickly we are re-stocking the classrooms.)



Readers Needed! -

Scripture readings are given at every service at Grace, so therefore the needs are great. Readers are scheduled on a rotating basis.

You can choose which service and switch with others as needed. As of now, the rotations to read at 8:30 and 10:45 are about once every couple of months but 5pm on Saturdays has the greatest need for additional readers as we have only a few people to read at this service. Will you consider becoming a reader or re-joining this service opportunity?

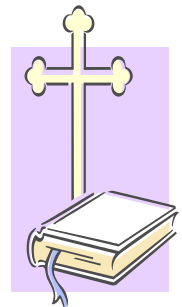
Contact Sheri Conover at flutemomma@foxvalley.net.



Confirmation Begins Next Month—

Parents of students going into 7th and 8th grade this year should mark their calendars and save the dates:

Confirmation Parent Meeting—Weds., **Aug. 24** at 6:30 PM; First Confirmation Class for Students—Weds., **Aug. 31** at 6:00 PM. Look for information to come in the mail.



Rally Day Opportunity—

Musicians and singers - the Worship and Music Committee is planning an open mic opportunity on Rally Day, **Sept. 11**. Anyone who plays an instrument or sings is invited to provide music to accompany the Rally Day activities. More information to follow.



PandaMania VBS -

A big THANK YOU to everyone that helped out, what a blessing you all are to Grace. We had a great week serving 115 kids with the help of 55 volunteers. What a great way to spread the word, while

working together no matter the age. Thank You... Thank You... Thank You!!!—Carrie Fiorina



Stewardship Workshop Opportunity —A “Celebrate Generosity”

Stewardship Ministry Workshop will be held on Sat., **August 27**, at Faith Lutheran Church in Rochelle. Dr. Eugene Grimm, author of "Generous People", will lead this workshop. The event will be a wonderful opportunity to learn from one of the premier stewardship leaders in our church. The workshop will focus on theological as well as practical element in stewardship ministry. For details/registration by **Aug. 10**, contact the office.

Evangelism Committee Neighborhood Canvassing—

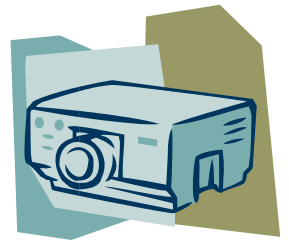


Sat. Aug. 20, we will be walking Woodstock neighborhoods hanging Grace Lutheran Church information bags on doorknobs. We need many walkers, and this is a great family activity. We also need people to fill the sanctuary with prayers during our walk. We begin at 9:00 a.m., and usually finish in just a couple of hours. Sign-up for praying and walking on the Activity Board **TODAY!!**



Projectionist Wanted—

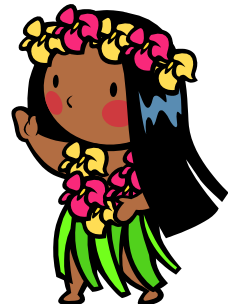
Our thanks to Sonja Hutchens who this weekend will be running projection for the last time on the regular projection schedule as she moves on to college. She has served regularly as projectionist for our 10 am service on a monthly basis for three years. That may mean she has gotten well over 2500 slides on the screen exactly when needed and like all on our projection team, has gone through the growing pains that have led to our use of the current projection equipment. We are now looking for additional people to place into the contemporary service projection rotation. Anyone interested can contact a pastor or Ron Fredriksen, director of music ministry. The need is either monthly, 5th weeks or as back-up projectionists. The most important attributes are dependability and "focus"!



New Member Orientation Breakfast—It is time for a new member get together! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on **Sept. 10** at 10:00 a.m. in Grace Center. We will be having juice, coffee and some homemade goodies. Those that would like to become members of Grace or get more information on what it means to be a member of the family here at Grace, please sign up at the Welcome Center in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.



Rally Day Luau!! - Mark your calendars for **Sept 11** and get ready for a LUAU! This year's Rally Day theme will be centered around the fellowship and grace associated with the Hawaiian tradition of a Luau. Yes, we will be roasting a pig! So make plans now to create your favorite Hawaiian dish to pass. Yum Pineapple! All committees and groups are encouraged to develop activities to present throughout the festival. We will even be worshipping outside prior to the big event complete with Hawaiian music! Grab your Ukulele!





Adult Coach Bus Trip—Sat., **September 24** from 9:00am - 6:00pm. We're off to the Fireside Dinner Theatre in Ft Atkinson, WI, for a three course dinner and to see the musical Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. You'll laugh & cheer at this time honored tale of seven boisterous unruly mountain men who go to hilarious lengths to find and marry women of their dreams. Our dinner includes: Wedding Soup, Short-Ribs of Beef braised in Red Wine, Chicken Breast breaded and sautéed, topped with leeks and Jarisberg Swiss Cheese, Baked Yukon Gold Potatoes, Sugar Snap Peas, and Spaghetti Squash with Plum Tomato Concasse. Our dessert is Upside Down Apple Pie in a Walnut Crust with Cinnamon Ice Cream. Cost: \$80 Please sign up in the Activity Binder and pay by **Aug. 20**.

AFS Thank You —I'm writing to thank you and your church for so graciously allowing us to use your facility for the last few years, at the end of June, to say our farewell to the amazing group of AFS exchange students that we host in northern Illinois each year. It is donations like yours that make it possible for the volunteers of AFS to offer a rewarding program to these students.

This time of year we are seeking families who would like information on welcoming an AFS exchange student, who arrive in August, into their home. What better way is there to learn about a different faith than our own, than to live with a family of a different religion. Schools around Woodstock still will accept students and we have 15 yet to place!

This program was started by volunteer ambulance drivers after WWII in the hopes of promoting world peace. You can learn more about AFS and its mission at www.afsusa.org. There are some very interesting short videos about hosting and the YES scholarships that were started after 9-11. We have several students on this scholarship. Host families are needed all over northern Illinois. Please take a minute to look at our website and see what this volunteer organization is doing and consider if you might be able to help.

Thank you very much,

Robbin Lang
AFS Northern Illinois
Volunteer Hosting Coordinator
630-879-3851 Home
robbinlang@ameritech.net



Outdoor Worship Help Needed—We are still looking for people to help set-up and take-down equipment for the 10:00 a.m. outdoor worship services. These services take place the second Sunday of each month. Please consider helping with this popular worship opportunity and contact Sue Olsen if you can lend a hand.

Grace Softball League—Our next game day is Sunday **July 31**. We will be playing at St. John's Lutheran—Woodstock. Game time is 5 p.m. Come out and play on the team or cheer us on from the sidelines! **Aug 7**, we play against St. John's Lutheran—Union.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the August 10th issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on August 4th.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

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

THE WEEKS AHEAD AT GRACE

Saturday, July 30

Sky Ranch Confirmation Camp

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, July 31

Sky Ranch Confirmation Camp

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference

Monday, August 1

12:30 PM Grace Circle
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153

Tuesday, August 2

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

Wednesday, August 3

9:30 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Exultation!

Thursday, August 4

5:00pm Adult Ed. Comm.
7:00 PM Worship & Music Comm.

Friday, August 5

5:00 PM Roberts/Richard Rehearsal

Saturday, August 6

9:00 AM Band
11:00 AM Roberts/Richard Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, August 7

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

Monday, August 8

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

Tuesday, August 9

9:00 AM Grace Knitters
1:00 PM MM Workshop
7:00 PM MM Workshop
7:15 PM Stewardship Comm. Mtg.

Wednesday, August 10

No Activities Scheduled

Thursday, August 11

6:30 PM Sycamore Dist. Rd. Table
7:00 PM Confirm. Ldr. Huddle Mtg.

Friday, August 12

No Activities Scheduled

Saturday, August 13

10:00 AM Preschool Open House
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade

Sunday, August 14

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

Monday, August 15

9:30 AM MM Crafts
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Faith Circle

Tuesday, August 16

9:00 AM Sewing Circle
6:30 PM Troop 153 Comm. Mtg.

Wednesday, August 17

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, August 18

5:45 PM Adult Education Comm.
7:00 PM Council

Friday, August 19

No Activities Scheduled

Saturday, August 20

9:00 AM Evangelism Canvassing
5:00 PM Worship

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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