

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011—OCTOBER 4, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 19

## “Mahalo Nui Loa”.....”Thank You” ...by Pastor Ken Gibson

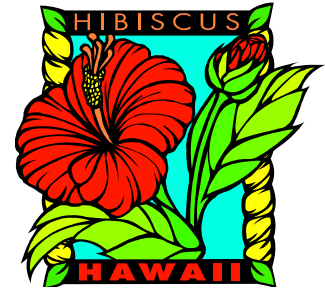
The above Hawaiian term when translated means what needs to be said to so many at Grace Lutheran Church... Thank You! In just being quick, I have heard the phrase shortened to “Mahalo”. I want to extend some “Mahalo’s” to so many who volunteer to make the ministries of Grace so very special.

I wish to extend; “Mahalo” to all the volunteers, from the committees who had booths, to the youth and adults who shared their talents, to the many who brought a dish to pass, to those who helped set up and tear down, to those who helped stoke the fires and heat the stones well into the early morning hours, to the many hundreds who came and shared in an absolutely wonderful Rally Day Luau, “Mahalo” indeed.

I extend a special “MAHALO UNI LOA” to Stephan, Gwenn and Leiana Haanio for the work that they put forth in being the hosts for this year’s Rally Day Event here at Grace. Wow what a day! From perfect weather to fantastic fellowship we were blessed. What a wonderful way to kick off this year’s Grace Ministry activities.

There are at this time some more “Mahalo’s” that need to be extended. As you read this, most of us will have already noted the new tables and chairs now in the narthex placed there by the Evangelism Committee to serve as the center of our transitional fellowship space in what we are calling the Grace Café. The making of these wonderful additions were made possible through the volunteer efforts of Paul Meyer and his woods class at Harvard High School and through the craftsmanship of Larry Lagerhausen; “Mahalo,” to Paul, and to Larry for sharing their skills and talents in this effort. These are so very nice!

In making all these “Mahalo’s” I am reminded of the reality that it is through the efforts of so many volunteers on a weekly basis that we as a faith community are able to be in a place of Grace for each other, and for our community. I just cannot help but think that when our Father in heaven sees our efforts, that the biggest kahuna of us all, does think; “Mahalo, dear children of mine, you are sharing my love.”



**Council News**— At our September meeting, Church Council welcomed two new members elected at our August Congregational Meeting: Adele Peterson and Matt Simonton. Joe Pienschke. Rebecca Einspahr (youth representative), and Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia also return to Council for second terms. In September, new leaders are elected as well. Officers of Church Council for the upcoming year are President – Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia; Vice-President – Peter Paulson; Secretary – Claude Hutchens; Treasurer – Cindy Meyer. Committees are also encouraged to hold leadership selections at this time as well.

Most of our committees at Grace have a Council liaison to help answer questions and facilitate communication. Committee liaisons were assigned also: Adult Education – Matt Simonton; Property – Joe Pienschke; Social Ministry – Cynthia DeBerg; Spirituality – Nan Goerlitz; Preschool – Adele Peterson; Endowment and Finance – Chuck Varys; Stewardship and Audit – Pete Paulson; Worship and Music and LSSI – Claude Hutchens; and Evangelism – Elizabeth Karagianis.

Council meetings are open meetings held the third Thursday of each month. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with any Council member.



## WORSHIP TODAY

### Sunday, September 25, 2011 Lectionary 26 Proper 21 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

#### READINGS

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

### Sunday, October 2, 2011 Lectionary 27 Proper 22 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

#### READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

**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](mailto: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 on the USS Bush

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

**Health Concerns:** Lois Bloese, Rhonda Bobinger (friend of Martha Fleck), Deanna Bohn, Bill Botts, Shirley Busse, Steve Clark (son of Edna Clark), Frank Davis (friend of Rick & Billie Cornell), Roberta Deitchler (mother of Katie Arana), Dorothy Drake (friend of Lois Wiecek), Betty Fischer (mother of Connie Fischer), Connie Fischer, Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), 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), August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Dwight Jensen, Betty Karsten (sister of Vern Sarbaugh), Paul Lockwood, Kathy Nordin, Gloria Ogle, 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), Nick Scheel (grandson of Dwight & Sue Jensen), 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), Connie Tarver, Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Eileen White, Richard Young (nephew of Marge Birk), Ruth Zirves

**Sorrow:** Gwen Stollendorf

**Joys:** Pastor Amanda Bergstrom on her installation

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](mailto: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.

## Oh When the Saints, Go Marching In...by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Oh Lord, I want to be in that number, when the 39,000 people from across the country assemble in New Orleans for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering next summer! The theme for this gathering is "Citizens with the Saints", and I am looking forward to traveling with the high school youth and chaperones from Grace Lutheran Church next July. To all high school students, please know you are welcome to join in this exciting trip of faith formation (the deadline to register is September 28). To all people of God at Grace, please know that you are welcome to journey with us in the coming months as we prepare for this trip, and as we return to share all that we will learn and experience. I have heard that this community of faith has a strong tradition of prayerfully and financially supporting the high school youth, and so, I thank you for your past and continued accompaniment as we look forward to practicing discipleship, peacemaking, and justice with the saints gathered in New Orleans.

By the time this issue of "Grace for Today" goes to print, I will have just been formally installed as Associate Pastor, and I would like to thank you again for welcoming me into this place. It has been such a joy to journey with you these past few months, and to enter into this new education and program year with a terrific church picnic Luau on Rally Day. Thank you, and I look forward to our shared journey in ministry as we rally around God's abounding love, grow in faith, are welcomed to the table, experience and practice forgiveness, and keep on sharing God's grace.

### High School Youth

**BBQ**—Come join us for a BBQ to welcome our new freshmen. We'll meet Sat., **Sept 24 (note date change)** at 3:30 pm at the Bellavias'. We'll do a food scavenger hunt for the Family Health Partnership Clinic and play some volleyball and other games. We'll start the hunt around 4:00, heat up the grill around 5:30 and wrap things up around 7:30. Burgers, hot dogs, brats, and drinks will be provided. Freshman & Sophomores bring sides, Juniors & Seniors bring desserts. Sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board in the narthex. Questions, call 815-338-5194.



**2012 Youth Gathering**—Grace's high school youth group will be traveling to the national Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July, and the deadline to register for this trip is coming soon! Please contact Pr. Amanda with any questions about the trip. Registration forms and a \$100 non-refundable deposit are due to the church office by **September 28**.

**Hunger Walk Sept. 25**—The Social Ministry Team will have envelopes and sign up information in the narthex between services in the coming weeks for registration. The walk is a WACM fundraiser for hunger.



**Adult Bus Trip Reminder**—Saturday, **Sept. 24**, to the Fireside Dinner Theatre. If you are signed up for this trip, our bus will arrive at Grace by 8:45 for loading. We will depart promptly at 9:00 a.m., please be punctual.

### Adult Forum—

On Sunday, **September 25**, a follow-up to Dr. Pickett's presentation on the Gospel of Mark will be the topic of the Adult Forum. It will be from 9:45-10:30 a.m., between services downstairs. All are welcome, even if you were not at Dr. Pickett's presentations the previous week.

### Church Council and Committee Chairs—

Church Council and Committee Chairs will meet for their twice a year communication meeting. We will meet in the Parlor at 7 pm on **September 29**.

### Thank You Letters—

We received several letters & a binder filled with thank you drawings from the Joplin teachers and their students. The binder is located at the Information Center. Be sure to stop and look through it. The artwork is precious!

## Men's Group Bible

### Study

Attention men of all ages Do you desire to search a bit deeper into your faith? Or have you just been considering; It might be nice to study scripture together with a group of other guys. Or have you a desire to simply hang out with a bunch of guys on a few Saturday Mornings? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, or if you have some of your own questions, consider attending a men's group Bible study with Pastor Ken on selected Saturday mornings this fall. The first organizational start up class will be held on Saturday **Sept. 24** at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Ken will have the coffee pot on down in Grace Center; further dates and locations of this group will be discussed. This will be a study group for all. No early reading required we will learn and grow together. Sign up at the activity board or just show up!



**“Sayings Of Jesus” Study Group**— This study group will examine three key “sayings” of Jesus. These sayings, or commands, have been translated from Aramaic, Jesus’s native language. We will use as our resource *Prayers of the Cosmos: Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus’s Words* by Neil Douglas-Klotz. The translation from the Aramaic sheds new light on Jesus’s thinking and message. Together, we will explore what effect this new translation can have on our own practice of the Christian life.

**WHEN:** Once a month for three months, beginning Saturday, **September 24** at 10:30 a.m. Subsequent meeting times will be set at the first meeting.

**WHERE:** Church Parlor.

**STUDY MATERIALS:** *Prayers of the Cosmos: Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus’s Words* by Neil Douglas-Klotz. To look at the book, see the reserve copy in the Church Library.

**BEGINNING ASSIGNMENT:** Please read pages 78-82 of the book for our first meeting, and attempt to put into practice what Jesus suggests. You will find it helpful to also read the introduction to the book (pages 1-8).

**QUESTIONS?:** Contact Jane Gerloff, 815-338-1649.

**An Opportunity To “Love Your Neighbor” Across The World**— Our prayers and financial support continue to be desperately needed by those who live in the Horn of Africa. The United Nations now estimates that 13.3 million people in the region are in need of humanitarian aid because of famine and severe drought – the worst in a decade. Continued conflict and civil insecurity have made it difficult for humanitarian groups to get aid into Somalia, so more than half a million people have left their homes and walked hundreds of miles in search of food and water. Overcrowding in refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia is causing concern about increasing measles, cholera, and violence as well.

As a church that is called to use our hands to do God’s work, the ELCA has responded with emergency aid, including safe water and enriched porridge for children and the elderly in the refugee camps. Although the onset of the rainy season is expected in September, our hands are still needed now to save lives in the Horn of Africa. A gift to the ELCA Disaster Response, designated for “Drought Relief,” will be used in full – 100% - in response to this disaster. Or a gift to ELCA World Hunger will support long-term sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty in the region. Gifts may be made by writing a check to Grace Lutheran Church and indicating Drought Relief or World Hunger on the memo line. More information is available online and donations may also be made online at [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster). Thank you for your generous offerings!



**Grace Callers Needed**— We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to make phone calls to members of Grace to invite them to participate in the Bake sale and/or Cookie Walk for Mistletoe Magic. An informational meeting will be held on **Oct. 2**, at 3 p.m. Instructions and call lists will be supplied. Please sign-up in the MMagic binder at the Information Center.

**Grace Knitters**—The October Knitters' meeting will be Tues. **Oct. 11** from 9am to 11am. This will be our last meeting before MMagic, but there is still time to create some beautiful items. Join a great group of knitters and crocheters and get a preview of the items that will be for sale on Nov. 5th! Any questions please call Judy Reilly at 815-353-4638 or e-mail at [jreilly038@gmail.com](mailto:jreilly038@gmail.com).



**Outdoor Worship Thank You**—Our outdoor worship season was again very successful . Moving outdoors (and back) takes lots of help. First, we thank our outdoor sound specialist, Russ Goerlitz whose work again this year made possible sound that was both clear and full. Each month the pre-service sound process takes about 60 minutes of set up time and another 60 minutes of sound balancing, sometimes involving as many as a dozen sound sources.

Helping with the set up/take down of sound and band equipment: chairs, stools, music stands, instruments and music this year were Frank Olson, who often headed up the crew and played in the band, Rick Cornell, Terry Figard, Howard Hoyt, Tom Prudden, Andy Bellavia, Thom Gillespie, Paul Meyer and Corey Tafoya. Thanks to Sue Olsen who located and signed up all those helpers. And of course, we thank Ken Zank for being there with the wagon to transport everything and to come out early each time to spray the area and reduce the presence of insects. Just as needed and appreciated as the set up and sound folks, are this year's outdoor singers Kim & Scott Beystehner, Nancy Bradley, Laura Miller & Nan Goerlitz along with the band that plays 50 weeks a year: Jud Brown, Cody Fetzner, Jan Fredriksen, Jodi Gibson, Art Karagianis, Tim May, Frank Olson, Brian Reilly and Dave Reilly. Outdoor worship provides a different sense of community and beauty than that of our indoor celebrations, but it also asks more of all of those who help lead worship. We thank all who have made use of our outdoor chapel possible again this year.



**Need Batteries?** - Boy Scout Troop 153, sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church, is selling Interstate Batteries to raise funds for Troop camping activities. Our Scouts would like to supply you with your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries just in time for Fire Prevention Week. We have various batteries for your emergency preparedness kits, as well as batteries for all your other electronics. Orders will be taken through **Oct. 2nd**. The order form is located on the Activity Board in the narthex. Delivery will be the middle of October. Thank you for your support - Boy Scout Troop 153.

**Mistletoe Magic**— Saturday, **Nov. 5**, Luther Hall will be transformed into a Magical Holiday Bazaar. There are beautiful gifts for family and friends, wonderful house decor, a huge Bake Sale, and tasty Cookie Walk. Enjoy the Coffee Nook and Afternoon Tea and listen to vocal entertainment while you shop. Join us for a fantastic luncheon in Grace Center, complete with live Entertainment. Invite friends and family to share the day and "Share God's Grace by raising funds to support three local charities.

Please stop by the Information Center and check out the MMagic binder to read where you can help to make this weekend a success. Among the many departments where you can serve are: baking items for the Cookie Walk and Bake Sale, donating handcrafted items, previously used jewelry in good condition and so much more. We also will need help with Grace Callers, and luncheon donations. Questions, Please contact: Cathy Meyer, Judy Reilly, Eileen White, Karen Reinhard, or Sue Aavang.

**Preschool Fall Fundraiser!** - This fall the preschool will be having a TUPPERWARE fundraiser. The special Tupperware Fundraising product line highlights some classic pieces as well as new ones. All of which can help any family with "staying green." Profits will be used toward our Tuition Assistance Program as well as classroom materials. This year the teachers would like to earn enough to purchase a light table for all classrooms to share. A packet can be picked up at the Information Center or Preschool Office. All orders are due to the Preschool Office by **Oct. 3rd**, with payment included. Questions? Please contact Chris Learman @ 815-338-0554 x213 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org.



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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** —All *Grace for Today* articles for the October 5th issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Thursday, September 29th.

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, September 24

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
8:45 AM Adult Bus Trip Departure  
9:00 AM Band  
10:30 AM Sayings of Jesus Study Group  
3:30 PM H.S. Youth Party  
5:00 PM Worship

### Sunday, September 25

8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Education Hour  
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship  
1:00 PM Woodstock Hunger Walk  
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference  
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir  
6:30 PM High School Choir

### Monday, September 26

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5  
3:00 PM Senior Luncheon Set-Up  
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153  
7:00 PM Preschool Committee Mtg.

### Tuesday, September 27

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5  
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon  
5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 1306 Mtg.

### Wednesday, September 28

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5  
12:30 PM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Messenger Choir  
5:15 PM PrimeTime Dinner-Pizza  
5:30 PM 2 Yr. Old Class/Cherub Choir  
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship  
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers  
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir  
6:30 PM Confirmation  
6:30 PM High School Youth Group  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

### Thursday, September 29

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5  
7:00 PM Committee Chair Mtg.

### Friday, September 16

9:00 AM Preschool 4, 4 & 5  
6:00 PM Gibbs/Lilly Wedding Rehearsal

### Saturday, October 1

9:00 AM Band  
3:00 PM Gibbs/Lilley Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

### Sunday, October 2

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

### Monday, October 3

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

### Tuesday, October 4

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

### Wednesday, October 5 – No PrimeTime

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5  
12:30 PM Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

### Thursday, October 6

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

### Friday, October 7

9:00 AM Preschool 4, 4 & 5  
3:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 153—Overnight

### Saturday, October 8

12:00 AM Boy Scout Troop 153—Overnight  
5:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Fair Trade

### Sunday, October 9

8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM Fair Trade  
9:45 AM Education Hour  
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship  
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit  
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers/H.S. Choir

## GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson  
[kgibson@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgibson@gracewoodstock.org)  
Office Phone: 815-338-0554  
Home Phone: 815-527-7215

### Associate Pastor

### Director of Senior High Ministries

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
Cell Phone: 630-664-9016  
[abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org)

### Director of Communications

Lynn Nattress  
[lnattress@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:lnattress@gracewoodstock.org)

### Director of Music Ministries

Ron Fredriksen  
[rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org)

### Parish Musicians

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

### Director of Preschool Ministry

Chris Learman  
[clearman@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:clearman@gracewoodstock.org)

### Preschool Staff

Tammy Baier, Amy Flores, Nancy Kurcab,  
Nancy Mojica

### Director of Educational Ministries

### Office Assistant

Carrie Fiorina  
[cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:cfiorina@gracewoodstock.org)

### Director of Senior Ministries

Shirley Busse

### Secretary

Denise Klabunde  
[dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org)

### Wedding Coordinator Leader

Dee Brown

**Building Supervisor/Ken Zank**  
**Custodian/Kim Brink**

### Officers & Council

Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia; Cindy Meyers;  
Claude Hutchens; Peter Paulson;  
Cynthia DeBerg; Matt Simonton; Nan Goerlitz;  
Elizabeth Karagianis; Joe Pienschke;  
Adele Petersen; Chuck Varys  
[council@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:council@gracewoodstock.org)