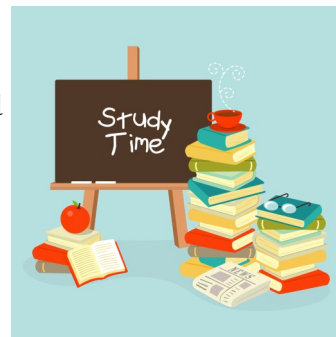


SEPTEMBER 7, 2011–SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 18

Joplin Classrooms Up and Going!by Pastor Ken Gibson

By the time we all read this note, school will already have started in Joplin, Missouri, and thanks to the generosity of three churches that put their faith in action, three classrooms have been well suited for learning to begin. Grace Lutheran Church, Woodstock, Illinois, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Butler, Missouri, and St. Paul Lutheran in Nevada, Missouri, have teamed together to assist teachers in equipping their classrooms this fall. All together the three churches raised and collected offerings and goods in excess of \$3,300.



Whole schools were destroyed and many lives changed forever on May 22 following the devastating tornado that leveled much of Joplin, Missouri. Joplin school teachers, like many educators across the country, often use their own funds to assist in equipping their classrooms to aid in the instruction of their students. Many of the Joplin teachers were themselves dealing with rebuilding their own homes. The Joplin School District launched the Adopt-A-Classroom project that would allow groups and individuals to help restock the Joplin classrooms by the start of school August 17. The teachers supplied a list of items that they would like to have replaced. Together the above three ELCA churches worked in a joint effort to assist the classrooms of Jessica Folk, who teaches kindergarten at the Joplin School District; Debi Staton who teaches 4th grade in Joplin; and Brooke White who teaches high school special education at the Joplin School District. All three teachers expressed extreme gratitude for the generosity shown by so many in assisting them with their effort to be ready to teach.

A welcome back banner made by Mary Reinert, Patsy McCullough, and Anna Seewoester of St. Paul lists the three churches and will hang in each classroom throughout the upcoming school year. “Thank you for all you have done,” said Kristen Dudloski, who coordinated the effort for all of Joplin schools. “I wish to thank you so much,” expressed kindergarten teacher Jessica Folk. Kerrie Jacobs from St. Matthew Lutheran, herself a school teacher, stated, “This kind of effort is such a good way to realize that we in the church can work together and have an impact on the lives of others. I was glad to put this effort forth.” Thanks be to God for the effort of these three churches.

(Editor’s Note: This article has also been shared with the Northern Illinois, and Central States Synods and will be reprinted in their newsletters.)



Sunday School Begins! - The new school year has begun which means Sunday School begins soon too!

This year we kick-off the beginning of the Sunday School year and ALL of the fall activities at Grace with Rally Day on Sept. 11. Join us immediately following the 10:45 a.m. outdoor worship for a LUAU! We will be roasting pigs in a traditional Hawaiian pit. We are asking you to bring a dish to pass, Hawaiian recipes are available at church if you would like to try one out. There will be a gallery of games for the kids, a bounce house, and an open mic on stage for entertainers of all ages. While you are at church this Sunday be sure to fill out Sunday School Registration forms for your children, and meet and greet your Sunday school teacher. Hope to see you at Rally Day, and on Sept. 18 at 9:45 a.m. for the start of our education year!



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, September 11, 2011 Lectionary 24 Proper 19 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

READINGS

Genesis 50:15–21
Psalm 103:1–13
Romans 14:1–12
Matthew 18:21–35

Sunday, September 18, 2011 Lectionary 25 Proper 20 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

READINGS

Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm 145:1–8
Philippians 1:21–30

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 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, Laura Boal, Deanna Bohn, Rhonda Bobinger (friend of Martha Fleck), Bill Botts, 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), 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), Theo Hutchens, Dwight Jensen, 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 Deborah 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, Lois Wiecek, Richard Young (nephew of Marge Birk), Ruth Zirves

Joy: Baptism of Josephine E. Arana

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.

Thinking about Installations.....by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Each week that I have been here with you in Woodstock and at Grace, I have had the opportunity to see and experience a new ministry. As we move from the days of summer into fall programming, I have enjoyed seeing parents stop by the Pre-School Open House, students start their first day of confirmation classes, and people gather for the Ministry Matters Communication Meeting and Congregational Meeting. In the coming weeks too, we will have another wave of new and ongoing ministry. We will share a festive meal at the Rally Day Luau, our youth and adults will gather each week for Sunday school and Adult Forums, choirs will keep singing and ringing, and I will be meeting weekly with the high school youth too. What an exciting month we have coming our way!

Also in September, I am looking forward to installations. I am glad to have been here for a couple months before being formally installed as one of your pastors, because I have some time to get to know you. I am so thankful to be working with Pastor Ken, such a gifted staff, council, committees, and people. Some of my family and friends will be here for the service too, and they look forward to seeing and meeting you as they have heard great things about the people of God at Grace in Woodstock. This month we will also recognize and bless the ministries of many people called to serve in various leadership roles, as we install our Sunday school teachers, preschool teachers, and church council members. Blessings on this exciting month of continued and re-energized mission and ministry. See you in the classrooms, at the luau, and in worship as we keep giving thanks and praise to God, hearing anew God's promises, and going forth to share God's grace.

Grace Knitters—Please join the Grace Knitters on **Sept. 13** from 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Mistletoe Magic is just 9 weeks away, but there is still time to make items to sell. We have ideas, yarn, and needles. We just need your willing hands and enthusiasm! Come and see what we have been creating and be inspired. Any questions contact Judy Reilly at jreilly038@gmail.com or call 815 353-4638.



PrimeTime Begins—

PrimeTime will begin on Weds., **Sept. 14**. We will again have six teams, but are always looking for additional team members. If you are able to give 2 hours every six weeks on a Wednesday night, we would love to have you on a meal team! Please contact Cathy Buhrow (buhrowfamily@sbcglobal.net or 815-337-0584).

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) - MOPS

is a special time when moms get to spend quality time with other moms and kids get to spend fun time playing with other kids. Tentative topics for this year include: healthy living/chiropractor, at home exercising, instilling faith in your kids, volunteer opportunities for families with young children, and many more. MOPS will meet from 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month starting **Sept. 14th**. All moms and young kids are welcome at attend MOPS!



Professor In The Parish—The weekend of **Sept. 17 & 18** the Adult Education Committee is hosting the first in a series of Professor's in the Parish. That weekend Grace will welcome the Rev. Dr. Ray Pickett, presenting on the Gospel of Mark. Sat. Sept. 17, will begin with a continental breakfast by the Graceful Men at 9:00 a.m., followed by Rev. Dr. Pickett leading a Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. He will also be giving the sermon at the 5:00 p.m. service. On Sunday Sept. 18, Dr. Pickett will give the sermons at both services, as well as lead a presentation during the 9:45 a.m. Adult Forum. Reservations are requested: register on the church website, or on the Activity Board by **Sept. 11**.

Green Congregation Training—This workshop is being offered on Sat. **Sept. 17**, from 8:30—noon in Rockford. This training is to help us incorporate care for creation into our full life & mission. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office by **Sept. 9** to register.

Pastor Amanda Bergstrom Installation— Pastor Amanda will be officially installed on **Sept. 18** at 3:00 p.m. Her Service of Installation will be followed by a light reception. Please join us for this music filled celebration as we welcome her as our Associate Pastor.

Lutheran College Fair—Two Lutheran College Fairs will be held nearby, in Roselle on Sunday, **Sept. 18**, and in Naperville on Monday, **Sept. 19**. Students and families are invited to meet with admissions representatives to learn more about our excellent Lutheran colleges across the country, and to attend financial aid & planning workshops. All families who attend the fair will also receive four Application Fee Waivers (up to a \$60 value each!). See the youth bulletin board for more information, or the web site www.lutherancolleges.org.



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 9:00am, please be punctual.

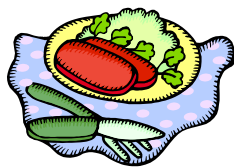
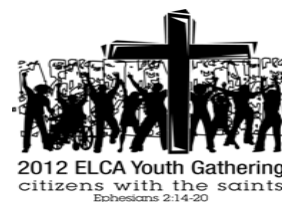
Men's Group Bible Study—

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!

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.

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**.



Senior Luncheon— Tuesday, **September 27** we will be honoring all attendees who are “80 & over” this year. We will begin with a worship service at 11:30 in the Sanctuary, followed by a formal dinner in Luther Hall. Our meal begins with a Tossed Salad with Vidalia Onion Dressing followed by Pork Tenderloin with Peaches & Pecan Sauce, Stuffed Zucchini, Rice, Dinner Rolls and Carmelized Apple Cake for dessert. After dinner we have the “Prairie Singers”, an eight part harmony singing group from Sun City coming to entertain you. Cost is \$5.00 Grace members over 80 will receive a special invitation with a free lunch ticket. Please sign up in the activity Binder by **Sept. 11**.

Communication Meeting—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**.

“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. To purchase it, you can order from Read Between the Lynes in Woodstock (815-206-5967) by **September 7** – if you ask them, they will place a group order; if there are enough orders they will be able to give a discount.

BEGINNING ASSIGNMENT: Please read through 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.

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. A meeting will be held on **Oct. 2**, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. where instructions and member lists will be supplied. Please sign-up in the MMagic binder at the Information Center.



Donations Sought— “All That GlittersPreviously Loved Jewelry” for MMagic: Donations of vintage, and previously loved contemporary jewelry are being accepted for MMagic. Sort through your jewelry boxes for those unwanted items and deposit them in the box under the Information Center counter. Contact Adele Peterson with any questions.

Mistletoe Magic— “Sharing God’s Grace by raising funds to support Social Ministry needs in our Community. “ Please check out the Mistletoe Magic sign-up book located at the Information Center. Each Department and leader is listed with info as to how you may help. Invite your friends to the magical day on **Nov.5**. We have beautiful gift items for individuals and the home, a tasty Bake Sale and Cookie Walk, a Fantastic Luncheon with entertainment while you shop provided by Dickens Carolers and “Country Gentlemen”. Come...be part of the magic! - Cathy Meyer - Chairperson

Sizzlin’ Saturday Service— Save the date of **Oct. 22**, when we will set-up the grills and have great fellowship following the 5:00 p.m. service. Watch for more info.

Stewardship News— Save the Date **Oct. 23**— Recently, representatives from Grace joined people from across the synod to participate in a “Celebrate Generosity” stewardship workshop. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, **Oct. 23** and plan to attend this year’s Celebrate Generosity Luncheon.

Estate Planning Seminar— Mark your calendar: We are pleased to offer an Estate Planning Seminar as part of our October Senior Luncheon on **October 25**, all are welcome. Details to follow.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE — All *Grace for Today* articles for the September 21st issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on September 15th.

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 10

9:00 AM Band
10:00 AM New Member Orientation
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Fair Trade Coffee

Sunday, September 11

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee
9:45 AM Sunday School Meet & Greet
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
12:00 PM Rally Day
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
6:30 PM High School Choir

Monday, September 12

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Preschool 4 & 5
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Property & Grounds Comm.
7:15 PM Social Ministry Team

Tuesday, September 13

9:00 AM Grace Knitters
9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Preschool 3, 4 & 5
7:00 PM Exultation!
7:15 PM Stewardship Committee

Wednesday, September 14

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
9:30 AM MOPS
12:30 PM Preschool 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
5:15 PM PrimeTime Dinner
5:30 PM 2 Yr. Old Class
5:30 PM Cherub Choir
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir

6:30 PM Confirmation Class
6:30 PM High School Youth Group
7:00 PM Festival Choir
7:00 PM High School Choir
7:30 PM Youthful Spirit
8:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 15

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
11:45 AM Minister's Luncheon
12:30 PM Preschool 3, 4 & 5
5:45 PM Adult Ed comm.
7:00 PM Council

Friday, September 16

9:00 AM Preschool 4, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Preschool 4 & 5

Saturday, September 17

9:00 AM Band
9:00 AM Professor in the Parish
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, September 18

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour
9:45 AM Professor in the Parish
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
3:00 PM Pastor Amanda Installation
4:30 PM Installation Reception
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit
6:30 PM High School Choir

Monday, September 19

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Preschool 4 & 5
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
6:30 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting
7:00 PM Faith Circle

Tuesday, September 20

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
9:00 AM Sewing Circle
12:30 PM Preschool 3, 4 & 5

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Dee Brown

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Custodian/Kim Brink

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