



**GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grace for Today

OCTOBER 19, 2011—NOVEMBER 1, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 21

Just Some Thoughts.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

A pastor friend of mine has been diagnosed with cancer.
She lost her spouse just a few years ago, too a cancer two?

Think she would be miffed but, she is not.
She beautifully continues to love - a lot.

Leaves are falling and it is raining now,
some would be miffed; "They soon will be gone."

Yet, I have an urge to give thanks and even to bow
for all the beauty that they shared on sunny days, bright and long

I actually feel like singing a song. Do you remember how?
a song of thanksgiving comes to mind, come on join me and sing along.

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Adult Forum— On **Oct. 23**, adults are invited to join Pastor Amanda at the Adult Forum as we gather to "Rediscover the Book of Faith." Pastor Amanda will lead the group in the last of a three-part study prepared by the Book of Faith initiative of the ELCA. Through bible study and conversation, we will rediscover the family album of God's people, the good news of Jesus, and God's gift of grace. No experience or prior study is necessary, come join the conversation at 9:45 a.m.!



WACM Winter Coat

Drive—woodstock Area

Community Ministry's "Share the Warmth" coat drive **has begun!!**

Please bring your gently used winter coats/jackets, boots, hats, mittens and

sweaters (children, women, and men's) and drop them in the container that will be in the main entry. The container will be available until Monday **Oct 24**.

FOURTH AND LAST BLOOD DRIVE OF 2011—Sunday, **Oct. 30**, from 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., you will have the chance to give life saving blood. Become a new Grace donor and join the many successful Grace Member donors. Call Denise at the Church office (815.338-0554) or leave a message for Pam Richard at (847. 659-1569) to schedule your appointment or sign up on the poster located on the Activity Board.



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, October 23, 2011 Lectionary 30 Proper 25 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Sunday, October 30, 2011 Reformation Sunday

INTRODUCTION

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

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, Rhonda Bobinger (friend of Martha Fleck), Deanna Bohn, Bill Botts, Karen Bremmer (friend of Pastor Ken and Jodi Gibson), Shirley Busse, Evelyn Carlsen (mother of Cathy Meyer), 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), Darrin Hansing (nephew of Ken & Tammy Hansing), Patrice Hoover, August Hutchens, Theo Hutchens, Dwight Jensen, Betty Karsten (sister of Vern Sarbaugh), Elizabeth Jones (niece of Shelley Tucker), 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), 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, Sheri Tarver, Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Janice Torres (mother of Dee Brown), Eileen White, Richard Young (nephew of Marge Birk), Ruth Zirves

Sorrow: Shirley Hubert (niece of Marge Birk)

Joy: Marriage of Julie Miller & James Ford

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.

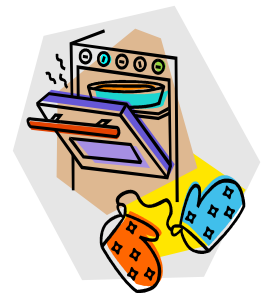
Choose Respect...by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

One of the ways I have been learning about Grace Lutheran Church and the Woodstock community is through a grant that several of our high school youth are participating in this year. "Choose Respect" is a grant program from the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority that engages community partners to promote healthy relationships and prevent teen dating violence. Nineteen high school students from Grace Lutheran Church, Turning Point, and Woodstock's D-200 will be working as small groups and as a community team this year. This partnership, as we are learning, requires a lot of planning, communication, and hard work; and yet, what an exciting partnership it is and will be this year. I look forward to seeing how these 19 high school youth prepare and lead activities with middle school students, high school peers, parents, and adults at Grace and in Woodstock. This grant is an excellent way to live out our faith, as we remember Jesus' life and call to each of us to build up the body of Christ and promote healthy relationships, as we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Although this grant program is new to the Woodstock community this year, the partnerships within this effort have been growing for quite some time now. As I continue to meet and get to know you at Grace, my immediate neighbors where I live, and neighbors in the community, as I am out and about, I continue to hear the stories of a community that finds ways to work together, raise funds and awareness for cancer research, walk for hunger, and being fit for the future. In celebration of one of many partnerships within Woodstock, members from Grace will attend Turning Point's 30th Anniversary Dinner Event this coming week and accept their Partnership Award on behalf of the congregation. This award recognizes and affirms the ongoing partnership between Grace and Turning Point, and it is a joy to hear the stories of how we have been partners in the past and will continue to work together into the future.

Thank you, for the countless relationships and partnerships that you are a part of. As we engage this grant in the coming year as a people of God at Grace and in Woodstock, I pray your relationships and partnerships may know the abounding love of God, the power of forgiveness made known in Christ, and the nurturing growth of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for partners in mission!

Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, **October 25**, we are proud to present as part of this months luncheon a special seminar "MANAGING YOUR ESTATE IN GOD'S KINGDOM". As one of the children in God's Kingdom, we have a responsibility to use the skills and resources that have been given to us for His glory. This seminar will give you the tools needed and help you to realize what you can do to assist your heirs in carrying out your wishes. Grace members will receive a specially prepared binder to use. Extra binders will be available for a nominal fee. Our menu is: Lettuce Salad, Bruschetta Chicken Bake, Italian Green Beans, Fresh Italian Bread & Applesauce Bars. Cost is \$5.00 Please sign up in the activity Binder by **October 23rd**.



Information Center Helpers Needed—The Evangelism Committee is once again looking for volunteers to staff the information center before and after services. We are looking for friendly faces to assist with sign up book information, welcome visitors and hand out visitor gifts after services once a month. If you have 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the 8:30 am or 10:45 am on Sundays, please sign up at the Information Center or contact Billie Cornell via the church office.

Were You Baptized at Grace in 2011? - If so, we would like to get your photo for a Baptism Photo Wall. Please forward to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org



Mistletoe Magic—Guest Artists — We have invited several guest artists from the community of Woodstock to make a donation of their talent to benefit MMagic. The items range from handmade pottery pieces to water color art, and other mediums. This is an effort to invite the community to join us in "Sharing God's Grace" by raising funds to serve Social Ministry needs in the community. Please join us on **Nov. 5th!**

Donations—Please bring merchandise you are donating to the church beginning Weds., **November 2nd** from 8:30a.m. to 5pm each day until Friday. Deliver to the lower level.

Meet Our Volunteers— Who has volunteered her time for many years keeping our Library organized, and full of useful and timely materials? Marylee Steinwehe, that's who! Thank you for your many years of service in the Grace Library Marylee!!

Pads Help Needed — The PADS shelter is already over-flowing and they are in need of volunteers to help staff the facility. If you can help the community in this way, please contact Joseph Blanco at 847-814-1385.

GRACE PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool Wishing Well— Each year our preschool is blessed with so many donations and gifts and each one is much appreciated. A new Grace Preschool Wishing Well is located in the downstairs hallway that is filled with suggestions for things that are needed for this school year. If you wish to donate, please take the suggested item off the wishing well and return it with the item along with your name.

Preschool Book Fair—We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair **Nov. 7 - 13**. Displays will be set up in the Education Foyer (downstairs) and books will be available for sale during preschool hours and during parent/teacher conferences (11/9 & 11/10). The book fair will be in the Narthex on Sun. Nov. 13 and will be open between Worship Services. Preschool parent volunteers are needed to help run the book fair before and after class on the 7th & 8th. If interested, please contact Mrs. Chris.



Giving children the best start at school!

Preschool Substitutes—Grace Preschool is in need of substitutes for this school year for both positions of lead teacher as well as teacher aides. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Chris Learman for a substitute packet. Packet includes all required forms necessary to have on file in order to be a sub in our classrooms. Preschool classes meet Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. We are looking for people with past experience in a classroom with children ages 2-5 as well as those individuals with a love for children. In addition, we will be looking for a long term Teacher Aide sub in the 2 year old classroom for the months of April and May. Please contact Chris Learman @ 815-338-0554 x213 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org.

Labels for Education—We are collecting LABELS FOR EDUCATION labels from Campbell's. (We do not qualify for Box Tops For Education) We thank all those that have been saving for us. There are new red cubes placed around the church to deposit all your labels. For a complete listing of eligible products please go to the website www.labelsforeducation.com. Any questions, please contact Chris Learman @ 815-338-0554 x213.

Special Musical Presentation Coming in Advent—The major musical event of our holiday season will be presented Sunday, **Dec. 18** at the 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services. We invite regular worshipers and friends to be present to experience this setting in the style of lessons and carols; a time-line that through Biblical narration, additional writings and corresponding carols and anthems, reveals the joy of waiting as the texts move us ever closer to the promised birth of our savior. The work, *Prophets and Angels* includes anthems and many seasonal hymns and prayer responses for congregational participation as the story unfolds.

Those interested in participating in the choir should notify a Chancel Choir member or the director, Ron Fredriksen (rfredriksen@gracewoodstock.org.) so we can plan for your participation. This is a brand new work and ample rehearsals will be provided Wednesdays, beginning **Nov. 2nd**, initially from 7-8 p.m. This time will change to 7:30-8:30 p.m. when our Wednesday Lenten services begin on November 30. Singers, grades two and above are also invited to participate in the children's portions. Their rehearsals will take place during the regular prime-time schedule. All singers need to attend a sufficient number of rehearsals to be assured in their preparation.

In addition to the Biblical sources, the anthems composed by choral director/organist and clinician Aaron David Miller are set on texts by renowned author Herbert F. Brokering who has provided many new texts for our ELW.

This is an experience that will spiritually enhance your Advent preparation as we are once again led to the stable where Jesus, the Savior of the world will be found.

Bulletin & Presence Light Sponsors 2012—Bulletin and presence light sponsor sheets are available in the green binder at the Information Center for 2012. There are sponsors needed for the remainder of 2011 as well. Prior to your sponsoring, a form will be sent to you requesting information and your donation of \$20 for the bulletins and \$10 for the presence light.

Baptism Photos Wanted— If you were baptized at Grace in 2011, we would like your photo for a photo wall. Please forward to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org.



Annual Thanksgiving Food Pantry Drive—During the weeks before Thanksgiving, we at Grace will have the opportunity to give thanks to God by sharing our abundance with others. At worship services on the weekend of **Nov. 5/6**, you will be given a grocery bag with a list of suggested food donations for the Woodstock Food Pantry. As you shop to fill your bag during the week, take a few moments to count your own blessings.

Please return your bag of food donations to church the weekend of **Nov. 12/13**. The items will be sorted and delivered to the Woodstock Food Pantry so that clients may pick up food in time for Thanksgiving. (Volunteers will be needed to help sort donations on **November 13** between services and to deliver to the food pantry during the week. If you can help, please sign up on the Social Ministry bulletin board kiosk in the Narthex, or just show up. The more help the better.) Thank you for making this holiday a little brighter for hungry people in our community.

Meals on Wheels—We are in need of a person to help deliver meals on Wednesdays. It is a commitment every 5 weeks for about 1—1-1/2 hours from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. These deliveries mean so much to those who can't manage a meal by themselves. If you have this time to give, please help. Contact Jeannine May at 815-943-4849 for more info.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the November 2nd issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on Thursday, October 27th.

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, October 22

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Sizzlin' Saturday

Sunday, October 23

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
12:00 PM Celebrate Generosity Luncheon
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit
6:30 PM Graceful Ringers/H.S. Choir

Monday, October 24

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 25

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon
5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 1306 Meeting
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Wednesday, October 26

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
5:15 PM PrimeTime Dinner-Italian Beef
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 Class
6:30 PM High School Youth Group
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 27

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5

Friday, October 28

9:00 AM Preschool 4, 4 & 5

Saturday, October 29

9:00 AM Band
10:00 AM Confirmation Practice/Pictures
5:00 PM Worship/Rite of Confirmation

Sunday, October 30

7:30 AM Blood Drive
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/H.S. Choir

Monday, October 31

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

Tuesday, November 1

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
6:30 PM Evangelism Committee
6:30 PM Spirituality Team Meeting
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Wednesday, November 2

8:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Set-Up
9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
5:15 PM PrimeTime Dinner-Ham/Potato
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, November 3

8:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Set-Up
9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
7:00 PM Council Mtg.

Friday, November 4

8:00 AM Mistletoe Magic set-Up
9:00 AM Preschool 4, 4 & 5

Saturday, November 5

9:00 AM Band
9:00 AM Mistletoe Magic Craft Bazaar
5:00 PM Worship

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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