

AUGUST 2024 ▪ VOLUME 23, NO. 8



Vamos Todos

Let us all go. All together.

In worship over the past couple of weeks, and next, into August, we hear the good news of Jesus and life to share. While Herod's banquet was one of death; Jesus invites us to the banquet of life. In the treasured words of the 23rd psalm, we heard of being gathered together and served abundantly: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over." From there we journey through several weeks about Jesus as the bread of life, feeding thousands, words of feasting and truth and eternal life.

Vamos todos al banquete. "Let us go now to the banquet, to the feast of the universe. The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ry one, with your gifts to share" (ELW 523).

At Jesus' invitation, all are invited to gather, for as this hymn reminds, "the community's waiting for me. With a spring in my step I'm walking with my friends and my family ... God has called us to work together and to share everything we have."

In our days where we feel painful division, where many enter spaces and do not feel they have a place to be or belong—Jesus extends a bold invitation for us to proclaim. We are called to live, together; we are invited to a meal of abundance, together; and we are fed and nourished by Jesus the true bread of life. Together we cling to Jesus' promise of abundant life to be never hungry, never thirsty, never alone, and always welcome at Jesus' table.

I hope you know there's a community waiting for you. And I hope you'll be a part of God's work through your own extension of care and connection to others. Let us all go now into the beginning of the education program year, open to learning and growing in faith. Let us all go now out into the world to love and serve God and neighbor. Let us all go now to the banquet—Jesus' gifts are given for you. See you soon.

Peace,
Pastor Amanda

Prayers

Home Communion

If you are unable to gather for worship and would like communion to be brought to you at home, please reach out to the church office. Grace has a team of home communion ministers who visit and bring communion from worship to you.

Senior Phone Calling

If you are interested in joining the senior calling team or are a senior who would be interested in learning more about this ministry of conversation and prayer, please call the church office.

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 Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide staff & their families, Bishop Stacie Fidler, synod staff & their families, those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish)

Woodstock: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom & her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: Phyllis Aavang, Susan (Kyle) Bates (friend of Barb Aavang), Bob Beardsley (brother of Charlotte Beardsley), Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), Betty Boehmke, Nancy Brown, Myron Callihan (brother of Susan Payton), Barb Carmichael, Jim Davis, Lori Dechant, Patrice Dunn, Lucille Fergen (mother of Karen Hansen), Connie Fischer, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Tom Goggin, Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez

(mother of Patty Kozlow), Gloria Holy, Denise Hoover, Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Steve Kosmen (loved one of the Koehn family), Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Carolyn Liedtke, Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Ben Miller (nephew of Jerry & Mary Johnson), Natalie Miller (sister to Mary Johnson), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Jenny Perrone (friend of Cindy Walters), Georgia Petersdorf (sister-in-law of Gladys Renner), Pat Peterson, Dorothy Potoczky, Ila Randolph, Barbara Readell, Sheila Readell, Jayne Reicher (great niece of Barb & Wayne Japp), Herb & Bev Renner (brother & sister -n law of Ken & Gladys Renner), Nick Resek (son of Tammy Resek-Goggin), Jessie & Sue Robertson (friends of Ron, Mary & Kimberly Koehn), Diane Rouse (cousin of Lisa Washkowiak), Nathan Ruffino, Nicholas Ruffino, Nathaniel Shipp (family friend of Brian Meyers), Hollis Shutt, Ann Sinnett (friend of Shirley Berna), Kathy Stone, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Josh Tillman, Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Marilyn Vanskike, Bev Visconti, Addie Jo Wedoff, Nick Wedoff, Caitlin Wilcox (niece of Anne Johnson)

Joy: Baptism of Ivey Michelle Christine Clancy (daughter of Charles & Briana Clancy)

Sorrow: Gloria Ogle, Marge Ahlstrand

Prayer Requests

If you wish to add a prayer request for the newsletter, please call the church office at: **815-338-0554**.

Your prayer concern will run for one month and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* email may be submitted by telephone to the church office or via email to grace@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 (**815-338-0554**).

Current Job Opening

Applications are requested for the following part-time job:

• Director of Worship & Music

We invite you to encourage interested candidates to submit a cover letter and resume. This job description is posted on the front page of the website until filled.

Assistance Needed at Woodstock Food Pantry

The Woodstock Food Pantry seeks additional volunteers. Each participating congregation is asked to provide volunteers to help operate the pantry. It has a variety of ways to help, so you can choose the type of activity you enjoy.

- **Front Desk:** These volunteers check-in neighbors who come for food; fill their orders, and provide additional helpful information. Shifts are three hours during operating hours; even providing 1 to 2 monthly

shifts would be helpful. Volunteers also are needed to interact with neighbors in the waiting area, welcoming them and also giving direction on each day's availability of fresh foods & quantities per family.

- **Local Food Donation Pickup:** We pick up donations from local stores, such as Aldi, Food Shed, and sometimes McDonald's and Panera, each week and

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: **GRACE FOR TODAY**—The deadline for the **September 2024** newsletter is **August 15**. Please send articles to Kari Gippert at kgippert@gracewoodstock.org, or the church office. Questions: Call the office at **815-338-0554**.
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Worship this August

As beloved children of God, we are created for relationship with God and one another. Come and see how God is at work in this faith community, through service, education, fellowship, and as we gather to worship God together on Sundays at 9 a.m. or via [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.

This August, we hope you'll be present in community. Join us as we celebrate baptism, back to school blessing & Bishop's visit on August 11, and Bible presentations at the start of the education year.

Thank you to all who volunteer their time in support of weekly worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please reach out to people listed below, or call the office if you'd like assistance in signing up for an opening.

- If you have questions about volunteering as an [Usher](#), [Greeter](#), [Reader](#), or [Communion Assistant](#), please contact Fay Wilson.
- There are currently four people who facilitate the worship audibility in the sanctuary and accessibility via livestream. If interested in joining this A/V team rotation, please contact Bill Nattress.
- The altar guild teams set up before or clean up after worship, and there's room for you to join or form a team. To learn more, please contact Karen Reinhard.
- See below for more information about trying or joining a choir or music group (youth to adult choirs, adult handbell choir, and band)!

Worship And Music

Each week we gather around word and sacrament, in the pattern of gathering, word, meal, and sending.

A part of our shared act of worshipping God includes the gift of music. This fall, you are invited to join a musical group or reach out to learn more if you are interested in being a part of the worship life of our congregation through music.

All of these groups will be gathering for rehearsals in the coming weeks. Consider trying something new and reaching out with any questions. Contact the office at 815-338-0554 with questions or contact the director as listed to the right.

- **Cherub Choir** (3 years - 1st grade), Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:30-5:45 p.m.; first rehearsal Sept. 4; contact Cindy Meyer.
- **Joyful Messengers Choir** (2nd - 6th grade choir), Wednesday evening rehearsals at 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.; first rehearsal Aug. 28; contact Cindy Meyer.
- **Laudate Choir** (7th - 12th grade choir), occasional Sunday morning rehearsals after worship; first rehearsal Sept. 8; contact Carrie Filetti.
- **Chancel Choir** (adult choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7 - 8 p.m.; first rehearsal Sept. 18; contact Carrie Filetti.
- **Revelation Ringers** (adult handbell choir), occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals at 6 p.m.; first rehearsal Oct. 2; contact Terry Aavang,
- **Contemporary Band** (instruments & singing), occasional evening rehearsals; contact Jon Bergstrom.
- **Instruments & Small Groups**- do you play an instrument or would you be interested singing occasionally in a small group? If "yes," contact Jan Burns.

Thank you, Grace

*A thank you from Millie Luallen
& Mary Ann Fish:*

Thank you to our Grace friends whose prayers, love and comfort before, during and after David's death were much appreciated.

See You On The 25th For Our Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendar and then join us in the sanctuary or on Zoom for our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 10:15 a.m. following the 9 a.m. worship service. It is important for everyone to join us and learn what is going on at Grace as elections will be held.



Reports will be available to members in advance via the Information Desk and your email inbox.

Sunday Book Club

The Book club will not meet on Aug. 11 or Aug. 25.

ELCA Service Day ... More Than A Decade of Service

ELCA Service Day Sept. 8

Since 2013, we have been participating in our denomination's annual "God's work. Our hands." (GWOH) service day!

Together we have shared in meaningful and fun service opportunities, as we are sent out into the world alongside community partners to love and serve God and neighbor.

Make plans to:

- join in worship on Sunday, September 8 at 9 a.m.
- then join us for a group picture at 10:10 a.m. and set out to share in one of the service projects.

We will have additional yellow "GWOH" shirts available in the narthex in August.

Find a site you're interested in (either meeting at Grace or nearby) and sign up in advance so we can best prepare to meet community needs. Sign-up sheets to serve will be in the narthex, and available online in the weekly *Grace Notes* email.

If you would be willing to serve as a team leader and/or have a new community partner idea, please contact Pastor Amanda.

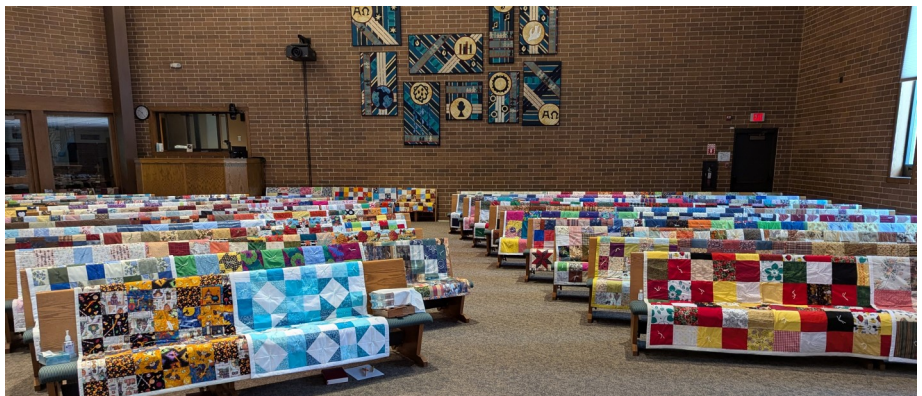


As a part of Sept. 8 "God's work. Our hands.," (GWOH), we will be assembling 120 school kits for distribution by Lutheran World Relief. These kits help make school possible for children around the world. We need your help to collect the supplies needed to create these

kits. Visit the bulletin board in the narthex to see what items are needed. Back to school sales are starting, so it's the perfect time to help provide the school kit items. Cash donations are also welcome to fund non-donated items. If you are

worshipping from home and would like to make a donation, please email or call Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia (contact information below), and she will happily coordinate that with you.

Items may be returned to the labeled bucket in the narthex. It is a huge help to have all of these items returned to the church by **August 25** in order to allow time to purchase any additional items needed. Contact Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia (815-245-1242, mbmartinbellavia@gmail.com) with any questions about the school kits.



Quilts made for Lutheran World Relief by the Sewing Circle were draped over pews in the sanctuary recently. The Sewing Circle created 72 quilts for LWR.

Gifts of Love for Local, World Communities Coming From Grace Sewing Circle

Busily creating, Grace's Sewing Circle wants to share with the congregation what it's been up to. Large quilts (72) will be sent to Lutheran World Relief, where they are distributed all over the world to people in need.

Small quilts (119) and crocheted blankets (30) will be distributed to 10 local nursing homes in McHenry County. In addition to blankets, local nursing homes will also receive

walker bags (160), wheelie bags (90), cell phone bags (108), poly bags (145), small pillows (36) and neck pillows (32), all of which are made by our members. The Sewing Circle generally distributes twice a year.

All materials are donated, and Grace Sewing Circle participants thank the congregation very much for the generosity.

Materials used are sheets (new or recycled), fabric, quilt batting, pillow

stuffing, yarn, embroidery and sewing thread, rotary cutting blades and Thrivent Action Team cards.

Sewing Circle meets the **first and third Tuesday each month from 8:30 a.m. - noon** in the lower level at church. **All are welcome**, if you are willing and able. We also have kits to sew at home if you are so inclined. Contact Tammy Hansing with questions.



... As Well as Confirmation & Youth Standing With Jesus (YSJ) News

Calling all youth, their parents, and church members. There's lots going on this month that affects all.

Sunday Fun Day:

On July 28 during worship, hear YSJ talk about its time in New Orleans at the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. After worship service, come enjoy a sweet treat with YSJ. Also, registration for Sunday School will be available on-site.



YSJ pictured before heading to New Orleans last month.

Backpack Blessing & Pray and Play

On Aug. 11, during the 9 a.m. service, Tyler Palak will ask students, teachers and school staff to come forward for a blessing. You are welcome to hold backpacks, devices, or school supplies if you would like.

Stay after the service and meet outside at the playground to gather, play and chat for the next Pray & Play. **All are welcome!**



First day of Sunday School

Aug. 18 marks the first day of Sunday School. Parents and students will meet & greet teachers in the classrooms at 10 a.m. after worship

Confirmation Class Update

A parent and student meeting will be held Aug. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Pastor Amanda and Tyler will discuss the course syllabus, registration, important dates, and class expectations. The first class for students will take place on Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church.

Volunteers Needed

Both Sunday School and confirmation are in need of volunteers, including substitute teachers for Sunday School. For confirmation, Tyler and Pastor Amanda look to add more voices and perspectives to help shape the faith formation of our youth at Grace. If you have a story to share and the willingness to commit an evening, then let Tyler know. All class materials are provided for both confirmation classes and Sunday School. If you're interested in volunteering for either, please fill out the form at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKKaN6Grgzjpw4RNY1inGvZfVWwdZWCmrQARKT3Tbua_De/A/viewform.

Bible Distribution

During worship on Aug. 25, Bibles will be presented to our Pre-K, Kindergarten, third grade and confirmation students.

Food Pantry

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bring them to the pantry for sorting. Having additional volunteers to share this task would be helpful.

• Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) Delivery Persons:

Food Bank deliveries happen one Thursday each month.

This involves liting and carrying items from the NIFB truck to the pantry (rolling carts are used).

• Periodic Special Project: We perform occasional special projects. Help can always be used to accomplish as needed.

WFP currently is searching for a larger location to serve our community. Part of this will be a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase and remodel a location to better serve our neighbors.

Please let us know if you have experience running a capital campaign.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Grace representative Mike Phillips or the church office at 815-338-0554.

Grace Fellowship

Aug. 17: Potluck & Hymn Sing-Along

Worship and Music Committee organized on Aug. 17 a potluck supper at 6 p.m. followed by a Hymn "Sing-Along." Bring a dish to pass and a favorite hymn. Sign up in the narthex the dish you plan to bring. The Sing-Along will not be livestreamed. Contact Sally Sheahan if you need a ride to the event, all of which is indoors.

Aug. 18: Texas Roadhouse

Did you know on Sundays, you can take your service bulletin from that day for lunch or dinner to Texas Road House (835 Cog Cir., Crystal Lake, IL 60014), give it to your waiter and a portion of your bill will be donated to Grace? Well, we can. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Plan on meeting Jamielynn Wedoff and her family on Sunday, Aug. 18 for a Grace fellowship fundraiser!

Pinochle

- Daytime Pinochle meets Aug. 7 & Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. in Room 101.
- Evening Pinochle meets Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101.

WACM Burger Night

- WACM Fundraiser for the Direct Assistance Program held 5 -7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 406 Clay St., Woodstock.

Presence Light Sponsors:

August 4:

- In honor of Sally and Jim Sheahan's 50th wedding anniversary, given by Jim & Sally Sheahan

August 11:

- To the glory of God

August 18:

- In memory of Jim Reinhard, given by Karen Reinhard

August 25:

In memory of Marlene Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber, given by Robert B. Teuber

Bulletin Sponsors:

August 4:

- In honor of our 44th wedding anniversary on August 9, given by Mark & Beth Miller

August 11:

- In honor of our August celebrations, given by Andy & MB

August 18:

- In memory of Jim Reinhard, given by Karen Reinhard

August 25:

- In memory of Marlene Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber, given by Robert B. Teuber

eGiving Options

In addition to weekly offering envelopes, Grace provides electronic giving options. Please give in the way that is most convenient for you and let us know if you have any questions.

Give Online at our website or via our QR code



Give by Text by texting **877-698-3604**

Enter the 10-digit number (877-698-3604) and the amount you wish to donate, then press send, and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

Give through Vanco Mobile App by downloading the app

- Go to the App Store or Google Play and search "**Vanco Mobile**" to quickly find and download the app for free.
- Search "**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**" to select Grace in Woodstock, IL, then select Give to select an amount, General Operating Fund, and frequency, and the app will prompt you through completing your donation.

Give through automatic withdrawal program. To participate, please complete an enrollment form and return to the church office to schedule pre-authorized electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank account. You can change, stop, or temporarily hold your giving by contacting Grace's church office four business days in advance of a scheduled contribution.

*Please contact the church office (815-338-0554),
if you have any questions.*

Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all that is happening at Grace! gracewoodstock.org

GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

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Jan Burns

Music Group Directors

Terry Aavang, Jon Bergstrom,
Carrie Filetti, Cindy Meyer

Building Supervisor

Ken Zank

Custodians

Chris & Kim Ethridge

Council

Michelle Anderson, Diana Frisbie,
Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Kleinjan,
Nancy Kreznor, Matt Meiners,
Mark Miller, Mary Noe,
Robert Teuber

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