

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

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Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

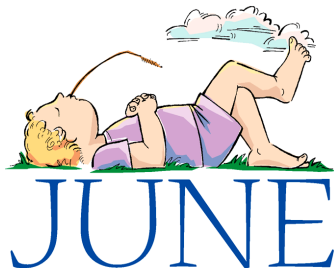
9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary – Pam Reents
Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Cody Talarico
Sexton - Ambros Lado/Brian Sutej
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill
Faith in Action - Julie Chytil

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*Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in
care and in service to all.*



2008

THE GRACE MESSENGER

2008 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Sarah Emery	June Hilmer
Greg Hula (V.P.)	David Hufford	Regina Ivo
David Nange	Brenda Spahr (Sec)	Grace Traynor
	Pastor Laaker **	

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej



The regular meeting of the Council was held May 13th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing John Williams, Eldon Zellmer, Skyler Kennedy, Chris Goodrich, Bobby Heesacker, Eli Josoff,; care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal; we pray for Ambrose who is continuing to gain strength; we pray for Ivo's safety; we pray for Don Olson following his shoulder surgery; we pray for Andrew Edwards for healing after a diabetic reaction; we pray for the Moyer family who are in mourning following the passing of Loren's father, Charles Moyer; we pray for the victims in both Myanmar and China; we pray for all who have lost loved ones and that they remain both hopeful and faithful; we pray for an end to all of the unrest and conflict in the world; we pray in praise for John Spahr's returning to work. Pastor led devotions from Psalm 56:8 and Revelation 21:4; The Psalm suggests to us that sadness and suffering of life are stored and then in Revelation we told that all tears and sadness are wiped away by God.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading "*Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century*" by Carl S. Dudley. Please read Chapter 4 "Pastor/People Tensions" and work on the exercises in the book by the next meeting.

Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Please continue to give generously.

Christian Education: The mid-week Education class meeting was held on May 7th. The next meeting is scheduled on May 27th at 7:00 p.m.; please plan to attend if interested. Vacation Bible School is scheduled during the week of June 23rd.

Evangelism/Outreach: Kids At Work welcome dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Finance: Council approved allocations submitted by The Endowment Board.

Property: The parking lot will be resealed soon. The air conditioning systems have been serviced.

Service/Social Ministry: Council received a flyer from OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) with upcoming events.

Support/Stewardship: Pastor is looking for a new parish records book, the current one has reached its capacity. Council discussed a year round stewardship program that would provide a weekly quote for the bulletin as well as a temple talk.

Worship: Prices of the Altar flowers have been secured at the existing price. Pastor will be at the Synod Assembly on June 1st, speaking at First Presbyterian on June 8th and attending a family reunion on June 15th. During this time Pastor Bob Johnson will fill in.

Unfinished Business: Council discussed the Internship Agreement and explored options for additional funding. Some Grant Funding has already been secured through the Nebraska Synod and the Horizon Scholarship. It was the unanimous decision of the council to proceed with the internship placement.

New Business: No new report.

Announcements: David Hufford will bring treats for our June meeting.



I am amazed and delighted that God has worked through us, Pastor and Congregation Council, to not only consider but put together the plans for welcoming an intern among us beginning July 7. As I wrote in this space last month, I believe this is of God. I would not have moved in this di-

rection at this time. The Congregation Council would not have moved in this direction at this time. It was God moving and aligning things so that God can do some new things among us.

What does internship mean? It means that when a congregation becomes an internship site, the entire parish makes a commitment to trust, learn with, and then let go of the person they have helped equip for ministry. Now, that doesn't sound like much fun if we only focus on the part of letting go.

I can only begin to imagine the ways that we will learn to trust God working through Angela Khabeb as she comes to minister with us. I have given my word to Angela that I will work with her as she learns ministry details. I trust that she will challenge me and us to think more clearly about some of the things we simply do without thinking because we've grown to know one another well over these years.

One of the ways we can learn together is to be open to new ideas. We can welcome new perspectives and the enthusiasm Angela will bring as she ministers among us. She has learned a lot sitting in classes over the last several years. Now she needs to try out some of that learning, so that she can see how learning and practice fit in a congregational setting. Will she be perfect? Probably not, since none of us are perfect. We simply have grown to know each other. We can do the same with Angela.

Will we be disappointed when the year of internship comes to a close? I suspect so. I know that when I invest myself in someone and we have to separate, I am disappointed. I also know that my disappointment will be tempered with the joy of having had the opportunity to develop a new relationship.

On Sunday, May 18, I said that there were 3 R's of holy living: respect, responsibility and relationship. We have the opportunity to develop each of those R's every day of our life but in this new venture, we will clearly have those R's to work on.

We will need to develop respect for an intern learner leader. Angela won't have it all together as a pastoral leader. Yet, we will need to respect her and her efforts that work toward developing that leadership.

We will need to be responsible in sharing leadership. (I will have to work hard on this.) At the same time, being responsible is not dumping everything on her but putting forth the effort to come alongside and together work for God's mission to be accomplished through us.

We will need to develop relationships. Every new person we meet allows us to open ourselves to the wonder of God's work between us. Supporting, encouraging, challenging, loving, extending care are all part of a relationship. Together God will weave the fabric of our lives into something that is God pleasing.

Please join me in regular prayer for Angela, her family and for Grace Congregation. May we together bring glory to God's work among us.

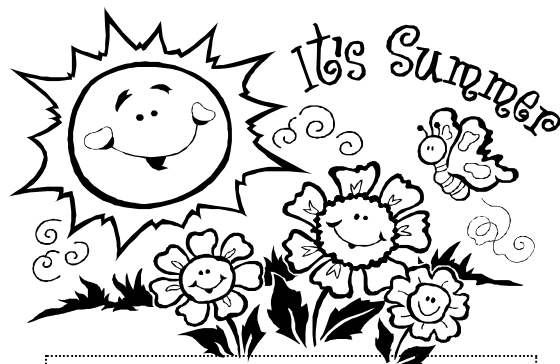
Pastor Laaker



As you plan for your summer vacations and activities, please don't forget to continue to give generously to the work of the church. Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? The *Simply Giving* program is the answer. For those who travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. If you are interested in finding out how you can enroll in this convenient way to keep up with your pledge, contact the church office for enrollment forms.

What's Happening at Grace Lutheran Church this Summer?

- Kids At Work Kick Off on Sunday June 8th. The Program completes on August 10, 2008
- Vacation Bible School June 23 - 27. More details in this newsletter.
- 4th Annual Grace Lutheran Summer Reading Club begins in June.
- All Church Potluck Picnic in August. Details to be announced.
- Opportunity to work on the Neighbors South Habitat for Humanity House. Details in this newsletter



*These Programs
Will Resume in the Fall.*

Have a great Summer!

- Women of the ELCA Board and Circle Meetings.
 - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief.
- Afterschool Program for Neighborhood youth.

Kids At Work 2008



Kids At Work
June 8 - August 10, 2008

Can You Help?

The Kids At Work Program, a program that links elementary and middle school aged youth to faithful worship, learning responsibility and saving their earnings, needs people to volunteer to be team leaders on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon during June, July, and August.

The Kids At Work Kick-Off is on Sunday, June 8th with the first workday being Tuesday, June 10th. Even if you can only work once or twice during the summer or weekly, your help would be welcomed. If you have a project idea that you think the Kids At Work could do for the church or for someone in the area, give me a call at church, 341-7730 or at home, 551-4347.

HEY, KAW KIDS!

Time is just flying by! The summer program will be starting soon .

Please remember to open your bank accounts and return your contracts!

If you have lost the bank form, just give me a call.

This is a great chance to have fun, earn \$\$\$ and learn some work skills.

DON'T MISS OUT!!

Brenda Spahr, KIDS AT WORK Director

Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering

August 1-3, 2008, men of all ages will gather in Omaha, NE, under the same theme verse as the founders, "...your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." (Acts 2:17). We will celebrate 20 years of ministry and launch the next great step. Lutheran Men in Mission will continue to grow and become a financially self-reliant, separately-incorporated ministry of the ELCA. Lutheran Men in Mission will COME OF AGE. More importantly, generations of men will come together in Jesus Christ. We will serve, we will play, we will learn, we will worship, we will encounter God – and each other – and we will grow! Bring your son, bring your friend, and bring your dad – join us.

Registration for COMING OF AGE Lutheran Men's Gathering AUGUST 1-3, 2008 – OMAHA

Visit www.visitomaha.com for more information on Omaha.



Register by mail: Registrar, Lutheran Men's Gathering

8765 West Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Register by fax: (773) 380-2115

Register online: www.elca.org/lmm

Registration Fee: 1 man \$150 each

2 men \$125 each

3 or more men \$100 each

Total Registration Fee: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

_____ Check (made payable to Lutheran Men in Mission)

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Discover _____ American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: Month: _____ Year: _____

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

Name as printed on card: _____

Signature: _____

Billing address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

For more information or to purchase tickets for the Building for the Future Challenge special dinner on Friday, August 1 at 5 p.m. go to: elca.org/lmm.

First Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I would like to sing in the Gathering Men's Choir

Second Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I would like to sing in the Gathering Men's Choir

Third Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I would like to sing in the Gathering Men's Choir

Hotel Reservations online:

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/OMACVHH-MBL-20080725/index.jhtml>

Hilton/Omaha (800) 445.8667

Ask for Lutheran Men's Gathering – Single/Double \$124

Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends



- ◆ Ambros Lado - Continue to pray for Ambros as he is also looking into going back to school to improve his English skills to become a translator. Ambros knows several languages! (Member)
- ◆ Megan Sperling - Pray for emotional and physical healing. (Friend of Member, Lori Vasquez)
- ◆ Elna Burns - Suffered a stroke. (Sister of Don Olson, member)
- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Rex Olson - For healing as he deals with cancer. (relative of members, Don and Norma Olson)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - On-going therapy after his stroke. Pray for help as he is trying to find another job that will enable him to continue gaining strength. (member)
- ◆ Norma Olson - Pray for healing for her injured leg. (member)
- ◆ Teri Briley - Cancer treatments. (daughter of Gloria and Richard Moore)
- John Williams - Struggling with throat issues after having tubes removed. John is slowly making progress. Jack thanks you for your prayers on his son's behalf. (Son of Jack Williams)
- Regier/Schoenwald Family - The twin girls are finishing up school for the summer and are looking forward to more intense physical therapy so that they can be rid of their wheel chairs. Their mom, Janelle is slowly building a new life with the twins after the death of her husband and two children in the accident. Pray that God will help her and the girls through the intense grief. (Relatives of Pam Reents, Church Sec.)
- Gloria Wipperling - Health Concerns. (Member and daughter of Eva Martin and sister, Brenda Spahr)
- London Colstan - tiny infant struggling with liver problems. (Friend of Morlan/Olson family)
- David Nange - Healing for regulation of blood pressure and headaches. (Council Member)
- Lori Vasquez - Hospitalized for a skin infection. (Member)
- Olive Laaker - Being cared for by Pastor's sister after hospitalization. Preparing for another medical procedure. Pray that her strength will continue to grow.

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Harlan Morter
Richard Moore

Mae Lane
Thelma Harrahill - (In Kansas with her children)

Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Church.

Pray for the new Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.

Pray for guidance as the church investigates hiring a pastoral intern.

Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Laaker

Bishop David deFreese, Nebraska Synod

Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Titus Duli, David Nange and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.
- ◆ Remember John Ivo Mounto. John is working several very dangerous locations in Africa.

Let's encourage each other as we see
God's hand in answering our prayers.



2nd Wednesday Night of Each month
Next Prayer Service
June 10, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Candle light Prayer Service for Confession,
Meditation, and Healing
at Grace Lutheran Church.

Let's Build Something!
Neighbors South Coalition
Habitat For Humanity House
1902 South 11 Street



Beginning on June 20th, Grace Lutheran Church will join the Neighbors South Coalition once a again to build a home for a well-deserving family.

Volunteers are needed to help in all areas of construction, food preparation and service, and cleanup most Fridays and Saturdays during the summer. The goal is to complete the home in late August.

Whether you are a skilled construction worker, a handy man type or just willing to learn, there is a job for you. On site volunteer coordinators are also needed to over see check-in, lunch and snack set up, cleanup or just being a "go fer." A schedule of construction goals by date is posted on the bulletin board.

If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful and satisfying project, forms are available through the church office or at the back table in the sanctuary. Contact Pastor Laaker with questions.



The Summer Issue of Davey and Goliath's Devotions Magazine is here!

These fun-filled activity books are available at the table in back of the sanctuary. These are free to the first 10 families!

Each week has four pages of fun-filled Bible based activities. Set aside 10 minutes at the beginning of the week to read the Bible story and say the prayer on the first page. Some weeks that may be all you can do! If you have more time, try the rest of the faith-filled activities during the week.

Page 1 - Everything starts with a Bible story re-telling, a prayer and questions from Goliath.

Page 3 - Sharing 24-7 is full of ideas for sharing faith with others.

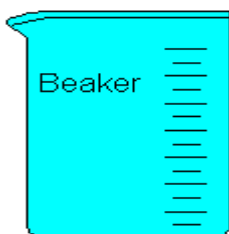
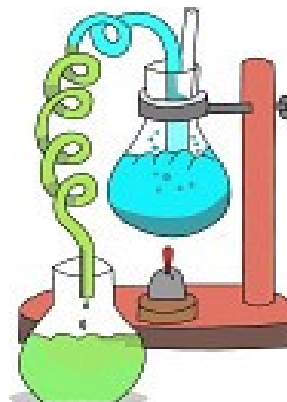
Page 2 - Bring the story to life with a Bible Activity and puzzles, games and mazes.

Page 4 - Everybody Praising and Blessings on the Go offer prayers and blessings for families on the go!

www.augsburgfortress.org

Happening in the Grace Lutheran Library!

Announcing the
4th Annual Grace Lutheran Library
Summer Reading Club
"Formula for Fun!"
"Discovering New Adventures"
June 8 - August 31, 2008



Put your name on a beaker on the poster in the library. Your goal will be to "fill" your beaker with the pages you have read each week.

Everyone completing the minimum required reading will receive a certificate, a small consolation prize and free admission to the celebration party at the end of the summer. The top readers in each category will receive an additional prize at the party.

Minimum requirements for free admission to the party:

50 pages for the "read to Me" crowd. (Non-readers and early beginners)

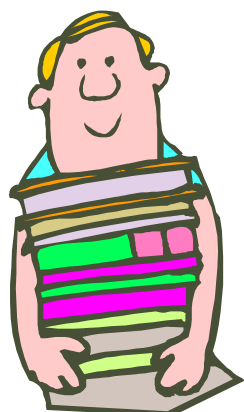
75 pages for the Primary Grades. (Grades 1-3)

125 pages for the Elementary Grades. (Grades 4-6)

175 pages for Jr. High and High School. (Grades 7-12)

There is no contest for best reader in the adult category this year but adults are still encouraged to sign a beaker and read. We will acknowledge the adults at the summer end party.

New in the Library



15 new books have been added to our library shelves thanks to our success in fund raising during our Lent book sale.

Most of the titles are located in the young adult fiction section of the church library. Eight titles have been added to the adult fiction center.

The church library is filled with great books! Everyone is invited to participate in the summer reading club!

Looking for the sequel to a series in our library or heard about a Christian book you want to read? Let us know! We still have some funds left!





"Helping Hands"

Hope for the hungry and hopeless.



Project Hope

The Theme for June is

Personal Care Items such as Shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

Project Hope always needs boxes of zip lock bags in quart or gallon size, soup, peanut butter, macaroni, rice, diapers, bathroom tissue & feminine, hygiene items.



Start Collecting School Supplies Now

Each July and August, Project Hope and First Lutheran Church help needy children get a good start on the school year by providing backpacks and school supplies.

As you shop this summer, consider purchasing some school supplies to help with the enormous demand. Place your donations on the pantry shelf in the Upper Hall.

Thanks for your help!



*Hunger Awareness Day
is June 3rd!*

Activities you can be a part of.

Hunger Awareness Day is an opportunity to reach out to our community to expand our understanding of hunger and its effect on the community. Right now in the Omaha metro area many working families are having trouble making ends meet and providing food to put on the table.

The Food Bank is coordinating various events across the community in observance of Hunger Awareness Day – all events occurring on Tuesday, June 3rd:

- **Hunger Awareness Day Community Dinner** – An evening to recognize and celebrate the food pantry volunteers and workers who tirelessly labor to provide food for the area's hungry men, women and children.
-Evening begins with Dinner at 5:30
at First Presbyterian Church, 34th & Farnam
- **Kids 'n' Kans Carnival** – Carnival games, food & fun for kids of all ages at Elmwood Park, 4-7pm! Bring a can or a buck for The Food Bank! Sponsored by the UNO Public Relations Student Society of America.



Saturday, June 21, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Benson High School
5120 Maple Street
Omaha, Nebraska

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Our community of Omaha is the home to thousands of refugees from all over the world. The Refugee Task Force of Omaha is planning the 2008 celebration of World Refugee Day. This day has been set aside to educate the community about our newest neighbors and the contributions they bring to Omaha.

The day will include an educational program on refugee issues, musical and dance performances by the different refugee groups, lunch, vendors with hand-made items, job fair, medical screenings, fashion show, awards ceremony, children's carnival and sporting events such as volleyball and soccer. Last year, over 500 individuals took part in the World Refugee Day event. This year the Planning Committee is anticipating 1,000 participants.

Volunteers will be needed to provide support at the various events through out the day. To obtain more information or to volunteer at World Refugee Day, please contact Susan Mayberger at 402-557-2431.

Grace Lutheran Refugee Celebration Sunday June 22, 2008

The people of Grace Lutheran Church will join together with the Sudanese Church for a Community Service and potluck picnic on Sunday, June 22 in celebration of diversity in our worshipping community. At the potluck, we will be asking folks to bring their favorite dish to share. Contact the church office or watch the church bulletin for more details.

"Hear and you forget;
see and you remember;
do and you understand."





The quilters of Grace Lutheran Church have contributed quilts to Lutheran World Relief for many years. Here is a list of the many places the quilts could have been sent in 2007!

The Grace Quilters will resume their quilt ministry in September.

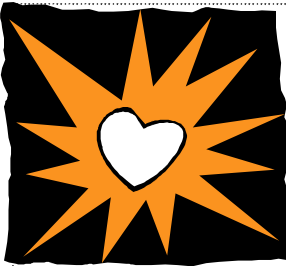
WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2007?

1,494 tons worth more than \$14 million to 23 countries around the world

Country	LWR Partner Agency	Quilts	School Kits	Health Kits	Sewing Kits	Layettes	Soap (Pounds)
Afghanistan	Rotary International	22,500	21,000	18,000	6,000	11,000	4,920
	International Orphan Care	11,500	3,850	7,200	1,800	5,000	1,968
Armenia	International Orthodox Christian Charities	11,250					
	United Methodist Committee on Relief	3,960					
Azerbaijan	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	31,800	13,000	9,300	3,750	13,000	7,360
	International Relief and Development	6,000		2,400		4,000	
Burkina Faso	Catholic Organization for Development and Solidarity	19,200	4,000	1,800	1,875	6,000	552
Georgia	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	16,985	4,375	2,400	750	1,600	
	United Methodist Committee on Relief	2,040					
Guatemala	Mercy Corps		11,375	12,000			
India	Church's Auxiliary for Social Action	33,600					
Jordan	International Orthodox Christian Charities	8,550				9,500	
Mali	National Solidarity Fund	22,500	14,000	9,000	3,750	10,000	5,520
Mauritania	Lutheran World Federation	27,300	12,000	6,000	3,750	3,000	11,500
Niger	Blind and Other Disabled Persons Community Based Rehabilitation Project in Niger	15,100	3,500	6,600	3,750	2,000	21,321
Israel and Palestinian Territories	International Orthodox Christian Charities		36,750				
	Lutheran World Federation	1,500	15,600				
Peru	Caritas	7,500	14,000	18,000			
Romania	International Orthodox Christian Charities		18,375				
Sierra Leone	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone	33,000	9,000	12,000	7,500	2,000	8,602
Syria	International Orthodox Christian Charities					9,500	
Tajikistan	Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan	3,300	3,500		5,250	4,000	
Tanzania	Christian Council of Tanzania	30,000	8,750	3,000	5,625		5,904
Thailand	Thailand Burma Border Consortium	75,000				5,400	
Uganda	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	25,285	1,750	3,000	2,250	16,000	2,460
Ukraine	International Relief and Development	45,000					
Yugoslavia (Serbia, Kosovo)	International Orthodox Christian Charities					3,800	
Zambia	Lutheran World Federation			3,600	2,250		2,952
Totals		452,870	194,825	114,300	48,300	105,800	73,059

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

- Our prayers and sympathy are extended to two of our member families at the death of their loved ones this month: Charles Moyer, father/grandfather of members, Loren and Marsha Moyer and grandchildren, Jessica and Dustin (wife, Rachael) Moyer and attendee, Donna Hazelhurst: Bob Matson, Brother of member, Dorothy Novak, stepfather/grandfather of John and member Brenda Spahr and grandchild, Andrea Spahr, and brother-in-law/uncle to members Ferne Matson and Carolyn Matson. We pray that God will comfort our sisters and brothers in their grief during the difficult months to come.
- Thanks again to the men who are maintaining the church yard; Bob Moss and Jerry Van Ormer. If you can help on a Monday morning or on a Thursday, contact Pastor Laaker to volunteer.
- Thanks to Eva Martin who has been helping with mailings and bulletin assembly each week.
- Thanks to Janet Hula for her leadership in organizing the Vacation Bible School program. If you have not signed up to help, WE NEED YOU! Contact Janet for more details. Bring your children and grandchildren to VBS each night during the week of June 23 - 27.
- Thanks to our quilters; Marilyn Van Ormer, June Hilmer, Norma Olson, LaVonne Moss, Barb Nelson, and Eva Martin for their faithful efforts to provide comfort to people in need with the wonderful quilts they create. The quilters will resume their quilting gathering again in the fall.
- Thanks to Brenda Spahr for her organization of the Kids at Work Program again this year. Brenda is always in need of team leaders to supervise the kids as they work in the community two days a week. If you can help even once this summer, contact Brenda!
- Thanks to the folks who have provided recipes for our cookbook project. We are looking forward to sampling all your favorite recipes. If you haven't submitted anything yet, NOW is the time!



**FAITH
IN ACTION**

Welcome Summer! Many of us long for summer and the opportunity of to read a good book with a glass of cold lemonade. *Faith in Action* of Interfaith Health Service recently received a copy of the new book, "Promise to Mary" *A Story of Faith in Action*. This book was written by Paul Jellinek who has served on the staff of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for almost 20 years (Robert Wood Johnson has been the major funding source for *Faith in Action* programs for many years). Paul and his wife are also longtime *Faith in Action* volunteers. The forward of the book is written by Della Reese, the national spokesperson for *Faith in Action*. The book shares stories collected from interviews from both volunteers and care receivers from *Faith in Action* programs from various parts of the country. If you would like to borrow the book from our office to read and inspire you this summer, please give us a call!

Summer also brings with it lawns to be mowed and other yard work options to help those in need. If you are more of an outdoor person, this could be just the opportunity for you! We still have many others just in need of weekly phone call. If you have a little extra time this summer, please feel free to share with a neighbor in need.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Remember, A neighbor's independence depends on you!!

Julie Chytil Phone: 660-2652 e-mail: faithinaction2005@hotmail.com

www.fiavolunteers.org or www.faithia.org

Community News

**Neighborhood Association
Membership dues
\$5.00 a year per household!**

Send your money to
CPNA care of Grace Lutheran Church
1326 S 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105
Call 341-7730 for more information.

Columbus Park



Next Meeting: June 19, 7:00 p.m.
at Grace Lutheran Church



Need Some Help with Your Life?

**Free Counseling is available
through the Community Counseling Program**

Allyson Campbell, CMSW, LMHP is available to offer confidential counseling to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. Her office is at St Luke's Lutheran Church, 2315 I Street. Her hours at St. Luke are Tuesdays and Thursdays for 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 733-0172 to set up an appointment.

Good Neighbor Ministries

Stephen Stout of Good Neighbor Ministries work in the Columbus Park area to help elderly/needly folks with specific needs. These are the folks who are on the list for this month.

Judy, a widow who lives by herself, needs help installing her window unit air conditioner in her home. (will require two people)

Linda, a retired lady on oxygen, needs help getting her gas weed eater started, and she also needs help mowing her grass through out the summer. She has a very small yard.

Lynette has four kids and a grandson, who has bi – polar and depression, whom she is caring for too. Most of her upstairs windows are broken due to her grandson breaking them. – she is trying to get him placed at Boys Town. Now the city is wanting to condemn her home, and she is quite concerned about that. She needs someone to fix her broken windows. (GNM will pay for the repairs if someone could take them out and bring them in to a hardware store to have them fixed.)

Elaine: I still need a small group to help paint her porch.

If you can help, contact Stephen at 344-4738.

Disaster Preparedness Summit

If a natural disaster or terrorist attack occurred today, would you be ready to respond to the emergency needs of your family and neighbors? The U.S. Department Security has developed a FREE program to help prepare you. Every participant will receive a free basic survival kit upon completion of the program. The one hour Preparedness Course will be held June 4th, 11:30 a.m. at Lewis and Clark Middle School, 6901 Burt Street in the cafeteria. Space is limited and RSVP's are required. Light refreshments will be served. Call 444-5772 to hold your place.



**Brass in the Grass
Free Outdoor Concert**

June 28, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4117 Terrace Dr
Omaha, NE

Featuring the Stoneback Brass and Stoneback Sisters, a nationally renowned triplet trumpet trio. A free will offering will be taken.

(No alcohol on church premises)



Virginia McGill
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Douglas County Health Department
Se habla español .

Last month, I was pleased to nominate one of our very first Latinas in Action program members for a United Way Special Recognition Award. Maria did not win the award but was selected as runner up for the award from numerous applications. She received a special mention award from the United Way and was honored by our participants for her commitment to health and education. Below is a brief excerpt from Maria's official nomination that I wanted to share with our Interfaith congregations. I hope that her story inspires all of you the way it inspires me. Virginia MCGill, Interfaith

At 73 years of age, Maria V. is a founding member and faithful participant in the Latinas in Action program. Maria helped Interfaith Health Service and the Douglas County Health Department, as well as a coalition of churches, health care agencies and community organizations in Omaha, design and implement this program that meets the educational and exercise needs of over 500 families a year.

Several times a week, Maria volunteers with the Latinas in Action program, taking part in aerobics and dance moves along with dozens of other women and youth, most of whom are half her age. She listens attentively during educational presentations on nutrition and women's health, and graciously welcomes guest speakers and new participants to the program. She likes showing others that if she cares about being attentive to her physical health and learning more about nutrition and women's health issues, they can, too.

Maria also welcomes working with nursing students from several local colleges and universities who visit her in her home during their community health rotations. Maria shares her life experiences and her commitment to women's health with students and faculty members interested in promoting health and education.

Maria's energy, wonderful sense of humor and her "can do" attitude make her approachable and grounded, as well as a respected leader and volunteer. Her open dialogue with community leaders and administrators helps keep a focus on the importance of exercise, nutritional education and the health of mind, body and spirit for women and children in Omaha.

Latinas in Action participants whom I interviewed in gathering information for this nomination speak of Maria as "an example to all of us", "warm", "a woman with a zest for life", "always smiling" and "inspirational to everyone". Interfaith Health Service is truly privileged to benefit from Maria's volunteer work and leadership and is honored to nominate her for this prestigious award. Maria, by nature, does not seek out the spotlight or seek any accolades for her tireless work on behalf of others. However, the time has come to honor Maria and her work in the Omaha community and on behalf of the many participants involved in Interfaith's ministry.

Virginia McGill, Director





“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with the hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.” “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”

(Matthew 24:36, 40 & 42)

From the Editor

My husband has been hired two times in the last three weeks to prepare property for various events. He worked on our friends yard, clearing away debris, broken branches and removing weeds. Our friend’s daughter was graduating and many people would be coming to the house. My friends wanted their property to be ship-shape so that their guests would feel comfortable when they arrived.

Don also helped one of his friends who is the yard person for a four acre estate here in Omaha. Don’s friend, Terry, was in a lather because the one of the owners of the home was coming back into town after being away for over three years. Because “the queen mum” was to arrive shortly, he wanted everything to be perfect. Don spent the better part of the day fixing an expensive and rather touchy brass swan fountain that was kinked. The water didn’t flow properly and the swan ceased “spitting” liquid out of their mouths and began piddling water out of their backsides. Not exactly the tranquil, peaceful scene the owners would hope for! After the fountain was fixed, he went around the property making sure all the walk lights, spotlights, porch lights, patio lights and fountain lights were in working order. Everything is now in order for the mistress of the house to arrive!

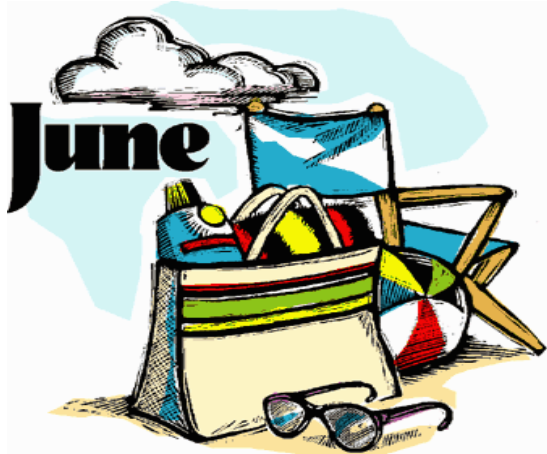
There is another event coming up that we all need to be ready for. The Bible says “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” The Second Coming of Christ. Unlike the two events Don and the parties were involved in, we will not know exactly when He will return. The verses at the top of this page even say the angels don’t know when. Only God knows. It occurred to me again that if I really believed that His return could be any day, shouldn’t that change the way I approach my daily life? When I started to look in the Bible, I was surprised at the instructions we were given to do in anticipation of His return.

We are to:

- Watch and be sober. The idea is not to be lazy.
- Put on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
- Comfort one another because it says the going will get tough.
- Respect those who labor for us i.e. government leaders, community leaders, and church leaders.
- Exhort the unruly and feeble minded.
- Support the weak.
- Rejoice evermore
- Pray without ceasing.
- Quench not the Spirit.
- Give thanks in everything for this is the will of God for you.
- Prove all things - Weigh what you hear, including prophecies, against what the Bible says.
- Abstain from the appearance of evil. Don’t do it if even *looks* wrong (even if *technically* it isn’t.)

So...What’s admonishments on this list are areas in your life that need tending? I was convicted by several. Getting our spiritual life and relationship ready for His return is even more important than getting property ready for visits from friends, family and employers. Read 1 Thessalonians 5. Ask God to tap your heart and show you the areas He wants cleaned first. Occupy ‘til He comes!

Pam Reents, Editor



June Trivia

- Probably named for the Roman Goddess Juno, patroness of women, marriage and the home.
- Has 30 Days.
- Birthstone - Pearl or Moonstone.
(Meaning - Wisdom and Faithfulness)
- Flower - Rose or Honeysuckle.
(Meaning - Love)

Top Ten Things You'll Never Hear a Dad Say

10. Well, how 'bout that?... I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions.
9. You know Pumpkin, now that you're thirteen, you'll be ready for unchaperoned car dates. Won't that be fun?
8. I noticed that all your friends have a certain "up yours" attitude ... I like that.
7. Here's a credit card and the keys to my new car -- GO CRAZY.
6. What do you mean you wanna play football? Figure skating not good enough for you, son?
5. Your Mother and I are going away for the weekend ... you might want to consider throwing a party.
4. Well, I don't know what's wrong with your car. Probably one of those doo-hickey thingies -- you know -- that makes it run or something. Just have it towed to a mechanic and pay whatever he asks.
3. No son of mine is going to live under this roof without an earring -- now quit your belly-aching, and let's go to the mall.
2. Whaddya wanna go and get a job for? I make plenty of money for you to spend.
1. Father's Day? aahh -- don't worry about that -- it's no big deal.

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Special Days in June at Grace Lutheran Church

Be sure to greet our Kids At Work Kids and their families who will be worshipping with us every Sunday through August 10th.

**Every Tuesday and Wednesday
beginning June 10th 10:00 - Noon**
Kids at Work Program.

- 3 - Hunger Awareness Day.
On Being Lutheran Study at Grace Church.
- 4 - Kids At Work Get Acquainted Dinner with the Church Council.
- 8 - Kids At Work Kids and Families in Worship.
Church Library Summer Reading Contest begins.
- 10 - Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 11 - Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.
- 15 - Happy Father's Day!
- 20 - Habitat House Build Begins at
1902 S 11th Street.
- 22 - Refugee Celebration Sunday.
More details in the coming weeks!
- 23-27 - "Power Lab" VBS!



Matthew, Chapter 9

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asleep
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awe
blaspheme
bleeding
blind
boat
booth
bridegroom
crossed
dinner
disciples
doctor
edge

entertain
evil
fast
few
flute
forgiven
garment
good
harassed
helpless
home
Jesus
knelt
law

mat
mercy
mute
news
old
paralytic
patch
plentiful
preserved
region
ruined
sacrifice
sew
sick

sins
skin
son
talk
tax
town
two
walk
wineskin
yes

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