

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

Return Service Requested
Dated Material

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
Vicar - Angela Khabeb
Editor/Church Secretary – Benhi Khabeb
Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Lynda Laird
Sexton - Brian Sutej
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

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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.*



THE GRACE MESSENGER

2009

2009 Council Members

Ron Adrian Sarah Emery (Sec) June Hilmer David Nange Gloria Moore
Andrew Edwards Arlone Farber Vicky Cox Ernest Olson Vicar Angela Khabebe
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 September 8th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the healing of those in our midst, Vicki Cox with her cold symptoms, Thelma Harahill and her broken bone, Ken Hilmer and his continued health struggles, Arlone Farber and her physical therapy on her shoulder; we pray for Arlone's friend, Ken Cattlett, as he learns that his cancer has spread to his brain, for the family of Andrew's friend, David Chappell, in mourning his death, for the family of Ambros Lado as they mourn his passing, for the family of Eve Samson as they struggle with unknown ailments; we pray for Ivo Mounto as well as his family; we pray for continued guidance with the start of our Faith Quest program; we pray for all those returning to school, and for all of our service people abroad and local.

Pastor led devotions from Hosea 10.12 and Luke 9.62. Hosea reminds us that our everyday experiences reestablish our relationship with God. God will not forsake us. Luke reminds us to set our sights on a goal and move steadily toward it. Do not allow yourself to become diverted.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading "*Radical Welcome*" by Stephanie Sleeper. We discussed how we needed to be clear in our mission, and remain focused on our path. Please read pages 97-119 for our next meeting.

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

Christian Education: Faith Quest will begin on 9/23. Brenda Spahr will be the coordinator. There will be snacks, but no meal. The time will be from 6-7:30. Confirmation class starts Friday, September 11, as well.

Evangelism/Outreach: Our picnic was a great success! Thanks to all for their support and attendance!

Finance: As of 1/1/10, Thrivent Financial will no longer pay the bank charges assessed with the Simply Giving contributions. The council ratified the allocation from the Disney endowment fund.

Property: An inspection is planned for the stained glass windows. A bid will follow on whether to replace/repair the stained glass. Sudanese Building Use Policy will be amended, as solutions are identified.

Service/Social Ministry: Habitat House Dedication will be 3:30 pm this Sunday, September 13. October 11 is the CROP walk.

Support/Stewardship: 120th Anniversary planning is in final stages. Pictures need to be to Amanda Vazquez by 9/15. Remember, Pastor Hahle will be here on October 11th. The plan is to go out to lunch after service. We will have the celebration / potluck at church on October 18th and Pastor Konig will be here.

Worship: No new report.

Unfinished Business: No new report.

New Business: No new report.

Announcements: Pastor will be at Synod Staff Retreat on Wednesday and Thursday, Synod Council on Friday and Saturday, and at a speaking engagement on Sunday. He will be in California September 17-21. He will be attending the Healthy Congregations National Gathering and will not be at our October meeting. June will bring treats for our October meeting.

FROM THE



PASTOR

As we left our early days story last month, the congregation has just received word that Board of Church Extension was willing to loan \$3,000 for a new building. Now the story continues.

“A special congregational meeting was held January 21, 1892, to discuss the need for a building and the present financial condition. It was decided that the congregation was too poor to secure the additional \$5,000.00 needed to meet the conditions of the deed and build an \$8,000.00 building.” On June 22, 1892, the Council recommended that the Articles of Incorporation be amended to show a change in the church name. A special congregational meeting was held on October 12, 1892, and the name of the congregation changed from Shull Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, the name it bears to this day.” A building committee was appointed in April of

1893. The committee consisted of Mr. J. Fred Smith, Mr. D. W. Shull, Mr. W. H. Koenig, and Pastor Kuhns. One of their recommendations was to level the lots in preparation for the time when the congregation might be able to build its first building. In September, new hitching posts were installed in front of the chapel and connection was made to the city water line.

“The grading work began in earnest in March of 1894. In the process of grading the lots, several graves were uncovered. It seems that in the early settlement of Omaha, about five acres of land, on the crest of a beautiful elevation in what is now Shull’s Addition, was used for burial purposes, practically “without leave or license.” In this old burial ground, used for only a few years, Thomas B. Cuming, twice acting Governor of the territory of Nebraska, was buried on March 25, 1858. However, on August 29, 1872, his body was removed and buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Later, on July 8, 1907, his body was moved once more. This time to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

“During the excavation, an expensive iron casket, with heavy plate glass, was unearthed, and near by there was brought to the surface a coffin in which was the body of a man encased in a soldier’s overcoat, with buckshot in the pockets. A pistol was also found in the coffin. It seems, as Mrs. Kate M. Jackman, daughter of Jacob and Susanna Shull and charter member of the congregation, later recalled many bones of early inhabitants were uncovered. She is quoted as saying that “...an old metallic casket was uncovered. It contained the body of an army officer’s wife, a Mrs. Clark, who had come from St. Louis by boat. The body was later buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery.” She also indicated that both Nebraska Governors Cuming and Izard were buried there originally. Her parents, Jacob and Susanna Shull are buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, which is located in the area of 32nd and Parker Streets in Omaha.

“Another old resident, of the area, Al Williams, many years ago verified Mrs. Jackman’s remarks. He stated that as a boy he lived over a saloon at 20th and Pierce Streets. When his father built their home on the north side of Pierce Street, east of 27th Street, he helped in the digging of the “cellar.” They unearthed the skeleton of an Indian sitting on a horse. He explained that to the south of what is now Poppleton Avenue was an old cemetery that was supposed to be closed, but there were still occasional burials there. North of Poppleton Avenue and down the hill to the creek, at about Pacific Street, there were Indian burials. The creek started from around 28th and Poppleton, about two blocks northwest of the church, from a huge spring, a reason for the Indians to make it a favorite camping site.

“According to the church council records, Mr. D. W. Shull was appointed to make proper disposition of the human remains. A task which was obviously completed.

“Later that year, 1894, an agreement was reached with the Shull heirs to extend the deadline for building a permanent church structure. In addition, preliminary plans were presented for a new building. Negotiation continued with the Board of Church Extension.

“In December of 1894, Grace was host to the North Platte Conference meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Nebraska. “The Church Council met on April 29, 1895, to review the latest proposal from the Board of Church Extension. Rev. Yarger, of the Board of Church Extension, wrote that the Board was in favor of giving the congregation \$3,000.00 and raising a loan of \$2,000.00, if the council would proceed to raise the remaining \$3,000.00 in order to erect a building in accordance with the requirements of the deed. The Council was not willing to assume the indebtedness with the bleak financial and economic prospects within the community.

“In October 1895, Pastor Kuhns traveled east to meet with the Board of Church Extension and the Board of Home Missions in the interest of securing support for building a new building. The boards agreed upon mutual lines of work. An immediate result of this visit was a donation of \$200.00 by the Board of Church Extension and their consent to give \$3,000.00 as a loan toward the erection of a \$5,000.00 church building. The Board of Home Missions increased their appropriation by \$100.00, bringing to \$400.00 their yearly grant for the support of the Pastor.

“At the December 1895 council meeting Pastor Kuhns reported on the trip and its outcome. In addition the council authorized the use of an envelope system for congregational giving. The money received through the envelopes would go towards the salary of the Pastor and current expenses.”

As we see, congregational life and ministry had many opportunities for celebration and struggle. I would like to think that while much has changed, much remains the same. Today we have many opportunities for celebration and we have our struggles. It was a wise decision to begin a congregational giving emphasis. We continue that effort today. Please take note of the opportunity to review your financial giving toward the ministry offered in Jesus’ name through Grace Lutheran Church as we enter our fall emphasis “Empowered by God – Responding by Grace.”

Pastor Laaker

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

*Got an item to share?
Let the church office know about it!*

W/ELCA Board &
Circle Meeting
Tuesday, October 20 2009
1:00 p.m.
Hostess/Bible Study Leader:
LaVonne Moss



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Lutheran Women of Omaha Luncheon

October 13th

Noon - \$6.00 per person

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4117 Terrace Dr.

**Reservations by Sunday,
October 11th to
Mardelle Gocek (292-1328)**

Program: Betsy Buschkemper with
Lutheran World Relief

Project: Monetary/Lutheran World
Relief Shipping Expenses



Quilting on Mondays! at 9:00 a.m. for Lutheran World Relief.

If you have the morning free, drop by and help
cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs.
Coffee break is at 10:00 a.m.

**October 19, 2009
Prayer Service
This Month!**



*Next Prayer Meeting
November 23 2009*



**JOIN US
AFTER
SCHOOL**

**Monday - Thursday
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

In the basement of the
Church.

**Free
Fun
Crafts
Snacks**

Safe place to hang out



*If OPS is closed, so are we!
Brenda Spahr, Director*



for Family and Friends

Grace Church Member, Family and Friend Requests

- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ David Nange's son, Paul as he recovers from surgery on his knee. (Council member)
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - As he struggles with dizziness and breathing problems. (member)
- ◆ La Vonne Moss -Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Fern Matson - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Elna Burns - Suffered a stroke sister of Don Olson (member)
- ◆ Kristine (Nelson) Mauler- Treatment for her cancer. (daughter of Barbara Nelson))
- ◆ Wendy Henexson- Recovery from transplant surgery. (daughter of Pastor Liz Conner)
- ◆ Lado family - as they grieve the loss of their father and husband.

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Mae Lane

Richard Moore

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

Pastor Laaker

Vicar Angela and family

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.

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



Community News

A Time for Celebration
Grace Lutheran Church
120th Anniversary

1326 South 26 Street
Omaha, NE



Come celebrate with us at the church service and/or potluck. The meat, drink and tableware will be provided. Please bring a side dish

Grace Lutheran Church 120th Anniversary

October 11, Pastor Dennis Hahle will be preaching

October 18 Pastor Paul Konig will be preaching. In honor of the people of Grace and their ministry for serving in Omaha, we are going to have a Potluck.

PS. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for further info.

Gods Blessings and Happy Anniversary Grace.



A memory book is being planned in celebration of Grace's 120th anniversary. people to share photos or written memories of events throughout the history of Grace. Thanks in advance for helping to make this a special event! Please watch the Sunday Bulletins or Bulletin Board outside of the office for more info.



Plans are underway for this year's Halloween Party.

Your help is needed. Please look over the list below and help where you can.

Donated items should be placed in the Halloween Donation Box in the upper fellowship hall.

Items needed for the Halloween Party . . .

Costume Contest Prizes

Prizes are needed in each of the categories below.

- Prettiest
- Scariest
- Funniest
- Most Creative

Prizes should cost around \$2.00 to \$5.00 each, and be something that can be used for Halloween, or have a Halloween theme. Suggestions: Flashlights, creepy toys like spiders, ghouls, etc., pumpkin carving kits, decorations, pumpkins.

Game Prizes

Approximate TOTAL Cost is in parentheses for those who would rather donate money.

Feel free to donate any amount!

Hundreds of trinkets (penny-nickel-dime stuff) for carnival games (approx. value \$50.00)

Dum-dum suckers for the "Lollipop Tree"

Bottles of pop (2 liter or smaller) for "Ring Toss"

Cakes for the "Cake Walk"

White Elephants or desirable give-aways for "Bingo"

Miscellaneous

Toilet Paper for the "Mummy Wrap"

Cellophane treat bags for popcorn and candy

Cash. A donation container will be placed in the back of the church each Sunday beginning Oct. 1st.

Refreshments

3 large bags of Vic's Popcorn (approx. value \$10.00 per bag)

8 gallons of Punch or Apple Cider (approx. value \$20.00)

20+ bags of wrapped Halloween candies for "Candy Dash" and treat bags (approx. value \$60.00)

Cookies!! Homemade or store bought, they all seem to get eaten.

Volunteers

Most importantly, your **time** is needed in planning and participating the night of the party.

Last year, we had nearly 150 folks in attendance. As you can imagine, lots of volunteers are needed to ensure that the party runs smoothly and will be fun for all (approx. value – *priceless!*). A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. All are welcome!

Can You Help?

We are still looking for folks to be on the Halloween Committee to help plan, set up, run, and take down the night of the party, October 23th!

Sign up on the bulletin board today!



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Project Hope

The Theme for October is pie and pie fillings.

Most Needed:

- Cookies
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Dried Soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Bathroom Tissue

Pantry Needs

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Wednesday Night Faith Quest
Come Explore God's Word
Free Activities for All Ages!

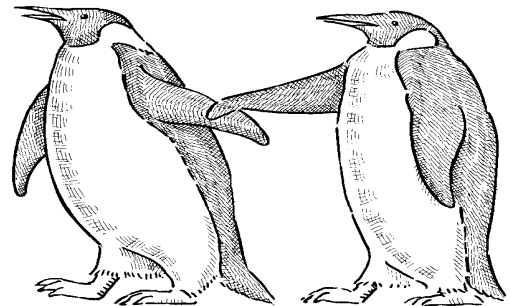


Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 Street
341-7730

Each Wednesday Night
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Light Snacks will be provided)

Lots of fun for everyone



Bring A Friend to Wednesday Faith Quest!



27th Annual Crop Walk 2009

October 11, 2009

1:30 p.m.

Starting from First Christian Church
6630 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE



As a walker - The CROP walk is for the entire family from baby to grandparents. There are routes of 1, 2, and 5 miles. You choose how far to walk. Parents can push strollers or pull wagons. There are rest and water stops along the way and transportation back to the start if you need it. To be a walker, get your sponsor sheet from Pastor Laaker or Vicar Angela .

As a Sponsor - Even if you cannot walk you can participate by sponsoring someone who can. Offer to sponsor a walker with a pledge per mile of a donation and make a real difference in meeting hunger needs at home and abroad. To sponsor a walker, go to the table at the back of the sanctuary and locate the pledge sheet of the person you wish to sponsor.



A colorful graphic for "Community Day 2009". The word "COMMUNITY" is in large, multi-colored letters. Below it, "DAY" is also in large, multi-colored letters. At the bottom, "2009" is in large, multi-colored letters. The background is a mix of yellow, red, blue, and green. A "\$5" is visible in a circle at the top left. Below the main text, it says "SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14". At the bottom, it says "Starts at 6am" and "Furniture Galleries open at 9am. Carson's Gateway (IL) is closed. Event not at our New Jersey locations." Below that, there are logos for "BON-TON", "Borgner's", "Boston Store", "Carson Pirie Scott", "Eldor-Deerman", "Horberger's", and "Younkers".

Younkers Community Day
Saturday, November 14, 2009
6:00 a.m. - Continues All Day

Coupons good at any Younkers!

Buy a \$5.00 Booklet and get a \$10.00 Coupon!
Your \$5.00 will go to the Lutheran Pantry.

Each booklet contains a \$10 coupon good on almost any merchandise item priced at \$10 or more (customers spend \$5 for the booklet and get \$10 back on their first purchase!), plus eight 20% off coupons and offers for great bonus items, available on Community Day only. All coupons are valid on top of our already low One Day Sale prices.

Contact the Church office or Pastor Laaker
for Coupon Booklets

For every 50 booklets sold,
the Lutheran Pantry receives \$250.00!

It's that easy to raise money to fight hunger in the Metro!



Virginia McGill
Director, (402) 660-6689
Gema Wolde
(402) 616 4721
Se habla español .

As Fall approaches, it seems like a good opportunity to reflect on the growth and blessings that have blossomed within Interfaith Health Service over the summer months. I'd like to share some of those with our Interfaith congregation members and partners in this month's article:

Our former Faith In Action Director, Julie gave birth to a healthy son, her third, Michael. He is simple beautiful.

Martha, who has been part of our educational group from the beginning, invited Latinas in Action staff and participants to be part of her wedding celebration this month. She was a stunning bride and we all enjoyed celebrating the sacrament of marriage with her and her loved ones.

We have a new home with Pixan on 32nd and I street for our Wednesday Interfaith Exercise and Education classes. Our numbers as a result of our partnership with Pixan have increased by 20%. Participation has expanded to include families living in the neighborhood, several physicians, college students, a native of Germany and numerous "regulars" from our former Grace United Methodist location.

Interfaith staff (Gema, childcare director, instructors and I) will be attending a weekend planning retreat to gather ideas about the future and plan for Interfaith's Latinas in Action program.

Our participants and staff united to support our lead childcare coordinator as she mourned the death of her young niece who passed away in a car accident.

Participants worked together to donate items that will be used for a garage sale benefitting a local high school student who is in need of medical care.

Latinas in Action women and I helped organize and donate clothing to the Pixan garage sale that was a tremendous success and hosted hundreds of visitors at the Pixan site.

IHS's grant writer continues to have excellent ideas about grants and potential partnerships and is always available to help look for new ways to leverage assets within the community.

All of our Super Kids Teen participants have graduated to the next grade in school. Several of our participants have started high school and are taking on more of a leadership role in the program.

Our Arts for All partnership will continue this Fall with additional art classes for teens and youth.

Our childcare worker, Eva, has begun attending college but will continue on working with IHS because of her belief in the program and its community-based focus.

Interfaith's 3rd Station of Hope, was held at InCommon Community Development this month and was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the work being done by InCommon in the Park Avenue neighborhood.

At Interfaith, we are grateful for the support and prayers of our congregations, Board members and community partners as we look toward the future in hope and in healing.

Virginia McGill Interfaith



Stewardship Minute

*Monthly reflections on our role
as managers of God's blessing.*

"Effective Stewardship" by Kenneth L. William

Empowered by God — Responding by Grace"

"Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking" (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, "Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church.

Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? The Lord Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). That not only happened as He said it would, but we, too, receive God's power by His grace through our faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The words of a contemporary anthem by David Clydesdale and Claire Cloninger express this truth clearly: "Empower me! Like a rushing river flowing to the sea, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now thru me. 'Til I'm living as Your child, victorious and free. Send the power of Your love; empower me!" (Copyright © 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co./ASCAP. All rights reserved.)

As we experience God's power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. As Edwin Frizen stated, ". . . Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God." God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He "richly provides us with everything" (1 Tim. 6:17).

And what should be our response to God's provision for us? According to 2 Corinthians 8:7, we respond by "faith," implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by "speech," sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by "knowledge" through the study of God's Word. We respond in "complete earnestness," that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the "grace of giving."

As an example of what it means to give by grace, the Apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people — dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice — who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5 — ". . . they gave themselves first to the Lord." Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocketbook. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God's instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2, ". . . from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me." This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God's grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

"Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at Grace Lutheran Church.



Grace Lutheran's Stewardship Theme for 2010
"Inspired By God- Responding By Grace!"
2010 Stewardship Drive begins on November 1st.

Begin now and ask God what He wants to do through you in 2010

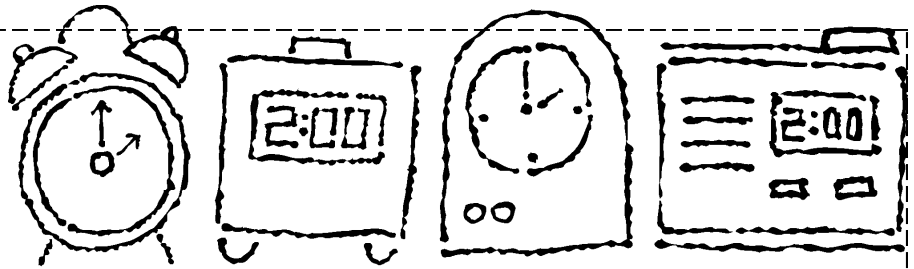


October Trivia

- ☼ has 31 days.
- ☼ 10th month of the year.
- ☼ In the Roman calendar, October was the 8th month and got its name from the word "Octo," meaning eight.
- ☼ Flower - Calendula. (Marigold)

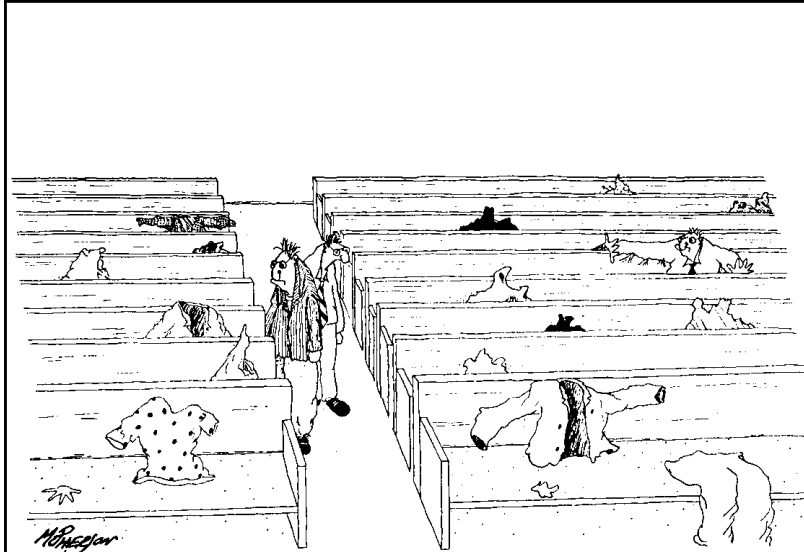
October

Why do they leave
out the letter b
on
"Garage Sale" Signs?



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

**Early Sunday Morning
November 1, 2009**



Scandal rocked the Maple Valley Church when it was discovered that the choir had been lip-synching for the last six years.



Life is a roller coaster.

You can either scream every time you hit a bump or you can throw your hands up in the air and enjoy it.

Bible Wordsearch

SYMBOLS & MEANINGS

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle #145



- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| ANTICHRIST | LIFE |
| ANTS | LIGHT |
| APOSTATE | OIL |
| ASHES | PEACE |
| BEAST | PURITY |
| BELIEVERS | RAINBOW |
| BIBLE | REWARD |
| BODY | ROCK |
| BONDAGE | SACKCLOTH |
| BREAD | SALT |
| CHRIST | SERPENT |
| CHURCH | SHEEP |
| CROWN | SICKLE |
| DEVIL | SIN |
| DOGS | SORROW |
| DOVE | SWINE |
| DRAGON | TREE |
| FIRE | TRUMPET |
| GOAT | UNCLEAN |
| HOLY SPIRIT | WAR |
| JUDGMENT | WATER |
| LAMB | WHITE |
| LAMP | WIND |
| LEAVEN | WISDOM |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

WOMAN

_____ Psalm 89

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Answer to Word Search Hidden Sentence: "Father, my God, the Rock my

Special Days in October at Grace Church

October

- 8 - Dine out against Hunger.
- 22 - Prayer Service for Healing.
- 11 - Crop Walk.
- 23 - Church Halloween Party.
- 25 - Pastor Appreciation Sunday and Reformation Sunday.



Remember, worth and value
 are not wrapped up in what
 you do.

You are not a human doing.

Some people attend church three times
 in their lives:

**when they're hatched,
 when they're matched,**