

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

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Email: graceluth@graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker

Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr

Organist - Lynda Laird

Sexton - Brian Sutej

Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

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



2010

**THE
GRACE
MESSENGER**

2010 Council Members

Greg Hula Gloria Moore Vicky Cox
Andrew Edwards David Nange Ernest Olson
Arlone Farber Vicki Cox Samantha Trejo
 Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej



Council Reports

The regular meeting of the Council was held on June 8. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for Sandy Fitzgerald, who is battling brain cancer; we pray for Mickey Andersen, who is struggling with health concerns; we pray for Amy Johnson as she struggles with an infection along with brain cancer; we pray for Kent Cattlett as he continues his treatments for lung cancer; we pray for Kevin Courtney, as he is receiving treatments for colon cancer; we pray for Barbara Nelson, as she recovers from her stroke, and for Barbara Narducci, as she recovers from a fall; we pray for our Grace shut-ins; we pray for Gwen Grady as she has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; we pray for the “recovery” of the oil spill disaster as it has presented many hazardous problems; we pray for Diane Webb, as she is having a knee replacement; we pray for the safety of everyone as they travel for reunions, that they will be vigilant of the weather conditions; we pray for Bobby, as he has had some teeth removed and tests done; we pray for the safety of police, patrol officers and our armed service people as they protect cities and fight for our freedom; and we pray for a successful year for Vacation Bible School and the Kids at Work programs at Grace. We are so blessed to have good leaders and helpers to make these programs possible.

Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses of Jeremiah 50:5 and 2 Corinthians 3:4, 6 from the “Daily Texts.” These verses remind us that we have a Gracious God, who is willing to “take us back” without any reservations when we are on the wrong path. Through Jesus Christ, God’s love is shared and filled with mercy and compassion.

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued their conversation about “the Life of the Congregation.” On June 27th, after our regular worship service, the Council will be engaging in conversation with the congregational members about their concerns within the community. Elyse Johnson, from OTOC will be giving direction for the conversation.

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

Christian Education: Vacation Bible School will run from June 21-25.

Evangelism/Outreach: Habitat will dedicate a house that a Sudanese family will receive on June 19th. There will be a large motivational meeting at the Qwest Center on June 21.

Finance: The Council ratified the Disney Endowment allocations. The Lutheran Volunteer position is moving forward. This position will be shared with St. Luke’s and finances will be shared accordingly.

Property: The rainstorms in the area recently caused some rising water in the doorways and the tower. The Church organ also “blew” a resistor due to the storms, causing no organ music for the June 6th worship service.

Service/Social Ministry: The Douglas County Voting Commission sent a thank-you note with appreciation for Grace Church serving as an election site. The Neighbors South Habitat Coalition begins its 12th home building on Friday, June 18.

Support/Stewardship: The fall stewardship drive material will be entitled, “Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace.”

Worship: No new report.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Laaker and David Hufford attended the Synod Assembly in Grand Island on June 4-5 and reported that it was an enjoyable experience.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Carolyn Matson will bring treats and lead prayer for our July Council meeting. There will be a Prayer Service Wednesday, June 16th.



I find myself conflicted. Today, as I write this, one of our Nebraska communities is voting to enact a city ordinance in an effort to address some of its residents concerns on immigration policies. I am conflicted because I too want some action on comprehensive immigration reform but I do not think it is best to do this on a city by city basis.

I am also conflicted because I am fully convinced that all people are made in the image of God. To me, this means that our current societal movement that labels certain people as “illegal” leads us to stereotypes and actions that diminish this understanding of all being made in the image of God.

I am also conflicted because my faith calls me to love, welcome, and show compassion for the stranger among us (Deuteronomy 10:18-19, Leviticus 19:33-34, Matthew 25:31-46). The current conversation within our communities seems to alienate me from those who are different from me and set up good or bad categories.

I have been looking at my family history recently and find that my great grand parents came to this country as strangers. They could not speak the language but they found welcome. My grandfather moved from eastern Indiana to western Nebraska and homesteaded on land that once was occupied only by our Native American brothers and sisters. If my extended family found welcome in those days, then I believe I must act with the same kind of welcome today.

Therefore, I agree with a coalition of Christian organizations, Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR), call for fair and humane immigration reform to be enacted by Congress this year.

The policy principles espoused by CCIR are as follows:

- We call for enforcement initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values.
- We advocate for much-needed reforms in our family-based immigration system that reduces waiting times for separated families to be reunited.
- We call for establishment of a process for all immigrant workers and their families already in the U.S. to earn citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria.
- We encourage an expansion of legal avenues for workers and families to enter our country and work in a safe and legal manner with their rights and due process fully protected.
- We call for solutions to address the root causes of migration, such as economic disparities between sending and receiving nations.

I would hope that we might work to change the current conversation and move toward positive solutions that recognize the image of God in all of us.

Pastor Laaker

Let's Build Something!
Neighbors South Coalition
Habitat For Humanity House
2100 Poppleton Ave.



The build at 2100 Poppleton has started!



Friday, 8:00 am Always time for friends and food



Friday, 4:00 pm. A great day's effort. Busy at work.



Saturday, 4:00pm. Fellowship and friends. WOW!



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

Spotlight on Daisy, Interfaith's Amigos in Action Participant

This month, I asked Daisy, one of our Amigos in Action participants, if she would be interviewed for our feature story. She and her mom agreed that it was a great idea. Daisy, her mom and brother have been taking part in Interfaith's Latinas in Action and Artists in Action programs for three years.

Daisy just completed 8th grade, graduating with honors, and will be attending South High School this fall. She is both nervous and excited about attending such a big school. One highlight of her summer has been attending South's Project Jump Start each morning. The program is designed as a two week orientation to help freshman get to know some of their classmates, teachers, course offerings and buildings before high school begins. Daisy says she is glad that Maria and Michelle, also Amigos in Action participants, are also Jump Start participants because seeing familiar faces and friends makes her more comfortable.

Some highlights of Daisy's interview are included below:

Hobbies: *Listening to music, playing music, and reading.*

Values: *Family, education, God.*

Subjects she is most excited about taking in high school: *Music, math, science.*

Talents: *Sense of humor, 2nd chair violinist, good friend to others.*

Why she enjoys having a younger brother: *He can be sweet at times, for example, he gave me his own lollipop because he saw that I didn't have one.*

Current goals: *Graduate high school with honors and go to law school.*

Highlight of the past year: *Driving with her family to Disneyworld for a family vacation.*

Books she is currently reading: *Just finished Percy Jackson book 2 and will start reading books 3 and 4 this week.*

Nickname in Amigos in Action: *Rocket Foot (referring to her amazing ability to score soccer goals from mid field and her shooting power!)*

Enjoys Amigos in Action: *Because it is a chance to see her friends, play sports and games and is a fun place to spend her Friday evenings.*

Please keep Daisy, her mom and family and all of our Amigos in Action participants in your prayers as they enjoy their summer and get ready for new academic challenges in the Fall.

Virginia McGill, Interfaith Health Services

Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends



- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Mae Lane - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Grace Traynor - Ongoing health issues. (daughter of Don & Norma Olson)
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - As he struggles with health issues. (member)
- ◆ La Vonne Moss -Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Ferne Matson - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Kristine (Nelson) Mauler- Treatment for her cancer. (daughter of Barbara Nelson))
- ◆ Wendy Henexson- Ongoing recovery from receiving a transplant. (daughter of Pastor Liz Conner)
- ◆ Lado family - as they grieve the loss of their father and husband.
- ◆ Dennis Olson - as he recovers from surgery. (brother of Don Olson)
- ◆ Barbara Nelson - as she recovers from a stroke. (member)
- ◆ Barbara Narducci - as she continues her physical therapy. (member)

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Mae Lane - St Joe Villa.

Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

Thelma Harrahill - (In Kansas with her children)

Barbara Narducci - Immanuel Hospital.

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

Pray for the 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

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.*

Kids At Work 2010



Kids At Work is going strong with our third week now complete. Kids enrolled this year are:

Bradley Collett	Parsila Dike	Daniel Dole	Mesha Dole
Joshua Faya	Sunday Faya	Bianca Fredrickson	
Brisa Granillo	Victor Granillo	Nowa Keita	Tenyan Kora
Sherif Lado	Sonia Lado	Estir Lewa	Solomon Lewa
Telly Mounto	Esahia Nyiwe	Luis Perez	Andrea Spahr
Danaka Yale	Mathew Yalle	Rebecca Yalle	

Some of this summer's special volunteer team leaders are:

Julia Fredrickson	Eva Martin	Regina Ivo
Nick Fredrickson	Samantha Trejo	Allisia Fredrickson
Benhi Khabeb	Ernie Olson	Carolyn Matson

It's not too late to volunteer and have some fun this summer!

This year Kids At Work is going to the following work sites:

Cristo Rey: The youth stock the food pantry, clean the sanctuary and any rooms needed, the youth have helped Pastor Liz Conner with her flower garden with weed patrol.

Lutheran Home: The youth interact with residents, such as passing out magazines, watering plants in residents rooms, walking the hall offers, folding laundry and painting finger nails!

Precious Memories: The youth help with the younger kids whether providing a special friend for the morning, playing, coloring or reading with a group of kids, putting away donated food supplies and helping with lunch time meal preparations.

Grace Lutheran: The youth will be helping out with special projects such as flyer distribution for Vacation Bible School, Newsletter Assembly, and discovering little corners in the building that need special attention.

The youth have picked up litter in the neighborhood, on the first workday six big trash bags were collected! Three lucky youths found money in the litter, contrary to some exaggerations; I did not plant any money that was found!

Kids At Work is exploding with youth participation and beginning on Tuesday, July 6th, the youth with assist in picking produce from a community garden in a new partnership with Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We anticipate working in this new site with much enthusiasm.

Brenda Spahr
Kids At Work, Director



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Pantry Needs

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

Project Hope
The Theme for July is
Lunch Boxes

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

Emergency!

The Omaha Food Bank is in great need of

- ♥ *Canned Veggies*
- ♥ *Pork and Beans*
- ♥ *Soup (both canned and dry)*
- ♥ *Bathroom Tissue*



News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

Got an item to share?

Thank you to all who extended birthday wishes and a special thanks to The family here at Grace Church. God Bless you!

Louise Alsager

Come One All! You are cordially invited to help celebrate LaVonne Moss her 80th birthday on July 11, shortly after the Early Service. No gifts please , cards only.

Congrats to Nick Fredrickson,, KAW Alum, he graduate with honors from Westside High School. Nick is going to attend t UNO.



2nd Wednesday Night of Each month

Next Prayer Service

July 21, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Candle light Prayer Service for Confession, Meditation, and Healing at Grace Lutheran Church.

Community News



Marriage or
Family Problems?
Depressed?
Unable to Cope with life?

Victor Schuerman , CMSW, LMHP is available to offer confidential counseling to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. His office is at St Luke's Lutheran Church, 2315 I Street. His 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.

Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

*Next Meeting
July 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.*

Here at Grace Church.



17th Annual Let's Go Fishing Lester Hooks Memorial Youth and Seniors Fishing Tournament

Age groups
12 and under
13-16
65 and over

Where: Benson Park - 7002 Military Ave

When: Saturday July 12, 2010 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Lunch will be served)

Cost: \$2.00 Donation

NEW this year! CASTING CONTEST!!

Registrations available on the bulletin board or call 453-6112.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser: Lutheran Service Corps is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Saturday, August 7, 2010, from 3pm to 6pm at the Soaring Wings Vineyard, Springfield, NE. Tickets are available from Pastor Laaker \$30 person and \$50 for two people. The tickets includes a tasting of five wines, souvenir wine-glass and light appetizers.

**"God does not ask your ability or your inability.
He asks only for your availability."**

— Mary Kay Ash

(1915-2001) U.S. business executive - founder of direct-sales cosmetics company, Mary Kay Cosmetics

BAOBAB BLAST

Opening under the Baobab Tree



Classroom Learning Time



Outdoor Games



Music Time



Building Our Own Tree

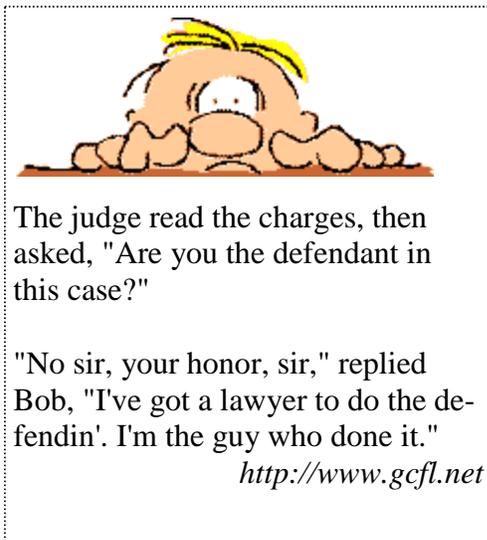
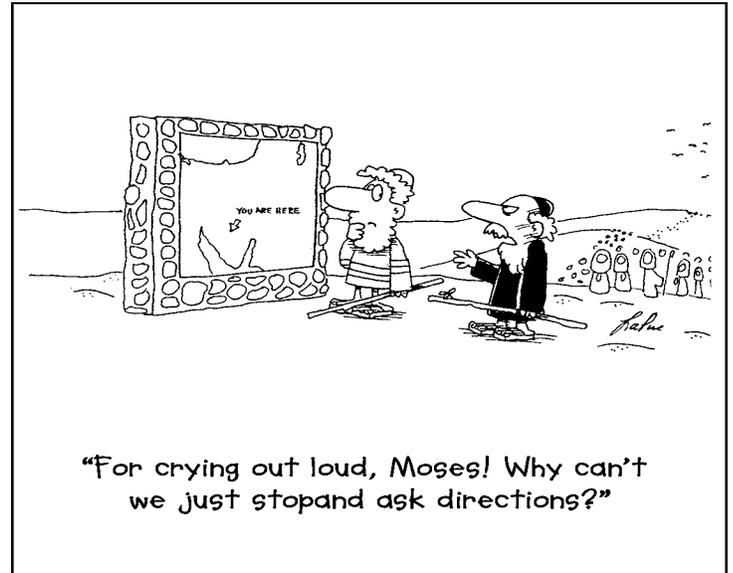


Listening to the Bible Story





- ♥ July was renamed for [Julius Caesar](#), who was born in that month. Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar (hence the Julian calendar) in 46 BC. In the process, he renamed this month after himself. Previously, it was called [Quintilis](#) in [Latin](#), since it was the fifth month in the ancient [Roman calendar](#), before January became the first month of the calendar year
- 31 days
- ♥ Flower - Larkspur, water lily, or Sunflower - Meaning - Ardent attachment, contented mind, success.
- ♥ Birthstone - Ruby



The judge read the charges, then asked, "Are you the defendant in this case?"

"No sir, your honor, sir," replied Bob, "I've got a lawyer to do the defendin'. I'm the guy who done it."

<http://www.gcfl.net>

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

Mind Like A Steel Trap - Rusty And Illegal In 37 States!

Kitchen Signs

- ☼ Kitchen closed - this chick (or dude?) has had it!
- ☼ Martha Stewart doesn't live here!!
- ☼ I'm creative; you can't expect me to be neat, too!
- ☼ Ring Bell for Maid Service. If no answer, do it yourself!
- ☼ You may touch the dust in this house, but please don't write in it!(If you write in the dust, please don't date it!)
- ☼ I would cook dinner, but I can't find the can opener!
- ☼ I came, I saw, I decided to order take out.
- ☼ * If you don't like my standards of cooking, lower your standards.
- ☼ A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, and this kitchen is delirious.
- ☼ Help keep the kitchen clean - eat out.
- ☼ Countless numbers of people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.
- ☼ My house was clean last week; too bad you missed it!

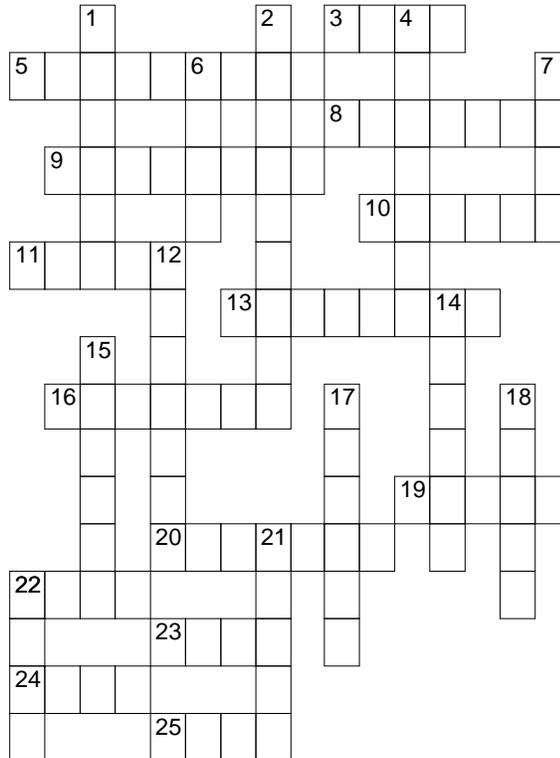


<http://www.gcfl.net>

Matthew, Chapter 10, Puzzle 1

Across

3. our physical being
5. the devil, Satan
8. statement, short communication
9. after sunrise and before sunset
10. summoned, invited
11. the one who betrayed
13. impairment of normal physiological function
16. traveling from one place to another
19. a farthing
20. to speak softly
22. having no light
23. bird
24. unwell
25. to support financially



Down

1. payment made for service rendered
2. power, authorization
4. malady, ailment
6. wicked, malevolent
7. no longer alive
12. small bird of the finch family
14. lustrous white metallic element
15. malleable reddish-brown metallic element
17. without cost
18. loose fitting garment
21. woolly ruminant mammal
22. fine particles of dust

WORD LIST

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| authority | copper | disease | freely | message | sick | tunic |
| Beelzebub | dark | dove | journey | penny | sickness | whisper |
| body | daylight | dust | Judas | reward | silver | |
| called | dead | evil | keep | sheep | sparrow | |

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If the first of July be rainy weather, It will rain, more or less, for four weeks together.

English Proverb

The 10 most popular types of recreation in the United States are:



1. visiting zoos, aquariums, fairs, and carnivals
2. picnicking
3. automobile driving for pleasure
4. walking or jogging
5. swimming
6. travel
7. watching sports events
8. participating in sports and games
9. fishing;
10. taking nature walks

<http://www.annieshomepage.com/july.html>



Happy Fourth of July!
Celebrate Safely!