

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1326 South 26 Street  
Omaha, NE 68105-2380  
(402) 341-7730

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**Email: [graceluth@graceluth.com](mailto:graceluth@graceluth.com)**  
**Web Site: [www.graceluth.com](http://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 – Brenda Spahr**  
**Organist - Colleen Jeffrey**  
**Sexton - Nenchi Ilka**  
**Families In Action - Virginia McGill**  
**Lutheran Volunteer - Matt Kong**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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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.**



**2012**

**THE**  
**GRACE**  
**MESSENGER**



## 2012 Council Members

John Boato  
Vicki Cox  
Sarah Emery

Ralph Fitle  
June Hilmer  
David Hufford

Greg Hula  
Carolyn Matson  
Samantha Trejo  
Pastor Laaker

\*\*\*\*\*

### Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula

Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on August 14th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the continued recovery of those close to us; Vicki's daughter's friend, Trisha, who just suffered the loss of their baby. We pray for Jim Harrahill, now in rehabilitation following his heart attack and his sister Diane as she continues her Leukemia treatments. We pray for the new Chief of Police in Omaha, that he be guided and protected while he serves. We pray for peace & stabilization in areas of unrest; Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. We pray that God will bless Sarah and Tom with the birth of their new baby this next week. We pray for all of the children starting school, as well as the school staff dedicated to their education and care. We pray for the couple ordained in North Dakota, and the church as a whole.

Pastor led devotions from Isaiah 49:13 and 2 Corinthians 2:3. The first reminds us that we should all join in praising God. The second speaks to the fact that we should all have confidence to follow God.

Visions for Ministry: We discussed becoming engaged in and with others, and the importance of actually developing relationships beyond the mere services and products planned out. Please read Chapter six for our next meeting.

Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Please continue to give generously. We have had to be creative in covering our regular expenses.

Christian Education: We had a great turnout for VBS – a special thanks to David for leading the organizing, and thanks to all who participated.

Evangelism/Outreach: The KAW Summer Program was a great success! Thank you to Brenda as well as all who gave of their time & energy. The picnic was a great celebration.

Finance: No new report.

Property: Remaining work to be finished soon with the flat roof, crown molding, and gutters. We still have no response from Church Mutual regarding payment for the roof repair. Parking lot has been re-stripped and is set to have a concrete crack fixed.

Service/Social Ministry: OTOC sub-committee on Housing met with the City council about the substantial number of condemned homes in the older parts of the city of Omaha. Matthew Kong is set to start working with us on Tuesday, August 21.

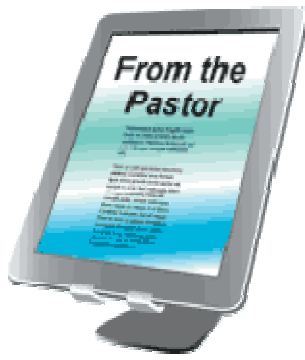
Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: Special thanks to our Sudanese congregation for sharing with us at the KAW worship service.

Unfinished Business: No new report.

New Business: No new report.

Announcements: No new report. Greg will bring treats for our September meeting.



I ran across this in my reading and thinking about what to say as we enter September and first experience the holiday, Labor Day.

Q: "What four-letter word do modern people find most objectionable?" A: "Work."

I think it is meant as a joke but something doesn't sit right with this as a joke. Is work really the most objectionable four-letter word? After all, there are pain and fear and hate. And it could be that idle is a far worse word than work.

These four-letter words have one thing in common. They involve isolation, or what can happen when we are cut off from others. We hurt alone, we fear alone, we hate alone, and when we are idle, we are most often alone.

But it's different with work. Work links us to others. To continue our four-letter theme: we give through work, we make things by working; we earn as we work and produce something to share, and we show that we care by our work. When we are at work, we are busy adding to the good things in life.

In fact, there is no way we can show that we care but by doing work of some kind. Work is the only way that love, in all its diverse expressions, can be shown to others. Only as we work do we become part of, and show that we care for the world around us.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you as we seek to be the blessing God has called us to be in this place. I am excited about Matthew Kong, our Lutheran Volunteer, joining our work team. He will bring fresh eyes and enthusiasm to our efforts to be a blessing to others. Please greet him and encourage him throughout the year.

I am pleased to lead our thinking and acting around our yearlong theme: Be who you are; See what you have; Do what matters. Now these are not four letter words, be, see, do, but they correspond nicely to the thoughts contained above.

I am grateful that God has blessed me with a place to work, a place earn and therefore a place to give, a place to make God's love visible in this part of the world where God has placed me. I hope as the activities of the fall schedule develop we will find our work fulfilling, joy filled and hopeful.

May we work and give God the glory and praise!

*Pr. Damon Laaker*

Invitation:

Mary and I would like to invite the congregation to an open house at our new home, 7784 Highland St. on Sunday, September 30, 3-5 pm.

Directions: 84<sup>th</sup> Street, south to Q Street, turn east for three blocks, just after the curve, turn left on Highland St. Go one block east, we live in the second house on the north side of the street after 79<sup>th</sup> Street. Parking is available on the South side of the street.





## Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

*"Give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day."*

*1 Kings 8:28*

Those we pray for named below are members unless otherwise specified:

- ◆ Louise Alsager - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found.
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Ferne Matson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ La Vonne Moss - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Don Olson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Jack Williams - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Rose Heesacker - Ongoing cancer treatments. (June Hilmer's sister.)
- ◆ Rex Olson - Ongoing cancer treatments. (Don Olson's brother.)
- ◆ Wanda Black - Ongoing health issues. (Don Olson's sister.)
- ◆ Pastor Judy Gifford - Ongoing cancer treatment. (Assistant to the Bishop.)
- ◆ Norma Courtney - Ongoing health issues. (Arlone Farber's Mom.)
- ◆ Mary Jane King - Ongoing health issues. (Donna Adrian's Mom.)
- ◆ Jean Matson - Ongoing health issues. (Andrea Spahr's Grandma.)
- ◆ Jeff Van Overen - Ongoing cancer treatments. (Friend of many.)



### **Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:**

Gertrude Hufford - Immanuel Village.  
Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.  
Barbara Narducci - Home  
Jack Williams - Immanuel Village.



### **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  
Newly elected Bishop, Rev. Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod  
Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. 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.*





And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

*2 Corinthians 9:8*

- ◆ Thank you to Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer for their dedication in tending to the plants in the entry way, they continue to look welcoming.
- ◆ Thank you to Mary Laaker, Tom and Sarah Emery, for their ongoing care in the nursery during Sunday morning worship service.
- ◆ Thank you to Bob Moss and Jerry Van Ormer for their continuing efforts to maintain the church with any projects that need to be completed.
- ◆ Thank you to Nenchi Ilka, you are doing such a great job cleaning the church building!
- ◆ Thank you to Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, Joe Narducci, Greg and Janet Hula, and Eva Martin who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
- ◆ Thank you to Ron and Donna Adrian, and Brenda Spahr who take care of the altar, set up and take down communion.
- ◆ Thank you to the lawn care crew, Bob Moss and Jerry Van Ormer, for your weekly dedication, the yard looks very inviting within the neighborhood community.

**Congratulations!**


On the new addition to the Emery family!

**Charles Henry Emery**

Born on August 23, 2012

8 pounds, 1 ounce  
21 inches

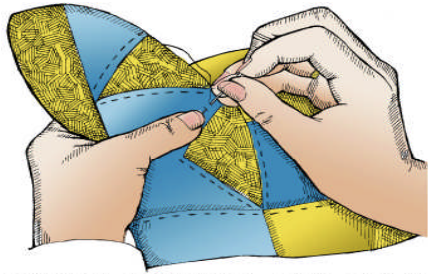
Proud Parents are Sarah and Tom. Happy siblings are Madison and Tommy. God's blessing and prayers to the Emery Family.



**Confirmation Orientation**  
**Sunday, September 9, 2012**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Youth entering the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade this fall, and their parents are invited to attend and learn what Confirmation classes are all about. Encourage your student to be apart of a deeper understanding of the Bible and learning how Christ is in our lives today. Please plan to attend.





## QUILTING GROUP

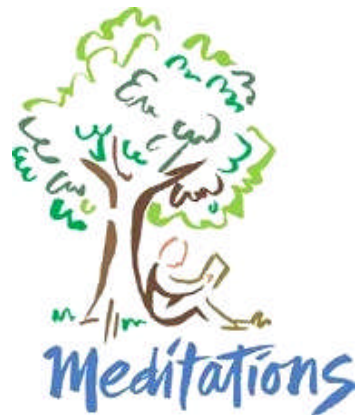
### **Quilting for Lutheran World Relief Resumes on Monday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m.**

The Grace Quilters will begin creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Monday, September 10, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. 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.

Wednesday Night  
September 19, 2012  
7:00 p.m.

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

*People of all faiths are welcome!*



### **30th Annual Crop Walk 2012**

October 14, 2012  
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.

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. Crop Walk Sponsor Sheets will be available in the church office and signups will be on the back table in the sanctuary.





Hello, folks! I'm pleased to be working with everyone, both at Grace Lutheran and the Nebraska Synod office for the next year!

A little bit about me: I was born in Sacramento, CA, but for the most part have lived in the city of Redlands, CA, which is about an hour outside of Los Angeles. We moved there after my father took a position with the library staff of California State University, San Bernardino. My mother works at the local University of Redlands in the Athletics Department.

This is not my first trip to the Midwest. My parents are avid travelers, who are intent on seeing all fifty states and so I've been along for the ride on many of their excursions. Still I'm intrigued to live elsewhere in the country for a year and to finally experience seasons!

I'm a recent graduate of the University of Redlands, where I majored in Creative Writing with a non-fiction emphasis and minored in Business Administration. I've always been interested in hearing the stories of the people I meet from all walks of life; Truth sometimes is stranger than fiction, which drew me to writing about what I've seen and heard.

I used to be very service oriented during my tenure with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), but had fallen out of it after I received my Eagle Award. A desire to return and give back to the community drew me to the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC), where I was eventually matched with Grace Lutheran and the Nebraska Synod office. This year LVC established one of the largest houses yet, with a total of eleven volunteers living in intentional community across Omaha in a variety of placements. It's been a little over a week living together, but it already promises to be an exciting year!

I look forward to meeting you all in good time, and to my work as Community Outreach Associate for the church. If you ever need to contact me throughout the year, please email me at [mattkong89@gmail.com](mailto:mattkong89@gmail.com), or give me a ring at (909) 327-7743. Cheers!

Matt Kong, Lutheran Volunteer  
Community Outreach Associate

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## **Camp Classic 11th Annual Golf Tournament Carol Joy Holling Camp**

Monday, September 10, 2012  
Iron Horse Golf Course - Ashland, Nebraska



\$600 per team, \$150 per individual:

Includes your round of golf, cart, gift bag, box lunch plus the incredible meal, awards ceremony and auction at the golf course immediately following play. Lots of prizes for all levels of golfers.

You don't have to play golf, you can go and enjoy the banquet for \$25.00 per person.

For additional information, please call Jason toll free at 1-888-656-6254.

**Carol Joy Holling Camp**, one of the premiere Christian camps in the country, serves 1,500 youth each summer in camping programs and another 18,000 people of all ages year round for retreats, meetings and conferences. Carol Joy Holling Camp, Conference & Retreat Center, just might be the perfect place for your group's next meeting! Check it out at [www.nlom.org](http://www.nlom.org).



# "Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Special Pantry Needs for September:  
Canned Vegetables & Baked Beans



**These are things our clients can not purchase with their food stamps and are always appreciated.**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Deodorant  | Dish soap                             |
| Can Openers  | Toothbrush and toothpaste             |
| Shaving Cream  | Mouthwash (without alcohol)           |
| Razors   | Feminine hygiene products             |
| Kleenex  | Hair products (combs, brushes, picks) |
| Bar Soap   | Dry Laundry Soap                      |
| <b>Bathroom tissue</b>                               | <b>Shampoo</b>                        |
| <b>Diaper wipes</b>                                  |                                       |
| <b>Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pullups</b> |                                       |

Project Hope  
4205 Boyd St  
Omaha, NE 68111  
402-453-7649

**We always need paper or plastic bags.**

Project Hope also has a Clothing Room and is in need of all sizes of clothing, Especially spring and summer clothing.



## How To Survive A Heart Attack Alone

Without help, the person whose heart stops beating and who begins to feel faint has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before coughing. The cough must be deep and prolonged and repeated every 2 seconds without letting up until help arrives or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure of the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital. Share this information, it could save a life!





# Kids At Work 2012



Peace: It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. -  
*Author unknown*

Summer program 2012 is now completed! The building is not buzzing with activity, it is time to reflect on all the accomplishments of this past summer.

Under the caring leadership of Samantha, the youth picked up an amazing 18 bags of trash not only at Columbus Park but the surrounding neighborhood as well. With the gentle guidance from Gloria, youth were able to make 35 hats to donate this winter on the mitten tree. Faithful dedication from Donna, Larry and Asino, youth were able to work at a variety of work sites and help were needed on that specific day. Special projects were always welcomed, the chance to accomplish something different like making locusts for Vacation Bible School and having enough left to share with the congregation. The many tasks around Grace that were completed were assembling the newsletter, watering the new tree in the parking lot, straightening the pews in the sanctuary weekly and picking up the dried leaves and seeds from the trees in the entryway.

Additional projects included distributing Vacation Bible School flyers, and assisting with the moving of shelving units from one South Omaha Food Pantry to another.

One of the best days, reflected in the picture below, was the last day and many thoroughly enjoyed the humongous water fight and the opportunity to fling/throw water not only on friends, but also on participating adults.

During this time of reflection from summer 2012, and thinking of all the people this program reaches out to, like the different work-sites the youth visited, the employees at the bank when they made their deposits or withdrawals. I also wonder about the thoughts that go through individuals here at Grace, whether you were a team leader this summer, or past summers, or even a member/visitor worshipping on Sundays. I am curious about the youth who have gone through the program in summers past. Many of those past participating families still receive the monthly newsletter.



My curiosity raises these questions, “Did this summer program have any lasting impact within your life?” “Do you ever think about Kids At Work?” If you have a response to any of these questions feel free to call, 402-341-7730 or e-mail at [graceluth@graceluth.com](mailto:graceluth@graceluth.com). Any conversations and responses would be highly welcomed and appreciated.

Brenda Spahr, Director  
Kids At Work

# Community News

Saturday September 8 at 6:00 p.m. please plan to attend to see the dance, music and culture of several of the African and Asian refugee groups who are our new neighbors in Omaha. Join us at First United Methodist Church (7020 Cass) Carey Hall at 5:00 p.m. for light refreshments and to meet the performers and then enjoy the performers from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds benefit the performing groups. Tickets can be reserved by calling 402-344-4401 or by e-mail at [iplomaha@gmail.com](mailto:iplomaha@gmail.com) This event is organized by Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) and Institute of Public Life.

OTOC



## Neighbors South Coalition Habitat for Humanity

### Building Site:

**2460 South 19th Street, Omaha, NE**

The amazing work of volunteers has completed the 14<sup>th</sup> home for the Neighbors South Coalition. The dedication for the new home is scheduled for Sunday, September 9, 1:00 p.m. Please come and welcome Abdisalam, Isnino and their five children as they become part of our neighborhood.



*Habitat for Humanity ReStore Shop, Donate, Volunteer:* Habitat ReStore is located at 1003 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street and opened a second location at 10930 W. Maple Road on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Habitat ReStore is a place for the general public to purchase new, used and surplus building related materials at a significantly reduced price with savings of 50-70%. Donations are accepted from contractors, individuals, property managers, remodelers

and suppliers. Home improvement items are accepted as long as they are able to perform their designed purpose. Any additional information or questions please call David Klitz, ReStore Director at 402-934-1033.

Simple, decent shelter is a basic human need. Omaha's two Habitat for Humanity ReStore locations are discount retail outlets that addresses the issue of poverty housing in two ways:

- by providing an affordable way for community members to purchase building materials and home fixtures for maintaining and fixing up their homes, and
- by using 100 percent of net proceeds to help fund Habitat for Humanity of Omaha.



## Bethsaida

### 25 Years of Discovery

Aug. 24 thru Sept. 27

The University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) Art Gallery will begin the academic year with an exhibition: "Artifacts from the Dig & Hanan Shafir: Photographs of Bethsaida."

The hexagon gallery will feature an exhibition celebrating UNO's 25 years of archeological excavations at Bethsaida, an important Biblical city located on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Rami Arav, professor of religion and philosophy at UNO, discovered the site and identified it as Bethsaida in 1987. Since 1990, UNO has led a consortium of institutions in uncovering and studying artifacts. Their work has shed new light on the times of Jesus and David, and the uniquely well-preserved site has generated numerous academic and popular publications.

Small artifacts from the Bethsaida dig and a replica of the large stele uncovered at the site will be on display with over twenty of Hanan Shafir's photographs that capture both archeological discoveries and the sense of wonder they inspire among student excavators.

Shafir began his archaeological photography in 1978 in Jerusalem. His images have been published by Design magazine, Amnesty International, Biblical Archaeology Review, and other publications.

Several gift items including commemorative pottery shards from Bethsaida will be raffled and Shafir's photographs will be for sale by silent auction.

For more information, contact Kristy Leahy, Bethsaida Excavations Project Coordinator, 402.554.3108 or [kristyleahy@unomaha.edu](mailto:kristyleahy@unomaha.edu).

Thursday, September 20, DreAnna Hasah will discuss the Bethsaida Project at 7 p.m. This event is located in the UNO Art Gallery on the first floor of the Weber Fine Arts Building, 67th and Dodge Street on the UNO campus.

Gallery hours are 10a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. In addition, appointments at other times are encouraged. This events is free and open to the public and the gallery is accessible to people with disabilities.



**Ted E. Bear Hollow** *Mending the hearts of grieving children and teens*

### Comfort Food Classic



**Sunday, October 7, 2012  
5:00 p.m.**

A Chef competition benefiting Ted E. Bear Hollow, mending the hearts of grieving children and teens. You taste, you judge, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and desserts. Reserved tables and individual tickets are available. See Omaha's top chefs load it to the limit, as they stuff the ultimate gourmet enchilada. This Enchiloaded event will be held at Ramada Convention Center located at 72nd and Grover Street. For additional information or if you have any questions, please call 402-502-2773

September 24 through October 14, 2012, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church located at 2650 Farnam Street, will host the traveling exhibit on the life and work of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (one of the few prominent Lutheran congregations in the United States to do so!). 2011-12 is the 300th anniversary of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of North American Lutheranism. Muhlenberg came from Germany (Halle) to the Pennsylvania colony when the German Lutheran immigrants were unwelcomed and in disarray. In fact, Kountze Memorial congregation was founded by the missionary work of the Allegheny Synod, the organization of which is a consequence of Muhlenberg's work in Pennsylvania.



Muhlenberg's importance cannot be overstated. At the time, many thought Lutheranism did not have a future in the United States since most of the immigrants were worshipping in Presbyterian or Anglican congregations. Muhlenberg organized the Lutheran church, forming the first Lutheran synod and creating the first Lutheran hymn book in North America. The traveling educational exhibit is a cooperative between the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and the Franke Institute in Germany (where Muhlenberg studied) to commemorate Muhlenberg's efforts.

Kountze congregation is hosting the exhibit (composed of 21 color panel displays) as a gift to our Synod. We will welcome folks from around Nebraska, congregations and educational institutions, to visit the exhibit while it is here.

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**(Paul Welter, a counselor in Kearny, NE, found 333 questions that Jesus asked in the four Gospels, and wrote a fascinating new book titled *What Would Jesus Ask?* The following is an excerpt from the book.) By Paul Welter**

When my friend Kelly Shad was a pediatric nurse, she was able to work successfully with children who presented the hospital with giant-size challenges.

A boy came to the pediatric unit sullen and defiant because he was the victim of a terrible farm accident that mangled one leg, broke numerous bones, and shattered dreams.

The hospital needed blood for testing, but he refused to give it. He also refused to eat. Kelly got the assignment.

When a co-worker said, "Why don't you *make* him eat?," Kelly responded with a Jesus Method question, "Would you like to bring your lunch in and sit by his leg?"

**Kelly tried a comic approach. She found a black cape and hood, and put two pieces of white chalk under her upper lips and over her lower lips.**

While the boy was drowsing uneasily in bed, she climbed up behind the drapes over the air conditioner. Then she came flying out to the side of his bed, yelling "*All I vant iss your blood!*" He was shocked, captivated, and delighted by this playful vampire.

They became good friends, and he allowed her to draw the needed blood and to bring him food to eat.

**The only side-effect of this caper is that when Kelly the vampire came flying down from the air-conditioner, she landed on the toes of a doctor's foot.**

"When are we going to get rid of this social director and get a real charge nurse in here?" the doctor said. But when he left, Kelly noticed the doctor had a big smile on his face.



# FAMILIES IN ACTION – OMAHA



Virginia McGill, MA  
Executive Director

Gema C. Wolde  
Community Health Worker  
Se habla español.

Families in Action has been blessed over the past year with the support of many of the women of Tri Delta at Creighton University. After careful planning, meetings with Interfaith and site visits, Tri Delta selected Families in Action as their community service site for all 280 of their members! Members of Tri Delta are invaluable in helping our organization, reliant on volunteers to help us thrive. We regularly meet with Tri Delta volunteers to seek ideas on website development, fund-raising, public relations and projects. This month, we wanted to feature one of the MANY special Tri Delta volunteers with Families in Action, Rachel.

Rachel was born in St. Louis, MO and has spent her entire life moving around due to her father's job. Her family now lives in San Francisco, CA, but she has lived in Omaha for the past three years, while pursuing her degree at Creighton. She will be a senior at Creighton in the Fall, and is planning to receive her degree in Biology, coupled with a Spanish minor. She hopes to attend medical school or an accelerated nursing program so that she is able to use her talents to help others through medical practice. Rachel is a definite people-person who loves spending time with friends and family, traveling, listening to music, learning new things, being spontaneous, and dancing!!!

Rachel works as a Resident Advisor at Creighton, and along with several other Tri Delta volunteers, has been instrumental in helping Families in Action develop additional ways to reach our high school students in helping guide them through the college process. In her own words:

"I was lucky enough to become involved with Families in Action through Tri Delta's connection to the organization. I have now been attending Wednesday and Friday classes for exercise and education for over a year and am getting to know the women and children enrolled in Families in Action. I absolutely love being a part of such a special group of people! Their determination to succeed and overcome adversity inspires me every single day. I feel honored that they have let me into their lives and are sharing so many important things about who they are and what they wish to accomplish in their lives. Families in Action is a vital organization to its members and the South Omaha community and I don't know of any programs that pay as much attention to the dreams of participants. Through their bonds of friendship and learning together, families are able to trust and rely upon each other in creating a cohesive group that will allow for success of all members and their families."

We remain grateful for the support of our partners in the community, and hope you will also take the time to join us in thanking Rachel and Tri Delta for their dedication to promoting hope and healing in the community with Interfaith.



## Inherit the Mirth by Cuyler Black



from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*  
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### Humor for the hard times

Rev. Steve Herman of Richwood (NJ) United Methodist Church was called to speak at a nursing home early in his career. He hadn't much experience in that setting, and was surprised as one-by-one the residents began to nod off during his talk.

By the end of the brief service, all but one person – a very old man – had gone completely to sleep. After he concluded the service, Rev. Herman approached the old man and shook his hand, saying "I'm glad you were able to come today, and I hope you enjoyed the service."

The old man cupped his hand to his ear and said, "Huh?"

—via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Glassboro, NJ  
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## Special Days in September at Grace Lutheran Church

September 3 - Labor Day.  
September 9 - Grandparents Day!  
September 9 - Habitat Dedication.  
September 11 - Grace Council Meeting.  
September 12 - Photographers Club.  
September 19 - Prayer Service.  
September 20 - Neighborhood Meeting.  
September 22 - First Day of Autumn.  
September 25 - Newsletter Assembly.  
September 26 - Photographers Club.  
September 30 - Laaker Open House.



God's kids say & do the funniest things

"Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now."

—Martha, 6 via Rise Samra  
Hallandale Beach, FL  
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*JoyfulNoiseletter.com*



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff and Bil Keane



"We learned the fourth commandment: 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

# Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 204

Rev.9:3-11

## Trumpet Plagues 3

K	S	S	Y	B	A	S	G	S	H	R	N	H	E	L
I	S	E	A	L	S	R	C	A	G	O	E	P	U	S
N	W	K	I	H	A	D	I	O	Y	N	W	W	S	E
G	N	I	H	S	U	R	A	L	R	E	I	U	O	L
H	O	R	S	E	S	M	L	E	R	P	F	T	O	P
A	S	T	T	D	O	A	B	H	F	I	C	S	O	
R	O	S	H	E	P	E	E	N	E	Y	U	O	K	E
M	U	D	O	A	E	H	R	R	G	S	U	E	N	P
T	N	E	M	R	O	T	E	A	T	E	E	K	A	S
O	D	A	R	C	B	D	H	S	P	R	L	O	B	L
R	L	T	E	A	R	T	H	R	G	E	I	M	A	I
T	O	H	T	Y	N	O	G	A	G	D	R	S	D	O
U	G	T	A	I	L	S	W	H	T	U	O	P	D	N
R	L	F	A	C	E	S	T	N	A	L	P	G	O	S
E	H	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	S	E	A	N	N	D

ABYSS	ABADDON
AGONY	APOLLYON
ANGEL	CHARIOTS
BATTLE	CROWNS
DEATH	HEBREW
EARTH	HORSES
ELUDE	HUMAN
FACES	LOCUSTS
GOD	PEOPLE
GOLD	PLANT
GRASS	POWER
GREEK	PREPARED
HAIR	RUSHING
HARM	SMOKE
HEADS	SOUND
KING	STINGS
LIONS	STRIKES
SEAL	SUFFERED
TAILS	TORMENT
TEETH	TORTURE
	SCORPIONS

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

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

MORE PUZZLES AT:  
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**The crumbling, old church building needed remodeling, so the preacher made an impassioned appeal, looking directly at the richest man in town. At the end of the message, the rich man stood up and announced, "Pastor, I will contribute \$1,000."**

Just then, plaster fell from the ceiling and struck the rich man on the shoulder. He promptly stood again and shouted, "Pastor, I will increase my donation to \$5,000."

Before he could sit back down, plaster fell on him again, and again he virtually screamed, "Pastor, I will double my last pledge."

He sat down and a larger chunk of plaster fell, hitting him on the head. He stood once more and hollered, "Pastor, I will give \$20,000!"

This prompted a deacon to shout, "Hit him again, Lord! Hit him again!"

—via Pat and Al Smith, Falls Church, VA  
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