

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

Return Service Requested
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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 – Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Nenchi Ilka
Families In Action - Virginia McGill
Lutheran Volunteer - Matt Kong

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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 September 11th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the continued recovery of those close to us; Ken Hilmer and his ongoing health issues; on the anniversary of 9/11, we pray for families of survivors; we praise God for the joy of new birth for the Emery family; for Matthew Kong as he begins his ministry among us. We pray for peace & stabilization in areas of unrest and for religious tolerance everywhere. We pray for farmers who are affected by the drought.

Pastor led devotions from Psalm 139:4 and 1 Timothy 5:25. These remind us that God is always with us and knows us.

Visions for Ministry: We discussed the way we count participation and the importance of helping people grow in relationships. Please read Chapter seven for our next meeting.

Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. It was noted that we ended the month with a negative balance in the General Fund. Please continue to give generously.

Christian Education: An invitation was extended for all adults to consider the Adult Group on Sunday morning, 9 am.

Evangelism/Outreach: Matt Kong will be working with the Justice and World Hunger Committees of the Nebraska Synod and intentionally with the Sudanese community at Grace.

Finance: Council ratified the Endowment Board actions. In order to cover General Fund expenses, \$2,000 will be drawn from the Contingency Reserve.

Property: Remaining work to be finished soon with the flat roof, crown molding, and gutters. Larry Forman is painting the Upper Fellowship Hall. Thank you Larry!!

Service/Social Ministry: Vicki shared her thoughts following a meeting with the Nebraska Synod Urban Strategy Group.

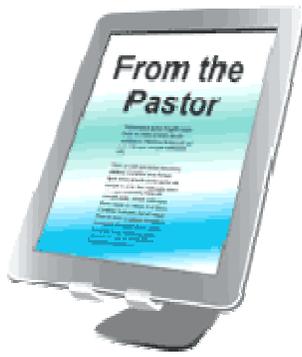
Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: No new report.

Unfinished Business: No new report.

New Business: No new report.

Announcements: Pastor and Mary invite the congregation to an open house on Sunday, September 30, 3-5 pm. David Hufford will bring treats for October.



Dennis Linn shares the following. “For what am I most grateful? For what am I least grateful? These questions help us identify moments of consolation and desolation. For centuries prayerful people have found direction for their day and for their life by identifying these moments.

“I (Dennis) first discovered the power of these two questions 25 years ago, when I taught on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. I had just moved into a housing project, and I decided to risk something new: inviting guests for a meal. I invited eight of my students to dinner. Since the most common meal on the reservation is soup, I spent the morning boiling soup bones. Then I added a cupful of rice. It seemed to disappear. The same thing happened when I added the entire box of rice.

“Not knowing that rice expands as it cooks, I went to four different neighbors and collected about two more boxfuls of rice. (Unfortunately for me, Sioux are very generous and give without asking any questions.) With three boxes of rice in the kettle, I hoped I would have enough for eight hungry students if I first filled them with plenty of bread. Questioning the wisdom of inviting so many people for dinner, I left the soup on the stove to simmer and headed over to school for class.

“When I returned home with the students, the rice met us at the front door. The inside of my house looked as though a foot of snow had fallen. While some students stayed to help me shovel rice, others headed out to invite their families and friends to help us eat it. Instead of eight students, that night I fed most of the inhabitants of the reservation (dogs included). The meal made such a lasting impression, the most common question I heard was, “Dennis, you got any more rice soup?””

I had a good laugh at the story but it did cause me to seriously consider the two questions. For what am I most grateful? For what am I least grateful? I believe God’s will is for us to do more of whatever we are most grateful for or whatever gives us most life.

I would invite you to consider these questions as you enter the fall months. I would hope that as you contemplate your answers you might share them with another person. It is a marvelous experience to hear the hopes and dreams of others. This is a grace filled gift of God.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God’s people. It is a joy to be a part of this community. I am least grateful for those things that separate and divide communities and people. I long for respect of one another and recognition that we are all valued by God.

May you be blessed by those things that give you life!

Pastor Laaker

Rev. Bob Henderson of Trinity Episcopal Church in Wetumpka, AL, was talking about sin in the children’s sermon. He asked what sin is and one child replied, “Something you do that is wrong.”

Henderson then posed this question: “What if your mother bakes cookies. They smell so good, but she says, ‘Don’t eat them. I have to take them to a party tonight.’ But as soon as she walks out of the kitchen, you grab one and eat it. What you did was wrong, but was it a sin?”

“Oh no,” a five-year-old boy replied. “That’s not sinning. That’s ‘can’t resisting!””

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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.
- ◆ Jim Harrahill - Recovery from a heart attack.
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Ferne Matson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ LaVonne Moss - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Don Olson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ 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:

Louise Alsager - NE Skilled Nursing.
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.

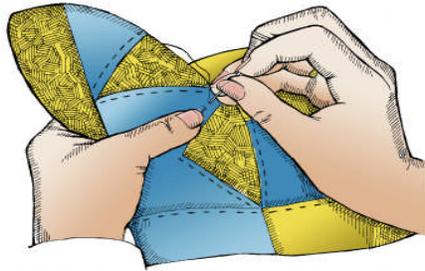
Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Laaker
Bishop 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.*





QUILTING GROUP

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

If you have the morning free, drop by and help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs.

Coffee break and joke time is at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night

October 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Candle light Prayer Service

for Confession,

Meditation and Healing

at Grace Lutheran Church.

People of all faiths are welcome!



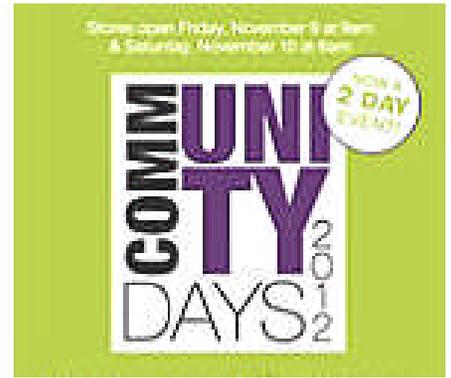
And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

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.
- ◆ Thank you to Larry Foreman for giving the Fellowship Hall a touch of "sunshine" with the new paint job!

Younkers Community Day Event

Friday, November 9th
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
&
Saturday, November 10th
6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.



Younkers is hosting a special Community Day Event in honor of our organization and other nonprofit organizations and schools. Lutheran Pantry has the opportunity to raise hundreds of dollars as part of this exciting fundraiser!

How Does It Work?

Our organization is selling \$5 booklets to the Younkers Community Day Event. Lutheran Pantry will keep 100% of the proceeds from the booklets we sell.

With your \$5 donation to our organization you will enjoy:

\$10.00 off each purchase per booklet

20% Savings Pass

One 30% early bird coupon to be used Saturday only

Online coupons exclusive offers

Enjoy the best prices of the season

Restaurant sampling

Discounts good at all Younkers, Carson's, Bergner's, Boston, Bon Ton, and Herberger's Locations.

Cosmetics, fragrances and our low everyday price items are excluded.

Please see Pastor Laaker for your coupon booklet.

"Digital Faith, Digital Family: How Technology Shapes the Spiritual Lives of Families"

Part of Project Interfaith's Parenting Series

Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 7:00 pm
[First Central Congregational Church](#)
(421 South 36th Street)



Join Project Interfaith for the second program in our parenting series. A three-person panel will discuss the various ways technology is shaping the practice of faith and spirituality in families and faith communities.

This program is open to the public.
Cost is \$10 for non-students and \$5 for students.*

Child care will be provided free of charge.
Refreshments will be available.

Register now at digitalfaith.eventbrite.com!



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Special Pantry Needs for October:
Stuffing Mix, Canned Pumpkin
and Instant Mashed Potatoes



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

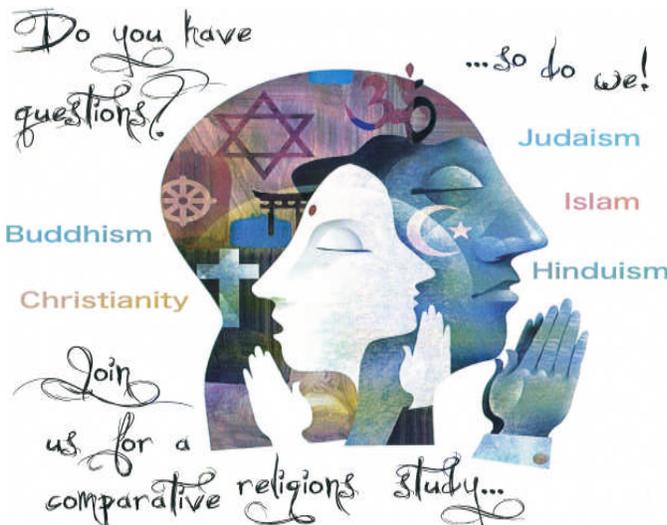
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Deodorant | Dish soap | |
| Can Openers | Toothbrush and toothpaste | |
| Shaving Cream | Mouthwash (without alcohol) | |
| Razors | Feminine hygiene products | |
| Kleenex | Hair products (combs, brushes, picks) | |
| Bar Soap | Dry Laundry Soap | |
| Bathroom tissue | Shampoo | Project Hope |
| Diaper wipes | | 4205 Boyd St |
| Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pullups | | 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.



Episcopal Tri-Faith Ministries



Adjunct Professor Gary Groff is leading a 10 week study of the world's largest religions which began on September 9th and will conclude November 18th. This study will include a look at the history, theology, scriptures, rituals, many significant individuals and the role of each of the faiths in today's world. The study course will be held at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 285 South 208th Street, Elkhorn, 402-944-2448 or www.trifaith.episcopal-ne.org. Each week will include a worship service at 5:00 p.m., a light meal at 5:45 p.m., with the instruction beginning at 6:00 p.m.



30th Annual Crop Walk 2012

October 14, 2012
1:00 p.m.



Starting from First Christian Church
6630 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE

Registration is from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

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.

CROP Walkers walk to:

Dig wells

Stock food pantries

Shape international policy

Help refugees

Provide disaster relief

Make a difference in our community and the world!

Pella Lutheran Church Danish Aebleskiver Supper October 14th 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.



Walking in the Crop Walk? Cheering for any walkers? Just hungry? Consider stopping at Pella Lutheran Church and enjoy an authentic Danish Aebleskiver Supper. Aebleskivers are traditional Danish pancakes prepared in a distinctive shape of a sphere. They are solid like a pancake but light and fluffy like a popover. Suggested donations are \$7.00 per person however, five and younger can eat free. Proceeds will go to ministry projects of Pella Lutheran Church Women. Parking is available just north of the church. If you have any questions, please call Pella Church Office at 402-342-1669. Remember church food is good for you!



Community News



Habitat for Humanity ReStore Shop, Donate, Volunteer: Habitat ReStore is located at 1003 South 24th Street and opened a second location at 10930 W. Maple Road on August 10th. 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.

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.



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



Fall Festival

Free fun for the whole family!

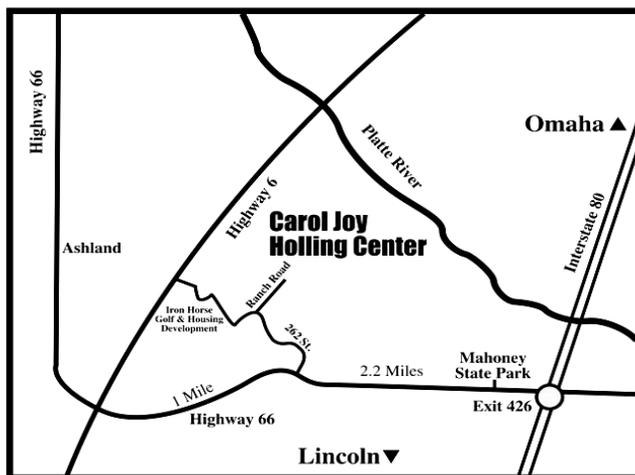
Where:

Carol Joy Holling Camp
27416 Ranch Road
Ashland, NE

When:

Sun. Oct. 7th, 2012
2 - 6 pm

It's all FREE!



For additional information, please call Heather at 1-888-656-6254 or go online at www.caroljoyholling.org

Grace Lutheran Church
Halloween Party
October 26, 2012
1326 So. 26th Street
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
402-341-7730



Ring Toss
Mummy Wrap
Bingo
Cake Walk



Best Costume Contest
Prizes awarded in several categories

Use your tickets to
play games.
Additional game tickets
are 10 cents each
Win Prizes.


**FRIGHTFULLY
GOOD!**

Refreshments!



Plans are underway for this year's Halloween Party.

Naturally, 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

The Costume Contest will be judged in five different categories that have yet to be determined (i.e., scariest, funniest, most original, etc.). Prizes are needed in each categories. So, a total of 10 prizes are needed (approx. value \$10.00 - \$50.00). 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-always 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 September 30th.

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.

The first planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 30th following worship service. A second meeting will be held at a later date. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. All are welcome!



**FAMILIES IN
ACTION – OMAHA**



Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Spotlight on Families in Action and Interfaith Health Service Volunteer and Participant

By : Maria Fernanda, South High Student, Age 16

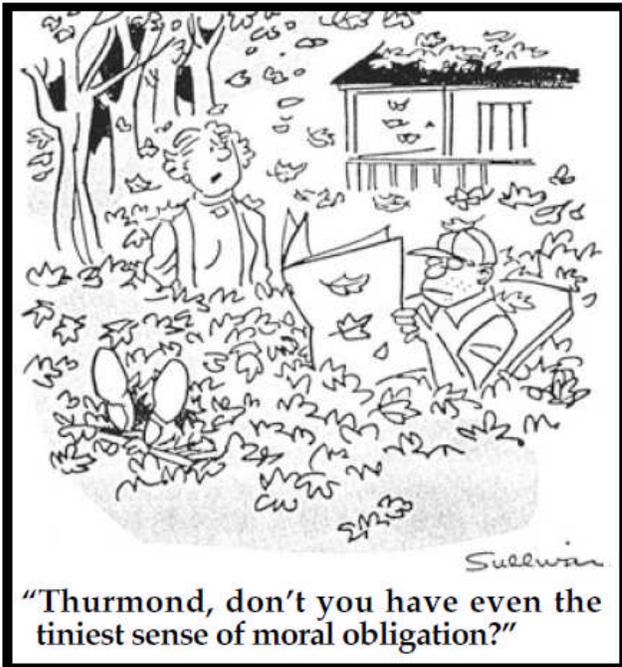
I have been part of Families in Action for so long that when I started, we were called Latinas in Action! Seven years ago, my mom and I began attending classes to learn more about health and to exercise with other families. My mom must have been a great student because she was asked to think about becoming a certified instructor through Interfaith and to teach classes! I started seeing my mom up front and it inspired me to start trying to be more healthy.

As I got older, the program developed a teen program where soccer was my favorite activity, along with art classes and book club. I pursued soccer as my main athletic endeavor throughout middle school, but when I got to high school at South, Zumba became my obsession. I really enjoy dancing and being surrounded by other families as we exercise together. Now, I'm considered a volunteer instructor since I help lead routines by myself or with my best friend, Michelle.

I am a Junior at South now, something Virginia still doesn't believe, but it's true! I feel like Families in Action has opened so many doors for me. For example, I take dance at South now and because of that I was able to audition for a spot in La Fuerza, South's Dance Company. Both Michelle (who is a Families in Action participant along with her mom, sister and brother) and I made the company! The person in charge of La Fuerza recommended that I take her summer class at the Omaha Academy of Ballet because she believes I have dancing potential. I have dance recitals for both La Fuerza and El Museo Laino where I also dance. Families in Action set me on this path by helping me step out of my comfort zone and the staff continues to encourage me in teaching and in dancing.

Another door that is being opened is that of college preparation. Along with Families in Action staff, I am looking at colleges and really planning for the future after high school. I appreciate that Virginia and Gema are so encouraging of my studies and they make time to ask me about my dreams and help me figure out what scholarships to apply for in Omaha. The student volunteers at Creighton are also great resources for me because I can begin asking about their college experiences and get ideas about what college will mean for me.

Once I graduate high school, I definitely want to go to college. I want my life to be dedicated to helping people any way I can. I am determined never to give up dancing no matter what I end up doing. My career choices are in education or in medicine. I would want to be an elementary teacher because I enjoy children and I feel like schools need more diversity in their faculty to help inspire children. If I were to go with the medical field, I would want to be a midwife to help women have healthy pregnancies and births.



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**October is Be-Kind-To-Your-Pastor Month.
 During this month, you can:**

- ⌘ Thank your pastor.
- ⌘ Pray for your pastor.
- ⌘ Encourage your pastor.
- ⌘ Honor your pastor.
- ⌘ Humor your pastor.
- ⌘ Invite your pastor and his wife to dinner.
- ⌘ Share some good jokes and laughter with your pastor.
- ⌘ Tithe.
- ⌘ Make a donation to one of your pastor's favorite causes.
- ⌘ Volunteer your time with the Halloween party!

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Special Days in October at Grace Lutheran Church

- October 9 - Grace Council Meeting.
- October 10 - Photographers Club.
- October 10 - Prayer Service.
- October 14 - CROP Walk.
- October 18 - Neighborhood Meeting.
- October 24 - Photographers Club.
- October 26 - Halloween Party.
- October 30 - Newsletter Assembly.
- October 31 - Halloween.

A Prayer for Optimism

“O God, for this new day now dawning, make me an optimist. Although there are signs of hope surrounding me, sometimes I see only the negative, the imperfections, the decay. Teach me to refocus on the marvelous possibilities, the great potentialities, the vibrant new life which fills my world each new day. Whenever my vision is darkened by pessimism, open my eyes, Lord, to the light of hope. Amen.”

—Nancy F. Summers, via *Apple Seeds*
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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 204

Rev.9:3-11

Trumpet Plagues 3

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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:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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A circus athlete, who earned his living displaying astonishing feats of physical strength, normally would conclude his show with a demonstration of his ability to squeeze an orange dry. Then he would challenge anyone in the audience who could extract even one drop of juice from the crushed orange.

When a small man volunteered, everyone in the audience laughed. Undaunted, the diminutive man stepped onto the stage and took from the strong man a shriveled up piece of orange rind. He slowly compressed his right hand until, to everyone's amazement, a drop of orange juice dripped on the floor.

As the cheers subsided, the astonished strong man asked the little man his name and invited him to tell the crowd how he had managed to develop such fistic powers. "Nothing to it," replied the man, grinning. "I happen to be the treasurer of my church."

—Stan Toler, *Stewardship Starters*

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