

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



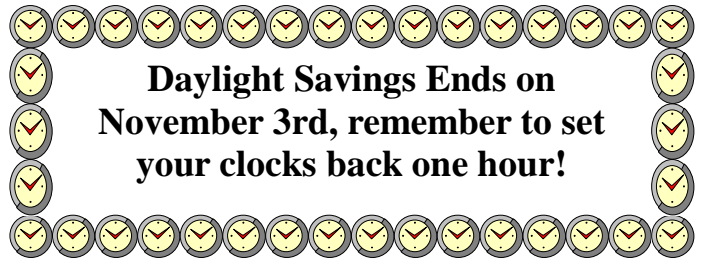
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Web Site: www.graceluth.com

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 Corp - Jessica Menary



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



2013

THE
GRACE
MESSENGER



2013 Council Members

John Boato	Sarah Emery	David Hufford
Vicki Cox	Ralph Fitle	Janet Hula
Andrew Edwards	June Hilmer	Eva Martin
		Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on October 8th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the healing of those close to us; for Micah Laaker & his family as they struggle with some recent health scares concerning Ben. We pray for Bobby Hesacker with his ongoing ulcers, and for Julie Lentz & family with her ongoing cancer treatments. We pray for all of those affected by the snowstorms & tornadoes. We pray for safety surrounding all children during the Halloween holiday. We rejoice with David for completing his third book, and we praise God that music still touches people positively, as through UNL's recent choir performance.

Pastor led devotions from Genesis 1:31 and 1 Timothy 1:17. The first speaks about nature and all that is good. The second focuses on us remembering where respect & honor is due. Pause in grateful thanks for both creation...and the Creator!

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued our discussion of "Can Our Church Live?" by Alice Mann. What are our congregation's strengths? We have a willingness to reach out, a support of programs & outreach, we are full of compassion and acceptance of others, we have a strong sense of spirit. Let's live our mission statement! Let's be loving & caring and reach out to all others throughout every aspect of our lives! We will discuss Chapter Four at our next meeting.

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

Christian Education: Participants are enjoying the video series for Adult Sunday School.

Evangelism/Outreach: Coupon books are due back this Sunday for the Sudanese fundraising event.

Finance: A motion was made to ratify expenditures as presented by the Disney Endowment Board, and passed. We discussed the option of overdraft protection through the bank, and this passed as well. We made a decision on replacing the folding chairs for the Upper Fellowship Hall.

Property: Pastor has glued down the loose tiles on the basement floor, and is looking into replacing the backdoor light & refinishing the tile floors.

Service/Social Ministry: Halloween party will be Friday, October 25 from 6:30-8:30. Fliers are prepared. Please consider contributions to this event.

Support/Stewardship: Fall Mission Gathering – Tuesday evening the 15th. Pastor, David, Andrew, and Ralph plan to attend.

Worship: St Luke's will host the Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Unfinished Business: Remember the November 6th Spaghetti Feed at church to support our South Omaha food pantry.

New Business: No New Report.

Announcements: Pastor will be out of town from 10/18-10/20. Pastor VonSeggern will be with us for worship. David will bring treats for our November meeting.



Fulfilling God's Purpose!

C.S. Lewis said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" As redeemed children of God, of course, we desire to belong to that first category, "Thy will be done."

On Sundays November 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th the theme of our worship services and our Bible studies will be ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** We will learn how the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament, transforms us to be more like our Chief Steward, Jesus, who willingly poured out his life in giving and serving, ultimately sacrificing his very life for our eternal lives.

God has chosen us as stewards and grants us the wonderful privilege to serve God's Kingdom. God invites us into a lifestyle of stewardship. This enables us to commit our lives, gifts and resources to serving God and fulfilling God's will for our lives. We can build deep relationships with God and with one another. We can speak openly about the faith and joy we find in Jesus. We can live graciously serving others. We can use those resources God puts in our care to generously support the work of God's Kingdom.

As your pastor, I pray that each of you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord that you might be strengthened in faith both for eternity and for a fruitful life here on earth.

The particular themes for the four Sundays are as follows:

Sunday November 3rd, "Building Relationships"
Sunday November 10th, "Witnessing for Jesus"
Sunday November 17th, "Living as a Servant"
Sunday November 24th, "Giving Joyfully and Generously"
Sunday December 1st, is our Dedication Sunday.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Pr. Laaker

Annual Lutheran Service Corps - Spaghetti Dinner Benefit

Sunday, November 17, 2013 at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 510 North 93rd Street from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends! Adults, \$7; Children age 5-12 \$4; Children under 5 \$2; and Families \$20. All proceeds help to support the social ministry of Lutheran Service Corps. For additional information, please call 402-457-5890 or e-mail lscomaha@lscomaha.org





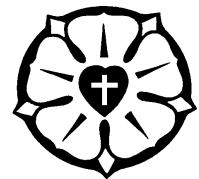
Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

*"The prayer of a person living right with God
is something powerful to be reckoned with."*

James 5:16b

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

- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found.
- ◆ Jim Harrahill - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ David Hufford - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Carolyn Matson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Ferne Matson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ LaVonne Moss - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Robert Moss - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Don Olson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Lori Vasquez - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Urbano Vasquez - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Norma Courtney - Ongoing health issues. (Arlone Farber's Mom.)
- ◆ Bob Hargis - Ongoing health issues. (Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer's son-in-law.)
- ◆ Christian Barajas - Ongoing health issues. (Samantha Trejo, Angela & Alex Everitt's brother.)
- ◆ Sandy Fitzgerald - Ongoing health issues. (Gloria Moore's daughter.)
- ◆ The family of Dorothy Novak.



Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Gertrude Hufford - Immanuel Village.

Ferne Matson - Her son, Ron's house.

Barbara Narducci - Home.

Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

Jack Williams - Brookstone Meadows, Elkhorn.

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 Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church

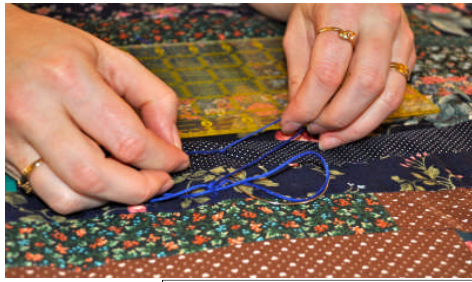
Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop, United States

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange, John Boato and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshipping Community.

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





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



Coffee Fellowship

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. No experience is necessary! Join in the great fellowship and conversation.



Meditations
Confessions
Healing

Wednesday Night
November 20, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Candle light Prayer Service
at Grace Lutheran Church.
People of all faiths are welcome!

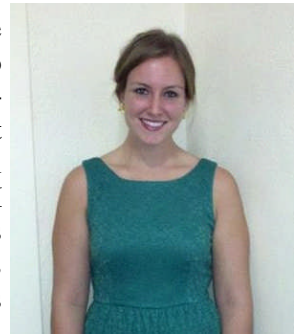
And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

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 the ESL tutors; Vicki Cox, Arlone Farber, Mary Laaker, Jessica Menary, and Amanda Vazquez, for making that connection with the students willing to learn and form friendships.
- ◆ Thank you to the Quilters, Marilyn, LaVonne, Bob, June, and Eva, your dedication to creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief is truly a reflection of God's love.
- ◆ 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 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 Newsletter Assembly crew; Marilyn, Jerry, LaVonne, Bob, June, Gloria, and Eva. The dedication and great conversations during assembly is greatly appreciated!

Happy Halloween! Fall is my favorite season, and I hope you all have been enjoying the brisk air and changing colors as much as me. A quick update on what I have been up to this October: I have been helping with the ESL class here at Grace and have really enjoyed listening to the women practicing speaking in English while sharing stories about their lives. I always look forward to spending time with the Sudanese kids, they are full of energy and excitement to have spiritual discussions and play games and do crafts. I also enjoy my hour of a bit of health education and a lot of running around with the kids on Wednesday and Friday evenings while their mothers do Zumba. Also, some evenings I participate with the women and dance with them, which helps me form relationships with them and has lead them to feel comfortable enough to let me into their lives. I feel very fulfilled every time I leave one woman's home, because during the time we spend together practicing conversations in English and doing worksheets, she not only teaches me a few Spanish words but also gives me an insight to her life, and we both benefit from time spent together. In a similar method of the two-way street approach to service, I also enjoy my work at Bethel, which recently has involved me visiting older congregation members who cannot make it to church. They always say they enjoy my visits, but I feel like I enjoy chatting with them even more! Other things I have been working on connection myself with different organizations in Omaha and also connecting through my housemates and their various jobs as well. I hope you all had a spook-tacular October and have a November full of thanks for the blessings and opportunities we all have.



Jessica Menary, Lutheran Volunteer Community Outreach Associate, (641-990-5324 outreach@graceluth.com)

Grace Lutheran Church has had the opportunity to be a blessing in many ways. Posted on the bulletin boards are several thank you letters from various organizations expressing what a gift we have given to the community surrounding us. Those organizations are listed as follows:

- * Lutheran Metro Ministries
- * Foodbank for the Heartland
- * Habitat for Humanity - Neighbors South Coalition
- * Lutheran Service Corp
- * Interfaith Health Service - Families in Action
- * Project Hope
- * South Sudan Water Project
- * Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries - Carol Joy Holling Camp
- * Mission Support - through the Synod Office and Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America.



Thank you for being a blessing and reflecting God's love through the ongoing support to the numerous organizations listed above.



Buy Your 2014 God's Creation Calendar Today!
Fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran Church Library

Each calendar contains beautiful scenic photography enhanced with inspiring Scriptures from the Holy Bible.

Some features of our popular 12-month, 28 page calendar include:

- 12"x9" pages
- high-quality, heavy-weight stock
- gloss-coated photo pages
- matte-finished calendar grid pages
- a superb writing surface
- ample space to write appointments
- a special page for important phone numbers
- 2014 - 2016 year-at-a-glance calendars

Only \$5.00!

Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner

In an effort to help those who need help at Thanksgiving, Grace Lutheran is sponsoring a pre-thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The meal will feature spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert.

We invite you to bring one of the following items: instant mashed potatoes, rice, cake mix, ready to bake pie, a can or bottle of juice, or dinner rolls. These items along with a free-will donation for the food will help us provide Thanksgiving meals for persons in need through the Lutheran South Pantry.



Lori Vasquez is organizing the dinner. If you can help, please speak to Lori.

Grace Lutheran Church has been invited to participate in the Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, November 27, 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church located at 2315 I Street. Come and enjoy giving thanks and praise to God all together!



The 31st Annual Crop Walk welcomed several participants who enjoyed walking on a sunny Sunday this year! Crop Walk is the original charitable walking event in the U.S. to help end hunger both locally and globally. If you have not already done so, please remember to pay your Crop Walk Pledge, checks should be made payable to CWS/Crop. Thank you for sponsoring all the walkers during Crop Walk 2013! Grace Lutheran has pledged a total of \$555.00 toward the effort of ending hunger and providing food in both the Omaha Metro pantries and helping where needed globally through Church World Services.



Flurry of Fun-filled activities at Grace's Halloween Party!

Thanks to all volunteers for putting so much energy into creating such a fun and safe environment for the children! Your dedication is so greatly appreciated!



POINSETTIAS
Cost: \$8.00 each



Poinsettia Sign-Up

A Sign Up Sheet will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

The Deadline for Ordering is December 9th

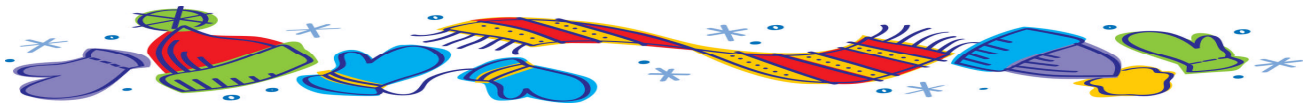
Be sure to designate whether you would like to take your flowers home after the holiday or donate them to the church for shut-ins or staff.



Each year, people from Grace Lutheran Church bring donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and other warm items and place them on the tree. These gifts of warmth are donated to area shelters.

The Christmas Mitten Tree will stand in the upper fellowship hall during the month of December.

During the special sales in the month of November and December, consider adding a pair of mittens or a scarf or two to your shopping cart, and place them on the mitten tree.



The Eyes of Love

A grandmother and a little girl whose face was sprinkled with bright red freckles spent the day at the zoo. The children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

'You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!' a boy in the line cried.

Embarrassed, the little girl dropped her head. Her grandmother knelt down next to her. 'I love your freckles,' she said.

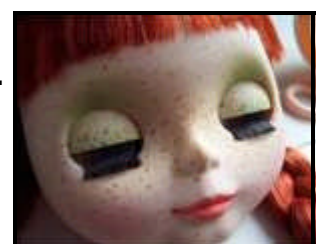
'Not me,' the girl replied.

'Well, when I was a little girl I always wanted freckles,' she said, tracing her finger across the child's cheek. 'Freckles are beautiful!'

The girl looked up. 'Really?'

'Of course,' said the grandmother. 'Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles.'

The little girl peered into the old woman's smiling face. 'Wrinkles,' she answered softly.





FAMILIES IN ACTION – OMAHA



Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Families in Action and Children’s Hospital Sponsor Zumbathon

Our HIS/Families in Action Zumbathon, held last month at Columbus Park and made possible by our Grant from Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, was a rousing success!

We are grateful for all who attended and assisted in the activities.

Our special thanks goes out to our Children’s Dance Instructors (pictured) and our Community Service Partners, Tri Delta at Creighton University.

Over 200 families attended the day’s activities, which included Zumba, soccer, family games and football.

We look forward to additional Family activities in the months ahead!

Virginia and Gema, IHS



“Helping Hands”

Special Pantry Needs for November: Baking Supplies/Bathroom Tissue

Items that clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are always appreciated: Dish Soap, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Shaving Cream, Razors, Mouthwash (without alcohol), Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Can Openers, Diaper wipes, and Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.

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



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

Not every bishop is humorless. Cardinal John O'Connor, the Catholic archbishop of New York in the 1980s and 1990s, was once at a fund-raising dinner. At the end of the meal, the master of ceremonies made his way to the microphone and plodded through a long list of all those who had helped with the dinner.

Unfortunately, he had a poor memory and forgot everyone's name. Each time he forgot a name, he would pull out a little note card from his pocket to help him remember.

"I would like to thank our fundraising chairman, um...(he pulled out his note and glanced down)...Mr. Smith. And I would like to thank our communications director, um...(out came the card)...Ms. Johnson."

"Finally", he said. "And now Cardinal O'Connor will come to the dais and give us his benediction."

The cardinal walked up to the podium and said, "Almighty God, we thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed on us. And we do this in the name of Your Son, um...(and he slyly pulled out his own little note card and glanced down)...Jesus Christ."



--Fr. James Martin, JS, in his book *Between Heaven and Mirth*
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"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

--G.K. Chesterton

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When he died recently, a Cleveland man, who was a longtime fan of the struggling Cleveland Browns football team, requested in his will that six Cleveland Browns payers be his pallbearers because he "wanted the Cleveland Browns to let him down one last time."

~Anonymous

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Special Days in November at Grace Lutheran Church

- November 6 - Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner.
- November 12 - Grace Council Meeting.
- November 13 - Photographers Club.
- November 20 - Prayer Service.
- November 21 - Neighborhood Meeting.
- November 26 - Newsletter Assembly.
- November 27 - Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.
- November 27 - Photographers Club.
- November 28 - Thanksgiving Day.

When the whole family came over for Thanksgiving dinner, an eight-year-old boy asked to say the prayer. "Father," he prayed, "we thank You for the turkey, the rolls, the sweet potatoes, the red jiggly stuff, and the bread stuff, even though I don't like it. We ask that You not let us choke on this food."

~Anonymous

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 218

Rev.17:7-18

Mystery Babylon

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ABYSS	AGAINST
BEAST	AGREEING
EARTH	BELONGS
FALLEN	CALLED
FLESH	CHOSEN
HEADS	CREATION
HEARTS	EXPLAIN
HORNS	FAITHFUL
LAMB	KINGDOM
LORD	MYSTERY
MIND	NATIONS
NAKED	OVERCOME
NAMES	PEOPLES
POWER	PURPOSE
RUIN	RECEIVE
RULES	REMAIN
RIDES	WRITTEN
WOMAN	WATERS
WORLD	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

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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W. Simmons

"Hev, who brought the tuna casserole?"

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**Daylight Savings
Ends on
November 3rd,
remember to set
your clocks back
one hour!**