

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

402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

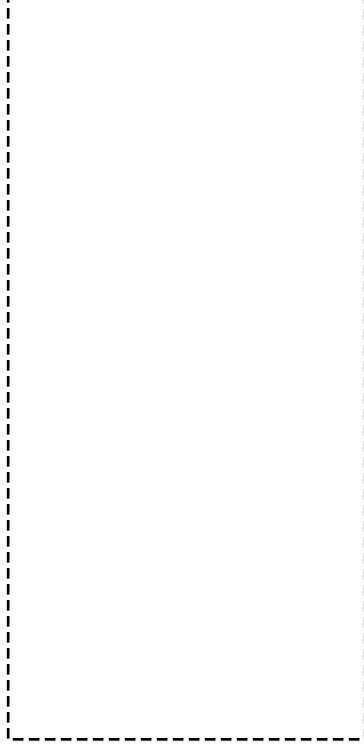
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Families In Action - Virginia McGill
Lutheran Volunteer Corp - Jessica Menary

Delivered to the Post Office June 26



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE
Permit No. 39

Return Service Requested
Dated Material



THE GRACE MESSENGER

 **July** 2014



1889 - 2014

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



Service/Social Ministry: LVC – our new volunteer, Malachai Black will begin with us in August. Great feedback from the joint celebration with the Sudanese on Pentecost.

Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: Rechargeable batteries for microphone system were purchased.

Unfinished Business: Great recognition of Pastor at the Synod Assembly this year. We continue to research flooring ideas for the UFH kitchen.

New Business: Charles Tuw is unable to participate in Council due to employment arrangements. Will be seeking another individual.

Announcements: Rev. Patti Webb will be conducting worship for Pastor the Sunday he and Mary travel to California to be with Micah's family. He will then to go to Chicago for the Seminary Celebration, June 17-19. Loren will bring treats for our July meeting.



Creation

An atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make a man without you."

God said, "OK, let me see you do it."

So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful. But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!"

Late For Class

A little girl, dresses in her "Sunday best" was late and running to her Sunday school class. As she ran, she prayed, "Dear God, please don't let me be late. Dear God, please don't let me be late." Then she fell.

She got up, dusted herself off and saw that her dress was now dirty and had a little rip. She started running again, still praying, "Dear God, please don't let me be late." But this time she added, "But please don't push me, either!"

All jokes have been shared via e-mails and friends.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Get ready to serve! Sunday, September 7, 2014

On Sunday, September 7, 2014, the nearly 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are invited to put their faith into action by serving their communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

Got an idea or two? Please share with Pastor Laaker or a council member, any project idea that you can think of which would help an individual or a group in our community feel God's love through Grace Lutheran Church.

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year round.



Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today! Ask for an authorization form in the church office.



On Sunday, June 22, as I began my morning message, I reflected on the Leadership Conference I attended in Chicago at the Lutheran School of Theology. The title of the conference was "Fear Not: Risks, Ministry, and the Gospel." I have found myself reflecting on the days that led up to my beginning seminary training at Christ

Seminary – Seminex. These were days of great concern for me.

The church body that had nurtured and shaped my desire to become a pastor was embroiled in controversy. Charges and counter charges were being tossed back and forth like a game of hand grenades. One was never sure what kind of explosion would rock the scene next.

It was important for me to reflect on the stories told at the conference about the risks students and faculty took in standing against the fear of condemnation and dismissal all for the sake of the freedom offered to us through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I think about the risks the call committee took at Grace some thirty years ago. Yes, we had an interview and we shared questions and answers. We each took a risk in agreeing to begin this relationship as pastor and people.

I think about the risks the members of the congregation took in decisions to stay in part of the city. A fire, an interstate system and a changing community were all risks that had an effect on the ministry offered. I do marvel that the decision to stay seems to be grounded in the desire to live out the gospel.

I think about the risk that the congregation took in allowing me to take a sabbatical. I could have used the time to search out some other place that was more exciting or appealing. However, I used the time to explore new avenues of ministry in diverse communities for right here.

I am grateful that ministry of love and care is a special mark of Grace. It is also a special mark of the gospel and that seems to be evident in work of each of your lives.

Thank you for taking the risks of calling me as your pastor, allowing me to bring back ideas from other places and being willing to try other means of ministry in this community. Thank you for nurturing me and my family with your love and care.

I wonder what God has in store for us as we attempt to fear not living faithfully in ministry that proclaims the wonderful freedom of love in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Laaker

Men in Heaven ~ Who is the Head of the Household?

At the end of the age when all the believers were standing in line waiting to get into heaven, God appeared and said, "I want all the men to form two lines. One line will be for the men who were the true heads of their households. The other will be for the men who were dominated by their wives."

God continued, "I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

The women left and the men formed two lines. The line of men who were dominated by their wives was seemingly unending. The line of men who were the true head of their household had one man in it.

God said to the first line, "You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. I appointed you to be the heads of your households and you were disobedient and have not fulfilled your purposes. Of all of you, there is only one man who obeyed me. Learn from him."

Then God turned to the lone man and asked, "How did you come to be in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."



My Dad's Better Than Your Dad

Three boys on the playground were bragging about their dads. One said, "My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song and they pay him 50 dollars."

"Oh, yah. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a poem and they pay him 100 dollars."

"That's nothin'," said the third child. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon and it takes four people to collect all the money!"

Vacation Bible School Registration

One form per student please.

Student's name _____

Student's date of birth _____

Address _____

Age _____ Grade (entering Fall 2014) _____ Boy Girl

Known allergies or medical concerns _____

Parent/Guardian's name(s) _____

Phone number(s) to reach parent during VBS

Emergency contact other than above

Name _____ Phone _____

Health care telephone _____

Brothers and Sisters (names and ages)

_____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

For office use only: VBS 2014 attendance record









Group _____ Leader _____

Days attended S M T W TH



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 the plants in the entry way, they continue to thrive and look welcoming.
-  Thank you to the ESL tutors; Vicki Cox, Arlone Farber, Mary Laaker, Jessica Menary, and Amanda Vazquez, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.
-  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, Greg and Janet Hula; who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
-  Thank you to the crew from Prince of Peace who are taking on the role of lawncare this summer.
-  Thank you to Ron and Donna Adrian and Brenda Spahr who take care of the altar, and prepare the communion table.
-  Thank you Alma for taking over the responsibility of cleaning this busy building, it looks fantastic!
-  Thank you to Jessica Menary for doing such an awesome job this summer with Kids At Work and Vacation Bible School.

The Ham Sandwich

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. "You know," he said to his friend, "this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you're not supposed to eat ham, but I don't understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you break down and try it?"

To which the rabbi replied, "At your wedding."



Yet 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:

Individuals listed below have ongoing health issues and concerns:

Andrew Edwards
James Harrahill
David Hufford
Ferne Matson
LaVonne Moss
Don Olson
Urbano Vasquez



Sandy Fitzgerald
Ken Hilmer
Carolyn Matson
Gloria Moore
Robert Moss
Lori Vasquez

Margie Sutej - recovery from surgery.
Cheryl Powley - recovery from surgery.
Norma Courtney (Arlone Farber's Mom.)
Bob Hargis (Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer's son-in-law.)
Christian Barajas (Samantha Trejo, Angela & Alex Everitt's brother.)
Pam Reents (Close friend to many!)
Roseanna Emery - cancer treatments (Tom Emery's Mom.)
The Family of Gertrude Hufford.

Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran 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

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange, John Boato 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.



I have seen many smiles on kids' faces while they are working doing ranges of things from weeding, cleaning, organizing, teaching, spending time with young children and the elderly and more! It gives me a lot of joy to see these young KAW participants working hard to improve our community and even enjoying their work! It is fun for me to watch them learn and grow and realize their potential to help others. Some of my favorite moments include, observing young girls dance together alongside elderly women and seeing young boys put smiles on elderly people's faces as they converse while practicing English and connecting through Spanish as well. I love hearing kids ask when they will get to go back to a particular work site, because it shows that they enjoy the work there. I smile to myself as I watch kids step-up into roles of serving others as they pass out meals to young children at the day care and elderly people at the senior center. I keep my ears open to hear what the kids say to each other when they return to Grace Church and tell each other about their days and what they enjoyed doing.



I feel like this program is such a blessing to everyone it touches because it gives opportunities for connection between people in many

**Lutheran South Pantry
4401 South 23rd Street
402-502-7070**



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 wipers, and Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

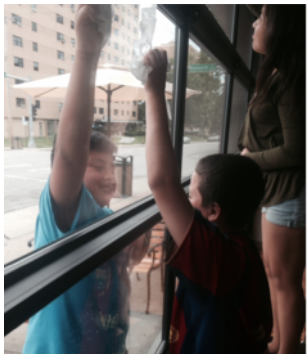
We always need paper or plastic bags.

Kids At Work 2014



Hello everyone! I hope you all are enjoying the nice weather. This summer I have been enjoying working with the Kids At Work program, and would like to share the experience with you by telling you about it, and inviting you to join me in volunteering with the program.

This summer Kids At Work has 15 youth participants and 3 adult volunteers to encourage the groups of kids as they work at sites in our community such as: Together, Hospice House, Precious Memories, inCommon, and the Intercultural Senior center. For the program to be able to run smoothly this summer, it is crucial to add one more adult volunteer to the program. This would allow the kids to work more effective and efficiently and take a lot of the stress of scrambling off the current volunteers. The kids are great, well behaved, hard working, and fun, the work sites are great, good for our community, a place to learn and grow for everyone, and also fun. All this program needs this summer is another volunteer or a group of people willing to volunteer once and awhile.



So, if you or someone you know is available to help out Tuesday and/or Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to noon please please contact me!

I would love for you to be able to join us, but as it is not possible for everyone reading this to do so, I would like to share some of my favorite moments from the KAW program this summer so far, so that if you can't be with us, you can at least know about the fun we are



Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

Ferne Matson - Home.
Barbara Narducci - Home.
Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.



Prayer Service
Wednesday
July 23, 2014
7:00 p.m.

An inspiring and quiet experience in meditation, light music, and a deeper connection within God's presence, peace, and love.

Carol Joy Holling Camp Annual Quilt Auction July 26, 2014



Over 300 quilts of all styles and varieties will be on display starting at 9:00 a.m. Auction will start at 10:00 a.m. Silent Auction Bidding will be from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Free parking and admission. Huge BBQ Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Adults \$6 and \$3 for children.

Additional activities throughout the day include; swimming, paddleboating, canoeing, hayrack rides, and camp tours. A fun day for the whole family!

Quilts can be previewed online at www.caroljoyholling.org



Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha NE 68105
402-341-7730

Join us for
Summer Vacation Bible School
Sunday, July 13 – Thursday, July 17, 2014
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Ages 4 years through 6th grade

All ages are welcome! Come as a family!

Preschool children should be accompanied by an adult.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. on July 13th.

Registration forms are available in this newsletter
or by contacting the church office at 402-341-7730.



**Bible
Stories!**

Games!

Malaria Awareness

**Discover how Malaria
effects children and their
families around the world
and how we can help!**

Drama!

Crafts!

Snacks!



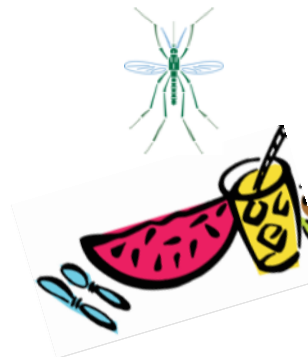
Stay after worship on Sunday, July 27th and join in the fellowship and celebrations. Bring a side dish and/or desert to share! Grilled hamburgers/hot dogs, drinks and table service will be provided.

Recognizing and appreciating all the dedicated work, talents and energy that Jessica has provided during her time with Grace Lutheran Church!



Celebrating Kids At Work 2014

Many friends, partnerships and great connections were made during the summer. Take a moment and say hello to one of the youth who participated this summer and let them know what an awesome job they have done.



July 2014



Worship Assistants

- 6 - Mary Laaker
- 13 - Larry Foreman
- 20 - Greg Hula
- 27 - Arlone Farber
- Aug. 3 - Lori Vasquez



July Ushers

- Ron Adrian
- Vicki Cox
- Jerry Van Ormer
- Andrew Edwards

Greeters

- 6 - Greg and Janet Hula
- 13 - Davena Garcia and Lori Vasquez
- 20 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 27 - Larry Foreman and Andrew Edwards
- Aug. 3 - Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

- 3 - David Hufford
- 4 - Bryce Bojanski
- 8 - Charles Farber
- 9 - Madison Emery
- 11 - LaVonne Moss
Urbano Vasquez
- 17 - Caleb Ketelson
- 18 - Gabriel Granillo
- 20 - Dustin Moyer
- 24 - Angela Everitt
Aden Hargis

Did we miss your birthday?
Please contact the church
office and let us know!

Ushers & Greeters



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers

- 6 - David Hufford, in honor of his birthday.
- 13 - Bob and LaVonne Moss, in honor of LaVonne's birthday.
- 20 - Lori Vasquez, in honor of the Vasquez 22nd Wedding Anniversary.
- 27 - Arlone Farber, Glory to God.
- Aug. 3 - Margie Sutej, in honor of her husband, Brian's birthday.

Flower Pick-Up for July - Van Ormers

Backpack Program

- 6 - Brenda Spahr, safe celebration during the July 4th holiday.
- 13 - OPEN.
- 20 - OPEN.
- 27 - OPEN.
- Aug. 3 - OPEN.

Coffee Servers

- 6 - Brenda Spahr
- 13 - June Hilmer
- 20 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 27 - Grace & Kids At Work Picnic
- Aug. 3 - Marilyn Van Ormer

