

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

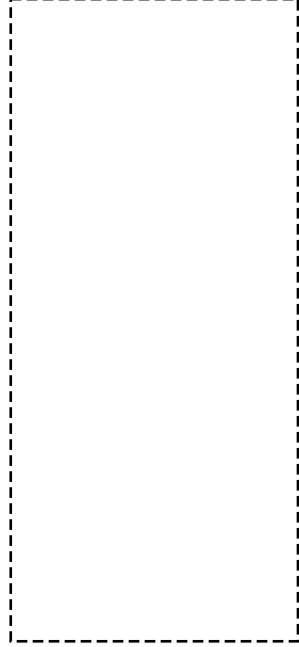
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Families In Action - Virginia McGill
Lutheran Volunteer Corp - Malachi Black

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THE GRACE MESSENGER 1889 - 2015



2015

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



2015 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Eva Martin
Andrew Edwards	Loren Moyer
Arlone Farber	Charles Tuw
Ralph Fitle	Amanda Vazquez
Janet Hula	Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on January 13th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the continued recovery of those close to us; for Norma & Teresa Courtney as they continue to work through their separate stages of health. We pray for help locating Raquel Concha, friend of Arlone & participating member of the ESL class as she has recently disappeared without contact. We pray for Ken Hilmer as he continues his tests and for Eva’s granddaughter Desiree’s Mother In Law, Patty, as she begins chemotherapy. We continue to pray for Cheryl Pawley as she struggles through the return of cancer, and for Bob Moss as he revisits with Doctors to help his health situation. We lift up Lauren, friend of Malachi who is currently hospitalized. We pray for all the victims and families in Paris.

Pastor led devotions from Jeremiah 23:24 and Ephesians 5:8. The first speaks to us about how we are unable to hide from God, whether deliberately or through work or other distractions. We are always seen! The second reminds us to live in the light! Be free, be honest, enjoy! Remember to promote a positive perspective on life.

Visions for Ministry: Will expect a new book in the coming month. Received an update from our attorney, Andrew Wilson with regard to the Church Mutual Lawsuit. The council has approved Mediation, scheduled for 2/17 with Mike Mullen as the mediator. This is a settlement process and the council agrees to mediation ending with a settlement of no less than \$100,000. Council also gave Pastor the authority to speak on our behalf during this process.

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

Christian Education: Early First Communion Classes will begin in the Lenten season.

Evangelism/Outreach: Malachi is looking at a project with the church and a soup kitchen, pantry...something along these lines. Be prepared to join in and enjoy.

Continued...

Finance: There was a motion to present the Mission Plan (budget) for 2015 to the congregation. The Jack Williams Trust information was updated.

Property: Front doors are scheduled to be replaced in mid February. Insurance company is investigating a fall from a woman, after a call about a possible injury. Boiler repairs continue, may move to an annual check up.

Service/Social Ministry: Malachi shared a proposal called “Reading in the Schools” – Sessions are once / month, go to Liberty School and volunteer to read a book to @ 125 children. Each child takes a book home with them. Think about your options, and if you’d be willing to volunteer and improve the educational response with our children.

Support/Stewardship: If you haven’t turned in your time & talents or monetary pledge yet – please do so!

Worship: February 18th is Ash Wednesday, and we will have our normal 6 p.m. meal followed by 7 p.m. service for this season. St Lukes will have their service at 5 p.m. service followed by a meal. Please come & share -attend one, both, or all!

Unfinished Business: Nominating Committee Report – Ralph Fitle, Ron Adrian, and Amanda Vazquez have agreed to join the council.

New Business: Audit Committee Appointment – Donna Adrian, Brenda Spahr, and Gloria Moore will be asked.

Endowment Board – Donna Adrian was nominated as Janet Hula completes her term. Preparations were discussed for the Annual Meeting & potluck on Jan 25th. Please plan to attend and participate in the fun!

Announcements: Arlone will bring treats for our February meeting.

Lutheran Volunteer Service Corp
New Fundraiser Opportunity

Friday, February 6, 2015; 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wine and Beer Tasting at Hot Shops Art Center
1301 Nicholas Street



Tickets are available on line at www.eventbrite.com/e/lutheran-service-corps-wine-and-beer-tasting-tickets-13610343905

Cost for Couples, \$55, Singles \$30



I recently received an email from 21st Century Strategies. It contained a brief article written by Bill Easum. The title of the article was "The Hope of America: The Small Church."

Mr. Easum began by saying, "I begin with a disclaimer - I don't believe the size of a church has any merit in the Kingdom. Neither do I believe a small church (under 200 in worship) or a large church has any advantages over the other. They both are called of God to perform the same mission ... to carry out Christ's last will and testament in both Matthew and Acts and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Churches that make disciples are great churches no matter what size. Churches that don't make disciples aren't churches no matter what size.

"The truth is, small churches could be God's gift to the U.S. because there are so many of them. In many parts of the country it seems as if there is one or more on every corner. In every part of the country, we have enough small churches to win America to Christ. However, every study I've seen shows that, except for the first four years of a new church start, small churches account for fewer and fewer of the people who claim to attend a Christian Church. I've seen recent studies that show 50 percent of all US Christians are attending large and mega churches.

"A few years ago, at the request of a major denomination, I spent two days consulting with eleven, small, dying churches in an isolated valley in the Appalachian area. The eleven churches were strung out along a farm-to-market road over a thirty mile area. The total worship attendance of the eleven churches amounted to 125 people. Nine of the churches were separated from each other by no more than a mile and a half.

"During the interview process, every one of the church leaders shared with me their church's struggle to survive. I could feel the bitterness and despair in their voice as they spoke of the callousness of their denomination toward their plight and the loss of their young people.

"During the interviews, I asked two questions: "Why are you declining?" and "What is the largest church in the area?" They blamed their church's decline on the isolation of their location, the declining population of the valley, and the lack of help from their denomination. A favorite phrase was "We're just a small church." They also told me that the largest church in the valley had about 35 in worship." (Which he later learned to be untrue.)

Here are four things he learned. **"Small churches tend not to make disciples because they are ruled with a heavy hand by a few individuals who have a deep passion to be a big fish in a little pond.** Small churches are about the last place left in this world where good hearted people will put up with totally dysfunctional people. Maybe it's time for the good people to treat them like the dysfunctional children they are and hold them accountable for their actions and require them to either repent or ship out. People just don't join unhealthy churches.

"Small churches don't make disciples because they are oriented around taking care of their membership rather than making disciples (large churches do this also). One of the myths about small churches is that they are more caring than large churches. This just isn't true. The power of this myth arises from the fact that most small churches make the fatal mistake of falling for the most pernicious of all Christian viruses... the belief that the purpose of the church is take care of the member's every need. Perhaps it's time to reclaim its place in the community by asking your pastor to equip your leaders to go out into the community and make disciples.

"Some small churches take pride in being small as if it were a virtue. Some pastors proudly proclaim that they refuse to play the "numbers game." Others believe in the "righteous remnant" theory of the Old Testament more than the Great Commission of the New Testament. "We're not declining; we're just separating the wheat from the chaff." Sounds like the same thing Jesus dealt with when he went up against the Pharisees. Numbers are people no matter how you cut it.

"So What Do Small Churches Need to do to Make Disciples? The answer is simple for any sized church - they need to recover what it means to be a church. By definition a church is a group of people who have been called out of the world for one purpose - the make disciples, not care for one another. Churches don't have a mission - God has a mission and it's the church. The church has one reason to exist - to make disciples - pure and simple. Small churches need to reclaim what it means to be a church."

What do you think? I wonder if Grace sees itself as a place that makes disciples?

Pr. Laaker



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
Ken Hilmer
Carolyn Matson
Robert Moss
Cheryl Powley
Margie Sutej
Urbano Vasquez



James Harrahill
David Hufford
LaVonne Moss
Don Olson
Michael Squires
Lori Vasquez



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!)
Dottie Hula (Greg Hula's Mom.)
Roseanna Emery (Tom Emery's Mom.)
Gema Wolde (Interfaith/Families in Action and friend to many!)

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

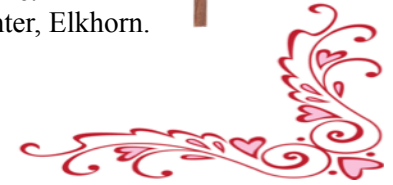
Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange, John Boato and Charles Tuv are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

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



Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

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



Prayer Service will be taking a break during February and March, during the Lenten season. April 15th will be the next opportunity to enjoy an inspiring and quiet experience in meditation, light music, and a deeper connection within God's presence, peace, and love.



Grace Quilters for Lutheran World Relief

Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join a lively group of people and assemble amazing tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief organization. These quilts are delivered around the world to areas most in need of a little comfort. Please feel free to stop by check out the activity. Coffee break and joke time is 10:00 a.m.; another opportunity in fellowship with one another. No experience is necessary!





25th Year for Souper Bowl Sunday!

Soup pots will once again grace the church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1st. Churches all across the nation will be collecting money and can foods for those who are hungry and hurting.

In 2014, 7,589 youth groups nationwide participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring and collected \$8,425,048 to share with various charities within the area items were collected in.

Please support Souper Bowl Sunday in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollar or non-perishable food item in the soup pot on Sunday, February 1, 2015.

Dear Members of the Endowment Board:

We as the Mabaan Fellowship would like to thank you for the \$500 gift given to us for the Christmas celebration. We especially want to thank Pastor Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran fellowship, and the leaders of the Endowment Board. We are gracious for your generosity and truly thankful. Please know how appreciative we are for your considerate gift. We extend a greeting of well wishes and prosperity in the upcoming year.



With Many Thanks,

David Nange, Moses Loada and the Mabaan Fellowship.



Another Brick in the Wall?

This heart shaped stone is thought provoking. Did the stone mason shape it deliberately? Is this a Valentine? If so, whose name is on the other side of the wall?

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BASKETS OF PROMISE

On Easter, we celebrate the joy and hope of Christ’s resurrection. Yet around the world “the least of these” - those Christ calls us to serve - continue to suffer.

This season of Lent, we will walk with people around the world afflicted by war, displacement and poverty by collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.

Grace Lutheran can reach out to those in need by partnering with Lutheran World Relief’s **Baskets of Promise** Lenten appeal. Throughout Lent, we will be collecting Personal Care Kits to send to families around the world. The kits will provide basic sanitation and hygiene items for families coping with some of life’s most difficult situations. The kits will allow families to stay healthy and clean and preserve personal dignity.

Items needed to complete a Basket of Promise are:

- Feb. 22nd Bar of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping).
- March 1st Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52” x 27”, dark color recommended).
- March 8th Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging).
- March 15th Combs.
- March 22nd Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional).
- March 29th A Second Bar of Soap.

Grace Lutheran will be collecting the above mentioned items to assemble 30 Personal Care Kits to faithfully bring a future of hope to families in need. You can be a part of this Lenten journey and bring an item or two and brighten the hope, faith, and future of an individual or a family through Lutheran World Relief.

Following worship service on Palm Sunday, March 29th, everyone is encouraged to stay and help assemble the care kits that have been collected during the 2015 Lenten season.



Serving one another
with Love!



We are quickly approaching the Lenten season. A year new is well under way as people have goals, resolutions, and new things they wish to achieve. This is rarely an easy feat as we bring the hardships, struggles, and challenges from the previous year with us. We also encounter new tests while trying to manage the old ones. We want to have that resolve to be a better person, commit ourselves more to our family, friends, and God, and to make some significant change in our lives.



The spirit of Lent invites us to make a sacrifice. Remove something from our lives or abstain from a habit for 40 days as we recenter our lives on God. While many focus on the thing they are letting go of for the time being, the central focus should be on what we do with our time and efforts instead of whatever activity or thing we are giving up. There is less value to giving up something if we do not find an effective way to get closer to God through our sacrifice.

Just as this winter weather has mild and unpredictable, life throws us unpredictable circumstances from time to time. We have an expectation of the maintaining of the status quo in our lives, yet a small change throws a monkey wrench into our plans. The new year has brought new challenges and triumphs alike, so we must remain ever vigilant in our quest to better ourselves. Our service to the body is our acceptable sacrifice to God. We better ourselves so that we may humbly, better serve others.

Consider how your sacrifices prepare you to be of better service for others. Let the thing you dare to let go be also the thing that drives you closer and deeper into your faith. Faith without works is dead, as it goes. Neither works nor faith merit the grace God extends to us, but they reveal who we are and expose us where we fall short. When we can appreciate and boast in our weaknesses, we take hold of a higher, purer strength that leads us in a way we cannot in our own conscience.

Let us draw close to our struggles and take comfort in knowing we are being molded for a purpose. Our calling comes from a Higher Source that transcends a temporary change or condition. Our sacrifice will affect the change we are to be in other peoples' lives. Our sacrifice is not just our own. It is for the body, for the uplifting and glory of God. Be confident in your calling and let us abound in love as we enter into this sacred time together.

Malachi Black, Community Outreach Associate
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Volunteer Corps
outreach@graceluth.com



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 Quilting crew; Marilyn, LaVonne, June, Eva, and sometimes Bob, for the weekly dedication and effort in creating quilts for the Lutheran World Relief Organization.
- ♥ Thank you to the ESL tutors; Malachi Black, Vicki Cox, Arlone Farber, Mary Laaker, and Amanda Vazquez, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.
- ♥ Thank you to Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, and Greg and Janet Hula; who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
- ♥ Thank you Donna, Vicki, Greg, and Janet for responding to the request for additional acolytes! You are all doing a great job!
- ♥ Thank you to the Newsletter Assembly crew; Marilyn, Jerry, LaVonne, Bob, Gloria, and June, it is always a treat to listen and join in the lively conversations!
- ♥ 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 your dedication, efforts, and responsibility of cleaning this busy building, it looks fantastic!

Q: What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?

A: Forget-me-nuts.

Q: What did the valentine card say to the stamp?

A: Stick with me and we'll go places!

Q: What did the light bulb say to the switch?

A: You turn me on.





Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

**My Experience with Families in Action
Community Health and Service Learning Fall, 2014**

Families in Action has undoubtedly touched my life. Although my schedule has become exceedingly hectic with work and academics, I can truthfully say that my time volunteering has become the highlight of my week. It makes all the difference in my ability to reflect upon my week with a pure sense of joy and fulfillment.

Each week, I look forward to the precious time I get to spend with the beautiful children of the community, and each week I am reminded of the meaning of my life: to impact the lives of those around me in a positive way and to learn from them in the process.

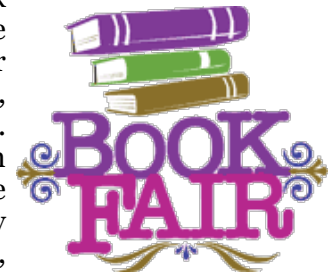
Not only is it a stress relief from college life to run and play outside with the children, but also, it continually reminds me of what I am most passionate about in my own life. It is easy to foster my desire to become a nurse by observing and participating in the health education that Families in Action provides, and even easier to integrate my desire to learn Spanish while conversing with Martha, Luis or others in the car to and from a site each week.

However, for me the most meaningful part is the people who make up the program. Virginia, Gema, and the others in the community look out for each other on such a deep level. It is obvious how much the women and children care about each other as they go out of their way to welcome new guests and, as Virginia does, set up carpooling each week for those who do not have cars.

There in an undeniable sense of community within Families in Action and I leave each week with a full heart knowing I am unbelievably lucky to be welcomed into such a loving group of people.

Annie T., Omaha, Nebraska
Creighton University class of 2016
Spanish, Pre-nursing

Ready for this year's Annual Used Book Sale? Is your bookcase getting a little crowded? Why not donate some of your used books, DVDs, old VHS movies, puzzles, games, or CD's to sell at the used book sale. Please leave your appropriate materials in the box provided in the fellowship hall. The sale will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. All proceeds will go toward new books, projects, or library supplies.



**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.

Free Basic Computer Skills Classes

Learn basic computer skills to gain employment, further your education, or stay in touch with long-distance family members. Two locations to choose from:

Heartland Workforce Solutions American Job Center
5752 Ames Avenue - Monday's 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Urban League of Nebraska
3040 Lake Street - Wednesday's 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For additional information please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board or call Barbara A. Thomas at 402-451-1066, ext. 35.

February 2015



Worship Assistants

- 1 - Greg Hula
- 8 - Terry Nielsen
- 15 - Mary Laaker
- 18 - Malachi Black
- 22 - Margie Sutej
- 25 - Brenda Spahr
- Mar. 1 - Arlone Farber



- 2 - Colton Hanson
- 4 - Donna Morlan
- 8 - Gerald Van Ormer
Dustin Andersen
Brenda Spahr
- 9 - Destiny Perales
- 10 - Jackson Vazquez
- 21 - Sonia Lado
- 24 - Hayden Bauer
- 25 - Graham Moyer
- 26 - Gloria Moore
- 28 - Scott Moore

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

February Alcolytes

- 1 - Brenda Spahr/Donna Adrian
- 8 - Janet Hula
- 15 - Vicki Cox
- 18 - Andrea Spahr
- 22 - Greg Hula
- 25 - Donna Adrian
- Mar. 1 - Janet Hula/Brenda Spahr

February Ushers

- Mary Laaker
- Lori Vasquez
- Malachi Black
- Andrew Edwards

Ushers & Greeters



February Greeters

- 1 - Davena Garcia and Lori Vasquez
- 8 - Bobby Stechenfinger and Greg Hula
- 15 - Bob and LaVonne Moss
- 22 - Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker
- Mar. 1 - June Hilmer and Gloria Moore



Responsibility List



Altar Flowers

- 1 - Bob and LaVonne Moss, in honor of all February birthdays.
- 8 - Andrea Spahr, in honor of her mom, Brenda's birthday.
- 15 - OPEN.
- 22 - Arlone Farber, Glory to God.
- Mar. 1 - OPEN.

Flower Pick-Up for February
Eva Martin



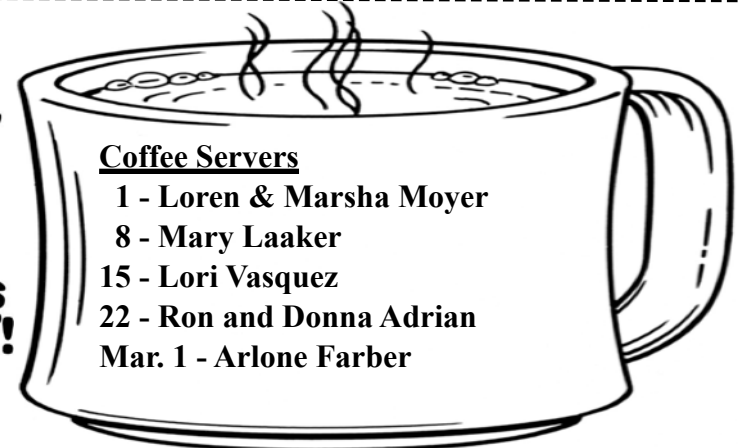
Backpack Program

- 1 - OPEN.
- 8 - Brenda Spahr, in honor of all February birthdays.
- 15 - OPEN
- 22 - Vicki Cox, in honor of her son, Derren's birthday.
- Mar. 1 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, in honor of their great-grandson, Kyler's birthday.



Coffee Servers

- 1 - Loren & Marsha Moyer
- 8 - Mary Laaker
- 15 - Lori Vasquez
- 22 - Ron and Donna Adrian
- Mar. 1 - Arlone Farber





Visiting Nurse Association

VNA is looking for people interest in becoming Hospice volunteers. The Hospice Volunteer Education Class that is conducted by VNA Hospice, Methodist Hospice, and Alegent Creighton along with Hospice House -

The Josie Harper Residence will be taking place in February.

Hospice Volunteers are needed to provide companionship and support for individuals living with terminal illnesses and their families. Volunteers choose the hours they are able to serve and determine the geographical location in the metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and surrounding area. We are specifically looking for volunteer support during day time hours and those willing to do in-home visits.

Please call one of the following agencies to request an application. Space is limited.

- VNA Hospice: Gina Binder 402-930-4143
- Methodist Hospice: Angela Wichita 402-354-3200
- Alegent Creighton Hospice: Mary Pendell 402-898-8150

Great Plains Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is sponsoring the 2015 Wine and Roses Event. It is a wine tasting event featuring 6 wines, cheese & crackers, specialty desserts, a raffle and roses for the ladies. Proceeds benefit the Great Plains PVA Ladies Auxiliary's McAleer/Pierce Memorial Scholarship program for graduating high school seniors who have a disability or who have a parent with a disability. \$20 per person.



It will be held at WineStyles, 1006 S 74th Plz on Sunday, February 15, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. You can find the link to their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/greatplainspva>.

Our theme for the five Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday will be "Commitment through Adversity: A Focus on the Beatitudes." We will have guest speakers each evening. Our musical setting for the service will be Holden Evening Prayer.



The evening begins with a light meal at 6 pm and service begins at 7 pm. Come spend time in fellowship around a meal and be enriched with the presentations and music of worship.



The season of Lent and the opportunity to serve one another is here! Maybe you are thinking of preparing and serving the Wednesday Night Lenten Supper. Ash Wednesday is on February 18th this year. Get together with friends and decide which Wednesday, what

menu and which organization will benefit from the dinner proceeds; then sign up on the flyer posted on the bulletin board. Meals will be needed each Wednesday night beginning February 18th - Ash Wednesday, through March 25th; and finishing with Easter Sunday Breakfast on April 5th.

Early Communion Class

Pastor Laaker will be conducting an Early Communion Class for young persons. The class will be held on Sundays , beginning March 8, for four weeks, at Grace Lutheran, 12:30-1:30 pm. Parents and young people are invited to attend together. Bring a sandwich and we'll explore God's goodness together.





The Legend of St. Valentine

St. Valentine's day history goes back to Roman times. The emperor Claudius II was a student of human nature and way back in AD 287 he calculated that single men made braver soldiers than married men. Therefore, as Claudius has absolute power, he dictated that no soldier should marry. A Roman called Valentinus thought that this was rough justice and secretly married soldiers who had a sweetheart.

When Claudius discovered that Valentinus had defied his decree he threw Valentinus into jail. While he was incarcerated, Valentinus fell in love with the gaoler's daughter and sent her the first ever card - from your sweet Valentine.

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St. Valentine

Much later, in AD 496 Pope Gelasius, chose 14th of February as the day to honour and remember Saint Valentine. Unfortunately, tantalisingly little is known about these early origins of St. Valentine.

In the history of St. Valentine's day, it is the 17th century which was the most important and truly romantic era. The 14th of February became important as a day to exchange love notes by sending poems and gifts. Sometimes dances and small festivals were held.

In modern times, 1416, Charles, Duke of Orleans, sent one of the earliest Valentines, from his imprisonment in the Tower of London after the Battle of Agincourt. He sent several Valentine poems to his wife in France.

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The Facts of Life

1. At least 5 people in this world, love you so much they would die for you.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you, in some way.
3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you, is because they want to be just like you.
4. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
5. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
6. You mean the world to someone.
7. Without you, someone may not be living.
8. You are special and unique, in your own way.
9. Someone that you don't know even exists, loves you.
10. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.
11. When you think the world has turned it's back on you, take a look, you most likely turned your back on the world.
12. When you think you have no chance at getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you believe in yourself, you probably sooner or later will get it.
13. Always remember compliments you received, forget about the rude remarks.
14. Always tell someone how you feel about them, you will feel much better when they know.
15. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

godisgroovy.com



Valentine Dreams

One morning Emma woke up with a start. Her husband Jim asked what was the matter, she told him, "I just had a dream that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," Jim said.

That evening, Jim was home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, Emma opened it - only to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams".

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The Perfect Lovers Island Discovered

A tiny heart-shaped island in the Adriatic Sea has become a holiday hit for St. Valentine's Day after being discovered on Google Earth. Even the uninhabited island's owner didn't realise how perfectly heart-shaped the island off the Croatian coast was until he was swamped with requests from lovers to stay there.



'It has been incredible. We think it is the most perfect heart-shaped island in the world,' said Vlado Juresko, whose family owns the 130,000 square yard islet of Galesnjak, hastily renamed "Lover's Island". Nobody lives there so if lovers really do want to spend time alone it's the perfect desert island. We always thought it looked a bit like a heart but since it's been on Google Earth everyone else has seen it too and the whole world seems to want to stay here.'

Reprinted with permission from; guy-sports.com



Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A: No, but they had an Apple.

Q: What is a ram's favorite song on February 14th?

A: I only have eyes for ewe, dear.

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 233

Matt.2:17-3:4

John the Baptist

E	W	E	E	P	I	N	G	O	T	R	E	S	E	D	ANGEL	BAPTIST
L	G	O	R	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	S	R	D	BELT	CHILDREN
N	R	Y	T	H	T	E	H	O	J	L	D	T	I	T	EGYPT	DESERT
G	A	S	P	O	K	E	N	R	O	I	O	R	A	S	HAIR	DREAM
L	C	Z	W	T	A	W	H	D	H	V	R	A	H	I	HEROD	GALILEE
O	H	N	A	V	A	A	P	P	N	E	E	I	A	A	HONEY	HEAVEN
C	E	O	E	R	I	R	R	E	O	D	H	G	I	W	ISAIAH	JEREMIAH
U	L	N	N	A	E	Y	D	E	C	R	N	H	M	M	ISRAEL	JOSEPH
S	W	E	S	P	E	T	E	H	P	I	P	T	E	O	JOHN	KINGDOM
T	D	I	A	N	S	I	H	E	N	E	O	O	R	D	JUDEA	LEATHER
S	S	R	O	I	A	V	S	G	L	H	N	V	E	G	LIVED	LOCUSTS
R	E	H	T	A	E	L	I	R	B	I	A	T	J	N	LORD	NAZARETH
E	S	P	J	O	S	E	P	H	A	E	L	M	M	I	PATHS	PREPARE
P	A	T	H	S	R	E	A	N	G	E	L	A	A	K	RACHEL	PROPHET
B	D	R	E	A	M	A	E	D	U	J	L	T	G	R	RAMAH	REIGNING
															REPENT	SPOKEN
															TOWN	STRAIGHT
															VOICE	WARNED
															WAIST	WEeping

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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Valentine's Day - Place Names

Two places in the USA have the name Valentine: Valentine, Nebraska, with a population of 2,842; and Valentine, Texas, with a mere 185 residents.

Love is a much more popular town name as nine places claim: Loveland, Colorado, with approx. 55,273 residents. Other love-ly places are Lovejoy, Georgia; Loves Park, Illinois; Lovelock, Nevada; Love Valley, North Carolina; Loveland Ohio; Loveland Park, Ohio; Loveland, Oklahoma; and Lovelady, Texas.

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