

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

402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com

Web Site: www.graceluth.com

Like us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha

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

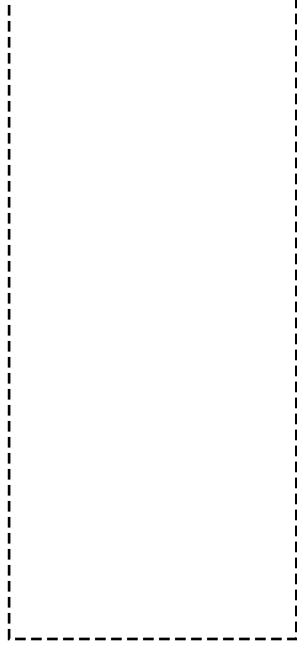
Community Outreach - Malachi Black

Delivered to the Post Office August 30



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THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2016



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



2016 Council Members

Ron Adrian, Vicki Cox, Arlone Farber, Ralph Fittle, Greg Hula, Loren Moyer, Brenda Spahr, Amanda Vazquez, Pastor Laaker, Officers Serving the Congregation: Financial: Janet Hula, Treasurer: Ralph Fittle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on August 9th. The Council shared their prayer concerns for prayers for members and friends who are dealing with a variety of health issues, for guidance in the midst of the recent killings and police communications, for peace during the Olympics in Rio, and for guidance and peace for the recent violence in the Sudan.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Exodus 10:3 and Revelation 3:17. The first asks us how long before we turn to God for help or guidance. The second explains our self-righteous tendencies in that we don't often realize our shortcomings and brokenness.

Visions for Ministry: The author explains the two wings of training and two wings of strategy to help us get a better understanding of our own results and how they work in our lives. We will read the remainder of Part 2 pages 91-98 to discuss next month.

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

Christian Education: None.

Evangelism/Outreach: Drink cups have been ordered for teachers at Liberty Elementary, candy and pencils will go inside the cups. Once they arrive, we will deliver them to the teachers as a Welcome Back to start off their school year. September 11th is God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Trash pickup was suggested. Sandwich lunch will be provided beforehand. Books are in for the reading program to start in September at Liberty for the 2nd graders. We will be adding 3rd graders this year as well. The next Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, August 19th. We will be showing Zootopia and enjoying popcorn.

Finance: None.

Continued...

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 252

Matt 10:10-20

Disciples sent out Preaching

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

ACCOUNT DOVES
AGAINST DUST
ANYONE ENTER
ARREST FEET
BEFORE FLOG
COUNCILS GIVEN
FATHER GUARD
GENTILES HAND
INNOCENT HOME
LISTEN HOUSE
PERSON KINGS
RETURN LEAVE
SEARCH LOCAL
SENDING PEACE
SHREWD SHAKE
SNAKES SHEEP
SODOM SPIRIT
VILLAGE TOWN
WELCOME TRUTH
WOLVES WORDS
WORTHY WORRY

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

Empty rounded rectangular box for the answer.

MORE PUZZLES AT: http://biblewordgames.com COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



A Sunday school teacher asked her youngsters: "Wouldn't you like to go to heaven?"

"Sure," little Johnny replied, "but my Mom told be to come home right after school."

—via Rev. Dr. Ken Curtis Fallon, NV
Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

A tale of 2 dogs

There is a story of two dogs who, at separate times, walked into a room filled with mirrors.

One happy dog came in grinning and wagging his tail, and a thousand happy dogs looked back at him.

The angry dog snarled and growled, and a thousand angry dogs snarled and growled back at him.



What you see in the world around you often is a reflection of who you are. Which dog are you?

~ via Kimberly Barker-Brugman

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

An evangelist was preaching hell-fire and brimstone at a revival in a rural town. "This town is full of sinners and everybody around here is going to hell!" the preacher shouted.

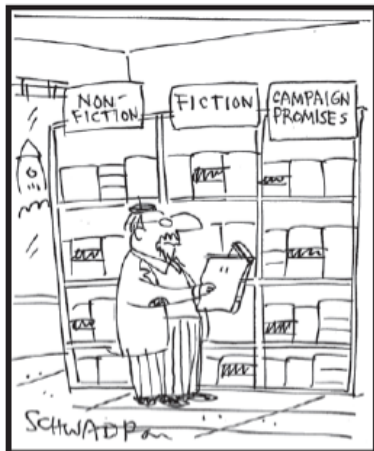
A young boy in a back seat began laughing out loud.

That angered the preacher, who said, "Son, didn't you hear me say everybody around here is going to hell?"

"Yes, sir," the boy replied, "but I ain't from around here!"

—via George Goldtrap Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com



Property: Carpet install is scheduled for the week of August 28th. The last week of August, furniture will need to be moved off the carpet. The organ console when moved years ago was put on top of carpet...Pastor will contact organ builder and ask his opinion. Roof repair was completed for just over \$12,000. Most of the new street signs have been placed. The cracks around the building have yet to be remedied and we have received the bid for that. Pastor is in conversation with Dan Dolezal to make some adjustments. It totals just under \$9,000.

Service/Social Ministry: Neighbors South Habitat for Humanity is preparing to wrap up in September.

Support/Stewardship: This year's series is called "Leading Generously".

Worship: September 18th we will go out on the River City Star with St. Luke's for worship service and will follow with a potluck here at Grace. Endowment Board paid for the cost of the boat trip.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Vicki will bring treats in September.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

The council has made the decision to serve the neighborhood by picking up trash in observance of God's Work, Our Hands, Sunday, September 11th following worship service.

You are invited to join in the annual God's Work, Our Hands Sunday and serve the surrounding Grace community. A sandwich lunch will be provided before volunteers go out.





The summer months are quickly coming to a close. Schools have begun and fall ministry emphases are underway. In September, we will observe God's Work, Our Hands on Sunday, September 11. On Sunday, September 18, we will gather with folks from both Grace and St. Luke's for a morning ride and worship on the River City Star. A potluck meal will round out the morning after the boat ride at Grace. In early October, we will once again offer folks the opportunity to participate in the Omaha CROP Walk for Hunger.

In the middle of August, the ELCA gathered for 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. The theme was "Freed and Renewed in Christ." The days were filled with worship, bible study, reports and updates on ministries, workshops and fellowship. The Nebraska Synod has shared a synopsis of this event on its website: www.nebraskasynod.org

I would like to highlight a couple of actions taken by the Assembly. You may recall that I, and a couple others, had submitted a resolution to the Nebraska Synod Assembly calling on the Assembly to memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to repudiate the "doctrine of discovery." Here is a brief description: "The Doctrine of Discovery was promulgated by European monarchies in order to legitimize the colonization of lands outside of Europe. Between the mid-fifteenth century and the mid-twentieth century, this idea allowed European entities to seize lands inhabited by indigenous peoples under the guise of discovery. In 1494, the [Treaty of Tordesillas](#) declared that only non-Christian lands could be colonized under the Discovery Doctrine.

"In 1792, U.S. Secretary of State [Thomas Jefferson](#) declared that the Doctrine of the Discovery would extend from Europe to the infant U.S. government. The Doctrine and its legacy continue to influence [American imperialism](#) and treatment of conquered [indigenous peoples](#)." (Wikipedia)

I am grateful that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted this repudiation of the "doctrine of discovery." Efforts will now be made toward public recognition of our Christian complicity in the marginalization of Native peoples. The resolution called on the Presiding Bishop to plan and conduct a worship service of repentance.

Continued.....

Reading Your Bible in a Year - September 2016

1	John 9:1-23	2 Chrn 6	Mal 2:17-3:18
2	John 9:24-41	2 Chrn 7	Mal 4
3	John 10:1-21	2 Chrn 8	Psalms 73
4	John 10:22-42	2 Chrn 9	Psalms 74
5	John 11:1-27	2 Chrn 10-11	Psalms 75
6	John 11:28-57	2 Chrn 12-13	Psalms 76
7	John 12:1-26	2 Chrn 14-15	Psalms 77
8	John 12:27-50	2 Chrn 16-17	Psalms 78:1-20
9	John 13:1-20	2 Chrn 18	Psalms 78:21-37
10	John 13:21-38	2 Chrn 19	Psalms 78:38-55
11	John 14:1-14	2 Chrn 20:1-21:1	Psalms 78:56-72
12	John 14:15-31	2 Chrn 21:2-22:12	Psalms 79
13	John 15:1-16:4a	2 Chrn 23	Psalms 80
14	John 16:4b-33	2 Chrn 24	Psalms 81
15	John 17	2 Chrn 25	Psalms 82
16	John 18:1-18	2 Chrn 26	Psalms 83
17	John 18:19-38	2 Chrn 27-28	Psalms 84
18	John 18:38b-19:16	2 Chrn 29	Psalms 85
19	John 19:16-42	2 Chrn 30	Psalms 86
20	John 20:1-18	2 Chrn 31	Psalms 87
21	John 20:19-31	2 Chrn 32	Psalms 88
22	John 21	2 Chrn 33	Psalms 89:1-18
23	1 John 1	2 Chrn 34	Psalms 89:19-37
24	1 John 2	2 Chrn 35	Psalms 89:38-52
25	1 John 3	2 Chrn 36	Psalms 90
26	1 John 4	Ezra 1-2	Psalms 91
27	1 John 5	Ezra 3-4	Psalms 92
28	2 John	Ezra 5-6	Psalms 93
29	3 John	Ezra 7-8	Psalms 94
30	Jude	Ezra 9-10	Psalms 95



Back to School Green Tips

We all know instilling good habits is easiest when we're young, so more and more parents and educators are working to make kids aware of the importance of caring for our planet. As kids get ready to return to school in the fall, here are some simple tips to encourage sustainable habits and healthy kids!

Safe (and Sustainable) Routes to School. Instead of driving alone, start a carpool, bike train, or group walk and take turns with other parents in the neighborhood to drop off and pick up the kids. You'll each save time, energy, and fuel.

Lunch break. Pack kids' lunches in sturdy metal lunch pails or canvas bags instead of throwaway paper and plastic bags.

It might seem obvious, but check out your school's recycling programs. Ask whether recycling bins are available and accessible - and if the kids are encouraged to use them. Make sure your child knows what can be recycled and what can't.

Make smart decisions while shopping. Buy school supplies with less packaging and seek those made with organic and/or recycled materials. Consider investing in sturdier products - this can ensure years of use from commonly used items like backpacks. You can also make environmentally-friendly choices when buying back-to-school clothes.

Re-use school supplies that are in good condition. When you are in the middle of the back-to-school shopping frenzy, it's sometimes easy to forget about all those items you have at home that are still in good working condition. Binders, loose leaf paper, pencils and scissors are often only lightly used. Save money and resources by buying only what's really needed!

Keep children in touch with nature. After-school time used to involve catching fireflies, exploring the neighborhood woods, making mudpies, and just having a good time running around outside. This has changed dramatically in the digital age and children are less connected to nature, which can cause them to care less about its condition. Instead of plopping down in front of the T.V. or computer after school, encourage your kids to get outside for an hour or two each day. Not much daylight left after the homework's done? Take a family walk after dinner, devote your weekends to outdoor-only activities like biking and hiking. Studies have shown children who spend more time outside are less likely to suffer from obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder, and depression.

green tips from earthshare.org

Many of you know that I have participated with the Nebraskans for Peace Taskforce on Palestinian Rights. I am delighted that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted two resolutions in relationship with Palestinian peoples. The first was a resolution that called for an end to unconditional aid to Israel. The second was a resolution to create an investment screen that would identify and remove the Church's investments in corporations profiting from Israel's violation of Palestinian rights, and other human rights abuses around the world.

These actions on behalf of the ELCA Assembly encourage me to continue to work in efforts that address people and communities that have been marginalized and demonized for too long. I pray that these actions will move us toward a more honest relationship with Native Peoples and toward freedom and justice for Palestinians.

Pastor Laaker



Following service on Sunday, August 14th volunteers gathered to help assemble cups and treats for staff members at Liberty Elementary School. This is to continue the partnership with Liberty through Grace Reads in which volunteers read to a second grade class once a month. This year the program will include reading to a third grade class.

The saying on the cups read:

"It takes A Big Heart to Help Shape Little Minds" and inside the red heart is says "Thank You". Inside the cup is a Hershey candy bar with a tag on top that reads "Blessings for the School Year! Your Neighborhood Friends and Readers from Grace Lutheran Church."



Liberty Principal Oberst was very grateful for the welcome surprise and was positive it would brighten everyone's day!



And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

Please keep in your prayers the individuals listed below who have health issues and concerns:

Ron Adrian
Norma Courtney
Andrew Edwards
Ken Hilmer
Carolyn Matson
Jack Pablo McGill
Don Olson
Brian Sutej



Christian Barajas
Theresa Courtney
James Harrahill
Dottie Hula
Cesar Martinez
LaVonne Moss
Linda Pafford
Urbano Vasquez



Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran.

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.*

Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

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



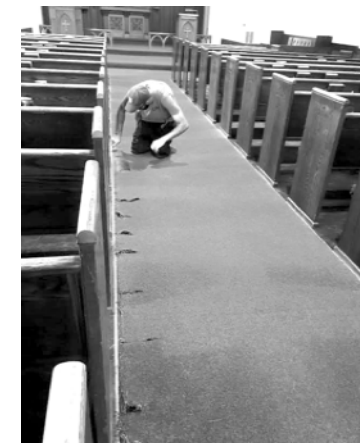
**Grace Lutheran Church
ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes
Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
402-341-7730**

Do you know anyone searching for the opportunity to learn the English language? Please direct them here at Grace. Every Saturday morning they would be greeted with a smile and very helpful tutors to start their education in one of the most difficult languages to learn as a second language.



Carpet Installation is currently taking place! P & D Flooring Inc., a subcontractor from Nebraska Furniture Mart are undertaking the task with gusto! In under two hours most of the carpet and padding have been removed.

Don't worry, eventhough the sanctuary is in a state of transition, Grace's front entry way is lined with several buckets of carpet adhesive for the installation of the new carpet. Within a week, the sanctuary shall once again be a beautiful place to worship our Lord and Savior!





Hospice House - The Josie Harper Residence, CHI Health at Home Hospice, Methodist Home Health & Hospice and Visiting Nurse Association would like to invite you to consider becoming a hospice volunteer. Caring and compassionate people are needed to help provide companionship and support for individual living with terminal illness and their families. Volunteers choose the hours they are able to serve and determine the geographical location in metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and surrounding areas. We are specifically looking for day time volunteers and those willing to do in-home visits. Upcoming Education Classes are in early October. Please call one of the following agencies to request an application, space is limited.

VNA Hospice: Celeste Feuerback at 402-930-4143
gbinder@thevnacares.org or online at www.thevnacares.org

Methodist Hospice: Roz Merrick at 402-354-3200, or
roz.merrick@NMHS.org or online at 222.methodisthospice.com

CHI Health at Home Hospice: Mary Pendell at 402-547-3359
mary.pendell@alegent.org or
online at www.chihealth.com/home-care.

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.



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 necessary!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Prayer Service
Wednesday
September 21, 2016
7:00 p.m.

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

Worship on the River

We will gather on Sunday, September 18th, beginning at 9:30 am at the River City Star. We will sail the Missouri River at 10 am. A short worship service will be conducted on the boat.



A potluck dinner will be held at Grace Lutheran following the boat ride. People can drop off food at Grace Lutheran before 9:30 am. The church will be open and happy to receive your lunch preparations. Once the boat docks following our hour long trip, we will gather at Grace to enjoy food and fellowship. Invite friends and neighbors.



Stewardship Moment - Helping Others

Has any Bible reader not heard of Dorcas (Tabitha)? The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to write of this disciple in the following way: "[She] was always doing good and helping the poor" (Acts 9:36). Do you ever wonder what Dorcas' attitude was toward her good works? Helping the poor was probably just a way of life for her. May we have the same

humility of heart as we go about serving others, offering that ". . . cup of water in [Christ's] name" (Mark 9:41). Paul wrote, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

Prayer: Lord, just as you came to serve and not to be served, help me, in your name, serve others. Open my eyes and heart to the needs of others. Grant me a giving and generous heart. I pray my serving will give you honor and praise. In Jesus' precious name I pray. **Amen.**

Joy of Giving
September 13, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
DC Centre Banquet Hall
11830 Stonegate Drive



Spreading Joy. Changing Lives. Living Generously. InFaith Community Foundation and Thrivent Financial invite you to an event that celebrates the joy of giving. Please join us to hear Cindy Aegerter from InFaith Community Foundation tell us how, together, we can share our blessings in personal and creative ways. This is an opportunity to enjoy good company and learn how we can do more with what we have.

There is no cost to attend and guests are welcome. You need not be a Thrivent member to attend. Please RSVP online at service.thrivent.com/forms/events to register for the event. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., complementary dinner is included. Casual attire.

We will conclude the event with a Thrivent Action Team. We will be packing "Birthday Bags" for Lutheran Family Services Centers for Healthy Families.



With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are "viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks," notes the Los Angeles Times (Oct. 26, 2009).

On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP – and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. As far as we know, York County, Penn., was the first walk officially called the CROP Walk for the Hungry – and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide.

Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,000 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.

This year's CROP Hunger Walk in Omaha will be Sunday, October 9th with registration at 1:00 p.m. and the walk starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church at 61st and Western Avenue.

Local agencies receiving funds will be Open Door Mission, Siena Francis House, and the Stephens Center.

Even if you are not able to walk the 1, 2, or 5 mile routes, you can still support another walker. Sponsor forms will fill the back table in the sanctuary soon. Individuals interested in walking, please see Malachi for a sponsor form and begin to secure donations.

Grace's Free Little Library is now on display in the front island of the parking lot! Stop on by and browse for an interesting book! If you have any books for all ages you would like to contribute to the outdoor library or have any questions regarding this new adventure, please speak with Malachi. Let's help spread the joy of imagination through reading a good book!



Omaha Together One Community

Over 240 packed Augustana Lutheran Church on Thursday, August 4th for an Interfaith Solidarity Service. OTOC leaders worked with Institute for Public Leaders, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and other faith leaders to organize this powerful evening of prayer, song and statements of solidarity that we can overcome violence to have more peace-filled communities.

One of the emotional high points was when 20 clergy gathered to lay hands on two officers representing Omaha Police Department as those present prayed for the safety of officers and a healing of the relationships between OPD and our community.

Rev. Tony Sanders ended the evening with a call of all present to become involved in working across lines that divide us to create stronger communities.



To read about additional highlights from the Interfaith Solidarity Service, please visit OTOC's website at otoc.org.

OTOC will continue their schedule of Candidate Accountability Sessions with the Candidates for Unicameral on Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m., the location for this meeting is still being determined, if you are interested in attending, please call the church office at 402-341-7730 or the OTOC office at 402-344-4401 for additional information.

Learn why Nebraskans should vote to RETAIN the repeal of the Death Penalty.

Join leaders of OTOC on Wednesday, September 7th or Monday, September 19th from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. at Urban Abbey (10th and Jackson) to learn the facts about the Death Penalty in Nebraska. You will learn why the death penalty is a costly, immoral and impractical sanction for those who have taken a life. Come so you are able to teach our community why we should vote to RETAIN the repeal of the Death Penalty.



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

- Thank you Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer for their on-going dedication in caring and tending to the plants in the entry way, they continue to thrive and look welcoming.
- Thank you 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 Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, Greg and Janet Hula, and Eva Martin; who take turns picking up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
- Thank you June, LaVonne, Eva, and Marilyn for your continued dedication in creating a reflection of God's love and care in every quilt sent to support Lutheran World Relief.
- Thank you LaVonne, June, Gloria, Marilyn, Jerry, Eva, and Malachi for your dedication and help in assembling the monthly Grace Messenger!
- Thank you Ron and Donna Adrian and Brenda Spahr who take turns in the care of the altar, and preparing the communion table.
- Thank you to all ushers, Andrew, Jerry, Ron, Vicki, Larry, Mary, and Malachi for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings.
- Thank you to everyone who stayed after worship service to help assemble cups and treats for teachers and staff at Liberty Elementary School.
- Thank you to everyone who stayed to help with moving furniture and various items in preparation for the new carpet installation.





We are three fourths of the way through the year. Time flies! We have successfully completed the Kids at Work Summer Program. Utilizing about half a dozen kids, we collaborate with Omaha Public Library, Lutheran Home, and Baker's and cleaned up in the neighborhood. Our volunteer efforts helped increased productivity within the businesses and create value added relationships. We are hopeful to have more kids and a bigger impact next year.

Some upcoming projects will include doing the Grace Reads Book Reading Program once again at Liberty Elementary and hopefully extending to Spring Lake. We will target reading to second and third grade students at Liberty and could use a few more volunteers who are able and willing to take a thirty minute segment to be a reader.

The next few months will be spent planning for the annual Crop Walk, Grace's annual Halloween party, and finding other engagement activities with the community. We held a movie night in June, July, and August as a way to create an additional way for kids and family to spend time together. Consider ways we can engage the community and share thoughts and ideas. This month also starts a new volunteer year for the incoming Lutheran Volunteer Corps volunteers. This is the program that originally brought me to Omaha two years ago and was the catalyst for the work I have been blessed to be able to do at Grace. Let us be prayerful yet vigilant for the work still to come.

What brings you joy in life? The spirit of joy is not one that is necessarily dependent on what happens, but is one that requires us to consider our focus, attitudes, and choices. The things we choose to focus on and work toward affect our ability to be joyful when situations would have us be otherwise. Consider what hinders your ability to be joyful. While we wait for things to turn around, change, or improve, we are missing opportunities to live in faith and be of joy to others. People appreciate when we operate in faith perhaps more than we can appreciate our own efforts at times. Be intentional about how you will allow the spirit of joy influence your walk in life. Be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Malachi Black
Community Outreach Associate
outreach@graceluth.com
(940)414-3362



Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION



Report from the 2016
ELCA Churchwide
Assembly

nebraska
synod

Gathering under the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ," nearly 1,000 voting members - including 24 from the Nebraska Synod - met in New Orleans Aug. 8-13 for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Full days included worship, legislative action, reports from Churchwide officers and units, updates on ministries, workshops, Bible study, fellowship and more.



Bishop Brian Maas

Among more than three dozen legislative actions, the Churchwide Assembly:

- Overwhelmingly affirmed the "Declaration on the Way," a document noting 32 principles of agreement between Roman Catholics and Lutherans. The document is commended as a study resource as Catholics and Lutherans strive toward sharing Communion and ministry.
- Adopted strategies toward greater diversity within the ELCA (whose minority members represent only 6 percent of its membership) through intentional outreach and raising awareness of both overt and subtle racism in the U.S.
- Adopted the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy for addressing the complex issue of minors fleeing violence in Central America.
- Elected William B. "Bill" Horne II of Florida to a six-year term as vice president of the ELCA.
- Adopted annual budgets for the next three years of approximately \$64 million annually for ELCA ministries and \$25 million for World Hunger.
- Affirmed efforts to support veterans and their families, military chaplains and all affected by war.
- Adopted strategies for positive investment aimed at supporting peace in Israel and Palestine and reduced energy usage and reliance on fossil fuels.

September 2016



- 4 - Malachi Black
- 11 - Brenda Spahr
- 18 - Terry Nielsen (?)
- 25 - Greg Hula
- Oct. 2 - Mary Laaker

- 1 - Terry Nielsen
- 3 - Munna Lewa
- 5 - Lealen Costanzo
- 7 - Ronald Andersen
- 13 - Loren Moyer
- 23 - Katelyn Bauer
- 28 - Damien Rodriguez

September Alcolytes

- 4 - Andrea Spahr
- 11 - Vicki Cox
- 18 - Worship on the River
- 25 - Damien Rodriguez
- Oct. 2 - Greg Hula

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

September Ushers

- Vicki Cox
- Larry Foreman
- Andrew Edwards



September Greeters

- 4 - Larry Foreman and Andrew Edwards
- 11 - June Hilmer and Gloria Moore
- 18 - Worship on the River
- 25 - Ralph Fitle and Vicki Cox
- Oct. 2 - Ron and Donna Adrian



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers



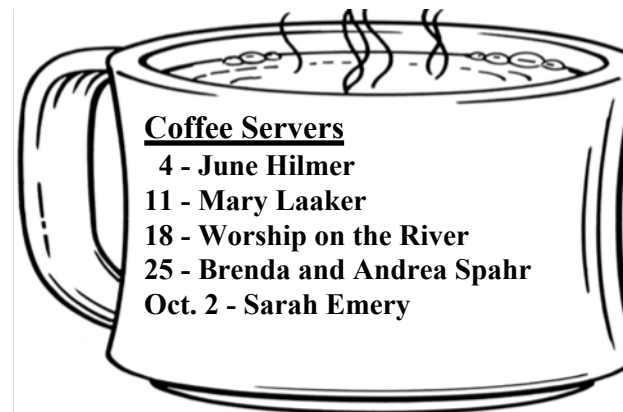
- 4 - Vicki Cox to the Glory of God.
- 11 - Jack, Leo & Maddi in celebration of their Grandparents, Ron and Donna Adrian's Wedding Anniversary.
- 18 - Worship on the River.
- 25 - Brenda Spahr in celebration of the Spahr Wedding Anniversary.
- Oct. 2 - Greg and Janet Hula in celebration of their grandson, Damien's birthday.

Flower Pick-Up for September:



Backpack Program

- 4 - Ron and Donna Adrian in celebration of their daughter in-law, Melissa's birthday.
- 11 - OPEN.
- 18 - OPEN.
- 25 - Brenda Spahr in celebration of the Spahr Wedding Anniversary.
- Oct. 2 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer in celebration of their great-granddaughter, Ameila and Rayna's birthdays.



Coffee Servers

- 4 - June Hilmer
- 11 - Mary Laaker
- 18 - Worship on the River
- 25 - Brenda and Andrea Spahr
- Oct. 2 - Sarah Emery

