

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

Return Service Requested
Dated Material

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

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary – Pam Reents
Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Cody Talarico
Sexton - Ambros Lado/Brian Sutej
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill
Faith in Action - Julie Chytil

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



JULY

2008

**THE
GRACE
MESSENGER**

2008 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Sarah Emery	June Hilmer
Greg Hula (V.P.)	David Hufford	Regina Ivo
David Nange	Brenda Spahr (Sec)	Grace Traynor
	Pastor Laaker **	

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej



Council Reports

The regular meeting of the Council was held June 10th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing: John Williams, Chris Goodrich, Bobby Heesacker, Pastor Liz Conner, her daughter, Wendy, and her granddaughter, Penelope; care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal; we pray for Ambrose who is continuing to gain strength; we pray for Ivo's safety; we pray for all the victims involved in the plane crash in Khartoum; we pray for all who have lost loved ones and that they remain both hopeful and faithful; we pray for an end to all of the unrest and conflict in the world. Pastor led devotions from Deuteronomy 8:10 and 1 Timothy 4:3; we are invited to read God's word and praise God for all the things in life.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading "*Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century*" by Carl S. Dudley. Please read Chapter 5 "Memory and Ministry" and work on the exercises in the book by the next meeting.

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

Christian Education: The mid-week Education class meeting was held on May 27th. The next meeting is scheduled on July 1st at 7:00 p.m.; please plan to attend if interested. Vacation Bible School planning meeting was held on June 5 and will continue for the next two Thursdays, June 12th and 19th. Vacation Bible School is scheduled during the week of June 23rd.

Evangelism/Outreach: Kids At Work first workday was held today, June 10th; it's always great to see the kids back at work.

Finance: Council ratified allocations in the report submitted by The Endowment Board. A new computer was purchased for the church office with undesignated memorial funds.

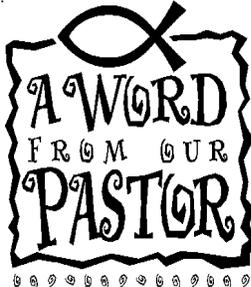
Property: Weather permitting, the parking lot will be repaired and resealed. Water leaked into the basement with the recent rainstorms. Cleanup has been completed. We express a big thank you to Bob Moss and Ken Hilmer for breaking up the old concrete pad for the air conditioning units and replacing it with dirt.

Service/Social Ministry: No new report.

Support/Stewardship: Council discussed a year round stewardship program that would provide a weekly quote for the bulletin as well as a temple talk.

Worship: World Refugee Day is June 21st; a special service is planned for the 22nd. The second lesson will be read in Mabaan and John Boato will share his story from childhood in Sudan, going through war, being forced to flee his home, life in the refugee camps and life in the United States. There will be a potluck lunch following the service, be sure to invite your friends.

Continued on next page



“O give thanks to the LORD,” says the Psalmist in 106:1. I, too, wish to give thanks to the Lord. I wish to give thanks for all the work that has gone into making our “Power Lab” Vacation Bible School a wonderful success. I wish to give thanks for the wonderful joint worship experience with our Sudanese Fellowship. I wish to give thanks for those who have contributed to our special appeal for funds to support our internship project. I want to give thanks for the efforts underway to provide a mid-week learning experience for children, youth and adults. I want to give thanks for your prayers of support and care.

As I looked through the Psalms, I was struck by the many places where these words appear: “O give thanks to the Lord.” Sometimes the thanks were expressed for the bounty of the Lord. Sometimes the thanks were expressed for God’s corrective to waywardness. Sometimes the thanks were expressed for God’s action in saving the people from enemies real and perceived.

One of the first songs we have learned in Bible School is “Thankful.” The lyrics read like this:

I like to think about the goodness of the Lord.
He gives me everything I need, and so much more,
So I just wanna lift my hands and say that I love him!
I just wanna lift my heart in praise!
And I wanna be thankful!
I wanna be grateful!
I wanna remember everything that the Lord has done!
I wanna be thankful!
I wanna be grateful!
I wanna be!
I wanna be!
I wanna be!

It is a wonderful rephrasing of Psalm 92:1-4, which reads:

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

I am thankful that God has given us this wonderful place to experience God’s love and care. I trust that as we share that love and care with others, they, too, will join in grateful thanks to God!

Pastor Laaker

Council - Continued

Unfinished Business: A Lay Committee will need to meet once a month as part of Angela’s internship here at Grace. The committee will have a handbook which will help with an agenda. This will help round out Angela and Grace Lutheran Church’s experience during these 12 months. Pastor and Mary have been searching for housing for Angela and her family here in Omaha. Pastor will be attending a family reunion and Pastor Bob Johnson will be here June 15th.

New Business: We will meet for a brief time following the June 29th worship service to discuss something fun to welcome Angela on July 6th.

Announcements: Greg will bring treats for our July meeting.

New Christian Education Event

A taskforce has been working diligently to plan a new ministry effort for Christian Education. This is the result of the decline in Sunday morning Sunday School attendance. We are excited about the possibilities that God is opening before us. Pastor Conner and Cristo Rey Luterana plan to participate with us in this effort.

The new effort will take place on Wednesdays beginning August 20. A name is still being crafted to describe the effort. Some names that have been discussed are: Feeding Families in Faith, Fishing for Faith, Strengthening Families in our Neighborhood, Faith Quest, to name a few.

The time for this new effort will be 5:30-7:30 pm. We will begin with a light meal, followed by some singing and then breaking up into group centers. We will be using a model called "rotation." This model allows us the opportunity to spend four weeks on each story. Each week there be will opportunities to explore story in different ways: art, drama, music, bible study, etc.

Pray for this new ministry effort. Ask God to raise up those leaders that are needed, bless those planning with wisdom, energy and hopefulness. If you have children, put this on your calendar now! Come join the fun, experience faith development and find strength for living out your Christian calling.



Stewardship Minute

*Monthly reflections on our role
as managers of God's blessing.*

"God Owns it All" is the chapter heading in a book by a Christian author who presents this chapter first as the foundation for money management and giving.

God does own it all! That is the teaching of Psalm 24:1 which says, "The earth is the Lord's." Psalm 50:10 says that all of the best of the field belong to God, and that cattle on a thousand hills are His. Haggai 2:8 says that God even owns the silver and gold in all the mines.

Now, He allows us to use what rightfully belongs to Him, but God continues to retain ownership. We are managers and stewards of what He has entrusted to us. Someday, when we stand before Him, we shall give an account of what kind of job we have done in managing the resources which He has allowed us to use.

That's why every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision. Every time we use some of God's money, we are making a decision which has eternal ramifications.

Are you using money and possessions as if they belong to you, or are you making spending decisions with the full realization that "God owns it all"?

First in a series from "Effective Stewardship" by Kenneth L. Williams.

Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes New Pastoral Intern, Angela Khabeb, to Grace Church and to Omaha.



Angela Khabeb is a Bridges Scholar who graduated from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 2005. She is originally from Omaha, Nebraska and graduated from Central High School. Currently she is a final year seminary student at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and plans to graduate from LSTC in May 2009 after her internship here at Grace. Recently, she was a finalist in the James Kenneth Echols Prize for Excellence in Preaching.

Angela is also a former ELCA GM2 missionary to Namibia, Africa. Angela served in Namibia as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia from 2000-2002. While in Namibia, she married her husband, Benhi (Pronounced, "Benny.") They have one living child, Konami. Angela and her family plan to move to Omaha into the Ford Birth site area in late June and begin ministering here at Grace in early July.





“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.”

— James Dent

(1928-1992) U.S. humorist - wrote the *Gazetteer* column in the West Virginia newspaper, *The Charleston Gazette*.

What's Happening at Grace Lutheran Church this Summer?

- ☺ Kids At Work: June 8, - August 10, 2008
Volunteers are still needed to head work teams. Contact Brenda Spahr.
- ☺ Our Pastoral Intern, Angela Khabib and her family, arrives on July 7th.
- ☺ 4th Annual Grace Lutheran Summer Reading Club Continues until August 31. Stop by the library and pick up a great book!
- ☺ All Church Potluck Picnic in August. Details to be announced in the bulletin in a few weeks.
- ☺ Opportunity to work on the Neighbors South Habitat for Humanity House. Details in this newsletter.

Let's Build Something!
Neighbors South Coalition
Habitat For Humanity House
1902 South 11 Street



Volunteers are needed to help in all areas of construction, food preparation and service, and cleanup most Fridays and Saturdays during the summer. The goal is to complete the home in late August.

Whether you are a skilled construction worker, a handy man type or just willing to learn, there is a job for you. On site volunteer coordinators are also needed to over see check-in, lunch and snack set up, cleanup or just being a “go fer.” A schedule of construction goals by date is posted on the bulletin board.

If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful and satisfying project, forms are available through the church office or at the back table in the sanctuary. Contact Pastor Laaker with questions.

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

— Anne Frank

(1929-1945) German diarist - Jewish; fled from the Nazis with her family in 1933; known for her diary written while in hiding; died in Belsen concentration camp.

Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering

August 1-3, 2008, men of all ages will gather in Omaha, NE, under the same theme verse as the founders, "...your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." (Acts 2:17). We will celebrate 20 years of ministry and launch the next great step. Lutheran Men in Mission will continue to grow and become a financially self-reliant, separately-incorporated ministry of the ELCA. Lutheran Men in Mission will COME OF AGE. More importantly, generations of men will come together in Jesus Christ. We will serve, we will play, we will learn, we will worship, we will encounter God – and each other – and we will grow! Bring your son, bring your friend, and bring your dad – join us.

Registration for COMING OF AGE Lutheran Men's Gathering AUGUST 1-3, 2008 – OMAHA

Visit www.visitomaha.com for more information on Omaha.



Register by mail: Registrar, Lutheran Men's Gathering

8765 West Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Register by fax: (773) 380-2115

Register online: www.elca.org/lmm

Registration Fee: 1 man \$150 each

2 men \$125 each

3 or more men \$100 each

Total Registration Fee: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

_____ Check (made payable to Lutheran Men in Mission)

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Discover _____ American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: Month: _____ Year: _____

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

Name as printed on card: _____

Signature: _____

Billing address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

For more information or to purchase tickets for the Building for the Future Challenge special dinner on Friday, August 1 at 5 p.m. go to: elca.org/lmm.

First Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I would like to sing in the Gathering Men's Choir

Second Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I would like to sing in the Gathering Men's Choir

Third Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I would like to sing in the Gathering Men's Choir

Hotel Reservations online:

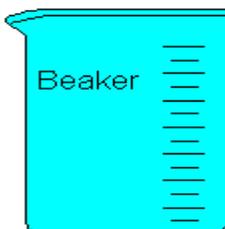
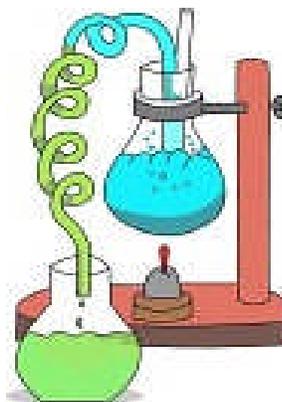
<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/OMACVHH-MBL-20080725/index.jhtml>

Hilton/Omaha (800) 445.8667

Ask for Lutheran Men's Gathering – Single/Double \$124

Happening in the Grace Lutheran Library!

Announcing the
4th Annual Grace Lutheran Library
Summer Reading Club
"Formula for Fun!"
"Discovering New Adventures"
June 8 - August 31, 2008



Put your name on a beaker on the poster in the library. Your goal will be to "fill" your beaker with the pages you have read each week.

Everyone completing the minimum required reading will receive a certificate, a small consolation prize and free admission to the celebration party at the end of the summer. The top readers in each category will receive an additional prize at the party.

Minimum requirements for free admission to the party:

50 pages for the "read to Me" crowd. (Non-readers and early beginners)

75 pages for the Primary Grades. (Grades 1-3)

125 pages for the Elementary Grades. (Grades 4-6)

175 pages for Jr. High and High School. (Grades 7-12)

There is no contest for best reader in the adult category this year but adults are still encouraged to sign a beaker and read. We will acknowledge the adults at the summer end party.

Book Reviews

"Secrets"
and "Unforgotten" (*Sequel*)
By Kristen Heitzman



These books are a two-part excursion into the lives of a man and a woman, both emotionally wounded by things in the past. Their lives intersect when Rese Barrett, a talented woman renovator, buys a villa in Sonoma to renovate and run the villa as a bed and breakfast. Lance Michelli, a rogue who's relationship to God remains intact despite many trips in the wrong direction, learns that the villa actually belongs to his Italian family. The two find their way through many secrets that each has been guarding. As the story unfolds, a corpse is found in a secret cellar and questions arise about a years-old vendetta. "Secrets" takes place at the villa.

The sequel, "Unforgotten" moves to New York where Rese is introduced to Lance's enormous Italian family. Lance's grandmother holds the answers to the corpse in the cellar, who he was and who killed him but has suffered several debilitating strokes. Lance and Rese must navigate the difficulties of an old woman who cannot communicate, the codes of an old world "mafia" and how to resolve the issues of their personal lives with God's grace.

These books started a bit slow but picked up after several chapters. I enjoyed them! Check them out!

Pam Reents

Picture Time!



Angelina, Victoria, Taylor and Alex ready for their first day of Kids At Work!

Kids At Work 2008



Brenda Spahr,
Director of Kids At Work
(402) 341-7730

Kids At Work is a summer program designed to provide youth 5th-8th grade the opportunity to *learn and earn* for nine weeks during the summer on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The youth earn money and serve at various sites through the city.

Bianca enjoys her time playing with the toddlers at Precious Memories Day Care. The toddlers enjoy Bianca too!



Okay, exercise counts too!?!?
Patrick arrives early to help set up the assignment tables and still has time to spare. Thanks for helping me out, Patrick!

Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends



- ◆ Ambros Lado - Continue to pray for Ambros as he is also looking into going back to school to improve his English skills to become a translator. Ambros knows several languages! (Member)
- ◆ Megan Sperling - Pray for emotional and physical healing. (Friend of Member, Lori Vasquez)
- ◆ Elna Burns - Suffered a stroke. (Sister of Don Olson, member)
- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Rex Olson - For healing as he deals with cancer. (relative of members, Don and Norma Olson)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - On-going therapy after his stroke. Pray for help as he is trying to find another job that will enable him to continue gaining strength. (member)
- ◆ Norma Olson - Pray for healing for her injured leg. (member)
- ◆ Teri Briley - Cancer treatments. (daughter of Gloria and Richard Moore)
- John Williams - Struggling with throat issues after having tubes removed. John is slowly making progress. Jack thanks you for your prayers on his son's behalf. (Son of Jack Williams)
- Gloria Wipperling - Health Concerns. (Member and daughter of Eva Martin and sister, Brenda Spahr)
- London Colstan - tiny infant struggling with liver problems. (Friend of Morlan/Olson family)
- David Nange - Healing for regulation of blood pressure and headaches. (Council Member)
- Olive Laaker - Preparing for another medical procedure. Pray that her strength will continue to grow. (Pastor Laaker's mother)

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Harlan Morter
Richard Moore

Mae Lane
Thelma Harrahill - (In Kansas with her children)

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

Pray for our new Pastoral Intern, Angela, as she settles in to her ministry here at Grace.

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

Pastor Laaker

Bishop David deFreese, Nebraska Synod

Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Titus Duli, David Nange and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshipping Community.
- ◆ Remember John Ivo Mounto. John is working several very dangerous locations in Africa. Leon Leon, a Sudanese neighbor who has been friends with the church staff, stopped by to tell us that he had spoken to Ivo via phone on his trip to Africa in May. He says Ivo is well-loved and respected by many tribes through out Sudan for his humanitarian efforts. He says Ivo is still trying to get back to Nebraska for a visit, hopefully in the next couple of months.

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



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Pantry Needs

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

Project Hope
The Theme for July is
Lunch Boxes

Project Hope always needs boxes of zip lock bags in quart or gallon size, soup, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese dinners, pasta, rice, diapers, bathroom tissue and feminine hygiene items.

Emergency!

The Omaha Food Bank is in great need of

- ♥ Canned Veggies
- ♥ Pork and Beans
- ♥ Soup (both canned and dry)
- ♥ Bathroom Tissue



Pennies for Peanut Butter

Project Hope is asking for groups to save their pennies to help them buy peanut butter. The cost per case is currently \$15.77 a case of 12 jars or \$1.31 a jar. The group that collects the most pennies or jars of peanut butter will receive a certificate of recognition. Start saving your pennies!



for Project Hope
and First Lutheran Church

Each July and August, Project Hope and First Lutheran Church help needy children get a good start on the school year by providing backpacks and school supplies.

As you shop this summer, consider purchasing some school supplies to help with the enormous demand. Place your donations on the pantry shelf in the Upper Hall.

Thanks for your help!

2nd Wednesday Night of Each month
Next Prayer Service
July 9, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Candle light Prayer Service for Confession,
Meditation, and Healing
at Grace Lutheran Church.



Community News



Marriage or
Family Problems?
Depressed?
Unable to Cope with life?

Free Counseling is Available.

If you would like more information or to set up an appointment, please call Allyson Campbell at South High at 557-3675 or St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 733-0172.

Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

Next Meeting
July 17, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Here at Grace Church.



Good Neighbor Ministries Inc.

Bringing New Life and Hope to the Poor in the City

1555 So. 27th. Street Omaha NE 68105 (402) 344-4738 gnm_1@juno.com

Good Neighbor Ministries is a ministry committed to reaching out to the people with little resource in the areas around and in the Columbus Park neighborhood. Each month, Stephen sends the church an update on the things that are needed in the area around Grace Lutheran Church. If you would like to help with any of the personal needs listed below, contact Stephen Stout at GNM.

- ♥ **Linda** is 60, very thin and frail and uses a wheelchair. She has had no visitors for 3 months, and has not been out of her home since Thanksgiving. **She really needs a haircut**, and is getting headaches because her hair is too long, but cannot get out of the house or afford to have it done. **She would also like to go to church** if someone could give her a ride.
- ♥ **Gertrude** is 81 and **needs help with sweeping, and vacuuming**. She also needs help **cutting her grass, and occasional rides to the doctor**. She is willing to pay.
- ♥ **The final finish for Don's bathroom floor is needed:** This would include putting down linoleum and the mop boards.
- ♥ **I have two homes that need gutters cleaned out.** One is for a single story home, the other is a bit taller, about 20 feet high.
- ♥ **Angeline and Mike are still looking for someone to regularly mow their grass.** These are both older people who are willing to pay. They both have fairly small yards.

Stephen Stout: Good Neighbor Ministries Inc. (344-4738)

**"God does not ask your ability or your inability.
He asks only for your availability."**

— **Mary Kay Ash**

(1915-2001) U.S. business executive - founder of direct-sales cosmetics company, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc. which has over 475,000 consultants in 25 countries.



15th Annual
Let's Go Fishing
Lester Hooks Memorial
Youth and Seniors Fishing Tournament

Age groups
12 and under
13-16
65 and over

Where: Benson Park - 7002 Military Ave

When: Saturday July 12, 2008 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Lunch will be served)

Cost: \$2.00 Donation

NEW this year! CASTING CONTEST!!

Registrations available on the bulletin board or call 453-6112.

Quest for the Best
28th National Veterans Wheel Chair Games
July 25-29, 2008

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are presented by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) with additional support for numerous corporate and community sponsors. The Games began in 1981 with 74 athletes and has grown to over 575 veterans who compete. During its 28 year history, 23 cities have hosted the event. An estimated 2.8 million is projected to benefit Omaha.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System and Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans of America are please to invite you to join us as we prepare to host this "Quest for Best" on July 25-29, 2008. Volunteers are needed to help make the games successful and run smoothly. If you are interested in helping contact Craig Enenbach at 402-995-3460



20th Anniversary
Quilt Auction

Camp Carol Joy Holling
Conference Center
Ashland NE
July 26, 2008
Lots of good food,
great fun, and beautiful quilts.

Schedule

9:00 a.m. Quilts on Display
10:00 a.m. Auction begins.
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. BBQ Lunch
2:00 p.m. Silent Auction

Bus tours and hayrack rides
will be available.

The pool will be open at 12:30 p.m.

*Over \$130,000 was
raised last year for camping programs.*



Omaha Royals Present
Faith and Family Night
Saturday, August 2nd
at 7:05 p.m.

Gates open at 5:00 p.m.

Jared Bayless in Concert at 5:30 p.m.

More information on the
bulletin board.

River City Roundup needs Volunteers
September 25-28 to help with

- ♥ Kids Area
- ♥ Setup/Tear Down
- ♥ Merchandise Booth
- ♥ County Fair
- ♥ BBQ Contest
- ♥ and Many Other Areas!



Volunteers receive free t-shirts, grab bags and special ticket offers. Call 402-554-9600 for more info.

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

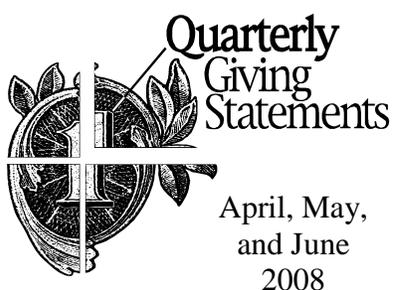
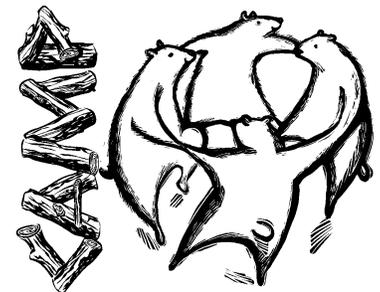
- ♥ Thanks to all the folks who donated time and supplies to the Power Lab Vacation Bible School Program. Look for an update on what happened during VBS. (At this printing, the program is just getting started for the week!)
- ♥ Special thanks to John Boato for his part in Refugee Sunday on June 22nd. The Sunday morning service was filled with joyous multi-cultural music, the opportunity to hear John's personal story of surviving in Sudan during civil war and his family's journey to America, the baptism of Abigail Hegarty, great granddaughter of Eva Martin, and a wonderful time sharing together at a pot-luck featuring American and African food.
- ♥ Titus and Teresa Duli are preparing to find out what can be done about their son's physical difficulty with his arm. Papers are being sent to the Mayo Clinic to see what might be available for consideration. Titus is a lay leader among the Mabaan church worshipping here at Grace. Teresa was a student in our ESL for Sudanese Women program. Their son was born with damage done to his arm. Support will be needed to help with transportation costs and housing if they are eligible for medical care. Pray that the decision will come quickly from the medical institutions involved and that God would supply funds to sustain them if they have to go.
- ♥ The church office has received word that Sharon Irwin's nephew (Jeff Bridwell)'s house was destroyed by the tornado. His house was the second most damaged in the Millard area. Jeff and his family were not home at the time. They were in the Ozarks on a family vacation. The family is thankful for God's sparing them personal injury but are trying to regroup as the entire roof was blown off and they have lost just about everything. (Sharon has been a long-time member of Grace Church. Myra Watson, Sharon's mother, was also a very active member until her death a few years ago.)

The Confirmation Class of Grace Lutheran Church will be heading out to Camp Carol Joy Holling for Confirmation Ranch Camp on Sunday, July 6 through Friday, July 11th.

Our Confirmands will be studying their lessons in the morning and spending the rest of the day participating in activities like rodeo, sand and mud volleyball, horseback riding, sleep outs, Trinity bracelets, night writing, horse shoes, swimming, Bible study, creative arts, Food for the Hungry garden, and the Hilltop Co-Op Course!

Remember our kids (and Pastor Laaker :-) in your prayers.)

Confirmation



2nd Quarter Giving Statements will be ready for pick up on Sunday, July 13.



We Need Your Favorite Recipes!

Deadline is August 31, 2008
Look for the "Stove Box" in the Upper Fellowship Hall!

Please let the office know if you are planning a meeting at church in the evening so that appropriate arrangements can be made with staff.



Virginia McGill
Director, (402) 660-6689
Gema Wolde
Gabriela Ortiz
Douglas County Health Department
Se habla español .

A Second Year of Super Kids Club Programming Begins for Interfaith and Latinas in Action

Interfaith Health Service, in collaboration with the Douglas County Health Department, began our second official Super Kids Club program this month! The program, designed for children ages 5-16, has a focus on nutritional education, physical activity, self-esteem enhancement and team work.

One week before the program began, we were blessed in hearing from Maria, one of our faithful participants, that she would be able to help out with our morning program. Maria's children both attended last year's Super Kids Club and they are also attending this year's program. Gaby, Gema and I are thrilled that our prayers for additional assistance were answered, as our program has grown and is well attended. Maria is already an asset to the program, providing organizational skills, gentle leadership and energy. Some morning activities have included: soccer, relay races, parts of the body recognition games and water balloon races.

Some of Interfaith's evening Super Kids Club activities have included bingo, soccer, field trips to the local park, and playing 2 new games that I either invented OR reconstructed from my teen years (it is getting harder to remember that far back). The first, called "Outer Space Tag", involves throwing a tennis ball, catching it and tagging team members. The second is called "Elimination" and also involves teams, catch and a group effort to stay clear of the soccer ball. The participants seem to really enjoy both of these games and ask for them every evening when we have finished our regular educational activities. It is nice to see the children both engaged in activity and having a blast playing games with each other.

Please keep our Latinas in Action program and the Super Kids Program in your prayers as we enter in to our summer schedule.

With thanks,
Virginia D. McGill, IHS

What Kids Say!



While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers, and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is", I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

From Jennifer Talarico via Email



Ministry Volunteers Needed

"A Neighbor's Independence
Depends on You!"

Faith in Action of Interfaith Health Service continues to connect volunteers to people in our community who need help with everyday activities.

The following are some people who need our help:

- ☼ Kay* is 86 years old and has been an independent woman her entire life. She has lived in the same south Omaha apartment for over 35 years. She recovered from breaking her hip over a year ago and continues to try and live independently. She has no family help. She needs help with rides to the doctor, the grocery store or even just a home cooked meal once in while.
- ☼ Stacey* is 25 years old and legally blind. After graduating college last year, she moved to Omaha and began working full-time. She needs help with someone to read her mail once a week and help go through other paperwork. Someone who likes cats would be appreciated!
- ☼ Susan* lives in her own home with her two dogs. She could use someone to go grocery shopping for her. She makes a list and a volunteer needs just buy what is on the list!
- ☼ Olivia* is 24 years old and speaks both English and Spanish. She was injured in a high school accident and is now paralyzed. She would like a friendly visitor.

**Names have been changed*

There are more stories to be shared! This is just a few of the many people who are part of the *Faith in Action* program. Think about how you can share your time and talents to help.

Remember, A neighbor's independence depends on you!!

Julie Chytil

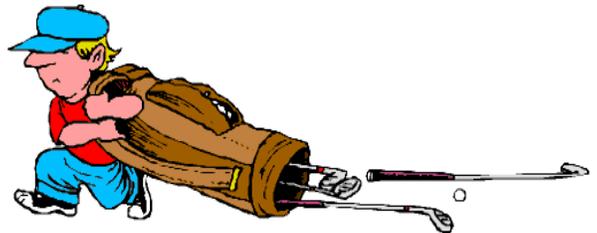
Phone: 660-2652

e-mail: faithinaction2005@hotmail.com

Two Quotes by Dave Barry

Listen up, Tiger Woods!

"I like golf because you can be really terrible at it and still not look much dorkier than anybody else."



"Although golf was originally restricted to wealthy, overweight Protestants, today it's open to anybody who owns hideous clothing."



From the Editor

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

This hymn was written by a woman named Charlotte Elliott who was born in 1789 in England. For the first 30 years, her life was normal. Charlotte was bright and vivacious, earning the nickname of “Carefree Charlotte.” She had many talents including painting portraits and writing humorous verse.

Then illness struck. Her illness was described as overpowering weakness, sluggishness and exhaustion day after day. She could not easily get out of bed. Her mood became despondent and depressed. She became bitter towards God for what He had allowed to happen to her. Her father, desperate to bring emotional health back to his daughter, invited Dr. Caesar Malan, a Swiss minister, evangelist, and musician to the Elliott home to help Charlotte regain confidence and faith. Charlotte lashed out at the minister, spouting her bitterness regarding her situation. Dr. Malan spoke plainly to her, telling her that holding on to her anger had made her sour and resentful. Charlotte’s heart responded and, unburdening all of her feelings, she asked the minister how to find peace and joy. His response was to “Come as you are to the Lamb of God...who takes away the sins of the world...bring your fears, hate, temper, and pride and He will give great love in their place. She would be “...welcomed and relieved.” It was a life changing experience. Charlotte became a changed person. During her lifetime, she wrote 150 hymns. The hymn, “Just as I Am,” was described by her as an “autobiography” and has become one of her most popular hymns.

In one of my devotional times, a phrase jumped off the page of the book. I was startled by it because it was a phrase I seldom thought about. “Exactly as I am.” Whenever I am reading and that happens, I have discovered it is something that God wants to talk to me about.

I had been fretting about my imperfections and feeling useless to God because of them. I know that this is a lie whispered in my ear by Satan to keep me away from thinking on the truth but, feeling frustrated and despondent, I struggled against listening to it and failed to see the truth that God has been offering to me! Accepted “Exactly as I am!” “*Tossed about, With many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without.*”

I fight feelings of hopelessness and helplessness when I see the devastation of all the disasters here in the Midwest and around the world. I am frightened by what may happen with the coming economic situation regarding my family and friends. I am angry at the twisting of justice and righteousness to fit current popular perceptions. I want to lash out or run and hide. Neither is the correct response. God is willing to welcome, pardon the foul sins of my life and cleanse me. He wants to take these emotions from me!

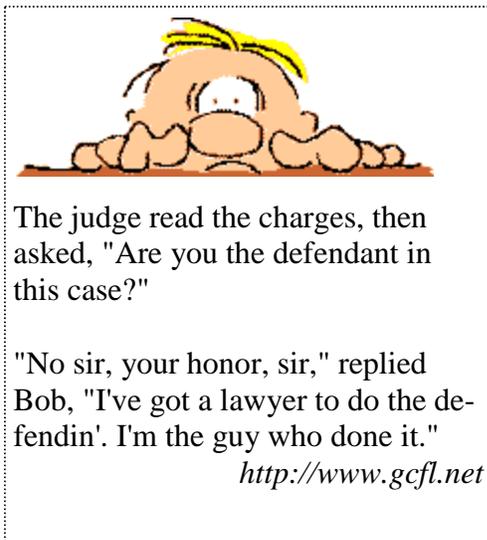
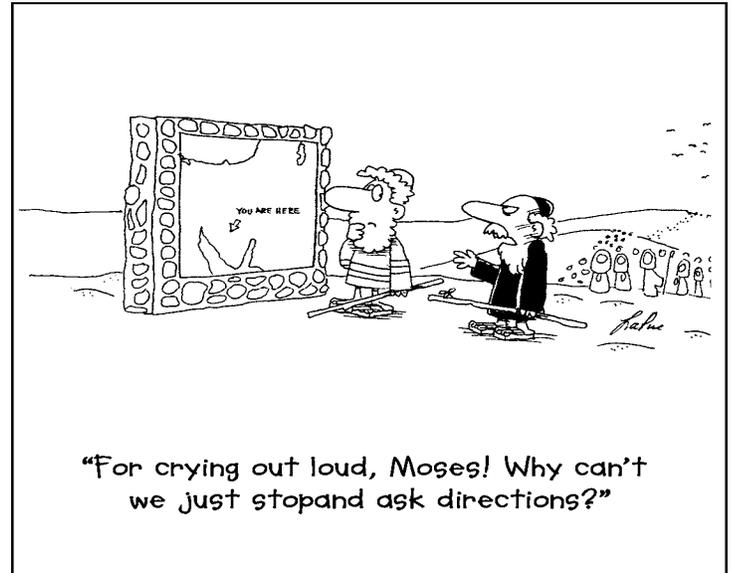
Examine your life, either during your quiet time with God or during confession in worship on Sundays. What do you need to release? 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Don’t be afraid. He is waiting.

Just as I am, I come, I come.

Pam Reents, Editor



- ♥ July was renamed for [Julius Caesar](#), who was born in that month. Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar (hence the Julian calendar) in 46 BC. In the process, he renamed this month after himself. Previously, it was called [Quintilis](#) in [Latin](#), since it was the fifth month in the ancient [Roman calendar](#), before January became the first month of the calendar year
- 31 days
- ♥ Flower - Larkspur, water lily, or Sunflower - Meaning - Ardent attachment, contented mind, success.
- ♥ Birthstone - Ruby



Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

Mind Like A Steel Trap - Rusty And Illegal In 37 States!

Kitchen Signs

- ☼ Kitchen closed - this chick (or dude?) has had it!
- ☼ Martha Stewart doesn't live here!!
- ☼ I'm creative; you can't expect me to be neat, too!
- ☼ Ring Bell for Maid Service. If no answer, do it yourself!
- ☼ You may touch the dust in this house, but please don't write in it!(If you write in the dust, please don't date it!)
- ☼ I would cook dinner, but I can't find the can opener!
- ☼ I came, I saw, I decided to order take out.
- ☼ * If you don't like my standards of cooking, lower your standards.
- ☼ A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, and this kitchen is delirious.
- ☼ Help keep the kitchen clean - eat out.
- ☼ Countless numbers of people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.
- ☼ My house was clean last week; too bad you missed it!

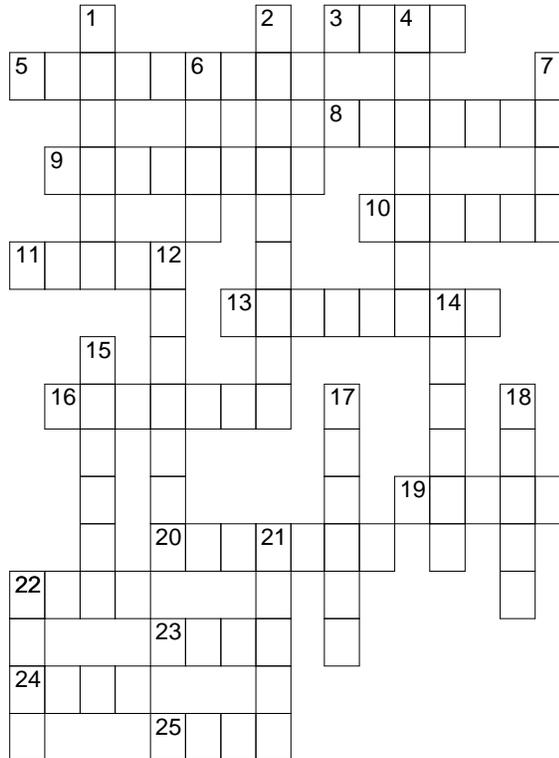


<http://www.gcfl.net>

Matthew, Chapter 10, Puzzle 1

Across

3. our physical being
5. the devil, Satan
8. statement, short communication
9. after sunrise and before sunset
10. summoned, invited
11. the one who betrayed
13. impairment of normal physiological function
16. traveling from one place to another
19. a farthing
20. to speak softly
22. having no light
23. bird
24. unwell
25. to support financially



Down

1. payment made for service rendered
2. power, authorization
4. malady, ailment
6. wicked, malevolent
7. no longer alive
12. small bird of the finch family
14. lustrous white metallic element
15. malleable reddish-brown metallic element
17. without cost
18. loose fitting garment
21. woolly ruminant mammal
22. fine particles of dust

WORD LIST

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| authority | copper | disease | freely | message | sick | tunic |
| Beelzebub | dark | dove | journey | penny | sickness | whisper |
| body | daylight | dust | Judas | reward | silver | |
| called | dead | evil | keep | sheep | sparrow | |

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If the first of July be rainy weather, It will rain, more or less, for four weeks together.

English Proverb

The 10 most popular types of recreation in the United States are:



Happy Fourth of July!
Celebrate Safely!

1. visiting zoos, aquariums, fairs, and carnivals
2. picnicking
3. automobile driving for pleasure
4. walking or jogging
5. swimming
6. travel
7. watching sports events
8. participating in sports and games
9. fishing;
10. taking nature walks

<http://www.annieshomepage.com/july.html>