

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
Vicar - Angela Khabeb
Editor/Church Secretary – Pam Reents
Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Cody Talarico
Sexton - Brian Sutej/Ambros Lado
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

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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.*



THE GRACE MESSENGER

2008



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 **		
Financial Secretary: Janet Hula		Treasurer: Margie Sutej	

The regular meeting of the Council was held September 9th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing; the family of Bonnie Lund, Robert Lund, Ron Andersen, Jr., Ken Spahr, Thomas Yasin, the three little boys all with the same heart issues; care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal; we pray for Jadin Kora and his family during their time of travel and medical care for Jadin; we pray for all who have lost loved ones and that they remain both hopeful and faithful; we pray for all the victims surrounding recent hurricane disasters; we pray for an end to all of the unrest and conflict in the world. Pastor led devotions from Joel 2:19 where Joel speaks of hopefulness during a time of hopelessness and how God provides enough to satisfy; and in 1 Peter 5:7 where we are reminded to turn over all anxiety and concerns to God, whom provides and cares for us all.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading “*Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century*” by Carl S. Dudley. Please read Chapter 8 “Goals, Conflicts, and Renewal” 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: New families have attended Wednesday Faith Quest. There have been positive responses from adults and children participating.

Evangelism/Outreach: No new report.

Finance: Discussion of Health Insurance for Vicar Angela, Benhi and Konami. Council agreed to proceed as proposed. Pastor shared new forms from the IRS, there are some new rules surrounding pension through the ELCA and other annuity accounts.

Property: The front door had a panel with broken glass, which has been repaired. Ron’s Glass Company will return and repair the remaining windows with damage from the June windstorm. Results from the Risk Control Questionnaire were passed around. There were no high risks, one priority and a few advisory suggestions.

Service/Social Ministry: Jadin Kora Fundraiser was a wonderful success, thanks to ALL. The total raised is \$2,244.85, Thrivent will match \$1,500.00 and \$500.00 will come from Grace’s Thrivent Fund making the total \$4,244.85.

Support/Stewardship: Greg received an invitation to the Fall Stewardship Event. Bishop deFreese is inviting council presidents, one lay leader, pastors and interns to the event on October 26th to Trinity Lutheran in Papillion. Representing Grace Lutheran will be Pastor, Vicar Angela, Greg Hula and David Nange.

Worship: No new report.

Unfinished Business: Clergy Spouse Retreat on October third and fourth, Mary is considering attending and Angela will speak to Benhi.

New Business: No new report.

Announcements: On October 6th Pastor and Mary will be going to California to celebrate Jonah’s first birthday and return on the 11th. Pastor will be in Columbus, OH October 12 – 15th. On October 16th Pastor will be in Missouri and return on the 20th. Pastor Bob Johnson will preside at communion during the October 19th worship service. Vicar Angela and Pastor Liz Conner will be attending the Intersection of Race and Poverty in Baltimore on September 10 – 12th. Vicar Angela will be attending a Theological Conference in Grand Island October 13 – 15th. The next council meeting will be held on October 21st. Sarah Emery will bring treats for our October meeting.

FROM THE



PASTOR

These are important days as we approach elections within our country, state and community. I have been touched by a guide prepared by Sojourners entitled “Principles and Policies for Christian Voters.” I want to reference the issues raised in this guide and encourage you to consider these as you make your decisions during this election season.

As people of faith, we can find many places within the Scriptures that point out the importance of the welfare of others. For example, Proverbs 31:9 states, “Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” So as the guide begins, the authors say, “Christians have moral and civic responsibility to participate in the political life of society by prayerfully measuring the proposed policies of all candidates against Christian ethics and values.” I couldn’t agree more. These are important times and we need to make prayerful decisions.

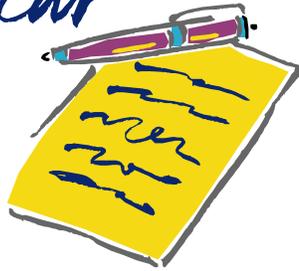
I would now like to list some of those important places where Christian ethics and values are described in this guide.

- Compassion and Economic Justice
 - o Work must work and provide for family economic success and security
 - o Children should not be poorExtreme global poverty must end
- Peace and Restraint of Violence
 - o Bring peace to Iraq
 - o Eliminate nuclear weapons
 - o Support security and freedom in the Middle EastStrengthen the United Nations and international law to fight terrorism
- Consistent Ethic of Life
 - o Dramatically reduce abortion
 - o End capital punishmentStop genocide
- Racial Justice
 - o Reverse racial disparitiesEnd environmental racism
- Human Rights, Dignity, and Gender Justice
 - o Establish humane and holistic immigration policies
 - o End torture worldwideStop human trafficking, promote religious freedom, fight HIV/AIDS, and defend the rights of women
- Strengthen Families and Renew Culture
 - o Strengthen marriage and families
 - o Restore integrity to our civic and business practicesPrevent violence
- Good Stewardship of God’s Creation
 - o Reverse global climate change
 - o Prioritize clean air and waterDevelop clean and renewable energy

As you can see, there are lots of places where Christian ethics and values have something to contribute to the politics of our common life together. I encourage you to learn as much as you can about your candidates views on these issues. Then on election day, please be sure and vote based upon your prayerful decisions.

Pastor Laaker

From the Vicar



The Vicar's Voice

A Conversation with Keith

Sometimes we encounter individuals who bless us with a different perspective. Perhaps God's hand is at work- bringing such people in our lives. Recently, I had such an experience. I was at church late one night, still wrestling with my sermon. I was feeling overwhelmed and a little discouraged. So, I decided to get away from desk and just walk around the fellowship hall. I thought that maybe a change of scenery would foster a surge in creativity. As I walked near the kitchen, I was slightly startled to see someone else at the church. I bumped into a man named Keith. Keith leads the Narcotics Anonymous Group that meets in the lower Fellowship Hall on Saturday nights. Well, we struck up a conversation, (my being so shy and all) and the first thing he said was thank you for providing a place for us to meet. He said it several times. And that's when I remembered what a friend told me earlier that day. My friend said that the church does not exist for the people who are already in it! Not even for the ones who will come in the future. But the church is here to be a blessing to those who are lost, to reach out beyond these walls, even to those who will never worship here. That is why we exist....

These words echoed in my mind as I listened to Keith's story. He mentioned that he'd been attending this same support group for six years and that because of these meetings and his belief in his "Higher Power" he has been living a life free of narcotics. That's very impressive. When you stop and think about it, the entire Grace congregation has a part in his recovery simply through our practice of hospitality. (By the way, I asked Keith if I could share a bit of our conversation with you and he said, "By all means!") Well Keith told me that his journey has not been easy. Quite the contrary, it has been a "very difficult task." "Extremely hard". "A lot of tough work." His perseverance made me question my own commitment when God's work seems difficult.

Keith talked about times when the meeting had forty or more participants but he also said that there was a season when only two or three attended. But he said that the numbers were not important. (Boy, that sure is a vital lesson for us to learn, isn't it?) Keith said that what was important was his commitment to be faithful. Keith invited me to join the meeting anytime. He said it was an open meeting and everyone was welcomed. He said, "We just have one requirement." I said, "Oh?" He said, "Yeah, our only requirement is that if you come as a guest, you are not allowed to bring anything." I said, "Bring anything?" He said, "Yeah, guests are not allowed to put money in the collection basket." Wow I was really learning a lot from Keith. Well, if that wasn't enough, Keith left me with this challenge. "Never ask God to guide you if you're not willing to move your feet." What an awesome challenge. It made me wonder, what if God's church was willing to be the generous host? What if we welcomed guests with no expectation of what we could receive? What if we were actually willing to follow God, even if it meant moving our feet beyond our comfort zones? Well, I'm still thinking about my conversation with Keith and I am thankful that God used Keith's story to encourage me. I pray that it encourages you as well!

Vicar Angela Khabebe

"Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of our God, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality."

Romans 12:9-13 (The Message)



Annual Church Women United Nut & Candy Sale
Benefit for Uta Halle Girls Home

Only One Order will be Placed this Year!

Place your order by November 14 for delivery on November 30th.

Payment for your order will be due upon delivery.

A sign up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board in the UFH.
Contact LaVonne Moss at 556-4131 for more information.

W/ELCA Board &
Circle Meeting
Monday October 21, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Hostess/Bible Study Leader:
LaVonne Moss



**Lutheran Women
of Omaha Luncheon**
October 14th
Noon - \$6.00 per person
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4117 Terrace Dr.
**Reservations by Sunday,
October 12th to
Mardelle Gocek (292-1328)**
Program: Betsy Buschkemper with
Lutheran World Relief
Project: Monetary/Lutheran World
Relief Shipping Expenses


Quilting on Mondays!
**at 9:00 a.m. for
Lutheran World Relief.**
If you have the morning free, drop by and
help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the
backs. Coffee break is at 10:00 a.m.

October 8, 2008
No Prayer Meeting
This Month! 
(Pastor will be at a Conference)
**BUT...Come and be a part of
Wednesday Night Faith Quest!**
*Next Prayer Meeting
November 12, 2008*



Monday - Thursday
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
In the basement of the
Church.

**Free
Fun
Crafts
Snacks**
Safe place to hang out



If OPS is closed, so are we!
Brenda Spahr, Director

Wednesday Night Faith Quest

Come Explore God's Word

Free Activities for All Ages!



Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 Street
341-7730

Each Wednesday Night
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Free Light Supper at 5:30 p.m.)

Lots of fun for everyone

Wednesday Night Faith Quest Meals

October 1 - Pastora Liz Connor
Chinese Food
Ron and Donna Adrian
Salad
Cookies

October 8 - Ralph Fitle
Hamburgers
Chips
Beans
Ice Cream

October 15 - Open

October 22 - Open

October 29 - Open

Volunteers are needed to provide, fix and serve food. If you can help, sign up on the bulletin board.

In mid- September, the theme studied was Psalm 8. Several of the youth were asked to write a Psalm of their own. These three were submitted.

Psalm 1

By Angela Everitt

1. The Lord is my Shepherd and is my God.
2. The Lord is my life. He is my soul.
3. But when I cry, the Lord is there to comfort me.
4. The Lord is my Shepherd and so He's the rock.
5. The Lord loves and cares for all His sheep that are His.
6. The Lord is a father that will be kind but strong. My life is so blessed.
7. The Lord is the rock of all of our salvations
8. for He is one God, Lord of all mighty.

Psalm 1

By Autumn Smith

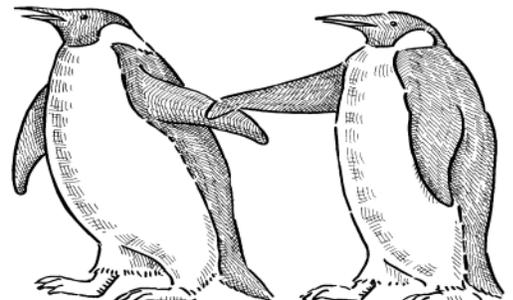
1. My Lord is my life. He shall save me in danger and love. My Lord Almighty!
2. My Lord attends my cries of sadness and hope. He is there and shall be there, always.
3. My Lord! I praise this name in sweet heart and passion of my prayers and love.
4. I love the Lord in every part of me. He is my savior of peace, love, and hope. I thank the Lord for everything in my power.

Psalm 1

By Andrea Spahr

1. O Lord, thank you for food and water. Thank you, God
2. O Lord, thank you for the safety of your hands.
3. O Lord, thank you for my Mom and Dad.
4. O Lord, thank you for the awesome earth.

Thank You God Almighty!



Bring A Friend to Wednesday Faith Quest!





Stewardship Minute

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

Month 4

"Effective Stewardship" by Kenneth L. Williams.

*"But remember the Lord your God,
for it is he who gives you power to get wealth" (Deut. 8:18).*

The amount of money we have is determined by God. According to His wisdom and sovereignty, God has placed each of us at some point on the economic spectrum. He has entrusted some people with considerable wealth; to others, He has provided lesser amounts.

The Bible does not assume that it is wrong for people to make money, but rather, it clearly states that God allows people to earn money. Solomon said that money is one of God's many gifts to mankind. In fact, in Ecclesiastes 5, Solomon said that God wants us to enjoy the fruit of our labor, namely, money which we have earned and the things it can buy.

David expressed it this way in his prayer recorded in the 29th chapter of First Chronicles: "Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name."

When you stop to think about it, Christians have a great thing going when it comes to money. According to this passage and to other scriptures, God gives us the power and ability to get wealth. He provides the energy, the stamina, the mental and physical ability, the creative juices, and whatever else it takes for us to earn a living. As we saw recently, since God owns everything, He is actually enabling us to earn that which is rightfully His.

October 2008 Stewardship Principle

The amount of money we have is determined by God.

*"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he
who gives you power to get wealth" (Deut. 8:18).*



Grace Lutheran's Stewardship Theme for 2009

"Blessed to be a Blessing!"

2009 Stewardship Drive begins on November 2nd.

Begin now and ask God what He wants to do through you in 2009.



for Family and Friends

- 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)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - On-going therapy after his stroke. (member)
- ◆ Teri Briley - Cancer treatments. (daughter of Gloria and Richard Moore)
- ◆ Ron Anderson Jr.—Cancer treatment. (son of Ron Sr. & Mickey Anderson)
- ◆ 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)
- Harlan Morter - Moved to Hospice House. He would love a visit or a card of encouragement. He is at Hospice House, 7415 Cedar, Room 19 , Omaha, NE 68124. (Member)

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Mae Lane

Richard Moore

Thelma Harrahill - (In Kansas with her children)

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

Pray for our Vicar, Angela and her family, husband, Benhi and son, Konami

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 Worshiping Community.
- Pray for Jadin Kora. Jadin Kora was born with a disabling birth injury to his arm and shoulder. In the last year and a half, several local doctors and specialists have tried to help Jadin gain use of his arm. A successful fundraiser was held in early September here at grace. Now the doctors and specialists are in the process of determining where and when treatment will take place.
- John Ivo Mounto is back in the States for a visit. He is planning to be at Grace Church at least once during his month long stay. Be sure and continue to pray for John. His responsibilities in Africa require a great deal of stamina!

Mark Your Calendar! Lutheran Service Corps Spaghetti Supper Benefit

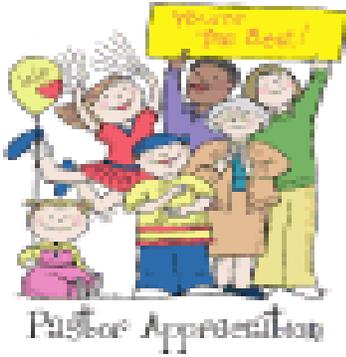
Sunday, November 9, 2008
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
510 N 93rd St (93rd and Dodge)
5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

More details in the next newsletter



All proceeds help support the social ministry of Lutheran Service Corps!

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church



October 26th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday!

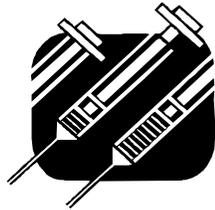
A Card Shower

is planned after worship
during the coffee fellowship.

Use this opportunity to share an encouraging word with
Pastor Damon and Mary.

Get Your Flu Shots!

Grace Lutheran
Church
1326 S. 26 St.



Election Day November 4, 2008
4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Check the bulletin for cost information .



Jack Neef Williams,
92nd birthday celebration

To My Friends at Grace Lutheran Church,

Many thanks for your kindness in celebrating my birthday the day before, on Sunday, September 28th with a special cake and card reception following worship. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jack N. Williams

Congratulations to Ken and June Hilmer 50 Years!

An open house was held at Hanscom Park on Saturday, September 27th to celebrate Ken and June's 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 11.

Best Wishes to the “newlyweds!”



October 5, 2008

Habitat for Humanity
Neighbors South Coalition
House Dedication at
1902 South 11 Street

The new owner is Malyun Fathal, a single mom with 5 young children who is currently living in a 2 bedroom apartment in a undesirable area. She is enthusiastic about working every day with Habitat to meet the requirements and move into her new home.

Congrats to Jacob & Cassidy Eagan Simon



Cassidy and Jacob were married on September 16th in St. Lucia, West Indies in a private ceremony.

On September 27th, a reception was held in Omaha and Pastor Laaker officiated at the Service of Blessing of Marriage.

Cassidy is the daughter of Rodney and Sandy Fitzgerald and granddaughter of Richard and Gloria Moore.

Halloween Party
October 24, 2008
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 St.
Omaha, NE



Admission is \$2.00 per person.
Includes refreshments and 10 game tickets

Ring Toss
Mummy Wrap
Bingo
Cake Walk
Candy Dash
and more!

Use your tickets to play games.
Additional game tickets
are 10 cents each
Win Prizes.



Prizes for Best Costume

- Scariest
- Funniest
- Prettiest
- Most Creative



Endowment Action

Sharing Our Blessings



The Endowment Funds of Grace Lutheran Church provide income that helps us to carry out the Mission and Ministry of our Congregation. We can take joy in knowing that thus far in 2008 allocations of endowment income total \$64,387.00. These allocations are gifts of financial support for various needs within and beyond our congregation; they are listed below:

I. Allocations from the Disney Endowment

A. For work within the Congregation

1. For various maintenance and repairs; e.g., A/C systems, parking lot, etc.	\$3,000.00
2. For 2008 Kids At Work	1,927.00
3. For support of a member	770.00
4. For church multi-peril policy 2008-09 (\$3,994.00 paid direct to Church Mutual, 5-24-08) plus utility charges at \$600 per month for 10 months beginning July 2008 (\$6,000.00)	10,000.00
5. For purchase of a Sears Craftsman Snowblower, 5.5 HP Tecumseh engine, electric start, 24" path	<u>590.00</u>
	\$16,287.00

B. For distribution beyond the Congregation

1. Interfaith Health Service – program support	\$5,000.00
2. Omaha Habitat for Humanity – Neighbors South Coalition	10,000.00
3. Lakota Ministry Center, Scottsbluff – building construction	5,000.00
4. Lutheran Service Corps – for agency work with volunteers	1,200.00
5. Nebraska Synod – for Northern Diocese of Lutheran Church in Tanzania	1,000.00
6. Nebraska Synod Campaign for Leadership and Youth, Three annual payments of \$5,000.00 each beginning in 2008	15,000.00
7. Sudan Lutheran Water Project	2,000.00
8. Siena/Francis House for support of its services to the homeless	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$40,200.00

Total Disney Fund Allocations YTD \$56,487.00

II. Allocations from the GELC Endowment

For work within the Congregation

1. GELC to match GELC members contributions for Internship Ministry up to	\$2,500.00
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B. For distribution beyond the Congregation

1. NLOM for partial support for young people to attend Confirmation Camp summer 2008	\$ 900.00
2. Nebraska Synod LMM Loan and Grant Fund	1,000.00
3. Omaha Habitat for Humanity for LMM House build	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$5,400.00

Total GELC Fund Allocations YTD \$7,900.00

Continued

The year-to-date (YTD) allocations listed above total \$64,387.00, of which 87.7 percent was given for benevolent purposes beyond the congregation and 12.3 percent was given for needs within the congregation.

Our Congregation's Mission Statement is "Inspired by Christ, it is our mission to share God's Word and Love in care and in service to all." As the foregoing list shows, the sharing of our endowment income provides support toward meeting various needs of persons, institutions and agencies locally, elsewhere in our state, our nation, and in foreign countries. This action is in harmony with our congregation's stated mission. And we are blessed with having endowment income sufficient to make significant gifts for ministry through charitable giving.

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Marsha Moyer and Jack Williams, two of our three Endowment Board of Directors (third member Donna Adrian was on vacation), accompanied by Vicar Angela Khabeb, participated in an all-day seminar on Building & Enhancing Congregational Endowments held at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Gretna. This was a worthwhile event, and we plan to provide important information in the next issue of The Grace Messenger on how all Grace members can participate in the endowment program.

Jack Williams, Endowment Board Chair

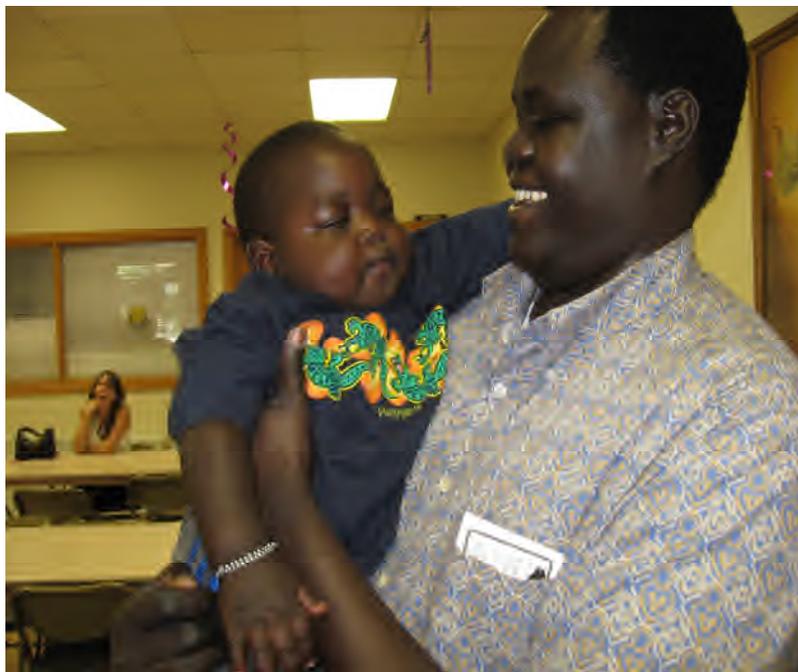
Fundraiser for Jadin Kora Hits Goal!

Many thanks to all who gave generously.

On September 6th, Grace Lutheran Church held a fundraiser for young Jadin Kora, a Sudanese boy, who suffered a injury to his arm/shoulder at birth.

Jadin and his family need to consult specialists in Nebraska and Minnesota. Funds are needed to pay for travel expenses and lodging. At this printing, Jadin's doctors are determining the right course and timing of treatment .

Over 70 people attended the event which included silent auctions on more than 30 items which raised more than \$600.00. Other popular activities included the "Pie in the Puss" area and eating delicious foods. An abundance of food was left over at the end of the evening so the party continued on Sunday, September 7th with a potluck dinner. Between both days, over \$4000.00 was raised which includes matching funds provided by Thrivent for Lutherans as well as private matching funds.



Thanks to all who made the event a success!





Plans are underway for this year's Halloween Party.

Your help is needed. Please look over the list below and help where you can.

Donated items should be placed in the Halloween Donation Box in the upper fellowship hall.

Items needed for the Halloween Party . . .

Costume Contest Prizes

Prizes are needed in each of the categories below.

- Prettiest
- Scariest
- Funniest
- Most Creative

Prizes should cost around \$2.00 to \$5.00 each, and be something that can be used for Halloween, or have a Halloween theme. Suggestions: Flashlights, creepy toys like spiders, ghouls, etc., pumpkin carving kits, decorations, pumpkins.

Game Prizes

Approximate TOTAL Cost is in parentheses for those who would rather donate money.

Feel free to donate any amount!

Hundreds of trinkets (penny-nickel-dime stuff) for carnival games (approx. value \$50.00)

Dum-dum suckers for the "Lollipop Tree"

Bottles of pop (2 liter or smaller) for "Ring Toss"

Cakes for the "Cake Walk"

White Elephants or desirable give-aways for "Bingo"

Miscellaneous

Toilet Paper for the "Mummy Wrap"

Cellophane treat bags for popcorn and candy

Cash. A donation container will be placed in the back of the church each Sunday beginning Oct. 1st.

Refreshments

3 large bags of Vic's Popcorn (approx. value \$10.00 per bag)

8 gallons of Punch or Apple Cider (approx. value \$20.00)

20+ bags of wrapped Halloween candies for "Candy Dash" and treat bags (approx. value \$60.00)

Cookies!! Homemade or store bought, they all seem to get eaten.

Volunteers

Most importantly, your **time** is needed in planning and participating the night of the party.

Last year, we had nearly 150 folks in attendance. As you can imagine, lots of volunteers are needed to ensure that the party runs smoothly and will be fun for all (approx. value – *priceless!*). A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. All are welcome!

Can You Help?

We are still looking for folks to be on the Halloween Committee to help plan, set up, run, and take down the night of the party, October 24th!

Sign up on the bulletin board today!

Sweet Treat Social

Awards for Summer Reading Club
"Formula for Fun!"
"Discovering New Adventures"



On September 21, an ice cream social was held in celebration of the completion of the Church Library Summer Reading Club. Book bags which read "GRACE ---It's Amazing" were handed out to the participants from the reading club who attended the social. Approximately \$50 was raised to help pay for supplies and books for the church library.

The Library has several new donations of books!

Stop by and

Congratulations to the two who won their age category by reading the most pages this summer.



Danaka Ashcroft - Winner in the Elementary School category
Victoria Terpstra - Winner of the Jr/Sr High School category.

One Out!

Back by Popular Demand! Supplies are Limited. Order Today!

Buy Your 2009 God's Creation Calendar Today!
Fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran Church Library

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

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

- 12"x 9" pages
- high-quality, heavy-weight stock
- gloss-coated photo pages
- matte-finished calendar grid pages
- a superb writing surface
- ample space to write appointments
- a special page for important phone numbers
- 2008 - 2010 year-at-a-glance calendars



Only \$5.00!

Thank you to those who pre-ordered Calendars.

Our Calendars are here and ready for pick up!

***"They will celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness."
~Psalm 145:7~***

From the Editor

*Your Father knows what things you have need of,
before you ask him.*

Matthew 6:8b



On September 6th, my husband set out on a two week trip in celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary making a big loop up to Minneapolis into Ontario and Quebec and back through upstate New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois Iowa, and home.

Don and I spent a great deal of time trying to work out the details. The travel agent through our motor club helped us book a few rooms along the way. As those of you who have read about my adventures through the years may remember, my husband likes the “That-a-way” method of travel. You also know how much that method causes craziness in me!! He compromised for the first week by having a plan in Canada. Once we hit the US, however, we just “winged it.” Over and over the phrase from Matthew 6 went through my head. “He knows what I need before I ask...

As I prepared for the trip, I tried to envision every clothing situation I might need. I shopped carefully with my mom and my friend, Marilee, for several weeks before the departure date. I thought I had everything I needed. On one of the last times, I was with my girlfriend, we decided to stop at a thrift store to kill some time. By chance (I now believe divine guidance) I came upon an almost new suede jacket, my size, in my favorite color and cheap! That jacket was one of the most useful items I brought on my trip. It maximized my wardrobe choices and kept me comfortable because of the unanticipated cooler weather. Thanks, God!

Another time, we were supposed to take a bus tour of Quebec City early in the morning. We tried all day, as we traveled, to contact the tour folks to arrange pick up at the motel. No one ever returned our call. Since the trip was something that we prepaid, I fretted on how we were going to get connected and on the bus by 8:00 a.m. the next morning. Even the receptionist at the hotel told us it was hopeless. We got up early in an effort to walk to the terminal, which incidentally everyone told us was “that-a-way” with a French accent. Arrrrrrgh! (Don thought that was funny!) As we tried one more time to get help from the receptionist early in the morning, a man overheard us and said in a lovely British accent, “Mates, are you going on the tour to Quebec today? Yeah? My wife and I made arrangements to have them pick us up this morning here at the hotel. Just stick with us! The shuttle is due any minute.” That chance encounter (definitely divine guidance) was a delightful addition to our experience. The couple, Brian and Margie Lane, who “coincidentally” have the same first names as a couple and my dear friends from Grace Church, Margie and Brian Sutej, were on holiday from Essex, England. They became traveling mates for the day! It was “lovely” and “brilliant” to listen to their stories of home and family in that fascinating British accent. It was hard to say, “Cheerio!” to them at the end of the day. I know God provided them! Thanks, God!

Over and over on our trip, we encountered people and places that enriched our trip or just plain blessed us. My brother and his wife, making sure we had a 25th wedding anniversary celebration in a wonderful restaurant, (Thanks, Marlon and Deb! We love you.) the receptionist that gave us a wonderful room with a whirlpool in the room and a great view after a horrible experience at her competitor down the road for a great discount, the quiet out of the way place God provided along Lake Superior to sit by the shore and just breathe, the beautiful beginnings of the fall foliage in the Adirondack mountains and the chance to see it by air on a bush plane ride...I could go on and on. Thanks, God!

It’s good to pray and to make known our requests to God but we should never assume that God doesn’t already know what we are going to need in advance. I believe He prepared places and people along this trip to bring joy and adventure to our experience. Then again, now that I think about it, doesn’t He prepare our circumstances in the same way every day? Maybe we just need to look with new eyes.

Pam Reents, Editor



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Project Hope

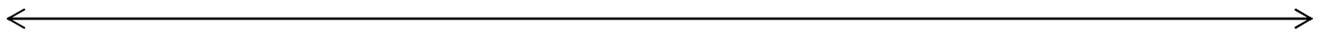
Pantry Needs

The Theme for October is pie and pie fillings.

Most Needed:

- Cookies
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Dried Soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Bathroom Tissue

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111



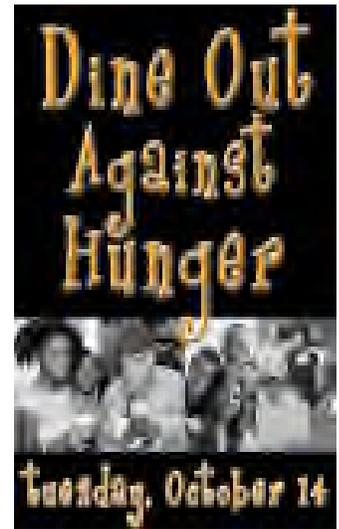
Over 100 restaurants pledged to donate 10% of the day's proceeds on Tuesday, October 14th, to The Food Bank.

Be sure to mention that you applaud the restaurant's support of Dine Out Against Hunger.

Here is a partial list of restaurants participating:

All area Runzas, all Scooters, Petrows, Lums, Lanskys, CiCi's Pizza, Lo Sole Mio, Culvers, Spaghetti Works, Valentino's, Zio's Pizza, Bohemian Café, Ethnic Sandwich Shop, Big Horn Mountain BBQ, Joe Tess, Dundee Dell, Dinkers Bar and Grill, Johnnys Café, Old Chicago and Julio's.

A **complete list** of all the participating restaurants is posted on the bulletin board. or go to <http://www.omahafoodbank.org> and click on the Dine Out link for a complete updated list.



Nebraska Lutheran
World Relief Ingathering
November 3 - 7, 2008

What to Donate:

- ◆ Quilts and blankets
- ◆ Light and medium weight clothing for men and children.
- ◆ Sweaters of all kinds for men, women and children.
- ◆ Pieces of woven or synthetic blend fabric large enough to make a dress.
- ◆ Soap in ORIGINAL wrapper.

Please make sure all items donated are clean and in good shape. Bring your donations to the church and put them by the pantry shelves.

We are asking that all donations be at the church by 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 6th so that the boxes can be packed, labeled and taken out to Brown Transfer. If you wish to volunteer to help get the items ready for shipment, contact Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer through the church office at 341-7730.

26th Annual Crop Walk 2008

October 12, 2008

1:30 p.m.

Starting from First Christian Church
6630 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE



As a walker - The CROP walk is for the entire family from baby to grandparents. There are routes of 1, 2, and 5 miles. You choose how far to walk. Parents can push strollers or pull wagons. There are rest and water stops along the way and transportation back to the start if you need it. To be a walker, get your sponsor sheet from Vicar Angela or Eva Martin.

As a Sponsor - Even if you cannot walk you can participate by sponsoring someone who can. Offer to sponsor a walker with a pledge per mile of a donation and make a real difference in meeting hunger needs at home and abroad. To sponsor a walker, go to the table at the back of the sanctuary and locate the pledge sheet of the person you wish to sponsor.

The logo for Community Day features a stylized sun with orange rays above the words "community" and "day" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the text is a silhouette of a diverse group of people holding hands.

\$5

community day

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008

STARTS AT 6 AM

Furniture Galleries open at 9 am; Carson's Gateway (IL) is closed. Event not at our New Jersey locations.

COUPON BOOKLET

Community Day has raised over \$53 million for nonprofit organizations!

Younkers Community Day Saturday, November 15, 2008 6:00 a.m. - Continues All Day

Coupons good at any Younkers!

Buy a \$5.00 Booklet and get a \$10.00 Coupon!
Your \$5.00 will go to the Lutheran Pantry.

Each booklet contains a \$10 coupon good on almost any merchandise item priced at \$10 or more (customers spend \$5 for the booklet and get \$10 back on their first purchase!), plus eight 20% off coupons and offers for great bonus items, available on Community Day only. All coupons are valid on top of our already low One Day Sale prices.

Contact the Church office or Pastor Laaker
for Coupon Booklets

For every 50 booklets sold,
the Lutheran Pantry receives \$250.00!

It's that easy to raise money to fight hunger in the Metro!

Community News



Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

October 16, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
1326 S 26 St.



**Membership dues are only
\$5.00 a year per household!**

CPNA
1326 S 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105

Call 341-7730 for more information.

Lutheran College Fair **Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 — Omaha, NE**

Omaha Marriott
10220 Regency Circle
Omaha, NE 68114
402-399-9000

7:00 p.m. Financial Aid Seminar

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. College Fair and an opportunity to meet with individual college representatives

Directions: From Interstate 680, take the Pacific Street Exit and turn right, traveling East. Turn left onto Regency Parkway and follow to Regency Circle.

You are invited to attend the Lutheran College Fair and Workshop. Events include workshops on College and Career Planning and on Financial Aid. There is no cost to attend.

Sunday, October 19, 2008
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Restore Omaha Historic Restoration Tour Properties from 1890-1950

Sponsored by Metropolitan Community college Foundation and organized by Landmarks INC.

Tickets: \$10.00 or 2 for \$12.00

Pick up or purchase tickets the day of the tour at Mount Olive Church, 7301 N 28 Ave



**FAITH
IN ACTION**

Thank you for the wonderful farewell party. I appreciate the hard work Mary Riley, Sarah Pahl-Ramirez, and Margie Hansen put into making it a wonderful day! It was a great way to end my time with Interfaith Health Service and the *Faith in Action* program. I hope to see many of you again in the future. A special thank you goes out to Virginia McGill for being a true mentor to me for the past several years. I've learned many things from her and I am glad I had the opportunity to work with her. She always provided a point of view that I didn't always see. Thanks too to Pastor Laaker and the Board of Interfaith Health Service for all of your advice and direction for the program. I also want to thank Pam for always helping me in the office even though she had explained several times to me how to use the special copy machine. There are so many others of you that have helped me along the way. I appreciate all of your kindness and support.

Remember, if you would like some information about starting up or keeping the *Faith in Action* program going, please contact Virginia McGill at 660-6689.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Julie Chytil



Interfaith Health Service Welcomes New Student Group as Volunteers within Our Ministry

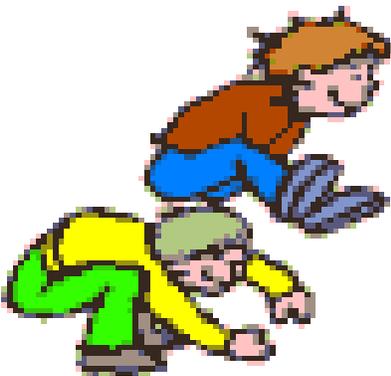
For the next 2 months, Interfaith Health Service and is very pleased to welcome a brand new group of Creighton students to our evening Latinas en Accion programs. The students, accompanied by their professor, Dr. Beth Furlong (an Interfaith Board member), are working with me on our Youth/Super Kids Club Program. All of the students are Seniors in the Accelerated Nursing Program. They will be graduating this December with their RN/BSN degree. All have various bachelor's and master's degrees already and bring a wealth of life experience and maturity to our program.

Emily (a Spanish speaker who spent time living in Madrid), Madelyn (a former Assistant to an Iowa Congressman), Erika (a former Youth Pastor and minister) and Lindsey (a BYU graduate who has worked extensively in ministry and with youth) join our programs each Wednesday and Friday evening. Each week, the students are introducing new games and ice breaker activities to our group. Our children have responded amazingly well to the students and have been sharing a lot about their personal histories via the ice breakers. Plus, the children get the added bonus of playing games such as "Link Tag", "Criss-Cross Applesauce Hands", "Cross the River" and many others with Dr. Beth. It isn't often that a university faculty member will come to work dressed in tennis shoes and running gear, but Beth is hands on with all of the activities and can play tag with the best of our group! I believe Beth's role modeling, and the care and concern she expresses for our youth has already touched the hearts of our children and their parents. When I have introduced or talked about Beth with folks, I hear from parents and children alike saying: "She is a PROFESSOR!!! And she comes here just to see us!!! We're special!" This is a reminder for me that I sometimes under-estimate the power of presence, of showing up and of demonstrating lived solidarity in ministry....

As a grand finale for the student rotation, Emily, Madelyn, Lindsey and Erika are in the process of planning a trip to Creighton's Soccer Stadium! Our youth will have the chance to tour Creighton's campus (many have expressed an interest in doing so for a long time) and meet and play soccer with 6 of Creighton's starting soccer players! The nursing students thought of this activity on their own and pulled a lot of strings to help make it happen. The entire idea was greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm by our women and their children.

I hope and trust that the students will take what they are learning from our women and children, lessons on culture, acceptance, commonalities, struggles, with them in their future careers as health care professionals. I know our youth will remember them long after their rotation ends.

Virginia McGill
Interfaith, (402) 660-6689



If love was a raindrop, I would send you a shower
If hope was a minute, I would send you an hour
If happiness was a leaf, I would send you a tree
If you need a friend, you will always have me!



October Trivia

- ☼ has 31 days.
- ☼ 10th month of the year.
- ☼ In the Roman calendar, October was the 8th month and got its name from the word "Octo," meaning eight.
- ☼ Flower - Calendula. (Marigold)
- ☼ Birthstone - Opal or pink tourmaline

Update on Stewardship Trends in Churches in Las Vegas

This may come as a surprise to those not living in Las Vegas, but it is a very spiritual city, with more Catholic churches than casinos!

Not surprisingly, some worshipers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the donation tray is passed.

Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method of turning the chips into cash.

They send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan monastery, where the patient and detail-oriented men sort and count the chips. The chips are then taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in.

This is done by the chip monks.
You didn't even see it coming, did you?

Suffering from a bad case of the flu, a man phoned his doctor to get an appointment.

When he was told the scheduled date of the appointment, he became outraged and bel-lowed, "Three weeks? The doctor can't see me for three weeks? I could well be dead by then!"

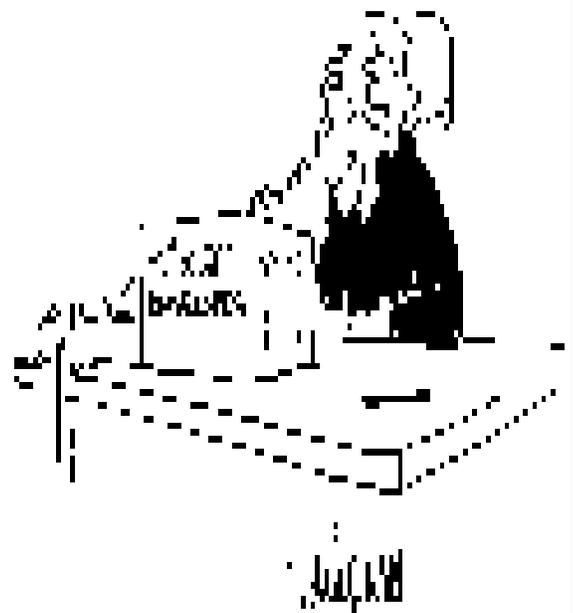


Calmly, the receptionist replied, "If so, would you have your wife call to cancel the appointment?"

<http://www.gcfl.net>



**Early Sunday Morning
November 2, 2008**



Psalm 23:6

Find each word from the verse below.

Surely goodness and love
will follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.

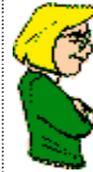
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v h e m f q j m s o t h e

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Special Days in October at Grace Church

Every Wednesday Night - Wednesday Faith Quest
5:30 p.m. Free Light Supper
6:30 p.m. Lessons and Fun Activities

- 5 - Neighbor South Habitat Home
Dedication at 1902 S 11 St at 3:00 p.m.
- 10 & 11 Confirmation Class at First Lutheran.
- 12- Crop Walk.
- 14 - Dine out against Hunger.
- 21 - Church Council Meets - Note Date Change!
- 24 - Church Halloween Party.
- 26 - Pastor Appreciation Sunday
Card Shower after Worship



The CEO was scheduled to speak at an important convention, so he asked one of his employees to write him a punchy, 20-minute speech. When the CEO returned from the big event, he was furious.

"What's the idea of writing me an hour-long speech?" he demanded to know. "Half the audience walked out before I finished."

The employee was baffled. "I wrote you a 20-minute speech," he replied. "I also gave you the two extra copies you asked for...."

Things ain't what they used to be
and probably never was.

Will Rogers

Join Us for Worship!
Sundays 10:30 a.m.