

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 - Brian Sutej/Ambros Lado
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

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

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



2008

THE GRACE MESSENGER



2008 Council Members

Ron Adrian
David Hufford
Grace Traynor

Sarah Emery
Regina Ivo
Pastor Laaker **

June Hilmer
David Nange

Greg Hula (V.P.)
Brenda Spahr (Sec.)

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula

Treasurer: Margie Sutej

The regular meeting of the Council was held October 21st. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing; Allisia Fredrickson, Linda Sorenson, the family of Darlene Rodgers, Bobby Heesacker, Julie Hovey, Bob Fread; care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal; we pray for Ron Andersen Jr., Teri Briley, Sandy Fitzgerald during the different stages of cancer whether it may be treatment, diagnosis and recovery and that they stay strong during their battle with cancer; we pray for Richard Moore and his recovery from pneumonia; 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; we pray in praise for the upcoming celebration of Gertrude Hufford's 100th birthday; we pray in praise with the good news that Sarah and Tom Emery are expecting their second child. Pastor led devotions from Haggai 1:13. Haggai's message is taken from a time during the exile. He offers encouraging words expressing God's presence even when we are not aware; and in Mark 16:15; we are to go forth and share God's word with all.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading "*Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century*" by Carl S. Dudley. Please read Chapter 9 "Energizing from Within" 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, our needs have exceeded our income for the last couple months.

Christian Education: Wednesday Faith Quest continues very well, attendance does fluctuate but remains good.

Evangelism/Outreach: No new report.

Finance: Money from the Restricted Fund is being transferred into the General Fund to cover expenses. As giving provides, it will be transferred back to Restricted. A motion was made to transfer money from the vending machine funds to the General Fund, seconded and approved.

Property: The RISO duplicator has reached the end of the service contract, this is okay since the RISO has not had many major malfunctions. There has been some water damage in the records room in the basement, the water is coming through the wall somehow and will be analyzed. All damaged windows from the windstorm have been repaired.

Service/Social Ministry: Thursday, October 23rd will be a planning meeting and a decorating party for the Halloween Party, which will be held on Friday, October 24th.

Support/Stewardship: The Fall Stewardship meeting for council leaders, lay leaders and interns will be held on October 26th at Trinity Lutheran in Papillion. Representing Grace Lutheran will be Pastor, Vicar Angela, Greg Hula and David Nange.

Worship: Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at Cristo Rey at 7:00 p.m. on November 26th. Angela did a wonderful job during the worship service on October 19th.

Unfinished Business: No new report.

New Business: Christmas Day is the biggest holiday celebration in the Sudanese ministry. The leaders have requested help in planning a fundraiser to help with their big day. Thrivent may be able to match funds for the Sudanese Christmas Celebration Fundraiser.

Announcements: Angela will be traveling with the Women of the ELCA to South Africa; she will be gone from November 5-12. Angela will be attending the Black Pastors and White Congregations Conference, this is a groundbreaking conference. Pastor will be in Chicago attending the European American Lutheran Association October 30 – November 1st. A quick reminder: all are invited to Gertrude Hufford's 100th birthday celebration on November 9th. Greg will bring treats for our November meeting.



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

This is our time of the year to deepen our understanding of being caretakers, stewards of all that God has given to us. It is a time to consider deeply those attitudes and convictions that inform our giving.

I ran across this story in a little magazine I receive on stewardship. B. G. Schmitz is the author. He tells the following story.

“The pastor explained the meaning of offering and sacrifice, and then directed the ushers to get ready for the offering, except it was not going to be an ordinary offering. People were invited to bodily come forward up to the stairs leading to the platform, and place something of value, but not money, on the stairs, for the offering that day.

“At first people came forth tentatively and with some hesitation. One brought up a blanket, another a Bible, and yet another a coat. One fellow, an avid golfer, went out to the parking lot to his car to get the new set of golf clubs that he had just bought. When he brought the set of clubs up to the stairs, a spirit of generosity spread through the congregation like wildfire. People began to get up and bring anything they had with them to deposit on the stairs.

“One fellow, deeply moved by the gift of golf clubs, didn’t have anything with him. As he thought about what he might give as an offering, he had what seemed to him a hilarious thought. He went out to his car and brought in a spare tire he had in the trunk. As he rolled it up the aisle to lean against the stairs, another man came up and examined the tire, then went over and whispered in the pastor’s ear. The pastor whispered back, and then the man rolled the tire back down the aisle to his seat.

“When the offering was finished and the stairs were full of various items that had been brought forth, the pastor picked up the microphone and addressed the congregation. The pastor relayed what the man had whispered in his ear: the man had had a flat tire earlier in the day. He could not afford to buy a new tire, so he prayed to God to bring him one. He had gotten a ride with a friend to church that night. When he saw the tire being rolled up to the stairs, he went over and looked at the model number on it. He couldn’t believe it. It was the exact tire he needed.

“The pastor suggested he take it home with him and the man therefore rolled the tire down the aisle to his seat. The pastor concluded: “Giving can be infectious, and you never know which of your gifts people will need.”

As you explore our fall stewardship emphasis, “Blessed by God to be a Blessing!”, I hope you will be surprised at the way your response to God’s blessings touches your life and others.

Pastor Laaker

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Pastor and Mary would like to express their deep appreciation for the delightful “Clergy Appreciation” reception after worship on October 26th. The beautiful cards, well wishes and delicious cake were quite touching. Thanks for your ongoing care and appreciation.



The Vicar's Voice

In-Reach Before Outreach

I just returned from a conference in Chicago at the Lutheran Center. Like most conferences, there were several presenters. One of the speakers said (almost as an aside), "Before you can do outreach you must do some 'in'-reach." Now I know that we Lutherans start to get really nervous when someone says "must." But the speaker's words rang true in my spirit. Immediately, I recognized that somewhere under this simple sentence, was a not so simple challenge. I began to turn the words over and over in my mind and in spirit. I had to ask myself, "When was the last time I did some (serious) 'in'-reach?" Certainly this business of 'in'-reach can mean different things to different people. The pastor who used the phrase offered no further explanation. Maybe he was talking about devotions? Perhaps. At least I'm sure that's part of it. Or, maybe he was talking about a personal prayer life? Well, I'm sure that's part of it, too. Or, what about a thankful heart, willing to praise God? Of course that's part of it as well. I knew that this 'in'-reach included all these things but there was something beyond these vital components. Something even more challenging— at least for me.

Yes, the pastor (I believe) was calling for a devotional life and a prayer life. And yes, the pastor was calling for hearts full of thanksgiving and praise. But there was still a sting of conviction in his words. I knew what it was. But I pretended I didn't. Instead I searched my heart for something else-- Some other deeper meaning. Yeah right. Then I just admitted it. I need to be honest with myself. The heart of this 'in'-reach thing, at least for me, is about self-examination. It's about asking tough questions of ourselves and not flinching in the face of an honest answer. Now please hear that this is not a call to perfection but rather a call to wholeness. After all, how can we be authentic with others if we are not first authentic with ourselves? And even more importantly, how can we be authentic with God without being honest with ourselves? Besides, when we think about it, God already knows our deepest secrets anyway. So it is best if we face our innermost thoughts— the good the bad, and yes, the ugly. Although the first step is a little scary, there is great power in acknowledging our growing areas. So be encouraged because once we name it- we can change it!

David said it best in Psalm 139: ¹*You have looked deep into my heart, LORD, and you know all about me.* ²*You know when I am resting or when I am working, and from heaven you discover my thoughts.* ³*You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.* ⁴*Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say,* ⁵*and with your powerful arm you protect me from every side.* ⁶*I can't understand all of this! Such wonderful knowledge is far above me.* ⁷*Where could I go to escape from your Spirit or from your sight?...* ¹⁷*Your thoughts are far beyond my understanding, much more than I could ever imagine...* ²³*Look deep into my heart, God, and find out everything I am thinking.* ²⁴*Don't let me follow evil ways, but lead me in the way that time has proven true.*

I encourage you to read the entire chapter. Perhaps the scriptures will lead you to your own 'in'-reach and then our God will lead you to your OUTREACH!

Vicar Angela

November Blessing

"For earth's ten thousand fragrant incenses,
Sweet altar-gifts from leaf and fruit and flower;
For ripening summer and the harvesting;
The flaming pageant of the ripening woods,
The fiery gorse, the heather-purpled hills;
For meadows silver-white with hoary dew;

For sheer delight of tasting once again that first
crisp breath of winter in the air;
The cold without, the cheer warmth within.

We thank you, Lord!"

<http://www.appleseeds.org>



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

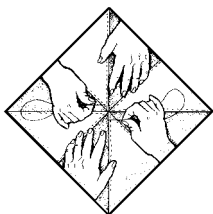
W/ELCA Board Meeting & Circle Meeting

**Tuesday, November 20th
November Bible Study
1:00 p.m.
Hostess - LaVonne Moss**

Misprint?

There was a woman from Big Ugly, West Virginia, who entered a beauty pageant. The next day the headline in the local paper read, "Big Ugly Woman Wins Beauty Pageant."

From "365 Day Brighteners to Lift Your Spirits." 2004 Day-Spring



Join us on Monday Mornings for Quilting! 9:00 a.m.

Quilts and lap robes are given to Lutheran World Relief, Hurricane Disaster Relief, the Open Door Mission and local nursing homes.

Drop by and help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs.

Coffee break is at 10:00 a.m. No special skills are needed except the ability to laugh and have fun!

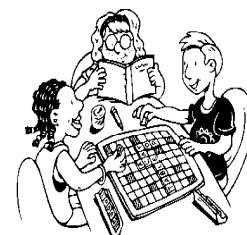
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday

**Games, Crafts, and Fun
Geared for Elementary Kids!**

Free!

If OPS is not in session, the After-School program does not meet!

Director, Brenda Spahr



After-School Program



**Lutheran Women of Omaha
Luncheon
November 11, 2008
12:00 p.m.
Cost - \$6.00**

Program - Hometowners - mixed vocal group
Project - NSWOW Vision Fund

Reservation are required and are due by Nov 9.
Call Mardelle Gocek at 292-1328



The thickest cloud may
bring the heaviest
shower of blessing.

Prayer Concerns from 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)
Info on Ron can be accessed at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronandersen>
- ♦ Sandy Fitzgerald - Cancer diagnosis - wisdom for the Drs. (member)
- ♦ 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)
- Family and friends of Harlan Morter as they mourn the loss of father, grandfather and friend.
- Fern Matson - Health issues. (member)
- Allisia Fredrickson -Had surgery to repair shattered ankle & torn ligaments. (Kids At Work Alumni)



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 - Ivo was honored at a farewell dinner on Sunday, October 19. He is scheduled to return to his duties in Africa at the Beginning of November. As commissioner of Mabaan, Ivo has many responsibilities both to his province and to Southern Sudan as he does representative and ambassador work in various refugee camps to raise support for important elections in 2009. His work makes him a target. Pray for his safety!

Mark Your Calendar! **Lutheran Service Corps** **Spaghetti Supper Benefit**

Sunday, November 9, 2008
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
510 N 93rd St
(93rd and Dodge)

Cost - Adults \$7.00
Children (5-12) \$4.00 (under 5) \$2.00
Families \$20.00



Benefit for Uta Halle Girls Village

Nuts and Candy
Just in time for Holiday Baking

Place Your order by November 14

Delivery - November 30

Payment for your order will be due upon delivery.

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



2009 God's Creation Calendar

Fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran Church Library

Only \$5.00!

The calendar shipment has arrived.

If you pre-ordered a calendar or wish to purchase one, contact

**Marsha Moyer
Brenda Spahr or
Barb Nelson**

These are great gifts for Christmas!

High Quality, Comparable to Calendars at the mall selling for \$12.00!

Hurry!

When they're gone...

They're GONE!



A Christmas tree will stand in the upper fellowship hall in December. The tree is called the Mitten Tree. As the season of Christmas progresses, the tree becomes gaily decorated with warm winter accessories.

Each year, people from Grace Lutheran Church bring donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and other warm items and place them on the tree. These gifts of warmth are donated to area shelters.

During the special sales in the month of November and December, consider adding a pair of mittens or a scarf or two to your shopping basket.

A father was reading a Bible story to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

<http://www.makeitclearnow.org>



Over 125 folks, hosts/hostesses, parents, and guest goblins attended the Halloween Party on October 24th at Grace Church.

Kids had the opportunity to play many games such as the Cake Walk, Bingo, Lollipop Tree, Witches Brew complete with floating pumpkins with prize #'s, Fish Bog, Bean Bag Toss, Ring Toss, and Mummy Wrap.

Your generous gifts included, loads of popcorn balls, candy galore, over 100 bottles of pop for the ring toss, trinket items for prizes and scads of yummy cupcakes and baked goodies for prizes in the cakewalk and for refreshments and as always, your gift of time made the night special for the kids. Thanks to all who helped decorate, run the games and handled the details, and those who stayed to help clean up the basement!



Halloween Party 2008 "Great Success!"

Right: Janet Hula (Head bent) surrounded by "goblins" ready to PARTY!



Above: Urbano Vasquez, "guest goblins", Marsha Moyer and Sarah Emery at the Lollipop Tree.



Above: The white object in the center of the picture is a hand-wrapped mummy! There is child under all that toilet paper!

Right: Kids at the Bean Bag Toss and the Fishing Bog vying for prizes.

Thanks, Everyone!



Grace Lutheran's Stewardship Theme for 2009

"Blessed by God to be a Blessing!"
Stewardship Drive begins on November 2nd.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:3).

As managers and stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, we have been blessed abundantly. Our hearts exclaim with the Psalmist, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits" (Psa. 103:2). What kind of benefits? God provides the seed, the rain and sunshine to cause a bountiful harvest. God gives health, strength and life it-self. God gives wealth and the ability to acquire that which belongs to Him. And because of His great love for us, God gives grace and eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ to all who look to Him in believing faith.

What should be our response to God's love and provision? The mature Christian realizes that God is the Source of everything, that God owns everything, and that all that we have is in one way or another a blessing from Him. The mature Christian seeks ways to use God's gifts to bless God and to be a blessing to others. The mature Christian seeks to cultivate a "stewardship lifestyle" concerning the time, talent and treasure God has provided to be a blessing to others.

There are numerous ways to do this, but one primary way is to give to the work of the Lord here at Grace Lutheran Church. Our giving to God — out of "willing hearts" — is thus a response to God's blessings in our life and to God's love for us.

As you consider the use of your time, talent and treasure as part of a "stewardship lifestyle," will you be part of those who have been "blessed by God to be a blessing" by completing your Faith Promise Card and returning it on November 23, 2008, "Our Blessings Response Sunday"? Will you ask God to give you specific direction concerning what you should give? Then will you covenant with God by faith to give in the coming months as He provides, even if you do not know where the funds will come from?

Remember that your Faith Promise is a commitment you make not to the church or the staff or any committee. It is to God. As you complete the Faith Promise Card, what you are saying, in effect, is this: "Lord, as you provide, by faith, this is how I intend to give in the future." No one will ever contact you about your Faith Promise. The only reminder which you might receive will be from the Holy Spirit as He guides you concerning your giving to this ministry.

Blessed by God to be a Blessing

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual
blessing in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:3).**

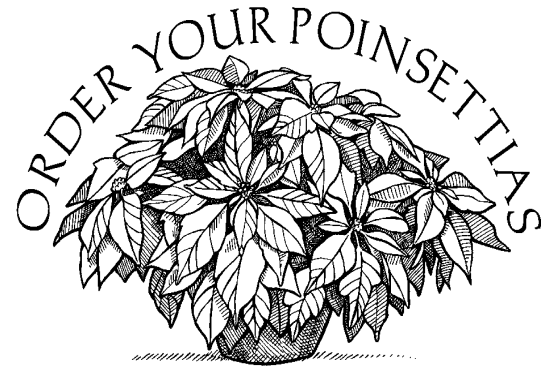
POINSETTIAS

Cost:
\$8.00 each

A Sign Up sheet
has been posted on the Bulletin Board

The Deadline for Ordering is December 7th

Be sure to designate whether you would like to take your flowers home after the holiday or donate them to the church for shut-ins or staff.



**Give Glory to God
through decorating
God's House
for the
Christmas Celebration!**

Thanksgiving Eve
Wednesday, November 26, 2008
Cristo Rey Iglesia Luterana
4440 South 25 Street

Cristo Rey Iglesia is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 26 at 7:00 p.m.. Many churches have been invited to join in a service of Thanksgiving and Fellowship. The friends and family of Grace Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend this service.

Mark your calendar and join in this wonderful opportunity to praise God for His bountiful blessings!



One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me and my brother, who is four years older than I am. I was maybe one and a half years old and had just recovered from an accident in which my arm had been broken, among other injuries. Someone had given me a little tea set as a get-well gift, and it was one of my favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news and my brother was playing nearby in the living room when I brought Daddy a little cup of "tea," which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my mom came home. My dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was "just the cutest thing!"

My mom waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watched him drink it up. She then asked, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place that baby can reach to get water is the toilet?"

Sign Seen at a Repair Shop:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING.

(PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

<http://www.goodquotes.com>



Working Together in God's service

The Theme for Project Hope for November is
Turkey Dinner Trimmings:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ♥ Canned Veggies like corn, carrots, beans, yams, peas. | ♥ Fresh potatoes or instant mashed potatoes |
| ♥ Gravy Mixes | ♥ Stuffing mix or pie crust mix |
| ♥ Marshmallows, brown sugar, spices | ♥ Paper Napkins |
| ♥ Canned Pumpkin | |
| ♥ Canned Cranberry sauce | Put gifts on the pantry shelves in the upper fellowship hall. |
| ♥ Pickles and olives | |

Nebraska Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

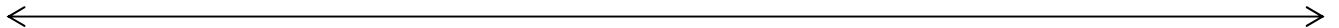
Please have your donations to the church by November 3, 2008

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.



We are asking that all donations be at the church by 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 3, 2007 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.



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!

Contact the Church office or Pastor Laaker
for Coupon Booklets

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

Coupons good at any Youunkers!

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.

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

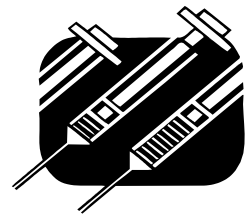
October 29 - Moyer/Sutej
Beef Noodle Casserole
Salad
Dessert
November 5 - Laaker
TBA
November 12 - Adrian
Mostaccoli
November 19 - Open

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

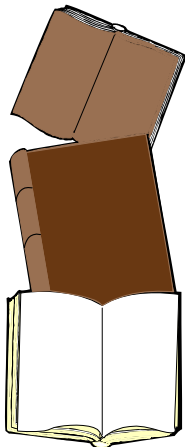
Are You Ready for Flu Season? Get Your Flu Shots!

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 S. 26 St.

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



The cost is \$25.00. The cost is covered if you have Traditional Medicare Part B or Railroad Medicare if this is your PRIMARY insurance. VNA is not able to accept any managed Medicare insurance.



You are invited to come to **Basic** Spanish for the Church, on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 pm at First Lutheran Church, 542 South 31st Street, Omaha. All are welcome. Cost: Free. For more information call 345-7506 and ask for Vicar Aaron.

Goals:

- ♦ Basic grammar and patterns of the Spanish language,
 - ♦ Vocabulary for basic communication, outreach,
 - ♦ liturgy and Christian life
- ♦ language skills for counseling and spiritual direction situations.
- ♦ Appreciation and respect for the culture and situation of Hispanics
 - ♦ and Latino/as in the United States.

Community News



Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

Next Meeting - November 20th at
Grace Lutheran Church.

Grace Lutheran Church Raised \$455.00 for Crop Walk!

By the way...

Have you paid your pledge to your walkers?
Contact Eva Martin or your walker for
complete information.



Thousands of Americans are in need of vital organ and tissues. For many, the chance to live a full life won't come unless many more of us consider organ and tissue donation. Discuss organ donation with your family and friends (after worship, work etc.). Help others find a chance to live a full life.

What can be donated?

- ◆ Organs
- ◆ Tissue
- ◆ Stem Cells
- ◆ Blood

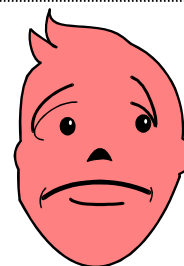
How do I become a donor?

- ◆ Designate your decision on your driver's license. Do this when you obtain or renew your license.
- ◆ Sign a donor card now. Carry the donor card with you until you can designate your donation decision on your driver's license or join a donor registry.
- ◆ Tell your family about your decision.

	Organ/Tissue Donor Card	
I wish to donate my organs and tissues. I wish to give:		
<input type="checkbox"/> any needed organs and tissues	<input type="checkbox"/> only the following organs and tissues:	
Donor Signature _____ Date _____		
Witness _____		
Witness _____		



Got the Holiday Blues? 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.

Allyson is the counselor for the South Omaha area. The service is made available to members of the community through the support from the Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation.



**DON'T
FORGET
TO VOTE**

November 4, 2008

Polls open from
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Vote No on Initiative 424

On November 4, Nebraskans will vote for or against Initiative 424, a measure that would amend the state constitution to bar the government from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin. This initiative has serious consequences for our church institutions. Scholarships and programs would be harmed by a yes vote. Please vote no.

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

David Kufford
&
Thomas and Mary Vondra
Invite you to attend a reception honoring
our mother,
Gertrude Kufford,
On the occasion of her 100th birthday.
Sunday, November 9, 2008
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Immanuel Village Community Room
6803 N 68th Plaza
Omaha, NE

- ◆ Thank you to the people who helped make the 2008 Halloween party here at Grace a success. This event is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors. Thank you for your faithful and enthusiastic response!
- ◆ Our sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Harlan Morter who went to be with the Lord on September 30, 2008. Absent in the Body but Present with the Lord.
- ◆ Thanks to our Crop Walkers and the folks that sponsored them. Your efforts raised \$455.00 for the Lutheran Pantry. Every \$1.00 gift translates into many pounds of food for families finding themselves in financial difficulties.

Minute Chocolate Mug Cake

1 Coffee Mug
4 Tablespoons flour (Not self-raising)
4 Tablespoons sugar
2 Tablespoons baking cocoa
1 egg
3 Tablespoons milk
3 Tablespoons oil
3 Tablespoons chocolate chips (Opt)
Some nuts (Opt)
Small splash of vanilla

- ◆ Add dry ingredients to mug and mix well.
- ◆ Add the egg and mix thoroughly.
- ◆ Pour in the milk and oil. Mix well.
- ◆ Add the chocolate chips and nuts (opt).
- ◆ Add the vanilla and mix well.
- ◆ Put the mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes on high.
- ◆ The cake will rise over the top of the mug so don't be alarmed.
- ◆ Allow to cool a bit and tip out onto a plate.

EAT!

Why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world? Because we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time, day or night!

(From the Internet)

Nursing Students Finishing Rotation with Interfaith Health Service



Our 4 amazing Nursing students, Emily, Lindsey, Madelyn and Erika are near completion in their Community Health Rotation with Interfaith and our Latinas in Action Program. Each student volunteered at least 10 hours for our program each week, for a combined total of 240 working hours!!! Dr. Beth Furlong accompanied the students every evening on their rotation and worked tirelessly with them during classroom hours on their program planning.

The students did so many things within the program. They helped one of our teenagers learn how to take a blood pressure and a pulse rate. They worked one on one with a teen and her mom in helping both navigate the College application system. They grew attached to our Super Kids Club participants (and vice versa) while teaching participants new self-esteem skills, ice breakers and games. They pulled together research articles on health and youth education, and compiled a book of games and communication ideas for our staff. They served as important role models for our youth. And they, along with our participants, made tee-shirts that say "Amigos en Accion" to celebrate the ministry.

Picking a favorite group of volunteers is like having a favorite child. However, I found this particular group of students outstanding and skilled on so many levels. I watched with pride as our children opened up to the students. On our very first evening hosting introductions with the children and students, I remember one of my most exuberant participants, Michael, sharing with the students the ways he was a good friend to others. He said he was a good listener, good at making others laugh, and that he knew Jesus was a good friend to him all the time so he tried to be a good friend all the time, too. Michael, whom I have known and grown increasingly fond over the past 3 years of his attending our program, surprised me that night with his honesty and his sharing. I talked with Michael's mom after the program and discussed Michael's comments to her. She was proud of her son and grateful for the group because she said it is something Michael looks forward to each week. Michael is 13 years old, and while some of his peers are acting out, Michael's mom said she is glad to have a place where Michael can be engaged in healthy activities, especially on Friday nights.

Michael and all of our Super Kids Club/Amigos in Action participants were able to attend a Creighton Soccer Game with the nursing students. Thanks to a lot of work and connections with Creighton's Soccer Coach and players, the students provided tickets to our participants and their families. Our participants were extremely excited about attending a game from the day it was announced and will continue talking about the game many months from now!

Two of our nursing students, Madelyn and Lindsey, hope to begin their nursing careers in Omaha. Both have promised they will come and visit from time to time to see how our youth are doing.

Gema and I look forward to welcoming a new group of student volunteers in the months ahead.

Virginia McGill, Director, Interfaith Health Service
660-6689





From the Editor

Unchangeable

God Never Changes.

so your future is secure and eternal.

CHANGE! That's the catch phrase that is sweeping the nation. Whatever the current situation, it is "bad." Only the "new" will save us! Every politician, no matter which party or which political race, is exclaiming change! All of them have a "plan" that will fix the problem. If elected, the politician will become our "savior" and sweep in to save us!

I have become weary of the promises and plans. This morning as I was pondering all the changes that may be coming, I felt anxiety. As I pondered the future, I came across this devotional on the internet. It brought me great comfort.

From the web site, *Discover God*
<http://discovergod.com>

"Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights. Unlike them, He never changes or casts shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

God never changes. In fact, it is impossible for God to change. The influences that cause change in your life have no effect on God. He will never be stronger or weaker. His knowledge and wisdom will not increase or diminish. God does not compromise or change His values. And God does not have mood swings. Life and its uncertainties may shake you, but God-the Rock of Ages-does not move. If you cling to Him, His strength will sustain you.

God's unchanging purpose gives you eternal significance. Psalm 33:11 states, *"The Lord's plans stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken."* God's plan is unchangeable. It existed at the beginning of creation and remains the same today. And you are part of His plan! Paul explains, *"We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago"* (Ephesians 2:10).

God's unchangeable ways assure you of unwavering guidance. Psalm 18:30 states, *"As for God, His way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true."* God's principles for life never change. His guidelines, given in Scripture, produce fruitful lives when you follow them.

God's unchanging Word equips you with timeless truth. Isaiah declared, *"The grass withers, and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever"* (Isaiah 40:8). God's words and commands are timeless.

God's unchanging commitment guarantees everlasting security. If you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can be assured of eternal life. God is eternally committed to your redemption, your spiritual growth, and your eternal destiny. God's commitment to you is as strong as He is eternally constant. The storms of life are continually changing, but God remains the same. He is consistent and reliable. He is your anchor. You can count on God because He never changes.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)."

The devotional is a gift from God for me, today. No matter what happens in the coming days, socially, politically, or spiritually, I can be assured that He NEVER changes. He is the plumb line. In worship, the pastor will say "God is good" and we respond, "all the time." There is comfort and peace in that statement. I can count on the fact that the plan He has is good and not flawed in any way. God's plan is the same yesterday, today and forever. He doesn't change His mind. I love the phrase from the devotional, "He will never be stronger or weaker." That's consistency we can count on. Truth that never waivers. A strong and sure foundation for our faith to rest on.

Heavenly Father, ever remind us that You never change!

“Living As God’s People”

A Prayer of Thanks



Thank you, God, for those who, like you,
Repair our homes and our hearts:
For electricians who fix our wiring and restore power lines;
For surgeons who repair blocked arteries and remove tumors;
For plumbers who unclog drains and fix leaking pipes;
For therapists who dispel the demons of our mind.

Thank you, God, for those who, like your Son,
Teach and guide us:
For teachers who give our children knowledge;
For saints who have taught us the true meaning of faith;
For professors who have challenged and pushed us to think;
For dads and moms who teach us to be uncommonly wise.

Thank you, God, for those who, like your Word,
Enrich our lives in the arts:
For singers whose voices make our hearts soar;
For writers whose written word gives us a new perspective;
For musicians who help us hear God’s songs;
For painters whose images give us a new vision.

Thank you, God, for those who, like your Spirit,
Work behind the scenes and out of the spotlight:
For secretaries who by their work make our work better;
For janitors who clean up after us;
For medical clerks who keep track of our records;
For cooks who make our meals.

We thank you, God, for all the ways in which the work we do imitates the work you do.
We pray that in our work we glorify you.
We pray that through our work we may reveal you.
We pray that as we work we may be aware of working with you. Amen.

Blessings!

David L. deFreese, a child of God and Bishop

(From Fill...Thrill...Spill...” September 2008 Nebraska Synod Newsletter)



November

Special Days at
Grace Lutheran Church
In November.

Every Wednesday Night - Faith Quest
(except November 26)
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Light Supper and Lessons

- ◆ 2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends.
- ◆ 3 - Shipment for LWR . Have your donations to the church.
- ◆ 6 & 7 - Confirmation Class at Grace.
- ◆ 11 - Church Council Meeting.
- ◆ 12 - Monthly Prayer Service.
- ◆ 14 - Newsletter Articles are due.
- ◆ Last day to order nuts and candy for Uta Halle fundraiser.
- ◆ 15 - Younkers Community Day.
- ◆ 18 - Newsletter Assembled.
W/ELCA board meeting and Circle.
- ◆ 26 - Community Thanksgiving Service, 7:00 p.m. at Cristo Rey Luterana.
- ◆ 27 - Thanksgiving Day.

- ◆ November is the 11th month of the year.
- ◆ Named for Tiberus Caesar.
- ◆ The Anglo-Saxons referred to November as the "wind month."
- ◆ One of four months that has 30 days.
- ◆ November begins on the same day of the week as March every year.
- ◆ November's Birthstone is the Topaz or Citrine.
- ◆ November's Flower is the Chrysanthemum.



November 11, 2008

Pray for all
soldiers
everywhere.

Veterans Day

"Carve your compliments in stone.
Carve your complaints in sand."

Sign outside a church in Albany, GA
From the Joyful Noise Newsletter, June 2008



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Harley L. Schwadron
Reprinted with permission



I purchased a telephone-answering machine with a prerecorded message that used a male voice. When Mother returned from vacation, I forgot to mention it to her.

The next Saturday, the phone rang and the machine answered. After the message, there was a pause and the caller hung up. A second time and the same result. Then the phone rang a third time. I heard, "This is your mother, I think. If I am, please call me."

<http://www.gcfl.net>

Thanksgiving Day

WORD LIST

apple
celebrate
cornucopia
cranberry
family
feast
Grace
gravy
harvest
Indian
Mayflower
pie
pilgrim
potato
pumpkin
stuffing
thankful
Thursday
tradition
turkey
yam

m m b h m j k p o t a t o h c
w a e p g k e t u r k e y i p
n x y r h e g q s m r v p n k
s t u f f i n g o d p h u d l
g m p i l g r i m z j k p i e
f c a t c o r n u c o p i a d
f e a s t e w v s g j f a n r
m w m g h e l e q c r s n f s
c y c r a n b e r r y a m w j
f o g a n m r k b y d x v d r
w e p c k m t h u r s d a y f
f h g e f l a o h f a m i l y
y q i v u s t r a d i t i o n
b a p p l e x f h a r v e s t

“Many people are like garbage trucks. They move around with spirits full of garbage – anger, hatred, fear, frustration, disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they feel the urge to dump it, and sometimes they’ll dump it on you.



“Don’t take them seriously. Forgive them, smile, laugh them off, and move on. Don’t take their garbage and spread it to other people at home, at work, or on the streets.
And pray for them.”

—Author unknown



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Harley L. Schwadron
Reprinted with permission