

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

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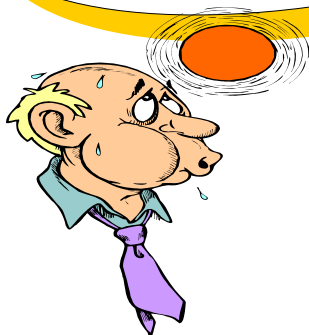
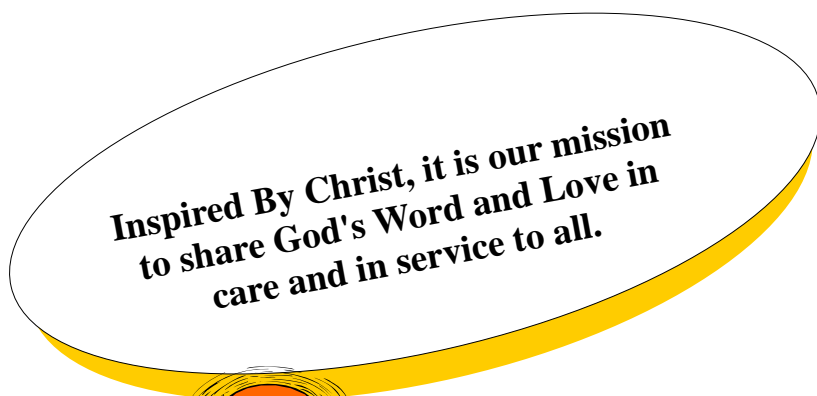
REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Vicar/Intern—Angela Khabeb
Editor/Church Secretary – Benhi !Khabeb
Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Lynda Laird
Sexton - Brian Sutej
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

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August
2009

THE
GRACE
MESSENGER



2009 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Sarah Emery (Sec)	June Hilmer
Andrew Edwards	Arlone Farber	Vicky Cox
David Nange	Ernest Olson	Gloria Moore
Vicar Angela Khabeb	Pastor Laaker	

** *****

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej

The regular meeting of the Council was held July 14th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing; Ron's neighbor Angelo, and for Ryan Shomers; care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal; Ken Hilmer & Arlone Farber. Praise for Vicki's friend Jill who just had a baby, and for friends that are expecting. Care for all those out on vacation this summer and those that are protecting us. Pastor led devotions from Job 14.1 and 1 Chronicles 15.42. The first encourages us to reflect on how short and difficult our lives can be. The second reminds us that God blesses us, even if all material things seem to fall away.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading "*Radical Welcome*" by Stephanie Spellers. Please re-read pages 63-74 in the book by the next meeting.

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

Christian Education: VBS begins soon! Final meeting tomorrow evening & set up on Saturday.

Evangelism/Outreach: Kids At Work is going great!

Finance: Endowment authorized \$ for KAW.

Property: Need to repaint sills on approx 10 windows on the South side. Also need to reset corner sign at 26 & Woolworth.

Service/Social Ministry: No new report.

Support/Stewardship: Quarterly statements sent.

Worship: Ms. Laird will remain with us permanently. YEAH!! Louisville guests will be with us on July 26. St. Luke's will have a new pastor soon.

Unfinished Business: Church was 120 years old in April. Pastor Hale will be here on the second Sunday in October.

New Business: Pastor's, Angela's, and Cody's party supply bills will be donated.

Announcements: Pastor will be at the family farm July 28-31 in Sidney NE. He will be at the dedication of the Lakota Center in Scottsbluff on August 26-28. Vicki will bring treats and lead prayer for our August meeting.



I would like to share with you some of the history of Grace Lutheran Church that I have uncovered by reading the minutes and documents that were stored in various places in the church. I intend to share more of this story in the months ahead. I would invite your reflection, additions, and notes.

The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States met in Omaha, Nebraska, at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, June 1-13, 1887. This was the 33rd biennial convention of the General Synod. During the business of the session on Tuesday, June 7th, 1887, the Secretary of the Board of Church Extension was given the floor to make an important announcement. He informed the Convention that while the General Synod had been in session, they had come into possession of a church site in the City of Omaha. Two lots in Shull's second addition had been donated by the Shull heirs for exclusively Lutheran Church purposes.

The conditions of the deed were:

"First - For the erection thereon of a church building to be known and designated as the "Shull Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church of Omaha."

"Second - Said Church building shall be of the cost and value of at least eight thousand dollars and shall be commenced within three years from the date hereof and completed within a reasonable time thereafter."

"Third - The use of said premises is hereby limited to the proper and legitimate purposes of a site for said church and a parsonage for the same and in case said premises be converted to any other than said use, the same shall thereupon revert to the grantors above named in the same proportions to each respectively as herein conveyed. To have and to hold said premises with the appurtenances unto the said The Board of Church Extension of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States and its successors and assigns forever but subject to the trust and limitations aforesaid."

At that time, the days of the great boom in Omaha, these lots were valued at \$8,000.00.

The original deed was executed on June 13, 1887. The heirs gave these lots in memory of their father and mother, Jacob S. and Susanna Shull. This donation was made in compliance with the wishes of their mother, Mrs. Susanna Shull.

In 1888, the Board of Home Missions of the General Synod commissioned Rev. Luther M. Kuhns to found and establish this new work. He arrived in Omaha, August 23, 1888. His commission authorized him to take charge of the development of the congregation. For this charge, he would be paid a salary of \$750.00 for the year, half to be paid by the Board of Missions and half by the mission. In addition, he had the written promise from the Board of Church Extension assuring him of the Board's intention to give "substantial aid and assistance" in erecting a church. In addition, he was told the parish boundaries were set at "20th Street on the east, Pierce Street on the north, and the Park." The park being Hanscom Park. September 1, 1888, the missionary was admitted to the roll of the Nebraska Synod. On Sunday, September 9, 1888, he preached his first sermon in Omaha. This was in Kountze Memorial Church. The text for the sermon was Acts 27:29: "They cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day."

Thursday evening, September 13, 1888, a meeting of persons interested in organizing a new church was held at the residence of Mr. L. H. Korty, 2556 Poppleton Avenue. About twenty person were present, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Korty, Captain and Mrs. John Swobe, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Dyball, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Rheem, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Horton, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Shull, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Shull, Mrs. Kate M. Jackman, Mrs. Ida Spooner, Mrs. Mary A. Elliott, Mrs. Laura Joliffe and her sister, Miss Alexander of Ottumwa, Iowa, Misses Hattie and Libbie Swobe, and Mr. R. W. Dyball, Jr. On the motion of Mr. R. W. Dyball, Sr., it was decided to effect the organization of a Lutheran congregation. Messrs. L. H. Korty, D. W. Shull, and Rev. Luther M. Kuhns were appointed to secure a place for worship. The only place open was a vacant house on South 26th Street. The owner, Mr. Thomas, asked \$47.00 a month rent. At the appointed meeting, Wednesday evening the following week, it was decided not to rent the house but to accept the offer of Richie and Moss to build a temporary frame chapel on the lots intended for the use of the congregation. While the chapel was being constructed, prayer meetings were held in the homes.

May we continue in prayer as the history of Grace Lutheran Church continues to be written for years to come.

Pastor Laaker

Welcome Back
Fall Start-Up
W/ELCA Board/Circle Meeting
September 15, 2009

1:00 p.m.
Hostess and Bible Study Leader:
Norma Olson



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*



**Welcome
Back!**

Quilting will resume
on Monday,
September 14th
9:00 a.m.
*Coffee and Jokes at
10:00 a.m.*

Save the Date!
Sunday, August 16

Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Last Sunday of Kids at Work
Attendance, Participation and Super Saver Awards given

Guest Ministry Team:
The Life In Christ Circus Clown Ministry

Traditional circus clowns, at their best, serve up generous portions of the foibles of our own human nature for our amusement. Christ Clowns add a new dimension to the circus clown. They are “fools for Christ: in the best sense of those words of St. Paul (1 Cor. 4: 8-13). With their colorful antics they reveal our human frailties and allow us to laugh at ourselves.

Christ Clowns explode into the humdrum of daily routine with colorful costumes and makeup. They play and laugh with children of all ages. They are tricked and trampled, but never defeated because they stand in the cross of Christ and in the glory of the resurrection

All Church Picnic at 12:30 p.m.
The Clown Ministry will be with us for the meal!



The church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and the paper products.

Please bring salads, chips and desserts to complete the meal.
If you are willing to provide buns or condiments, a sign up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.

Kids At Work 2009



This summer Kids At Work has participated with some special projects.

One project involved helping Good Neighbor Ministry located at Faith Bible on 27th and Hickory. Youth assisted with removal of branches and tying up four-foot lengths of twigs from a fallen tree, in order to make hauling away debris easier. Boys in this group enjoyed finding several garter snakes in and around the branches and twigs. Appreciation was extended to the youth from Stephen Stout, Good Neighbor Ministry Coordinator.

Another special project partnered with the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army received a donation of 1600 book bags and needed help unloading, inserting information and repacking the book bags back into the boxes. Eight youth from the Kids At Work Summer Program were able to complete this special project in a two-hour time frame! Good work to both teams and their leaders for a job well done!

Aside from youth helping out with special projects this summer, Kids At Work as also maintained their partnership with the weekly worksites as well. Youth have assisted with moving furniture and miscellaneous items for the Lutheran Home. Precious Memories also need assistance with toddlers out in the backyard's huge sand box.

The summer program is quickly coming to an end. Our last workday will be Wednesday, August 5th the Awards Ceremony will be held Sunday, August 16th. We will have the Clown Ministry returning and a potluck lunch following worship service. Please bring a salad or desert to share with everyone! Additional information provided in the newsletter.

Brenda Spahr
Kids At Work, Director



Samantha, Brisa, Victor,
Tito, Thomas, Bradley,
Danaka, D'Ondrae and An-
drea after a fun filled day of
working!

VBS In Pictures!!!! Whao what fun we had.....



Confirmation Camp Kids at Carol Joy Holling Camp



VBS - ROME! – ROME!

From July 18th through the 24th, the lower fellowship hall at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church was transformed into Rome! That's right, Vacation Bible School staff and attendees went to Rome to visit Paul and the Underground Church. Children and adults experienced how early followers of Christ began to form the "Christian" church.

What a wonderful event! Everyone had fun dressing up as Romans, singing, dancing and praising God at Extollo (Latin word meaning praise). Then students joined one of six Roman families to travel to Paul's house where he was being held under house arrest. Then they moved on to the Underground Church, Apprenticeship Games, and finally to the Marketplace Shops. The shops provided the opportunity to work with metals, wood, architecture and wreath-making. Kids could also try on togas, and practice their skills at writing as scribes and counting on their abacus' at Grammaticus School. Period foods were enjoyed in the food shop, including: grapes, figs, dates, olives, cheese, breads, rat kabobs (really chicken), grape drink, and beef jerky.

On opening night, thirty-three children enrolled to participate. That number grew to forty-five by the week's end. What a wonderful group we had!

Thanks to all who helped make Rome happen . . .

Angelina Adrianus	Eva Martinius
Ron & Donna Adrianus	Carolyn Matsonius & her cousin Elainia
Scott & Melissa Adrianus	Ferne Matsonius
Danaka Ashcraftius	Gloria Mooreius
Kym Baueriuis	Loren & Marsha Moyerius
Bradley Collettius	Barbara Nelsonius
Andrew Edwardius	Susie Petersonius
Tom & Sarah Emery-ius	Nena Rodriguezius
Angela Everittius	Ronni Schachtius
Alexandra Everittius	Shawn Shifferius
Larry Foremanius	Andrea Spahrius
Nick Fredricksonius	Brenda Spahrius
Julie Fredricksonius	Kathy Starmanius
Donavan Hafhillius	Margie Sutejius
Marissa Hafhillius	Samantha Trejoius
June Hilmerius	Deb Vollmerius
David Huffordius	Emily Wigtonius
Greg & Janet Hulaius	Sally Wigtonius
Benhi & Vicar Angela Khabebius	
Jeni McPeckius	This was truly an awesome group of volunteers!
Pastor & Mary Laakerius	If I've overlooked you in this list, I am truly sorry!

Special thanks to our Roman Sewing Circle, including Angela's neighbor and her neighbor's out of town guest! And, to everyone who donated fabric for our costumes and togas, as well as decorations, baskets, fake fruit, blankets and rugs. Thanks to those in our Roman congregation who generously gave their denarii to aid in the purchase of supplies and food.

**Deo gratias! Thanks be to God for our Roman Grace Lutheran congregation
and friends who made this event possible!**

Your Rome Director, Janet Hula

Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends



- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Sandy Fitzgerald - Cancer treatments continues. (member)
- ◆ David Nange's son, Paul as he recovers from surgery on his knee. (Council member)
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - As he struggles with dizziness and breathing problems.(member)
- ◆ La Vonne Moss -Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Fern Matson - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Elna Burns - Suffered a stroke sister of Don Olson (member)
- ◆ Kristine (Nelson) Mauler- Treatment for her cancer. (daughter of Barbara Nelson))
- ◆ Arlone Farber - Treatment for her cancer. (member)
- ◆ Wendy Henexson- Recovery from transplant surgery. (daughter of Pastor Liz Conner)
- ◆ Ambros Lado - Ongoing health issues and as a result of cancer. (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 the new Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.

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

Pastor Laaker

Vicar Angela and family

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.
- ◆ Remember John Ivo Mouto. John is working several very dangerous locations in Africa.

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



Youth in Mission



When I was getting ready for the Youth in Mission trip to Chicago, Mexico, and Arizona, I was excited. I was excited to go see different places I have not been to and just learn. It didn't matter what I would have learned, I just wanted to go! Now, sitting down, writing this all out, the Youth in Mission trip was not what I was expecting. I went on the trip, blind, self-conscious, with an open mind and without an open heart. In the first days of the trip, I kept to myself, not really wanting to make friends, not really wanting to listen at the sessions because they were so early in the morning and long. Later, when I first started writing in my journal, I realized that making friends and listening to all the professors was unavoidable; learning was unavoidable. I especially realized this when I went to worship at Trinity church in Chicago and heard Rev. Moss III preach. Talk about motivational! I was being ridiculous and selfish. What kind of trip would it be if I didn't think about others and just myself, if I didn't have fun and didn't try to listen at the same time, if I didn't change? I would rather leave this question unanswered in writing because, I already know the answer in my heart.

All the people were nice and all that we learned was interesting; though some professors might have made it sound boring. Not only did I need an open mind, but I needed an open heart to learn these things. I learned about systematic racism, the Islamic religion, immigration and how wasteful we all are, without knowing it! This is what I mean by being blind when I came on the YIM trip; not knowing the damage we all do. Not knowing, not ACCEPTING other people for who they are, or what they do, how much pain others go through to be where they are now, working to have a great life. I believe that everyone deserves something great in life; even if it is coming to America (where the economy is better than other countries, but more wasteful) to work hard for their family to have a better life.

While in Mexico, I met a family whose shelter was worse than some places I've seen in America. We are too ignorant to see that there are people out there who are having a tougher time, who are suffering more than we are. We Americans think we have it hard with the recession...try living in Mexico where the government does not even try to help their people. There are also certain people in Mexico who have it worse than the worst! The indigenous people are being more ignored than the Mexican people themselves. Imagine worse conditions; barely enough drinkable water, NAFTA not helping with local farmers, no other jobs than farming and working in sweatshops. However, the most upsetting part is that the indigenous people in Mexico want to not only help themselves, but others all over the world who are suffering like they are! These people are called the Zapatistas, and the government wants them terminated. I'm upset that I had to learn these things instead of paying attention in the first place, however, I am glad that I did learn about these issues and that I now am aware of them. It adds to my knowledge and makes me want to help our country, help the world by doing something about lowering discrimination, because sadly, it will never fully go away. Also to recycle when I'm not using things, understand other religions though I may not believe the others beliefs, and finally, to give anything I can (prayer, service, my voice to spread the word and stand up for what is right) rather than receive and see what I want to see. The world is changing, in a bad way, and I have to help spread the word to NOT change with it. If we do, we'll all be thunderstruck by what is in store in the future. Coming back from the Youth in Mission trip, I feel refreshed, a new person with an open mind AND heart. I am very glad I was able to go.

Samantha Trejo



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Pantry Needs

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

Project Hope

The Theme for August is
Personal Care Items

Shampoo, Deodorant, Tooth Paste, Toothbrushes, Hand Soap and Body Wash, Brushes, Combs, Nail Clippers, Hand Lotion, etc.

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

Place your donations on the pantry shelf in the Upper Fellowship Hall at the church.



Please gather items for the backpacks First Lutheran will be giving. They are asking for backpacks, notebooks, pens, crayons, folders, colored pencils, washable markers, glue, glue sticks, rulers, pencil boxes, and one subject spiral notebooks.

You can bring these items to Grace Lutheran Church whenever you catch a good bargain !



Back to School

First Lutheran Church
542 South 31 Street
Annual Back to School Carnival

Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Free games, free food and, while supplies last, free back packs and school supplies.



News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

Got an item to share?

Let the church office know about it!

Thank you to all who extended birthday wishes and a special thanks to my niece, Carolyn Matson for the beautiful cake it was very touching. God Bless you

Dorothy Novak

Grace Lutheran Family and Friends

Thank you so much for your help and support. Without all your help I am not sure I would be able to go. I had a lot of fun on the trip and have made many new friends, and I learned things I had not known before. And though some things were emotionally mentally and physically difficult really at times I got through it help the help and support of the friends I made and our Heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ. Without all your help and support, I would not have had the opportunity to strengthen my faith and learn new important things. Thanks again,

Samantha Trejo

Thank you for your donation of food and personal care items. Your continued support is such a blessings to and those we serve.

God Bless You

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

Summer Reading Program: Petal your way through the summer by reading a good book. The annual summer reading contest is now in full bloom. Come check out a book today!

Wine Tasting Fundraiser: Lutheran Service Corps is sponsoring its 1st Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Saturday, August 8, 2009, at 7:05 p.m. Vineyard Springfield, NE. Tickets are available from Pastor Laaker \$30 person and \$50 for two people.

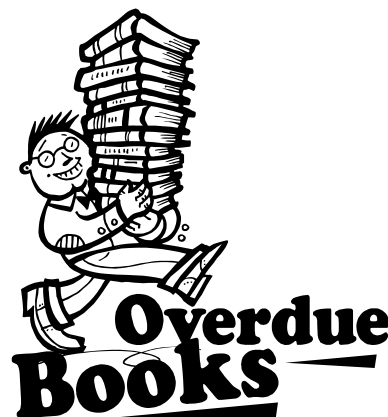
Please...

Please...

Pretty Please!

If you have an overdue library book,
Won't you bring it back so that
others may enjoy it?

If you aren't sure if you have a book out that the librarian is waiting for, check with Eva Martin. Thanks!





Virginia McGill
Director, (402) 660-6689
Gema Wolde
(402) 616 4721

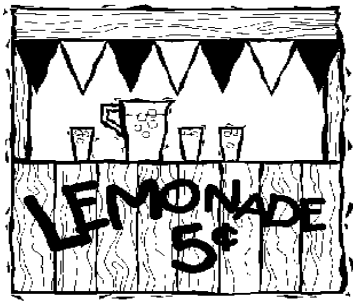
Latinas in Action Participants Celebrate Milestones Together!

One of the many blessings about my work with Latinas in Action is getting to share in the special celebrations of our participants and their families. This month, several of Interfaith's Latinas in Action families were invited to a fabulous celebration for Abbey (the daughter of Maria, and sister of Veronica, both of whom have participated in our Interfaith group for over two years). Abbey is a proud 2009 graduate of Bryan High School and her mom is quite possibly the most proud "parent of the graduate" that I have encountered this year. In the best of all possible ways.

Maria rented out the entire hall of a restaurant in South Omaha, just off 24th street for Abbey's celebration, and not one chair in the entire hall was empty. Friends, relatives, co-workers and Latinas in Action participants all arrived to congratulate Abbey and her mom and dad, while the dinner and dancing went on until midnight. Gema and her family and my family and I were so honored to be in attendance. It isn't every day that we are blessed in being welcomed into a family and a celebration the way we were welcomed by Maria. She took a lot of time to sit with us at our table and ask about our lives, even though she had many people to see. She also helped ensure that Abbey, dressed in her graduation cap, personally spoke with us upon arrival and escorted us to a table, and walked us to the door upon our exit.

Perhaps one of the many reasons Maria is proud of Abbey is that Abbey won a state-wide scholarship for an essay on her desire to attend college and the desire to learn instilled in her by her primary role model, her mom. When I pressed Maria, a woman of great humility when it comes to her own accomplishments, she promised to bring a copy of Abbey's essay to the next Latinas in Action class to share it with our participants. I asked Maria if I could write an article about the graduation fiesta for our Interfaith newsletters and she said "only if you change my name. But my daughter's name, you don't have to change. I am so proud of her. What a blessing to have a daughter who has accomplished so much." And I, in turn, am equally blessed by Maria and all of our participants who have such a commitment to learning within Interfaith's programs.

Virginia McGill Interfaith

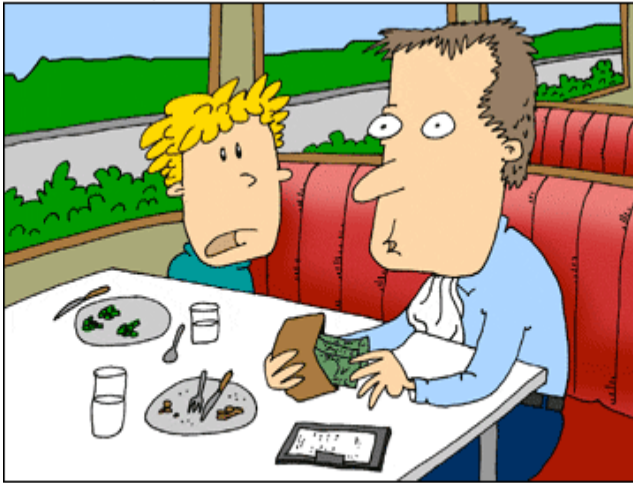


AUGUST

August Trivia

- ☼ has 31 days
- ☼ 8th month of the year.
- ☼ Named in honor of Augustus, known as Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, one of the most important Roman Emperors. (Octavian)
- ☼ Flower - gladiolus or poppy.
- ☼ Birthstone - peridot, sardonyx, or sapphire.

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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See Matthew 4:6) 03-18-2005

THINGS EASED UP ON GUARDIAN ANGELS AFTER AIR BAGS WERE INVENTED

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Thanks to Dan 12-03-2007

ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman 05-02-2007

LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

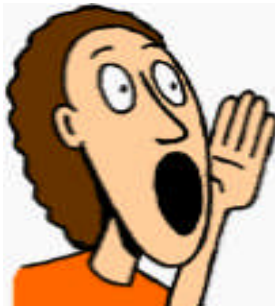
Luke, Chapter 13, Puzzle 1

WORD LIST

away	Jerusalem
bent	kill
chicks	last
crippled	narrow
cut	pleading
delighted	praised
desolate	Sabbath
died	saved
dig	seed
door	six
dough	soil
eighteen	stall
evildoer	tell
feast	told
fell	tomorrow
few	water
fig	weep
flour	west
fox	wings
free	year
goal	
hen	
humiliated	
hypocrite	

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

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Whaaaat?

An elderly gent realized he needed to purchase a hearing aid, but he felt unwilling to spend much money.

"How much do they cost?" he asked the salesperson.

"That depends," he said. "They run from \$2.00 to \$2,000."

"Let's see the \$2.00 model," said the miserly man.

The salesperson put the device around his neck. "You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket," he instructed.

"How does it work?" asked the man.

"For \$2.00, it doesn't work," the salesperson replied. "But when people see it on you, they'll talk louder!"