

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

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**Email:** [graceluth@graceluth.com](mailto:graceluth@graceluth.com)  
**Web Site:** [www.graceluth.com](http://www.graceluth.com)

**REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS**

**9:00 A.M. Christian Education**

**10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

**Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker**

**Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr**

**Organist - Lynda Laird**

**Sexton - Brian Sutej**

**Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill**

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



# **THE GRACE MESSENGER**



## 2010 Council Members

Greg Hula  
Andrew Edwards  
Arlone Farber

Gloria Moore  
David Nange  
Vicky Cox  
Pastor Laaker

Vicky Cox  
Ernest Olson  
Samantha Trejo

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej

The regular meeting of the Council was held on April 12. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for Sandy Fitzgerald, who is battling brain cancer and for Mickey Andersen, who is struggling with health concerns; we pray for Kent Cattlett as he continues his treatments for lung cancer and for Kevin Courtney, as he has recently been diagnosed with colon cancer; we pray for Barbara Nelson, as she recovers from her stroke; we pray for Jerry Goodrich, as he continues to heal and is having financial concerns because of illness and we pray for Joe Horwath, who is in hospice care; we pray for our Grace shut-ins; we pray for the safety of the people in Thailand, as unrest is causing much upheaval; we pray for the nations of Haiti, Chile, and Indonesia, as well as Southern California, as they recover from earthquake damage; we pray for the safety of police, patrol officers, and service people as they protect our cities and country; we pray for Bob, Ernie's friend, as he is recovering from a stroke, we pray for Dennis Grabbe as he continues healing after heart surgery, we pray for Ollie Olson, as he is having a pacemaker put in, and we pray for Ernie's Aunt, Jan, as she is having foot surgery; we pray for the people of Poland, who have lost several of their leaders in a tragic airplane accident; we pray for the violence in our own city and schools to have peaceful resolution; and we pray for the leaders of our country as they make decisions that affect all of us.

Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses of Jeremiah 31:31 and 1 Corinthians 11:25 from the "*Daily Texts*." These verses tell us that the Lord has a new covenant which looks beyond suffering, and offers hope, renewal, and restoration to the people.

Visions for Ministry: The Council had a discussion about an article that touched upon cultural experiences when individuals go "shopping" for a church. Developing lasting relationships is the key to having people come back to any church. We are reminded that even Jesus had to build lasting relationships with people.

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

Christian Education: Janet Hula will be directing Vacation Bible School this year, with the dates being June 21-25. Faith Qwest has resumed and will continue through the end of the school year.

Evangelism/Outreach: The Kids at Work program will hold their annual dinner on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, with the Council members being invited to meet the kids and their families.

Finance: The Council passed a motion for Pastor Laaker to pursue a conversation with Pastor Webb from St. Luke's on cooperatively sharing a "Lutheran Volunteer" position.

Property: The stain glass window work is underway at Grace. We thank Loren Moyer, for spear-heading the restoration work on the basement play room.

Service/Social Ministry: No new report.

Support/Stewardship: Quarterly statements are out.

Worship: Numbers held steady for the Easter and Holy Week services.

Unfinished Business: Anyone interested in attending the Synod Assembly in Grand Island on June 4-5, let Pastor Laaker know.

New Business: The Nebraska Synod will be hosting a Priest that works in Africa to address the Sudanese on immigration issues. This will take place on May 7-9.

Announcements: Arlone Farber will bring treats and lead prayer for our May Council meeting.



Each day I receive a devotional piece from Rev. Richard Rohr. He begins by asking a question and then shares a reflection. During this past week was the occasion of Earth Day, so many of his reflections focused on our relationship to our world. Here is one of those reflections:

“Your soul is your deepest you. We’ve called it the True Self, who you are in God, who you are in your deeply connected, invisible self. For many of us, it’s a scary place to go because for forty, fifty, sixty years, we’ve defined ourselves by our roles, our titles, our degrees, our clothes, our ethnicity...all those things that are going to die in a few years, anyway. The soul is before all of that, deeper than all of that, and also what endures after that! All seem to agree that the soul has an eternal quality to it.

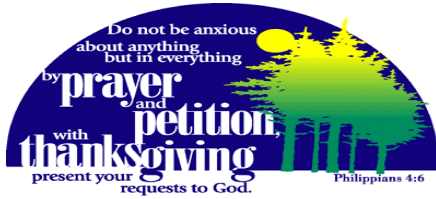
“I don’t think that there is any way we can more *quickly* make contact with that soul than through nature. Both Bill Plotkin and Brian Swimme say that nature has an “alluring” quality to it. Try to listen to that pull, nature’s inherent delight, that cosmic allurements which you feel in nature and around animals much more than in anything constructed by human hands. “I don’t know anything that can mirror us more lovingly, more truthfully, and more foundationally, than nature itself. Religion just takes it from there! Today let Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Dog, Sister Water talk to you. And you know what? They always talk to you in a nonjudgmental way and a fully accepting way! That is what we mean by mirroring. So today we find that dogs and horses are among the most successful “therapists” for many people who have been deeply wounded by society.”

As I reflect on what he says, I find myself thinking about the ways God speaks to me through nature. I have shared with you in a variety of ways my connection to the soil. I love to get my hands in the dirt of my garden. There is something whole and holy about the connection to nature. I thank God for the opportunity to be connected to the nature that God has created. I don’t know that I would have connected this dirt experience with soul.

I do know that many people experience great peace through dogs and horses. I am grateful that these creatures can help individuals experience more fully the fullness of God.  
May we all experience the fullness of our soul, who we are in God.

*Pastor Laaker*





## Prayer Concerns Family and Friends

- ♦ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ♦ Mae Lane - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ♦ Grace Traynor - Ongoing health issues. (daughter of Norma Olson)
- ♦ Ken Hilmer - As he struggles with health issues. (member)
- ♦ La Vonne Moss -Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ♦ Fern Matson - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ♦ Kristine (Nelson) Mauler- Treatment for her cancer. (daughter of Barbara Nelson))
- ♦ Wendy Henexson- Ongoing recovery from receiving a transplant. (daughter of Pastor Liz Conner)
- ♦ Lado family - as they grieve the past of their father and husband.
- ♦ Dennis Olson - as he recovers from surgery. (brother of Don Olson)
- ♦ Barbara Nelson - as she recovers from a stroke. (member)

### **Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:**

Mae Lane - St Joe Villa.

Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

Thelma Harrahill - (In Kansas with her children)

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

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.

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

Pastor 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.

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

# More Community News

## *Healing the Healers*

*Father Paul Boyle presents trauma healing workshops for Sudanese people. Fr. Boyle has formed the Holistic Trauma Healing Inc, a program based in Nairobi, Kenya.*

*Friday, May 7, 5pm - 9pm, Disabled Veterans Hall, 4515 F Street.*

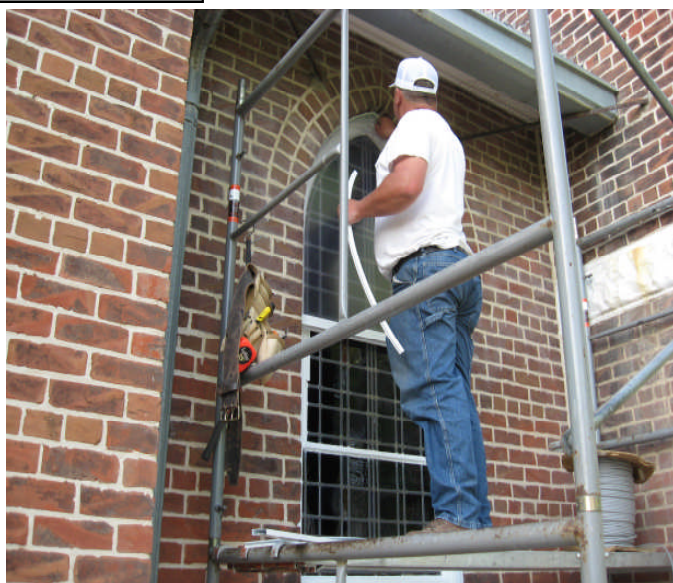
*Saturday, May 8, 9am-6pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 1326 S 26th Street.*

*Sunday, May 9 11am - 5pm, Disabled Veterans Hall, 4515 F Street*

## *We Survived Together*

*In memory of the event that spark the birth of the organization Together Inc, of Metropolitan Omaha invites you to join Mayor Jim Suttle in observance of the 35th anniversary of the 1975 Omaha Tornado. At 4pm, on May 6 at the Together Inc headquarters. Please contact for more info Erin Stoll at 402) 345 847*

Willet Hauser workmen are hard at work repairing the stained glass windows on the church building. The work includes repairing rotting window sills, sealing the lead joints and replacement of the protective glass with lexan. We are grateful for their attentive work.



## **Mission Investment Fund Minute**

**April 2010**

### **Scoring a Positive Influence**

I've been following the University of Nebraska women's basketball team, especially through this tournament month. As young girls across the state follow and look up to the lady Huskers and their successful season, many believe that a foundation is being laid for a new and stronger culture of girls basketball across the state of Nebraska. The activities and success of Nebraska women's basketball could end up having a long-lasting, positive influence on their younger admirers.

In this world we can always use more examples of people and activities that have a positive influence on our children. If you agree, you might look at MIF's investment offering for kids aged birth to 16, called MissionFuture4Kidz. Anyone - including parents, grandparents, sponsors - can establish an account in a child's name for as little as \$50. Setting up and growing the account sets a good example as the account not only grows from reinvested interest, but also from any additional deposits made over time; ultimately maturing when the child is 18 years old. An MF4K account is one of those positive, influencing actions that can lead to:

- Better savings habits
- Greater appreciation of the ministries of the church.

To learn more about MissionFuture4Kidz, contact me or [click here](#).

Cheers and blessings,  
*Paula*



# “Helping Hands”

*Hope for the hungry, hopeless  
and homeless.*



Project Hope  
The Theme for May is Soap.

Laundry Soap, Dish soap, Hand soap



## SEW FUN!

The quilters are making beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief and little lap robes for some of the patients at local nursing homes.

### Want to help?

They meet most Mondays  
from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

No special skills required.



## Pentecost

May 23, 2010

Pentecost is a time of **red** -- a color of fire and zeal and passion and heat. The Spirit is incendiary within us.

In celebration of the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost, wear something red or orange to church on Sunday, May 23th!

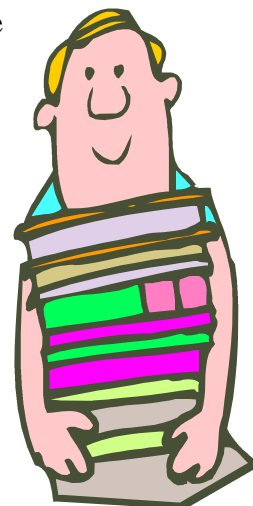
## Happening in the Library!

### Thanks a Bunch!

Thank you to all the folks who donated and purchased used books during the Lenten Book Sale. Thanks to Marsha Moyer for maintaining the sale table.

## Gear up for the Grace Library Summer Reading Contest!

In mid to late June, we will kick off our annual summer reading contest. Many new books have been added over the past several months so there are new adventures to take with your favorite characters. Several of the popular Christian fiction series have sequels so check the shelves to see if there is more of the saga to read.





# Community News



## *Columbus Park Neighborhood Association*



Next Meeting - May 20  
Grace Lutheran Church - 1326 S 26 St.

For more info about CPNA,  
contact Stephen Stout, President at 341-7020.



The foundation is laid for the 12<sup>th</sup> home that Neighbors South Habitat Coalition will build this summer. Work begins on the build Friday, June 18. Volunteer forms are available at the church and on the Neighbors South web-site ([www.neighborsouth.org](http://www.neighborsouth.org)). The build site is 2100 Poppleton Ave. Come on out and help build a simple decent home for a family in need.

## **7th Annual Lutheran Service Corps Charity Golf Tournament** **Date: May 17, 2010 (Rain or Shine)**

Place: Oak Hills Country Club—12325 Golfing Green Dr. Omaha, NE 68137 - 402-895-3636 Time: 11:30 Registration Opens & Raffle Begins 12:00.  
Box Lunch in Cart 12:30 - Shotgun Start 6:00 pm Banquet & Auction

**Registration Form**— Individual Golfer \$125 Deadline May 8, 2010—Mail registration to Lutheran Service Corps— 6220 N. 30th Street Omaha, NE 68111 -Attention Bill Davis

## *World Malaria Day was April 25!*

Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease that claims a life every 30 seconds. You can take action.

- Consider a gift to the ELCA's anti-malaria work. Just \$10 may provide a mosquito net to protect a family in a malaria-prone area. A gift of \$100 could train a village health team on malaria prevention. Donate here: <https://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=488>
- Take a few minutes to learn how your church is teaming up to fight malaria! Check out the Lutheran Malaria Initiative here: [www.elca.org/lmi](http://www.elca.org/lmi)
- "Count yourself in to Count Malaria Out" here: [http://www.worldmaliaday.org/countmein\\_form\\_en.cfm](http://www.worldmaliaday.org/countmein_form_en.cfm)

# News from Grace Lutheran Church



*Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

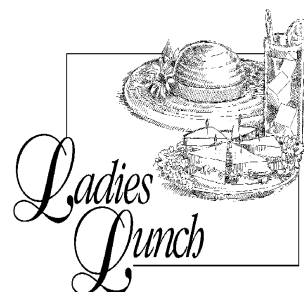
## W/ELCA Board and Circle Meeting

**May 18, 2010**

**1:00 p.m.**

Bible Study Leader  
**Norma Olson**

Hostess  
Gertrude Hufford



## **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Here at Grace  
June 21 – 25, 2010  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Families Welcome!

***From east to west, people are coming to be a part of God's Great Get-Together  
Come and be a part of a welcoming, engaging, happening community during a week of  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.***

***YOU . . . are needed at the  
GET-TOGETHER!***

***Please sign up to help - see the VBS bulletin board in the upper fellowship hall.***

***Then, save these dates and plan to attend PLANNING MEETINGS here at the church:***

Thurs. May 20, 6:30 pm  
Tues. June 1, 6:30 pm  
Tues. June 15, 6:30 pm  
Sat. June 19, 9:00 am – set up & decorate

**Lutheran Women of  
Omaha Luncheon**  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
1312 South 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
**May 11 at Noon**  
**60th Anniversary  
Observance**

Program      Lauritzen  
Gardens  
Project      Lutheran  
World Relief

**Reservation Required by  
May 9th**

Call Mardelle Goeck at  
292-1328

Cost is \$6.00 per person

*Janet Hula, Director*





Virginia McGill,  
Director (402) 660-6689  
Gema Wolde, Assistant  
(402) 616-4721  
Se habla español .

#### Interfaith Health Service Spotlight on Carlos

Last month, Carlos, one of Interfaith's Artists and Amigos in Action participants, sagely pointed out that no males have been featured in our recent articles or on our website! In fact, Carlos had me wondering if we have ever featured a male in our columns. While Interfaith's Latinas in Action Program is designed, staffed and led by women, our teen and children's programming is home to dozens of males, all of whom hold a special place in our hearts.

Carlos has been part of our group for three years now. He is charming, talkative, and welcomes new experiences. He especially enjoys IHS's Summer Program activities like our parachute games, relay races, frisbee tournaments and outer space tag games. Carlos also has a talent for art, as demonstrated by his creations in our Wednesday classes at St. Francis church. He likes to draw cars more than anything else and his eye for detail in his drawings is remarkable. Carlos asks me every few weeks to print off pictures of racing cars from the internet so that he can take the pictures home and replicate them as drawings with crayons or markers.

I took Carlos up on his offer to serve as our 1<sup>st</sup> Latino in the Spotlight and promised him that more of our young male participants would follow his lead in the future! Listed below are some highlights of my conversation with Carlos. He is excited to be featured so he can "prove my friends at school that I am a real celebrity."

Age: 8 years old

Siblings: One older sister, one younger brother

School: Bancroft.

Favorite subjects in school: Physical education, math

Aspirations: Race car driver or police officer

Favorite sport: Basketball

Favorite food: Pizza!

Favorite animal: dog--I have a great dog at home

Dream: Travel to Hawaii and learn to surf

Special talents: I'm good at technology and computers

Why having siblings is good: There is always someone to play with at home

Favorite colors: Red and black

Favorite season: Spring because no one has to wear a jacket

Best thing about Latinas in Action: Seeing my friends and playing soccer! I'm also glad my mom and brother and sister get to go to Latinas in Action with me.

As Interfaith congregation members and partners, your continuing to lift up amazing participants like Carlos, his mom and all of our dedication participants in prayer is appreciated.

*Virginia McGill  
Interfaith Health Service*

# Kids At Work 2010



**Monday, May 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. will be the Kids At Work Welcome Dinner. The dinner gives an opportunity for both the Grace Lutheran Church Council and the youth and their families who have signed up to participate in the program this summer to dine and visit with one another.**

Please do not panic, there is still room for a youth or two to sign up and be a part of this summer's activities, please feel free to call me at the numbers listed below if you or anyone you know that is interested.

**One question remains, do you want to be a Kids At Work Team Leader this summer?**

**Team Leaders make a difference; leaders are there to encourage the youth to complete job tasks correctly. Youth may discover job skills they enjoy completing or job skills they know will not be in their future. This program brings an increasing awareness in different activities in the workplace in the surrounding neighborhood for the youth.**

**Being a team leader is not the only way to help with Kids At Work. When the youth return to church after completing their daily job tasks at various work sites, they are hungry and thirsty. Please consider providing a simple snack or beverage.**

**If you have a project idea that you think the Kids At Work could do for the church or for someone in the area, give me a call at church, 341-7730 or at home, 551-4347.**

Brenda Spahr

*Kids At Work, Director*

*How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit?  
Unique Up On It*

*What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches?  
A Nervous Wreck*

*Where Do You Find a Dog With No Legs?  
Right Where You Left Him*

*Why Don't Blind People Like To Sky Dive?  
Because It Scares The Dog*



# MAY

## May

- Meaning - The third month of the Roman calendar. The name probably comes from [Maïesta](#), the Roman goddess of honor and reverence.
- 31 Days
- Flower - Lily of the Valley
- Birthstone - Emerald or Green Beryl.

## May 26th Memorial Day



### Memorial Day

"Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the

coming generations, that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided Republic."

~John A. Logan

### Special Days at Grace Lutheran Church in May

- 05 - Text Study.
  - 08 - Sudanese Workshop.
  - 09 - Mother's Day.
  - 14 & 15 - Confirmation at Grace
  - 17 - KAW Welcome Dinner
  - 23 - Pentecost.
  - **Wear Red to Church!**
  - 24- Prayer Service at Grace.
  - 31 - Memorial Day.
- Celebrate Safely - Church Office Closed.

Check the church calendar or

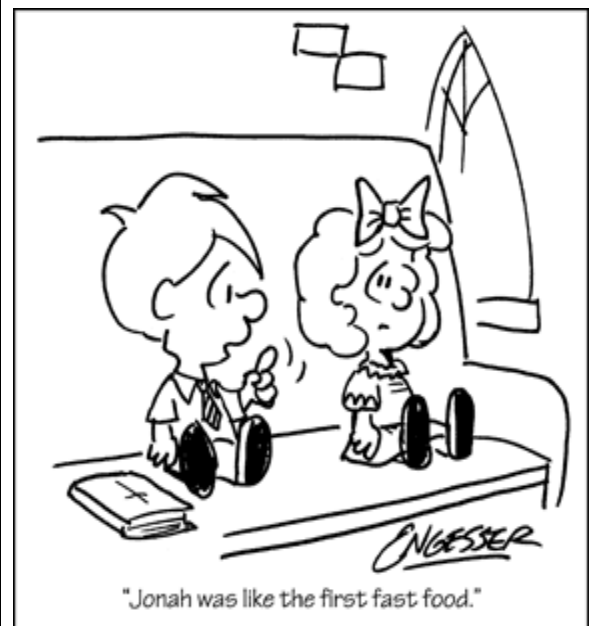


### Happy Mother's Day

May 09, 2010



"The serpent sent over a lovely fruit basket."



"Jonah was like the first fast food."

Creation3

Genesis 1:27 to 2:7

ACCOUNT	GROUND
AIR	HEAVENS
APPEARED	IMAGE
BEASTS	INCREASE
BIRDS	LIFE
BLESSED	MADE
BREATHED	MAN
CREATED	MORNING
DAY	NOSTRILS
DUST	NUMBER
EARTH	PLANT
EVENING	RAIN
FACE	RESTED
FEMALE	SEA
FIELD	SEED
FILL	SEVENTH
FINISHED	SHRUB
FISH	SIXTH
FOOD	SPRUNG
FORMED	STREAMS
FRUITFUL	SUBDUE
GIVE	SURFACE
GOD	TREE
GREEN	VAST
WATERED	

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Eccl. 5

Ecccl. 5

**MORE PUZZLES AT:**

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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"Mom, I think we'd better find a new doctor!" [www.gcfl.com](http://www.gcfl.com)

*Proverbs 15:23 (The Message)*

