

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

Editor/Church Secretary – Brenda Spahr

Organist - Lynda Laird

Sexton - Brian Sutej/Titus Duli

Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

Lutheran Volunteer - Anna Ernst

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

April 2011



**THE
GRACE
MESSENGER**



2011 Council Members

Titus Duli	Andrew Edwards	Arlone Farber
Ralph Fitle	David Hufford	Greg Hula
Carolyn Matson	Ernest Olson	Samantha Trejo
	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 on March 8. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: we pray for fellow Grace member, Bob Moss, as he is having health issues with Bell's Palsy; we pray for our fellow Grace and Council member, David Hufford, as he embarks on a journey to the Middle East, we are praying for his safety and for others on the trip; we pray for a peaceful resolution for the war-torn countries of Egypt and Libya; we pray for an end of violence in our own city; we pray for Kevin Courtney, as he is struggling with side effects from chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer; we pray for Sue Rose, who is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for lung cancer; we pray for our shut-in's, Barbara Nelson, Barb Narducci, and Mae Lane; we pray for Jimmy Wyman as he recovers from a motorcycle accident; we pray for Ernie Olson's sister, Grace, as she recovers from neck surgery; we pray for Alice Morgan, who has had a reaction to some medication; we pray for Bobbie, who will be having foot surgery on March 19th; we pray for Scott McPhillips, who is in constant pain and we sing praises of thanksgiving for his wife, Debbie McPhillips, who's surgery was successful; we pray for Rusty Bailey, who will be having surgery on his elbow on March 22nd, hoping that this will not jeopardize his job as a truck driver; we pray for Tamara Krantzler, who has been unemployed for two years, but has been blessed with an interview recently; we pray for the millions of people across the nation that are unemployed, including our own fellow member, Titus Duli; we pray for all people suffering from physical and emotional trauma caused by natural disasters; we pray for the needs of our Sudanese brothers and sisters; we pray for the safety of armed service personnel, police and patrol officers; and as we count our many blessings, we pray for the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the oppressed.

Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses of Psalm 118:18 and Romans 5:3-4 from the "Daily Texts." Psalm 118 tells us that through difficult and tough times, we must remember to count on the Lord. As we learn lessons, due to hardships, we may feel we are being punished, but the Lord's love is always there for us. The verses from Romans 5 tell us that overcoming obstacles, endurance of suffering, can be an inspiration. Sometimes, we must just move on, putting one foot in front of the other.

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued their discussion on the book titled, "Leadership in Congregations." As new and spiritual leadership develops, there are new methods that are being tried to get everyone in the different congregations involved and interested. As an expression of faith, let's put some action into developing a more spiritual relationship with God, and as we continue to learn, the vision will become more clear.

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

Christian Education: Janet Hula is getting ready for Vacation Bible School with this year's theme being "Panda Mania". The dates for VBS have tentatively been set as June 20-24.

Continue.....

Evangelism/Outreach: Anna Ernst and Brenda Spahr on working together on some information on the After School Program. Anna Ernst said the movie night on March 4th went well. There will be a “community walk” on Saturday, March 26th, at 11:30 a.m. and Anna would encourage people from the congregation to take part.

Finance: Jack Williams and Pastor Laaker will continue to keep the congregation updated on the purchase and development of the property purchase.

Property: Jack Williams has had a conversation with Mrs. Olson’s daughter (property to the north of the Church) on what could possibly happen to the house. If someone knows of anyone who would like the house, although they would be responsible for moving the house, let Jack or Pastor Laaker know.

Service/Social Ministry: We would like to congratulate Anna Ernst, who has won an award for doing research on Jazz History and having it published. Habitat for Humanity will begin another build on June 10th.

Support/Stewardship: Our stewardship materials were recommended to Trinity Lutheran and in their usage, Grace was given a \$25.00 referral donation.

Worship: A reminder that the Lenten Season starts on March 9 with the theme of “Faith Is”. Pastor has lined up several different individuals to talk at the weekly services leading up to Easter.

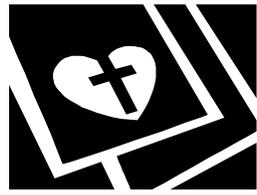
Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

New Business: Pastor Laaker is looking for two people to attend the Nebraska Synod Assembly at Midland University in Fremont on June3-5. The theme this year is, “There is Faith to Grow”. Let Pastor know if you are interested in this opportunity.

Announcements: Carolyn Matson will bring treats and lead the closing pray for our April 2011 Council meeting. Pastor Laaker will be attending a conference in Washington, D.C., from March 15-18. Anna Ernst let us know that on April 14th, a Christian band by the name of “Lost and Found” will be playing at Shepherd of the Hills, located at 60th & Redick. Anna Ernst will be gone for a few days in early April.

The Special Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 6, 2011 voted to proceed with the purchase of the property to the north and to the south of the current church property. The vote was 25 in favor, 6 against. Authority was given to the congregation council to conduct the financial transactions.





FROM THE PASTOR

Friends, on the Third Sunday in Lent we will read words from Romans 5:1-11. These thoughts are a powerful reminder of the One that we worship. This One brings new life.

The story of God's love in the Bible focuses on Jesus. But Jesus did not appear in a vacuum. Throughout the Old Testament already God made it clear that God would send a specially commissioned person to bring healing and forgiveness to the citizens of earth. As priests and kings and prophets were anointed with oil at the start of their careers, so this person, too, would be anointed. In fact, this special deliver would be called "The Anointed," a term that comes across in Hebrew as "Messiah" and in Greek as "Christ." This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Roman Christians about the coming of Christ as God's agent of grace and goodness.

Walter Wangerin Jr., powerfully summarized the meaning of Jesus as Messiah in his allegory of the Ragman. Wangerin pictures himself in a city on a Friday morning. A handsome young man comes to town, dragging behind him a cart made of wood. The cart is piled high with new, clean clothes, bright and shiny and freshly pressed.

Wandering through the streets the trader marches, crying out his strange deal: "Rags! New rags for old! Give me your old rags, your tired rags, your torn and soiled rags!" He sees a woman on the back porch of a house. She is old and tired and weary of living. She has a dirty handkerchief pressed to her nose, and she is crying a thousand tears, sobbing over the pains of her life.

The Ragman takes a clean linen handkerchief from his wagon and brings it to the woman. He lays it across her arm. She blinks at him, wondering what he is up to. Gently the young man opens her fingers and releases the old, dirty, soaking handkerchief from her knotted fist.

Then comes the wonder. The Ragman touches the old rag to his own eyes and begins to weep her tears. Meanwhile, behind him on her porch stands the old woman, tears gone, eyes full of peace.

It happens again. "New rags for old!" he cries, and he comes to a young girl wearing a bloody bandage on her head. He takes the caked and soiled wrap away and gives her a new bonnet from his cart. Then he wraps the old rags around his head. As he does this, the girl's cuts disappear and her skin turns rosy. She dances away with laughter and returns to her friends to play. But the Ragman begins to moan and from her rags on his head the blood spills down.

He next meets a man. "Do you have a job?" the Ragman asks. With a sneer the man replies, "Are you kidding?" and holds up his shirtsleeve. There is no arm in it. He cannot work. He is disabled.

But the Ragman says, "Give me your shirt. I'll give you mine."

The man's shirt hangs limp as he takes it off, but the Ragman's shirt hangs firm and full because one of the Ragman's arms is still in the sleeve. It goes with the shirt. When the man puts it on, he has a new arm. But the Ragman walks away with one sleeve dangling. It happens over and over again. The Ragman takes the clothes from the tired, the hurting, the lost, and the lonely. He gathers them to his own body and takes the pains into his own heart. Then he gives new clothes to new lives with new purpose and new joy.

Continue....

Finally, around mid-day, the Ragman finds himself at the center of the city where nothing remains but a stinking garbage heap. It is the accumulated refuse of a society lost to anxiety and torture. On Friday afternoon the Ragman climbs the hill, stumbling as he drags his cart behind him. He is tired and sore, pained and bleeding. He falls on the wooden beams of the cart, alone and dying from the disease and disaster he has garnered from others.

Wangerin wonders at the sight. In exhaustion and uncertainty he falls asleep. He lies dreaming nightmares through all of Saturday, until he is shaken from his fitful slumbers early on Sunday morning. The ground quakes. Wangerin looks up. In surprise he sees the Ragman stand up. He is alive! The sores are gone, though the scars remain. But the Ragman's clothes are new and clean. Death has been swallowed up and transformed by life!

Still worn and troubled in his spirit, Wangerin cries up to the Ragman, "Dress me, Ragman! Give me your clothes to wear! Make me new!"

We know the picture. It is Jesus coming into our world to share our sufferings and to bear our shame and guilt. Jesus stands in our place, dying our death so that we might gain a new and renewing relationship with God.

Sure, it is hard to explain. But it is also something, according to Paul, that we cannot live without.

Pastor Laaker



Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.



Anyone who would like to stay informed of recent Global Missions and additional items within the ELCA contact information is listed below.

God's work. Our hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 1-800-638-3522

Get regular updates from around the world!

Subscribe to *Global Links*, the monthly ELCA Global Mission e-newsletter, at www.elca.org/global-links.



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facebook.com/Lutherans



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Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

*“The prayer of a person living right with God
is something powerful to be reckoned with.”*

James 5:16b

Those we pray for named below are members unless otherwise specified:

- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found.
- ◆ Mae Lane - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ La Vonne Moss - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Ferne Matson - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Barbara Nelson - as she recovers from a stroke.
- ◆ Barbara Narducci - as she continues to recover from her fall.
- ◆ Margie Sutej - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Brian Sutej - as he recovers from a broken leg. (Margie's husband)
- ◆ Linda Garlie - as she recovers from burns and skin grafting surgeries. (Aunt of members, Brenda and Andrea Spahr, Family of member Eva Martin.)

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Mae Lane - St Joe Villa.

Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

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

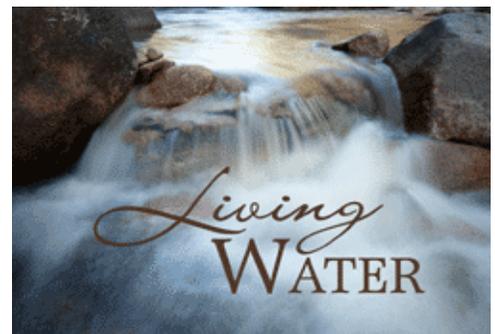
Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

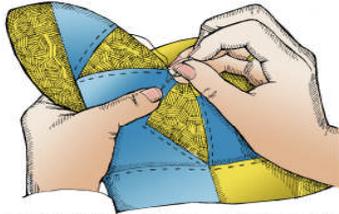
Pray for health and safety for David Hufford and all those traveling on the Middle East trip.

- ◆ 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.*

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master. Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. Had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today. Patrick Moore.





QUILTING GROUP

Quilting on Mondays! at 9:00 a.m.

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.

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet
April 12, 2011 for a 12:00 Luncheon At
Rejoice Lutheran Church
2556 South 138th Street.

Program: Siena Francis House

Project: Monetary/Siena Francis House

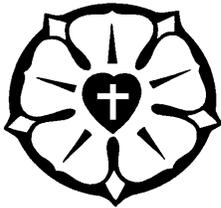
Reservations By: April 10, 2011
To

Mardelle Gocek - 402-292-1328

Luncheon: \$6.00 COME JOIN US



Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America



LivingLutheran.com Connect With Lutherans

The new LivingLutheran.com is live! This is your place for fresh, daily content and conversation on what it means to “live Lutheran”. Read exclusive blog entries by ELCA Lutherans with a wide variety of viewpoints and opinions. Find your favorite articles from Seeds for the Parish. Watch videos that amuse and inspire. Meet fascinating ELCA members, and join the conversation on topics that matter most to you. We’re probably being a bit presumptuous, but we like to think that Martin Luther would approve. There’s something different on LivingLutheran.com each day. Don’t miss out. Check back daily for new stories of inspiration, videos and more. Below is an excerpt from LivingLutheran.com the article is written by Joy Newcom, a member of [Immanuel Lutheran Church](#), an [ELCA](#) congregation in Forest City, Iowa,

Those of us who have matured to the pace of both a seasonal and a liturgical calendar may take for granted the well-ordered-yet-never-the-same way that our lives intersect with the Divine.

Whether it’s nature reminding us to focus on being alive, or Scripture calling us to focus on living, the steady push and pull of life calls us to give ourselves over to what might come next.

Because my lineage is full of farmers, I have sense enough not to speak about unfamiliar agricultural things. However, I’ve been told a lot happens deep in the soil during the coldest parts of a year — things necessary for a robust growing season once the sun begins to rise high above the earth again.

One of the most helpful things is the rotting of organic material like leaves and fallen fruit. The decomposing vegetation enriches fields and flowerbeds that lie beneath winter snows.

We can’t easily see this mostly hidden process, but we can see evidence of its good work each spring.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Games, Crafts, and Fun Geared for Elementary Kids!

Free!

Director, Anna Ernst



As I sit here writing my article for the April newsletter, we are expecting rain and snow showers for this upcoming weekend, the last one of March. Apparently, “the good life” out here with this crazy weather is different from Washington, D.C., where the cherry blossoms will be out in beautiful pink bloom around the monuments this weekend...but I guess I can tough it out. (Good thing I didn’t send my walking sleeping bag of a coat home with my parents last weekend.)

ANYWAY, this means that in hopes of being able to hold it on a day with slightly better weather, the **Neighborhood Walk** originally scheduled for Saturday, March 26th **has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 2nd.**

Same plan as before – meet at church at 11:30 for sandwiches, then we’ll spend a little time reflecting on why we’re walking, and then we’ll walk! As you can see if you look on the bulletin board in the Upper Fellowship Hall, I have the route all planned out and am looking forward to the opportunity to walk it with you and thinking together about how Grace fits into the neighborhood. Make sure you wear good shoes, bring a water bottle if you think you’ll want one (we’ll be walking for about 45 minutes to an hour and I got a little thirsty when I walked), and wear a Grace Lutheran Church shirt if you want to. Let me know if you have any questions about the walk.

I have some more exciting personal news to share this month as well. In February, I learned that I was the recipient of an award given by a local history organization in the small town where I went to college called the Oberlin Heritage Center (OHC). The award I am to receive is the 2011 Community Historian Award, which I am receiving for my research on the history of jazz in the college and town. The OHC is flying me out to receive the award in person at their annual meeting on April 6th, so, in short, I will be going back to school in Oberlin, Ohio Wednesday, April 6th – Saturday, April 9th. I feel tremendously honored to receive the award and very grateful for the opportunity to go receive it in person, as I will then be able to thank in person the people who helped make the research possible, and get to spend some time with my professors and friends.

Also, I have organized a LOST AND FOUND concert to be held at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 pm. This is a great band that has performed at the last few National ELCA Youth Gatherings and at different churches all over the country, and they will be giving us a FREE concert, thanks to generous donors. A free-will offering will be collected for Project Hope, and concert attendees are encouraged to bring canned food items for the pantry as well. This is going to be a BLAST, and I will be playing violin with the band for a little bit as well, so I encourage you to come if you can make it!

Finally, I’m looking forward to being at the sunrise Easter service, even though that’s REALLY early. Enjoy your April showers!

Wednesdays	Host/Hostess	Benefit for	Speaker
March 30, 2011	Loren and Marsha Moyer	Lutheran Food Pantry	Andreya Mayom & Alex Kura
April 6, 2011	Tom and Sarah Emery	Lutheran Disaster Response for Japan	Todd Laird
April 13, 2011	Ralph Fitle, Greg Hula, & Andrew Edwards	Anna's Fund for Neighborhood Ministries	Lori Lindberg Project Hope
Maundy Thursday April 21, 2011	Arlone Farber & Vicki Cox		Service of Communion and Stripping the Altar



O Come, Let Us Sing!
 Sunday, April 10
 Choral Presentation by the
 Rejoice Lutheran Choir



Palm Sunday, April 17
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School.
 10:30 Palm Sunday Worship Service.

Maundy Thursday, April 21
 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper.
 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service.



Good Friday, April 22
 No Supper.
 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service.



Easter, April 24
 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise
 Service
 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 served by the Moyer family.

9:00 a.m. Sunday School Class.
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion.



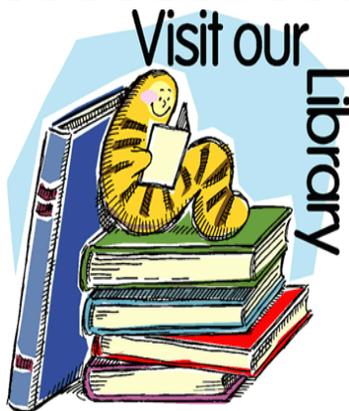
Preparation for Kids at Work 2011 has begun!

Kids At Work 2011

Kids at Work is a summer youth work program that partners parents, kids and Grace Lutheran to teach various work skills, saving money and responsibility.



Parent and youth contracts will be sent out soon to the youth who participated last summer. Would you like to support kids in a good start by learning how to save money and develop good work skills? If you are an adult with a bit of time to help as a team leader, contact Brenda Spahr at 341-7730.



Happening in the Library!

Donate your used books

The Library Board is collecting used books, videos, CD's and cassettes in good condition as a fund-raiser for the Library during Lent.

A sale table will be set up in the Upper Fellowship Hall beginning on Ash Wednesday. Stop by the table and browse any time. This is a self-serve sale. A container for the proceeds will be placed on the table along with the merchandise for sale.

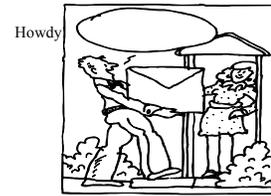
Why not use this opportunity to pass on materials collecting dust on your shelves at home to help provide money to buy new books for the library or stop by and pick up a good used book at a GREAT value!

2011 Nebraska Synod Youth Mission Trip Denver, Colorado June 11-17, 2011

- ◆ Work projects of many varieties
- ◆ Heatherlyn, a nationally touring musician from Minnesota will join us
- ◆ Depart from Carol Joy Holling Camp in Ashland, NE and yet to be determined Western NE location(s)
- ◆ Participants: Youth entering high school in the fall of 2011 (current 8th graders) through those who graduated from high school in the spring of 2011 (current seniors in high school) and their adult sponsors (over 21 years of age).
*Please not that **no exceptions** can be made for anyone younger than these ages.*
- ◆ Housing in Denver - Arrangements pending
- ◆ Cost: \$400, deposit of \$100 per person due with registration. Final payment due May 15th.

Please go to the Nebraska Synod website at www.nebraskasynod.or/mission/youth for registration forms for youth and adults. Any questions please call Jan Peterson at 402-571-1622.

Community News



Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening . Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. Stroke is the #3 cause of death in US and **80%** of All Strokes CAN be Prevented. Life Line Screening will be providing their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings for the Community on **Monday, April 18, 2011 at Hanscom Park United Methodist**. Screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; and atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk. Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139. All four ultrasound screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441 to pre-register. 8 - 10% of all screening results in ABNORMAL to CRITICAL Findings. The Screenings are Effective and are Saving Lives!!



Midwest Eye Care, P.C.

On Thursday, May 12, Midwest Eye Care, the UNMC Physicians department of Anesthesia, and Clarkson Family Practice will donate their services to provide cataract surgery at no charge to people in need as part of Mission Cataract USA.

Eligible candidates will be given a thorough eye exam and up to 25 people will be scheduled for free cataract surgery at Midwest Eye Surgery Center, at 4353 Dodge Street on May 12.

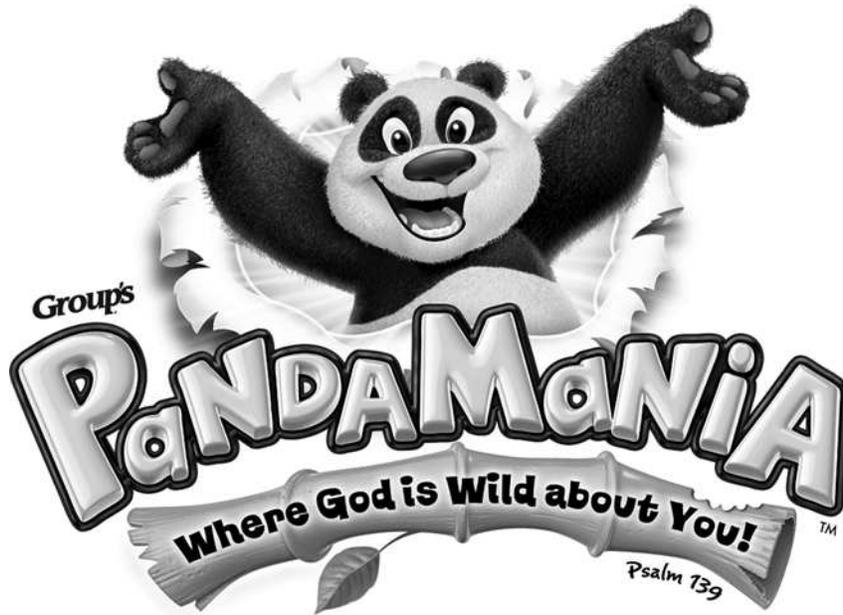
Please call 402-552-2020 by March 18 to speak with Sara Kruger, Mission Cataract Coordinator with any questions or to set up an examination.

In Michigan, after a long, cold winter, a business put up a sign that read "Think Spring" in early March.

On the first day of spring, March 20, the area was hit by a snowstorm and sub-zero weather. The business replaced the sign with another message: "Forget Spring. Think Summer."



You are invited to the Fourth Annual Mosaic Heartland Hoedown on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Scouler Building Ballroom, 2027 Dodge Street. Hosted by Jack Swanda with entertainment by Midwest Dueling Pianos. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets are \$75.00 each, for more information please call the Mosaic office at 402-896-9988.



Save the Dates!
2011 - Vacation Bible School
Evenings
Sunday June 26th through Thursday June 30th.

Children are invited to attend our VBS program. Kids will meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks and more!

Every child is welcome regardless of church affiliation.!
There is no cost to attend.

Come to the OTOC Celebration of Art, Music and Community

Omaha Together One Community makes a difference, and you can help! On April 16, from 6:00 - 9:30 pm, OTOC is hosting "OTOC 2011: Celebrating Community", a night of entertainment and art at the Hot Shops Art Center (1301 Nicholas). The evening will feature a silent auction, the musical offerings of the Donovan Johnson Jazz Quartet and The Prairie Gators and the work of many local artists. Delicious Food and cash bar will be catered by Pleasure Your Palate Catering. Admission is \$ 20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Please see Pastor Laaker if you would like tickets.

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church



- ◆ Thank you to Jack Williams for his dedication in tending to the plants in the entry way, they continue to look welcoming.
- ◆ Thank you to Donna Adrian, Mary Laaker, Tom and Sarah Emery and Vicki Cox for their ongoing care in the nursery during Sunday morning worship service.
- ◆ Thank you to Bob Moss, Jerry Van Ormer, and Ernie Olson for their continuing efforts to “purge” out all the old stuff stored around the church.
- ◆ Thank you to LaVonne Moss, Norma Olson, June Hilmer, Eva Martin and Marilyn Van Ormer for their wonderful quilting work each Monday morning for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are made out of old polyester clothing. The creations designed from those materials are truly works of art!
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who has and will be preparing and serving the Lenten Dinners. They have been greatly appreciated.



“My two-year-old niece was a big talker. Her mom, getting her ready for Easter services at St. John Cathedral, told her over and over, ‘You do not talk in church.’ “When they got to the church and the priest started the Mass, my niece shouted, ‘You do not talk in church! You do not talk in church!’”

—Virginia Riley
Broussard, LA

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“Helping Hands”

Working Together in God's service



Project Hope

The Theme for April is Canned Fruit and Macaroni & Cheese.

These are things our clients can not purchase with their food stamps and are always appreciated.

Diapers	Dish soap
Deodorant	Toothbrush and toothpaste
Can Openers	Mouthwash (without alcohol)
Shaving Cream	Feminine hygiene products
Razors	Hair products (combs, brushes, picks)
Kleenex	Dry Laundry Soap
Bar Soap	Bathroom tissue

We always need paper or plastic bags.



Virginia McGill
Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

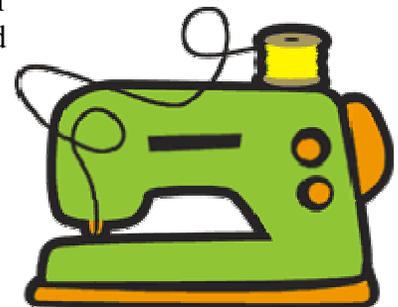
Interfaith's Latinas in Business sewing and micro-business classes finished a first and very successful semester at the end of December. We had 12 student participants and 15 children in the program, which focused on an introduction to machine sewing, clothing repair, and sewing basics. All of our participants made simple skirts by the end of our semester which we were able to display at a local artist's market, as well as in local congregations in South Omaha. Our students were very proud of their accomplishments and designs!

Our Latinas in Business Instructor, Ramona, and I utilized the month of January to meet each week and plan out our 2nd semester. With input from our participants, we decided to focus this semester on blouse making and learning to design more complicated measurements. One of our Latinas in Action exercise participants, Elizabeth, talked with me about sewing and micro-business classes and donated materials for us to get started. This was a full circle donation. Elizabeth had the material from her daughter's quincenera celebration, a beautiful fiesta that all of our staff and participants attended. Elizabeth and her children have been part of our programs from the beginning, and we have gotten to know Elizabeth's daughter, Michelle, from age 9 up to today when she is an energetic 15 year old and a sophomore at South High School. One of our Interfaith Board members, Kim, also donated a beautiful sewing machine and numerous sewing items to the program. This donated machine has become our "library" machine. Students wishing to do homework on sewing and design are able to check it out for home use and bring it back to class the following week. Our students are thrilled with these donations and are putting them to good use in designing and beginning to make blouses.

Our current semester of classes, which began in February, filled to capacity just like our first semester classes! We have a total of 12 students, with 4 of those students returning from last semester to learn more about sewing, design and business start-up. Ramona is once again amazing our students this semester with her knowledge and abilities. Without exception, all of our students have commented on her skills and deemed her a "Doctora" of sewing. She can fix any sewing machine, any error in stitching. Her patience is limitless. I asked her about how she always manages to give individual attention to each person in classes, which can be a bit challenging when she is working with many students and a variety of sewing levels. She says that because she and her husband have 8 children, she knows how to multi-task and how to problem solve. Ramona studied sewing in elementary and high school. For the past three years, she has run a small business out of her home, in a lovely office complete with sewing machines, irons, fabric and materials. We are blessed to have her working with us on this pilot program.

We look forward to this semester and to getting to know another group of students who are eager to learn, to support one another and to utilize their skills and creativity within our classes.

Virginia McGill, Interfaith Health Service





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Special Days at Grace Lutheran Church

- April 6 - Lenten Dinner and Worship.
- April 10 - Easter Cantata with Rejoice Lutheran.
- April 12 - Church Council Meeting.
- April 13 - Lenten Dinner and Worship.
- April 17 - Palm Sunday Worship.
- April 21 - Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship.
- April 22 - Good Friday Worship.
- April 24 - Easter Sunrise Service, Breakfast and 10:30 a.m. Easter Service.

Have you ever wondered what Joseph of Arimathea's friends may have said to him about giving his tomb to Jesus? "That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why did you give it to someone else to be interred in?" they might have asked. "Oh, he only needed it for the weekend," Joseph might have replied.

— via Peter Dring
Land O Lakes, WI

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Candy Bar Quiz

1. _____ is a constellation of stars.
2. _____ is a giggle or short laugh.
3. _____ is a clumsy person.
4. _____ was a baseball player.
5. _____ is a small hill.
6. _____ is a long run.
7. _____ is a planet.
8. _____ is to smash.
9. _____ is what a worker looks forward to at the end of the week.
10. _____ dollars = 10 million pennies.
11. _____ were sword fighters.
12. _____ comes before one.
13. _____ contains two pronouns for girl.
14. _____ is a synonym for add it.
15. _____ is what you do when you eat.
16. _____ is one of Charlie Brown's girlfriends.
17. _____ is the sound fire makes.
18. _____ is nutty happiness.

Answers on the back side.

Out of the mouths of God's kids

Nancy Mitchell of Hickory, NC, told this story to Pastor Bob Thompson of Corinth Reformed Church:

"During Christmas we had spent a lot of time looking at Nativity scenes and telling the kids who everyone was in the manger. "Then on Easter Sunday we were in church with our three-year-old son, Gavin. The cross was all decorated, so I think he finally noticed it. "He asked me, 'Who is that on the cross?' And I said, 'Jesus.' "He thought for a while, then looked at me and said, 'But he was just a baby at Christmas!'"

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch No.187

Romans 11:13-19

The Olive Tree Part one

H	S	S	H	T	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	Y	S
O	A	U	S	O	S	L	D	O	W	N	A	B	E	H
P	E	A	P	R	L	E	I	B	A	E	L	A	K	O
E	O	S	E	P	R	I	R	W	C	K	K	T	A	O
B	V	H	U	E	O	A	V	N	F	O	I	C	M	T
R	T	N	F	O	N	R	A	E	I	R	N	H	S	R
O	E	F	O	C	R	T	T	E	R	B	G	M	A	A
S	O	D	H	U	P	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	V	P
E	D	E	I	E	R	N	O	I	T	C	E	J	E	R
L	S	E	C	S	S	I	T	E	F	E	L	O	H	W
I	I	C	T	H	N	H	S	R	R	T	P	G	O	R
T	A	F	A	F	O	O	E	H	U	Y	O	N	L	D
N	C	R	E	U	A	V	C	Y	I	V	E	O	Y	A
E	E	O	G	W	O	R	L	D	T	N	P	M	R	E
G	N	H	G	U	O	D	G	M	S	E	G	A	E	D

AMONG	OFFERED
APOSTLE	OLIVE
AROUSE	OTHERS
BATCH	OVER
BOAST	OWN
BRANCHES	PART
BROKEN	PEOPLE
CONSIDER	ROOT
DEAD	SAP
DOUGH	SAVE
ENVY	SHARE
GRAFTED	SHOOT
HOLY	SUPPORT
HOPE	TALKING
LIFE	THOUGH
MAKE	WHOLE
MINISTRY	WILD
NOW	WORLD

ACCEPTANCE
FIRSTFRUITS
NOURISHING
GENTILES REJECTION

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 57

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**Quotefall puzzle solution from March's puzzle was:
My steps have held to your paths my feet have not slipped.**

Psalm 17:5 .

Answer to Candy Bar Quiz

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Milky Way | 10. 1,000 |
| 2. Snickers | 11. 3 Musketeers |
| 3. Butterfingers | 12. Zero |
| 4. Babe Ruth | 13. Hershey |
| 5. Mounds | 14. Summit |
| 6. Marathon | 15. Chew |
| 7. Mars | 16. Peppermint |
| 8. Crunch | Patty |
| 9. Pay Day | 17. Crackle |
| | 18. Almond Joy |

