

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 -

Sexton - Nenchi Ilka

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.**

September 2011



Grandparents Day

**THE
GRACE
MESSENGER**



2011 Council Members

Titus Duli	Andrew Edwards	Arlone Farber	Ralph Fitle
David Hufford	Greg Hula	Carolyn Matson	Ernie 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 August 9. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: we pray for the following individuals health concerns: Phil Minino, Norma Courtney, Sue Rose, Theresa Courtney, Jim Costello, Elaine McKenzie, Jimmy Wyman, Lori Vasquez; we give thanks for Becca Fitle’s safe return from travels; we give thanks for Dottie Hula’s 81st birthday; we pray for our shut-in’s, Barbara Nelson, Barb Narducci, and Mae Lane; we pray for the people across the nation that are unemployed, including our own fellow member, Titus Duli; we pray for Grace member, David Hufford, who has lost an AA sponsor, mentor, and friend; we pray for the family of Jim Heintz, who has passed away, and for Jim’s wife, Sandy Miles, who has been flooded out of their home; we pray for blessings to follow Lynda Laird and Anna Ernst, as they start “new” positions; we pray for Frank and Eileen Zitka, who are at St. Joseph’s Villa; we pray for all countries, especially , Somalia, Ethiopia, and other African countries, who are facing thousands of deaths due to starvation, thirst, and drought; we pray for leaders around the world to make wise decisions for the economy crisis that is resulting in extreme needs of people needing decent jobs and food for their families; we pray for our local agencies to be able to provide adequate relief for those affected by the flood waters; we pray for the families of service men and women, who have lost their loved ones in military disasters; we continue to pray for all people in the United States that have been faced with physical and emotional trauma caused from natural disasters; we pray for the safety and hope in the rebuilding efforts; we pray for safety for all people traveling in flooded areas; we pray for the needs of our Sudanese brothers and sisters, and we pray for the people in Southern Sudan, who are facing many issues as they start a new country; 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 Leaker reading the selected verses of Psalm 33:17-18 and Matthew 5:5 from the “Daily Texts.” The Psalm verse reminds us that one cannot save anyone else on their own might—it is truly the fear and hope in the Lord’s steadfast love that saves us. Matthew reminds us we are always spiritually poor; therefore, we must remember to always be open and available to God’s love.

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued their discussion on the book titled, “Leadership in Congregations.” Leadership requires learning forms of power and using them in a disciplined way. Information, skill, and accessing money are all forms of power—however; it is our task and calling to use power in a disciplined Christian life.

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

Christian Education: Pastor Laaker plans on having confirmation classes after Labor Day. There will be more discussion at the end of August for the final details on the classes.

Continued...

Evangelism /Outreach: The “Kids at Work” program, under the direction of Brenda Spahr, is over for this year and we celebrate its success. Ernie Olson and Samantha Trejo reported that the youth attending were good and cooperative, making it a very enjoyable year.

Finance: The Mission Investment Fund paperwork has been completed on the sale for the property to the north of the Church (Olson Property). The office has purchased a new chair and computer out of the Memorial Funds. The Synod Mission Trip, which is going to be taking place in Lexington, Nebraska from Sept 30th-Oct 21st, will be installing bunk beds for the families of immigrant’s. These beds cost approximately \$250.00 each to install. The Council would like to ask our Congregation for assistance in raising enough money for one or two beds. Lexington has a very diverse population that has a meat packing industry, but there are many families that do not have a bed of any sort to sleep in. The Council feels that this is a worthy humanitarian effort and is asking the Endowment Board for matching funds.

Property: We await the work of the Engineer who will conduct the survey, draft the plans and seek bids for the work. The flat roof, damaged by hail, will need to be replaced. Church Mutual Insurance has authorized its replacement. The original asbestos slate roofing on the main portion of the church has also incurred damage. Negotiations are underway with the insurance company on options of repair or replacement. Pastor Laaker expressed thanks for Joel Gammon’s help in the roofing matters.

Service/Social Ministry: The “farewell” summer picnic was absolutely great. The Habitat house is finished and the dedication will be held on September 11th.

Support/Stewardship: We still need some donations for Joseph LaL, the young gentleman working toward being a Lutheran Pastor in the Sudan, for housing funds. We have collected approximately \$148.00, but would like to see if additional donations might be secured. Joseph’s family lives in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

Worship: We are still looking for a full time organist to replace Lynda Laird, but we are blessed to have Jennifer Johnson for the next three weeks as a substitute.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

New Business: No new business.

Announcements: Brenda Spahr will be on vacation for a few days and Samantha Trejo will be heading back to Lincoln to start another year of college.

True Computer Tech Support Calls

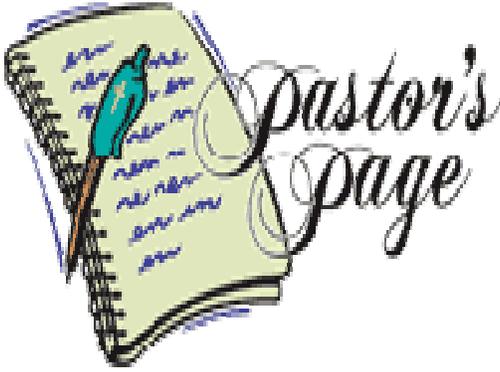
Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five stars.

Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.



I have been doing some thinking. An author that inspires me is Edwin H. Friedman. His thinking challenges me and motivates me to work hard on things that pertain to me. In doing this, it helps me function more effectively as a leader.

We all know of the impasse that developed this summer in Congress. We even heard the words describing this impasse as “gridlock.” Friedman says that he believes there are three major, interlocking characteristics common to any relationship system that has become imaginatively gridlocked: 1) an unending treadmill of trying harder; 2) looking for answers rather than reframing questions; and 3) either/or thinking that creates false dichotomies. I found it easy to connect this description to the happenings in Congress.

My challenge has been to think of the ways I get imaginatively gridlocked. When I think about some of the issues that I face in my own family of origin, I wonder how often I simply fall into the pattern of trying harder to fix some piece of the relationship. What methods do I use as I scramble around trying this and then trying that? I know I am tempted to look for easy answers and hope one will simply appear out of the air. I also know how natural it is for me to fall into either/or thinking that creates a separation of things that I think I can understand or manage.

I wonder how this plays out in our efforts within the church. Is it easy for us to simply try harder at things that haven't worked in the past but believing with the right data or effort, it will be different this time? Is it easy for us to look for answers, especially easy answers, rather than asking a different or difficult question that pushes us to think more creatively? Is it easy for us to quickly divide things into an either/or category, thereby being able to dismiss the struggle to understand the difficult place we find ourselves in?

In retrospect, I think back to thirteen years ago when we started the Kids At Work program. We had never done anything like it before. We had tried any number of efforts that mirrored the past but gave us no new results. We had to take the risk of trying something completely different. We had to ask different questions, especially questions that engaged the community beyond our doors. We had to expand our thinking of engagement beyond “membership or recruitment.”

I cannot express the totality of the kind of joy I feel as I see these young people engaged in ministry. Their willingness to give of themselves is marvelous tribute to the work of the Spirit among us. I give thanks for the untold ways peoples' lives have been touched by their efforts. I give thanks for the ongoing creative leadership of Brenda Spahr as director. I give thanks for the volunteer team leaders who in turn give of themselves to mentor and guide the young people.

I pray that God continues to push us to try new things in new ways. I pray that God helps us to explore questions without the seeking the same answers. I pray that God keeps challenging us to look for new and creative ways to engage God's Spirit at work among us.



Pastor Laaker



Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

*"We always thank God for all of you and continually
mention you in our prayers. "*

1 Thessalonians 1:2

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.
- ◆ 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 - Ongoing health issues. (Margie's husband)
- ◆ Rose Heesacker - as she receives chemotherapy for cancer treatment. (June Hilmer's sister.)
- ◆ Rex Olson - healing during his cancer treatment. (Don Olson's brother.)
- ◆ Bradley Collett - healing during his treatment for blood clots. (Kids At Work Alumni.)
- ◆ Gloria Pedersen - recovery from a fall. (Daughter of Eva Martin and sister of Brenda Spahr.)
- ◆ Wanda Black - skin grafting surgery on her legs. (Ernie Olson's Aunt.)
- ◆ Scott Moore - recovery from surgery. (Gloria Moore's son.)
- ◆ Pastor Judy Gifford - recovery from surgery. (Assistant to the Bishop.)
- ◆ Norma Courtney - recovery from surgery. (Arlone Farber's Mom.)

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 the Sudanese community in general. 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.*

Pray, but only on days ending in "y".

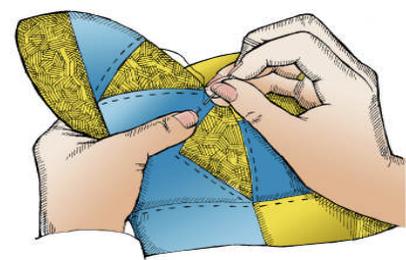
Just remember I always answer my knock-mails. ~God

Quotes from Olga Ripich



**Quilting for Lutheran World Relief
resumes on Monday,
September 12th
at 9:00 a.m.**

The Grace Quilters will begin creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Monday, September 12, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. 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.



QUILTING GROUP



Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet
September 13, 2011 for a 12:00 Luncheon At
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
6201 North 60th Street.

Program: EngAge - "Wellness Program"

Project: Monetary/Shepherd of the Hills Pantry

Reservations By: September 12, 2011
To

Mardelle Gocek - 402-292-1328

Luncheon: \$6.00 **COME JOIN US**

**Wednesday Night
September 14, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

**Candle light Prayer Service
for Confession,
Meditation and Healing
at Grace Lutheran Church.**

People of all faiths are welcome!



Property Update

Ehrhardt Griffin has completed the topographic survey of the property. The architect has drafted the site plans. The plans have been submitted to the city for approval. The City Planning Department has placed a conditional use amendment on the project. This means the building permit will not be approved until October 5. Bids will be sought in the meantime so that the plan can be completed by early November. Once we have bids in hand, we will select the contractors who will be doing the demolition and removal of the house and existing parking lot, regrading of the lots, excavation and sealing of the north basement wall, installation of the retaining wall and fences, and pouring of the new lot surface. We trust they will be able to begin work immediately after the building permit is issued.

Once work begins, it means that access to the church building will be through the northeast glass doors for all events until the lot is completed. Thanks for your understanding and patience.



Sunday, August 7, was a marvelous celebration. We are grateful to Christ Clowns for their participation in worship and for interaction during the picnic.

We bid farewell to Lynda Laird as our organist. She has taken a new position with St. Timothy Lutheran as their adult choir director. We will miss her and her family. We have been abundantly blessed by her music ministry among us. Thank you, Lynda.

We, also, bid farewell to Anna Ernst as our Lutheran Volunteer Outreach Associate. Anna has moved back to Chevy Chase, MD. She hopes to work an internship in jazz history. She made it home safely and you will find her thank you note elsewhere in the newsletter. Thank you, Anna, for your ministry among us.

Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina recently enacted harsh, anti-immigrant legislation attempting to shift federal authority to regulate immigration down to the state level. Many provisions have been blocked as unconstitutional.

Similar legislation is now pending in Nebraska's Legislature (LB48). The Judiciary Committee has asked for public response to this bill so OTOC's (Omaha Together One Community) Immigration Action Team is sponsoring a Public Forum to provide testimony to members of the Unicameral, members of Congress and local police officials. OTOC's position is that the current federal system is broken and needs to be improved but enforcement and legislation should remain at the federal level.



The Nebraska Unicameral has placed 'on hold' Arizona-style immigration legislation. In response to the faith-based imperative to 'Welcome the Stranger' OTOC invites you to come and hear from OTOC community, business and church leaders about the negative impact of the current system on local families, children, and workers; the economic benefits immigrants bring to our area; the economic and personal costs of arrest and detention; and the moral and religious reasons for comprehensive immigration reform.

When: Monday, September 26, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Where: Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall, 23d and O Street

The League of Women Voters will provide on-site voter registration for new voters or change of last name, address, or political party affiliation.

Children are welcome; please bring books or other quiet activities.

Community News



"Then & Now: Civil Liberties and Interfaith Relations Ten Years after 9/11": Esteemed civil rights attorney and writer Sahar Aziz joins people of the Greater Omaha community to recall the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to reflect on their impact on religious and ethnic relations in our community and country. Aziz will share her insights on the delicate balance between national security and civil liberties in our post-9/11 America and will offer thoughts on what the next ten years may hold. Aziz is an associate professor of law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law and has also served as a senior policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This event is presented by the Center for Faith Studies and Project Interfaith, as well as 17 additional faith and community partners (including the Nebraska Synod, ELCA). Please contact Cyndi Kugler at cyndik@countrysideucc.org or 402.960.0303 if you have questions. Witherspoon Concert Hall, Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., Sunday, September 11, 2-3:30 pm.

Brass on the Grass

Bring your family & friends along with your picnic dinner & blanket for an outdoor concert, featuring the

Nebraska Wind Symphony's Swingtones

18-piece Big Band of semi-professional musicians
From the Omaha area.

Sunday, September 11, 5:00 p.m.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4117 Terrace Drive, Maple Village
Omaha, NE

Free will offering will be taken.

Concert will move indoors in case of rain.

From the book **Live and Learn and Pass It On**

I have learned that successful living is like playing a violin - it must be practiced daily.

🕒 *Age 70*



Habitat ReStore

Support our Habitat for Humanity of Omaha mission by participating in the Faith Coalition's Habitat Omaha ReStore Donation Drive! The first donation date is on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at First United Methodist, 7020 Cass Street. The second donation date is on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14330 Eagle Run Drive. Both dates and locations will accept donations from 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. Any questions, please call 402-934-1033 or visit the website at habitatomaha.org/restore.



29th Annual Crop Walk 2011

October 9, 2011
1:30 p.m.

Starting from First Christian Church
6630 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE

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

As a Sponsor - Even if you cannot walk you can participate by sponsoring someone who can. Offer to sponsor a walker with a pledge per mile of a donation and make a real difference in meeting hunger needs at home and abroad. Crop Walk Sponsor Sheets will be available in the church office and signups will be on the back table in the sanctuary.

Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk emphasizes local food needs and sense of community

The Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk has a tradition of inviting their walkers to bring along food items for their local food ministries. Mark Tucker, from Community Action House, and his crew load items into Gaylord boxes, then divide the food after the Walk according to each pantries needs. Usually three to four boxes of food are received and meet a big need in this community.

Another enhancement aimed to instill a sense of community in the Walk is a large sign-in banner that each person autographs under their church/organization's name. Seeing the names of 1,000 walkers written on this huge banner reminds people of those they walk alongside in their own community and globally.

Other enhancements to last year's Walk included the prayer ribbons Walkers created following registration that blow in the wind during the Walk; seed packets given to each Walker, symbolizing the efforts we share culminating in a bountiful harvest for those in need; and a \$15.15 per Walker gift by a few donors in recognition of their Walk's 30th Anniversary.





"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Project Hope

The Theme for September is:
Halloween Candy and Treats/Cookies

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.

**"Before Shot"
taken
May 6, 2011**



**Neighbors South Coalition
Habitat for Humanity**

**Building Site:
1519 South 27th Street
Omaha, NE**

The amazing work of volunteers has completed the 13th home (pictured below) for the Neighbors South Coalition. The dedication for the new home is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 4:00 p.m. Please come and welcome Abdulrahman Hussein, Kadra Kulmie and their four children as they become part of our neighborhood. The Disney Endowment Fund contributed \$7,500 toward the build. An additional \$500 worth of donations were also received from Grace Church. Thanks so much for your support!



Peace: It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. -
Author unknown



Virginia McGill
Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Families in Action Celebrates New Beginnings

Our first official fiesta as with our participants and families and new name. Families in Action, was celebrated this month with a baby shower in honor of one of our participants, Daniela. Daniela, who has been part of our program for four years, shared with all of us 8 months ago that she and her husband are expecting their 4th child. She also shared that she is blessed to have so many of our Families in Action participants and staff support her during this time of anticipation.

Our participants note that Daniela has been a “role model” an “example of healthy pregnancy” and an “inspiration” to all in our evening exercise and educational programs because she has not missed a class during her entire pregnancy! Daniela is due to give birth in one week and has not only attended, but also led, some of our group activities up to, and including, this week! Several of our other participants who are also expecting babies have noted that Daniela helps motivate them to return to class by encouraging them to stay healthy. One participant, Martha, who is not expecting a baby, shared that she is usually very tired when she gets home from work during the evenings, but thinks to herself “Daniela is attending every class with so much happiness and energy and she is pregnant, I can also get motivated to attend the classes and educational sessions.”

Daniela shared with me that during her other pregnancies her blood sugar levels were higher than normal and she needed medical treatment as a result. In this pregnancy, she is proud because her physician has noted that she and the baby are extremely healthy and need no additional treatment. She shared that she is also proud of the work she has done to maintain a healthy pregnancy and also feels so happy that all of us in Families in Action are so excited for her and her family.

Our fiesta itself was a fabulous celebration. Gema, as always, thought of fun baby games to play for the entire family and decorated the basement at Grace Lutheran Church. All of our staff and participants brought potluck dishes to share with one another. Daniela and her husband and two of her older sons, were on hand to help their mom in opening gifts and recording information. It was apparent to all involved that Daniela and her family were both touched and excited by the evening. Gema and I were also touched by the spirit of the evening. It was a tribute not only to Daniela but to all of our participants and children who have become like family to each other.

Please join our Families in Action staff and participants in lifting up Daniela and her family this month in prayer as they prepare for new life and blessings in welcoming their new baby.

Virginia McGill, Families in Action





Kids At Work 2011



The picture above was taken on the last Kids At Work, workday; the program finished as usual with a pizza lunch and a water game outside. This year, there were no water balloons, instead we “upgraded” to just plain water, the youth had plastic cups and the team leaders who took part, were rewarded with 5 quart ice cream buckets. The day was plenty humid and the temperature was somewhere close to 90, water, just plain water seemed like the way to end a great summer.

The only rule to the water game, not really a game, was to try to get as many people doused as possible. There was confusion at the beginning, not too many knew what kind of game the group was going to play. The uncertainty in the youth became a daily theme this summer, each work day no one knew exactly what they were going to be assigned. Whether it was Lutheran Home, Precious Memories, Cristo Rey, picking up trash in the neighborhood, etc.

I have learned so much during each summer, the biggest was during the first year. Never expect things to go the way you plan, surprises (good and bad) are waiting daily. With all the daily schedules, be sure to have some back-up plans. It’s okay to not know exactly what will happen next.

The youth found out in a fun way how to play, (I threw water at them), that was the start of complete chaos and fun! The youth learned it was okay to throw water on one another and even better, it was okay to throw water on the team leaders, even me. The team leaders also had fun dousing the youth and each other. As the game was winding down, one youth Edda, simply took his cup, dipped it way in the bottom of the barrel and poured it over himself. It was a GREAT DAY!

Inspiration continues each summer and by the end of each summer I simply can’t wait for the next year, of course that’s after relaxation and reflection time. This summer friendships were formed or re-affirmed, not only between the youth, but with all individuals participating this summer. Youth, team leaders, congregation members, work site coordinators, and even future Kids At Work participants.

If any of the Kids At Work youth are reading this, please come and visit, it seems quieter around here. This is always a good place. I miss you.

Brenda Spahr

God’s kids say the funniest things

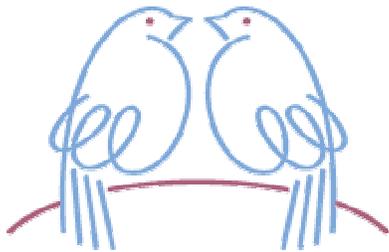
At a Cub Scout banquet in Perrysburg, OH, the Cubmaster asked for a volunteer to say grace before the meal. One very young Scout raised his hand, went up to the stage, and said into the microphone: “Grace.” The Cubmaster smiled and said to the boy, “No, we want you to say *grace*.”

The young boy said, “Okay,” went back to the microphone and said in a very loud voice, “GRACE!” After the laughter died down, the Cubmaster coached the boy and asked him to repeat the words of his own blessing.

—Columnist Smiley Anders
Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate
Reprinted with permission by Joyfulnoiseletter



- ◆ Thank you to Jack Williams and Florence Sanders for their 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, Arlone Farber 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 maintain the church with any projects that need to be completed.
- ◆ Thank you to all the lawn care personnel; Bob Moss and Jerry Van Ormer, who are tending the Church yard and the yard to the north of the church beautifully.
- ◆ Thank you Jennifer Johnson for sharing your talent of music with Grace during our time of looking for a permanent organist.
- ◆ Thank you Nenshi Ilka for taking over for Titus and Brian making the building look once again clean and well cared for.



Thank you for the cards, the outpouring of love and best wishes for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. This is an awesome sampling of the love God has given us through the people of Grace Church. Thank you for celebrating with us! God has blessed us all! Joe and Barb Narducci.

Dear Everyone (if I listed your names it would take up the whole card!)

There are truly not enough words, and no truck big enough, to express & deliver all my love, gratitude and thanks for everything you have given me this year. I guess I wrote this card to say thank you for the awesome "coffee table" books, the beautiful, remember-to-take-deep-breaths-and-stay-calm-Anna picture, the little photo-book, and a wonderful picnic!

But you also welcomed me so warmly into the Grace family and supported me throughout the year, even when I doubted myself, and that was incredibly special. My parents are very grateful as well.

Thank you so much for all your love. What a great time we had! Please know you will often be in my thoughts and always in my prayers. Good luck and have fun as you continue to get to know each other, and your neighbors, later.



Love, Anna



Special Days in September at Grace Lutheran Church

September 5 - Labor Day.
September 11 - Habitat Dedication.
September 13 - Council Meeting.
September 14 - Prayer Service.
September 14 - Photographers Club.
September 15 - Neighborhood Meeting.
September 28 - Photographers Club.

Amusing Thoughts About Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' I'm four and a half!' you're never thirty-six and a half. you're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. 'How old are you?' I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life ... You become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony ... YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're Just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed.

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you REACH 50. And your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would.

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and MAKE it to 60. You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday.

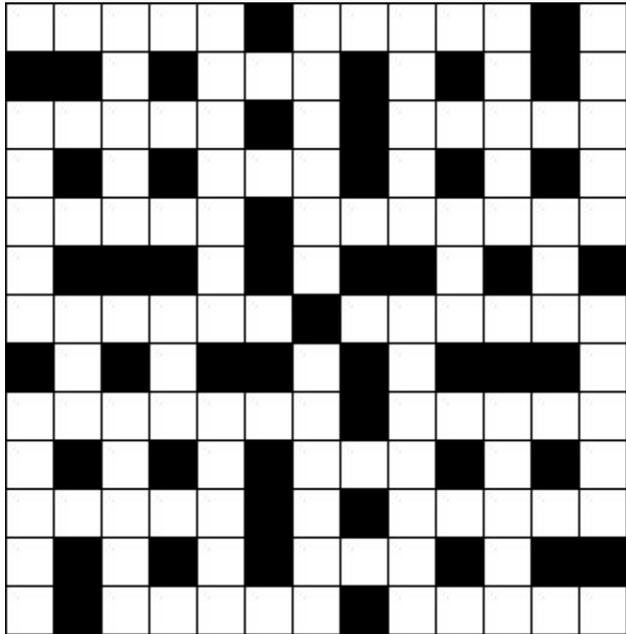
You get into your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90's, you start going backwards; 'I Was JUST 92.'

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again.' I'm 100 and a half!'

May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

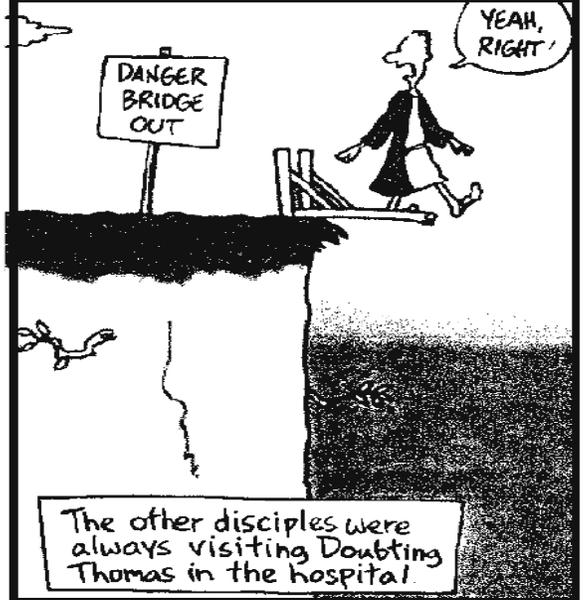
Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 3 letters. | DIANA | WHOSO |
| AHA | EAGLE | |
| ALL | EASED | 6 letters. |
| ASH | EATER | DAGGER |
| BAR | HEDGE | DAMAGE |
| EAR | OLIVE | ISALAH |
| GAP | ORGAN | PREACH |
| SEA | ORION | |
| YEA | PACES | 7 letters. |
| | PROUD | CHALDEA |
| 5 letters. | RAINY | CRYSTAL |
| ABASE | ROYAL | OBEYING |
| CARRY | SAINT | SUPPORT |
| CEDAR | SINAI | |
| DEALT | TENOR | |

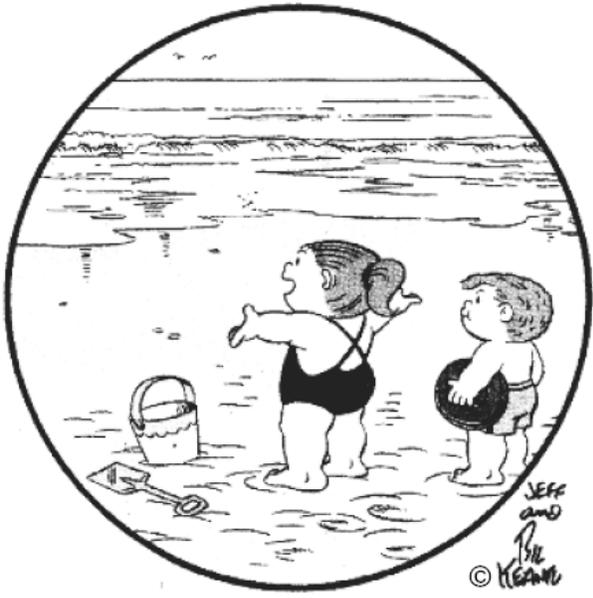
I keep the telephone of my mind open to peace, harmony, health, love and abundance. Then, whenever doubt, anxiety or fear try to call me, they keep getting a busy signal and soon they'll forget my number. -Edith Armstrong

Inherit the Mirth by Cuyler Black



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Every day God lets some water out so there's room to play on the beach."

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Signs your pastor needs a vacation:

- ◆ His first words to the congregation on Sunday morning are: "All right, listen up you heathens..."
- ◆ She falls asleep during her own sermon.
- ◆ He shows up for Sunday service wearing Bermuda shorts and a tank top.
- ◆ Every time her pager goes off, she shouts, "Why can't they just leave me alone?"

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