

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

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Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker

Editor/Church Secretary – Brenda Spahr

Organist - Colleen Jeffrey

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.**

October 2011



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 September 13. The Council members shared their prayer concerns for the following individuals, who are having health issues: Phil Minino, Norma Courtney, Sue Rose, Kevin Courtney, Theresa Courtney, Don Olson, Norma Olson, Karen Luering, Elaine McKenzie, Jimmy Wyman, friends and family of Larry Foreman, Twyla Winterfeld, and Pastor Judy Gifford. We offer praises of thanksgiving for fellow Grace member, David Hufford, for a clean bill of health and praises of thanksgiving for Sophie, who is cancer free; we pray for our shut-in's, Barbara Nelson, Barb Narducci, and Mae Lane; we pray for Frank Zitka, whose wife, Eileen, has passed away; we pray for the people across the nation that are unemployed; we pray for all countries, especially Somalia, Ethiopia in Africa, 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 economic crisis; we pray for immigration reform; we pray for the continued healing from the 9/11 attacks; we pray for people on the east coast that have recently experienced severe flooding with loss of life; 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 needs of our Sudanese brothers and sisters, and for the people in New South 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 Laaker reading the selected verses of Jeremiah 3:15 and Matthew 10:7 from the "Daily Texts." In the Jeremiah passage, God is sending kind and caring shepherds (teachers or pastors) that devote their time to increasing knowledge and understanding. Matthew reminds us to take action by proclaiming the good news our lifestyles. Jesus wants us to follow him with our actions "doing the talking", not words just coming out of our mouths.

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued their discussion on the book titled, "Leadership in Congregations." Leadership requires leaders and lay people to work together in seeking unity for living our in a Christ-like manner. A leader needs support and help from the "congregation" to collaborate on meeting the "needs" of all.

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

Christian Education: Pastor Laaker reported that Andrea Spahr will be taking part in the confirmation classes this year. At this time, Andrea is the only student, but we are pleased that she is taking this step in her Christian faith.

Evangelism /Outreach: No new report.

Continued...

Finance: The Council discussed being a part of the OTOC organization for support beginning 2012. We would propose to add a line in the general budget for a yearly contribution of \$500.00. OTOC is valuable to the congregation, as together we try to improve the ways in which we live in our neighborhoods and communities.

Property: Nenshi Ilka has taken over the cleaning duties at the Church, which is very much appreciated.

Pastor Laaker shared a site layout plan, prepared by the architect, which will go before the Planning Department in October.

Any usable “building” items were donated to Habitat for Humanity from the house. Once the bids are collected and approved for the demolition and removal of the property, then the selection of contractors will be made.

Joel Gammon presented to the Council some roofing information as well as a sample of synthetic slate. We are waiting for Church Mutual to determine what costs will be reimbursed to us before the project is started.

Service/Social Ministry: There will be a public forum on “Immigration Reform” held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall on Monday, September 26th from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend to find out about the impacts of proposed laws and policies that are pending in the state and federal government.

Support/Stewardship: On Sunday, October 16, Kountze is hosting the “Fall Doing” at 6:00 p.m. Our cluster will be furnishing items for Campus Ministry kits that will be put together that evening. The Council at Grace will donate the specific items that are being requested.

The Church office is making refrigerator magnets for our fall stewardship drive, “Investing for Time and Eternity.”

Worship: Colleen Jeffrey will be the new organist for our Church. When she is unavailable, a backup plan is in place. We are blessed to have Colleen, Jennifer, and Susan step up and fill this position.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

New Business: Our next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18th, due to Pastor Laaker being out of town.

Announcements: Pastor Laaker will be in McCook, NE, on Sunday, September 18.

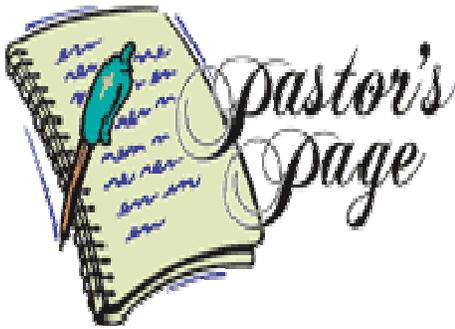
”Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but if you sit down quietly, may alight upon you.”

—Nathaniel Hawthorne



“I’ve learned from experience that the great part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances.”

—Martha Washington



On Sunday, September 18, we heard the parable from Jesus (Matthew 20:1-16) that spoke about a landowner who treated the workers with generosity. Some complained believing that he was being unfair.

One might say, "life is unfair." It is easy to see things as limited. It is easy to see the unfairness of life's circumstances. This might even lead to bitterness. Consider this story:

A poor woman had only one son. She worked hard cleaning houses and grinding grain for the well-to-do families in town. They gave her some grain in return and she lived on it. But she could never afford to buy nice clothes or toys for her son. Once, when she was going to the market with some grain to sell, she asked her son, "What can I get you from the market?" He promptly replied, "A drum! Mother, get me a drum." The mother knew she would never have enough money to buy a drum for her son. She went to the market, sold the grain, and bought some gram flour and some salt. She felt sad that she was coming home empty-handed. So when she saw a nice piece of wood on the road, she picked it up and brought it home to her son. The son didn't know what to do with it. Yet he carried it with him when he went out to play.

An old woman was lighting her woodstove with some cow-dung patties. The fire was not catching and there was smoke all around and it made the old woman's eyes water. The boy stopped and asked why she was crying. She said that she couldn't light her fire and cook. The boy said, "I have a nice piece of wood and you can start your fire with it." The old woman was very pleased, lit the fire, made some bread, and gave a piece to the boy.

He took the bread and walked on till he came upon a potter's wife. Her child was crying and flailing his arms. The boy stopped and asked her why the child was crying. The potter's wife said the child was hungry and she had nothing in the house to give him. The boy gave the bread in his hand to the hungry child, who ate it eagerly and stopped crying. The potter's wife was grateful to the boy and gave him a pot.

When he walked on, he came to the river, where he saw a washerman and his wife quarreling. The boy stopped and asked the man why he was scolding and beating his wife. The washerman said, "This woman broke the only pot we had. Now I've nothing to boil my clothes in before I wash them." The boy said, "Here, don't quarrel, take this pot and use it." The washerman was very happy to get a large pot. He gave the boy a coat in return.

The boy walked on. He soon came to a bridge, where he saw a man shivering in the cold without so much as a shirt on him. He asked the man what had happened to his shirt, and the man said, "I was coming to the city on this horse. Robbers attacked me and took everything, even my shirt." The boy said, "Don't worry. You can have this coat." The man took the coat and said, "You're very kind, and I want to give you this horse."

The boy took the horse, and very soon he ran into a wedding party with the musicians, the bridegroom, and his family, but all of them were sitting under a tree with long faces. The boy stopped and asked why they looked so depressed. The bridegroom's father said, "We're all set to go in a wedding procession. But we need a horse for the bridegroom. The man who was supposed to bring it hasn't arrived. The bridegroom can't arrive on foot. It's getting late, and we'll miss the auspicious hour for the wedding." So the boy offered them his horse, and they were delighted. When the bridegroom asked him what he could do in return, the boy said, "You can give me something: that drum your musician is carrying." The bridegroom had no trouble persuading the drummer to give the drum to the boy. The drummer knew he could easily buy another with the money he was going to get.

Continued....

The boy now rushed home to his mother, beating his new drum, and told her how he got it, beginning with a piece of wood from the roadside.

At any one point in the story, the boy might have been tempted to say, "It is unfair." However, in continuing on his journey, the twists and turns ultimately led him to his desired goal. Do we trust the twists and turns of our life to lead us to our goals?

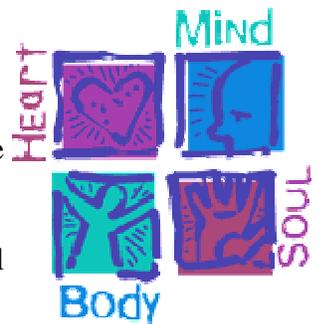
I sure would never have believed my life would have led me to this point. I full well expected to be serving congregations in small town and rural areas. I would never have believed that I would be called to work as an Assistant to the Bishop. I remember thinking of the unfairness that marked the beginning of my pastoral journey. The unfairness of having to serve a second internship in order to qualify for ordination. The unfairness of broken relationships in earlier leadership responsibilities.

I am grateful for the journey and am thankful for the place in which God has given me opportunity to serve. I trust whatever turns are yet to be experienced in my life's journey will be blessed with God's generosity. I hope yours are also blessed.

Pastor Laaker

Cultivating Resilience

Resiliency - how well you cope with and bounce back from adversity - can be broken down into **four parts**.



1. **Physical resilience** requires a healthy and balanced diet, regular physical activity, adequate sleep, and self-care.
2. **Cognitive or mental resilience** describes attention, judgment and decision-making skills, during both good and stressful times. This type of resiliency helps improve your flexibility, creativity and ability to focus on the present moment. To build cognitive resilience, spend 10 to 15 minutes a day with nature or in meditation. Don't plan or problem-solve during this time. Greet as many people as you can each day with the same nonjudgmental attention.
3. **Emotional resilience** helps you balance your emotions. With emotional resilience, you are cautious without being overly fearful, are passionate, and have a healthy self-esteem and sense of self. This helps you become more easygoing, engage with life and embrace opportunities. When you're facing a stressor, ask yourself, *Will this matter in 20 years?* If the answer is no, let it go.
4. **Spiritual resilience** helps you be more grateful, have a stronger sense of meaning and purpose, and become more compassionate, forgiving and accepting of yourself and others. Loving your life according to your beliefs, such as a connection to something greater than yourself or through prayer, is a helpful way to strengthen your spiritual resilience.

Building your resilience - physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually - will help improve your relationships at work and at home.



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.
- ◆ For the family of Norma Olson.
- ◆ Rose Heesacker - as she receives chemotherapy for cancer treatment. (June Hilmer's sister.)
- ◆ Rex Olson - healing during his cancer treatment. (Don Olson's brother.)
- ◆ Elna Burns - healing during chemotherapy. (Don Olson's sister.)
- ◆ Bradley Collett - healing during his treatment for blood clots. (Kids At Work Alumni.)
- ◆ 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 Rypich



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 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 and joke time is at 10:00 a.m.



Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America

Lutheran Women of Omaha
will meet October 11, 2011
for a 12:00 Luncheon at
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
6099 Western Avenue

Program: "Rusty Hinges" - Musical Group

Project: Monetary-Lutheran World Relief
Postage Fund

Reservations By: October 9, 2011
To

Mardelle Gocek - 402-292-1328
Luncheon: \$6.00 COME JOIN US



Wednesday Night
October 19, 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

Our architect/engineer has prepared all the diagrams and has put the project out for bid. We will be receiving bids the week of Sept 26. We will open bids on Friday, September 30. A general contractor will be chosen at that time.

The project is scheduled for completion by November 18. We have learned that our current conditional use permit covers the project. We do have to secure waivers for a couple pieces of the project. These go before the Planning Department in mid-October.

The contract for the demolition of the house and site preparation has been signed. This work is expected to begin on Monday, September 26. It is expected that the house will be down by the end of the week.

Please pray for the successful completion of this important project.





Halloween Party Help!

Grace Lutheran Church is looking for interested people to plan the party! This has been a long standing tradition in the neighborhood, this party helps cultivate lasting relationships for both the church, the neighborhood, and organizations that meet within the building. Many children look forward to this time of safe and organized party. Would you consider helping out with this opportunity? Please contact the church office at 402-341-7730 if you have any questions or are willing to serve in this way.

Party is usually scheduled on the last
Friday in October before Halloween
This year that would fall on
October 28, 2011
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!

We really need some help :-)

Volunteers to help with organizing,
running and donating items for the party!

If you can help, Call the church office as soon as possible!

Needed:

Organizer Candy Help with games Help with publicity

Judges for the costume contest Cakes for the cake walk

Prizes for the best costume in several categories

Anyone who wants to have FUN!



Community News

Jean's Storytime

Dear "Friends of Jean's Storytime"

Jean's Storytime began on September 9, 1956 as a 13 week attempt to reach unchurched children in the KMTV viewing area. The time has now arrived to conclude this weekly TV ministry. Jean's Storytime aired its final episode on September 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. on KMTV.

God deserves all the glory for the longevity of this program, 55 years would not have been possible without His strength and guidance.

Jean's Storytime has had the unique experience of living through the constantly changing local television industry. From Black & White to Color, Live TV to Pre-tape, Video Tape to DVD, from Analog to Digital.

But with all the changes in technology and all the changes in our society over the last 55 years, you have helped Jean's Storytime stay unchanged. While following God's guidance you have prayed for us, drawn pictures, sent children choirs, memorized Bible verses, and provided us with financial support. When our faith wavered, your support pushed us on.

When we read the verse "Well done my good and faithful servant" we hear God saying that to you, our "Friends of Jean's Storytime".

Thank you and may God bless you, for all that you have done.

Miss Jean / Maribeth / Zach & Claude / Mr. Storyboard

Rejoice! Lutheran Church

At the Nebraska Synod Assembly held in June of 2011, a resolution was passed encouraging congregations to train adults working with children and young people on guidelines for Safe-guarding God's Children.

A training event is scheduled at Rejoice! Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This three hour training is open to all individuals who work with young people. It is also available to all church leadership. Individual facilitators are available to contact to set up training in your congregations.

Rejoice! is located at 2556 S. 138th St. (138th and West Center Road). For additional information, please contact Sue Halvorson at Rejoice! Lutheran Church. (402-334-1999)

Registration is \$5.00 per participant, \$20.00 a team of four or more. Please call to register by October 31st.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

2011 Nebraska Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

All over the United States, Lutherans reach out to those in need overseas through Lutheran World Relief's Quilt Kit Ministry. The Quilts and Kits gathered for Lutheran World Relief by women's groups, confirmation classes and congregations make a difference in the lives of people all over the world. LWR expects a 15% increase in requests from partners in 2011.

A continued generous response from congregations in Nebraska will help to ensure that LWR is able to respond to the increasing needs overseas.

Items accepted are quilts, blankets and soap as well as School Kits, Health Kits, Layettees and Sewing Kits (2010 guidelines) and School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits and Fabric Kits (2011 guidelines).

Packing Notes

40-lb. limit per box. Please use strong cartons secured with packing tape. Label boxes clearly in large, block letters with the contents and name and address of your congregation. Do not mix items (including 2010 and 2011 Kits); boxes should be all Quilts, all Fabric Kits, etc.

Specific assembly guidelines for the projects are available online at lwr.org/getinvolved or by requesting a free Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide at 1-800-597-5972.

Pella Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. - Vennelyst Park

Come for Fellowship, Remembrance and Danish Desserts!

Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Aebleskiver Supper

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Aebleskiver, Sausage, and Applesauce will be served

Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Festival of Music

Bishop David deFreese will give the Message.

A light lunch will follow the service.

Everyone is Invited!

Also, anyone who has any special memories or remembrance of the church is encouraged to write us or bring them to one of the above events.

Any questions, please call Pella Lutheran Church at
402-342-1669





"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Project Hope

The Theme for October is:

Stuffing Mix/Canned Pumpkin/Instant Mashed Potatoes

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.

The Nebraska Synod is blessed to participate in companion synod relationships with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina. These relationships are lived out in the lives of individuals, congregations, agencies and institutions of Christ's Church. Through these relationships, we have nurtured and strengthened one another for life and mission within the Body of Christ.

Consider a Trip to Tanzania

You are invited to visit our companion synod in Tanzania! As we continue to deepen our relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, two Nebraska Synod-sponsored trips to Tanzania are planned for late 2012 and early 2013:



July 16-31, 2012

January 28-February 12, 2013

Estimated costs range from \$3,850 (February Trip) to \$4,500 (July Trip) which covers all airfare, transportation, meals, safari fees, and visas. The trip includes visits to ministry sites of the Northern Diocese as well as a safari to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

These trips flow from the relationship we share with our companion synod in Tanzania. The companion synod program enables the Nebraska Synod to experience the gifts and witness of the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Interested? Please contact Stephanie Lusienski in the Nebraska Synod office (402-896-5311). Space is limited.



Virginia McGill
Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

IHS Assists in South High Student Project

Two of our Amigos in Action participants, Maria and Michelle, approached me at the beginning of their school semester with an idea for a project at South High School. As sophomore and junior students enrolled in the Dual Language program, Maria and Michelle began developing ideas for a classroom project and presentation that would begin with interviewing a non-native Spanish speaker and sharing their findings with other Dual Language students.

I was happy to volunteer in helping out with the project, and it was an honor to be selected as their interviewee. I was impressed with the level of professionalism and the research both women put into their project. It is worth noting that Maria and Michelle received a special commendation for their project and they will incorporate some of their initial questions into a more detailed project next semester, likely involving other Families in Action participants.

Below are the questions Maria and Michelle developed, along with and my responses:

1. What is your name? Virginia
2. Where are you from? New Jersey, though Pastor Laaker would be HAPPY to share with you that I grew up in Arkansas!
3. How long have you lived in the United States? My entire life.
4. Where did you learn Spanish? Mostly in the Dominican Republic, but also in Mexico and Guatemala. I studied Spanish formally at Creighton and at Metropolitan Community College.
5. Are there words that you learned in Spanish that are unique to a certain region? In the Dominican Republic, many people use the word "chin" to mean a "little". In Mexico, folks would say "poco". When I use the word, "chin", anywhere outside the Dominican Republic, I get very puzzled expressions from others. Maria and Michelle: I've never heard that word! It is fun to hear about it!
6. Do you speak Spanish with your family? Yes. My husband understands a lot of Spanish, but he would be the first to say that he did not do well in high school Spanish. Our sons speak and understand a bit of Spanish. They also take Spanish at their grade school.
7. Do you speak other languages besides Spanish? No. However, I studied German for two years in high school. I can still speak it a little bit. Being around younger folks like yourselves, I am a bit fluent in "Percy Jackson" speak.
8. Do you think it is important to study Spanish formally or is it good enough to learn it in the home or on the street? I think a combination of all the areas you mention is important! I admire both of you for being enrolled in Dual Language. You've shared with me that the course load is more than in single language, but that you believe Dual Language will help you with more scholarship opportunities. It is very impressive to me that you are comfortable in two languages. And I that learning two languages is not easy and in some ways, never ends!

Continued....

9. Do you use Spanish outside your home? Yes. I used Spanish every day in stores, at work and with neighbors and friends.

10. What advice do you have for people who do not want to speak Spanish but come from a family where Spanish is the primary language? Learning languages opens doors to new worlds--to countries, creativity and cultures! Begin with anyone who wants to teach you, and see where your interest and creativity lie.

11. How does speaking Spanish help you in your personal life or how has learning Spanish impacted you? It is hard to summarize how much it has helped me and impacted me. I have learned a great deal about how much effort it takes to learn another language, and also, how rewarding it can be to speak to other people in their native language. It has made travel out of the country for me so much more enjoyable and so much easier. This being said, I knew almost no Spanish during my first trip to the Dominican Republic and the Dominicans were so patient and kind with me that it inspired me to learn as much as I could.

Maria and Michelle: Thanks for your time and all your help on this project! We will be in touch about next steps!

Virginia McGill, Families in Action



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. If you would like to help those in need of food as a walker please speak to Pastor Laaker and secure a walker pledge form. As walkers place their pledge forms on the back table in the sanctuary, be generous in your sponsorship!

CROP Walkers walk to

Dig wells

Stock food pantries

Shape international policy

Help refugees

Provide disaster relief

Make a difference in our community and the world!



And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

- ◆ Thank you to Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer 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, Jerry Van Ormer, and Ernie Olson who are tending the Church yard and the yard to the north of the church beautifully.
- ◆ Thank you Bob, Jerry, and Ernie, for all your efforts gleaning fence materials including stubborn fence posts!
- ◆ Thank you to Marilyn, LaVonne, Norma, June, Gloria, and Eva, with your dedication in quilting for the Lutheran World Relief, (it was too quiet on Monday mornings!)



Back by Popular Demand! Supplies are Limited. Order Today!

Buy Your 2012 God's Creation Calendar Today!
Fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran Church Library

Only \$5.00!

Each calendar contains beautiful scenic photography enhanced with inspiring Scriptures from the Holy Bible.

Some features of our popular 12-month, 28 page calendar include:

- 12"x9" pages
- high-quality, heavy-weight stock
- gloss-coated photo pages
- matte-finished calendar grid pages
- a superb writing surface
- ample space to write appointments
- a special page for important phone numbers
- 2011 - 2013 year-at-a-glance calendars

A sign up sheet has been posted by the library to take your order!

"A recent Gallup poll found that there are more Americans (3.7 million) who believe that they have been abducted by aliens than there are Presbyterians (2.5 million), so somebody suggested that the General Assembly appoint a committee to study the aliens' methods."

*By Bob Reed
Reprinted with permission by
JoyfulNoiseletter*

And then he concluded with this powerful presentation:

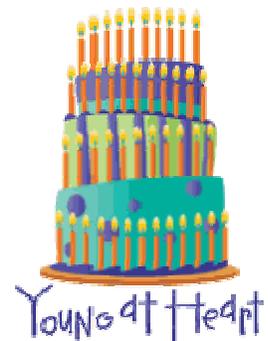
Think about Sundays — your church life and the motivation you receive. Think about your children and their future. And their children's future. Think about your neighborhood — unreached individuals by the hundreds. Think about the possibilities of radio or television outreach, perhaps a Christian school, enlarged missionary outreaches, room to grow, room to park! What's it worth?

Deciding whether something is worth the cost requires intense, effective, prevailing prayer, as well as the hard work of objective thinking. And then it requires courage to act on God's clear direction.

As you consider your time, your talents and your treasure, will you be one who is "investing for time and eternity" by courageously stepping out by faith in response to God's direction in your life?

Sunday, November 6, 2011 Celebrate Gertrude's 103rd Birthday!

Following worship service, you are invited to a joyous celebration of Gertrude's birth!



'Jesus knows me, this I love'

(Laura Roome of Grace Lutheran Church, Edson, Alberta, saw a church sign in JN that was outside St. John's Avenue Baptist Church in Palatka, FL. The sign read: "Jesus knows me; this I love," She composed the following song, inspired by that sign, which was sung at the third Bright Sunday celebration at her own church on the Sunday after Easter.)

*Jesus knows me; this I love, That's the message from above. Loves me though I still do wrong,
So I sing this silly song.*

Refrain: Yes Jesus knows me, and He accepts me, Yes, Jesus knows me. He died to prove His love.

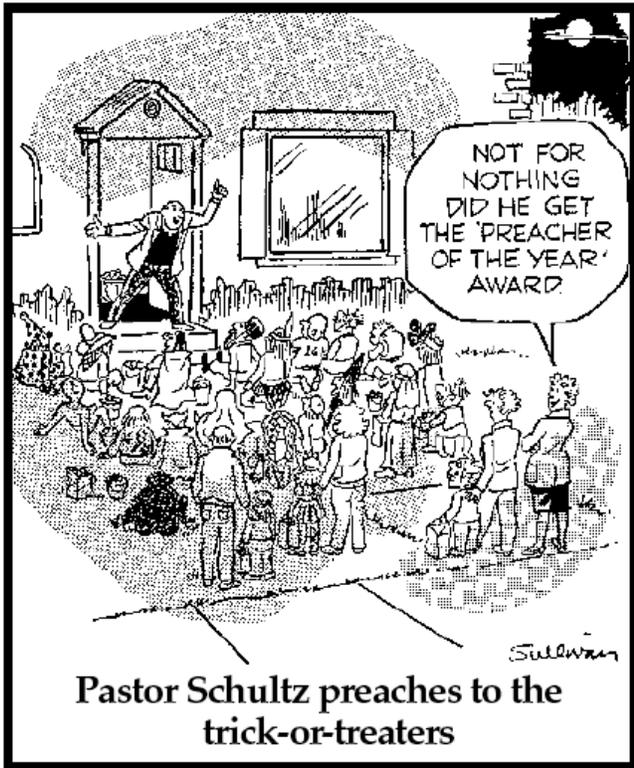
*All of us belong to Him. He has come to make us whole. Jesus suffered just for us, Came to save
each sinning soul.*

*Jesus loves it when we laugh, And he smiles at every gaff. Satan tries to steal our fun, But he knows
that Jesus won.*

*God must love to laugh, you know. Check the zoo out and you'll see Giraffe, elephant and skunk,
Hippo, snake, bat and monkey.*

*Jesus knows me; this I love. That's the message from above. Jesus died upon the tree, Died to save
us, you and me.*

—Laura Roome
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Special Days in October at Grace Lutheran Church

- October 11 - Council Meeting.
- October 12 - Photographers Club.
- October 16 - Pastor Appreciation Day
- October 19 - Prayer Service.
- October 20 - Neighborhood Meeting.
- October 26 - Photographers Club.
- October 28 - Halloween Party.

- • • • •
- A Sunday school teacher asked her •
- class: "What do you call a person who •
- keeps on talking when people are no •
- longer listening?" •
- •
- A little boy raised his hands and re- •
- plied: "A teacher?" •
- •
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A Drug Enforcement Agency officer stopped at a ranch in Texas, and told the old rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs."

The rancher said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there," pointing to the field.

The DEA officer got angry, pulled out his badge, and said, "I have the authority of the federal government with me, and I can go where ever I wish. No questions asked."

The old rancher nodded politely and went about his chores. A short time later, the rancher heard loud screams, and saw the DEA officer running for his life, chased by the rancher's big bull.

The rancher ran to the fence and yelled to the DEA officer: "Your badge! Show him your badge!"

—via John Compere
 Kalamazoo, MI
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October 16, 2011



