

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

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Email: graceluth@graceluth.com

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.**

January

2012



**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 December 13. The Council members shared their prayer concerns for the following individuals who are having health issues: Sue Rose, Twyla Winterfeld, Pastor Judy Gifford, Jack Williams, Dottie Hula, Elaine McKenzie, Jean Malcom, Gloria Derry, Michael Novak, Linda Lynch, and Randy Haynie. We continue to pray for our shut-ins: Barbara Nelson, Barb Narducci, and Mae Lane; we pray for generous hearts during the Christmas Season to help people in need; we pray for people across the nation that are unemployed; we pray for leaders to put aside political feelings and unite together in finding solutions to the economic crisis; and we pray for the needs of our Sudanese brothers and sisters.

Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses of Psalm 28:7 and Luke 1:49 from the "Daily Texts." The Psalm expresses the gratitude and thankfulness that we have in the Lord for the "help" we receive. We place our trust and hope in the Lord, and our remembrances are overflowing with joy, as our hearts are opened, and are ever thankful for the generosity and kindness that we are shown. St. Luke reminds the world that God the Father is the absolutely Holy One. God has done great things in our lives. The times that we fail to see the blessings that are bestowed upon us, we are forgiven. Our actions and speech should reflect our heartfelt thanks to God.

Visions for Ministry: The Council finished their discussion on the book titled, "Leadership in Congregations."

The Council was given an article by Bishop Mike Rinehart titled, "Insiders and Outsiders." Bishop Rinehart talks about how positive change will happen when we care as much about people outside the Church, as we do those inside. We are not called to survive, but rather to serve. Pastor Laaker invites the Council to "mull over" Bishop Rinehart's article for discussion at our January 2012 meeting.

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

Christian Education: On Saturday, January 14, 2012, Lutheran Men in Mission will host a conference on "Building Men for Christ" at Bethany Lutheran in Elkhorn. Men are encouraged to attend, this will be a very helpful and inspirational conference.

Evangelism/Outreach: It is time for us to consider if Grace should pursue a Lutheran Service Corp volunteer position in 2012. There will be some conversation with other Lutheran Churches to see if this could be a "shared" position. There is a need for this position, but we have some hurdles to overcome. The Council will have more information in the months to come on this topic, but we need to pray for God's will to be done as we move forward.

Continued...

Finance: It was reported that at this time, there is approximately \$9,000.00 pledged toward our parking lot project. Pastor Laaker has completed the paper work for a one-time grant for \$25,000.00 from Mission Investment Fund that would be put toward the project. We will pray for a positive response.

Property: Church Mutual, our insurance carrier, has paid some funds for the repair on the flat roof. However, the roofer will talk with an engineer and file an appeal to the insurance company for additional repair costs needed for repair to the main roof.

Service/Social Ministry: A motion was made and ratified by the Council to endorse a proposed "Backpack Program." This program is designed to provide food for hungry children at times when other resources are not available. A gift of \$168.00 provides one child a weekend backpack for the entire school year. Starting in January of 2012, we will have a weekly sign-up sheet for the "Backpack Program" alongside the weekly sign-up sheet for the "Flower Chart Program." The cost of the new program is \$12.00 a week and it works the same way the flowers do. Please note that a congregational member does not have to sign up on both sheets unless they so desire. The name of the person for the weekly donation for the new program will appear in the weekly bulletin just like the name of the person donating for flowers.

Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: The Thanksgiving service at Iglesia Cristo Rey Lutheran Church was nicely done. Pastor Laaker is looking for some speakers in specialized ministries that will be speaking at our Lenten services beginning in February of 2012. If you have an idea, please talk to Pastor Laaker.

Our Christmas Eve service at Grace will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th. Christmas Day service will be on Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Laaker is looking for two voting members to attend the Cluster Meeting on February 4 and June 1-2 of 2012. Any interested persons, please talk to Pastor Laaker.

New Business: Andrew Edwards, Arlone Farber, and Ernie Olson have fulfilled their duties on the Council. A nominating committee, consisting of Carolyn Matson, Andrew Edwards, along with one member from the congregation, will be seeking nominees to fill the open positions. Three people from the congregation will form the Audit Committee to serve as a double check on making sure the Church books are in order. One person from the congregation will be nominated to the Endowment Board, as David Hufford has fulfilled his duties.

Announcements: Arlone Farber will bring treats to the January 10th, 2012 Council meeting.

All chairpersons from each committee and organization should have their annual report summary in by January 12, 2012. Please try to have your reports in on time so that the reports can be put together for distribution on Sunday, January 22.



Do you have a new recipe you want to try out? Or a favorite one to share? The potluck lunch will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012 following worship service prior to the Annual Meeting. Plates, silverware, and drinks will be provided. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



On Sunday, Christmas Day, I shared some thoughts about this marvelous gift that we have received in Jesus. In Hebrews 1:3, the writer says that this Son, God's Son, is the exact imprint of God's very being. I found an image of a person wearing sunglasses that reflected the image of the crucifix they were observing. This reflection is a marvelous reminder that God's incarnation among us is to reflect the amazing love of God for us.

I marvel at the similarities we often see in children who reflect their parents. People often say that my son sounds like me and looks like me (only taller and more handsome). People often say that it is clear that our daughters are a perfect reflection of their mother. This is a marvelous way to image Jesus. When we see Jesus among us, we see God. We see God's imprint on him. We see God's love for humanity in human form.

We are entering a new year. We will have many opportunities to reflect the one in whose image we have been made. What will that reflection look like? Will it be a reflection of underserved love and acceptance or will it be a reflection of a small child desperately clutching all his toys to himself for himself?

Bishop Mike Rinehart wrote a reflection titled, *Insiders and Outsiders*. As he begins his reflection he says, "The turnaround of the mainline churches will happen when we in those churches care as much about those outside the church, as we do those inside. To embrace relevance, we will have to let go of survival." If every decision we make is for those of us on the inside, how will we reflect the love God has for all of God's children?

Our world is hell-bent on destruction. It finds all kinds of ways of displaying this predilection. Wars, greed, and gun violence are only three of the ways it shows up. I wonder what would happen if the church were to offer a way of peace, truth, compassion and hope. If we, as church, were willing to make every decision on behalf of those not yet here, we would be reflecting Christ. This will be a stretch for each one of us but a stretch worth making as a child of God.

I invite you to consider the ways you will reflect the imprint of the Son of God in your life in 2012. May it be a wild and amazing adventure becoming a blessing to any and all you encounter.

Pastor Laaker

Thank You! I am marvelously blessed by your continued generosity. On behalf of my family, I say thank you for the kind remembrances and gifts you shared with us this Christmas season. May God bless you in return!



He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1:3



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 Greg and Janet Hula, and Andrew Edwards for putting up and decorating the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Thank you to the Monday crew (LaVonne and Bob Moss, Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, June Hilmer, Eva Martin, and Ernie Olson), for decorating throughout the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Thank you to Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer, and Ernie Olson 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 Marilyn, LaVonne, June, and Eva, with your dedication in quilting for the Lutheran World Relief.
- ◆ Thank you to Nenchi Ilka, you are doing such a great job cleaning the church building!
- ◆ Thank you to Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, Joe Narducci, Greg and Janet Hula, and Eva Martin who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.



Friendly reminder, if you haven't returned your Fall Stewardship information like the Time and Talent form or your Pledge card, you still have time to turn those in! Please mail to the church office or place them in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



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

Only \$5.00!



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 - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Barbara Narducci - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Jack Williams - Ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Rose Heesacker - as she receives chemotherapy for cancer treatment. (June Hilmer's sister.)
- ◆ Rex Olson - healing during his cancer treatment. (Don Olson's brother.)
- ◆ Wanda Black - skin grafting surgery on her legs. (Ernie Olson's Aunt.)
- ◆ Pastor Judy Gifford - ongoing cancer treatment. (Assistant to the Bishop.)
- ◆ Norma Courtney - recovery from surgery. (Arlone Farber's Mom.)
- ◆ Mary Jane King - recovery from stroke. (Donna Adrian's Mom.)
- ◆ Jean Matson - Spiritual healing during stage 4 lung cancer. (Brenda Spahr's Mother-in-Law.)
- ◆ The family of Elna Burns - (Don Olson's sister.)
- ◆ The family of Elaine McKenzie - (Dorothy Novak and Ferne Matson's niece.)

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Mae Lane - St Joe Villa.

Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

Barbara Narducci - Home

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

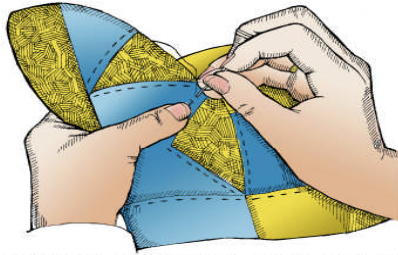
Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

- ◆ 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.*

**Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.**





QUILTING GROUP

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.



Wednesday Night

January 18, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Candle light Prayer Service
for Confession,

Meditation and Healing
at Grace Lutheran Church.

People of all faiths are welcome!



Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America

Lutheran Women of Omaha
will meet January 10, 2012
for a 12:00 Luncheon at
St. Marks Lutheran Church
1821 North 90th Street
(90th & Blondo)

Program: Henry Doorly Zoo

Project: Good Fellows.

Reservations By: January 8, 2012
To

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

Each year, people from Grace Lutheran Church bring donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and other warm items and place them on the tree. These gifts of warmth are donated to area shelters. The tree was getting pretty full, some items have already been shared with local area shelters.

The Christmas Mitten Tree will stand in the upper fellowship hall until shortly after Christmas.

During the after the holiday clearance sales, consider adding a pair of mittens or a scarf or two to your shopping basket.



The 2012 Flower Chart is now up, if there is a special occasion or event you would like to honor, remember, or lift up in praise now is the time to reserve that date!

"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service



Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5th. They will join young people in churches all across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting.

In 2011, youth groups in all 50 states and outside the United States participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating \$9,583,628. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters.

Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Our church will donate the Souper Bowl collection to the Lutheran Pantry. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring became a national grassroots event in 1993, more than \$29 million has gone to help those in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 5, 2012.

PROJECT

The Theme for January is:

Baking Supplies: Flour, Sugar,
Brown Sugar, Cooking Oil, Baking Powder,
Baking Soda, Shortening, Bisquick

HOPE

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

Deodorant	Dish soap
Can Openers	Toothbrush and toothpaste
Shaving Cream	Mouthwash (without alcohol)
Razors	Feminine hygiene products
Kleenex	Hair products (combs, brushes, picks)
Bar Soap	Dry Laundry Soap
Bathroom tissue	
Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pullups	

We always need paper or plastic bags.

**Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111**



Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Familias en Acción celebró el día de la Navidad. Celebramos la Navidad esta vez muy diferente a lo acostumbrado en nuestros países y en USA, lo celebramos haciendo ejercicio con música hindú y árabe nos divertimos mucho. Después compartimos lo que trajimos para comer, todo lo que cocinamos era comida que se hace en nuestros países para la celebración de la Navidad (Tamales, Tostadas, Ponche etc).



Families in Action celebrate Christmas.

In our Families in Action and Amigos in Action groups, we celebrated Christmas this year at Grace Lutheran Church very differently from what we are used to at home in our countries and in the United States. We celebrated this year by doing exercise with Hindu and Arab music. This was so much fun! We were joined by several Sudanese participants, as well as several participants from Russia! We topped things off with a pot-luck consisting of what could be considered “typically” food for Christmas celebrations, ham, beans, tamales, tostadas and ponche. Gema and Virginia, Families in Action

In the United States approximately 13 million children are hungry. With all the food banks and government programs, there are still so many hungry children.

Deuteronomy 15:11 says:

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”

It is important for each one of us to understand we are God’s Missionaries. We may not be going to foreign countries in order to expand Christianity through the conversion of new members, but we are providing humanitarian work to improve [economic development](#) (Habitat for Humanity), [literacy](#) (ESL classes on Saturday Morning), [education](#) (Sunday morning Bible classes, Vacation Bible School) [health care](#), (Families in Action) and a number of additional ministries including Quilts, Sudanese Ministry, and Kids at Work without requiring religious conversion.



Brenda Spahr and I, Vicki Cox, attended a workshop presented by Reggie McNeal. It made both of us stop and think about the mission of our church. We were talking in the church gathering area about everything we were hearing and almost simultaneously we looked at their Flower Calendar for 2011. It had many Sundays that no one had signed up to sponsor altar flowers. We thought of our small church, **every** Sunday we have sponsors for the altar flowers.

The question we asked each other was what can we do to make a difference in just one child’s life. We are a small congregation, with limited resources.

There is a program provided by the FOODBANK FOR THE HEARTLAND called Backpack program.

“One in five kids in Nebraska and western Iowa under the age of 18 is at-risk for hunger. The Backpack Program is designed to provide food for hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as during weekends and school vacations.

Staff members at local elementary schools identify chronically hungry students and then Food Bank for the Heartland supplies bags filled with child-friendly, nonperishable food for those children to take home on Friday afternoons. Each bag provides two breakfast meals and two lunch or dinner meals. They are delivered to participating schools by dedicated Food Bank for the Heartland volunteers and staff members.

The Food Bank Backpack Program launched in the fall of 2006 with just three schools participating, and today they are distributing nearly 3,900 backpacks each week in 80 schools from 26 school districts across Nebraska and western Iowa. Nationally, there were more than 3,600 Backpack Programs that provided much-needed food to over 190,000 children in 2009. “

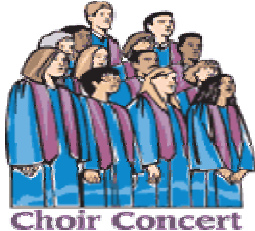
A gift of \$168.00 provides one child a weekend backpack for the entire school year. Brenda and I would like to purpose that we have two calendars for 2012. People may choose to sign up for either altar Flowers or donate their money to the backpack program. **Both donations will be announced in the church bulletin.** In 14 weeks we could help 1 child.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [Matthew 25:35](#)”

This proposal was recently approved by the council at their December meeting. Please consider the opportunity to provide this ministry to those in need. Watch for the sign-up chart to be posted shortly.

Community News

Building Men for Christ workshop is being sponsored by Lutheran Men In Mission on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, NE. Workshop take-aways are Mission/Vision Statement, First Pass Action Plan, Capturing/Sustaining Momentum Strategies and many more. Registrations must be received by Friday, January 6, 2012. Registration fee is \$65.00 per person, no early registration discount. No charge for clergy (male or female) with at least two men attending from the same congregation. For registration forms please contact the church office or Mike Maulick at (402) 650-4606.



Luther College Nordic Choir

Allen Hightower, conductor

A concert of sacred choral music in your area as part of the Choir's 2012 Colorado Concert Tour. The program will feature selections chosen from the following: *Holy Radiant Light* by Alexander Gretchaninov; *Love Is the Key* by Zebulon Highben (recent winner of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians' 2011 Raabe Prize); other choral works by Schutz, Bach, Part, Lauridsen, and Nelhybel, as well as hymn-arrangements and spirituals.

Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
First Plymouth Congregational Church
2000 D Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

\$20 adults, \$18 seniors, \$10 students
Tickets available at
www.abendmusik.org
Or by calling 402-476-9933.

Friday, February 3, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Methodist Church
15050 West Maple Road
Omaha, Nebraska

\$20 adults, \$10 students
Tickets available at
www.luthertickets.com
Or by calling 1-800-4-LUTHER

A study of the comedy of 30 very funny Jewish comedians, who honed their skills in vaudeville before they became famous, indicates that they never used a single swear word in their routines.

The group included Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Red Buttons, Danny Kaye, George Burns, Phil Silvers, Groucho Marx, Victor Borge, Jerry Lewis, Peter Sellers, and Henny Youngman.

-via Rise Samra, Halandale Beach, FL
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True Stories posted on OmahaFoodBank.org



People come to our pantry and realize how much we ALL care. They get a real smile, a hug, good quality food and keep their dignity. Quite often I see a tear roll down the cheek of someone so exhausted from the hardships of life. We're here working with the Food Bank to help turn people's lives in a new direction.

Pantry Operator in Atlantic, Iowa

I just wanted to tell you thank you for having the Backpack Program for students at our school. Just today I had a student who was absent last Friday due to the snow and didn't get his food bag. He told his teacher today that he hadn't eaten in a couple of days because there was no food at home. He was very grateful to take his food bag home today. Thanks for having the program and also for having the volunteers that braved some awful conditions getting them delivered to us.

Nurse at an Omaha Public Elementary School

The economy is bad right now. People are laid off. A family used to come to the pantry every week, and the father said that this was the only food his family had to eat. I'm grateful for the Food Bank. They help me to help others.

Maria Garcia, Iglesia Roca de Salvacion

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Now that the kids are back in school, how about a refresher course for Mom & Dad? Restore Communication, Rekindle Romance, and Renew Commitment. This is the perfect time to register for the Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend of your choice. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 8:00 p.m. to Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster through years of child rearing and work obligations.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends

February 10-12, 2012 in Lincoln, NE
Dayle & Terri Mautz
402-540-8508 dtmautz@yahoo.com

March 9-11, 2012 in Sioux Falls, SD
Vern & Karen Harrington
712-533-6221 giblem@frontiernet.net

Please register one month in advance.





Special Days in January at Grace Lutheran Church

January 1 - Happy New Year.
 January 10 - Council Meeting.
 January 11 - Photographers Club.
 January 18 - Prayer Service.
 January 19 - Neighborhood Meeting.
 January 25 - Photographers Club.
 January 29 - Annual Meeting.



A New Year's benediction

“Grant us, O Lord:

- ◆ The hope to envision new dreams;
- ◆ The strength to rise above our limitations, our fears and whatever holds us down;
- ◆ The courage to stand on our own,
- ◆ To stretch our imagination
- ◆ To experience being fully human, fully alive;
- ◆ The faith to live our lives in your image and likeness.

Guide us, O Lord, this New Year, every way, every day. Amen.”

—Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, Steubenville, OH
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“Celebrate your life joyfully”.
 “Celebrate yourself humbly”;
 “Celebrate your blessings gratefully.”

-William Arthur Ward
 via Apple Seeds
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At an assembly of religion classes at St. John Catholic School in Prairieville, LA, the principal asked a six-year-old girl: “Simone, can you name some saints?”

“Well,” Simone answered, “I don’t watch a lot of football...”

—via Jeff Totten
 Lake Charles, LA
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“Remember that January is the eraser God uses to provide a new beginning.”

—Author unknown



Bible Wordsearch

Babylon has Fallen

Wordsearch 196

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

ANGEL
BIRD
BURNED
CAGE
DEATH
DEMONS
DRUNK
FALLEN
FAMINE
FIRE
FOUL
GLORY
GREAT
HATED
HEART
HEAVEN
JUDGES
KINGS
LORD
LUXURY
NATIONS
PEOPLE
PLAGUES
PRISON
QUEEN
REPAY
RICH
SINS
SORROW
SPIRIT
TORMENT
UNCLEAN
UTTERLY
WIDOW
WORKS
WRATH
ABUNDANCE
DWELLING
MERCHANTS
BABYLON

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 67

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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"Goodwill rejected the ties he got for Christmas."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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'Twas the month after Christmas

'Twas the month after Christmas,
and all through the house,
Nothing would fit me,
not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled,
the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties
had gone to my waist.
Every last bit of food
that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces
have vanished.
Now I'm hungry and no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet.

- Author unknown
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