

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380
402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS
9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

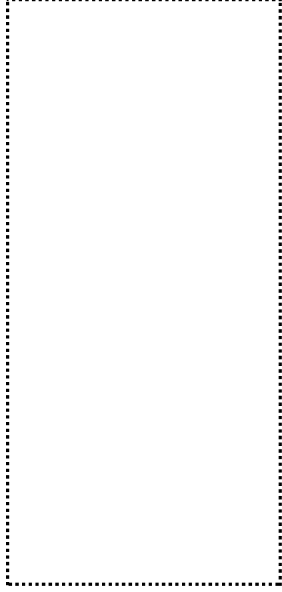
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Families In Action - Virginia McGill
Lutheran Volunteer Corp - Jessica Menary

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THE GRACE MESSENGER



2014

Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church



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



2014 Council Members

Vicki Cox	Janet Hula
Andrew Edwards	Eva Martin
Sarah Emery	Loren Moyer
Arlone Farber	Charles Tuw
June Hilmer	Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fittle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on May 13th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the continued recovery of those close to us. We pray for June Hilmer as she recovers from eye surgery, for Arlone’s mother, Norma Courtney. We pray for God’s safety and guidance for all high school graduates. We say a special prayer for Andrew’s nephew, Michael Petrini as he heads to Honduras for a mission trip.

Devotions were led by Pastor, from Psalm 115.14 and 1 John 3.1. The first speaks to us about all of the blessings given to you and your children, as those of God. The second reminds us to remember who we are, and that we are Children of God with no requirements of strings attached.

Visions for Ministry: We looked at the book The Future Starts Now. We talked about how God doesn’t work alone, that he might pick the most unlikely people to do the job. We, as people, are so quick to complain, and yet not quick to realize our blessings and our talents. Do we just fear letting go and letting God show happiness through us? We are useful and adequate! Read Chapter 3 for our next meeting.

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

Christian Education: Jessica intends to lead VBS, maybe mid-July? Let’s be quick to volunteer our talents to help!

Evangelism/Outreach: New LVC for 2014-2015 will be Malachi Black. He will be coming in mid August. Kids at Work is beginning soon.

Finance: No new report.

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 225 Rev.20:6-15

The First Resurrection

N	E	N	O	S	I	R	P	S	U	L	F	U	R	E	BATTLE	BURNING
G	V	B	R	E	A	D	T	H	T	A	B	S	C	S	CHRIST	BREADTH
I	I	Y	C	R	I	T	E	B	E	S	L	N	E	R	DEATH	BLESSED
E	E	T	E	O	T	H	A	H	E	E	A	L	E		DEVIL	DECEIVE
R	C	E	O	A	D	O	P	D	T	S	S	I	R	W	FALSE	CORNERS
H	E	S	S	E	R	U	O	D	E	H	S	G	R	O	HADES	DEVOURED
A	D	L	T	R	L	S	R	R	O	G	E	O	R	P	LOVES	HEAVEN
D	Y	A	E	A	E	A	P	R	T	B	D	S	N	C	MAGOG	JUDGED
E	E	F	D	A	S	N	E	E	U	H	N	U	H	H	PEOPLE	MARCHED
S	A	T	A	N	S	D	R	R	O	O	R	R	J	E	PLACE	NATIONS
T	W	R	I	T	T	E	N	O	I	P	I	O	P	A	POWER	PRESENCE
E	L	T	T	A	B	I	D	T	C	S	L	L	N	V	PRISON	PRIESTS
D	E	V	I	L	N	R	A	E	T	N	A	E	G	E	REIGN	PROPHET
M	A	G	O	G	T	N	D	E	H	C	R	A	M	N	SATAN	RELEASED
H	D	E	R	U	O	V	E	D	E	S	E	V	O	L	SEATED	SEASHORE
															SULFUR	THOUSAND
															THRONE	WRITTEN
															YEARS	

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

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2014 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Stages Of Fatherhood:

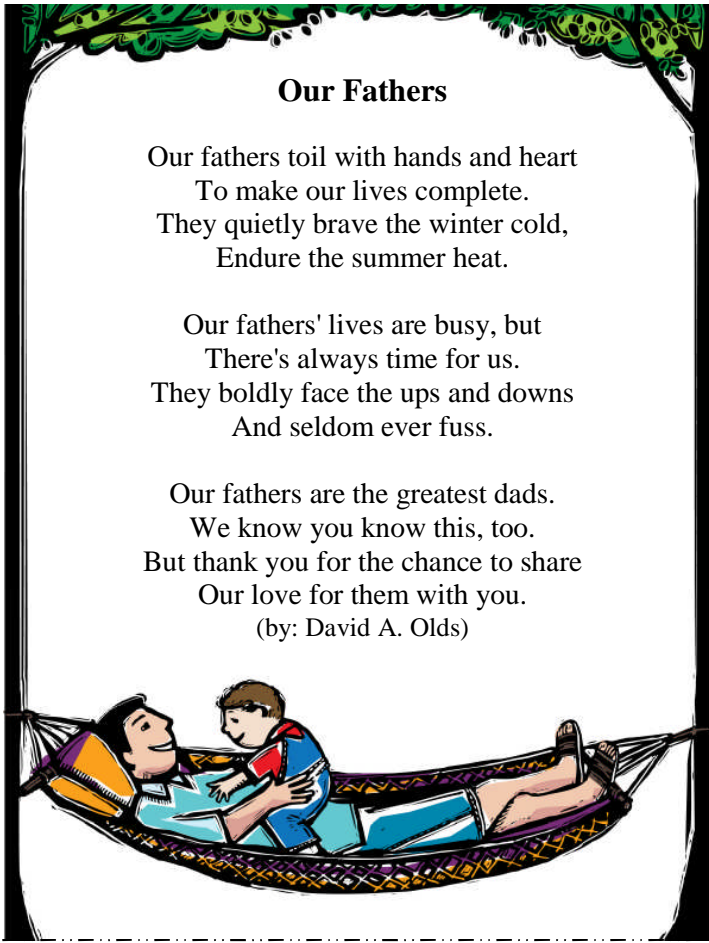
- 4 Years Of Age - My daddy can do anything.
- 8 Years Of Age - My dad knows a lot.
- 12 Years Of Age - My father doesn't really know quite everything.
- 14 Years Of Age - Naturally, father doesn't know that, either.
- 16 Years Of Age - Father? he's hopelessly old-fashioned.
- 18 Years Of Age - That old man? He's way out of date.
- 25 Years Of Age - Well, he might know a little bit about it.
- 35 Years Of Age - Before we decide, let's get dad's opinion.
- 45 Years Of Age - Wonder what dad would have thought about it.
- 65 Years Of Age - Wish, I could talk it over with dad.

Our Fathers

Our fathers toil with hands and heart
To make our lives complete.
They quietly brave the winter cold,
Endure the summer heat.

Our fathers' lives are busy, but
There's always time for us.
They boldly face the ups and downs
And seldom ever fuss.

Our fathers are the greatest dads.
We know you know this, too.
But thank you for the chance to share
Our love for them with you.
(by: David A. Olds)



Father - The Old Days

In 1913

A happy meal was when a father told funny stories
around the dining table.

In 2014

A happy meal is what dad buys at McDonald's.

Reprinted with permission from guy-sports.com

Property: Alma re-did 1/2 of the floor in the basement. No news on the Church Mutual lawsuit at this time. Prince of Peace folks will be mowing our lawn this summer. A big thanks to them for their kindness!

Service/Social Ministry: 125th Anniversary celebration is May 17 & 18. Jessica is planning to sell treats to support the National Assoc for Mental Illness. Please show your support! We will have a speaker on the 1st Sunday in June. The first Sunday in September is "God's Work Our Hands." Any ideas?

Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: We will be having a Pentecostal celebration with our Sudanese congregation on June 8.

Unfinished Business: Janet is taking control of making a baptismal banner for the Synod Assembly.

New Business: No new report.

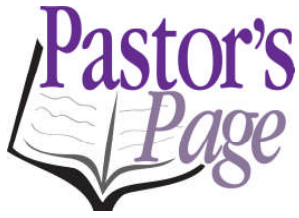
Announcements: Pastor and Mary will be taking a few days of vacation in mid June. Arlone will bring treats for our next meeting.

Lutheran South Pantry
4401 S. 23rd Street
650-619-4796



Items that clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are always appreciated: Dish Soap, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Shaving Cream, Razors, Mouthwash (without alcohol), Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Can Openers, Diaper wipes, and Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.



The Congregation Council and I have been reading the book "The Future Starts Now." The second chapter title is "An Invitation to Freedom." A rather catchy title for this time of the year, don't you think?

The chapter begins by talking about God's action of working in and through people to bring about reconciliation and freedom to the world. Wow! What an awesome task. Jesus began this task with simple fishermen. Jesus continues this task with the likes of you and me. (Maybe you are wondering, as I have, why would you pick unlikely folks like us?)

One of the things that the authors' reference is the feeling that many people have and that is that Jesus would simply show up and save their churches. I must admit there are times when I have had the same thought run through my head. But they go on to remind us that Jesus isn't the candy man. Remember that old song: "The candy man can." Well, Jesus isn't going to act that way. Jesus didn't come to fix our problems or grant our wishes. He came with something better. He came with an invitation to follow him on a life-changing, world-shaking adventure.

You and I have been invited to be part of what God is up to. It won't always make you happy. In fact, it will require hard work and sacrifice. I hope you don't check out when you read this. Because, I am convinced that responding to God not only sets us free but brings us joy in the journey.

Later in the chapter, we are reminded that fishermen were called to fish but that this is not what Jesus calls us to do. He simply asked them to do what they already knew how to do. He asked them to use what they had to work with in order that they might make a difference in the world.



FAMILIES IN ACTION – OMAHA

Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Families in Action and Interfaith Health Service Presents:

Sewing Classes in the Community, including sewing basics, repairs, new projects

When: Beginning June 4th for 8 Weeks

Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm

Location: Latina Resource Center
5211 S 31 Street. Omaha

Thanks to the support of our generous donors and because of high participant interest, we have added additional sewing and mirco-business classes within the community.

We have been blessed with regular donations of sewing materials, fabric and supplies and welcome continued sewing donations via our office at Grace Lutheran Church.

Contact Gema or Virginia to enroll or to obtain additional information: 402-616-4721 or 402-660-6689.

Lutheran Service Corp Lutheran Volunteer Corp

There are 10 Lutheran Service Corp Volunteers living in the Hillstrom House this year and as in years past a few items are showing up on a wish list. The top wish is knowledge of any notifications about FREE events in the Omaha Metro area. Some additional items are as follows:

- ✝ Zoo/Museum day passes
- ✝ Bed linens (mostly twin)
- ✝ Laundry soap / Fabric softener
- ✝ Dishwasher detergent, dish soap, and other “green” cleaners
- ✝ Non-perishable food items
- ✝ Paper products, such as toilet paper
- ✝ Financial contributions
- ✝ PRAYERS!

Your continued support toward this inspiring organization provides the opportunity of service for young people like Jessica Menary, our LVC volunteer.

Neighbors South Habitat Coalition is now underway every Friday and Saturday through the end of July. Together, we can empower families and fight to end poverty housing in our community. This year's build will make a few dreams reach reality for Maria Lopez and her



children. If you would like to volunteer part of your Fridays or Saturdays during the summer and help fulfill a dream of being homeowners for a family, you can sign up to volunteer for the build at: <https://habitatomaha.volunteerconnect.com/NeighborsSouth/full> or speak with Pastor Laaker for additional information.

This leads me to understand that Jesus' call to each of us is for us to be who we are and to use the things that are natural for us for the sake of doing what matters to God. We need not fear that we aren't prepared or don't have the skills. We are not too old, or too young. We are who we are and Jesus knows that and invites us into the service of God's loving mission for world.

I wonder who, what and where God would have us serve for the next twenty-five years. I hope we can see it as an adventure and join God in loving and caring for our corner of the world.

Pastor Laaker



Thank you to Mr. Lou Worm for giving Grace Lutheran an opportunity to scan in several photos, like the photo shown above, to preserve a part of Grace Lutheran Church's history.

The picture above is from the Confirmation Class of 1945. Can you recognize any students from this class? Which student is Lou Worm? One of the Mumm sisters is in this class, can you identify who and where she is?



Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.

1 Kings 8:28

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

✠ **Individuals listed below have ongoing health issues**

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| ✠ Andrew Edwards | ✠ Jim Harrahill |
| ✠ Ken Hilmer | ✠ David Hufford |
| ✠ Carolyn Matson | ✠ Ferne Matson |
| ✠ Gloria Moore | ✠ LaVonne Moss |
| ✠ Robert Moss | ✠ Don Olson |
| ✠ Lori Vasquez | ✠ Urbano Vasquez |
| ✠ Scott Moore (Gloria Moore's son.) | |
| ✠ Norma Courtney (Arlone Farber's Mom.) | |
| ✠ Bob Hargis (Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer's son-in-law.) | |
| ✠ Christian Barajas (Samantha Trejo, Angela & Alex Everitt's brother.) | |
| ✠ Sandy Fitzgerald (Gloria Moore's daughter.) | |
| ✠ Pam Reents, cancer treatments. (Close friend to many.) | |

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 Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church
Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange, John Boato 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.*

Saved to Serve

This is a cultural exchange event that I am very much looking forward to. It is taking place June 20-22. Join with women from across Nebraska to build friendships within and across cultures. Hear the stories of how Sudanese people came to Nebraska and enjoy an exchange of cultural activities, food, discussions and presentations. A special project for the weekend will be to make Lutheran World Relief string backpacks and fill with school kit supplies. Friday evening hear stories and learn about culture and food. Saturday share culture with women and in the evening attend the Miller Park Gospel Concert to enjoy area choirs including those from the Sudanese congregations. Attend a blended service on Sunday with Trinity and Sudanese congregations.

You can come for all of the activities or just pick a few. If you would like to participate in the entire weekend please contact me for registration information. I am in charge of the child care for that Saturday June 21st during late morning and early afternoon at Trinity. **I am in need of materials for the crafts and games I am planning, and I also am in need of volunteers** to help me supervise, entertain, and enjoy being with the kids of all ages as their mothers attend the event. I think it will be a few hours of jam packed fun so please contact me if you are interested!

List of items needed for the event: List of items needed: construction paper, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, markers, crayons, colored pencils, paint, Elmer's, glue sticks, scotch tape, masking tape, duct tape, ribbons, beads, string, clothes pins, popsicle sticks, socks, gloves, envelopes, cotton balls, balloons, ping-pong balls, pool noodles, paper bags, cardboard, boxes, straws, egg cartons, plastic containers, caps and lids, paper plates, plastic silverware, sidewalk chalk, toilet paper cardboard rolls, paper towel cardboard rolls, cups: paper and plastic.

So what do you think? Would you like to get involved? I hope so! Please contact me to get started or if you have any questions. Jessica Menary; by cell: 641-990-5324; by e-mail: outreach@graceluth.com or through the church office: 402-341-7730.

Jessica Menary,
Lutheran Volunteer Community Outreach Associate,
(641-990-5324 outreach@graceluth.com)

Summer Fun; Opportunities to Serve!

Hi guys, summers are always an interesting mix of relaxing and being busy at the same time. I know all of us have things to keep us hopping, but sometimes getting involved is worth it and doesn't mean a huge time commitment. The more people volunteering the better! I have three volunteer opportunities available to you this summer that I think participating in would invite you to become engaged in your community and have some fun!



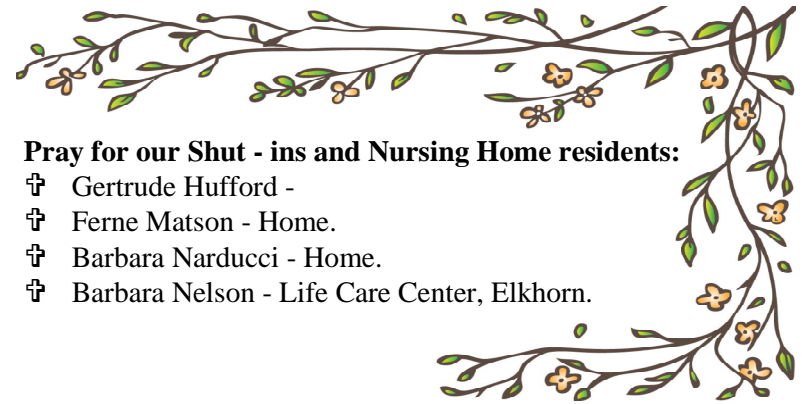
Kids At Work

I am still looking for some adults to be team leaders for the Kids At Work (KAW) program this summer. The team leaders help get the kids where they need to be, encourage them to stay on task, and provide a safe return from their worksites. KAW starts this week and meets every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon. You can choose how much time you want to commit to this program by being a team leader for two hours twice a week, once a week, or we can create a rotation of volunteers, or you can offer to fill in when needed. Are you are interested in being a part of a program that brings in more families to our church, helps out our local community through service work, and teaches youth about the values of work, finance, community building, and teamwork? If you would like to be a part of the program please contact me. I have enjoyed hearing how many of the kids are very excited for this opportunity and would like you to get in on all their positive energy.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School this summer is "Catch the Buzz!" on July 13-17 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please come to a **VBS planning meeting on Thursday, June 5th at 7:00 p.m.** We need a variety of volunteers to fill different roles such as acting in skits, preparing crafts, providing snacks, decorating, playing games, and much more fun activities! "Catch The Buzz" participants will become more aware of mosquitoes and malaria and how it is affecting children around the world. I am excited for VBS and I hope you all are too. Please contact me for more information.



Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

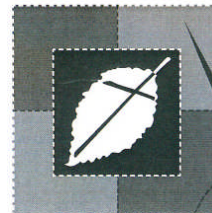
- ✝ Gertrude Hufford -
- ✝ Ferne Matson - Home.
- ✝ Barbara Narducci - Home.
- ✝ Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

Lutheran World Relief Quilters are taking the summer off, have a fun-filled break and see you in September!



Prayer Service
Wednesday
June 25, 2014
7:00 p.m.

An inspiring and quiet experience in meditation, light music, and a deeper connection within God's presence, peace, and love.



Carol Joy Holling Camp
Annual Quilt Auction
July 26, 2014

Over 300 quilts of all styles and varieties will be on display starting at 9:00 a.m. Auction will start at 10:00 a.m. Silent Auction Bidding will be from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Free parking and admission. Huge BBQ Lunch - Adults \$6 and \$3 for children. Hayrack rides and camp tours will be available all day.



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 the ESL tutors; Vicki Cox, Arlone Farber, Mary Laaker, Jessica Menary, and Amanda Vazquez, for making that connection with the students willing to learn and form friendships.
- ◆ Thank you to the Quilters, Marilyn, LaVonne, Bob, June, and Eva. Your dedication to creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief is truly a reflection of God's love. Enjoy your summer time break!
- ◆ Thank you to Bob Moss and Jerry Van Ormer for their continuing efforts to maintain the church with any projects that need to be completed.
- ◆ Thank you to Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, Greg and Janet Hula; who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
- ◆ Thank you to Ron and Donna Adrian, and Brenda Spahr who take care of the altar, and prepare the communion table.
- ◆ Thank you to the Newsletter Assembly crew; Marilyn, Jerry, LaVonne, Bob, June, Gloria, and Eva. The dedication and great conversations during assembly is greatly appreciated!
- ◆ Thank you Alma for taking over the responsibility of cleaning this busy building, it looks fantastic!
- ◆ Thank you to Janet and Greg for the awesome decorating in honor of the 125th Anniversary Celebration. It made the fellowship hall look very festive!



Congratulations Parsila!

Parsila Dike participated in the Nebraska High School State Track & Field Championships May 23rd and 24th, held at Burke High School. Parsila competed in the Class A high jump and came in first place!



The World Herald picture has been posted on the bulletin board for a better and clearer picture. The next time you see Parsila, please congratulate her on such a unique freshman accomplishment!



Parenting 101 Classes

Sponsored by
Assure Women's Center
6510 Sorensen Parkway

A series of eight classes are being offered that included the following topics: Preparing Yourself to Parent; Preparing Your Home; Baby Care & Development; Health & Safety; Personality & Character Development; Defining Discipline by Being Proactive; Defining Discipline ~ Reacting to Misbehavior; and Work Hard, Play Hard.

By attending the classes families will earn points and vouchers that can be redeemed in their Baby Treasures Boutique for items needed for their baby or toddler.

There are three class times to choose from: Mondays 1 - 2:30 pm, Tuesdays 6 - 7:30 pm, or Thursdays 6 - 7:30 pm. All classes are FREE!

Please call the appointment line to reserve your class time at 402-397-0600, if you have any additional questions please call the office at 402-390-9700 and speak with Leanna.

June 2014



1 – Lori Vasquez
8 – Mary Laaker
15 – Greg Hula
22 – Arlone Farber
29 - Brenda Spahr
July 6 – Mary Laaker

Thanks Dad!



2 – Samantha Trejo
Leigh Ann Wiskus
3 – Angelina Adrian
5 – Cade Hargis
9 – Jason Bauer
10 – Trina Rodriguez
11 – Micah Laaker
14 – Benjamin Laaker
22 – Amanda Vazquez
25 – Scott Adrian
26 – Colleen Jeffrey
28 – Solomon Lewa

Did we miss your birthday?
Please contact the church
office and let us know!

June Ushers

Larry Foreman
Vicki Cox
Joe Narducci
Andrew Edwards

Ushers & Greeters



Greeters

1 – Mary Laaker and Sarah Emery
8 – Gloria Moore and June Hilmer
15 – Ralph Fitle and Vicki Cox
22 – Bob and LaVonne Moss
29 - Ron and Donna Adrian
July 6 – Greg and Janet Hula

Responsibility List

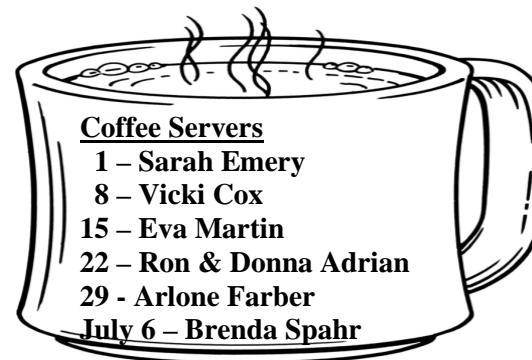
Altar Flowers

1 – Brenda Spahr, in honor of her sister, Emily Martin's birthday.
8 – OPEN.
15 – Andrew, Christi Edwards and Tracey Petrini, in loving memory of their Dad, Albion Edwards.
22 – Greg and Janet Hula, in honor of their grandchildren, Trina and Anthony's birthdays.
29 - Ron and Donna Adrian, in honor of their grandson, Leo's birthday.
July 6 – David Hufford, in honor of his birthday.

Flower Pick-Up for June OPEN

Backpack Program

1 – Eva Martin, in honor of her daughter, Emily Martin's birthday.
8 – Pastor and Mary Laaker, in honor of their son, Micah's birthday.
15 – Vicki Cox, in honor of her niece, Brynn's birthday.
22 – Pastor and Mary Laaker, in honor of their daughter, Amanda's birthday.
29 - OPEN.
July 6 – Brenda Spahr, safe celebration for everyone during the 4th of July.



Coffee Servers

1 – Sarah Emery
8 – Vicki Cox
15 – Eva Martin
22 – Ron & Donna Adrian
29 - Arlone Farber
July 6 – Brenda Spahr

