



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

402-341-7730

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Web Site: www.graceluth.com

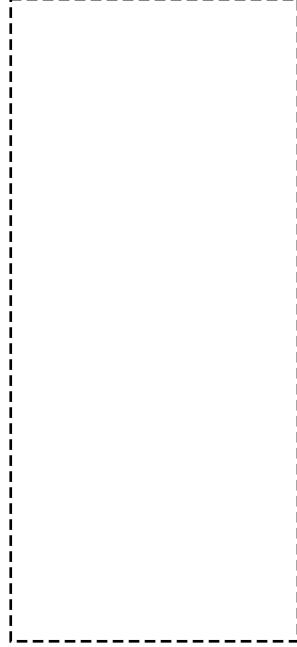
REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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 - Malachi Black

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THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2015



2015



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



2015 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Eva Martin
Andrew Edwards	Loren Moyer
Arlone Farber	Charles Tuw
Ralph Fitle	Amanda Vazquez
Janet Hula	Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on April 14th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for Norma Courtney, Teresa Courtney, and Bob Maas. We also pray for Marsha Moyer’s sister Merrily Staats in her time of grief with her husband’s passing.

Pastor Laaker led devotions from Lamentations 3:58 and Hebrews 6:19. The first tells us that God is in our corner and has a purpose for us. The second tells us that hope keeps us grounded in Him, reminding us that we are not alone.

Visions for Ministry: This chapter provided a description of the various impacts on traditional religions in society. Many congregations have open doors but don’t actively engage the community to draw people in. They have never had to do this before and don’t know how or don’t want to make the effort. There is an idea of spirituality versus religion, which poses a challenge in how to approach this and engage with those who view themselves as spiritual but not religious. There has been an authoritative shift in our thinking from looking to the Bible for answers and accepting the church’s position versus one’s own idea of how it may relate in one’s own life. Many don’t trust the institution of the church. The question was asked: Where do we build communities? How do we do it in the evolving world of technology and anonymity? Do we despair or do we embrace the opportunity to explore a changing world through Jesus? This chapter challenges us to approach these ideas through a sense of hope.

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

Christian Education: Is anyone thinking about Vacation Bible School...it will be coming up soon? Attendance was low last year – should we pursue it this year? Perhaps we could do an afternoon as opposed to a whole week – maybe coordinate it around the annual picnic, immediately following. Or a two-day activity (Saturday/Sunday). We will pray about it and re-visit the idea.

Evangelism/Outreach: Malachi has been meeting with Liberty Elementary School. The plan is to begin a reading program in the fall. He has been building a relationship with the school by helping to read to some of the kids for assessment tests.

Finance: The Endowment Board provided the following report. The Disney Fund is taking care of the property concerns and Malachi’s position - if there is no Lutheran Service Corps volunteer that is ultimately placed with us, we would be looking at keeping Malachi in a part-time capacity. The fund will provide a dollar for dollar match for repair to St. Luke’s AC unit, which was vandalized, and for installing a lift to provide accessibility to their sanctuary. The Board voted to fund the Campaign for ELCA, which would be \$2,500 per year for 5 years, and the Midland University Campus Pastor position, which would be \$5,000 per year for 2 years. The Council voted to fund all areas as the endowment board requested. Pastor will provide yearly financials to Mission Investment Fund as required for the loan. We will likely receive a check within the next 1-2 months from Jack Williams’ estate. This will basically double our GELC Endowment Fund.

Property: The mediator was going to attempt to get Church Mutual to \$95,000; however, that is unlikely to happen, so we are pursuing a court date. Johnson Hardware will get us a bid to replace the frame of the front door and properly weatherstrip for efficiency. The spring air conditioning service has been done and approved from the endowment fund. We may look into a small water heater for the kitchen.

Service/Social Ministry: Vicki attended the OTOC steering committee meeting – there will be a fundraiser at Hot Shops at the end of the month - Saturday, April 25 6-9:30pm. There will be a slide show of the partner institutions of which Grace will be included.

Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: Potluck at St. Luke’s was very nice. Attendance at Grace on Good Friday was very good- up from previous years.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Pastor will be in Chicago next week for the spring clergy voyagers group meeting. Loren will bring treats for our May meeting.

Continued...





I receive a regular email from a group called the "Effective Church Group." In a recent email Scott Musselman addressed the following: 5 Questions to Discover if You Honor the People God Loves.

He wrote the following. "We talk a lot about honor in our culture in regards to public service and acts of bravery. But why don't we speak more about honoring one another in daily life?"

"Think about it. How do people perceive you? And in regards to church, does your congregation honor every precious child of God?"

"I feel keenly about the Biblical mandate for hospitality and how lacking it seems in most churches. I would like for us to consider how hospitality is really the call of God to honor others."



"For me, this journey started exactly where I am sitting right now, in my favorite seat at my favorite coffee shop. I sit where people have to almost trip over me. I smile at everyone who walks by if they are interested in noticing."

"The baristas know exactly what I want when I come - a small unsweet black tea. (I gave up coffee at the age of six.) They are essential people that I connect with at the coffeehouse. But, as much as I love these folks, my last two visits had experiences where I didn't feel honored - not the least of which when they know me to be a regular."

"While I don't drink coffee, that is just a small part of what these amazing drinks are at coffeehouses. It is common for the baristas to take around samples of their beverages. For the last two visits, they have taken around samples only to run out just before they get to me. Then they walk by me with their empty tray. How would you feel?"

"My small group is focusing on spiritual conversations these days. It seeks to hold each of us accountable to be actively having conversations in the community where we intensely listen to people's stories and respond in a Godly manner of love and grace."

continued.....

"I told the story of Jared (his real name) who is a waiter at Applebees. He was amazing as he served each table and somehow made a connection with the stories of all these diverse people. That included our own table when he learned I am a pastor, and he told about how his grandfather started the church he attends."

"When I shared this story at my group, one member asked how Jared's behavior made me feel. My answer was that I felt honored. Jared honored my life. It leads me to a few questions for us to ponder:

1. Do I honor my family about whom I know all their faults?
2. Do I honor the people I meet in daily life?
3. Do I honor the people who I don't feel honor me?
4. Does my church honor everyone who enters?
5. Do our church ministries honor the people God sets before us?

"We talk a lot about church hospitality these days, but like with anything, it can become misguided. Am I hospitable just so there is a better chance that new people will return to my church? Hospitality can be reduced to following a set of guidelines. There. Now we are a friendly church because we do these things. No. Not necessarily. Hospitality is honoring the precious people who God loves unconditionally."

This got me to thinking about the kind of hospitality we offer at Grace. Does it reflect the questions raised in the article? If so, how might we take the next step in developing community? If not, what steps might we take toward improving our hospitality that leads to community?

I believe God has placed us here at this time for the very important work of making disciples of Jesus. This means that we have an awesome task of honoring people as Jesus honored those he was privileged to serve. They, in turn, wanted to become part of his community. Can we be hospitality of Christ?

Give it some thought and some prayer time. If you'd like to talk, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Pr. Laaker



Celebrate Pentecost Sunday, May 24th and remember to wear red or orange in recognition of the promise Christ made to the Apostles of sending the Holy Spirit to them!



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 and concerns:

Andrew Edwards
Ken Hilmer
Carolyn Matson
Robert Moss
Cheryl Powley



James Harrahill
David Hufford
LaVonne Moss
Don Olson
Urbano Vasquez



Norma Courtney (Arlone Farber's Mom.)
Christian Barajas (Samantha Trejo, Angela & Alex Everitt's brother.)
Dottie Hula (Greg Hula's Mom.)
The family of Rick Staats (Brother-in-law of Margie Sutej & Marsha Moyer.)

Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran.

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.*

Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

Ferne Matson - Home.
Joe and Barbara Narducci - Home.
Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.



**Grace Quilters for
Lutheran World Relief**

Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join a lively group of people and assemble amazing tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief organization. These quilts are delivered around the world to areas most in need of a little comfort.

Please feel free to stop by check out the activity. Coffee break and joke time is 10:00 a.m.; another opportunity in fellowship with one another. No experience is necessary!



**Prayer Service
Wednesday
May 20, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

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

Thank you for all the cards, visits and prayers extended and shared with LaVonne and I during this time of illness, hospitalization and long term care! It will be a happy day when I can come back and visit with everyone!





Kids At Work - consider the possibilities of volunteering two days a week, one day a week, one week out of the month, any time you can spend helping with the Kids At Work

Summer Program will be helpful. Kids At Work will continue to meet each Tuesday and Wednesday through the months of June and July. If you are interested in participating or volunteering in this awesome opportunity of awareness for the youth, please speak with Malachi Black. Additional information is located in Malachi's article.

Grace Lutheran Church
ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes
Saturdays 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
402-341-7730



Do you know anyone searching for the opportunity to learn the English language? Please direct them here at Grace. Every Saturday morning they would be greeted with a smile and very helpful tutors to start their education in one of the most difficult languages to learn as a second language.



Lutheran South Pantry
4401 South 23rd Street
402-502-7070

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 wipers, and Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.



The Neighbors South Habitat Coalition 2015 has began and continues each Friday and Saturday. We will be working on rehabbing a home at 2718 S 23rd Street for Rosalinda Bonilla and her three daughters.

Our work begins at 8:00 am and concludes about 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed and welcomed. We are hopeful to have ten volunteers each work day. Our work days will be Friday and Saturday. We will be taking Easter weekend, Memorial Day weekend, and July 4th weekend off.

Please speak to Pastor Laaker if you have questions or would like to help in some way.

BASKETS OF PROMISE

Several people gathered after worship service on Palm Sunday, March 29th and together assembled and tied a total of 36 Personal Care Kits! Items within

the Personal Care Kits were collected during the 2015 Lenten Season. There was an additional box overfilled with extra items that was donated to the South Omaha Pantry. These items are rarely donated and were received with great smiles, excitement and appreciation.

Mr. Keo Narin, Tonle Krau's school master in Cambodia explains that, "The provision of the Personal Care Kit it essential not only to meet the basic needs of poor students in terms of improvement of hygiene practices such as hand washing habits, but also to promote higher attendance of students to the class." Students were happy to receive their Personal Care Kits and say, "Thank you Lutheran World Relief. We are very proud to receive the Kits."

Thank you to all the congregations who work so hard to extend these gifts of love to communities living in poverty around the world!



Spring is well underway. Change is blooming and energy is flowing through the community. A fourth of the year will have passed and we are quickly approaching upon summer. There is much to do and yet still much time in the year left. What plans do you have in store in the upcoming months? What plans does God have in store for you?



I can't really speak for God, but I'm thrilled to talk about what Grace has in store in the upcoming months. We are currently planning for the yearly, summer Kids at Work program. We will be going to various locations as well as work around the church or in the neighborhood educating and mentoring kids on how to be good workers and savers of money. We are in need of volunteers to drive and work with the kids for two hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We hope to enlist new kids going into grades 5-8 in the Fall school session if anyone knows of neighborhood kids who are eligible. We are excited to partner with the various organizations as well as get support from volunteers. Please reach out to me if you able to help in any capacity.

We are also finishing up a study on Job in Sunday morning adult class, focusing on the question of suffering and how we come to understand the notion of God's interaction with human activity in both the world of past and present. We will continue to press forward as the year continues with participant-inspired topics. Come share and give input on what burning desires you may have to study or explore.

Grace has completed helping Liberty Elementary students take the NeSA tests that are required of them. We sat with students and read questions as they completed various tests on the computer. We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to come and help. We also hope to kickoff the Growing with Grace Book Reading program with Liberty this Fall. We also had a hand in the local neighborhood cleanup recently conducted. A lot of work was accomplished and the weather was perfect for cleaning. It was truly a blessing to see all who helped. The church also had a small, cleaning house session just to keep things in order.

The future is bright and filled with blessing. Amidst the struggle and pains of life, we continue to strive to live in community with one another. We pray for healing, strength, and guidance along the way on this journey we are embarked upon. May you continue to grow in grace and love for one another, and be guided by God's steadfast love and tender mercies.

Malachi Black, Community Outreach Associate
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Volunteer Corps
outreach@graceluth.com



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 the plants in the entry way, they continue to thrive and look welcoming.
- ♥ Thank you to the Quilting crew; Marilyn, LaVonne, June, Eva, and sometimes Bob, for the weekly dedication and effort in creating quilts for the Lutheran World Relief Organization.
- ♥ Thank you to the ESL tutors; Malachi Black, Vicki Cox, Arlone Farber, Mary Laaker, and Amanda Vazquez, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.
- ♥ Thank you to Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer, Greg and Janet Hula, and Eva Martin; who pick up altar flowers every Sunday morning.
- ♥ Thank you Donna, Vicki, Greg, and Janet for responding to the request for additional acolytes! You are all doing a great job!
- ♥ Thank you to the Newsletter Assembly crew; Marilyn, Jerry, LaVonne, Bob, Gloria, and June, it is always a treat to listen and join in the lively conversations!
- ♥ Thank you to Ron and Donna Adrian and Brenda Spahr who take care of the altar, and prepare the communion table.
- ♥ Thank you to all ushers, Andrew, Jerry, Ron, Vicki, Mary, and Malachi for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings

Thank you to the several people who dedicated a couple of hours on Saturday, April 25th and cleaned various corners, storage rooms and kitchens at Grace. The different areas that were cleaned look awesome!





Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla espanol.

**IHS/FAMILIES IN ACTION TO RECEIVE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER GRANT**

IHS/Families in Action has been selected to receive a Children's Hospital & Medical Center Preventing Childhood Obesity Community grant for our Amigos En Acción/Friends in Action Program!

We look forward to working with Children's Hospital & Medical Center and many children and families in South Omaha in the year ahead per the terms and conditions of our grant.

At Families in Action, we are grateful for our many partners in the community who make our work possible: our churches, pastors and congregation members who offer us space, prayers and support; our college student and Lutheran Service Corps volunteers who build relationships with our participants and their families; our dedicated staff who make programs possible; our many community-based partners who work side by side with us; our grant funders who support us financially; our Board members who volunteer their time and talents, and most of all, our participants, who inspire us with their commitment to our community.

Our grant from Children's will be utilized to improve the current and future health of children by preventing childhood obesity within our community. There is important, life-transforming work to do, and we are proud to partner with Children's in this endeavor!

Virginia, Gema and Kaela

You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest,
that it leaves your arms too full to
embrace the present or future.

~ Jan Glidewell
SkyWriting.net



**12th Annual Lutheran Volunteer
Charity Golf Tournament
Monday, May 11, 2015
Oak Hills Country Club
12325 Golfing Green Drive**

Dust off your golf clubs, put together a group or join an existing group to support this fun fundraiser. Registration will be at 11:30, Box Lunch at noon, Shotgun Start at 12:30 with a Banquet and Raffle at 6:00 p.m. Any questions or looking for a golf group, please contact Janelle Domeyer at 402-457-5890 or email at lscomaha@lscomaha.org

Vacation Bible School



Are you interested in leading this summer's Vacation Bible School? Consider being a part of the experience in sharing God's Word with youth from both Grace and the surrounding neighborhood. Many talents will also be needed in a supportive capacity like; crafts, games, story telling, sharing snacks and leading little ones in a group. Any questions or suggestions, please speak with Pastor Laaker soon.

Generous Reflections

When we give faithfully and generously, we demonstrate God's redeeming grace that is alive and well within us. Because of God's grace, we are empowered to give. Our giving is a spiritual response to God out of gratitude for all that God has done for us. Giving in response to God's love should be our primary motive for giving. Giving to meet our church's budget is important, but it should not be our primary reason for giving. Through the giving of our first and best to the Lord, we worship and honor God.

May 2015



- 3 - Greg Hula
- 10 - Malachi Black
- 17 - Mary Laaker
- 24 - Brenda Spahr
- 31 - Margie Sutej
- June 7 - Terry Nielsen

May Alcolytes

- 3 - Janet Hula
- 10 - Vicki Cox
- 17 - Andrea Spahr
- 24 - Greg Hula
- 31 - Donna Adrian
- June 7 - Brenda Spahr

May Ushers

- Vicki Cox
- Malachi Black
- Andrew Edwards



May Greeters

- 3 - Ralph Fitle and Larry Foreman
- 10 - Gloria Moore and June Hilmer
- 17 - Davena Garcia and Lori Vasquez
- 24 - Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker
- 31 - Andrea and Brenda Spahr
- June 7 - Vicki Cox and Eva Martin



- 7 - Christi Edwards
James Harrahill
- 8 - Ellison Simon
- 10 - Juan Vazquez
- 13 - Danaka Ashcraft
- 16 - Marissa Halfhill
Alexandra Everitt
- 18 - Shedu Lado
- 21 - Jessica Armstrong
- 22 - Parsila Dike
- 25 - Arlone Farber
- 26 - Estir Lewa
- 27 - Brenda Anzalone
Donna Adrian
- 31 - David Wallace
Edda Nyiwe

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



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers

- 3 - OPEN.
- 10 - Andrew, Christi, Clay Edwards and Tracy Petrinit, in loving memory of their mother, Charlotte.
- 17 - OPEN.
- 24 - Jerry & Marilyn Van Ormer and Ed & Charlotte Palczynski in loving memory of their parents.
- 31 - Vicki Cox, in celebration of her sister Bev's birthday.
- June 7 - Greg and Janet Hula.

Flower Pick-Up for May: The Van Ormers

Backpack Program

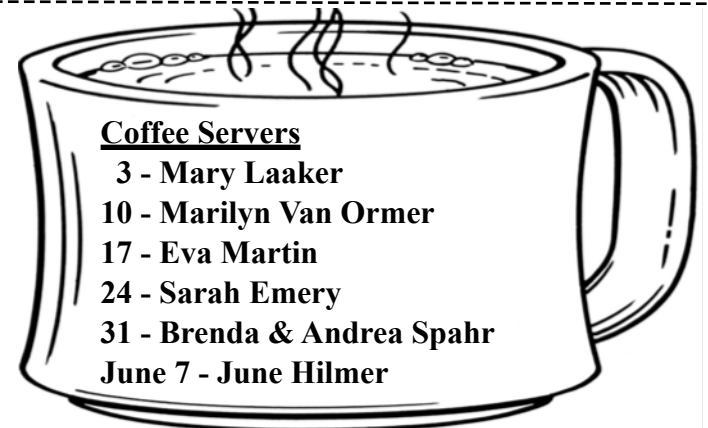


- 3 - Charlotte Palczynski please remember all who are hungry.
- 10 - Brenda Spahr, God's blessings for all Moms.
- 17 - Eva Martin in honor of her great-granddaughter, Marissa's birthday.
- 24 - Ron and Donna Adrian in honor of Donna & their daughter, Brenda's birthday.
- 31 - Arlone Farber please remember all who are hungry.
- June 7 - Terry and Sandi Nielsen in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.



Coffee Servers

- 3 - Mary Laaker
- 10 - Marilyn Van Ormer
- 17 - Eva Martin
- 24 - Sarah Emery
- 31 - Brenda & Andrea Spahr
- June 7 - June Hilmer





2015 LUTHERAN NIGHT

COLORADO SPRINGS SKY SOX VS. OMAHA STORM CHASERS

MONDAY, JUNE 8 | 7:05 PM

SPECIAL TICKET RATE \$6 \$13 VALUE

- 1,250 Lutherans attended last year, let's go for 1,500 in 2015!
- National Anthem sung by Matt & Simone Weber of Table Grace Cafe
- 7th Inning Stretch
- Featured Mission: Table Grace Cafe



ADD-ONS:

- \$5.50 HOT DOG & SODA VOUCHER
- \$3 CENTRIS FAMILY FUN ZONE PASS
- \$2 MINI-GOLF PASS

TO RESERVE YOUR LUTHERAN NIGHT TICKET,
CONTACT RYAN WORTHEN 402-738-5126
OR RYANW@OMAHASTORMCHASERS.COM

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATE: JUNE 5



Carol Joy Holling Camp Men's Retreat - May 8-9, 2015 Understanding the Cornerstones of Our Faith

An event for men, designed to encourage discussion about the cornerstones of faith; The Ten Commandments, The Apostle's Creed and The Lord's Prayer. Plus, the retreat will include great fellowship, a meaningful service project and lots of good food!

Schedule:

Friday, May 8th

- 5:00 p.m. - Check In.
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Grill-Out.
- 7:00 p.m. - Devotion # 1 - The Ten Commandments.
- 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Campfire Worship.
- 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship.

Saturday, May 9th

- 7:30 a.m. - Breakfast.
- 8:30 a.m. - Devotion #2 - Apostle's Creed.
- 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Camp Service Project.
- 12:00 p.m. - Lunch.
- 1:00 p.m. - Devotion #3 - The Lord's Prayer.
- 2:00 p.m. - Closing and Sending Off.

Three different Pastors will be joining our retreat to guide us on a journey of better understanding the cornerstones of our faith - The Ten Commandments, The Apostle's Creed and The Lord's Prayer.

Rev. John Gosswein has been the pastor at Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE for over 20 years.

Rev. Patrick Sipes is a graduate of Luther Seminary and is currently studying Spiritual Direction through Creighton University and the Nebraska Synod.

Rev. Paul Coen is currently serving as the Senior Pastor for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Omaha.

To register please go online at cjhcenter.org/mens-retreat or call Carol Joy Holling Camp at 1-402-944-2544.



Earth Day 2015 - 19 Tips to Saving the Planet

Global warming. Ocean acidification. Smog. Desertification. Massive patches of plastic floating in the ocean. We hear about environmental calamities daily. Earth Day is time set aside to consider the dangers facing the blue ball we live on and resolve to change

things for the better. Here are some things you can start doing now to make an impact.

Turn Off Lights - One quick way to conserve some energy is to turn off any lights you aren't using. It's as easy as flicking a switch as you leave the room.

Switch To LEDs - Sure, they cost more than your typical lightbulbs, but they use dramatically less energy than an incandescent bulb and many can last 20 years. And, unlike compact fluorescent bulbs, they don't contain any dangerous mercury.

Unplug Electrical Appliances - Many modern electronics continue to use energy, even when off. Consider unplugging electronics when not in use.

Use Reusable Shopping Bags - You can buy reusable bags from just about any grocery store for as little as 99 cents. Doing so will keep countless plastic bags out of landfills.

Borrow Things You Don't Use Often - Do you really need to own a chainsaw if you're just taking down a single tree in your yard? Save the energy it takes to produce the saw and just borrow a friend's.

Compost - Compost helps farmers grow food, and food scraps become compost again. It's the circle of life.

Recycle - Not all garbage is equal. You can reduce the amount of trash in landfills just by taking an extra second to sort your refuse when pitching it.

Don't Litter - Litter can hurt wildlife, and it's unsightly. Do the world a favor and find a trash can or recycle bin.

Fix Leaky Faucets - A single leaky faucet dripping 20 times per minute would waste 925 gallons of water per year.

Take Shorter Showers - Showers can use 2 - 2.5 gallons of water per minute. Reducing your shower time by just a few minutes each day can save a significant amount.

Walk or Ride a Bike When You Can - Leave your car with its CO2-spewing engine in the garage and walk or bike to work or on errands. It's good for the planet and good for you, too.

Eat Locally Grown Food - The transportation of food halfway around the world to your dinner plate creates a lot of pollution. Eating locally-produced food reduces its carbon-footprint.

Write to Your Representatives - Make your voice heard! Encourage your representatives to adopt planet-healthy policies.

Turn Down Your Heat - Save energy and money by donning a sweater instead of cranking up the heat.

Plant a Tree - The classic Earth Day activity, planting trees introduces new habitat for wildlife and the trees take CO2 out of the air.

Use Refillable Bottles - Filling a refillable bottle with tap water instead of buying disposable bottles of water cuts down on waste and transportation costs.

Pay Bills Online - Going paperless saves trees and the cost of transporting mail.

Consider Solar Panels For Your House - The cost of solar panels has dropped significantly in recent years, and there are even companies that will lease them to you, giving you no upfront cost.

Teach Your Kids - Teach your children to respect the planet by including them in Earth Day activities.

Shared by msn.com on Earth Day!



God could not be everywhere
therefore, He made mothers



Happy
Mother's
Day!

The story of Mothers Day in the United States began with the efforts of a dynamic writer and poetess, Julia Ward Howe in 1872. An activist to the core Julia utilized her potentials to further the cause of Mothers Day. She wrote a powerful Mothers Day Proclamation in Boston in 1870 and demanded declaration of an official holiday and celebrations on Mothers Day. Her idea gained popularity but she could not get the idea implemented. Julia is also credited for penning words for the Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic".



Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 236

Matt.4:12-22

The First
Disciples

P	A	N	D	R	E	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	D	W	BESIDE	ANDREW
E	F	S	T	E	N	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	E	O	BOAT	CASTING
T	L	I	C	I	O	V	H	C	A	E	R	P	M	D	GREAT	DARKNESS
E	E	N	S	L	R	E	R	N	U	S	R	U	A	A	ISAIAH	DAWNED
R	O	D	L	H	T	E	A	S	E	M	A	J	N	H	JAMES	FISHERS
E	N	O	I	A	E	D	T	D	E	N	E	S	U	S	JESUS	FOLLOW
P	W	P	E	S	R	R	N	U	R	L	N	I	L	U	JOHN	FATHER
E	J	R	E	O	E	A	S	E	R	F	P	M	U	S	LAKE	FULFILL
N	G	O	J	K	Z	B	P	G	E	N	O	O	B	E	LIGHT	GALILEE
T	R	P	H	A	A	A	D	N	D	E	N	E	J		LIVING	JORDAN
A	E	H	R	N	C	L	R	O	A	I	E	D	Z	P	NEAR	NAZARETH
O	H	E	H	A	I	A	S	I	G	W	T	B	I	V	NETS	PROPHET
B	T	T	E	L	L	I	G	H	T	O	N	S	E	U	ONCE	RETURNED
H	A	R	E	S	R	L	I	V	I	N	G	E	A	Z	PEOPLE	SHADOW
I	F	E	N	P	S	S	S	E	N	K	R	A	D	C	PETER	SIMON
															PREACH	WALKING
															PRISON	ZEBEDEE
															REPENT	ZEBULUN

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

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Take time to laugh....
for it is the music of the soul.

~ Anonymous
SkyWriting.net

