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 9:30 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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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<sup>.</sup> Janet Hula

\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Robert Moss family during their time of grief in losing Bob, victims of the Nepal earthquakes, Barb Nelson who is hospitalized, Stephanie Bushman, Amanda's friend, who is in the hospital, Arlone's mother and sister-in-law who are battling health issues, and Andrew Edwards as he recovers from his surgery.

Pastor Laaker led devotions from Judges 6:13 and 1 Corinthians 13:12. The first asks a question that we have all been faced with at times and is as present now as it was then. The second tells us that, while our vision is dim now, our eyes will be opened and we will see clearer when we see God face-to-face.

<u>Visions for Ministry</u>: When the author addresses the emotional system he is not just talking about emotions, but the automatic human behaviors. Basically, people can respond reactively or responsively depending on the circumstances. Is the amygdala (the part of the brain that triggers anxiety) actually fully operative at birth? How does one manage the reactivity to take a more responsive approach so as to avoid disruption to the whole? A person cannot lead if they have the same level of anxiety as the group because then the ability to manage one's anxiety is absent.

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

Christian Education: Still considering what to do for Vacation Bible School. We will pray about it and decide in June.

Evangelism/Outreach: LVC provided 3 names to Grace. One withdrew before the interview, and the other two went through the interview process. One interviewee would have the background to fit well at Grace, so we will wait and see if he/she expresses interest.

Finance: Portico 2% rebate again. Dillons - provides an opportunity for "community partners" to get contributions. Individuals who use Bakers card can rack up points and choose for Grace to benefit. A percentage is given each quarter.

Property: Attorney agreed with our request. We are still waiting for a response. Entry Door: \$1825 bill to get new frame structure.

Service/Social Ministry: No new report.

Support/Stewardship: No new report.

Worship: Wear red for Pentecost 5/24. Colleen will be gone for 3 weeks in June for Guard training. Susan will be filling in.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Synod Assembly is at the end of May. Terry and Sandy Nielsen will be attending as our voting members. Terry will be honored for his 35 years of ordained ministry. Ralph will bring treats for June.

#### 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.

#### Pastor's I ended my Pentecost sermon saying "the Spirit knows all of us and seeks to 'turn us on' to Christ, to give us faith by turning us from sin toward God that we might truly be God's witnesses in the world until Christ comes again." My sense is that God expects

the church to make a transforming difference in the world.

Commentators suggest immediately, a problem rears its ugly head. How can ordinary human beings carry the Holy Spirit of God without becoming audacious egotists or preposterous antagonists against other ordinary people who disagree with them? In all honesty, they can't avoid such human failing entirely. Not even the apostles were perfect, as the records of their debates among themselves show. The redeeming factor has always been the real presence of Christ with the Holy Spirit.

This distinctive experience and message of the church leaves many people grasping for explanations. According to the story in Acts 2:12-15, some found a solution by accusing the apostles of drunkenness. Peter replied that it was too early in the day. Some scholars have suggested that the reference to speaking in different tongues originally meant ecstatic utterances that would have given the appearance of drunkenness. Such explanations do not remove the problem the church has with its uniqueness. It is enough to remember such teachings as, "Love your enemies" and "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth" to know the church has a mission fraught with difficulty, even for our own acceptance.

Yet, exactly such distinctiveness is the church's reason for being. It showed most clearly in the prophets. Among the latest of them in the Old Testament, Joel had foreseen a day when all God's people would prophesy (Acts 2:16-18). The hope had already been expressed by Moses, according to Numbers 11:29. While prophets demonstrate the special character of a church that lives by the Spirit, they do not relieve the tension in the church's earthly existence. Prophets were regularly in trouble, too.

The answer is not compromise with the world's evil, which the prophet dramatizes in cosmic terms (Acts 2:19-20). The last word is comforting, however. Acts 2:21 speaks of salvation. The reference to visions and dreams in connection with the prophets may remind us how courageous and effective a leader can be when he acts upon the declaration, "I have a dream." A church is the one community called to perpetuate the vision of a renewed and reunited humanity. God is depending upon the church to keep the world aware that the Spirit of the crucified and risen Christ is still at work for the good of the whole world.

continued.....

We have heard many in the community call for a reuniting of humanity in the face of Officer Orozco's death. This is a truly admirable desire and something that would be good for the Omaha community. The power to accomplish this comes from the Holy Spirit as the Spirit shapes and re-forms our lives into Christ-like lives. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

#### Pr. Laaker

### God Has Made Us His Stewards

As God's stewards, our first assignment was given to us in Genesis 1:28: "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" God delegated us

as his representatives to rule the earth in his place. We have been given dominion over God's creation. Because God has retained his ownership of all things, we are stewards who are responsible and accountable to God. God is the owner; we are the stewards or managers.

**Prayer:** Lord, I thank you for the awesome and challenging privilege you have been given me to be a steward of your creation. To think that the God of creation is giving me this opportunity is very humbling and exciting. Grant me the faith that I need so all I do honors you. In Christ's name I pray. **Amen.** 



According to Wikipedia.com, the history of stewardship is referred to the household servant's duties for bringing food and drink to the castle's dining hall. Stewardship responsibilities were eventually expanded to include everything the domestic, service and management needs of the entire household. Commercial stewardship tends to the domestic and service requirements of passengers on ships, trains, airplanes or guests in restaurants. This concept of stewardship continues to be referenced within these specific categories. Stewardship is now generally recognized as the acceptance or assignment of responsibility to shepherd and safeguard the valuables of others.



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

Don Olson

James Harrahill David Hufford LaVonne Moss Urbano Vasquez



Norma Courtney (Arlone Farber's Mom.) Christian Barajas (Samantha Trejo, Angela & Alex Everitt's brother.) Dottie Hula (Greg Hula's Mom.) Randy Stechenfinger (Bobby's brother.) The family of Robert Moss. The family of Cheryl Powley.

#### 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

The Grace Quilters are taking a break during the summer months. Please watch the Grace Messenger for additional information on their return around the end of summer.



Prayer Service Wednesday June 17, 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 the many blessings shown through all the cards, prayers, conversations and support everyone has shown toward myself and the family during this time of mourning. God is good all the time!



LaVonne Moss



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.

#### **Baker's Community Rewards**

Grace Lutheran Church has been acceptanced into the Baker's Community Rewards Program. Grace will get credit for every purchase\* you make using your registered Plus card. The more you shop with Baker's, the more opportunity Grace will have to earn rewards. It is just that easy!



As a Baker's customer you must have the following three things to register and begin supporting Grace:

**One:** A Plus card, which are available at any store by asking an associate. **Two:** A valid email address, which can be obtained from any free online service and can be anonymous.

**Three:** A personalized account at Baker's website, which again can be anonymous.

To enroll in the community rewards program:

One: Visit Baker's website at: bakersplus.com/comunityrewards.
Two: Sign in OR Create an account (see below instructions on how you can create your online account)
Three: Click on "Enroll Now"
Four: Enter the 5-digit NPO (62209) and search
Five: Select Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and click on "Enroll"

To Create An Online Account At Baker's Website:

**One**: Go to Baker's website at bakersplus.com/communityrewards. **Two**: Click on "Register" at the top of the page.

**Three**: Enter your email address, password, zip code (select preferred store) and check the box if you desire to receive email communication from Baker's.

**Four**: Click on "Create Account" at the bottom of the page.

**Five**: You will receive an email confirmation to your inbox, to activate your account click on the link in the body of the email and enter your sign in information to confirm.

For assistance setting up an online account or with general questions, please feel free to contact us at 800-576-4377 option 3. Administrators are always welcome to email us at DCR@dillonstores.com.

#### MOTHER Many Titles, One Meaning

#### Become a Mentor Today!

Catholic Charities is looking for experienced moms of all ages to provide mentoring support to pregnant and parenting young women. Within that friendship role mentors will give encouragement, demonstrate positive parenting and simply listen.

Please consider giving your time and talents to make a difference in the lives of these young women and their children.

For additional information, please contact Kathy Milbrath at (402) 829-9289 or email Kathy at, kathym@ccomaha.org; Laurel Determan at (402) 829-9283 or email Laurel at laureld@ccomaha.org.



**Rachel Kurtz and Agape** In Concert Monday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m. Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church 2650 Farnam Street 402-341-7761

Free and open to the public, all ages are welcome to enjoying the musical talents of:

Rachel Kurtz is a songwriter, performer, and recording artist who has a powerhouse gospel voice and joyful presence!

Agape is a hip-hop artist who combines dancing, rap, and storytelling to spread the message of God's love through Christ!

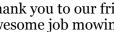
A free-will offering will be available and will benefit ELCA ministries.



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, and Eva, for the weekly dedication and effort in creating quilts for the Lutheran World Relief Organization. Have a great summer break!
- 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 take turns picking 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, Gloria, June, and Eva, it is always a treat to listen and join in the lively conversations! Enjoy your two months off during the Kids At Work Summer Program.
- Thank you to Ron and Donna Adrian and Brenda Spahr who take turns in the care of the altar, and preparing the communion table.
  - Thank you to all ushers, Andrew, Jerry, Ron, Vicki, Mary, and Malachi for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings.



Thank you to our friends from Prince of Peace who are doing an awesome job mowing the church vard.





Virginia McGill, MA Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org

Gema C. Wolde Community Health Worker Se habla espanol.

Spotlight on Ramona, Sewing Instructor, IHS/Families in Action and Small Business Owner, South Omaha

IHS/Families in Action is busy this summer with expansion in all of our programs! One of our expansion areas is offering additional sewing and micro-business classes based upon the requests and needs assessment data from our participants and community members.

High school students, in particular, noted they would like the opportunity to attend sewing and micro-business classes in the Summer and requested that we add sewing classes during their summer break from school. Thanks to funding from the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation, we are able to respond to this request, and we remain grateful to the Foundation for supporting our programs.

Our classes are also made possible because of the dedication and talents of our sewing instructor, Ramona. Ramona was introduced to Families in Action seven years ago as a participant. She then began volunteering with programs in a leadership capacity. Following the Wells Fargo-based donation of several dozen high-end wedding dresses from a store that closed in Omaha, our participants expressed an interest in sewing and alterations. Ramona stepped forward, volunteering to teach sewing classes for Families in Action.

From the outset, Ramona amazed our students with her knowledge and abilities. Students have commented on her skills and speak highly of her knowledge and patience in the classroom. She can fix any sewing machine, any error in stitching. Her patience is limitless. She manages to give individual attention to each person in her classes, which can be a bit challenging when she is working with many students and a variety of sewing levels.

Ramona shares that because she studied sewing in elementary and high school and has always dreamed of teachng and working with sewing, her passion translates into the classroom. She also notes that she and her husband have 8 children, so she knows how to multi-task and how to problem solve, something that serves her well in the classroom.

Over years, Families in Action sewing and micro-business classes have grown to include students from all over South Omaha. Ramona has been instrumental in ensuring our success in reaching women who desire to learn, to create, and in some instances, to begin their own businesses as she has.

Ramona's work as an instructor with Families in Action gave her the support to open a small business in South Omaha, with an office complete with sewing machines, irons, fabric and materials where she designs dresses for birthday celebrations, weddings, and works with tailoring and alterations.

We are proud to partner with Ramona and look forward to the addtional sewing classes she will be teaching for IHS/Families in Action in the months ahead!

Virginia, Gema and Kaela, IHS/FIA



The Neighbors South Habitat Coalition 2015 has begun 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 July 4th weekend off.

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



7 - Margie Sutej 14 - Mary Laaker 21 - Greg Hula 28 - Malachi Black July 5 - Brenda Spahr

#### June Alcolytes

7 - Brenda Spahr 14 - Janet Hula 21 - Donna Adrian 28 - Greg Hula July 5 - Andrea Spahr

<u>June Ushers</u> Ron Adrian Jerry Van Ormer Andrew Edwards





- 2 Samantha Trejo Leigh Ann Wiskus 3 – Angelina Adrian
- 5 Cade Hargis
- 9 Jason Bauer

Jung 2015

- 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 Greeters**

- 7 Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker
- 14 Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 21 Ron and Donna Adrian
- 28 Larry Foreman and Ralph Fitle
- July 5 Gloria Moore and June Hilmer

Responsibility List

### <u>Altar Flowers</u>

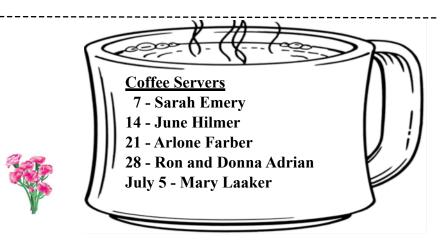
- 7 Greg and Janet Hula in honor of their grandchildren, Trina and Anthony's birthdays.
- 14 Andrew, Christi, Clay Edwards and Tracy Petrini, in loving memory of their father, Albion.
- 21 David Hufford in loving memory of his mother, Gertrude.
- 28 Ron and Donna Adrian in honor of their grandson, Leo's birthday.
- July 5 Arlone Farber, Glory to God.

Flower Pick-Up for June: The Hulas

#### **Backpack Program**

- 7 Terry and Sandi Nielsen in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.
- 14 Eva Martin in honor of her great-grandson, Milo's birthday.
- 21 Joe and Barbara Narducci, in honor of Joe's brother, Dennis.
- 28 Ron and Donna Adrian in honor of their grandson, Leo's birthday.

July 5 - OPEN.





# 2015 LUTHERAN NIGHT COLORADO SPRINGS SKY SOX VS. OMAHA STORM CHASERS MONDAY, JUNE 8 | 7:05 PM

# SPECIAL TICKET RATE \$6 313

 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**



#### **Bring Your Own Bag**

Bring your own cloth or fabric bags when you shop!

If you grocery shop once a week, in five years you'll have kept about 250 to 1,000 grocery bags out of our landfills. When one ton of plastic bags is reused or recycled, the energy equicalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved! By bringing your own bag to the grocery store,



you can save thousands of plastic bags from ending up in landfills, or even worse in ecosystems where they can harm living creatures.

Look for alternate uses for the bags you have collected:

Waste: Old bags make great in-car trash containers.

Shoes: Use them as shoe protectors in the garden.

**Pets**: Re-use them to clean up kitty litter, or to pick up dog droppings when walking your pet.

Trash: Use them in your smaller waste bins around the house.

**Mail**: Fill a few with shredded paper and tie them off for cheap, reusable packing materials. They are also a handy way to maintain the shape of your favorite tote.

**Clothes**: Cut a slit in your bags and use them to protect clothes from dust, moths, and other pests.

Kids: Take them with you for easy disposal of diapers.

Green tips from earthshare.org

**UnderTheSink** 4001 South 120th Street Omaha, NE 68137-1205

Under The Sink is a clean and environmental safe way to dispose of your harmful waste such as weed killer, thermostats, rust removers, fertilizers, syringes, cleaning products and much, much more. For a complete list of items acceptable and not acceptable, please go on-line at underthesink.org or call (402) 444-7465.



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## Don't you quit!

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit. —Author unknown

"If you want to be criticized, get married. If you want to be praised, die."

~ Irish Proverb

At the wedding, as the bride and her father, began their walk down the aisle, the first thing the bride saw was the aisle. Then she saw the altar. Then she saw "him."

With each three steps, the bride, smiling, had three words on her mind: "Aisle, altar, him. Aisle, altar, him..." —via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft Dover, DE



"Smiling is definitely one of the best beauty remedies. If you have a good sense of humor and a good approach to life, that's beautiful."

~ Rashida Jones



Counseling was never easy for Pastor Dan, and now the Pruitts, a mime couple, seek help.

# My Dad's Hands

Bedtime came, we were settling down,

I was holding one of my lads.

As I grasped him so tight, I saw a strange sight:

My hands. . .they looked like my dad's!

I remember them well, those old gnarled hooks,

there was always a cracked nail or two.

And thanks to a hammer that strayed from its mark,

his thumb was a beautiful blue!

They were rough, I remember, incredibly tough, as strong as a carpenter's vice.

But holding a scared little boy at night,

they seemed to me awfully nice!

The sight of those hands - how impressive it was in the eyes of his little boy.

Other dads' hands were cleaner, it seemed (the effects of their office employ).

I gave little thought in my formative years of the reason for Dad's raspy mitts:

The love in the toil, the dirt and the oil, rusty plumbing that gave those hands fits!

Thinking back, misty-eyed, and thinking ahead, when one day my time is done.

The torch of love in my own wrinkled hands will pass on to the hands of my son.

I don't mind the bruises, the scars here and there or the hammer that just seemed to slip. I want most of all when my son takes my hand, to feel that love lies in the grip.

**David Kettler** 





### History of Father's Day

Scholars believe that the origin of Father's Day is not a latest phenomenon, as many believe it to be. Rather they claim that the tradition of Father's Day can be traced in the ruins of Babylon. They have recorded that a young boy called Elmesu carved a Father's Day message on a card made out of clay nearly 4,000 years ago. Elmesu wished his Babylonian father good health and a long life. Though there is no record of what happened to Elmesu and his father but the tradition of celebrating Father's Day remained in several countries all over the world.





#### 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 is 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.

Reprinted with permission from guy-sports.com



 ${\bf F}$  ollowing the teachings of God.

- A cting as a role model for his family.
- T reating others with dignity and respect.
- **H** elping build a strong community.
- **E** xpressing his love by sharing his time and knowledge.
- **R** elying on God's strength for guidance.