



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

402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
Web Site: www.graceluth.com
Like us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

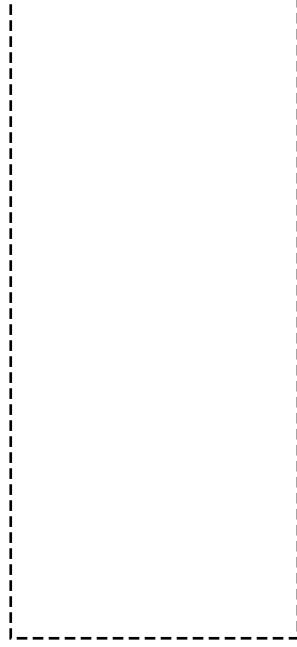
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Families In Action - Virginia McGill
Community Outreach - Malachi Black

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THE GRACE
MESSENGER
1889 - 2015



August
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 July 14th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We ask for prayers for flood victims in Ohio/Kentucky, Suzie Heldt & Lindsay Zach and their family as they grieve the news that Suzie has terminal cancer, rejoice with the Tuws family as they get their new Habitat home, Andrew's sister-in-law Linda as she mourns the loss of her mother, Arlone's mom, Norma Courtney, and sister-in-law Teresa Courtney with ongoing health issues.

Pastor Laaker led devotions from 1 Samuel 17:37 and Philippians 4:7. The first tells us to go and let God guide you. The second tells us that God's presence in our lives brings peace to our hearts and minds.

Visions for Ministry: People struggle with change so much that they often don't look outside of their comfort zone and resist change for fear of losing that comfort. How can we work to open our eyes and minds to the changes taking place around us? Can we be aware of the changes taking place and how that change affects relationships, so as to bring hope to people's lives? How does change impact your emotional response? Size of the church does not equate to the impact a church can make. Small congregations do amazing things every day. We can bring life to the community by keeping a sense of hope and adapting our mission/ministry to the ever-changing world. (For example, out of 250 congregations in the Nebraska synod, Grace is number 7 in its giving to World Hunger. Incredible.)

Read chapter 5 for next month.

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

Christian Education: No new report.

Evangelism/Outreach: Kids at Work has 1 week left. The last Sunday of July is the celebration picnic. We need people to bring buns and others to make lemonade and have water ready.

Continued...

Halloween Party is scheduled for Friday, October 30th. Lori Vasquez, Malachi, and Pastor Laaker will meet in mid-August to preplan some dates to organize the event. Ideas are welcome and should be shared with Malachi.

Malachi is continuing to work on the reading program with Liberty Elementary.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday comes up September 13. What do we want to do this year? Same as last year? Let's think on it and bring any ideas to the group.

Finance: We received last week the distribution from Jack Williams' estate: \$209,362.26. Our constitutional provision is to distribute 10% by the Endowment Board and invest the remaining \$188,426.00 in the Pioneer Endowment account.

Property: Church Mutual Insurance saga continues.

Service/Social Ministry: Charles and Martina Tuws are receiving a new Habitat home.

Support/Stewardship: New fall stewardship material: Loving Generously.

Worship: Baseball trip is planned in conjunction with St. Luke's on Sunday, August 16. We will have a combined service at 8 am at St. Luke's, no service at Grace, so Pastor can go on the trip, too.

St. Luke's is inviting Grace to be part of a special event scheduled for the last Sunday in September (27th). They are taking a trip on the River City Star at 10 am and will have a brief service on the boat. A potluck will follow at St. Luke's. Grace will plan to join in the fun! (So there will not be another service at either church that morning).

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Pastor shared with us the letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton regarding the Supreme Court decision announcing the right of same-gender couples to have equal access to marriage. The Council adopted the following policy: "Grace chooses to solemnize the marriage of any couple, same gender or different gender, as part of its ministry to provide the same care to all people."

Announcements: Pastor will bring treats for August.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:54 p.m.





The headline on a recent Huffington Post page read, "American Christianity Has Been Hijacked." The author, Mikah Meyer, reflected on the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

He wrote: "Visualize 30,000 young people singing worship songs, dancing in the aisles, and praising Jesus. Might sound like something from an Evangelical or Pentecostal church. Yet these youth filling Detroit's Ford Field were not from a charismatic tradition, but from a denomination more known for pipe organs, vestments, and hot dish casseroles filled with tater tots: the Lutherans.

"Wearing bright neon shirts representing every color of the rainbow, these youth came together this past week for the triennial ELCA National Youth Gathering. With them they brought a wave of hopefulness too strong to avoid. As a volunteer at the event, I couldn't seem to go anywhere without encountering this zeal. Every walk through downtown or along Detroit's riverfront greeted me with a multitude of teenagers raising their hands for a high-five or cheering in elation.

"Even beyond the event's participants, local residents expressed a similar jubilee:

"Thank you for coming to Detroit!" passersby would smile and shout on the streets outside the General Motors Renaissance Center.

"We are so happy you're here sharing Jesus!" waiters would smile as we entered Greektown's popular restaurants.

"And from downtown's convention center to suburban hotels, employees, cops and panhandlers would raise their hand in the air, catching the infectious high-five trend, and say, "You are bringing so much joy to this city!"

"As I witnessed this enthusiasm, I was overcome with a pride for the universal church that I, unfortunately, haven't recently felt. In fact, the last time my eyes welled up with this bliss was while working at a church camp. As I examined the differences between normal life and what I experienced at both the camp and this Gathering, I found one key difference:

"Positivity.

"Outside these exceptions, American Christianity seems to have been hijacked by negativity. A quick search of recent news proves this, as a faith meant to be characterized by its "good news" has become known not by what it's *for*, but by what it's against. Christians in America are now best recognized by their feigned religious persecution, anti-Muslim sentiments, or their unwillingness to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding.

continued.....

"Such actions bring to mind the words of one of my mentors, a resident of America's Bible Belt, who often says, "I'm for any religion that doesn't hurt people."

"Why has American Christianity become known for the pain it causes?"

"To paraphrase a delegate at a recent church convention that hotly debated the allowance of openly LGBT pastors, "Why isn't our church this passionate about poverty?"

"Why aren't we known as the faith that seeks to feed the hungry, shelter the needy, and comfort the sick?"

"Why aren't we investing our resources in activities that cause people to say, "You are bringing so much joy!"?"

"Let American Christianity stop being known as a religion that hurts, as a faith focused on what we're against, and instead let them know we are Christians by our love. By the same love that radiated from 30,000 youth in Detroit."

I find I can relate to the author's call for more positivity in the people of the church. Without a doubt there are many things that cause me great pain, however, as a people who are called to embody Christ, we could do with a real infusion of positivity. How might we, the people of God, be known as bearers of hopefulness in our corner of God's world?

Pastor Laaker

Congratulations!

Charles Tuw, Martina Botho and family have received their new house from Habitat for Humanity of Omaha. The Home Dedication and Celebration was held on Sunday July 18.



Charles and Martina have big plans for their new home. They want to buy some playground equipment for the children and plant several trees around the property. Their garden will be huge with corn, pumpkins, cabbage, carrots and much more. Additionally, Charles excitedly exclaimed, "we will have many Christmas decorations!"





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 |  | James Harrahill |  |
| Ken Hilmer | | David Hufford | |
| Carolyn Matson | | 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.) | | | |
| Randy Stechenfinger (Bobby's brother.) | | | |
| Linda Pafford (Friend to many.) | | | |

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 Worshipping 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.



We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.
1 Thessalonians 12, NIV



Prayer Service
Wednesday
August 19, 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.

St. Luke's Lutheran and Grace Lutheran Church are planning a joint outing to a Kansas City Royals Baseball game, Sunday August 16. We will travel on an Arrow Stage Line Bus. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. and return following dinner after the game. Cost for transportation, ticket to the game and a catered BBQ meal afterward is \$64 a person. Bus capacity is 56, reserve your seat early! If you would like to go, please contact Ed Nodean at 402-968-5996 or edward.nodean@cox.net.



GET ON BOARD!



Sermon On The River!

St. Luke's has invited Grace to worship in a most unique way. On Sunday, September 27th, we will meet at the River City Star Landing at 10:00 am that day with St. Luke's Lutheran! The Landing is at 151 Freedom Park Rd, just north of Gallup University. Lots of convenient parking. Potluck will follow our boat ride and service at St. Luke's! Grace's council graciously accepted the invitation and cancelled the 11 am service for that day so that all could enjoy this special occasion.

The passenger limit is 145 persons. Please contact Dee Povich at 402.734.0865 to put in your reservation now! Regular size wheel chair accessible! Come and enjoy a wonderful Service and Music on the boat! Enjoy the river ride and then come and have lunch together at St. Luke's!



Kids At Work - 2015

One last look at some of the activities the youth experienced during a special project at the downtown library. Youth sort through books and remove the ones that needed some mending and miscellaneous items. Outdoor pictures are from the last work day games which included throwing a football, and dodging water guns from one another. Have a safe summer!



Below are Eduardo and Nelson looking through books!



Above Sarai is keeping a well trained eye out for books that need some repair!



Above Faith and Patience gingerly trying to avoid water as they make their getaway!



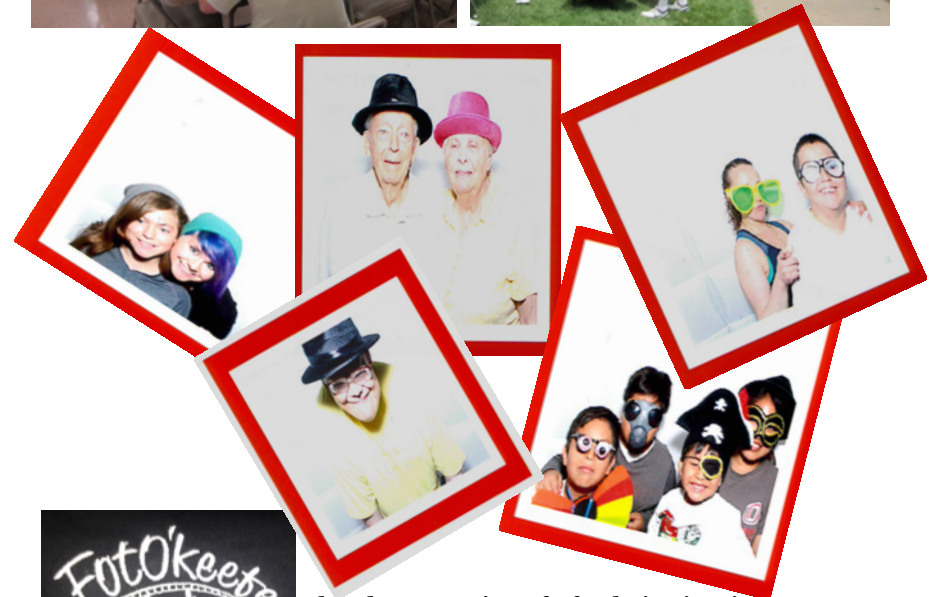
Below youth are getting instructions on the do's and don'ts of water games.



Annual Church Potluck Picnic
Kids At Work Celebration
Sunday, July 26th

Celebration day began with the blessings of a great group of both youth and team leaders that were acknowledged and appreciated during worship service. The afternoon continued with great food everyone shared, the entertaining conversations and the fun photo time at the FOTO'keefe photo booth.

Below are just a sample of pictures of grilling, conversations and laughter surrounding the goofy inspired pictures!



Thanks FOTO'Keefe for bringing joy and fun to our celebration of summer.

From the book [“Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Action”](#) by Simon Sinek:



Consider the story of two stonemasons. You walk up to the first stonemason and ask, “Do you like your job?” He looks up at you and replies, “I’ve been building this wall for as long as I can remember. The work is monotonous. I work in the scorching hot sun all day. The stones are heavy and lifting them day after day can be backbreaking. I’m not even sure if this project will be completed in my lifetime. But it’s a job. It pays the bills.” You thank him for his time and walk on.

About thirty feet away, you walk up to a second stonemason. You ask him the same question, “Do you like your job?” He looks up and replies, “I love my job. I’m building a cathedral. Sure, I’ve been working on this wall for as long as I can remember, and yes, the work is sometimes monotonous. I work in the scorching hot sun all day. The stones are heavy and lifting them day after day can be backbreaking. I’m not even sure if this project will be completed in my lifetime. But I’m building a cathedral.”

WHAT these two stonemasons are doing is exactly the same; the difference is, one has a sense of purpose. He feels like he belongs. He comes to work to be a part of something bigger than the job he’s doing. Simply having a sense of WHY changes his entire view of his job.

Do you have a sense of WHY your support makes a difference to God in the ministry shared at Grace Lutheran?



Alegent Creighton Health, Methodist Hospital and Visiting Nurse Association are conducting Hospice Volunteer Education Classes in September. Please call one of the following agencies to request an application, space is limited.

VNA Hospice: Gina Binder at 402-930-4143,
Methodist Hospice: Angela Wichita at 402-354-3200, or
Alegent Creighton Hospice: Mary Pendell at 402-898-8239.



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 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 Crew for returning and helping with the assembly of the monthly Newsletter!
- ♥ 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 yard.
- ♥ Thank you to all the kids participating in the Kids At Work program who have spent part of their work time pulling the endlessly growing weeds surrounding the parking lot.





Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

IHS/Families in Action is reaching out to our partners in the community seeking donations of Gently Used Toys, Books and Games for our expansion programs at St. Francis, St. Luke's, Castelar, Educare and San Jose.

Thanks to our partnership with Children's Hospital & Medical Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity, we are reaching more children than ever in our history!

We are currently seeking toys, books and games in good condition for children, ages 2 – 12.

Donations may be dropped off via Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1326 South 26th Street on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. More information: Virginia 402-660-6689

Thanks for your consideration and continued prayers in this collaborative ministry reaching so many children in our neighborhoods!

Virginia, Gema and Kaela, IHS/FIA

**Arts For All Inc.
Fall 2015 Classes**



Arts For All is a nonprofit arts education organization dedicated to making the arts available and affordable for all ages throughout Metro Omaha. In 2013, over 1,500 students participated in Arts For All's quality culturally-enriched programming. Fall classes will begin the week of August 31st, register early for best class selection that fits your schedule. Seats are limited. Register soon at artsforallinc.com or call 402-556-7821.



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.

ESL Outing to the Zoo

Twelve adults and nine children visited the Henry Doorly Zoo on Saturday, July 18th. Picnic time was a time of fellowship, reconnection outside of the classroom setting and of course plenty of jokes! Everyone in attendance had lots of fun!



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.

August 2015



- 2 - Mary Laaker
- 9 - Greg Hula
- 16 - Bus Trip
- 23 - Brenda Spahr
- 30 - Malachi Black
- Sept. 6 - Arlone Farber

August Alcolytes

- 2 - Greg Hula
- 9 - Brenda Spahr
- 16 - Bus Trip
- 23 - Vicki Cox
- 30 - Andrea Spahr
- Sept. 6 - Janet Hula

August Ushers

- Vicki Cox
- Larry Foreman
- Andrew Edwards



August Greeters

- 2 - Brenda and Andrea Spahr
- 9 - Mary Laaker and Sarah Emery
- 16 - Bus Trip
- 23 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 30 - Ron and Donna Adrian
- Sept. 6 - Ralph Fitle and Larry Foreman



- 2 - Vicki Cox
- 3 - Bobbi Jo Pankaj
- 8 - Jace Hargis
- 9 - Becky Hanson
- 23 - Charles Emery
- 26 - Kirstin Pafford
- 29 - Lily Casey
- 30 - Linda Pafford

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



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers

- 2 - Margie Sutej in honor of her husband, Brian's birthday.
- 9 - OPEN.
- 16 - Baseball Bus Trip to Kansas City.
- 23 - OPEN.
- 30 - Loren and Marsha Moyer for the Glory of God.
- Sept. 6 - OPEN.

Flower Pick-Up for August:
Greg and Janet Hula

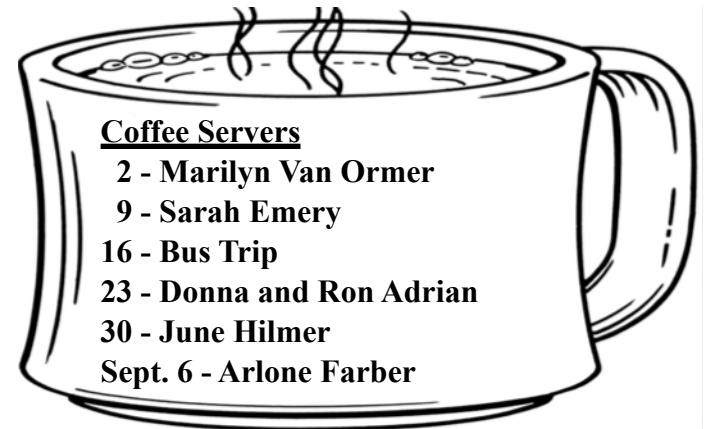
Backpack Program



- 2 - Vicki Cox in honor of her birthday.
- 9 - Brenda Spahr God's blessing on all the children and teachers returning to school.
- 16 - Eva Martin in honor of her brother, Will's birthday.
- 23 - OPEN.
- 30 - OPEN.
- Sept. 6 - Ron and Donna Adrian in honor of their daughter-in-law, Melissa's birthday.

Coffee Servers

- 2 - Marilyn Van Ormer
- 9 - Sarah Emery
- 16 - Bus Trip
- 23 - Donna and Ron Adrian
- 30 - June Hilmer
- Sept. 6 - Arlone Farber



Baker's Community Rewards

Grace Lutheran Church has been accepted 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/communityrewards.
- 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.

How to Turn Blue Jeans Green



One item that's always on the back-to-school shopping list is blue jeans. Jeans are a versatile must-have for kids and adults alike and a staple in most American closets. In a year's time, Americans buy more than 450 million pairs! This makes jeans a perfect item to start with when giving your wardrobe (or your kids' closets) a green makeover - and don't throw away that old denim just yet. For this month's tip, we're giving you some eco-friendly ideas for saving money and the environment when buying, caring for and re-purposing your favorite jeans.

Go vintage. Hold off on hitting up the mall and head to nearby thrift stores, vintae, and consignment shops first. These stores are usually well stocked with donated denim. Plus, here's the good part, your jeans will cost significantly less than retail and come with a much smaller carbon footprint - no production required! Also kee thrift stores in mind for donations of your gently used but still wearable old clothes and jeans.

Opt for organic. Cotton is the most pesticide-intensive crop out there. Non-organic cotton production is responsible for 11% of global pesticide usage. Just a single pair of jeans made from conventional cotton, amounts to 2/3 pound of fertilizer and pesticides. Fortunately, a lot of well-known brands are using organic cotton and non-toxic dyes in their denim collections. Check out Levi's, Patagonia, Edun's and Eileen Fisher for some eco-chic options.

Keep it simple. The average woman owns eight pairs of jeans. Now, we love jeans just as much as you do, but do we really need **eight pairs** in our closets? A good rule of thumb when buying jeans is to search for quality over quantity, and classic styles. High-quality basics will last longer, have more versatility and reduce your overall impact.

Launder responsibly. Since washing your jeans too often can do a number on the fabric, most manufacturers recommend that you only wash them when you absolutely must. Keep your jeans looking sharp by turning them inside out, washing them in cold water, and try a chemical-free detergent.

Hang them out to dry. Line drying saves a lot of energy and helps to preserve fabrics by sparing them the heat of the dryer.

Put old denim to good use. Old, worn out jeans make great materials for crafts and projects. Dust off your sewing maching and try your hand at Do It Yourself denim wallets, organizers, bulletin boards, potholders, iPad cases - you name it.



We have already made it through half of the year in 2015. There is no time like the present to evaluate progress, purpose, and plans. Too often we are waiting for the right time to come, or for things to improve before we plan or act. God is calling us to be present here and now. He wills for us to examine how we use our time, talents, and treasures for His Glory. What can we do today to take one step forward in our walk and relationship with the Almighty Father? There are always opportunities at our doorstep to serve, witness, and shine as lights to the world.

Be thankful and encouraged for what we have already accomplished. Whether it's the fundraising for the Backpack Program, quilts being made for the Lutheran World Relief effort, helping with the standardized tests at Liberty Elementary, help with the neighborhood cleanup, or our recent completion of the Kids At Work program, our church has been active and engaged in various activities and functions. This does not give us the opportunity to take a break, vacation from God's Work, or feel we have "done enough". There is always much work to be done. We do not have to take on every challenge or the biggest issues, but we should evaluate our current position and challenge ourselves to take the next step forward.

As the upcoming school year approaches, we have an opportunity to build our community relationship with Liberty Elementary. We will be launching our Growing with Grace Book Reading Program, as we go into the second grade classrooms and read once a month and distribute the books we read to the students. We will engage the students with an activity related to the stories we read them. Our purpose is to encourage recreational reading as a fun and educational activity. We also seek to build relationship through service to the school and the neighborhood.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23, NLT



We are asking for volunteer readers who are able to dedicate at least an hour to read and engage the students. More information will be made available in the upcoming weeks, but please reach out to me if you have the desire and any availability midday during the work week. Prayerfully, we hope to be a beacon of God's light in this school and possibly more neighborhood schools in the future.

Continued...

Something I was once told: "God blesses us so that we might be a blessing for others. What we are given is not for us alone, but for others so that they may know the God we serve." I firmly believe we have been blessed in this place and the space God has planted us in here in the community. I am truly blessed to be able to work and serve alongside this church. I am thankful for what small bit I have been able to contribute and I am excited about the work yet to come. A fitting piece of closure to this message as we have just finished a segment on love in the New Testament and how it connects to our contemporary lives is that love challenges us to do what we may not naturally wish or desire to do. It is easier to mimic good action, but it is more loving to challenge our inward intentions and align ourselves beyond just our own personal will and desires. Let's continue to walk and grow in grace as God continues to bless and strengthen us.

Malachi Black
Grace Lutheran Church
Community Outreach Associate
outreach@graceluth.com

Letters from dogs to God:

"Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?"

"Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on Your couch? Or will it be the same old story?"

"Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We love a nice car ride!"

"Dear God: If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?"

"Dear God: Are there mailmen in heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?"



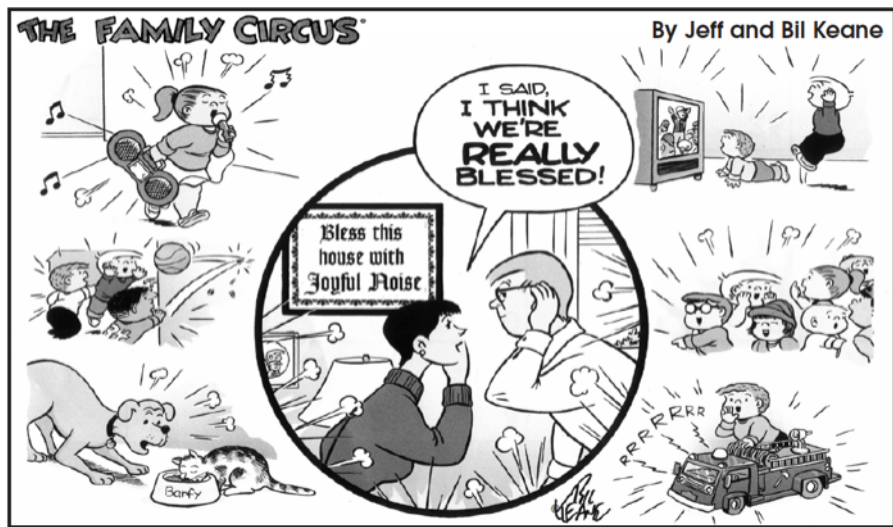
—via Rev. Bud Frimoth, Portland, OR
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Memories of 'hard times'

People who lived through the Great Depression of the 1930s and the World War of the 1940s will remember when...

- Candy bars cost a nickel, comic books cost 10 cents, paperback books were 25 cents, and popcorn at movies cost 15 cents.
- There was no McDonalds.
- This year's new cars looked different from last year's, and different makes of cars looked different.
- It was considered a special treat to be taken out to dinner at a restaurant by your parents.
- It was considered unethical for doctors, lawyers, and pharmaceutical companies to advertise directly to the public.
- No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car ignition, and the doors were never locked.
- The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was chickenpox.
- Nobody owned a purebred dog.
- Nearly everyone's Mom was home when the kids got home from school.
- The teachers threatened to keep kids back a year if they failed the school year - and they did.
- Being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited you when you got home.

—via Rise Samra, Hallandale Beach, FL
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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 239

Matt. 5:20-30

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

Beatitudes 3

AGAINST	ALTAR
ANYONE	ANGRY
BETTER	BODY
BROTHER	COURT
CAUSES	ENTER
COMMIT	FRONT
DANGER	HAND
GOUGE	HEARD
HEAVEN	HEART
KINGDOM	JUDGE
MATTERS	LEAVE
OFFICER	OFFER
PRISON	PENNY
QUICKLY	PEOPLE
REMEMBER	RACA
SUBJECT	RIGHT
TAKING	SETTLE
TEACHERS	TRUTH
THROWN	WHOLE

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

WOMAN

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