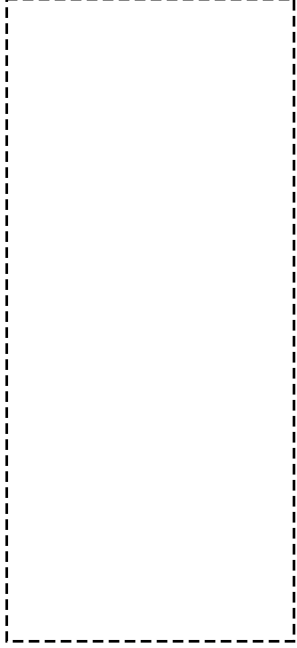




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**Remember to change your clocks,
we fall back one hour on November 1st!**

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

Delivered to the Post Office October 27

THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2015



NOVEMBER

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 October 15th. The Council shared their prayer concerns for: Suzie Heldt & Lindsey Zach and their family as Suzie is facing terminal cancer, Arlone's mom, sister-in-law Teresa Courtney, Malachi's dad, Mike, as he endures radiation treatments and awaits the next steps, Andy as he prepares for surgery at the end of the month, and refugees in Europe, the Middle East, and across the world as they transition to their new homes, also those who are hungry and lacking access to clean water.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Proverbs 20:9 and Romans 3:23-24. The first asks who is free from sin, implying that no one is truly "clean" from sin. The second tells us that although all are sinners, we have all been freely justified through the grace of Jesus.

Visions for Ministry: This chapter discusses the idea of being disciples by learning, exploring, and creating. The author points out that people generally have a difficult time transitioning. We often don't want to let go of the past and be willing to accept a different path than what we had planned. When we see something that has worked well for others, we often try to recreate it in our own situation; however, the author warns that without adapting it appropriately to fit our own situation or group, that plan will most likely fail. The author encourages us to be doers rather than information gatherers. Data can only show you so much, but trying and doing – even when we fail – will teach us much more than any data could. He posed the question: what if the church advertised "for adventurers only"? What type of a response might you get?

Read chapter 8 for next month.

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

Christian Education: None.

Evangelism/Outreach: Liberty Reading program has been going on for 2 months now and is going very well. The Halloween Committee has met. Lori Vasquez donated 90 hot dogs and buns for the Halloween Party, which is scheduled for Friday, October 30th.

Continued...

We are accepting volunteers to help out that evening, as well as items for prizes. Since we have received multiple Thrivent project funds, we have an extra \$500 to spend on the Halloween party and we will not charge the usual \$3 entrance fee. God's Work Our Hands: On October 12th, we provided a sandwich lunch for the entire staff at Liberty Elementary thanks to Thrivent funds that Janet and Amanda received. We will begin gathering items for the second phase of God's Work Our Hands, and ask the congregation to donate items – Kleenex, hand sanitizer, band-aids, etc – which will then be assembled into small appreciation gifts for each of the staff at Liberty Elementary next month.

Finance: We need to respond to the ELCA whether we will keep health coverage for Pastor with an increased cost. Definitely, yes.

Property: Endowment board made a request to replace the boiler. The new boiler is in and functioning at a cost of \$5900 and comes with a 10 year warranty. The Disney endowment covered that cost. After a difficult time getting in touch of Johnson Hardware, they are scheduled to put in a new frame on Thursday, October 22.

Service/Social Ministry: Habitat project is completed at 23rd and Bancroft; the dedication is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, at 9:30 am. This Sunday, October 18, we will have a potluck lunch and an OTOC discussion following. Grace is providing chicken and asking members to bring a side dish or dessert.

Support/Stewardship: Mission Share – our contribution has increased over the last few years. Tuesday, October 27 at St. Thomas Fall Discipleship Day (previously known as Fall Stewardship Emphasis). The bishop will speak and there will be discussion around some ideas for congregations to reflect on their vitality and sustainability. Stewardship Sunday will begin on November 8th and will last 5 weeks.

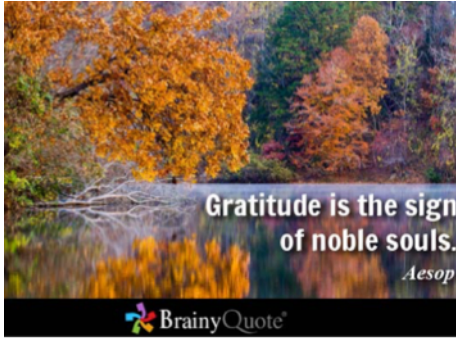
Worship: Grace joined St. Luke's for a special service on Sunday September 27th on the River City Star, followed by a potluck lunch at St. Luke's. It was a very enjoyable experience and great company. We will offer to host Thanksgiving service this year. An invitation will go out to St. Luke's, First Lutheran, and San Andreas. Desserts would be provided afterward.

Unfinished Business: None. New Business: None.

Announcements: Pastor and Malachi will be at the Theological Conference part of next week. November 2-6 Pastor will be in DC for his Voyager conference. Nebraska Brass will be playing at St. Luke's on October 25th at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and students are FREE. Pumpkins arrived at St. Luke's for their Pumpkin Patch. Pumpkins will be sold from 1-7pm every day. Interfaith Health Ministry sent us a thank you cards for the Endowment donation. Arlone will bring treats for November.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary



I hadn't thought about Aesop having anything to say about gratitude but was delighted when I stumbled upon this quote.

As we enter November, our thoughts and actions turn toward thankfulness. We will soon recall a full year of the blessings that have come our way throughout 2015. We will most likely plan for special gatherings as we

celebrate Thanksgiving.

I want to reflect in gratitude for the way God has blessed Grace thus far in 2015. Each year we enter with hopes and expectations. We wonder how God will show up with wonder and presence.

Early in the year during Lent, we had four young people speak to us during our Lenten season. Each of them brought insight from their experiences working through Lutheran Volunteer Corps. We have been especially blessed with Malachi's gifts and talents among us.

We have supported many worthy projects through the funds available in our Endowments. These gifts from those who have benefited from Christ's presence have made it possible for Grace to touch and support the lives and ministries that touch other lives in amazing ways. Such gratitude is the sign of noble souls.

As we considered the ways that we might reach out and be Christ's presence in the community, we began exploring the idea of reading to children at the local Elementary School. Malachi did all of the initial work. Now we have six persons, reading to 2nd graders each month at Liberty School. Children are excited about being read to and then receiving the book to take home to read and reread.

Each year for the last several years, the ELCA has encouraged congregations to observe God's Work, Our Hands emphasis. We chose to do a simple effort of cleaning up the streets by picking up trash. This year we ventured out with a new idea. Let's honor the teachers of Liberty Elementary. Amanda Vazquez did the initial work. She along with Arlone Farber, Janet Hula, and Malachi, purchased lunch items and took them to Liberty School and provided lunch to the 100 person staff. The gratitude expressed by the teachers was extensive.

Continue.....

We will soon begin our Stewardship Emphasis, "Loving Generously." I trust you will respond out of gratitude for all of God's blessings to you.

Pastor Laaker

Loving Generously:
Giving Ourselves One to Another



- Nov. 8 - Banquet: Tearing up the Place Cards that Separate Us
 - *Scripture: Luke 14:13-14*
 - Jesus tore down the barriers that separated people. Who are you inviting into your life?
- Nov. 15 - For Sale: Blessing vs. Burden
 - *Scripture: Matthew 19:16-22*
 - As we give ourselves to God, we give ourselves to one another.
 - What do you own and what owns you?
- Nov. 22 - Kind: Loving those who are Different from Me
 - *Scripture: Proverbs 19:17*
 - We are called to a love that crosses barriers: social, economic, cultural, and ethnic.
- Nov. 29 - Called: Sharing Christ's Suffering and the Suffering of Others
 - *Scripture: John 15:18-19*
 - Loving like Jesus can lead to persecution.
- Dec. 6 - One to Another: Being United with Christ to show His Love
 - *Scripture: Matthew 7:12*
 - Giving yourself to loving everyone God puts in your path.





And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

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.)
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 Worshiping Community.



Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.
1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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 necessary!



**Prayer Service
Wednesday
November 18, 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.

**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.



**Thanksgiving Eve Service
Grace Lutheran Church
November 25, 2015
7:00 pm**

Grace Lutheran is hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Service, inviting congregations from St. Luke's Lutheran, First Lutheran, Augustana, and San Andreas to attend and celebrate. A Dessert reception and Fellowship time will follow the worship service. Volunteers are needed to bring dessert items to serve and share with one another.

Melody Beattie said, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

Let's gather as friends and thank God for the marvelous gift of friendship and grace as God's people in Christ.

**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.



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

- ◎ Thank you to Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer for their on-going dedication in caring and tending to 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 June, LaVonne, Eva, and Marilyn for your continued dedication in creating a reflection of God's love and care in every quilt sent to support Lutheran World Relief.
- ◎ Thank you LaVonne, June, Gloria, Marilyn, Jerry, Eva, and Malachi for your dedication and help in assembling the monthly Grace Messenger!
- ◎ 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 have done an awesome job mowing the church yard.
- ◎ Thank you to the Liberty Elementary readers; Malachi, Pastor Laaker, Arlone, Margie, Eva, and Brenda for sharing the gift of learning through imagination and fun with the second graders.





It's been a productive year at Grace. I am grateful for all I have been a part of and learned while being a part of this congregation. There is still much more I hope we can accomplish for this year and moving forward. Fall season is essentially here. This means there will be a lot of change.

Changing of the weather and the color of the leaves on the trees should be quite noticeable already. We will be changing our clocks back an hour as we "fall back" from Daylight's Saving Time accordance. We should also notice a major change in our spiritual life. Can we say there has been a major change in our hearts? Year-to-year, we should be maturing spiritually, thus seeing changes in our lives both inwardly and outwardly.

This season of change can motivate us to boldly move into the future being confident that we can continue to grow even as things change around us. Now, more than ever, the call of justice echoes loudly, beckoning us to respond in new, bold ways. We can look to the example of Jesus not only as the ultimate example of love in action, but also as a champion of justice. Jesus sought to challenge people to step out of the conventional social settings and strict laws in order to be more open, loving, and just to others. Jesus could not effectively show love within systems that were both lacking love and justice. We too, must be bold in our Christian walk to uphold justice in our hearts as we seek to live in love. What is pricking your heart to action? God certainly calls us to justice as assertive, active Christians within our communities. Where can we begin to stretch and challenge ourselves both as the body of Christ and as sons and daughters of God? Love cannot reign without justice.

We must continue our good works of charity but also reach areas where injustice exists. Areas we see and are within arm's reach. Cultural, social-economic, and systemic injustices have a stronghold on lives of people we see week-to-week. As we continue to pray for our Sudanese brothers and sisters, what can we do to be more active in their lives? What ways can we engage the Hispanic cultures around us as it emerges as a dominant, enriching community? How can we see the hand of God work actively in the lives of those we may be unintentionally ignoring? We must work more diligently to change the space we share with others into the space we grow together. Communities are not made up of simply those who reside next to each other, but of those who actively build and are present with one another. Let our thoughts and acts of love extend into the fight of injustice.

Continued.....

The future waits for no one, but is formed by what is done today. The future is brighter than the bright yellow leaves on the Fall trees, but we must plan, act, and live today the way we want that future to shine.

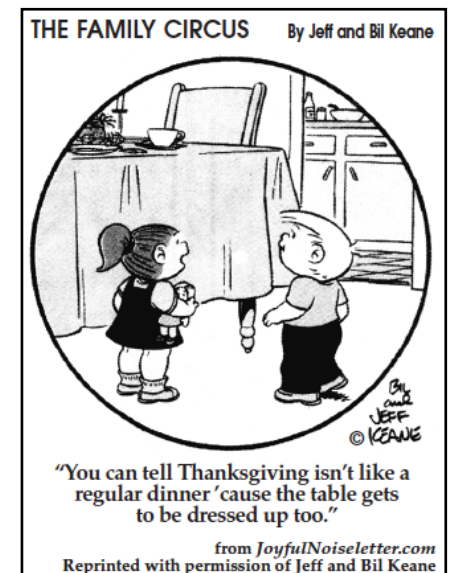
Malachi Black
Community Outreach Associate
outreach@graceluth.com

God's Work Our Hands

This year's activity for God's Work Our Hands involved Grace Lutheran Church honoring the teachers and staff at Liberty Elementary for all the outstanding work they do for the children of the community. We catered a lunch for all of the school's faculty and staff and included Thank You notes. We hope to continue to do more to honor Liberty in the future as an ongoing God's Work Our Hands endeavor. A big thank you to all of those who helped plan and make this endeavor a success is extended. Our current community engagement at Liberty, our Growing With Grace Book Reading Program, has been a big hit with the school and students so far. Thanks to the entire congregation for being available and willing to serve. God's Work is just beginning.



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Grace Lutheran Church
Halloween Party
October 30, 2015
7:00 - 8:30 pm



Costume Contest will be judged in three different categories: scariest, funniest, and most creative. First and second place prizes will be awarded in each category.

Plenty of games, prizes, and refreshments! Fun for the whole family, please be sure to invite family, friends and neighbors!

Any questions, please call the church office at 402-341-7730.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

St. Luke's has decided to partner with Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers for a new and exciting fall outreach activity. The front yard along 24th Street will soon be sporting pumpkins of all sizes. The pumpkins are to be delivered on Sunday, October 11 at 3 pm. Volunteers are needed to help unload the pumpkins.

Many volunteers are needed on a daily basis once the pumpkins arrive. A volunteer sign-up sheet is in the office, 402-733-5881 or you can call Nancy Klusaw, 402-651-0879 as well. No price has been set as of the printing of this newsletter.

Just imagine the joy and wonder on the faces of little ones and big ones alike as we provide this special opportunity to our community.

Please consider helping our sister congregation with this outreach activity.



Habitat for Humanity Neighbors South Coalition Home Dedication October 17, 2015

This summer's home build brought Omaha history to the process of refurbishing a home. Andrew Sierszynski emigrated from Poland in 1907 and was one of the first to build in the neighborhood. Andrew was a founding member of Immaculate Conception Church. Andrew and his wife Maryann raised five daughters. Maryann died when the youngest daughter, Rita was only 12. The house remained in the family for three generations. After Rita passed away her two children, Maryann and Larry came to the mutual decision to sell the house to a Habitat Omaha Family Partner. Larry summed up their feelings, "It's one way for a well-built house to continue to have life. Have a family in there and provide the type of shelter and protection that I think our mother and her sisters had from their parents. It's a fantastic transformation and will go very well with other things that are happening in the area."

Rosalinda Bonilla entered the Habitat for Humanity of Omaha Homeownership Program in August, 2013. Rosalinda has been an active learner while participating in Sweat Equity hours both on site and in the classroom, building her confidence as a homeowner and a neighbor. When asked why she wants to become a homeowner, Rosalinda stated that she was "pursuing a dream she knows her mother has." Thankful for all of the hard work her mother put in to raise her, she is excited to pay it forward by giving her the relaxation she deserves while simultaneously ensuring her daughters, Damaris and Yaretzi, will not have to face the same struggles she did. After moving in, Rosalinda hopes to go back to school to not only get a better career, but to provide a positive example for her girls and stress the importance of education.





November 2015



- 1 - Terry Nielsen
- 8 - Margie Sutej
- 15 - Brenda Spahr
- 22 - Mary Laaker
- 29 - Greg Hula
- Dec. 6 - Arlone Farber

- 2 - Barnaba Nyiwe
- 5 - Alexandra Granillo
- 6 - Jan Monico
- 9 - Mickey Andersen
- 10 - Telly Mounto
- 11 - Margie Sutej
- 17 - Emerita Alberto
- 18 - Charlotte Palczynski
- 20 - Pastor Laaker
- 22 - Don Olson
- 26 - Greg Hula
Ralph Fitle
- 29 - Ron Adrian

November Alcolytes

- 1 - Donna Adrian
- 8 - Brenda Spahr
- 15 - Janet Hula
- 22 - Andrea Spahr
- 25 - Greg Hula
- 29 - Vicki Cox
- Dec. 6 - Donna Adrian

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

November Ushers

- Larry Foreman
- Vicki Cox
- Andrew Edwards



November Greeters

- 1 - Bobby Stechenfinger and Vicki Cox
- 8 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 15 - Larry Foreman and Ralph Fitle
- 22 - Greg and Janet Hula
- 25 - Ron and Donna Adrian
- 29 - Gloria Moore and June Hilmer
- Dec. 6 - Andrea and Brenda Spahr



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers

- 1 - John and Brenda Spahr in celebration of their daughter, Andrea's birthday.
- 8 - David Hufford in loving memory of his mother, Gertrude.
- 15 - Margie Sutej in celebration of her birthday.
- 22 - Greg and Janet Hula in celebration of Greg's birthday.
- 29 - Arlone Farber praising God's Glory!
- Dec. 6 - LaVonne Moss in loving celebration of her Anniversary.

Flower Pick-Up for November:
Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer

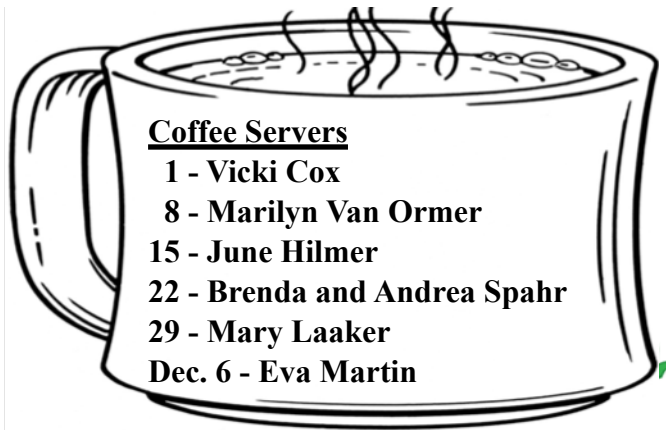
Backpack Program



- 1 - John and Brenda Spahr in celebration of their daughter, Andrea's birthday.
- 8 - Eva Martin in honor of her great-grandson, Donovan and her granddaughter, Andrea's birthdays.
- 15 - Eva Martin in celebration of her brother, Roy's birthday.
- 22 - Joe and Barb Narducci in loving memory of their parents.
- 29 - OPEN.
- Dec. 6 - OPEN.

Coffee Servers

- 1 - Vicki Cox
- 8 - Marilyn Van Ormer
- 15 - June Hilmer
- 22 - Brenda and Andrea Spahr
- 29 - Mary Laaker
- Dec. 6 - Eva Martin





Give Thanks for the Environment

Feast on local, seasonal foods: Fruits and vegetables in season for the late fall don't need to be trucked around the country, and your purchases support your community. Support your local farmer's market.

Use natural decorations: Forgo craft store supplies for beautiful, biodegradable decorations you can find in nature. Pinecones, gourds, leaves, and acorns are just some of the materials that can add seasonal ambience to your dining room.

Purchase a heritage turkey... Most industrialized turkeys are raised with hormones to force them to gain weight very quickly - so quickly they can hardly move. Heritage turkeys, in contrast are similar to their wild cousins: they're slower growing, smaller tastier, and treated more humanely.

...or go meatless: Most of your Thanksgiving feast is meatless anyway. Why not try some of the countless vegetarian (meat-free) and vegan (free of all animal products including dairy) alternatives to classic Thanksgiving recipes? Please visit motherearthnews.com or vegkitchen.com for some Thanksgiving recipes.

"Three Sisters" Stew

This is a great main dish option for Thanksgiving dinner. It's somewhat like chili, though more about the squash than beans. In Native American mythology, squash, corn, and beans are known as the "three sisters" - the very crops that the harvest festival of Thanksgiving is meant to celebrate! If you bake your pumpkin or squash a day ahead, the stew will come together in a snap. See the opposite page for a complete copy of this recipe.

Compost kitchen scraps: All those squash peels and carrot tops could be working to enrich your potting soil. Invest in a compost bin and turn your kitchen scraps into something useful instead of throwing them away.

Don't forget about the leftovers: Americans waste almost 40% of all edible food, much of it through improper storage.

green tips from earthshare.org

"Three Sisters" Stew

Here's a great main dish option for Thanksgiving dinner. It's somewhat like chili, though more about the squash than beans.

Ingredients:

1 small sugar pumpkin or 1 large butternut squash (about 2 pounds), or see shortcut following recipe.
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 to 4 cloves garlic, minced
1 medium green or red bell pepper, cut into short narrow strips
14 to 16 ounce can fire-roasted diced tomatoes, with liquid
2 to 3 cups cooked or canned (drained and rinsed) pink or pinto beans
2 cups corn kernels (from 2 large or 3 medium ears, or frozen)
1 cup homemade or canned vegetable stock, or water
1 or 2 small fresh hot chiles, seeded and mined, or one 4-ounce can chopped mild green chilies
2 teaspoons ground cumin
2 teaspoons chili powder or mesquite seasoning, or more, to taste
1 teaspoon dried oregano
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro or parsley

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Remove stem from the pumpkin or squash and cut in half lengthwise. Cover with aluminum foil and place the halves, cut side up, in a foil-lined shallow baking pan. If your knives aren't sharp enough, just wrap the pumpkin or squash in foil and bake it whole. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until you can pierce through with a knife, with a little resistance. When cool enough to handle, scrape out the seeds and fibers (clean the seeds for roasting, if you'd like). Slice and peel, then cut into large dice. Heat the oil in a soup pot. Add the onion and saute over medium-low heat until translucent. Add the garlic and continue to saute until the onion is golden. Add the pumpkin or squash and all the remaining ingredients except the last 2, and bring to a simmer. Simmer gently, covered, until all the vegetables are tender, about 20 to 25 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. If time allows, let the stew stand for 1 to 2 hours before serving, then heat through as needed. Just before serving, stir in the cilantro. The stew should be thick and very moist but not soupy; add additional stock or water if needed. Adjust seasonings to your liking. Serve in bowls. Serves 8 to 10. Prep time: 1 hour; Cook time: 40 minutes.

Shortcut: If you're short on time or simply cannot deal with chopping and peeling pumpkin or squash, you can get peeled, cut raw butternut squash. At this time of year, it's easy to find in the fresh produce department of supermarkets or natural foods stores.



Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Spotlight on a Youth Leader: Evangelina Gomez Mancillas, age 16

Evangelina (“Eva”) and her mother, Bertha, have maintained a relationship with IHS/FIA for over a decade. Evangelina began attending IHS/FIA programs around age 5, when she would come with her mother, who was participating in IHS/FIA health and educational programs. She quickly grew to love her time spent at IHS/FIA events, often asking her mother if it was the day to for them to go and being very disappointed when it was not! Eva remembers feeling very supported by staff and volunteers, and learning so much about nutrition and being healthy, among many other things. She also remembers as a young child feeling happy inside because she also knew that being part of IHS/FIA was helping her mom, and as any young child, Eva wanted her mom to be happy and to have support. She relays that this support had a great and lasting impact on her whole family.

Today, Evangelina is 16 years old. She is a junior at Central High School, excelling in her academics, participating in extra-curricular activities and also serves as a Youth Health Promoter for IHS/FIA. She often works side by side with her mother, Bertha, who has been an inspiring example of a dynamic and dedicated health promoter in our community. Regarding her new role as a Health Promoter and leader for our children’s programming, Evangelina describes how she wants to share with other children what FIA staff and volunteers shared with her over her childhood, because she sees the impact that it has had on her life—encouraging her to make new friends, to be active and healthy, to pursue her education, and to share what she has learned with others to make the community around her stronger and better. She feels honored and privileged to have grown up with IHS/FIA and to now have a leadership role on our staff. And we at IHS/FIA are beyond proud to have a youth like Evangelina helping us to reach more families and children in need of our services. Truly, we are blessed to see the “full circle” of the mission statement of our FIA participants become a reality in the mother-daughter team of Bertha and Evangelina: “To come together as women and families to promote health, well being and knowledge and to be role models for our children and community.”

Virginia, Gema and Kaela, IHS/FIA



Midland University will host its “2015 Gospel Honors Choir Project” concert at The Holland Center in Omaha, Nebraska on Sunday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. The event, designed to bring together local youth and community members through gospel music, will feature local leaders such as Salem Baptist Church’s “Salem Mass Choir”, the Christ Community Church Choir, Midland University performers, and hundreds of hand-selected high school singers from around Nebraska and Iowa. Headlining the event this year is Octavius Womack, a gospel recording artist from Los Angeles, CA. Ticket sale proceeds will be used to offset the costs of providing students the experience of a lifetime; performing at The Holland Center. Unlike other collegiate honor choirs, there is no fee to the participating students. The main purpose of this spiritually uplifting event is to unite young people and adults through the power of music. Together we can bring the magic of music to our community!

To obtain tickets go to www.TicketOmaha.com or call 888-434-8587 or visit the Ticket Omaha Box Office at 13th and Douglas Streets. Prices for individual tickets start at \$35.

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!



Haven’t had the chance to sign up? Not a problem, please contact the church office for a complete list and instructions on how to obtain your registered Baker’s Plus card, talk to a Baker’s associate; they are happy to help set up your rewards card, or you can refer back to previous issues of the Grace Messenger. Grace Lutheran’s 5-digit NPO is 62209.

For assistance setting up an online account or with general questions, please feel free to contact Baker’s at 800-576-4377 option 3, or email at DCR@dillonstores.com.

A Turkey's View of Thanksgiving

When I was a young turkey, new to the coop,
My big brother Mike, took me out on the stoop.

Then he sat me down, and he spoke real slow,
And he told me there was something, that I had to know.

His look and his tone, I will always remember,
When he told me of the horrors, of Black November.

"Come about August, now listen to me,
Each day you'll get six meals, instead of just three."

"And then comes the worst part," he said not bluffing,
She'll spread your cheeks, and pack your rear with stuffing."

Well, the rest of his words were too grim to repeat,
I sat on the stoop, like a winged piece of meat.

And decided on the spot, that to avoid being cooked,
I'd have to lay low, and remain overlooked.

I began a new diet, of nuts and granola,
High-roughage salads, juice and diet cola.

And as they ate pastries, chocolates and crepes,
I stayed in my room, doing Jane Fonda tapes.

I maintained my weight, of two pounds and a half,
And tried not to notice, when the bigger birds laughed.

But 'twas I who was laughing, under my breath,
They chomped and they chewed, ever closer to death.

And sure enough, when Black November rolled around,
I was the last turkey, left in the entire compound.

So now I'm a pet, in the farmer's wife's lap,
I haven't a worry, so I eat and I nap.

She held me today, while sewing and humming,
And smiled at me and said, "Christmas is coming."



*Author unknown
via Peggy Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL
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My Thanksgiving List

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4 (NIV)



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

FOOD	FRIENDS	FAMILY	FLOWERS	HAPPINESS
SUNSHINE	PRAYER	HOUSE	SCHOOLS	BIBLE
COUNTRY	CLOTHES	RAIN	HEALTH	LOVE
CHURCH	PEACE	FREEDOM	TEACHERS	PETS
MUSIC	PARENTS	SALVATION	TREES	JESUS



"For three things I thank God every day of my life: thanks that He has granted me knowledge of His works; deep thanks that He has set in my darkness the lamp of faith; deep, deepest thanks that I have another life to look forward to – a life joyous with light and flowers and heavenly song."

*—Helen Keller, blind and deaf from infancy
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