



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

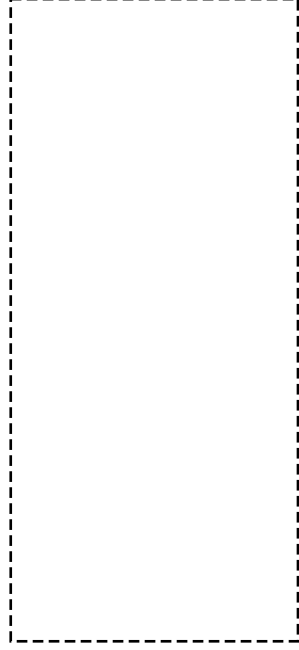
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

OCTOBER



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 September 8th. The Council shared their prayer concerns: We ask for prayers for Suzie Heldt & Lindsey Zach and their family as Suzie is facing terminal cancer, law enforcement across the nation, Arlone’s mom, sister-in-law Teresa Courtney, and uncle Melvin Obst with ongoing health issues, Barb Nelson, and refugees in Europe and across the world.

Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses in the “Daily Texts” from Psalm 3:8 and Jude 2. The first tells us that God wanted the people to overhear his conversation with Moses so that they would learn to be faithful followers of Him. The second tells us that if we show mercy to others, peace and love are sure to follow.

Visions for Ministry.

This chapter encourages us to think about our relationship with God not as “me and God” but as “the world and God”. “We are invited to become agents of God’s creative work,” to embrace humanity with compassion and mercy. It reminds us that “hope is not a mood but a commitment” to action. We are given incredible talents and opportunities to serve people in different ways, but it is up to us to take action and help those in need. Our goal in life shouldn’t just be to get to heaven, but to turn our eyes to the needs of the world and share what we know of God’s mercy, peace, and love.

Read chapter 7 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 begun. A handful of people have volunteered to be a part of that program.

Continued...

The Halloween Committee will meet after service on September 20th to begin planning the Halloween Party scheduled for Friday, October 30th.

God’s Work Our Hands: Amanda has been approved for \$250 for the project, and the principal has suggested we include all 100 staff members. She provided a list of ideas and of those, we liked: providing Kleenex and hand sanitizer for classrooms, breakfast rolls and coffee one morning (or more), and personalizing a note expressing why we value teachers. We want to provide a sandwich lunch for October 12, 16, or 19. Amanda will propose those dates to the principal.

Finance: None.

Property: The furnaces have been serviced before fall/winter approaches and had to have a control board replaced on one.

Pastor has requested an update from Johnson Hardware so they can get the door finished this year.

Our attorney will get us his final bill from the Church Mutual settlement within the week.

Service/Social Ministry: Spaghetti dinner for Lutheran Service Corp will be on October 4th at Trinity Lutheran. \$20/family or \$7/adult.

Support/Stewardship: None.

Worship: The group had a great time at the KC baseball game on Sunday.

Grace will be joining St. Luke’s for a special service scheduled for Sunday September 27th on the River City Star at 10am. A potluck will follow at St. Luke’s. (So there will not be another service at either church that morning).

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: Next Month, Pastor will be in California during our regular Council meeting. We will move the meeting to Thursday, October 15th at 7 pm so he can be present.

Announcements: Loren will bring treats for October.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

Pastor's Post

During the last month, I was drawn to read an article that appeared in one of my emails. The article was titled "10 Signals That Say "You Are Not Welcome In This Church." The author is a retired pastor who supply preaches at a different church each week. He begins the article by saying, "You can learn a great deal about a church's priorities and personality in five minutes by reading the church bulletin."

His observation is that most churches are eager to receive newcomers and want to make them feel at home. At the same time, he observes that most leaders do not welcome judgments from visitors on what they are doing and how they might do it differently.

This got me to thinking. How do I respond to persons who come to Grace for the first time? What is my reaction to their presence? Am I bold enough to ask them for their thoughts about what they experienced? If I do, can I welcome their reflections without being judgmental of their comments? I am hopeful that I respond with grace and honest interest in their reflections.

The author noted ten ways a church signals newcomers they are not wanted. Here is his list:

1. The front door is locked.
2. The functioning entrance is opened late.
3. The church bulletin gives inadequate information.
4. The pulpit is unfriendly to first-timers.
5. The congregation sends its own signals.
6. The insider language keeps outsiders away.
7. No attempt is made to get information on visitors.
8. No one follows up on first-timers.
9. Intangibles often send the signals loud and clear.
10. What happens following the service can make the difference.

Now, the author goes into detail concerning each one of these but I am struck by his closing comments. "Healthy congregations love each other and welcome newcomers and their people are reluctant to leave following the end of services.

Continue.....

"One wonders if pastor and other leaders realize just how scary it can be for a person new in the city to venture into an unfamiliar church. It is an act of courage of the first dimension." So, I am thinking that if it takes an act of courage for persons to enter, maybe it also takes an act of courage for me and maybe for many others to make it a priority to be hospitable and welcoming to any and all who come to our doors.

Now on a note, I had a person stop to see me this past week. We got to talking about welcoming others. I asked him, "How did it feel when you came into Grace?" His response was: "It felt very welcoming because the door was open. I was surprised that it was open." I hope we will continue to make the effort to be an open and welcoming place.

Pastor Laaker

How do you love someone as Christ would?

Our fall stewardship journey will continue with the story of the Donovan family as they realize the cost of living their faith by Loving Generously.



We begin on Sunday, November 1, with "Banquet." "For Sale" "Kind" "Called" and "1-2-A" will follow.

I hope you will plan on being present to see how we might expand our understanding of generosity to include relationships.



Love Motivates Our Giving

Love is what motivated God to give. He didn't give leftovers; He gave his best. He gave us what we needed — his own Son. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Through faith, we

begin to understand God's tremendous love for us, and we are compelled to share with others the love of God that fills our hearts. The more fully we understand how richly God has blessed us, the deeper will be our love and gratitude to him and the greater will be our desire to respond in generous giving of all that we have to offer — not just our monetary gifts but our time, efforts, and abilities as well.



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.*

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 1:2, NIV



**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
October 21, 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.



At Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere, should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. More than building homes, we build communities, we build hope and we build the opportunity for families to help themselves.

You are invited to a Home Dedication by Habitat for Humanity of Omaha Neighbors South Coalition on Saturday, October 17, 2015, 9:30 a.m. at 2718 South 23rd Street. Join us as we celebrate with the new homeowner, Rosalinda Bonilla and her family as they enter into their family independence, stability and growth.

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.



**Annual Lutheran Service Corps
 Open House & Spaghetti Dinner Benefit
 Sunday, October 4, 2015**

Plan to stop on your way to dinner and meet the 2015-2016 Volunteers and tour their residence home at 6220 N. 30th Street between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.. Dinner will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6340 N. 30th Street from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Enjoy dinner out, bring your family and friends! Adults: \$7; Children 5-12: \$4; Children under 5: \$2; Families: \$20. All proceeds help to support the social ministry of Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Lutheran Service Corps of Omaha! For information or questions, please call 402-457-5890 or email at Omaha.dev@lutheranvolunteercorps.org.



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 are doing 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 imagination and fun with the second graders.



We head towards the last few months of the year. Fall, or harvest is both a time of celebration and preparation. Much of the year's hard labor has been completed and this is the time to reap the fruits of our labor. At the same time, there is still much more work to be done in preparation for the upcoming winter months. The Gods Work Our Hands project will focus on honoring the staff at Liberty Elementary for their roles as educators, facilitators, and administrators who work so hard to provide a quality education to the students. We are happy to report that our first month of reading at Liberty has been a success. The kids greatly enjoyed the time spent with them by our readers and our readers did an exceptional job. We are so thankful for this opportunity. We will also partake in the annual Crop Walk and Halloween party events. These are a few of the many opportunities we will have to share in the harvest we have been able to produce through our labors throughout the year. Inviting the community and family to celebrate with us is a vital part of building strong relationships with one another.



Perhaps one way to understand the words in the Lord's Prayer, "Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is the idea of the bounty of heaven being made evident on earth. We usher in God's real presence in the world by doing His Will, gathering the harvest, and sharing it with others. When we create opportunities for others to join in celebration, we allow the spirit of the Lord to work in powerful, yet unknown ways. We become a catalyst of hope for the future to come by being active and visible in peoples' lives in the present moment. God's Kingdom is ushered in through us and what we deliberately seek to do in the world. Consider how you have been an active hand of God in the world around you and how you will continue to prepare for the future ahead.

Celebration can be a great act of faith. We see in the Old Testament the children of Israel celebrated during the Jubilation period. This was a time where debts were redeemed and the people came together as a nation to give praise for all God had done for them. Releasing of debts demonstrated the faith the people placed in God to make whole the losses one may have incurred. The people also did not work in the seventh year but celebrated and lived off the efforts of the previous six years. How great was the faith of those to work so diligently yet also place trust in God's providential Hand! While not working for a whole year may not be practical today, we can still demonstrate great faith in other ways. We can uplift those who struggle due to injustices of the systems or help ease their burdens even if it causes us some distress in the process.

Continued.....

When we help ease the burdens of others, we are in solidarity with God's restorative justice that was revered through Israel's Jubilation celebrations. Let us continue to work in connection and solidarity with those around us who seek liberation and justice in their lives. Not only can we do works in faith, we can also celebrate in faith.

Malachi Black
Community Outreach Associate
outreach@graceluth.com

What is a CROP Walk?

CROP Walks raise money for local hunger fighting agencies as well as the international relief and development efforts of Church World Service.



Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance.

Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because we want to end hunger – one step at a time.

This year marks the 33rd Omaha Crop Walk. You can help make a difference in the lives of people locally and worldwide by sponsoring a walker or walking and getting sponsors. Please see Malachi to secure a walker donation envelope and begin securing pledges for the Omaha Walk on Sunday, October 11. As a sponsor, look for the donation envelopes that are placed on the back table in the sanctuary.

The walk begins 1:00 p.m. at the new location – Luther Memorial Church, at the corner of 61st and Western. Walkers may choose from 1, 2.5 or 5 mile routes.



Grace Lutheran Church
 Halloween Party
 October 30, 2015
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 1326 South 26th Street
 402-341-7730



Plans are underway for this year's Halloween Party. Please look over the list below and help where you can, as always your help is graciously appreciated and needed.



Items needed for the Halloween Party:

Costume Contest will be judged in three different categories: scariest, funniest, and most creative. First and second place prizes are needed in each category. Prizes should cost around \$3.00 to \$6.00 each, and be something that can be used for Halloween, or have a Halloween theme.

Game Prizes:

- Hundreds of trinkets for carnival games.
- Candy for carnival games.
- Dum-dum suckers for the "Lollipop Tree"
- Bottles of 2 liter pop for "Ring Toss"
- Cakes for the "Cake Walk"
- White Elephant give-aways for "Bingo".



Refreshment items:

- 3 large bags of Vic's popcorn.
- Dozens of cookies! Homemade or store bought, all are good!
- Bags of wrapped Halloween candy for treat bags.
- Cellophane holiday treat bags for popcorn and candy.

Money, a donation container will be placed on the table in the back of the sanctuary each Sunday for your convenience.

Donated items should be placed in the Halloween Box in the upper fellowship hall.



If you would like to be a helper during the Halloween Party, please speak with Malachi Black. Prayers are appreciated ~ please pray for a successful and entertaining evening for all!

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.



Together Grace Lutheran and St. Luke's Lutheran Churches attended the Kansas City Royals vs. Chicago White Sox baseball game on Sunday, September 6th. It was a great opportunity for fellowship while watching a great game; all 31 people in attendance agreed it was a fun day!



October 2015



- 4 - Mary Laaker
- 11 - Greg Hula
- 18 - Arlone Farber
- 25 - Malachi Black
- Nov. 1 - Terry Nielsen

October Alcolytes

- 4 - Greg Hula
- 11 - Andrea Spahr
- 18 - Janet Hula
- 25 - Vicki Cox
- Nov. 1 - Donna Adrian

October Ushers

- Malachi Black
- Mary Laaker
- Andrew Edwards



October Greeters

- 4 - Lori Vasquez and Davena Garcia
- 11 - Ron and Donna Adrian
- 18 - Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker
- 25 - Eva Martin and Andrea Spahr
- Nov. 1 - Bobby Stechenfinger & Vicki Cox



- 1 - Kym Bauer
- 7 - June Hilmer
- 10 - Clayton Hanson
- 11 - Jonah Laaker
- 16 - Tom Emery
- 18 - Jericho Vazquez
- 22 - Moses Nyiwe
- 23 - Omaina Lado
- 24 - Donovan Halfhill
- 26 - Chadney Everitt
- 27 - Lori Vasquez
Jadyn Vazquez
- 29 - Andrea Spahr

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



Responsibility List

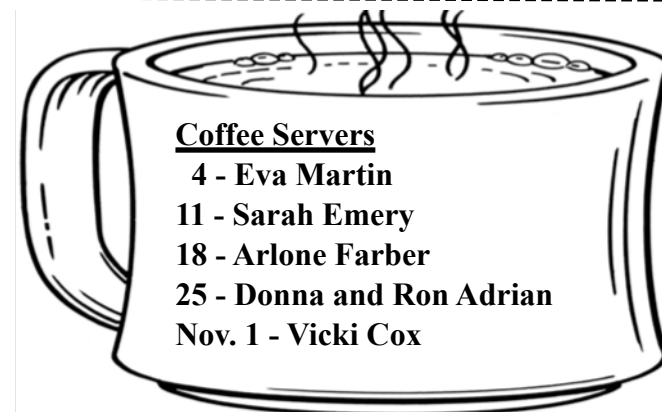
Altar Flowers

- 4 - Cindy Flatt in loving memory of her husband, Tony and their Anniversary.
- 11 - Ken and June Hilmer in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.
- 18 - LaVonne Moss for all October family birthdays.
- 25 - Ron and Donna Adrian in honor of their grandson, Jack's birthday.
- Nov. 1 - Brenda Spahr in honor of her daughter, Andrea's birthday.

Flower Pick-Up for October: Eva Martin

Backpack Program

- 4 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer in honor of their great-granddaughter, Amelia's birthday.
- 11 - Ron and Donna Adrian in honor of their grandson, Jack's birthday.
- 18 - Vicki Cox in loving memory of her father, Harlan Morter.
- 25 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer in honor of their great-granddaughter, Rayna's birthday.
- Nov. 1 - Brenda Spahr in honor of her daughter, Andrea's birthday.



Coffee Servers

- 4 - Eva Martin
- 11 - Sarah Emery
- 18 - Arlone Farber
- 25 - Donna and Ron Adrian
- Nov. 1 - Vicki Cox





Reformation Day takes place on October 31, 2015. Reformation Day is a religious holiday celebrated alongside All Hallows' Eve, in remembrance of the Reformation, particularly by Lutheran and some Reformed church communities.

In the United States churches often transfer the holiday, so that it falls on the Sunday (called Reformation Sunday) on or before October 31, with All Saints' Day moved to the Sunday on or after November 1. Reformation Day is a civic holiday in Slovenia and in the German states of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia. Reformation Day has been a national holiday in Chile since 2009.

The liturgical color of Reformation Day is red, which represents the Holy Spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church. Luther's hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God* is traditionally sung on this day. It is also traditional in some Lutheran schools for schoolchildren to hold Reformation Day plays or pageants that re-enact scenes from the life of Martin Luther.

To celebrate Reformation Sunday, October 25, please wear the color red.

Shared from cute-calendar.com

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.

Tips to have a Green Halloween



Like many of our holidays, Halloween can be an expensive and wasteful experience. Don't let the commercialism take all the fun or eco-friendly opportunities out of it! Check out our simple tips to make sure you don't spook Mother Nature this October — let us help you create healthier and more Earth-friendly holidays.

Green Halloween Costumes: Consider reusing or recycling costumes from previous years to make new costumes, or recycling old clothing into new costumes. Before you set out your paper recycling, set aside cardboard boxes and large pieces of paper that you can use to fashion costumes. Instructions for great handmade costumes can be found at places like The Daily Green.

This Halloween, make a green Halloween costume box and throw old clothes, interesting props and other recyclable materials into it throughout the year. By next Halloween, you'll have lots of eco-friendly materials to make into new costume ideas.

Green Halloween Treats: Instead of giving out high-sugar candy, consider giving pennies for UNICEF, pencils, erasers, or temporary tattoos. Besides reducing the waste of all the single-serving packaging, you'll be providing a healthy alternative to candy. If your kids won't let you give up food treats, consider small boxes of raisins which have recyclable paper packaging.

Green Halloween Decorations: Halloween decorations can be natural and non-commercial, with gourds, pumpkins and Jack-o-Lanterns! Lower your emissions on Halloween by buying locally grown pumpkins, and then lower your waste by composting them after Halloween is over. Use recycled paper to make window decorations, and then send them on for another round of recycling after the holiday. Paper grocery bags can be cut and molded into spooky Halloween trees, masks, and painted white for ghostly effects.

Green Halloween Trick-or-Treating: Send your children trick-or-treating with reusable buckets, canvas bags or pillow cases. Lower emissions by trick-or-treating in your neighborhood and get to know your neighbors better by inviting them over for an old fashioned bobbing-for-apples competition at your house.



green tips from earthshare.org



Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Interfaith Health Services/Families in Action Update

Sewing machines whirring....scissors cutting through fabric....babies cooing as mama's creative visions take form....laughter sprinkling the air and friendships blooming....these are some of things that you would see, hear and experience if you were to peek in to one of our classrooms on a Wednesday morning. **Interfaith Health Service/Families in Action** is pleased to be expanding our Microbusiness Initiative with the support of our generous donors, supporters and partners. Due to their generosity, IHS/FIA is able to serve more Latina women seeking to participate in this innovative programming designed to teach business skills and to increase self-confidence and social integration. IHS/FIA has added two new sites in order to expand this in-demand program through our partnerships with St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Currently, our sewing classes are filled to capacity. Child-care assistance is available so that young moms can more easily participate, learn a new skill, and meet other women in the community. We are grateful for your on-going support of IHS/FIA programs as we reach more and more families in need of our supportive services!

Virginia, Gema and Kaela, IHS/FIA



Grace Lutheran Church has supported OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) for the past 15 years. Grace is one of 25 Churches in the Omaha Community that supports OTOC. This organization has been involved in Immigration Issues, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Actions, Mental Health Issues and several other Issues.



All of the OTOC member organizations are holding Listening Sessions within their congregations or organizations this fall as part of the Listening Campaign. The Listening Sessions are being held to identify the issues that affect the families of our congregations and community. OTOC leaders will use what they hear to generate an agenda in 2016 that can be supported by our congregations. It is important that OTOC be able to tell our candidates for public office how many congregations and how many people participated in our Listening Sessions. When OTOC can say that 500-1000 people attended a Listening Session, candidates are willing to listen to what we have to say.

Grace Lutheran Church will be holding a Listening Session following church services on October 18th. We will have a Pot Luck Lunch before the meeting. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, chicken will be provided. This gathering will enable you to share what you are concerned about in our neighborhoods, city, county and state. We need you to attend this meeting and express your thoughts and feelings about important justice issues in our community. Contact Vicki Cox @402-333-5980 for more information.



We will offer another Listening Session at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 17th at 10:30 am.

If you are not able to attend the meeting at our congregation you are invited to attend a meeting at Urban Abby (10th & Jackson) on October 7th at 6:30 pm or on October 15th at 6:30 pm.

Please join us on October 17th or 18th.

What day of the week do Halloween Monsters eat their Candy?
On Chewsdays!

Which Halloween Characters eats the quickest?
The Goblin.

Why are graveyards so noisy?
Because of all the coffin!

Why are skeletons so calm, cool and collected?
Because nothing gets under their skin.

What breed of horse does the Boogie Man ride?
Night Mares.

Why aren't Skeletons Stunt Men?
Because they don't have the guts!

Shared from bestfamilyadvise.com

Autumn Word Poems

Use the letters of the words as the first letter of the first word in each line.

F _____

A _____

L _____

L _____



L _____

E _____

A _____

V _____

E _____

S _____

F _____

U _____

N _____

P _____

U _____

M _____

P _____

K _____

I _____

N _____



T _____

U _____

R _____

K _____

E _____

Y _____



Sign outside South
Seminole
Church of Christ, Winter
Park, FL:

"Are you going to waste?
Let Jesus recycle you."

—via Bobbe Lyon
Maitland, FL

Reprinted with permission
from JoyfulNoiseletter.com



The Tangier Changers' Rib Feed - 2015
Friday, October 16, 2016 - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tangier Center at 84th and Center



Featheriness cooked to perfection! Come hear the world renowned Tangier Shrine Chanters entertain you! Proceeds are for the benefit of Tangier Chanters Shrine Unit activities. Donation suggestion is \$10.00. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.



Before Going to sleep
on October 31.