

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

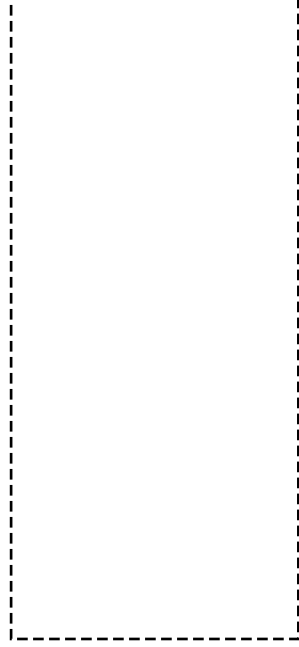
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Families In Action - Virginia McGill
Community Outreach - Malachi Black

Delivered to the Post Office December 31



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THE GRACE
MESSENGER
1889 - 2015



January
2016



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

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fittle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on December 8th. The Council shared their individual prayer requests and for our leaders as they work to determine future steps regarding refugees (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services has extensive information regarding the refugee resettlement process), and praise for everything with which we have been blessed.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses in the “Daily Texts” from Psalm 102:25 and Revelation 14:7. The first reminds us that God is Awesome and created the heavens and earth. The second tells us that God created the world, and we should appreciate with awe and wonder the majestic beauty that surrounds us. We should live our lives to glorify God by loving our neighbors and seeking out those who need help.

Visions for Ministry: In this final chapter, we were encouraged to look at ourselves, and the mission of our church, differently. Rather than focusing on the benefits we receive, we should look outward and focus on what we can do for others. The author challenges us to differentiate, or learn to override our natural reactive response, and use our thinking based on principles or beliefs. Keeping a hopeful attitude is important for overcoming any challenges we may face in our life. Keep hope alive and our future is bright.

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

Christian Education: None.

Evangelism/Outreach: We have received a good number of items for our teacher baskets. On Sunday, December 13th we will gather to assemble the gifts for the school. There will be between 70-75 gift baskets total.

Book reading program is going well. Working on getting feedback from teachers and begin putting together plans for next year. (Possibly adding 3rd graders.) Malachi also wants to expand the book reading program to include Spring Lake next fall. He is also hoping to begin teaching chess to 4-6th graders at Liberty Elementary and will be talking to the principal about this possibility.

Finance: The Council motioned to accept the GELC and Disney distributions proposed by the Endowment Board. A motion was made and accepted to allocate \$18,000 for housing from Pastor’s salary package in 2016.

Property: A small drip has developed above the doors to the sanctuary, so we will need to address this.

Service/Social Ministry: Vicki provided a written update on the OTOC community event held in October.

Support/Stewardship: Quick Check – we reviewed the Council members’ results from this questionnaire. Stewardship program has ended. Please turn in your pledge if you have not yet done so.

Worship: After Ash Wednesday, we will rotate Lenten meals (6 pm) and services (7 pm) between Grace & St. Luke’s. Christmas Eve service will be held at Grace at 4:30 and 6:30 at St. Luke’s.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Andrew, Janet, and Eva will be completing their 3-year term. Nominating committee will consist of Eva, Arlone, and we will ask Donna. An Audit Committee will need to be identified in January.

Announcements: Pastor shared his health care concerns. Malachi will bring treats for January.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

Continued...



Pastor's Post

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5 On Christmas Eve, we gathered in the darkness and lit candles. Those candles, while small, were able to push back the darkness. This is but one small action that demonstrates the power of God's love for God's world. God in small ways through God's people pushes back the darkness bringing the light of love into full view. As I think back over the year of 2015, I am amazed at the ways God's love through you pushed back the darkness and brought the light of love into view.

The ongoing support for others through your regular gifts and gifts from the Endowment Funds continue to provide love and care for many. I am amazed at the reach of light from a small group of people.

The beginning of the Grace Reads program for second graders at Liberty Elementary School is an amazing effort of light pushing back the darkness. Children come ready to listen and engage in the story being shared. They remember the previous story and are excited about reading the new story.

As we prepared for the Halloween Party, persons were able to secure Thrivent Action Funds that made it possible for all persons to attend for free. Children and adults were treated to a fun evening and treats were abundant. The light shone brightly as all love was shared all around.

Our partnership with Omaha Together One Community provided light as we gathered people around tables to listen to their concerns about the community in which they live. The opportunity to share stories with one another drives back the darkness of feeling alone and under valued.

The task of teaching is a time-honored vocation. However, this vocation can become a burden when it seems that no one cares. Through our connection with Thrivent, we were able to extend care to the teachers at Liberty Elementary in two different ways. We brought them lunch with all the fixins and we put together gift bags for each classroom, the office and other staff for Christmas. We have pushed back the darkness by showing love to those who care for our children.

These are some simple but powerful ways that we have allowed the light of Christ to shine through our actions of sharing God's love in care and service to all.

May we continue to be light in the new year of 2016.

Pastor Laaker



In an effort to further express our gratitude for the incredible work teachers at Liberty Elementary School provide each day impacting the lives of children, Grace Lutheran Church collected items for appreciation baskets. Pictured above are the many people working together assembling over 70 gift bags that later were delivered to Liberty Elementary School!

Teachers from Liberty Elementary then gathered together and signed a thank you card which was mailed to Grace and is now posted on the bulletin board for all to read!



Annual Report Time!

All committee and organization reports should submit their annual report summaries by January 11th. Annual reports will be ready for distribution on Sunday, January 17th, this is to allow plenty of time for all to make those long, long lists of questions everyone will be asking during the annual meeting on January 24th.

The potluck lunch will be held following worship service on Sunday, January 24th. Please bring a favorite dish to share, plates, silverware, and drinks will be provided. Please plan to stay after the meal and attend the meeting. Listen to all that went on in 2015 and discuss plans for 2016.





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 Tuv 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
January 20, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

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



Joe and I want to express our deep thanks and appreciation for the beautiful cards sent for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It touched our hearts to know that we have not been forgotten.

Barb Narducci

Dear Friends,

Mary and I want to thank you for your support, encouragement and gifts. We feel loved and appreciated by your generosity. May God Bless each of you!

Pastor Laaker





**32nd Annual IMA
Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity
Service**

Featuring the Martin Luther King, Jr.
Unity Choir
Guest Speaker: Rev. France Davis
Calvary Baptist Church,
Salt Lake City Utah

Where: Salem Baptist Church, 3131 Lake Street

When: Sunday, January 17, 2016 6:00 pm

Contact Person: Pastor T. Michael Williams - 402-679-3737
E-mail: hisgrace48@msn.com

Laying of the Commemorative Wreath By

Omaha Association of Black Professional Firefighters (OABPFF)
Local 385, International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

Where: IMA Martin Luther King, Jr. Cornerstone Memorial Plaza
Northwest Corner of 24th & Lake Streets

When: Monday, January 18, 2016 9:00 am

Refreshments, Fire Safety Program Immediately following

Contact Person: Peter Andrews 402-960-3092

32nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Luncheon

Presented by IMA

Tickets \$40 through January 14th

\$45 after January 14th

Where: The Omaha Hilton Hotel, 10th & Cass Streets

When: Monday, January 18, 2016 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Contact Persons: Rev. Dr. Stan Rone or Mrs. Mary Wilson,
402-341-4297

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

2401 Lake Street

Omaha, NE 68111










ADVOCACY ACCOUNTABILITY ACTION

*Taking action regarding the issues that affect the spiritual and social health,
safety and success of Metropolitan Omaha*



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 the Liberty Elementary readers; Malachi, Pastor Laaker, Arlone, Margie, Vicki, Eva, and Brenda for sharing the gift of learning through imagination and fun with the second graders.
-  Thank you to all the volunteers who put up all the Christmas decorations, Grace Lutheran Church looked very festive as we celebrated the joyous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



We have arrived. Whether we have run, walked, crawled, or stumbled across the end line, another year comes to a close. Certainly there are many things we can look back at in retrospect. Perhaps we are just ready to move forward and not look back. Are we making new promises about how next year will be different? Are we attempting to hold ourselves to new, grandiose goals that will give us a sense of accomplishment? Will we be transforming something about ourselves in 2016 as we seek to better ourselves? Motivation is a powerful thing. Motivation speaks to what's in our hearts. What is driving us toward any given direction? Hopefully, we are not simply motivated by a sense of failure or desire to minimize the bad and maximize the good. This linear, mathematical style of thinking creates a residual system of disconnect with who we are and the world around us. How can we truly tap into our potential if we marginalize ourselves by notions of positive and negatives? We become the bi-product of inputs and outputs that are no more dynamic than a formula on a piece of paper.

No, we must grasp the reality that there is so much going on around us that our goals, accomplishments, and failures can only be a piece of who we are. We are and will always be much more than a New Years resolution fulfilled or failed. This recognition must then draw us to go beyond resolutions, decrees of changed behaviors, and longings to put behind the pains of yesteryear. Our humanity challenges us to fully embrace the complex identity of ourselves that is both full of amazement and mystery. We can drive toward the beings God envisions for us by reaching beyond our own goals, expectations, and knowledge. When we step in the chasm of the unknown through faith, we release ourselves from being bound to linear thinking, progressions, and expectations. yes, embracing change is good and should be welcomed, but we cannot hold our identities hostage to the success or failure of our hopes and dreams. We can both make a resolution and evolve beyond it to things beyond our own imagination. Openness to mutual respect of self and others goes a long way. Community focused mentalities create effective, synergistic environments that aid lasting growth and development. In short, we become more as we come together more.

Continued....



How will you challenge yourself to think, grow, and hope differently? What struggles will you willingly embrace knowing there will be strength and unimaginable progress going through them? Continue to let your light shine to illuminate the path for others to see the glory of God in this world. As we usher in the new year, let us continue to usher in the kingdom of God and His Sovereign Will on earth. Be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Malachi Black
Community Outreach Associate
outreach@graceluth.com



Grace Lutheran Church
ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes
Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 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.



Christmas Mitten Tree

It is that special time of year! The Christmas Mitten Tree will be displayed in the upper fellowship hall until early January.

Currently there are 3 pairs of mittens, 41 pairs of gloves, 35 Hats, 2 pairs of slippers, and 4 pairs of socks. Your gift will go to benefit shelters and pantries in the area.

January 2016



- 3 - Brenda Spahr
- 10 - Greg Hula
- 17 - Arlone Farber
- 24 - Malachi Black
- 31 - Terry Nielsen
- Feb. 7 - Mary Laaker

- 1 - Martina Mure
- Nenchi Ilka
- 11 - Larry Foreman
- 12 - Satta Lewa
- 13 - J.P. Gammon
- Dige Dige
- 23 - Theila Nyiwe
- 26 - Janet Hula
- 31 - Gerald Helm
- Bobby Stechenfinger

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

January Alcolytes

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

January Ushers

- Mary Laaker
- Vicki Cox
- Andrew Edwards

Ushers & Greeters



January Greeters

- 3 - Greg and Janet Hula
- 10 - Ralph Fitle and Andrew Edwards
- 17 - Davena Garcia and Lori Vasquez
- 24 - Vicki Cox and Bobby Stechenfinger
- 31 - Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker
- Feb. 7 - June Hilmer and Gloria Moore



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers

- 3 - OPEN.
- 10 - OPEN.
- 17 - OPEN.
- 24 - Greg and Janet Hula in celebration of Janet's birthday.
- 31 - OPEN.
- Feb. 7 - Brenda Spahr sharing birthday celebrations with Jerry Van Ormer.

Flower Pick-Up for January: Van Ormers

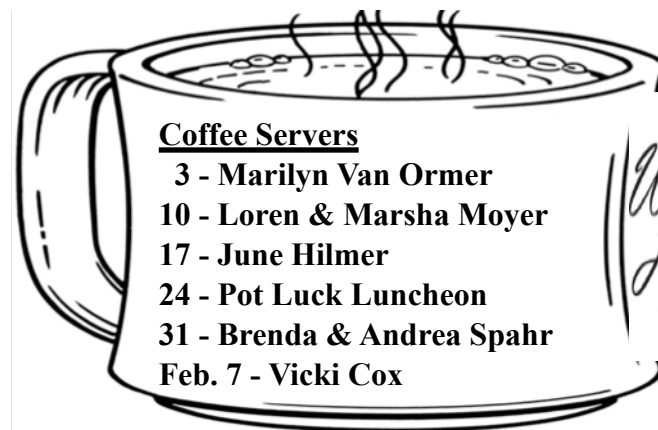
Backpack Program



- 3 - OPEN.
- 10 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer in celebration of their great-granddaughter, Ryne's birthday.
- 17 - OPEN.
- 24 - Charlotte Palczynski in celebration of her grandson's birthday.
- 31 - OPEN.
- Feb. 7 - Brenda Spahr sharing birthday celebrations with Jerry Van Ormer.

Coffee Servers

- 3 - Marilyn Van Ormer
- 10 - Loren & Marsha Moyer
- 17 - June Hilmer
- 24 - Pot Luck Luncheon
- 31 - Brenda & Andrea Spahr
- Feb. 7 - Vicki Cox





Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

Happy New Year from IHS/Families in Action!!

As a new year begins, we at IHS/Families in Action have much for which to be grateful. As we continue working to promote health, education, and strong communities, we recognize that our successes are only possible due to the generous participation and support of so many people:

Our Participants: Continue to humble, amaze, inspire, and lead us in fulfilling the mission of Families in Action. New participants like Ana, who are finding social support, friendship, and learning a new skill in our microbusiness class, remind us of the importance of reaching out and building relationships with those who feel isolated and creating space for new growth.

Our Volunteers: Continue to provide vital support to our programs and to dazzle all of us with their boundless enthusiasm, their creativity, their willingness to engage in cross-cultural learning and their open hearts. New, young volunteers like Julia from Marian High School and our Tri Delta women from Creighton University, remind us that youth have much to contribute to making the world a better and more socially connected place. Our numerous volunteers tell us repeatedly that they receive more from our participants than they feel they give~~but we know and see the blessings come full circle when all engage with open and welcoming hearts!

Our Staff and Youth Interns: Are inspiring leaders whose dedication to the mission of Families in Action makes our successes possible. Whether it is teaching Zumba, or leading child-health activities, or running a micro-business class, our Latina staff and youth interns consistently provide high-quality services with a welcoming spirit. They remind us that when we work hard together in a culture of respect and dignity, we can effectively touch lives, lift up families, and build a stronger community for all.

Continued.....

Our Partners: Are creative collaborators who come together with us, sharing a common vision, to make our programming possible. They offer us various in-kind contributions and welcoming spaces. They remind us that none of us can do it alone and that when we come together, we are better and stronger.

Our Donors: Exemplify a generosity for which we are immensely grateful. They exhibit a vision for which we strive~~that the city of Omaha will be a place where residents who face some difficult challenges will grow and thrive; that people from across the city will come together to learn about each other and in doing so enrich us all and make our community more connected and caring. The resources that we have been given to do our work are precious gifts. We are committed to making the most out of every dollar entrusted to us so that we can continue inspiring trust and transforming lives. We are deeply grateful for the vision and generosity of all our donors, whose support makes Families in Action possible.

We wish you peace, blessings and great joy in 2016 and always.

Virginia, Gema and Kaela

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. **If you're already registered, beginning Jan. 1, 2016, you will need to re-register for the new year.**



Keeping Your Green Resolution

Come February, plenty of well-intentioned New Year's resolutions are abandoned in the midst of hectic daily living. Some tips on keeping resolutions: pick one you really want to do, write down a plan for achieving it, and tell someone else who will hold you accountable.

We have organized some possible green resolutions below by level of difficulty. Pick a resolution or two and see what a positive difference you can make this year!

Simple Resolutions:

Buy more local and organic foods; Take shorter showers
Buy secondhand clothes; Take reusable bags grocery shopping
Donate to an environmental charity; Stop using pesticides
Use reusable water bottles & mugs; Visit a national park
Buy less needless products; Unplug unused chargers

Moderate Resolutions:

Volunteer to clean up a park or beach; Call my representative
Start an organic garden; Use more public transportation
Get a home energy audit; Join an advocacy group
Screen an environmental film; Compost all kitchen scraps
Start an eco book club; Join a green team at work
Install a programmable thermostat; Buy energy-efficient appliances

“Superstar” Resolutions

Visit my representative(s)
Install renewable energy on my home
Go car free
Weatherize my home
Start a lending library
Start an advocacy/community group
Downsize my living space
Go vegetarian
Establish a community garden
Move to a town with better transit



green tips from earthshare.org

Reading Your Bible in a Year - January 2016

1	Luke 5:27-39	Genesis 1-2	Psalm 1
2	Luke 6:1-26	Genesis 3-5	Psalm 2
3	Luke 6:27-49	Genesis 6-7	Psalm 3
4	Luke 7:1-17	Genesis 8-10	Psalm 4
5	Luke 7:18-50	Genesis 11	Psalm 5
6	Luke 8:1-25	Genesis 12	Psalm 6
7	Luke 8:26-56	Genesis 13-14	Psalm 7
8	Luke 9:1-27	Genesis 15	Psalm 8
9	Luke 9:28-62	Genesis 16	Psalm 9
10	Luke 10:1-20	Genesis 17	Psalm 10
11	Luke 10:21-42	Genesis 18	Psalm 11
12	Luke 11:1-28	Genesis 19	Psalm 12
13	Luke 11:29-54	Genesis 20	Psalm 13
14	Luke 12:1-31	Genesis 21	Psalm 14
15	Luke 12:32-59	Genesis 22	Psalm 15
16	Luke 13:1-17	Genesis 23	Psalm 16
17	Luke 13:18-35	Genesis 24	Psalm 17
18	Luke 14:1-24	Genesis 25	Psalm 18
19	Luke 14:25-35	Genesis 26	Psalm 19
20	Luke 15	Genesis 27:1-45	Psalm 20
21	Luke 16	Genesis 27:46-28:22	Psalm 21
22	Luke 17	Genesis 29:1-30	Psalm 22
23	Luke 18:1-17	Genesis 29:31-30:43	Psalm 23
24	Luke 18:18-43	Genesis 31	Psalm 24
25	Luke 19:1-27	Genesis 32-33	Psalm 25
26	Luke 19:28-48	Genesis 34	Psalm 26
27	Luke 20:1-26	Genesis 35-36	Psalm 27
28	Luke 20:27-47	Genesis 37	Psalm 28
29	Luke 21	Genesis 38	Psalm 29
30	Luke 22:1-38	Genesis 39	Psalm 30
31	Luke 22:39-71	Genesis 40	Psalm 31

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.

Famous last words - Lot's wife: "No, no one is following us. Why do you ask?"

- Richard Deats
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Buy Your 2016 God's Creation Calendar!

The Calendars Are Here! Calendars are open for everyone, if you would like to purchase a copy, please look for Donna or Brenda on Sunday mornings or call the church office at 402-341-7730.

Calendars include beautiful monthly scenic photography enhanced with inspiring Scriptures from the Holy Bible. High-quality, heavy-weight stock with gloss coated photo pages and ample space to write appointments and family events.

Same Great Price ~ Only \$5.00



Will Rogers on growing older:

"Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it."

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in life for."

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

"We don't stop playing because we turn old, but turn old because we stop playing."

- George Bernard Shaw
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A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back,
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace.

Poem by M.S. Lowndes
www.heavensinspirations.com





"Mommy, can I have a cup of kindness before I go to bed tonight?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



"...and just so you know, I had a very good day today, so I'd like more of the same tomorrow."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

One Sunday after Mass, Mike spoke to his priest and said, "Father, I've got a problem. I'd like to attend church next Sunday, but I just can't miss next Sunday's big football game."

"Don't let that upset you, Mike," the priest replied. "Don't you know that's what recorders are for?"

Mike's face suddenly lit up. "You mean I could record your sermon?" he said.

- via Rev. Harry Mahoney, Dedham, MA
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A Sunday school teacher asked his class of third-graders, "What were the final three words Jesus said on the cross?"

A little boy waved his hand frantically, declaring "I know! I know!"

Then, with a loud Southern accent, he exclaimed: "Forrgivve and forrgitt!"

The teacher later said his laughter was so uncontrollabl he had to dismiss the class immediately.

- Columnist Smiley Anders, Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate,
Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

Bible Wordsearch Sermons of Jesus 4

Wordsearch 244

Matt.7:1-12

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

BREAD	DOOR
BROTHER	EVIL
CHILDREN	EYE
CLEARLY	FEET
FATHER	FINDS
GIVEN	FISH
GOOD	GIFTS
HEAVEN	KNOW
JUDGED	LAW
KNOCK	LOOK
MEASURE	MORE
OPENED	MUCH
OTHERS	PIGS
PEARLS	PLANK
PIECES	SEEKS
PROPHETS	SNAKE
RECEIVES	SPECK
REMOVE	STONE
SACRED	SUMS
SAWDUST	TEAR
THROW	TIME
TRAMPLE	TURN
	UNDER

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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"There was a time I seemed to sail upon a vast, blue sea,
Scanning the horizon for some distant, gold shore,
Imagining that happiness lay just ahead of me,
In some wondrous perfect place I'd never seen before...
But as the days and years passed by,
I came to comprehend
That the joy is in the journeying,
Not at the journey's end."



—Dorothy Colgan, Apple Seeds
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