

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

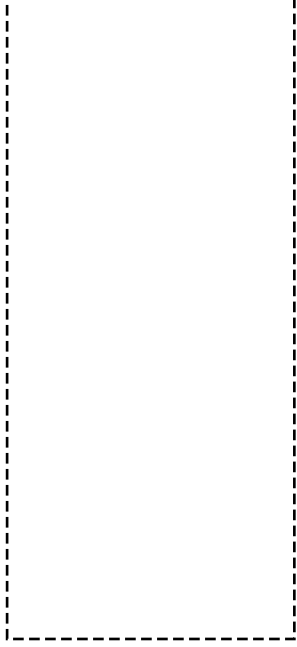
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Community Outreach - Malachi Black

Delivered to the Post Office February 23



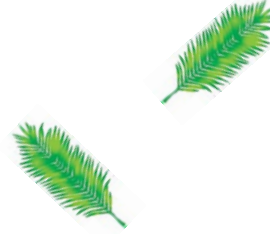
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THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2015



Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in
care and service to all.



2016 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Vicki Cox	Arlone Farber
Ralph Fittle	Greg Hula	Loren Moyer
Brenda Spahr	Amanda Vazquez	Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:
Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fittle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on February 9th. The Council shared their prayer concerns for all of the refugees, concerns for individuals with health conditions, concern for a people facing some legal issues, the homeless, and members David Hufford and Barb Narducci.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses in the “Daily Texts” from Psalm 145:15-16 and Matthew 6:26. The first tells us that if we look to God, God provides us with everything we need. The second suggests that if God concerns himself with caring for even the birds, God will surely take even better care of us.

Visions for Ministry: The introduction in this year’s book The 3 Colors of Leadership talked about empowerment. There are 3 elements we will explore: core principles, practical instruction, and spiritual change talk. The book will teach us how to empower ourselves and help empower others by learning what our leadership skills are and where we have growth potential. We will read part 1 up to page 25 and take the test for discussion next month.

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

Christian Education: Amanda shared some information on a one-day Bible camp that we could explore instead of our usual week-long vacation Bible School.

Evangelism/Outreach: None.

Finance: Endowment Board will meet later this month.

Property: Door locks – cylinders – will be replaced due to damage.

Service/Social Ministry: None.

Continued...

Support/Stewardship: Thelma Harahill’s daughter, Karen, has been a faithful supporter of Grace. She is a dentist and has visited Guatemala over the last 20 years for dental outreach missions. She shared photos of her latest trip on which 9 dental students were trained.

Worship: Lent begins tomorrow-dinner at 5:30 service at 6:30. St. Luke’s will join us. Mid-week Lenten services will focus around a video series about a pastor who developed ALS and the hope that was present through his experience. We will continue to use the Holden Evening Prayer.

Maundy Thursday suggestion – we will invite both congregations to bring potluck dishes.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: We are required every year to submit a report to the ELCA our activities and events of the congregation. Pastor shared the report.

Announcements: Vicki asked if we could share the Lenten video series. Pastor suggested we could check it out of the library. Greg will bring treats for March.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

God Blesses Us for our Giving

By faith, we understand that the best investment we can make with our money is investing or giving it to God. Throughout Scripture, when a command to give is stated, along with that command is a reference to the blessings that the giver will enjoy. These blessings come in many forms. For example in Proverbs 11:25, “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” In Proverbs 19:17 Solomon tells us: “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and [God] will reward him for what he has done.” God has ordained that, when we give generously, we receive generously.

God pours out spiritual blessings on us when we least expect them. When you are giving out of a desire to obey God’s command and to help others, you will find blessings heaped up and running over. These are blessings not understood by those outside the faith.





We have begun the season of Lent. When I was a child, Lent was always about giving up things—most often sweets or candy. As a good Lutheran boy, I came to view Shrove Tuesday as the starting line for a sort of "spiritual Olympics." At school, children would try to out-do each other with what we'd give up or take on. Today I can look back and laugh at my spiritual naiveté.

Now I'm a pastor. My spiritual life still manifests external things, but is much more about my interior life. I am learning to listen with compassion to the stories I tell myself, recognize how I continue to struggle with the same set of issues, and pay attention to perceived hurts and grudges held.

One of those recurring issues is that I am apparently not good at changing certain things. This is ironic because I am called to help people create change! (We preach what we most need to hear?) Realizing my hypocrisy, I recently set about taking a look at change through the lens of my spiritual life.

*"It's easy to quit smoking. I've done it hundreds of times."
-Attributed to Mark Twain*

We all have some level of "immunity" to change. If only change was as simple as thinking that we need to do something differently. It's easy to change a behavior for a few days, but much harder to keep it going. That's one of the deep truths hidden within the Lenten season: forty days gives us enough time for the new behavior to become an established part of our lives.

I have learned that when I resist change, it's typically because I have competing commitments. For example, I know I need to go for a walk, but I prefer to check my email and eat ice cream. We can only truly change when we understand and identify our competing commitments. Regardless of whether Lent is part of your life, setting aside a season to examine your competing commitments is a wise step on the path to spiritual maturity.

At a deeper level, when we begin to identify those competing commitments, we start to tap into shadow work. Quite often, the source of our competing commitments dwells in the unconscious. It's as if what we know about ourselves fits into a box, and our shadow is that which is outside the box.

Continued.....

I have learned it takes a very wise partner to help us discover what is "outside the box." A good spiritual director or experienced soul-brother/sister can guide us to uncover competing commitments in a manner that is not unsettling or overwhelming. When we open ourselves to a brother/sister and the spirit, we become truly self-generating. But beware of the person who tries to tell you about your experience or "fix" you. There are no quick fixes when we start to do shadow work.

This means that shadow work can be a good choice for a forty-day discipline. Another great quote by Mark Twain is "Habit is habit and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time."

On the spiritual path, we have to strike a balance between knowing we are loved perfectly, just the way we are, and striving to be better. It's a both/and. As human beings, if we don't have compassion for ourselves, we are unlikely to spend time exploring what might be "outside the box."

What I have to "give up" now becomes more of a shedding of all those things that keep me from love. What I have to "take on" now is a discernment of my competing priorities and making a choice for change. I know that is the divine call. While I dislike the word "conversion" because it suggests a one-time event, I also know that it approximates what I'm called to do every day, in and beyond the season of Lent.

Pastor Laaker (thoughts inspired by Illuman)

The Neighbors South Habitat Coalition
2016 will begin Friday, March 18, and
will continue each Friday and Saturday.



We will be working on rehabbing a home
at 3319 S 20th Street for Maggie Ortega and her three daughters,
Nathalia, Gabriella and Samantha. The first thing Maggie would like to
do in her new house is cook a big family dinner and enjoy eating
around the dining room table together with her three daughters.

The work day begins at 8:30 am and concludes about 4:00 pm.
Volunteers are needed and welcomed. We are hopeful to have ten
volunteers each work day. We will be taking Easter weekend, Memorial
Day weekend, and July 4th weekend off.

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

The Councils of Grace and St. Luke's have decided to combine our Lenten worship this year. We recognize that this will mean having to choose to participate at the other congregation. We are hopeful that you will make every effort to be supportive of this joint effort for Lent. Together we will encourage one another. Together we will develop new friendships and relationships. Please decide now to participate in this combined Lenten observance.

Mid-Week Lent will feature a seven-part film (the remaining five-parts are described below) series about hope, featuring Ed Dobson.

March 2 (at St. Luke's) Be There - When those close to us suffer, it's only natural to want to help. But what do you say when someone's life falls apart and suffering becomes their reality? How can you show you care?

March 9 (at Grace) My Garden- Many of us find our identity in what we do. But what happens when our career comes to an abrupt end? What happens when that job is no longer there? Are we still ourselves? Does our identity change? A pastor for many years, Ed struggled to adjust to a life without the pulpit. He eventually discovered there is much more to who we are than what we do. Could it be that change is an opportunity for a renewed sense of purpose?

March 16 (at St. Luke's) Ask Forgiveness - When Ed was told that his life would be over in a few short years, he found his priorities drastically rearranged. He wanted to mend relationships that may have been broken. He decided that relationships were way more important than who was right and who was wrong. Ed discovered that forgiveness is an issue that requires humility. He also discovered a transforming experience for all involved. Could the power of forgiveness lead to a better world around us?

March 24 (Maundy Thursday at Grace) Grateful - Ed has said that he wouldn't wish ALS on his worst enemy, yet even in the midst of his own diagnosis, he has chosen gratitude. When we are faced with suffering, or when our loved ones suffer, it can feel impossible to be grateful. Sometimes our situations seem too difficult or too painful for us to be grateful for anything. Ed and his wife, Lorna, have learned gratitude, even in the midst of the challenge of becoming a caregiver, and a care-receiver. Ed and Lorna teach us that it is possible to wake up every day and honestly say, "Lord, thank you for waking me up this morning."

March 25 (Good Friday at St. Luke's) Healing - Ed discovered that in the Bible there is a difference between being cured and being healed. In this film Ed and his wife, Lorna, share their struggle with a search for a cure for Ed's disease. In the process they discovered the beautiful and profound meaning of what it means to be healed.



Meals and Services will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran,
2315 I Street on the following dates:

March 2nd and the 16th
Good Friday Service on the 25th

LENTEN
Schedule

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving Lent 2016

As part of ELCA World Hunger's year-of-emphasis in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, congregations across the ELCA will join together to raise \$2 million to benefit the ministries of ELCA World Hunger through this season of Lent.

During Lent Grace will be collection items each week to assemble 25 Personal Care Kits on Palm Sunday, March 20th following worship services. The Personal Care Kits provide basic sanitation and hygiene items for families who have lost their belongings in some of nature's devastating disasters to stay healthy, clean, and preserve personal dignity. Items needed in each Personal Care Kit are 2 bars of soap, a comb, toothbrush, nail clippers and a bath towel.

**BASKETS
OF PROMISE**

More than 1.5 million refugees have fled the violence in Syria, which began in 2011, crossing the borders into Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 2.5 million people are internally displaced.

To respond to the needs of people inside and outside Syria, LWR is working with partners to distribute Quilts, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits and School Kits.

To learn more about how you can help those affected by the violence in Syria, visit lwr.org/syria.



Palm Sunday, March 20th
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 11:00 a.m. Worship with Palms



Maundy Thursday, March 24th
 Grace Lutheran Church
 5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Service

Last year Grace attended St. Luke's Maundy Thursday Service at St. Luke's and St. Luke's attended Grace's Good Friday Service. This year we will switch and St. Luke's will join Grace for the Maundy Thursday Service. We will gather for a potluck meal at 5:30 pm. Drinks and table service will be provided. Grace is invited to attend St. Luke's Good Friday Service.

Good Friday,
 March 25th
 St. Luke's Lutheran
 2315 I Street



Sunrise Service
 Easter Morning, March 27th
 Grace Lutheran ~ 6:30 a.m.
 Easter Breakfast prepared and served
 by the Moyer Family
 at 7:45 a.m.
 St. Luke's Easter Service
 at 9:00 a.m.



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 | | James Harrahill | |
| Ken Hilmer | | David Hufford | |
| Carolyn Matson | | LaVonne Moss | |
| Don Olson | | Urbano Vasquez | |
| Norma Courtney (Arlone Farber's Mom.) | | | |
- Christian Barajas (Samantha Trejo, Angela & Alex Everitt's brother.)
 Dottie Hula (Greg Hula's Mom.)
 Linda Pafford (Friend to many.)

Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran.

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us. Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

- Pastor Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church
- Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange, John Boato and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshipping Community.

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

Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

- Ferne Matson - Home.
- Joe and Barbara Narducci - Home.
- Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.

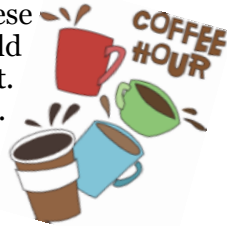




Grace Quilters for
Lutheran World Relief

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!



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, Larry,
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.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The 26th Annual Souper Bowl was Sunday,
February 7th. Together Grace donated
\$80.00, 56 food items and 54 rolls of toilet
paper. The various items will be donated to the South Omaha Lutheran
Pantry in support of the ministry efforts to serve those in need within
our community.



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.

“Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you
forget for one moment the joy of Christ risen.”

—Mother Teresa

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Rarely do we get to know what the future has in store. We can plan and make our best estimation of how things are going to play out in the short and long-term, but everyday is quite the mystery. Expectations are met and broken daily. Much of what we believe we know truly only is real when it occurs. We fancy ourselves to be in the know as it gives us a sense of security and assurance of what to expect. Time and again, we are shown that our intellect is limited at best, with what the universe is cooking up. The great part about this is the mistakes we make don't end us as valuable, life attributing human beings. We aren't made irrelevant by our failures and lapses of prudent judgment. Everything doesn't hinge on our expectation coming to fruition on our correct action given any situation or culmination of situations.

This means one important thing. Something new is always on the horizon. This means what we do does matter and how we perceive the future does impact what eventually becomes our present and then past. Lent is certainly a time to look forward to a hopefully new life inspiring future. More specifically, it challenges us to take note of the 'now' time we are experiencing. We should be working to bring out the most fruitful, spirited future possible. Though we may not have indisputable proof of what is to come, we can shape how some outcomes play out. Our daily habits, preparation methods, and ways of thinking help mold us in our Christian journey. Our prayer life, fasting, and dedication to Christian values become very important during Lent because we become connected to the hopeful future by our actions in present preparation.

Through faith, we can begin to see the future unfolding because we have challenged ourselves to be co-creators of it. What hopeful future do you see, and what are you doing through Lent to help bring it to fruition? How does God illuminate in your heart the path that is being revealed this Lenten season? We are challenged to see not how our personal outcomes and expectations will come about, but how we are thrust into a much larger future that impacts a greater purpose than our own. Perhaps we will see glimpses of God's magnificence working in the lives of others because we have sacrificed and allowed the veil to be removed from our eyes. Come out and be a part of our joint Lenten dinners and services and be blessed by the mystery of God being revealed in our lives.

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.



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.**



Daylight Saving Time Begins on
Sunday, March 13th.

March 2016



- 6 - Terry Nielsen
- 13 - Arlone Farber
- 20 - Brenda Spahr
- 24 - Malachi Black
- 27 - Greg Hula
- April 3 - Mary Laaker

- 8 - Alejandra Granillo
- 9 - Andrew Edwards
- 12 - Mary Laaker
Carolyn Matson
- 13 - Ken Hilmer
- 14 - Suata Lewa
- 17 - Jaden Mabe
- 19 - Craig Helm
- 21 - Catlin Cuffe
- 22 - Marsha Moyer
Regina Lewa
- 24 - Esahia Nyiwe
- 27 - Abigail Hegarty

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

March Alcolytes

- 6 - Greg Hula
- 9 - Brenda Spahr
- 13 - Vicki Cox
- 20 - Janet Hula
- 24 - Donna Adrian
- 27 - Andrea & Brenda Spahr
- April 3 - Greg Hula

March Ushers

- Ron Adrian
- Mary Laaker
- Andrew Edwards

Ushers & Greeters



March Greeters

- 6 - Larry Foreman and Ralph Fitle
- 13 - Greg and Janet Hula
- 20 - Lori Vasquez and Davena Garcia
- 27 - Vicki Cox and Andrew Edwards
- April 3 - Ron and Donna Adrian



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers

- 6 - Brenda Spahr in celebration of God's Blessings.
- 13 - June Hilmer in celebration of her husband, Ken's birthday.
- 20 - Pastor and Mary Laaker in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.
- 27 - Ron and Donna Adrian in celebration of their granddaughter, Madelyn's birthday.
- April 3 - Pastor and Mary Laaker in celebration of their daughter, Sarah's birthday.



Flower Pick-Up for March: Van Ormers

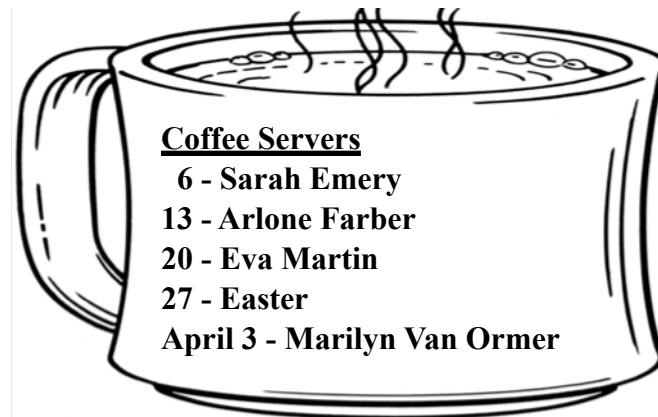


Backpack Program

- 6 - Vicki Cox in remembrance of all who face hunger issues.
- 13 - Amanda Vazquez in honor of her parents, Pastor and Mary Laaker's Wedding Anniversary.
- 20 - Vicki Cox in loving memory of her parents, Harlan and Eileen Morter.
- 27 - Eva Martin in celebration of her great-granddaughter, Abigail's birthday.
- April 3 - Pastor and Mary Laaker in honor of their daughter, Sarah and their grandson, Tommy's birthdays.

Coffee Servers

- 6 - Sarah Emery
- 13 - Arlone Farber
- 20 - Eva Martin
- 27 - Easter
- April 3 - Marilyn Van Ormer





Virginia McGill, MA
Executive Director

www.familiesinactionomaha.org



Gema C. Wolde
Community Health Worker
Se habla español.

**Spotlight on a Volunteer: Emily Beyersdorfer,
Creighton University, College of Nursing**

At Families in Action, we hear again and again from our many volunteers that they feel that they receive more than they give when they volunteer with FIA. We know that the circle of giving is mutually beneficial and uplifting for us all! This month, we are humbled to share a reflection by current Families in Action volunteer, Emily Beyersdorfer:

“I was first introduced to Families in Action (FIA) at end of the summer of 2015. The more I worked with these amazing children at FIA, I began to change. My heart was pulled open when I learned a lot of these kids don’t have a safe place to play at home or access to nutrient dense foods. Things I all take for granted as a result of my good health are resources these families are accessing through Families in Action. Families in Action provides a place to exercise and promotes healthy eating for adults and children. The main mission is to prevent obesity in children so in adulthood they have less co-morbidities. Evidence suggests that children that experience a poor diet experience emotional problems, cognitive delay and subsequent accumulation of body fats that can lead to Coronary Artery Disease, Diabetes, and joint injuries into adulthood. As a nursing student, pediatric health is something I am especially motivated about facilitating.

While the adults attend zumba classes, my fellow peers and I play with their children getting them as active as possible. These youth and children have touched me in a profound way. They make me want to be a better version of myself for other people. The language barrier hasn’t been an issue. If some kids and I don’t speak the same language, we make it work. They don’t care about the differences; they just want to play. It always warms my heart when the littler kids run up so excitedly and give us a bunch of hugs. Their love and acceptance is amazing. I love playing soccer with the boys and after a night’s worth of play they are tired out and happy. It makes me feel good that they are able to get exercise in.

Continued.....

Tutoring is something my peers and I have also done at *FIA*. The kid’s willingness to learn and want for a future is inspiring. I don’t believe I was ever as motivated when I young, but these kids want so badly a better future and work hard to get there. I see the passion in their eyes, which makes it so easy for us to want to help them achieve their academic goals in whatever way we can. The parents and adults are wonderful as well. They are always so grateful for out “help”, which doesn’t feel like help at all since we have so much fun. What is so wonderful about this program is that it gives these kids a chance in the world. It gives them a space to exercise and promotes education on healthy food, all which will benefit their health in the future. Not only that, but there are dedicated workers like Virginia and Gema who will never stop providing the best for these kids to achieve and succeed in life. I leave inspired every time I volunteer. The love and passion these workers have for this organization makes it easy to come back every week.” --**Emily Beyersdorfer, Creighton University College of Nursing, Class of 2016**

We are honored that Emily takes time every week to help us carry out the mission of Families in Action!

Virginia, Gema and Kaela

God’s kids say & do the funniest things

“On this past Reformation Sunday, grandma was sitting in the pew with her 8-year-old grandson, Luke. After the children’s sermon about the Reformation, grandma pointed out to Luke in the hymnal the song we were going to sing, “A Mighty Fortress is our God.’ At the bottom of the page, Luke read: ‘Text by Martin Luther.’

“Luke innocently exclaimed, ‘You mean I can text Martin Luther!’

He was ready to do so with his cell phone in hand.”

—*Rev. Dr. Clifton J. Suehr,*

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Irwin, PA

As they entered the church for the service, a mother asked her small children: “And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?” Her little daughter replied, “Because old people are sleeping.”

—*via Lowell Yoder, Holland, OH*

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Eco-Art Makes a Big Impression

Here's a creative Green Tip from EarthShare supporter Brett Carlson of Seattle, Washington. Frustrated with the lack of environmental awareness around him, Brett blew off steam after long days in the office by going to local thrift stores to hunt for decorative cookie tins for his eco-art project, "The 5th of July."

Brett's sustainability flag represents "...how we as Americans need to approach the future, because everything we do is interrelated." This amazing flag took about a year to complete, as each tin layer was meticulously cut and mailed down by hand. Kudos to Brett for finding a unique and meaningful way to re-purpose cast off materials!

If you have an earth-saving tip or your own piece of eco art that you'd like to share, email us at info@earthshare.org. And thanks to Brett for sharing the story of how he cares for the precious blue pearl we all share!

Want to create some found art, but not sure where to start? Check out Ecoart.com to spark some creativity of your own. Their suggestions for projects ranging from sea shell fountains to newspaper lamps to letter holders made from discarded shutters. If you're already a veteran artist, check out Community Art Network's Environmental Art links to see examples of other eco art taking place near you.



green tips from earthshare.org



Reading Your Bible in a Year - March 2016

1	Matt. 8:14-34	Lev. 1-2	Proverbs 19
2	Matt. 9:1-17	Lev. 3-4	Proverbs 20
3	Matt. 9:18-38	Lev. 5-6	Proverbs 21
4	Matt. 10:1-25	Lev. 7-8	Proverbs 22
5	Matt. 10:26-42	Lev. 9-10	Proverbs 23
6	Matt. 11:1-19	Lev. 11-12	Proverbs 24
7	Matt. 11:20-30	Lev. 13	Proverbs 25
8	Matt. 12:1-21	Lev. 14	Proverbs 26
9	Matt. 12:22-50	Lev. 15-16	Proverbs 27
10	Matt. 13:1-23	Lev. 17-18	Proverbs 28
11	Matt. 13:24-58	Lev. 19	Proverbs 29
12	Matt. 14:1-21	Lev. 20-21	Proverbs 30
13	Matt. 14:22-36	Lev. 22-23	Proverbs 31
14	Matt. 15:1-20	Lev. 24-25	Ecc. 1:1-11
15	Matt. 15:21-39	Lev. 26-27	Ecc. 1:12-2:26
16	Matt. 16	Num. 1-2	Ecc. 3:1-15
17	Matt. 17	Num. 3-4	Ecc. 3:16-4:16
18	Matt. 18:1-20	Num. 5-6	Ecc. 5
19	Matt. 18:21-35	Num. 7-8	Ecc. 6
20	Matt. 19:1-15	Num. 9-10	Ecc. 7
21	Matt. 19:16-30	Num. 11-12	Ecc. 8
22	Matt. 20:1-16	Num. 13-14	Ecc. 9:1-12
23	Matt. 20:17-34	Num. 15-16	Ecc. 9:13-10:20
24	Matt. 21:1-27	Num. 17-18	Ecc. 11:1-18
25	Matt. 21:28-46	Num. 19-20	Ecc. 11:9-12:14
26	Matt. 22:1-22	Num. 21	SS 1:1-2:7
27	Matt. 22:23-46	Num. 22:1-40	SS 2:8-3:5
28	Matt. 23:1-12	Num. 22:41-23:26	SS 3:6-5:1
29	Matt. 23:13-39	Num. 23:27-24:25	SS 5:2-6:3
30	Matt. 24:1-31	Num. 25-27	SS 6:4-8:4
31	Matt. 24:32-51	Num 28-29	SS 8:5-14

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services when she was startled by an intruder robbing her home.

She yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38!" ("Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.") The burglar stopped in his tracks and raised his hands. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

When an officer arrived and cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a Scripture at you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an ax and two 38s!"

—Columnist Smiley Anders, *Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate*
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Bible Wordsearch

Jesus the Healer

Wordsearch 246

Matt 7:28-8:13

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

ABRAHAM	CLEAN
AMAZED	CURED
ASKING	FAITH
BELIEVED	FEAST
CROWDS	GREAT
DESERVE	HEARD
FINISHED	ISAAC
HEALED	ISRAEL
HEAVEN	JACOB
KINGDOM	JESUS
MYSELF	KNELT
PLACES	LORD
SAYING	MOSES
SERVANT	OFFER
SOLDIERS	PRIEST
TAUGHT	ROOF
TERRIBLE	TEETH
THROWN	TRUTH
	TOUCHED

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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One-Liners from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*

Life is a whole series of little resurrections.” —Cal Samra

“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.” —Will Rogers

“The love of truth lies at the root of much humor.” —Robertson Davies

“Humor does not rescue us from unhappiness, but enables us to move back from it a little.” —Mason Cooley

“No man’s life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.” —Mark Twain