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



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 January 31

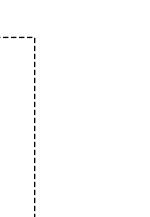
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THE GRACE MESSENGER 1889 - 2017



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



#### 2017 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Vicki Cox	Andrew Edwards
Ralph Fitle	Greg Hula	Marsha Moyer
Terry Nielsen	Brenda Spahr	Amanda Vazquez
Pastor Laaker		
******		
Officers Serving the Congregation:		
Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle		

The regular meeting of the Council was held on January 10th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns for those with ongoing health issues, victims and families in the Ft. Lauderdale shooting, those affected by flooding, and those making decisions regarding the leadership of our country for the next four years.

Pastor Laaker led devotions from Isaiah 5:20 and 1 Peter 2:21-22. The first tells us to be careful and watch out for those who misrepresent good and evil. The second reminds us that we are called to follow Jesus' example in our lives for he was without sin.

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

<u>Christian Education</u>: Almost 30 children were in attendance in church on Christmas Eve...should we explore a way to engage children in educational opportunities? There may be opportunities for both children and adults. Ron suggested possibly bringing back the children's sermon. We can explore ideas and talk with families to see what interest there might be.

<u>Evangelism/Outreach</u>: Planning to provide lunch for Liberty Elementary teachers on Tuesday, January 17th (10:45 - 1:20 is the lunch period). Arrive at 10:15 to set up. There are 115 teachers and staff. We have \$250 from Thrivent for a budget. Pastor suggested making a variety of soups. Amanda suggested a salad bar to go along with it.

<u>Finance</u>: The projected budget was compiled for 2017 and was presented to the Council. The Council approved the projected budget to be presented during the annual meeting. The Kora Benefit Fund money will not be used for its original purpose because the family has coverage through Kora's father's employer. The Council motioned to move the money into the Memorial Fund.

Continued...

<u>Property</u>: Loren and Dustin Moyer installed the new windows on the east side of the building. They will continue to work around the building.

<u>Service/Social Ministry</u>: Vicki attended the OTOC steering committee regarding community engagement through house meetings. Vicki, Arlone, Mary, and Malachi will be organizing a house meeting following service one Sunday in February and with the ESL group. Vicki inquired if St. Luke's would be interested in having a house meeting; if so, we could organize one there. Pastor will bring it up with St. Luke's Council members. The information gathered will be provided to OTOC so they can compile and present to the candidates prior to the May elections.

#### Support/Stewardship: None.

<u>Worship</u>: Ash Wednesday begins the first Wednesday in March and we would like to suggest alternating services again this year with St. Luke's. We hosted Ash Wednesday last year, so we will let St. Luke's decide if they would like to host it this year.

<u>Unfinished Business</u>: Nomination Committee – Terry Nielsen has agreed to be on the Council. They are still working on filling the other 2 positions. An Audit Committee needs to be appointed. The Council agreed to ask Gloria and Donna – Brenda will reach out.

<u>New Business</u>: Endowment Board – Marsha's term is expiring. The Council chose to nominate Arlone Farber.

<u>Announcements</u>: Annual meeting is January 29th. We will serve a potluck lunch following the service prior to the meeting. Vicki will bring treats in February. Malachi will bring treats in March.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

Please mark your calendar now! The Councils of Grace and St. Luke's have decided to switch the service time for **Sunday, February 5th.** This is to accommodate a better flow for the Annual Meeting at St. Luke's. **Grace Lutheran morning worship will be at 9:00 a.m.** and St. Luke's morning worship will be at 11:00 a.m.

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Each morning I arise to read a Daily Meditation offered by Fr. Richard Rohr. On Monday, his meditation was entitled "God is Good." It read as follows:

"In most ancient religions on every inhabited continent, God was seen to be "controllable" through some form of sacrifice, even fellow humans. Around the time of Abraham, the sacrificial instinct was

transferred from humans to animals (Genesis 22:13); ancient Hebrew and other religions sacrificed birds, goats, sheep, and bullocks to please a seemingly fearsome God. This was still going on in Jesus' time. When Jesus said, "It is finished," before he died on the cross, some believe he was saying that the very notion of sacrificial religion was finished and shown to be fruitless. *But the sacrificial instinct still remains ingrained until you can fully accept that you are accepted wholeheartedly.* So today's "civilized" cultures have evolved it into various forms of self-sacrifice and moral heroics, still found in most people and groups who do not emphasize inner experience.

"It is almost impossible for humans to believe that we could be good or worthy without some kind of "payment" to earn that dignity. The free flow of unearned love, what we call grace, is almost a punishment for most people. They fiercely resist it. Note the opposition that Pope Francis is getting from many. This view of scarcity, as opposed to a God and a worldview of infinite abundance, must be radically transformed for the Gospel to even make sense. In my opinion, only a small minority of believers actually live inside the world of grace.

"The amazing wonder of biblical revelation is that God is much different than we thought and much better than we feared. Paraphrasing an evolutionary biologist's statement about the strangeness of the universe: "God is not only stranger than we think but stranger than we *can* think." That changed way of thinking is what we call the contemplative mind. It is indeed a gift, but a gift that we can seek and ask for. *Contemplation is a vast opening to inner experience.* 

"Walter Brueggemann, in his monumental *Theology of the Old Testament*, says that the Jewish people came up with a "credo of five adjectives" to describe the God they met on their historical journey. YHWH was experienced as *merciful*, *gracious*, *faithful*, *forgiving*, *and steadfast in love*. You must realize what a breakthrough that was in human history and how it allowed one such as Jesus to emerge from such a worldview.

"The only people who really *know* this to be true for themselves, and not because someone else told them, are those who sincerely seek, pray, and, often, suffer. Outside of inner experience, these descriptors of God are just words. Outside of *your own inner experience of this kind of God*, most religion remains ritualistic, moralistic, doctrinaire, and largely unhappy; that is true on both the Right and the Left. It is the contentious religion that we see all around."

I wonder, how do you think of God? I have come to resonate with Fr. Rohr's thoughts. God is good or as the Jewish way of describing God: merciful, gracious, faithful, forgiving, and steadfast in love. I do not want my experience of God to be anything other than good. In so doing, I must live in abundance of grace not in scarcity.

Pastor Laaker

Mary and I want to express our sincere thanks for the cards and gifts that you so generously shared with us for the Christmas holiday. We deeply appreciate your kind thoughtfulness. May you be blessed! Pastor and Mary Laaker



# tirect Your THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS today!

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars Thrivent Choice Dollars can have tremendous impact on an organization. Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Grace

Lutheran Church by directing your remaining 2016 Choice Dollars. You have until March 31, 2017 to direct those 2016 dollars. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Continued......



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

Please keep in your prayers the individuals listed below who have health issues and concerns:

Ron Adrian Andrew Edwards James Harrahill Carolyn Matson LaVonne Moss Linda Pafford Brian Sutei Jerry Van Ormer Urbano Vasquez

Theresa Courtney Javne Gustafson Ken Hilmer Jack Pablo McGill Don Olson Pam Reents Dan Taylor Marilyn Van Ormer



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.



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 **COFFEE** FELLOWSHIP 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 February 15, 2017 7:00 p.m.

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



# **Christmas Mitten Tree**

Thank you for all the generous gifts of warmth this Christmas Season! Donations collected on the mitten tree were eight pairs of mittens & gloves, seven hats, one pair of pants and one wrist warmer for a grand total of 17 items. Your gift has reflected God's love to shelters and pantries in the area.

## **Stewardship Moment**

"[Jesus] replied, 'Because you have so little faith, I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move Keep it to Youvself! from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you' " (Matthew 17:20).

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

### Faith Expresses Itself In Our Stewardship

Faith is believing without seeing. The writer of Hebrews defines faith this way: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). The Apostle Paul tells us that our faith is a gift from God: "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given vou" (Romans 12:3). Our faith gives us complete confidence in God's promises. Through faith, we trust and obey our heavenly Father. Faith gives us the ability to do "immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to God's power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). Faith enables ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

That same "measure of faith God has given [us]" enables us to see God's power and presence in our lives and empowers us to be God's stewards. As God's managers of our lives and of all creation, we have a big job and responsibility. "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards God's mysteris. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). In order to be faithful, we must have faith. As God's stewards, we place our faith in God. Scripture also tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that God exists and that God rewards those who earnestly seek God" (Hebrews 11:6). God not only looks at what we do as stewards, but God sees our motives for doing what we do. Our faithfulness pleases God.

May we express our faith in faithful stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.



#### Midweek Lent - We are Church

One of the goals of the Nebraska Strategic Mission and Vision plan adopted at Synod Assembly 2015 was to unite congregations across the Nebraska Synod in common conversation during Lent of 2017 on what it means to be the church. The conversation will

be organized around five themes - the overall theme "We Are Church" and the four classic "marks of the church" as confessed in the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381 AD (commonly known as the "Nicene Creed"), which are as follows: "We Are One," "We Are Holy," "We Are Catholic," and "We Are Apostolic."

Each evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a gathering time. We will then begin with a prayer. Following the prayer we will enjoy our evening meal. During that meal, we will have some conversation starters as we eat. Then while still at tables, we will sing and then read a passage of Scripture followed by a brief reflection. We will have time for discussion of the reflection followed by prayer and a closing song.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Service at St. Luke's. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm and the service will begin at 6:30 pm. The next five weeks will rotate between Grace and St. Luke's. Maundy Thursday dinner and service will be at St. Luke's. Good Friday Service will be at Grace.

Plan now to participate in this new experience for Mid-week Lent.

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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 ESL tutors; Malachi, Vicki, Arlone, Mary, and Amanda, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.



- Thank you Greg, Janet and Mary; 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.
- P Thank you LaVonne, June, Gloria, Donna, Ron, Eva, and Malachi for your dedication and help in assembling the monthly Grace Messenger!
- Thank you Ron, Donna and Brenda for taking care of the altar, and preparing the communion table.



- Thank you to all ushers, Andrew, Vicki, Larry, Mary, and Malachi for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings.
- Thank you to all the Grace readers who participate in reading books and growing imaginations to both 2nd and 3rd grade students at Liberty Elementary School.
- Thank you Vicki, Arlone, Amanda, Malachi and Mary for all the assistance in assembling the Annual Report; it is greatly appreciated!



One-Liners shared from JoyfulNoiseletter

"Finding some humor in today's many problems is the next best thing to solving them." - Tom Mullen

"The invariable marks of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I think God has a tremendous sense of humor." - Rainn Wilson



The New Year is here! The 2017 Sign-up opportunities for both the Altar Flowers and the Backpack Program have been posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to acknowledge a special event through sponsorship of either

the Altar Flower or the Backpack Program, please sign the date of your choice soon! Favorite dates will be claimed on a first come first signature basis. If you are unable to sign up in person, you can reserve the date for sponsorship by calling the church office at 402-341-7730.

Have You Included Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund in Your Will?



A current, Remember the Church in Your Will, brochure has been placed on the back table in the sanctuary. Please pick up a free copy during your next worship time and consider Grace Lutheran a place for rememberance.



### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

The 27th Annual Souper Bowl is Sunday, February 5th, we plan to highlight the work

and ministry of the Lutheran Pantry in the Omaha area. You are invited to participate and bring a special collection that includes canned goods, paper products (toilet paper), or personal care items to donate to the ministry efforts to serve those in need within our community.



5 - Greg Hula 12 - Arlone Farber 19 - Margie Sutei 26 - Brenda Spahr Mar. 5 - Mary Laaker



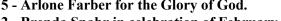
February Alcolytes 5 - Andrea Spahr 12 - Greg Hula 19 - Brenda Spahr 26 - Donna Adrian Mar. 5 - Janet Hula

February 2017

- 8 Gerald Van Ormer **Dustin Andersen Brenda Spahr**
- 9 Destiny Perales
- 10 Jackson Vazquez
- 21 Sonia Lado
- 24 Hayden Bauer
- 25 Graham Moyer
- 26 Gloria Moore **Sandy Nielsen**
- 28 Scott Moore

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

**Altar Flowers** 5 - Arlone Farber for the Glory of God.



12 - Brenda Spahr in celebration of February birthdays.

19 - OPEN.

26 - Terry Nielsen in celebration of his wife, Sandy and his mother, Marilyn's birthdays.

Responsibility List

Altar Flow

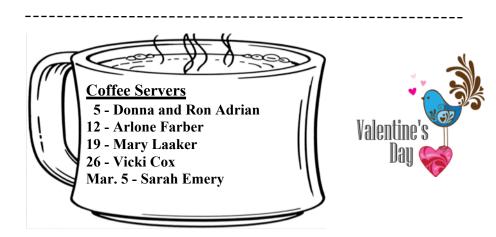
March 5 - OPEN.

**Flower Pick-Up for February: Mary Laaker** 



# **Backpack Program**

- 5 Ralph Fitle for awareness of those struggling with hunger issues.
- 12 Amanda Vazquez in celebration of her son, Jackson's birthday.
- 19 Ron and Donna Adrian in celebration of their son-in-law, Shane's birthday.
- 26 Sandy and Terry Nielsen in celebration of their son, Erik's basic training graduation.
- March 5 Ralph Fitle for awareness of those struggling with hunger issues.



**February Ushers** Vicki Cox Malachi Black **Andrew Edwards** 





**February Greeters** 

- 5 Brenda and Andrea Spahr
- 12 Ron and Donna Adrian
- 19 Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 26 Larry Foreman and Ralph Fitle
- Mar. 5 Vicki Cox and Gloria Moore



Change is often the result of past actions, circumstances, or things already in motion. Rarely do we get to determine long lasting change or the extent of it based on singular, individual action. It is

more likely that a chain of events, choices, and outcomes string together to bring about a more permanent change. This means we can't stop change from happening, but we can be agents of change, whether that is the advancement of progress or the hindrance of it.

Choices we make are important because they continually answer the ultimate question of justice. Why should I be just if no one is watching? We tend to think about this in terms of individual consequences or effects to our own lives. However, important to understand the depths of the reach of our actions as individuals but also as a collective. Individual consequences of choices that impact the individual matter in a more temporary way. Collective consequences have more lasting change effects. This means that social justice isn't simply a selective option, it's a universal responsibility. What we do or don't do will have universal implications. We are called to act beyond our own needs and desires as both Christians and human beings.

What currently may not impact us directly eventually will. What we choose to do today in the here and now will impact how we are affected in the future. Our response to injustices is essentially key and imminently important. Let us be resolved to be bold in our next steps. What can we do to be stewards of justice for others? Let us be just not simply because it benefits our current situations. Let us be just because the stability of our futures demand it.

Malachi Black Community Outreach Associate outreach@graceluth.com (940)414-3362





The season of Lent and the opportunity to serve one another is here! Maybe you are thinking of preparing and serving the Wednesday Night Lenten Supper. Get together with friends and decide which Wednesday, what menu and which organization will benefit from the dinner

proceeds; then sign up on the flyer posted on the bulletin board. Meals will be needed on the following Wednesday nights; March 8th, March 22nd, April 5th and finishing with Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 16th.



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

March 1st, Ash Wednesday, March 15th and the 29th and Maundy Thursday, April 13th.

Ready for this year's Annual Used Book Sale? Is your bookcase getting a little crowded? Why not donate some of your used books, DVDs, old VHS movies, puzzles, games, or CD's to sell at

the used book sale. Please leave your appropriate materials in the box provided in the fellowship hall. The sale will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. All proceeds will go toward new books, projects, or library supplies.



#### 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.



# Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year round.

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today! Ask for an authorization form in the church office.

#### Donations

Like to make a donation to Grace but all you have is your credit or debit card? You can now with our iPad and Square reader. The Square reader is a hand held device that has the mobile capacity to swipe your card. Ask an usher to provide this unique experience for you.



#### **ESL Christmas Party**

Tutors (Amanda, Arlone, Malachi, Mary, and Vicki), students and their families enjoy an awesome Christmas celebration before their winter break. Classes will



resume January 7th, meeting every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. What a great reflection of God's love to both tutors and students in their weekly sessions of learning and growing together.





Grace's Free Little Library is on display outside in the front island of the parking lot! Stop on by and browse for an interesting book! If you have any books for all ages you would like to contribute to the outdoor library or have any questions regarding this continuing adventure, please speak with Malachi. Let's help spread the joy of imagination through reading a good book!



Protect Your Family with a Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector

The Detector and Installation is Free



Just call the Omaha Fire Department at 402-444-3560 for the Free Detector and Installation

Sleep better at night with the peace and knowledge that your family is protected with early detection incase of a dangerous situation!

Detectors supplied by the First Responders Critical Support Foundation.

**Green Your Workout** 



There are lots of eco-savvy ways to get in your daily dose of physical fitness. Here are some of our favorite tips:

**Take it outside whenever you can.** Instead of increasing your energy consumption via home and gym exercise machines, take advantage of hiking and biking trails in your area. One big advantage to the great outdoors - it's 100% free and always interesting!

**Inspire a green makeover at your health club or gym.** If the great outdoors just aren't for you, consider encouraging your gym to make some eco-friendly upgrades. Make sure your club offers recycling bins and energy efficient machines, and remind the staff to ask patrons to limit their towel usage. Some environmentally-conscious gyms have even harnessed their patrons' workouts to generate power!

**Car pool to your local gym with a friend or neighbor.** Not only does carpooling cut down on your fuel costs and usage, but having a gym buddy is an instant incentive to keep up with your fitness goals and resolutions. For extra support, consider joining a soccer, volleyball, or kickball league in your neighborhood. No one to car pool with? Your bike is another great way to get where you're going and workout at the same time.

**Just say no to one-time use plastic water bottles.** It's time to commit to using refillable water bottles for workouts and everyday hydration. Using a refillable bottle means less waste in landfills and more money in your wallet. There are even self-filtering models.

**Get creative with your workout routine.** It's not always easy to find time to head to the gym or commit to an after-work jogging schedule. Try to throw in an extra walk or bike ride during your lunch break for a calorie-burning boost. Another great way to supplement your gym routine: Try knocking out some house or yard work by attacking the job with gusto! Shoveling snow, raking leaves, vacuuming and dusting can be great activities for buning off a greasy business lunch or the sins of the holiday season.

green tips from earthshare.org

Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans of America and its Ladies Auxiliary cordially invite you to their annual wine tasting event: Wine and Roses 2017.

Six wines, cheese & crackers, specialty desserts, a raffle and roses for the ladies. Proceeds benefit the Great Plains PVA Ladies Auxiliary's McAleer/Pierce Memorial Scholarship program



for graduating high school seniors who have a disability or who have a parent with a disability. \$20 per person.

The event will be held at WineStyles, 1006 S 74<sup>th</sup> Plz on Sunday, February 19, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Please RSVP to Amanda Vazquez by February 14th in person or at vazquez@greatplainspva.org.

> Contributing Sponsors: Bill & Jackie Siebert and Heartland Mobility.



Visiting Nurse Association

VNA is looking for people interest in becoming Hospice volunteers. The Hospice Volunteer Education Class that is conducted by VNA Hospice, CHI Health at Home Hospice, and Hospice House - The Josie Harper Residence will be taking place in March.

Hospice Volunteers are needed to provide companionship and support for individuals living with terminal illnesses and their families. Volunteers choose the hours they are able to serve and determine the geographical location in the metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and surrounding area. We are specifically looking for volunteer support during day time hours and those willing to do in-home visits.

Please call one of the following agencies to request an application. Space is limited.

VNA Hospice: Celeste Sully Feuerbach 402-930-4143 CHI Health at Home Hospice: Mary Pendell 402-898-8239 Hospice House: Janita Hoffmann 402-343-8600

#### A prayer for laughter

R e v . D a l e S c h o e n i n g o f Woodward, IA, found this Church of Scotland Celtic Prayer, titled "I Need Some Laughter, Lord," by an unknown author.

I need some laughter, Lord. I have had enough of sad saints and sour religion.

I have had enough of sin spotting and grace doubting. I need some laughter, Lord, the kind you planted in Sarah.

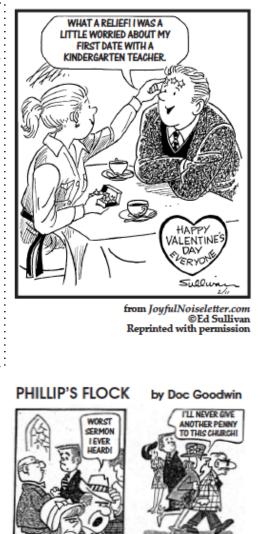
But, please may I not have to wait until I am ninety and pregnant.

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff and 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





from JoyfulNoiseletter.com ©Doc Goodwin (Phillips Flock) Reprinted with permission



A holy riddle

Rev. Harry Mahony of Dedham, MA passed along this riddle, which he said only 5% of Stanford University graduates figured out:

Can you answer all seven of the following questions with the same word?

- 1. The word has seven letters...2. Preceded God...3. Greater than God...4. More evil than t
- 5. All poor people have it...
- 4. More evil than the devil...
  6. Wealthy people need it...

7. If you eat it, you will die.

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com Answer: Nothing, which has seven letters. Nothing preceded God, nothing is greater than God, nothing is more evil than the devil, the poor have nothing, the wealthy need nothing, and if you eat nothing, you will die.