

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

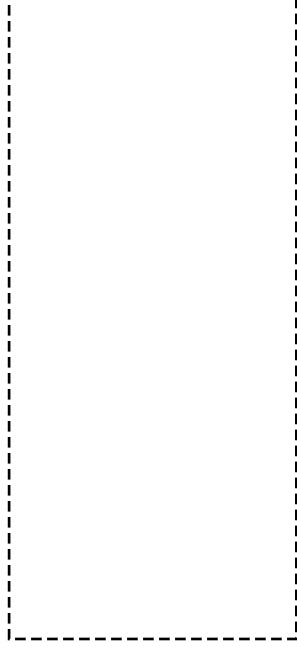
Community Outreach - Malachi Black

Delivered to the Post Office December 29



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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.



2016 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Vicki Cox	Arlone Farber
Ralph Fitle	Greg Hula	Loren Moyer
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 December 13, 2016.

Prayers were requested for those with ongoing health issues, death of a loved one, for families traveling at Christmas time, for people touched by loss, and that no matter what, no one might lose hope.

Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker reading the selected verses in the “Daily Texts” from Exodus 33:18 and John 14:14. Both suggest that God might show us God’s visible presence.

Visions for Ministry

We shared thoughts about what we learned through the process of working through the book and its Leadership Empowerment test. One of the noted things was that people experienced growth through this process.

Minutes

The minutes of the regular November 2016 meeting were approved.

Financial Secretary’s Report

The report of the Financial Secretary, Janet Hula, was presented and accepted by motion.

Treasurer’s Report

The report of the Treasurer, Ralph Fitle, was presented and accepted by motion.

Mission Share

The monthly Mission Share contribution and the Seminary Aid contribution were both made in November – ending with 100% of our pledge for both.

Committee Reports

No new report from Christian Education, Service/Social Ministry and Worship.

Evangelism/Outreach

Grace Reads Program is going well. Malachi has reached out to the principal to see what might be most helpful for the teachers as they return in January.

The ESL Christmas Party had over 25 persons present. Donations were received from Kohl’s Pharmacy and Thrivent for the gifts and food shared.

Finance

Endowment Board provided a written report. The Council ratified the planned donations from the Disney Endowment Fund.

It was agreed to provide the staff with gift cards in appreciation for their excellent work. Pastor will secure and give to staff members.

It will be necessary to hold a budget meeting early in January 2017 to prepare a budget for the Annual meeting.

Property

Pastor and Brenda reported on a meeting held with Pr. Edgar and the Deacons of Prince of Peace Pentecostal.

Support/Stewardship

People expressed their appreciation for the Fall Emphasis, “Leading Generously.” It was rewarding and enjoyed greatly.

New Business

Nomination Committee – who will help us select possible newcomers to Council. Brenda and Arlone volunteered. We need to add a member from the congregation.

An Audit Committee will need to be appointed in January.

Announcements

None.

Ralph will bring treats in January.

Sign outside a rural Baptist Church, near Dothan, AL:
“We are just a little church with a really big God.”

—via Charles Garrett, Fort Gaines, GA
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Continued...



On Christmas Eve, I received this reflection from Brian D. McLaren. I find it speaking to me as we celebrate Christmas and the beginning of a new year. May it give you something to ponder in your heart.

“2016 has been a year unlike any other in my life of 60 years, which has made this Christmas season unlike any other. It’s not so easy to settle into that joyful holiday spirit when the political world mocks so many values I hold dear, from protecting our planet to caring for refugees to respecting the equal rights of minorities to upholding the value of truth.

“Then, just as I find myself stewing in that bitter soup, it hits me; that’s what Christmas was, in fact, about. Not sentimental songs about snow and mistletoe, but hope in the face of ugly and dangerous political realities. To explain, consider some macro-history.

“Of all the problems we human beings have faced, one of our biggest has been men.

“Male humans often become violent rivals for status, prestige, sexual satisfaction, money, land, and power. Fueled by androgen, testosterone, and social conditioning, men form and use gangs, political parties, nations, religions, and empires to play out their aggressions, and sadly, women and children are often caught in the crossfire.

“Many millennia ago, societies devised a response to this problem of male aggressiveness. They elevated one alpha male to a position of power above all the beta and gamma males (and all the women, too), creating hierarchies of dominance and submission. It was a crude deal: in exchange for keeping all the unruly men under control, society rewards its dominant father figure with extra power, privilege, and other perks, including financial and sexual perks.

“What kind of man would be elevated to such a position? In order to cow any potential rival into submission, he must be willing to deploy violence faster and more ruthlessly than anyone else. And he must be willing to “display,” not just once, but constantly – to remind all potential upstarts of his physical prowess, his sexual prowess, and his financial prowess, so they’ll remember just who the alpha male is.

“The name for this system is patriarchy. It can exist in a family, a clan, a tribe, a nation or an empire. Beginning about five centuries ago, European patriarchs (popes, kings and their cronies) extended their patriarchal regimes globally, so that since the colonial period, patriarchy has expressed itself as white Christian male supremacy for much of the world.

“But about 2000 years ago, a story began to spread. In this story – revolutionary in its meaning, whether or not you take every detail literally, a virgin bears a son.

What could such an image mean? Could it mean that God is conspiring to produce a new image of humanity, and especially maleness, apart from typical patriarchal lines of primogeniture, choosing instead to create something new only with the cooperation of a woman? Could it be that this story of virgin birth is not simply about miracle or the untidiness of sex, but rather about the rejection of patriarchy and the ugliness of patriarchal violence?

“The baby born to this unlikely mother did not grow up to be an alpha male who played and won by the old set of patriarchal rules. Rather, we might call him an omega male.

“He didn’t display sexual prowess by bedding women left and right, but rather, treated women with uncommon respect.

“He didn’t rise to prominence along the normal alpha-male route of threats of eye-for-eye revenge, but by way of nonviolent resistance, forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

“He didn’t win followers by false promises, threats, or manipulation, but won their respect through his nonviolent example, courage of convictions, clear message, and personal character.

“He didn’t preach an us-versus-them narrative or scapegoat “the other,” but moved toward the other in a spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness.

“In the 1st Century, as in the 21st, there was no shortage of alpha males strutting their patriarchal stuff, seeking attention, vying for power. But into that chaos came a baby who would later embody a new image of manhood, and a new model for humanity.

“Suddenly, Christmas 2016 means for me not a season of sentimentality, but a season of daring and revolutionary hope.

“In that light, a recent book by a courageous Evangelical woman takes on added significance. Carolyn C. James’ *Malestrom* (a play on maelstrom) demonstrates how the Bible, far from endorsing patriarchy, actually subverts it and proposes a better way of being human for both men and women. “Patriarchy is not the Bible’s message,” she says. Rather, it is the shadowy cultural backdrop against which a brighter post-patriarchal message shines.

“Patriarchy may have addressed the problem of male aggressiveness back in the days of swords and spears, but in a world of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, patriarchy is not the solution: it is part of the problem. And the Christmas story, believe it or not, proposes an alternative. Ponder that for while, and you might find yourself humming, “Joy to the world.””

Continued.....

Pastor Laaker

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

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 Sutej
Jerry Van Ormer
The family of Norma Courtney



Theresa Courtney
Jayne Gustafson
Ken Hilmer
Jack Pablo McGill
Don Olson
Pam Reents
Dan Taylor
Urbano Vasquez



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!



**Prayer Service
Wednesday
January 18, 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.



Donate Gloves & Scarves

Christmas Mitten Tree



It is that special time of year! The Christmas Mitten Tree will be displayed in the upper fellowship hall during the month of December.

As in past years, during the sales of the Christmas Season, consider adding a pair of mittens, gloves, scarf or any additional warm apparel to place on the mitten tree. Your gift will go to benefit shelters and pantries in the area.

Stewardship Moment

Greetings during this Christmas season!



What a tender time Christmas is! Everyone adores the baby in the manger. Families gather together to sing "Away in a Manger" and wish each other peace on earth. Too often, however, after the season has passed, the temptation is to go back to empty lives. We rush from one task to another, from one activity to another. We try to do good things, and, when doubts nag at us, we comfort ourselves by arguing that we are "good people," after all.

As Christians, we have seen those who would measure themselves by the numbers of good deeds they have completed. These deeds are meaningless empty gestures without the love for God. The real message of Christmas proclaims the gift of the baby and in return we honor Christ by doing for others.

We should adore the newborn Christ child, but we should also worship him as our Redeemer, the one who did for us what our good deeds could not.

"For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering." Romans 8:3

The helpless baby grew up, suffered in our places, took the sin of the whole world in his body on the cross, and brought us salvation.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

This is the freeing message of Christmas. Without Christ, there is no peace on earth. Without Christ, there is no goodness in us. Without Christ, there is no purpose in life. Without Christ, there is no life at all.

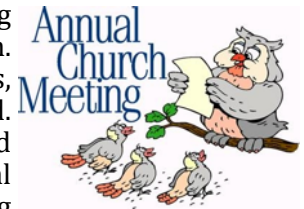
May we find our lives enriched by the presence of the Christ Child and live rich and abundant lives.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

ANNUAL REPORT

Time to reflect on all the events that happened during 2016. In the life of the church, reflections are made, collected and assembled into the Annual Report. If you wrote an article last year or were the chairperson of a committee during 2016, it is time to compose your reports again. Please have your annual report in to the office by Monday, January 16th. Annual reports will be ready for distribution on Sunday, January 22nd, 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 29th.

The potluck lunch will be held following worship service on Sunday, January 29th. 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 the annual summaries of events that happened during 2016 and discuss plans for 2017.



Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE











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 am and St. Luke's morning worship will be at 11:00 am.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



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 Marilyn and Jerry 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 ESL tutors; Malachi, Vicki, Arlone, Mary, and Amanda, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.
-  Thank you Jerry, Marilyn, Greg, and Janet; 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 Ron, Donna and Brenda for taking 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 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 to Greg, Janet, Andrew and helpers for decorating throughout the building for the season of Christmas, everything looks wonderful!
-  Thank you to Loren and Dustin Moyer for installing two new windows on the east side of the building. The drafts have disappeared!



Altar Flowers

The New Year is just around the corner. 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 remembrance.



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.



January 2017



- 1 - Mary Laaker
- 8 - Arlone Farber
- 15 - Malachi Black
- 22 - Brenda Spahr
- 29 - Terry Nielsen
- Feb. 5 - Greg Hula



- 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 Acolytes

- 1 - Donna Adrian
- 8 - Brenda Spahr
- 15 - Janet Hula
- 22 - Vicki Cox
- 29 - Damien Rodriguez
- Feb. 5 - Andrea Spahr

January Ushers

- Larry Foreman
- Mary Laaker
- Andrew Edwards

Ushers & Greeters



January Greeters

- 1 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
- 8 - Vicki Cox and Gloria Moore
- 15 - Ralph Fitle and Larry Foreman
- 22 - Greg and Janet Hula
- 29 - Bobby Stechenfinger & Andrew Edwards
- Feb. 5 - Mary Laaker and Sarah Emery



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers



- 1 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer and Charlotte and Ed Palczynski in loving memory of Kirk Petersen.
- 8 - OPEN.
- 15 - OPEN.
- 22 - OPEN.
- 29 - OPEN.
- Feb. 5 - OPEN.

The 2017 Flower Chart is now posted on the bulletin board, please reserve your weekly choice soon. Call the church office 402-341-7730 for your convenience as well.

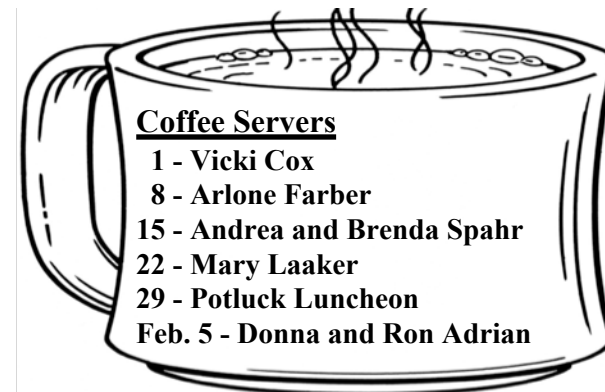
Flower Pick-Up for January:
Greg and Janet Hula



Backpack Program

- 1 - Brenda Spahr, God's Blessings in 2017.
- 8 - OPEN.
- 15 - OPEN.
- 22 - OPEN.
- 29 - OPEN.
- Feb. 5 - OPEN.

The 2017 Backpack Chart is now posted on the bulletin board, please reserve your weekly choice soon. Call the church office 402-341-7730 for your convenience as well.



Coffee Servers

- 1 - Vicki Cox
- 8 - Arlone Farber
- 15 - Andrea and Brenda Spahr
- 22 - Mary Laaker
- 29 - Potluck Luncheon
- Feb. 5 - Donna and Ron Adrian





2017 is upon us. It's a time to renew commitments, create new commitments, and let go of some of the things that held us back in 2016. Many opportunities will present themselves in the coming year. The needs for change and consistency will come knocking at our doors. Will we be ready?

As we grow in our faith, we are continually challenged to see beyond the obstacles, problems, and need for solutions. The intense focus on these limit our ability to truly operate in faith. We want the safeguards and fixes rather than experience the ongoing testing of our limits. Much like having an insurance policy as a failsafe in case of a situation or emergency. We want to have a go-to-plan in place when things get difficult or strenuous. Sometimes, we use our faith like this.

The issue with insurance is they usually require some kind of pesky deductible. One is required to pay so much when the policy is needed or in situations until a premium is met. We must ask ourselves, "Do we attempt to use our faith as a payment to get into heaven?" Are we hoping that if we do enough good deeds (making down payments in faith), we will level the balance or be good enough to get into the pearly gates?

The reality is no matter how much we do, say, think or pray, we cannot pay the balance. We cannot make deductible payments, or pay the balance in full. Fortunately, we don't need to. By the grace of God, the balance has been paid. What we do has little to do with the power of what God's saving work does!

What we do does reflect our thankfulness to Him for what He has done for us. Our actions and intentions do matter. Not because we can repay a debt or balance the ledger, but because we represent God's goodness on earth to those who seek the light or for those who are in darkness. Let 2017 be a continuation of God's illuminating light flow through your life.

Malachi Black
Community Outreach Associate
outreach@graceluth.com



**Detectors
Save
Lives**

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.



Reading Your Bible in a Year

Each month during 2016 the Grace Messenger has shared the reading schedule to accomplish the task of reading your entire Bible in one calendar year. If you were unable to read each month or would like to have that opportunity to dig into the word and continue your relationship with God, please feel free to contact the church office, 402-341-7730. Copies will be made available upon requests!

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.

Buy Your 2017 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



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 now on display 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 new adventure, please speak with Malachi. Let's help spread the joy of imagination through reading a good book!

As Christmas approached, a grandma gave directions to her adult grandson, who was coming to visit:

"You come in the front door of the condo and go to the panel on your left. Push 2B with your elbow. I'll buzz you in. Then get on the elevator, and push the button for floor 2 with your elbow. When you get off the elevator, go to your right and when you find 2B on the door, push the doorbell with your elbow.

"Grandma, that sounds pretty easy," replied the grandson, "but why am I hitting all those buttons with my elbow?"

"What?" she exclaimed. "You're coming to visit empty-handed?"

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Button Up Your Home

Baby It's Cold Outside! As the seasons change and your family migrates indoors for the winter, a lot of energy can be wasted to keep your home comfortable. Between 40 and 70% of all home energy is waster, but we could save about half of that by buying efficient appliances and taking energy-saving measures.

The 10 Biggest Energy Users

Water heaters ~ Refrigerators ~ Freezers ~ Air Conditioners ~ Ranges
Washing machines ~ Dryers ~ Dishwashers ~ Portable heaters ~ Lights

Here are some inexpensive solutions to consider:

Cover your air conditioner: If you can't remove your window unit, consider covering it both inside and out. Besides protecting your air-conditioning unit, these covers also help keep cold air from entering your home through the space around the air-conditioner and can be a great way to lower utility bills.

Caulk it: Small spaces and gaps around windows and pipes and wires entering the home create energy wasting drafts that can cut the efficiency of your heating system. Most caulking products cost under \$10; rope caulk, one of the easiest types to apply, sells for about \$4 for 40 or 50 feet.

Block drafts: Draft blockers are foam plates that fit behind light switches and electrical outlets to reduce drafts that enter through those spaces. You can get a packet of 10 for about \$3 and they are easy to install with just a screwdriver.

Perform regular maintenance: If you have a forced air furnace, make sure to clean or change the furnace filter about once a month. Most furnaces will need to be professionally cleaned and tuned once a year.

Reflective Window Film: Place these thin, plastic sheets directly on the inside of window panes and glass doors. The film reflects inside heat back into your home, reducing the amount that is conducted outside through windows. The film costs about \$10 a window and is easy to put on - it adheres to the window directly, or with the help of water from a spray bottle.

Weatherstripping: Create a tight seal around all your windows to reduce heated and cooled air from escaping outside. Weatherstrips are plastic, foam, felt or rubber strips that fit around window and door frames with a self-adhesive backing. Prices vary, but average about \$5 per window or door.

green tips from earthshare.org

Words to Start the New Year

JoyfulNoiseletter.com

Carry a heart that never hates, a smile that never fades, and a touch that never hurts.” –*Author unknown*

“Write a new plan; turn a new page; follow a new direction; watch a new program; be a new person; radiate a new enthusiasm.”
–*William Arthur Ward*

“I have found that when you are deeply troubled, there are things you get from the silent companionship of a dog that you can get from no other source.” –*Doris Day, via Bobbe Lyon, Maitland, FL*

“Today give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine they see all day.” –*via George Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL*

“A good sense of humor will get you everywhere.” –*Josh Bowman*

“Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant of the weak, because some day in your life you will be all of these.”
–*George Washington Carver*

“Do the thing you fear to do and keep on doing it; that is the quickest and surest way ever yet discovered to conquer fear.” –*Dale Carnegie*

“A hug is like a boomerang – you get it right back. A hug is the best gift anyone can get.” –*via Bobbe Lyon, Maitland, FL*

“Do not resent growing old; many are denied the privilege.” –*Jim Reed*

“To courageously straighten again after our heads have been bowed by defeat, disappointment and suffering is the supreme test of character.”
–*Author Unknown, via Apple Seeds*

“Take care of your health. We all must do everything we can to preserve it. Prevention is also a life issue.” –*Cal Samra, in The Physically Fit Messiah*

“He whose face gives no light shall never become a star.” –*William Blake*

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Truly I say to you... whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.’” –*Matthew 21:22*





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Christmas

Good luck unto old Christmas
And long life let us sing
For he doth more good unto the
poor than many a crowned
king.

—Mary Howett
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PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

God's kids say & do the funniest things

While George Goldtrap of Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL, was working as a store Santa, a small boy asked him for an electric train set.

"If you get your train," Goldtrap told him, "your Dad is going to want to play with it, too. Is that all right?" The boy became very quiet.

Goldtrap then asked, "What else would you like Santa to bring you?" "Another train," he quickly replied.

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Two boys were walking home from Sunday School after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

—via Lowell Loomans, Portage, MI

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## Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 256

Matt. 11:18-30

### Jesus the Teacher 2

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| T | U | E | N | A | A | O | B | T | L | E | N | U | E | B |
| A | N | N | R | S | E | V | D | L | O | P | G | S | P | L |
| F | I | G | E | N | T | L | E | O | E | N | I | N | T | E |
| S | S | D | E | P | T | H | S | N | M | S | E | H | S | A |

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| ASHES  | BEARABLE |
| CITIES | BURDEN   |
| DEPTHS | CHILDREN |
| EARTH  | CHOOSES  |
| EXCEPT | GLUTTON  |
| FATHER | HEAVEN   |
| FRIEND | HIDDEN   |
| GENTLE | HUMBLE   |
| HEART  | JUDGMENT |
| JESUS  | LEARNED  |
| KNOWS  | MIRACLES |
| LIFTED | NEITHER  |
| LIGHT  | PLEASURE |
| PRAISE | REMAINED |
| REVEAL | PROVED   |
| SIDON  | REPENT   |
| SKIES  | SINNERS  |
| SODOM  | DRINKING |

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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MORE PUZZLES AT:  
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## 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 the devil...
5. All poor people have it...
6. Wealthy people need it...
7. If you eat it, you will die.

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To check or receive your answer give me a call ~ 402-341-7730