

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
Lutheran Volunteer Corp - Tyler Birkhoff

Delivered to the Post Office January 29



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE
Permit No. 39

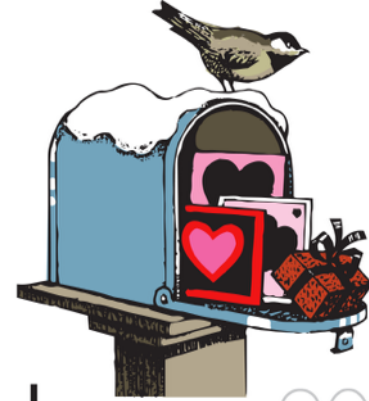
Return Service Requested
Dated Material



Sunday, February 3rd, Worship Time 9:00 a.m.

THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2019



February 2019

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



2019 Council Members

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Donna Adrian | Andrew Edwards | Tom Emery |
| Arlone Farber | Janet Hula | Marsha Moyer |
| Terry Nielsen | Amanda Vazquez | |

Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on January 8th. Council members shared their prayer concerns for individual's medical needs; strength for employees in the workplace; for Sandy as she remembers her sister Jayne on her birthday; wisdom for leaders as they meet together and return to whatever normal is.

Devotions: Pastor led devotions from Psalm 25:3 and 2 Corinthians 7:5-6. The first reminds us not to put shame on anyone seeking the Lord for the first time and that 'All good things go to those who wait.' The second reminds us that when things seem to be bad we end up dwelling in fear and emotions of the 'why' nothing is working out. Comfort is in God who consoles the downcast. One of the individuals that is present every week at the pantry has a very good outlook – One Day At A Time.

Visions for Ministry: Council discussed a handout titled "Ten Myths White People believe about Racism." This is a difficult subject to talk about, we acknowledge that we are a work in progress and the uncomfortable conversation is a good start to being more aware. This is not a subject to put anyone to shame, but to have more awareness in our lives. Pastor encouraged the Council that if we are comfortable to sit in conversation with a person of color that we know and are able to ask, "Tell me what I do that comes across as racist or irrespective." For our information, the ELCA made an commitment in 1988 that they would seek to have at least 10% of the voting members within the ELCA to be persons of color within 10 years. It has now been over 30 years and the most recent report came in with only 2% reported to be people of color.

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

Christian Education: Brenda gave a "Words on Wednesday" report that classes would be held the following night, January 9th at Bethel. Classes on February 6th will be held at St. Matthew's. Grace/St. Luke's will host classes in May here at Grace. Class subject will be determined later.

Evangelism/Outreach: It was agreed that an announcement would be placed in the bulletin reminding people of the Crossroads meal set for Sunday, February 17th; and there would be a planning meeting following worship service this Sunday. If anyone is interested in helping with the Crossroads meal, please speak with Arlone, Amanda or Mary.

Continued...

Finance: The 2019 proposed mission plan (budget) was approved to submit to the congregation at the annual meeting for adoption.

Council concurred with the Budget Plan to increase Housing Allowance by \$1,000.00.

In order to carry through with the 2019 Budget Plan giving will need to remain generous.

Property: The new freezer bought with a grant from Immanuel Vision Foundation was delivered today and will be plugged in after a 24-hour resting/resetting time.

Within this year's Annual Report there will be a huge Thank You directed to Loren Moyer for all his dedication in replacing the windows. There is no longer any drafts felt around the new windows and all are thankful!

Service/Social Ministry: Faith Partners of Nebraska will be holding a workshop on addicts and transitioning after rehabilitation, in the Talent Plus Community Room in Lincoln. Please speak with Pastor if you are interesting in attending.

Support/Stewardship: None.

Worship: Reflection on the Christmas Eve Services were very positive, it was good to see and reconnect with folks that came to visit; 88 people were in attendance!

Unfinished Business: The Healthy Shared Ministry Event held in Kearney on November 30th through December 1st is now available on the Synod website.

New Business: The Nominating Committee for 2019, Arlone, Brenda and Sarah have secured Amanda and Janet to join Council for two of the three three-year spots available.

Audit Committee will need to meet before the Annual Meeting.

Council Appreciation dinner is usually held at Malara's, this year we are trying something new, a joint appreciation dinner with Council members from St. Luke's and Staff from both congregations as well. The dinner can be held either January 24th or January 30th. Pastor will make the same announcement at the St. Luke's Council meeting and let everyone know the final decision.

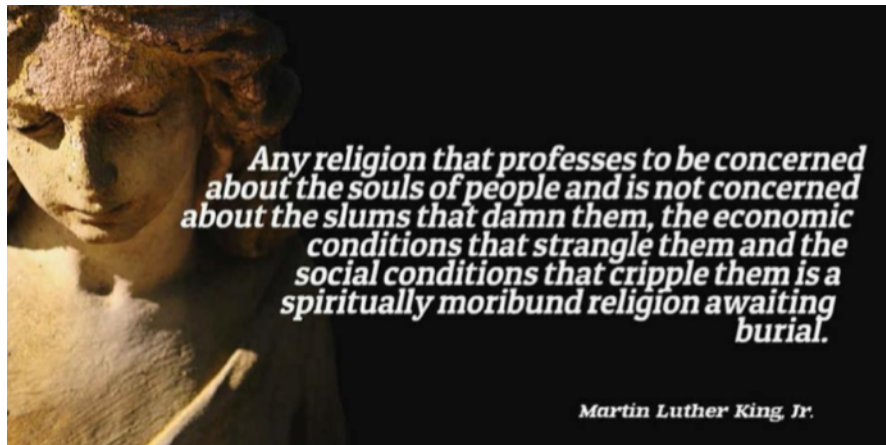
Announcements: Annual Reports are due soon.

Pastor and Council gave their thank you and farewells to Greg, Vicki and Brenda for serving on the Council.

Pastor will bring treats in February. Arlone closed in prayer at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Spahr, Secretary

I write this in the wake of celebrating the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Over the last two decades, I have come to think differently about the practice of Christian faith. I was drawn to this quote of Dr. King.



At the same time I was reading a devotional shared by Richard Rohr, titled "Belief or Discipleship." I invite you to read and ponder this challenge to our thinking.

"I often say that we do not think ourselves into a new way of living, but we live ourselves into a new way of thinking. I'm not suggesting that theory and theology are unimportant; but I believe that faith is more about how we live on a daily basis than making verbal assent to this or that idea. In fact, my life's work in many ways has been trying to move heady doctrines and dogmas to the level of actual experience and lifestyles that are an alternative to our consumer culture. In today's reflection, Shane Claiborne—an Evangelical I deeply respect—invites us to quite literally follow Jesus:

"Over the past few decades, our Christianity has become obsessed with what Christians believe rather than how Christians live. We talk a lot about doctrines but little about practice. But in Jesus we don't just see a presentation of doctrines but an invitation to join a movement that is about demonstrating God's goodness to the world.

Continued....

"This kind of doctrinal language infects our language when we say things like, "Are you a believer?" Interestingly, Jesus did not send us into the world to make believers but to make disciples [see Matthew 28:18-20]. You can worship Jesus without doing the things he says. We can believe in him and still not follow him. In fact, there's a passage in Corinthians that says, "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, author's paraphrase).

"At times our evangelical fervor has come at the cost of spiritual formation. For this reason, we can end up with a church full of believers, but followers of Jesus can be hard to come by.

"One of the reasons that Francis of Assisi is so beloved is that he followed Jesus so closely. In Shane's words:

"Francis did something simple and wonderful. He read the Gospels where Jesus says, "Sell your possessions and give the money to the poor," [Matthew 19:21] "Consider the lilies and the sparrows and do not worry about tomorrow," [Luke 12:24, 27] "Love your enemies," [Matthew 5:44] and he decided to live as if Jesus meant the stuff he said. Francis turned his back on the materialism and militarism of his world and said yes to Jesus."

What might be our response to Jesus? How might we live differently?

Pastor Laaker



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:

Theresa Courtney
Carolyn Matson
Sue Mize
LaVonne Moss
Pam Reents
Pauline Stechenfinger
Urbano Vasquez



Andrew Edwards
Jack Pablo McGill
Gloria Moore
Oren Powley
Ken Spahr
Dan Taylor

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 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-in and Nursing Home resident:

Mickey Andersen - 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 9:30 a.m.; another opportunity for fellowship with one another. No experience necessary!



Grace Reads



As Grace Lutheran continues its partnership with Liberty Elementary, there is a need to fulfill each classroom with readers! There is the opportunity for two readers on each day Grace representatives read at Liberty Elementary. Two readers are needed on the first, second and third Tuesday and Wednesdays of the month. If you are interested to share your talents by being a blessing and reading to a classroom at Liberty once or twice a month; Tuesday reading at 12:20pm and Wednesday reading at 3:05pm. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board, if you have any questions, please call the church office at 402-341-7730.

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.



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; 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 LaVonne, June, Eva, Marilyn, Donna and Mary 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, Marilyn, Gloria, June, Donna, and Ron, 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, Oren, and Mary for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings.
- ♥ Thank you to all who share their time and talents with Liberty Elementary through the "Grace Reads" partnership.
- ♥ Thank you to all Loaves and Fishes Pantry Volunteers; for delivering food items on Sunday mornings, unloading and putting foods items away until Monday mornings, getting everything ready for Mondays and in greeting and serving all with smiles, care and love!

Christmas Mitten Tree

The Christmas Mitten Tree has been taken down and packed away until Christmas 2019. A total count of 38 items were placed on the tree; 12 hats, 6 warm scarves, 15 pairs of gloves, mittens & wrist warmers and 5 decorative Christmas towels. A big thank you to all who placed donated items on the tree!



Transformed by Grace, Faith and Love Stewardship as a disciple of Jesus

Some quick thoughts about stewardship as we enter the new year of 2019.



Stewardship is an important daily activity in the life of a disciple. Jesus spoke throughout the Gospels about money and possessions. (See Luke 12 as an example.) Mostly he warned about the power and ability of possessions to separate you from your relationship with God. Your possessions have the power to get in the way of your relationship with God. You might look to them for security, put your trust in them, and therefore treat them as idols worthy of worship.

Your possessions may be joined in this idolatry by your work, your recreation, or your use of time. In his book "Work, Play and Worship in a Leisure-Oriented Society," Gordon Dahl challenges our American attitudes. He writes, "We worship our work, we work at our play, and we play at our worship." What he critiques here is how society has come to misplace its priorities and focus. When you put in 60-80 hours a week in the office and come home on Friday with a briefcase full of work for your weekend, maybe work has become a form of worship. If you force yourself to exercise, what has happened to your sense of play? And when you describe your worship experience only in terms of not getting anything out of it, what is your focus on the purpose of worship?

As a disciple of Jesus, you can find a broader role for stewardship in your daily life. You are called to be the body of Christ in the world — to do God's work, share your blessings received from God, do God's will. That understanding of stewardship is both corporate and individual. How do you take care of all that God has blessed you with? How do you use those blessings to accomplish God's will for the world? This might mean tending to your health, your relationships, your work, your possessions, your finances, your recreation, God's creation, your congregation, your community or your faith life.





A quick preview of Lent 2019

Our theme will be "We are Church Together." This theme was articulated by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in the first year after her election as Presiding Bishop. As part of the Strategic Mission of the Nebraska Synod, this theme is being shared in 2019.

Pastors from the congregations that shared the 2018 Lenten experience met and decided to once again share the 2019 Lenten experience.

As part of this experience, we are planning two special events. The first is a shared joint Mid-Week Lenten meal and service at Augustana Lutheran on Wednesday, March 27. The theme for that evening will be "We are connected." Secondly, we are planning a shared Good Friday service at St. Matthew Lutheran on April 19. The service of Tenebrae will be featured at this service.

Please mark your calendars. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. We will meet at St. Luke's to begin our Lenten journey. Dinner at 5:30 pm with the service beginning at 6:30 pm.

For one week on Sunday, February 3rd Grace Worship Service will begin at 9:00 a.m. Grace will return to their regular worship times on February 10th.

The Council made the decision last year to make this a yearly occurrence in order to accommodate St. Luke's annual meeting schedule.



Souper Bowl of Caring



The 29th Annual Souper Bowl is Sunday, February 3rd, 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.



Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans of America and its Ladies Auxiliary cordially invite you to their annual wine tasting event: Wine and Roses 2019.

Five 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 74th Plz on Sunday, February 17, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Please RSVP to Amanda Vazquez in person or at vazquez@greatplainspva.org.

Contributing Sponsors: Superior Van & Mobility and Michael & Jan Patterson.

Nebraska Campus Ministries

"Please join us on Sunday afternoon, February 17, from 3:00 - 5:30 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on 93rd and Dodge for EVENSONG. This is the annual celebration highlighting Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Omaha metro colleges and universities. You can enjoy some wonderful food and beverages, take part in our silent auction, and join us for a student-led worship service of Holden Evening Prayer. Your choir or your individual musicians can join other singers for special music. For more information call Campus Pastor Jim Holthus at 218-760-2028 and leave a short message."

Loaves and Fishes Pantry

*Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
402-341-7730*

North Door (Parking Lot Door)
Opens at 9:45 am

Pantry is Open 10:00 - 11:00 am
Every Monday

Variety of fresh foods donated by
Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

All are served with love and care.



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.

Grace Lutheran Church has three additional ways that you could contribute without spending any out of pocket funds. Only a few moments of your time to download apps for TAGG - Together A Greater Good and when you shop at smile.amazon.com Amazon will donate - Grace's unique link is: <https://smileamazon.com/ch/47-0667089>. Register your Bakers Plus card with Kroger and choose Grace Lutheran as your charitable choice! All of these opportunities will match a certain percentage of your purchases and direct those funds to Grace.



Christian Education Opportunity!! WOW (Word on Wednesday)



St. Luke's/Grace, St. Matthew's, Bethel, and Augustana are combining to offer a new program for the children and young people of our congregations on the first Wednesday of each month.

Children from Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited. Supper will be served from 6:00 to 6:30 pm and classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Word on Wednesdays (WOW!) classes will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, February 6th.

What an awesome opportunity to grow in faith and meet new friends! If you have any questions, please see Brenda Spahr at Grace or Connie Tefft at St. Luke's.



Confirmation Classes

We continue to participate in a combined Confirmation Class with Bethel, St. Matthew and Augustana. February classes will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church beginning on February 6th, 6:30 pm.

Grace Sunday School

Grace Sunday School classes continue to meet every second and fourth Sunday each month. Classes in February will be on the 10th and 24th at 10:00am. Classes give the opportunity for children to learn Bible stories through reading, games, crafts and other fun & creative activities. Children age 4 through 6th grade are welcome!

Hey Y'all,

I hope everyone has been keeping warm in these cold winter months. The days seem to add up in ways we at the house can't even fathom as we start into our halfway point through the LVC year. Through increased community involvement and constant support of each other, we are surviving the year and feeling as though we are each doing rewarding work wherever we are. The stress we all are beginning to face, whether is by winter blues, school application struggles, or auto problems, all seems to melt away when this small family unit we have created comes together. We have also become more adventurous despite the frigid temps, I've personally had then opportunity to even explore more of the life in Omaha including the all famous zoo that, while freezing outside, never ceased to catch my amazement around every bend. Its incredible how much joy you can get from just taking in the majestic beauty that awaits you around each corner. I think thats what I'm taking with me and I offer to everyone else, that no matter the cold, the stress, or whatever is getting you blue, theres always something that can make you smile and get you through the days.

Warm Wishes and Smiles,

Tyler Birkhoff
Community Outreach Coordinator
Grace Lutheran Church



Available in the sanctuary on the back table are several Omaha Police Officer Prayer Cards. You are invited to pick up a card with the name of an Omaha Police Officer printed at the bottom of the card, and uphold that officer in your daily prayers.



The National Lutheran Choir presents an encore performance of a choral orchestral work Holy Spirit Mass on a tour of the Midwest at Cathedral of Saint Cecelia, 701 North 40th Street on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. This stirring new masterwork, by Norwegian composer Kim Andre Amesen received its world premiere at the National Shrine in Washington D.C. on October 22, 2018 and in subsequent performances in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Written to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and celebrating 50 years of fruitful dialog between Roman Catholic and Lutheran leaders, the work brings together the Mass ordinary texts with meditations from Martin Luther on "the Spirit's work," calling on all God's people to live and work together in hope. This stunning work was praised by The New York Times as "...extremely well made, and rapturously received," and was selected for live broadcast by Classical Minnesota Public Radio during the St. Paul premiere. The concert is free for the public.



Under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, the 60-voice National Lutheran Choir seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature.



St. Thomas Lutheran Church
17007 Q Street
February 8, 2019 ~ 7:00 pm

Free Concert open to the public! Bring the whole family and friends! All are welcome! St. Thomas Lutheran Church is hosting the final stop on Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, MN tour. Gustavus Adolphus Choir has been touring through South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa. If you have any questions, please call St. Thomas Lutheran Church at 402-894-2040. A freewill offering will be collected.

February 2019

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

3 - Terry Nielsen
10 - Arlone Farber
17 - Mary Laaker
24 - Greg Hula
Mar. 3 - Brenda Spahr

February Acolytes

3 - Donna Adrian
10 - Brenda Spahr
17 - Greg Hula
24 - Janet Hula
Mar. 3 - Andrea Spahr



february BIRTHDAYS

6 - Joseph Koka
8 - Dustin Andersen
Brenda Spahr
9 - Destiny Perales
10 - Jackson Vazquez
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!



USHERS

Mary Laaker
Andrew Edwards



GREETERS SCHEDULE

3 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
10 - Bobby Stechenfinger / Greg Hula
17 - Brenda and Andrea Spahr
24 - Ron and Donna Adrian
Mar. 3 - Tom and Sarah Emery

Responsibility List

Altar Flowers



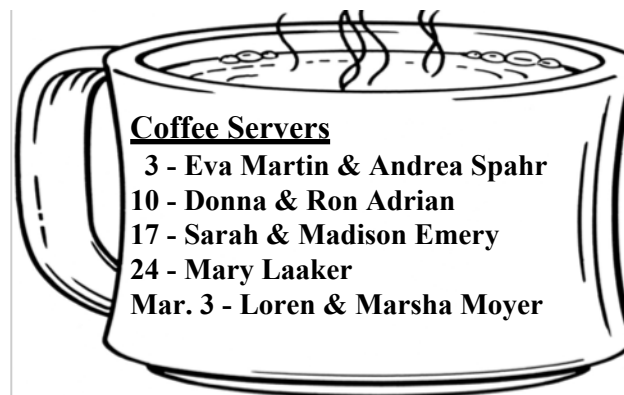
3 - Brenda Spahr in loving memory of Jerry Van Ormer
and in celebration of her birthday.
10 - Arlone Farber in loving memory of her mom, Norma Courtney.
17 - OPEN.
24 - Terry Nielsen in celebration of Sandy Nielsen and Gloria Moore's
birthdays.
Mar. 3 - OPEN.

Flower Pick-Up for February: Janet Hula



Backpack Program

3 - Amanda Vazquez in celebration of her son, Jackson's birthday.
10 - Eva Martin in celebration of her daughter, Brenda and her grand-
daughter, Desirae's birthdays.
17 - OPEN.
24 - Eva Martin in celebration of her son, Melvin's birthday.
Mar. 3 - OPEN.



Coffee Servers

3 - Eva Martin & Andrea Spahr
10 - Donna & Ron Adrian
17 - Sarah & Madison Emery
24 - Mary Laaker
Mar. 3 - Loren & Marsha Moyer



Interested in Becoming a Hospice Volunteer?

CHI Health at Home Hospice, VNA Hospice, and Hospice House would like to invite you to consider becoming a hospice volunteer. Caring and compassionate people are needed to help provide companionship and support for individuals living with a terminal illness and their families. Upcoming classes are on February 21st, 26th, and 28th, 2019. Space is limited. For additional information or to request an application, please call one of the following agencies below:

CHI Health at Home Hospice: Mary Pendell 402-898-8239
or online at www.chihealth.com/home-care

VNA Hospice: Celeste Sully Feuerbach 402-930-4143
or online at www.thevnacares.org

Hospice House: Taylor Romeo 402-343-8600
or online at www.hospicehouseomaha.org



Prison Ministry

Grace will host the Crossroads Connection Sunday evening meal on February 17th.

Prison and the transition back to life outside can be overwhelming for inmates. Crossroads Connection works to bridge the gap in the current penal system by helping former inmates find their way back into society through caring support of Christ's followers.

If you are interested in this inspiring opportunity to set up, plan the menu, serving the meal and clean up, please speak with Arlone, Mary, Amanda, or call the church office.

Omaha Together One Community

OTOC Issue Cafe Urban Abbey (1026 Jackson St.)

The Cost to Mental Health
February 5th, 6:45 - 8:00 pm

Doug Koebernick, the Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System for the Nebraska Legislature, will discuss the use of restrictive housing (solitary confinement) in Nebraska's prison system, as well as other current conditions in the prison system. Research has shown that solitary confinement has detrimental effects on individuals, including negative impacts on mental health.

Substandard Housing Coalition Building
February 19th, 6:45 - 8:00 pm

Join OTOC and coalition partners in support of Proactive Registration and Inspection of rental property. Help broaden the coalition to strengthen Omaha's approach to address substandard housing.

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 in case of a dangerous situation!

Detectors supplied by the First Responders Critical Support Foundation.



Take Care of Yourself

We encourage ourselves and others to exercise regularly, watch what we eat, take time to rest, and manage our schedules. We do this not only to keep our weight down or our energy levels up, but also so we can serve others in the Lord.

Many people have died of old age, even at a very young chronological age, because they had given up on life, on themselves, and on the people around them. I have met 15-year-olds who have already given up on life.

I have also met some 95-year-old people who have never caught the dreaded "old-age disease," because they know and affirm that the Lord Jesus is alive and well in and through them. Look around you; there are so many "amazing grays" in our lives who should share the fact that God's amazing grace in Christ comes to us each and every day. There are so many "amazing grays" who still have enormous energy and eager to share with others.

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

One-Liners

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), American historian and Unitarian clergyman, was once asked if he prayed for the U.S. Senators. "No," he replied, "I look at the Senators and pray for the country."

"Saying that you love God, but don't really care about church is like telling someone, 'I love you, but I don't really care about your kids.'"

~ UMC Pastor Vicki Fisher, Sac City, IA

"Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours."
~Yogi Berra

"Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak." ~ Author unknown

"Congressmen should wear uniforms, like NASCAR drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors."

~ via George Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the-Sea

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 281

Matt.21:31-46

Parables

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

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| BRING | ARREST |
| CROP | BELIEVE |
| EVEN | CAPSTONE |
| EYES | CROWD |
| FALLS | COLLECT |
| FRUIT | FATHER |
| GIVEN | FARMERS |
| HEARD | HARVEST |
| HEIR | JOURNEY |
| LAST | KINGDOM |
| LORD | PARABLE |
| OWNER | PROPHET |
| PIECES | RENTED |
| REPENT | RESPECT |
| SEIZED | SERVANTS |
| SENT | TENANTS |
| SHARE | TREATED |
| SHOW | VINEYARD |
| TRUTH | WINEPRESS |

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

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

COPYRIGHT 2018

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

"Love is the principle on which Christianity is based and built. Love is the ultimate and absolute proof, to ourselves and to the world, that we are Christians.

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (John 13:35)

"In the Gospel, Jesus was asked, 'What is the greatest commandment?' Jesus' answer was piercing and direct: 'Love God with all your heart and soul and mind.'

"And the second, 'Jesus said, 'is, love your neighbor as yourself.'

Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com