

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/gracelutheranomalaha

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

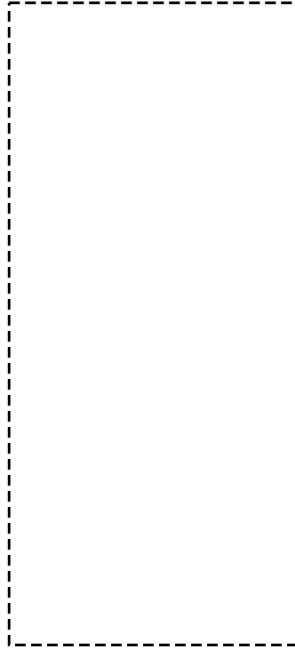
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez

Delivered to the Post Office September 29



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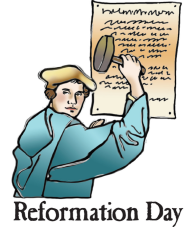
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THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2020

Pastor Appreciation
Month



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

Connect with us on the web: graceluth.com



The months have flown by and we are now entering the last three months of 2020. Our lives have been turned upside down and inside out with the Covid-19 pandemic. Sometimes I wonder if this has just been a very disruptive dream. I know it hasn't and it has impacted all of our lives in one way or another. I trust you are staying well and that you look for ways to live out your Christian faith.

For me, October has always been a month to focus on supporting those who struggle with food insecurity. I am so grateful for the God's Work, Our Hands emphasis this year of "Spread the Love." The gifts of peanut butter and jelly will help those who come to the Loaves and Fishes Pantry at Grace Lutheran.

Years ago, I was invited to help set up the CROP Walk for World Hunger here in Omaha. Last year was the first year that the walk did not have a sponsorship and so it didn't happen. Once again, this year there is no sponsorship. I however continue to walk each day and utilize a small app on my phone to support hunger related causes. I plan to walk on Sunday, October 11, and make a contribution to CROP. If you would like to make a contribution to CROP, please make your check payable to Grace or St. Luke's and put CROP on the memo line. I will give instructions to our Treasurers so that the contribution is sent in appropriately.



I mentioned the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in my message on September 27. This marvelous arm of our church body is truly worthy of our support. Our gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. As a partner of churches, social ministry organizations and development and advocacy organizations, ELCA World Hunger helps reach communities most in need throughout the world. From health clinics to microloans, food pantries to soup kitchens, advocacy to community organizing, your gifts are supporting meaningful solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. A monthly gift makes a significant difference for those we seek to help.

I have been concerned for those whose food insecurity has deepened during this pandemic. I am saddened that our Governor has chosen not to avail the State to the additional federal funds for the SNAP program.

Continued.....

Let us be in prayer for those whose bodies hunger and for those who can support these programs that seek to alleviate this food insecurity. May our prayer lead us to action.

Blessings
Pastor Damon Laaker

Worship Plan Update

Our efforts to provide in-person worship outside during the month of September were met with reasonably good weather. The early morning rain last Sunday the 27th, forced us inside. Fewer people came out due to the rain, so we were able to maintain appropriate social distance.

You will note in the council notes that our leaders have decided that it is in our best interest to continue meeting outside during the month of October, weather permitting. We are awaiting the arrival of small electrostatic fogging device that enable us to easily disinfect the sanctuary areas before use. This way, if it is necessary, we can move indoors with added safety.

We will continue to follow CDC guidelines which include appropriate social distancing and wearing a face mask.

Please note the following expectations:

- * All persons attending are expected to wear a mask. If you do not have one, one will be provided.
- * All persons attending will be expected to follow appropriate social distancing at all times. Please no touching, shaking hands, or hugging.
- * All persons attending will be expected to bring their own lawn chair.
- * An offering plate will be on a table. We will not be passing the plate.
- * If you have any potential symptoms, please refrain from attending. We want everyone to be safe.

May God grant us good weather and a safe experience!

For those who continue to wait safely at home, we will be recording the service. It will be uploaded to YouTube after the service. So, it will not be available the first thing in the morning but will be posted as soon as possible after the service.



2020 Council Members

Donna Adrian	Tom Emery	Arlone Farber
Ralph Fitle	Janet Hula	Sandy Nielsen
Brenda Spahr	Amanda Vazquez	
Pastor Laaker		

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the council was held on September 8th. Council members shared their prayer concerns for those dealing with death, surgery, health diagnosis, all of the people affected by COVID-19, teachers & students, our upcoming elections that they be protected and made available to all citizens who want to exercise their right to vote, victims of violence, and Officer Herrera's family.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Ezekiel 20:44 and Luke 6:35. The first tells us that God deals with us because of God's love not because of our evil ways. The second is a reminder that God cares for everyone, even the wicked, and so should we.

Visions for Ministry: We reviewed chapter 3 and 4 in our book Upoar. The author explains how the brain responds to anxiety and the effects that that response can have on our decisions and reactions. He also talks about the importance of gaining control over our reactions and the reactivity of others so that we can begin to take constructive action based on principle and thoughtfulness.

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

Christian Education: Online Confirmation - begins September 16th.
Sunday School online - conversation with other churches in our cluster will take place tomorrow.

Evangelism/Outreach: Pantry - was preparing 40 bags, and has increased that number to 45 each week. We have gained new groups who provide canned goods and meat for families. There have been new people coming every week.

Finance: Immanuel Vision - something new and different?
PPP - small business administration is waiting for congress to direct how they are supposed to manage the application for forgiveness.
Portico 2021 - costs will remain the same for 2021 as it was for 2020.

Property: None.

Service/Social Ministry: God's Work Our Hands will be Sept 13, so you can bring any jelly donations to Grace between 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Support/Stewardship: None.

Worship: Outdoor and online? need to purchase CCLI Streaming License for \$68.

When to reopen? Plan to continue outdoor services through October, weather permitting.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Janet will bring treats for next meeting.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary



Pastor Laaker continues to conduct Confirmation classes online this year. If you have a young person in 7th or 8th Grade or older that would like to participate, now is the time to contact Pastor Laaker. Classes are held on Wednesday evening at 7pm lasting one hour. Pastor Laaker will need an email address to which he can send a Google Meet link for joining in on the class.

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:

Vicki Cox
Carolyn Matson
Sue Mize
Pam Reents
Urbano Vasquez
The family of Dottie Hula



Andrew Edwards
Susan Miller
Oren Powley
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 and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

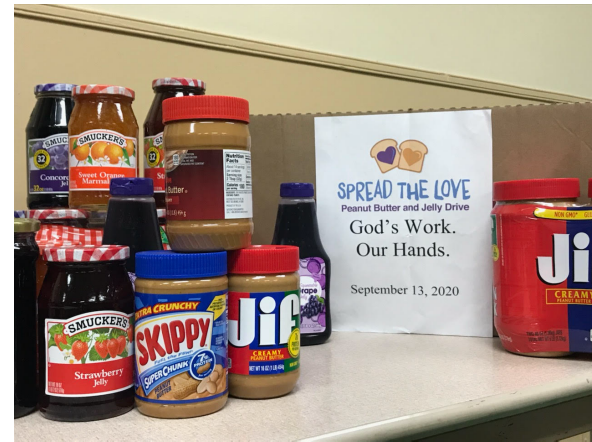
Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers.

Pray for our Shut-in and Nursing Home resident:

Mickey Andersen - Home
Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn



Please **PRAY** for those affected by **COVID-19**



God's Work - Our Hands Sunday September 13, 2020

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbors.

Through the generosity of St. Luke's and Grace; the Loaves and Fishes Pantry here at Grace received 54 jars of peanut butter and 64 jars of jelly!

The abundant donations of peanut butter and jelly will continue to benefit families in need for more than a week!

Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you for your wonderful gift and thoughtful card on the occasion of my 40th anniversary of ordination. Sandy and I are very happy to be a part of Grace Lutheran Church.



Yours in Christ,
Terry Nielsen



Coming in November.
Stewardship Emphasis: Experiencing the Joy of Generosity

Have you ever wondered why you are left with such a joyful feeling when you are able to help a person in need or give a gift to your church? The answer to that question may be rooted in us as Christians who are being recreated in the image of God. To be made in God's image means we are made to be like God ... whose nature is to give. Giving helps us feel fulfilled as we reflect God's nature. Although the image of God was lost by sin, as those converted by faith in Jesus, we "have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator" (Colossians 3:10).

Our pursuit for fulfillment and joy culminates in the discovery that we receive those things when, by God's grace, we respond with eagerness to God's directive to give. Like David, we exclaim, "But who [are we]...that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we give you" (1 Chronicles 29: 14).

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2020

In remembrance of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517 and the beginning of the Reformation, wear red or orange.



Arts For All, Inc.



Arts for All, Inc. is under new management and will begin their fall semester during the week of October 5th. The 10 week semester will conclude the week of December 12th. You can register by calling 402-556-7821 or online at register@artsforallinc.com. Classes are \$10 per session , 10 weeks for \$100, music books may be required. Classes are in-person Wednesday and Friday (2315 "I" St.) and Saturdays (510 N. 93rd St.) and also on-line. Visit www.artsfoallomaha.org for a complete class and schedule list.



1 – Kym Bauer
7 – June Hilmer
10 – Jordan Vazquez
11 – Jonah Laaker
16 – Tom Emery
18 – Jericho Vazquez
24 – Donovan Halfhill
26 – Rosemary Gaunt
Chadney Everitt
27 – Lori Vasquez
Jadyn Vazquez
29 – Andrea Spahr

Wishing you much happiness,
On this special day
And for the coming year
May blessings come your way.

Be thankful for each day you have
Thank God in heaven above
Fill your life with happy not sad
Remember you are loved.

Sign on Main Entrance to Grace Lutheran Church:

Covid-19 Notice



Grace Lutheran Church is taking necessary precautions by cleaning, sanitizing and social distancing. We cannot completely eliminate the risk of exposure, however. By participating in activities in this location, you are however assuming risk that may result in exposure to infectious and communicable diseases.

Please honor one another by wearing a mask and observe social distancing.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

The Lutheran Disaster Team has been present during recovery efforts of the California wildfires, Hurricanes in the Gulf region, Monsoon rains in India, the explosions that rocked Beirut and the list goes on....

Your donation to the Lutheran Disaster Team helps to continue their efforts to provide God's hope, healing and renewal to all those in need.



Prayers and donations for those impacted are always needed.



Donations made to Grace Lutheran Church with the memo line indicating "Lutheran Disaster Response" will be forwarded to the Nebraska Synod office in support of the many efforts ongoing right now.

Contagious Generosity

You have a ticket to heaven no thief can take.
You have an eternal home no divorce can break.

*

Every sin of your life has been cast into the sea.
Every mistake you've made is nailed to the tree.

*

You are blood-bought and heaven-made.
A child of God-forever saved.

*

So be grateful, joyful-for isn't it true?
What you don't have is much less than what you do.

~ Max Lucado



Sunday, October 11, 2020
Food Truck World Tour
Immigrant Legal Center

Annual fundraiser held at the Mastercraft at Millwork Commons, 1111 N 13th St. will be a drive-thru event from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. This fundraiser is to celebrate immigrants in our community and safely receive your special sample platter of meals from Omaha's favorite food trucks!

As a non-profit, Immigrant Legal Center depends on the generosity of our community to serve immigrants in need. In response to COVID-19 and concerns for the safety and well-being of the staff, volunteers, and supporters, Food Truck World Tour will be a drive thru event!

Event sponsors include Omaha Steaks, Warren Distribution, Millwork Commons, Weitz Family Foundation, Mulhall's, Verizon Media, and National Justice for Our Neighbors.

If you have any questions, please contact Immigrant Legal Center at events@immigrantlc.org or call at 402-898-1349.

We know how to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

I know it doesn't always seem that way.
And, yes, there is still a great deal we don't know about the virus.

You should wear a mask if you're going to spend time near anybody who is not part of your household. You should minimize your time in indoor spaces with multiple people. You should move as many activities as possible outdoors.

You should wash your hands frequently. And you should stay home, away from even your own family members, if you feel sick.



Reminder

October is Be-Kind-To-Your-Pastor Month.
During this month, you can:

Thank your pastor.
Pray for your pastor.
Encourage your pastor.
Honor your pastor.
Humor your pastor.
Tithe.

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

Pastor, we want to thank you
for all your great advice,
for all your beautiful sermons,
and keeping Faith in our lives.

*Instruct the wise and they will be
wiser still; teach the righteous and
they will add to their learning.*

Proverbs 9:9

A
worthy
CAUSE

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.

Remember to turn your clocks
Back one hour by the
end of your day on
Saturday, October 31st



Loaves and Fishes Pantry

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

Pantry is Open 10:00 - 10:30 am
Every Monday

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

All are served with love and care.



Staying within the CDC guidelines the Pantry continues to reach

out to those in need on a weekly basis. During this time of reduced gatherings, clients of the Loaves and Fishes Pantry have been driving through the alley and picking up prepared sacks and bags of much needed food items. The Pantry is in need of additional bags and paper sacks to continue this community service, if you are able to donate please call the church office 402-341-7730.



Do you know of a family or individual in need of food assistance? Please share the Pantry information with them. You could be the link to helping someone's stress be a little bit less!



Protect the
volunteers,
yourself and
your family!



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.

One Halloween night, three of us were returning from our evening classes at the university. We were dressed in our habits.

Three young men followed us, making snide remarks. I turned suddenly and faced them without saying a word.

One of them exclaimed, "Hey, they're for real!" They thought we were in costume. They quickly melted into the shadows and we went home peacefully.

~ via Sr. Mary Norbert Bauer,
Daughters of Divine Charity
Hackettstown, NY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"So I guess I can skip doin' my homework."

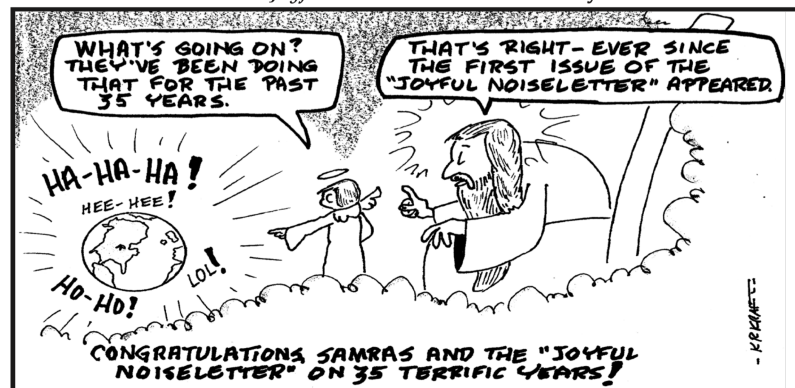
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Sign outside South Seminole
Church of Christ, Winter Park, FL:

"Are you going to waste?
Let Jesus recycle you."

—via Bobbe Lyon, Maitland, FL

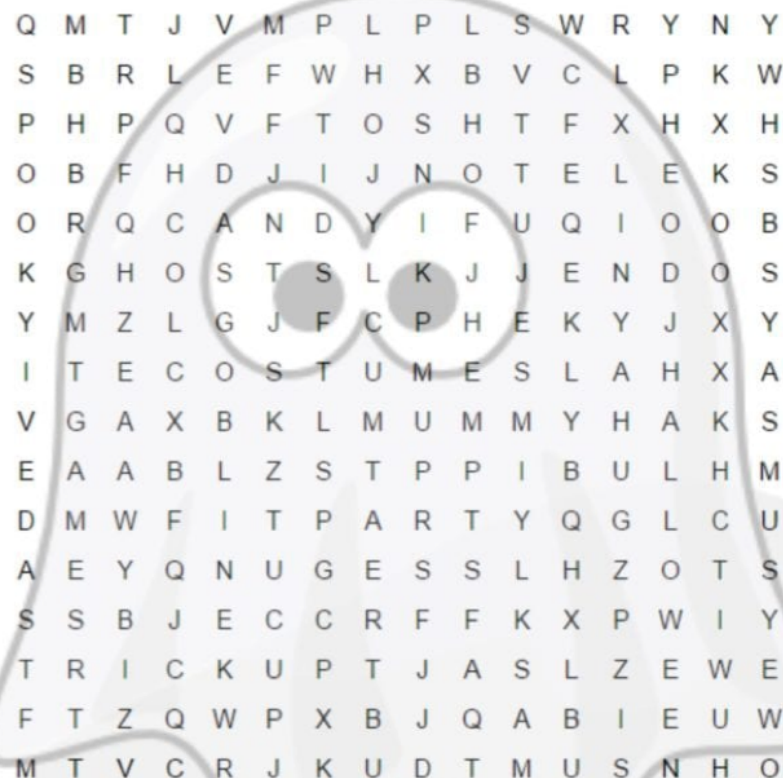
JN consulting editor, Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, a Methodist pastor in Dover, DE, drew this cartoon to celebrate *The Joyful Noiseletter's* 35th anniversary.



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Jokes on this page shared by JoyfulNoiseletter.com

Halloween Word Search



BOO
GAMES
HALLOWEEN
PARTY
SPOOKY
WITCH

CANDY
GHOSTS
MASK
PUMPKINS
TRICK

COSTUMES
GOBLIN
MUMMY
SKELETON
TREAT



Halloween sign at Lititz (PA) Moravian Congregation:
"Hallowed be God's name."

~ via Rev. Dean R. Jurgen

Sign outside a church in Albany, GA:
"People cannot change the truth, but the Truth can change you."

~ via Charles Garrett, Fort Gaines, GA