

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Omaha, NE 68105-2380  
402-341-7730

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**JULY SUNDAY EVENTS**  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service at  
St. Luke's Lutheran, 2315 I Street

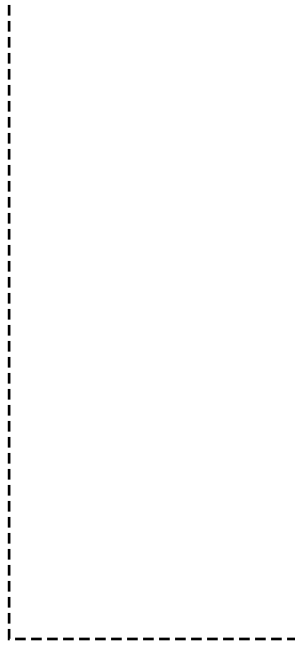
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker  
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr  
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey  
Sexton - Alma Lopez

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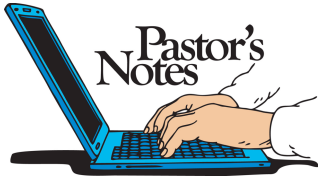
# THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2022



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](http://graceluth.com)**



On Father's Day, the gospel reading was from Luke 8:26-39, the story of the healing of the Gerasene demoniac. Throughout the week, leading up to the reading of the story, Luther Seminary's daily devotion offered reflections on this story. I found them most interesting and thoughtful. I am sharing a couple of them.

On Thursday, Mary Simonson Clark offered this reflection. Have you been so embarrassed by failure or ashamed over a fault that you wanted to crawl in a hole and pull it in after yourself? I've felt that way! I didn't want anyone to notice me or what I'd done. The cry, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (v. 28), reveals painful shame, fear, and despair. Jesus heard the cry. He chose to notice the man, stop, and ask, "What is your name?" (v. 30). Jesus demonstrated that seeking someone's name may lessen their embarrassment or shame and show genuine concern. Jesus compassionately calls us by name when he chooses us to become his siblings. With Jesus' call, God saves us from separation's abyss (v. 31). God doesn't leave us hiding in a hole. Instead, God chooses to crawl in the hole alongside us to restore us into relationship with Godself.

Then on Saturday, she shared this reflection. Send Me, Jesus (ELW 549)

1 Thu-ma mi-na, thu-ma mi-na, thu-ma mi-na, Nko-si yam.

2 Ndi-ya vu-ma, ndi-ya vu-ma, ndi-ya vu-ma, Nko-si yam.

1 Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me Lord.

2 I am willing; I am willing; I am willing, willing Lord.

This South African hymn's first verse, "Send Me, Jesus," resonates with the sentiment of the man Jesus healed in our current gospel lesson, Luke 8:26-39. The Gerasene man begged to leave his home to join Jesus' journeys. The second verse, "I am willing," recalls the man's response to Jesus. He chose to willingly obey Jesus' command,

*Continued.....*

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you" (v. 39). The man's obedient choice also reminds us of guidance from South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-2021). He advised, "Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." The man returned home to do his bit of good by declaring the story of how Jesus healed him. God also chooses each of us—wherever we are—to share our unique gifts by doing our little bit of good.

I am grateful that God comes alongside of me bringing healing and wholeness. As Jesus sent the man back home, you and I are sent to our homes and community to share all the goodness that God has done for us. This means sharing kindness, love and acceptance. May the presence of Christ enable this in your life and mine.

Pastor Laaker

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What has God done for you?

I shared my testimony how a number of years ago, I had been suicidal and was driving 90 mph down the interstate. I admitted that I'd been trying to figure out how to wreck my car in a way that didn't hurt anyone else and looked like an accident. How I was crying out to the Lord and telling Him that I was done. That the depression was too much for me to take anymore. I was begging Him to show me what my purpose was, or it was all over!

And then I shared how that little beater car had the audacity to pull right in front of me going 60mph. How I had to slam on my brakes not to hit the car. Then, the license plate that read: "SongTree." The word seemed odd to me, and I asked myself, 'What the heck does that mean?' And right then, the Holy Spirit asked me a question in my spirit. "What do a song and a tree need?" And I knew the answer. A songbird. I knew that He was confirming my purpose. To be His Songbird of Hope. To sing and write and praise Him all my days. Precisely when I needed a specific answer from the Lord, more so than ever before in my life, He answered me. Me. His answer shocked me back to life, rang clear and true all the way through my spirit, and still reverberates as I write this.

*ohlordhelp.us*  
*A 501(c)3 nonprofit assisting youth who have*  
*aged out of the foster care system.*



## 2022 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Andrew Edwards	Sarah Emery
Ralph Fitle	Greg Hula	Janet Hula
Eva Martin	Brenda Spahr	Amanda Vazquez
Pastor Laaker		

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Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula      Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

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The regular meeting of the Council was held on June 14th. Council members shared prayer concerns for individuals connected to council members; people of Ukraine; people affected by the wildfires, natural disasters and excessive heat; and a prayer of thanksgiving for recent graduates, including Janet and Greg's grandson Damien.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Psalm 127:1 and Philippians 1:6. The first reminds us that regardless of what we do, without God it may be done in vain. The second tells us that good work being done will surely be completed in God's time, which may be different than ours.

Visions for Ministry: The author discussed how to make lasting changes that will make a difference. We should be reminding people of their Biblical hope - using scripture to find parallels between the struggles people in the Bible faced and what we are facing in this post-pandemic world. Communication has never been more important and will help drive lasting change in congregations. Leaders need to be flexible and adaptable and look at what has worked well throughout the pandemic and how we can incorporate some of those necessary changes into the future of our church.

Read the concluding thoughts for next month.

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

Christian Education: Vacation Bible School - July 23rd 12:30-4:30pm followed by a meal. Janet and Amanda will work on finalizing theme and providing details for the newsletter and creating a flyer to be shared with families, pantry goers, other churches that gather here, families in action, etc. We will need volunteers to help throughout the day with activities, snacks, etc. Confirmation Celebration - Sunday, July 3rd at St. Luke's, 3 confirmands.

*Continued...*

Evangelism/Outreach: Crossroads Prison Ministry - scheduled for Sunday, September 18th at 6:00pm

OTOC Training Sessions - <https://FORMS.GLE/WGC6BZGPCBHQST5BA>

OTOC Mental Healthcare - zoom June 23 at 7:00pm <https://bit.ly/june23otoc>

Finance: Voyagers update - the Treasurer responsibilities will likely be passed along to Pastor in 2023.

Property: Pole Light - Day Electric will work on replacing the light. Riding Mower will need more attention this fall - battery isn't staying charged.

Service/Social Ministry: LVC - no one available this year.

Anna Ernst - Congratulations on her marriage.

Personal Products - St. Luke's is collecting personal products for the month of July.

Support/Stewardship: None      Worship: None

Unfinished Business: Joint Council meeting - Wednesday, June 29th at 5pm at St. Luke's.

New Business: Synod Assembly Report - Rev. Scott Johnson was elected as the new bishop who will be installed in September to replace Bishop Maas.

Announcements: Brenda will prepare a prayer for next month.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

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We will be serving a light meal for families following VBS - "Roots of Creation" program.

**Volunteers are needed to help with all activities...**

Story Time, Skits, Games, Crafts, Snacks, Meal service and Clean up.

Anyone willing to help . . . Please contact:

Amanda Vazquez 402-679-5559 or Janet Hula 402-699-8782

**Thanking you all in advance for sharing God's word!**





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  
June Hilmer  
Carolyn Matson  
Sue Mize  
Pam Reents  
Urbano Vasquez



Andrew Edwards  
Samuel Mantzaris  
Susan Miller  
David Nange  
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-elect Scott Johnson, Nebraska Synod  
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:**

Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn  
Rev. Terry Nielsen - Echo Hills

All of our homebound enjoy receiving mail, if you would like to brighten their day, please call the church office for any addresses you need. Blessings!



## Stewardship

Rev. Judith Ganz shared the following stories:

Lynne Twist shares the time when the Achuar people in Senegal, living in the desert, were desperate for a new water source. Members of the Hunger Project visited them and met with the male leadership to discuss the issue. They then met with the women, who were convinced that there was an underground lake below them. The men agreed to let the women dig for a well and they eventually found water. Twist writes in *The Soul of Money*:

"They wanted our partnership—not handouts, or money, or food—and respect and equal partnership is what we brought. ... the tribe is proud that it was their own people, their own work, and the land they lived on that proved to be the key to their own prosperity."

Perhaps pilgrimage is an even better word than partnership. Pilgrimage can overlook the power differences between North Americans and those we serve, which according to African Catholic priest, Emmanuel Katongole, can bridge the "us and them" divide. Jean Johnson, author of *We Are Not the Hero*, describes her 16 year pilgrimage to Cambodia this way:

"to live with them in such a way that their problems became my problems. In this manner, I wasn't solving their problems; we were solving our problems together on equal footing. I entered their journey to the best of my ability, sojourning with [them] instead of trying to fix them from within my own comfort zone."

As we bridge the cultural divide, there will be times of misunderstanding. It makes it crucial to more intentionally promote open, honest and respectful relationships and communication, bringing humility and deep listening to the table as we seek *together* to find healthy ways to share our wealth in our ongoing response to the call of Christ for our world.

We have the opportunity to share our wealth in support of ministries here in this community and ministries in other parts of the world through ELCA World Hunger Appeal. May we be generous.

Pr. Laaker





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 Mary and Sarah for your weekly dedication running the recording equipment every Sunday during worship service.
- ✝ Thank you Ron, Donna and Brenda for taking care of the altar, and preparing communion.
- ✝ Thank you Mary, Janet, Donna, Ron, and Eva, for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly Grace Messenger!
- ✝ Thank you Alma for keeping both Grace and St. Luke's clean and looking so welcoming to everyone who enters.
- ✝ 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!



Project Hope is currently looking for an active, independent, and hardworking individual wanting to serve others with their talents by providing food to our neighbors who are food insecure. We have a part-time position open working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This individual will be responsible for processing pantry donations and inventory, assisting clients, collecting client data, assisting with office tasks, and completing special projects. A job description and application are available in the church office or you can contact Veda Keebler, Executive Director with Project Hope at 402-453-7649.

2022 has been busy in the life of the pantry. We are steadily serving more clients each month. During the month of May, we served 1,066 individuals compared to 471 individuals last year.

Visit our website at [www.projecthopeomaha.org](http://www.projecthopeomaha.org).



Happy Birthday in faith and blessings be upon you! On your birthday, remember that you were wonderfully made by God and rejoice in his love. You are so blessed to be you and to share the amazing love of Jesus on your birthday! May God bless this day with more love than your heart can hold.

**8 – Charles Farber**  
**9 – Madison Emery**  
**11 – Urbano Vasquez**  
**17 – Caleb Ketelson**  
**20 – Dustin Moyer**  
**24 – Angela Everitt**  
**25 – Samantha Moyer**

### Let's Get Personal! ~ Give Someone a Fresh Start

The St. Luke's Social Ministry team is collecting full, economy, and travel-sized items to provide hope and dignity through hygiene. Items will be donated to a local pantry.

Suggested items include:



Bar Soap  
 Shampoo  
 Lotion  
 Toothbrush  
 Dental Floss

Liquid Body Soap  
 Conditioner  
 Deodorant  
 Toothpaste  
 Shaving Cream



Please bring your donation to church during July.

*Social Ministry Mission Statement: Serving and loving our neighbors with care and compassion.*



Visit the Durham Museum for just \$5 after 5:00 pm on Tuesdays from now until August 30th. The museum will stay open until 8:00 pm each Tuesday through August 30th. Current exhibits include the *Dinosaur Revolution* which including fun fossil facts!

Hurry, the Nelson Mandela exhibit ends on July 3rd!



## Organizing Training Series

The Institute for Public Leadership (IPL) and Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) are planning to host the training sessions in person, so space will be limited. They will adhere to the COVID guidelines of the host

organization. Please do not attend if you are feeling ill or have been recently exposed.

### Training Schedule:

July 18th What is a Broad Based Organization?

July 25th Recruiting New Members

Aug. 8th Qualities of a Leader

Aug. 22nd Importance of Hard Money

Sept. 12th Understanding the Budget

Sept. 26th Effective Meeting / Action

All sessions will take place from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Location to be confirmed.

Register and learn more at: <https://forms.gle/WGC6BZGPCBHQST5BA>

### OTOC Contribution Form

Return to: OTOC - 3647 Lafayette Ave. - Omaha, NE 68131

Please accept this donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support OTOC's work from:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation/Organization/Business \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_I/we prefer that our donation remain anonymous.

Please make checks payable to: Omaha Together One Community.

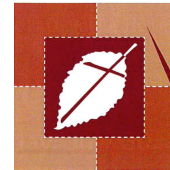
OTOC Website: [www.OTOC.org](http://www.OTOC.org)

Omaha Together One Community is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)4 organization. Contributions to OTOC are not tax-deductible.

IPL provides leadership training for refugees from Asia and Africa, immigrants from Latin America, and leaders of congregations and community organizations affiliated with OTOC so they can be effective agents of positive change in their communities.



IPL Organizers and staff provide Leadership Development and Community Organizing training sessions to a variety of community groups and congregations. Past trainings include House Meeting training for the Anti Defamation League Neighborhood Strong project, House Meeting training for the ELCA Nebraska Synod, guest lectures about community organizing in college classes, and a presentation on why community organizing is effective for the Servants of Mary. For more information, contact Executive Director, Sarah Keeney – [skeeney.iaf@gmail.com](mailto:skeeney.iaf@gmail.com)



**Carol Joy Holling Camp's  
34th Annual  
Quilt Auction  
Saturday, July 30th**

Join us for good food, great fun, and hundreds of beautiful quilts handcrafted by individuals, congregations, and groups from Nebraska and beyond! Quilts will be auctioned to fund summer camp scholarships.

Silent Auction opens online at 9:00 am on Friday, July 29th.

### Tentative Schedule:

9:00 am	Quilts on Display
9:30 am	Live Auction Starts
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Lunch Served
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Pool Open
1:30 pm	Silent Auction Closes
2:30 pm	Specialty Items Auction Starts
3:00 pm	Silent Auction Items available for pick up

**Free parking and admission!**

Carol Joy Holling Camp - 27416 Ranch Road, Ashland, NE 68003



Vacation Bible School –  
“Roots of Creation”  
One Day Only

Saturday, July 23, 2022 \* 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Suggested Ages: 5 yrs through 12 yrs

- Teens are welcome to volunteer as helpers!
- Bring completed registration (on back) with you - Saturday July 23rd.
- Families are invited to join us at 4:30 pm for a light meal and fellowship.

Grace Lutheran Church \* 1326 S. 26 ST  
402-341-7730

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



VBS REGISTRATION – JULY 23, 2022 - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Care giver Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. where parent/care giver can be reached while child is attending  
Vacation Bible School \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers / Sisters names attending with child above:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

List any special needs or food allergies here: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Free Family Dinner following Vacation Bible School**

## Bishop Eaton issues pastoral message on SCOTUS ruling regarding *Roe v. Wade*

6/24/2022 12:25:00 PM

Dear church,

Whatever personal perspective one might take on the June 24 abortion ruling from the Supreme Court, it is the legal framework in which we now minister, and I wish to speak a pastoral word at this time.

The Supreme Court has voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, removing federal constitutional protection for safe and legal abortion and leaving decisions about abortion law largely to the states. As a result, safe and legal abortion will likely not be [accessible in every state](#). This church's 1991 social statement [Abortion](#) argues that "the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern" but teaches that the practice should be legal (pp. 3, 9-10). In other words, "Laws should be enacted and enforced justly for the preservation and enhancement of life, and should avoid unduly encumbering or endangering the lives of women" (p. 9). Overturning *Roe v. Wade* and placing decisions about abortion regulation at the state level encumbers and endangers the lives of all persons who need to make decisions about unexpected pregnancies.

First, as a pastor of this church, I want to acknowledge that this decision affects many people, especially those whose pregnancies unfold in complex situations and the people who love them. Many now find their moral agency restricted because federal law no longer guarantees access to legal and safe abortion. They already face difficult moral questions, and the Supreme Court decision only adds to their anguish. As our social statement reminds us, we have both the freedom and the obligation to serve neighbors in complex situations. As a church, we are called at this moment to recognize and spiritually support people who are struggling with decisions around pregnancy.

Second, as presiding bishop, I want to remind this church that, despite this new legal landscape, we continue to depend on our social teaching for guidance. Our social statement provides the moral framework for our church's communal discernment and ministry, holding in tension both the strong Christian presumption to preserve and protect all life as well as the complex moral situations in which pregnancy sometimes occurs. Our social teaching is complex and does not hew to clear categories or labels such as "pro-abortion" or "anti-abortion."

That complexity is reflected in several points. The statement recognizes that pregnant persons have moral agency; they are the ones to make decisions about a pregnancy (see pp. 5-6). This church and its ministers trust them to decide but expect them to make such decisions in relationship—with God, self, partner, family, ministers and others.

*Continued...*

I also want to underscore for the whole body of Christ the statement's exhortation "that those who counsel persons faced with unintended pregnancies respect how deeply the woman's pregnancy involves her whole person—body, mind and spirit—in relation to all the commitments that comprise her stewardship of life" (p. 5).

Further, our church teaching holds that there are no exclusive rights in pregnancy. A pregnant person does not have an exclusive right to abort a fetus at all points during the pregnancy. A developing life does not have an exclusive right to be born (p. 2). This church does not support abortion as a normative form of birth control but rather understands it as necessary in some morally responsible circumstances. This church does not condone late-term abortions except in extreme circumstances, which must be determined by the individual with their medical caregivers (p. 7).

This church acknowledges that individuals and religious traditions hold divergent viewpoints over when life begins. These divergent views are not only scientific but also biblical and cultural. The ELCA social statement acknowledges these ethical ambiguities and states that "the closer the life in the womb comes to full term the more serious such [moral] issues become." (p. 7).

As we live into this new legal framework, we can respond to and minister in the current situation, for instance, by ministering to individuals who seek abortions; advocating for laws that provide free or affordable health care, child care and education; providing and promoting sex education; continuing to be a community of discernment where thoughtful and diverse perspectives can be shared and heard; and advocating for state laws that provide legal, safe and affordable abortions, and against legislation that would outlaw abortion in all circumstances (p. 9).

Finally, I wish to remind everyone that this church supports peaceful means of expression within a diverse society. Peaceful protest is a crucial element of civic engagement; violent protest is not, and this church reproves it. Likewise, this church is on record against hate speech. Let us be instruments for peace where there is none. Let us listen to one another. Let us serve the needs of neighbors in all the complexities life presents. God calls us to be *for* others, just as God in Christ is for us.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The following paragraph was at the bottom of Bishop Eaton's message on SCOTUS ruling regarding Roe v. Wade:

#### About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands.," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

For information contact:  
Candice Hill Buchbinder  
773-380-2877



After 5 ballots, the Nebraska Synod Assembly elected Rev. Scott Johnson as Bishop-Elect of the Nebraska Synod.


Rev. Johnson currently serves as the Director of Campus Ministry at Midland University in Fremont, NE. When asked to share a bit about himself, he described himself as a farm boy at heart, a Lutheran, a loving (if flawed) husband, father, son,

and brother, a people-loving introvert, and a church-loving questioner.

Additional information about Rev. Scott Johnson can be found at: [nebraskasynod.org](http://nebraskasynod.org)

#### Mark Your Calendars - Bishop Installation

Bishop-Elect Rev. Scott Johnson will be installed as the next Bishop of the Nebraska Synod on Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 1:00pm at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE! (2215 Avenue G, Kearney, NE 68847)

 **Usable Glasses Give New Life**  
Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Lions Club have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses in their communities to support the Lions Recycle For Sight Program.

If you have a set or two of previous wearable glasses no longer in need, please bring them to the church office and help individuals to see their world a little more clearly. A box is located in the back of the sanctuary to place them.

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



A current, Remember the Church in Your Will, brochures are currently available upon request. Please pick up a free copy during your next worship time and consider Grace Lutheran a place for remembrance.



Persistent Grace is a ministry of spiritual fitness for people living with chronic disabilities. A medical diagnosis leads us to work on our physical and mental wellness. But what do we do about spiritual wellness? Persistent Grace is about making space to confront the spiritual challenge to living with a chronic disability.

How can Persistent Grace help you? Like our Facebook page to receive daily words of encouragement.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Glen Thomas at St. Matthew Lutheran, 402-556-7030 or email: [persistentgrace@gmlutheran.com](mailto:persistentgrace@gmlutheran.com)





Grace Lutheran Church has some additional ways that you could contribute without spending any out of pocket funds.

Take a few moments of your time to download the app for TAGG - Together A Greater Good; they partner with several community business. Take a snapshot of your receipt so that some businesses will donate 5% to a charity of your choice (Grace Lutheran).

**While shopping online at smile.amazon.com you can designate Grace Lutheran Church as your charity of choice and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Grace.**

Register your Bakers Plus card with Kroger and choose Grace Lutheran as your charitable choice!

Saving your Family Fare, Bag & Save, No Frills, Fresh Market and SunMart receipts will benefit Project Hope. For every \$150,000 in receipts collected, Project Hope receives \$1,000 to use for dairy products. Receipts will be mailed to Project Hope monthly.



**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.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

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.

## *Loaves and Fishes Pantry*

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

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.*

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. Thanks to your generosity the Pantry has a very huge stock of bags and egg cartons! Currently there is no need for these items. Please continue to keep the Pantry and all the work that is done in your prayers.



Do you know of a family or individual in need of food assistance? Please share the Pantry information with them.



**face masks**  
are encouraged

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, Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Sunscreen, Bug Repellent, Band-aids Diaper wipers, and Diapers, especially sizes 6 and pull-ups.

**We always need paper or plastic bags.**

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"My piano teacher is very religious. She keeps closing her eyes and saying, 'Good Lord!'"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
© Bil & Jeff Keane  
Reprinted with permission

On a thundering rainy day, a Mom went to pick up her 6-year-old son from school, thinking that he was afraid of lightning, But she found him smiling at the sky after every lighting strike.

"Why are you smiling?" she asked.

"Because God is taking my picture and I need to look good," he answered.

~ via Joygerm Joan White,  
Syracuse, NY

Jokes reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

### Signs and Wonders

Sign outside Lititz (PA) Moravian Congregation:  
"Lord, is there someone I can love for you today?"  
~ via Rev. Dean R. Jurgen

Sign on the lawn of a Florida house:  
"Life is short. If you can't laugh at yourself, call me. I will."  
~ via George Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

Message on T-shirt offered in a catalog:  
"Sometimes I wonder what happened to the people who asked me for directions."  
~ via Evelyn Kraft, Dover, DE

Sign outside St. Anne's by the Fields Episcopal Church, Ankeny, IA:  
"Missing something in your life? Lost and found inside."  
~ via Rev. Dale Schoening, Madrid, IA

Sign seen in Saginaw, MI, store:  
"Have you ever noticed that all instruments searching in space for intelligent life are pointed away from Earth?"  
~ via Risa Samra, Saginaw, MI



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

Blueberry  
Patience  
Self-Control  
Goodness  
Kindness  
Banana  
Grapes

Spirit  
Jesus  
Church  
Peace  
Orange  
Cherry  
Peach

Joy  
Love  
Fruit  
Lemon  
Apple



By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ~ Galatians 5:22-23

Found on Goggle Images.