

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380
402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
stlukes@stlukesomaha.org
Web Site: www.graceluth.com
www.stlukesomaha.org
Like us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha
www.facebook.com/stlukesomaha

DECEMBER SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 am. Worship Service
St. Luke's Lutheran, 2315 "I" Street

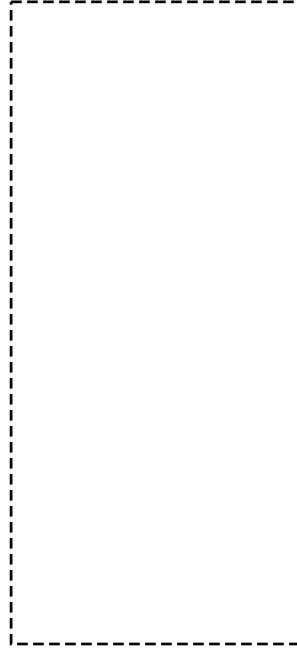
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary Grace - Brenda Spahr
Editor/Church Secretary St. Luke's - Nancy Klusaw
Sexton - Alma Lopez

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THE GRACE
MESSENGER
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St. Luke's
Echo
1905 - 2023



 December 

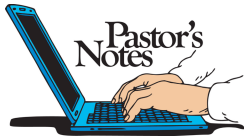
Advent



December Worship Services
will be held at St. Luke's
Lutheran, 2315 I Street

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
stlukesomaha.org



ADVENT MESSAGE

I am borrowing the words from Dr. Ryan Cumming, Director, Education and Networks, ELCA, as we begin the four-week season of Advent.

“Where and how do you encounter God? God, through the prophet Isaiah, urges us to take comfort, trusting that the “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5). At a time when our world bears the wounds of conflict, hunger and disaster, it can be challenging to uncover where and how God is at work. Yet we know in faith that God is actively working in the world, transforming, reconciling, sustaining and inciting us to ever-greater acts of justice and mercy. In the season of Advent, we reflect on our biblical ancestors, waiting for the coming of the Messiah as they, too, longed for God to be revealed, “to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things” (Luke 1:52-53)”

We end the season of Advent on the same day that we begin our celebration of Christ’s birth, Christmas Eve. After a number of conversations, our leaders felt it best to offer only one service on Sunday, December 24. In addition, they decided that we should celebrate Advent 4 and Christmas Eve in the morning of December 24, 9:30 am. I will attempt to craft a worship service that includes a portion of each observance.

Please plan to participate in the Christmas Eve service as part of the morning service which will be held at St. Luke’s Lutheran. God’s surprise gift of Jesus invites us celebrate his coming among us.

On behalf of the staffs at Grace Lutheran and St. Luke’s Lutheran and my family, I wish you the very best in preparations during this Advent Season and the joy and wonder of Christ’s birth during the Christmas Season which follows.

Prepare ye the way! Happy Advent!
Merry Christmas!

Pastor Laaker



Stewardship



Why Christians Should Give

Giving is an important part of being a Christian. There are many reasons to give and the following will highlight our understanding of the importance of giving.

Last month, we shared four reasons that highlighted our understanding of the importance of giving. Here are three more.

1. *Giving gives us the opportunity to experience the joy in giving.* As nice as it is to get gifts, it is even more meaningful to give them. When we give, we quickly discover true joy. In Acts 20:35 Jesus said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
2. *Giving imitates God.* “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1). When we give, we mirror the nature of God. Through our faithful giving, we become more like God. “For God so loved the world that God gave God’s one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Our Lord is a loving and giving God. As we imitate his compassion and giving in our stewardship lives, we give a clear witness to what is really important to us.
3. *Giving provides the funding for our church’s mission and ministry.* We give to support the various ministries that Christ calls us to perform. Through the giving of our time, skills and resources, we enable our church to spread the Good News of Jesus’ love and grace to all.

Thank you for planning your giving for 2024. Together, we can trust God’s generosity and give generously in return.

Pastor Laaker

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



Grace 2023 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Sarah Emery	Arlone Farber
Ralph Fitle	Greg Hula	Eva Martin
Brenda Spahr	Pastor Laaker	

Officers Serving the Congregation:		
Financial Secretary: Janet Hula		Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

Council Meeting Notes - November 14, 2023

Call to Order Sarah called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Gathering of Prayers We ask for prayers for members, friends and acquaintances in need of care. We also pray for peace between Israel and Palestine and for peace for all conflicts happening globally, for travelers during the holidays and in praise for Andrea's upcoming graduation.

Devotions Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Isaiah 57:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:19. The first verse recalls for us that God is not angry rather it is humans that believe when something goes wrong in life it is because God is angry. God's love endures. The second reminds us that we are reconciled with God, the word reconciling meaning being put back on a right path and able to function forward always toward God.

Visions for Ministry Do I Stay Christian? by Brian McLaren
Council discussed Chapters 19 & 20. Progressing with a loving God, while striving for new understanding in our faith. We live in a state of needing instant answers – question to ponder – what if we live in a world with no answers and only questions? Council looks forward to reading and discussing chapters 21 and 22 next month.

Minutes The minutes of the regular October 2023 meeting of the council were accepted as printed.

Financial Secretary's Report The report of the Financial Secretary was presented and accepted by motion.

Treasurer's Report The report of the Treasurer, was presented and accepted by motion.

Mission Share The monthly Mission Share contribution and the San Andres contribution were both made in October – ending with 100% of our pledge for both.

Committee Reports

Christian Education Advent Calendars will be available this year.

Evangelism/Outreach Crossroads Connection has many openings to sponsor a worship and dinner for 2024, we will revisit and decide next month.

Urban Abbey has indicated interest in a partnership with Grace for further support of Liberty Elementary School.

Finance Immanuel Vision Foundation grant awarded \$3,700.00 for "Enhancement Elements for Educators."

Property Pastor Edgar and Prince of Peace members have begun repairs of the southeast entryway where plaster pieces have fallen.

SOS has installed the new heating and A/C units, all is working great.

The Little Library has been graffitied; Pastor has reached out to Loren for any left-over white paint.

Pastor extended a thank you to Eva and Brenda for cleaning the two refrigerators in the kitchen.

Service/Social Ministry Donations are being collected for Lutheran Family Services of cleaning supplies during Nov. for new refugees to the Omaha area.

Pantry is in need for additional volunteers to help either Sunday or Monday mornings (or both.)

OTOC has two events coming up, the first addresses the Nebraska Workforce Shortage on November 19th at Urban Abbey at 7:00pm, and the second will focus on Paid Sick Leave, Nov. 30th also at Urban Abbey from 5:30 – 7:00pm.

Grace has agreed to be one of many sponsors for a potluck fundraiser for medical aide support for Palestine Children's Relief Fund, at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St. Sunday, December 10th at 5:45pm.

Greg and Janet will be putting up the Christmas tree in time for Barb Nelson's Celebration of Life gathering on Saturday, December 2nd from 2:00 – 4:00pm.

Support/Stewardship Fall Stewardship "Go and...." Sunday, November 19, we will be dedicating the 2024 Commitment Cards that have been returned, there will be extra cards available for those in need.

Worship There will be no Thanksgiving Service this year.

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, there will be one morning Service featuring both Advent 4 and Christmas Eve.

Unfinished Business Sarah received a lengthy email from Pastor Heidi Wallace that includes steps we could take. Sarah plans to send out to Council and Task force.

New Business None.

Announcements Greg's granddaughter, Trina is working at Culver's.

Greg's nephew & wife are expecting their first child.

Greg will prepare a prayer for next month.

Adjournment The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Spahr, Secretary

Continued...



And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

2 Corinthians 9:14

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

Vicki Cox
Richard Krambeck
Carolyn Matson
Marilyn Van Ormer
The family of John Ivo Mounto



June Hilmer
Samuel Mantzaris
Pam Reents



Pray for wisdom for your Church Council at Grace and St. Luke's 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 and St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Bishop Scott Johnson, Nebraska Synod
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Charles Tuw and Moses Loda are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

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

Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

Dolores Castro - Home
Arline Henni - Heritage at Legacy
Rev. Terry Nielsen - Echo Hills
Jeri Swanson - Hillcrest Estates
Marilyn Van Ormer - Home
Doris Westman - Hillcrest Estates

Vicki Cox - Home
Dee Nielsen - Peyton, CO



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!

Nebraska Brass will be 'Celebrating the Holidays' at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 9th at 7:00 pm.

Enjoy an evening and Celebrate the Advent/Christmas season with the sound of a Brass Quintet playing favorite Christmas songs!

Tickets are: \$18 for Adults; \$15 for Seniors (65+); Children and Students are free. If you have any questions, please call the church office 402-341-7730 (Grace) or 402-733-5881 (St. Luke's).



Annual Merry Tuba Christmas
Held At Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam. Sunday, December 10th 3:30 p.m.

Low brass instrumentalists from Lincoln to Des Moines play carols and the audience gets to enjoy. Last year there were about 30 instruments. Craig Fuller is one of the people in charge. A relaxing way to enjoy something unusual.

Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the public. This should be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



Candlelight Carol Service
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 16th,
Prelude begins at 4:40 pm. Service at 5:00 pm.

The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of sacred scripture and poetry, congregational carols, handbells, brass, organ, and piano, Please join us following the service for a lovely reception and time for fellowship. Nursery care will be provided.



St. Luke's 2023 Council Members

Steve Braun	Annette Chipman	Frank Durham
Cindy Fleming	John Kolb	Dave Ruffner
Molly Sedlacek	Connie Tefft	Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Treasurer: Nancy Klusaw

Financial Secretary & Memorial/Special Gifts: Rose Marie Lad

Council Meeting Notes - November 16, 2023

Frank Durham called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Devotions: Pastor Laaker led devotions from Daily Texts – Jeremiah 32:40 and 1 John 4:9.

Guest/Public Comment:

1. Get well wishes to Nancy Klusaw were given.
2. Get well wishes to John Kolb were given.

Agenda: Agenda was adopted by motion.

Minutes of October 12, 2023, meeting: Minutes were adopted by motion.

Book Study: Chapters 16 and 17 or **Clear, Calm, and Connected** were discussed. Chapters 18 and 19 will be discussed next month.

Unfinished Business:

1. Roof repair update: There has been communication with our adjustor and McKinnis Roofing.
2. Canopy South update: No new communication has been received.
3. Parking lot security: Be sure to call the police (911) if there is an issue in the lot.
4. Organist update: Still looking for a permanent organist.

Reports:

Pastor's Report – A written report was provided. Pastor has attended a fall training event for the Omaha Police Chaplains. The Immanuel Vision Foundation has awarded \$7,500 toward our project of providing “spirit” t-shirts for the students and staff at Spring Lake Elementary. Pastor attended the Fall Voyagers gathering in DC.

President's Report, Treasurer Report, Financial Secretary, and Memorial Fund – A written report was provided.

Continued...

Building and Grounds Report and Fellowship – No new report.

Evangelism – An oral report was given. Sign on 24th Street continues to be changed.

Stewardship – Sunday, November 19, “Plan of Giving” cards will be collected. Parish Education – Sara Pahl-Ramirez will continue to prepare articles for the newsletter.

Social Ministry – An oral report was given. Please continue to give new everyday cleaning items for Lutheran Family Services during November.

Worship and Music – An oral report was given. The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on Sunday. It was decided that an Advent/Christmas Eve service would be held at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship will occur after the service. No evening Christmas Eve service. January 7, 2024, and January 14, 2024, service will be at St. Luke's. January 21, 2024, and January 28, 2024, will be held at Grace. St. Luke's Annual Meeting will be held on February 4, 2024, at Grace.

Motion to accept all reports was accepted by motion.

New Business:

1. Start thinking of gathering your Annual Reports – The reports will be due by January 17, 2023.
2. Updated talks with Grace to be continued – An email from the Synod has been received and will be distributed to the team members.
3. Open Floor Forum.

The next Council Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with prayer at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Fleming, On behalf of Connie Tefft

TABLE GRACE
CAFE
Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

1611 1/2 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Hours for Breakfast and Lunch
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri & Sat. from 7 - 2
Closed: Wed and Sun

.....
Specialty Coffee, Pastries, Bagels, Pizza, Soup, Salad, Daily Specials!
No set prices. Community Cafe - donate instead of pay.
Eat here - feed the Community.
.....

Visit their website at: tablegracecafe.com for additional information and to learn the many different ways you can donate.



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 for your weekly dedication running the recording equipment every Sunday during worship service.

Thank you Ron & Donna Adrian, and Brenda Spahr for taking care of the altar, and preparing communion.

Thanks to everyone that helped with worship services during the month of November. It is much appreciated.

Thank you Bob and Connie Malik for taking the October Newsletter to the Post Office and for setting up tables for the South Omaha Community Care Council.

Thank you Janet Hula, Bob & Connie Malik, Rose Marie Lad, Eva Martin and Ron & Donna Adrian for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly newsletter!

Thank you to all those that help keep both church grounds neat by picking up trash around the churches.

Thank you Alma for keeping both Grace and St. Luke's clean and 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!

Annual Reports

It will soon be time to be submitting those annual reports for the areas of service one has had responsibility for over the last year. We need those reports in to the office by January 15 so that we can prepare the Annual Report booklet.

Pastor and Council Leadership

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Grace's

1 – Nowa Keita

15 – Izabella Perales

18 – Marilyn Van Ormer

22 – Sherif Lado

24 – Lola Harsin

28 – Angelina Peter

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

Happy Birthday in faith! May blessings be upon you! On your birthday, remember that you were wonderfully made by God and rejoice in God's 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.

Lutheran Women of Omaha
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
12:00 Noon



Join us at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 61st & Western.


Cost: \$7.00

Guest speakers are Rev. Eulish Moore & Rev. Glenn Schacht with Faith Partners. Building capacity in our congregations to create safe spaces for hope & healing for addictions & mental illness. Free will offering will be directed to Faith Partners.

Call Mardelle Gocsek at 402-292-1328 by Sunday, December 10, to reserve your seat.

There is an overstock of folding chairs in the basement at Grace Lutheran Church. Anyone in need of a few extra chairs, please speak with Pastor Laaker.



 **ELCA** The United Nations World Food Programme recently warned that acute food insecurity has reached an unprecedented high, affecting a record 349 million people — up from 135 million in 2019. That is a shocking statistic. ELCA World Hunger partners here in the United States and around the world are telling us about the financial strain caused by the rising hunger crisis, and we come to you humbly, **asking for a donation.**

Through ELCA World Hunger you support families as they address root causes of hunger and poverty through such multifaceted solutions as education, agricultural training and microloans for women. Our faith calls us to be in relationship with our neighbors, and that is what makes your partnership so important.

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.

St. Luke's

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

As you celebrate your birthday, May God's blessings be with you always. May God surround you with tender loving care and may God's presence be ever near. May the light of the Lord shine upon you and grant you happiness on this birthday and for many years to come.



2 – Michael Fleming
2 – Theresa Noah
2 – Donna Pierce
3 – Shirley Carlson
4 – Josh Kilzer
4 – John Kolb
9 – Patricia Scarpello
18 – Aubrielle Noah
21 – James Tefft
23 – Christine Clark
29 – William Schneekloth
29 – Sara Tefft
30 – Shannon Lovett

St. Luke's Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 9:30 am in the Educational Unit for fellowship and a Christmas Potluck Party. Karen Chapman will have devotions. Everyone is welcome.



PATH ASSIST Path Assist, now available in your area, connects you to the resources you need to be healthy and improve the quality of your life. The Path Assist program is designed to help you confidently navigate local health and social service resources and advocate for your needs. The goal of Path Assist is to help you address issues like housing, food, transportation, access to medicine, isolation, and more before they become serious problems. Path Assist is a free program, you can sign up on their website at: www.path-assist.com/gethelp or call 402-265-6551.



We all know how faith comes alive when we step outside of our day-to-day routines and explore faith conversations with our peers at camp. Check out some of the upcoming opportunities for the youth of your congregation to get back to camp this winter:

January 19-21, 2024 - Grades 9-12 High School Retreat. Come and join us as we dive into this past summer's theme, "UnEqual." This retreat will serve as a good reminder to campers who attended camp and serve as a way to learn in a condensed and meaningful way for anyone who was unable to attend camp.

To learn more about this retreat and to register, visit: CJHCenter.org/upcoming-retreats.



December Collection



Lutheran Family Services expresses God's love for all people by providing quality human care services that build and strengthen individual, family, and community life.

We will continue collecting Household Items for the Lutheran Family Services (LFS) Well-being Box Program. All items received will assist LFS clients with everyday needs. LFS is one of the largest resettling agencies in the region. It helps refugees who come into the country with only two suitcases containing everything they own. Your donation will help them rebuild their lives. Currently, the most needed items are:

• Sponges • All-Purpose cleaning spray • Toilet Brush • Toilet Bowl Cleaner • Dish Soap • Laundry Detergent • Disinfectant wipes • Trash Bags • Paper Towels • Hand Soap • Cleaning Towels • Mop & Bucket • Broom

Please bring your donations during the month of December and place them in the box that will be placed in the back of the sanctuary.

Visit Lutheran Family Services website at onelfs.org to learn more about Lutheran Family Services and additional ways you may be able to help out.



BIBLE STUDY

Today, we look at Psalm 5, a morning psalm. It very much expresses an Old Testament way of looking at things. For instance, getting vengeance in this lifetime was expected as a normal part of life. The psalmist cries out to God for help, and also calls for God to punish his enemies. He is well aware of them, and he doesn't trust a word that they say. Reading verses 3-9, please answer the following:

1. Does the psalmist consider himself a righteous person?
2. Is he ready to take action?
3. Does he want justice?
4. Does he want vengeance?

I find it easy to identify with the writer of this prayer, and it is a prayer, no matter how uncomfortable we feel with it. I watch in horror, day after day, the relentless killing of innocents in Gaza, and am powerless to stop it. I feel angry and offended that my tax money, without my consent, goes to Israel and fires rockets at homes, hospitals, and columns of fleeing refugees, without any respect for age, non-combatant status, or the rules of international law. I do not trust Israel when leaders say that they are making efforts to avoid killing civilians. This, while they withhold water, food, medicine, and fuel? I feel betrayed by my own leaders, who allow this genocide to continue, and who will not withhold any military aid to Israel as the bombing goes on. I call government offices to suggest withholding aid until there is a ceasefire. I text, email, sign petitions, write long-hand letters, mail postcards signed by myself and others, meet with other citizens, and protest in the streets - but see no positive results. I donate for relief efforts, but Israel grudgingly allows only a few trucks of food and medicine to enter Gaza. Most of the people trapped in Gaza still lack the basics. And I pray.

But we don't live in an Old Testament world. We are followers of Jesus, who tells us, "Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you." What does that look like here? They say that "friends don't let friends drive drunk". Maybe friends don't let government leaders aid and abet ethnic cleansing? Maybe it looks a lot like calling, writing, and protesting until something changes for the better? What do you think? We will all have a chance to provide some relief for those who are suffering through a potluck fundraiser the evening of December 10, at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street in Omaha. Funds can also go through Grace Lutheran Church to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund.

Sara welcomes ideas and questions at 402-686-1693.



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.

**This year Christmas and New Years
Day will be on Mondays.
Pantry will be distributing food on
Sunday - December 24th and 31st
at 2:00 pm.**

The Pantry continues to reach out to those in need on a weekly basis. Clients of the Loaves and Fishes Pantry are asked to park along Poppleton Street. Participants are then directed through the alley to pick up prepared sacks and bags of much needed food items. **The Pantry is in need of clean plastic grocery bags and paper grocery sacks!** Please continue to keep the Pantry and all the work that is done in your prayers. *All are served with love and care.*

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

Do you have the heart and compassion of a pantry volunteer? If so, stop by after service on Sunday mornings and visit with Mary Thompson and discover the variety of ways you might be able to help within the pantry work that is in full swing both Sundays and Mondays. Your help is greatly needed and would be greatly appreciated!

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, Diaper wipes, and Diapers, especially sizes 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.



Potluck Fundraiser for Gaza
Sunday, December 10th, 5:45pm
First United Methodist Church
(East Door)
7020 Cass Street

Guest Speakers: **Dr. Angela Hanna**, Member of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) and volunteer doctor on PCRF missions.

Marjorie Cohn, professor emerita of law at The Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

All donations will support the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (pcrf.net)

Sponsors:

- * Al-Taqwa Islamic Center of Elkhorn
- * American Muslim Institute
- * First United Methodist Church
- * Grace Lutheran Church
- * Holy Land Task Force and Peace with Justice Ministries, Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church
- * Notre Dame Sisters
- * Omaha Friends Meeting
- * Palestinian Rights Task Force - Nebraskans for Peace
- * Servants of Mary
- * Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley

Donations are tax deductible. If you can't attend, please mail a check to Sandra Hanna, 7156 N. 167th Ave., Bennington, NE 68007.

Please make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church with a note in the memo line that it is for Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

This Christmas....

Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a letter. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Apologize. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take a pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love, and then speak it again."

~ Howard W. Hunter, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
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"Gold... Frankincense... Myrrh... why wouldn't wise men bring diapers?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"I'll have my mommy email you if I think of anything else."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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Jokes on this page reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

God's kids say & do the funniest things

When I served as a pastor for a Milwaukee parish, I went over to the school one morning just a few days before Christmas. I was greeted in the hallway by the principal, who said, "You've got to hear this."

He took me to the 5-K classroom, where the teacher described what had happened. A little boy from 4-K was sent to the 5-K for a timeout. The teacher took him to the Nativity set and asked him if he knew what it was.

"Yes," he said, pointing to the Christ child, "That's baby Jesus." Then pointing to Mary he said, "That is the blessed Mother." Then pointing to Joseph he said, "And that's Father John."

"I'll take the promotion!"

"I am a long-time subscriber to JN. I usually begin my homilies with a joke, many of them gleaned from JN."

~ Fr. John Schreer, SAC

St. Vincent Pallotti Retreat Center, Elkhorn, WI



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



Unscramble That "Christmas" Tune

1. OGD STRE YE EYRMR NEELNEGMT _____
2. IWTHE SCTIRHAMS _____
3. O YHLO NTHG _____
4. AAWY NI A NRMEAG _____
5. BEUFULTAI SRAT FO EHBLEEHT _____
6. JOY OT ETH RLOWD _____
7. NIGD DNOG YRLREIM ON HIHG _____
8. OD UYO AEHR HAWT I AEHR _____
9. LESNIT NHTIG _____
10. ERMUDRM BYO _____
11. EW SHIW YUO A MRREY ITSRCSHAM _____
12. EGALSN WE AEVH HDAER NO IGHH _____
13. O ILTLTE TONW FO BELMHTEEH _____
14. O OECM LAL EY HFTAFUIL _____
15. OG LLTE IT ON EHT AIMOTNNU _____
16. NO ROMO NI THE INN _____
17. ROACL OF TEH LBSLE _____
18. WE RHETE NISKG _____
19. HTE ITSFR LNEO _____
20. GNELET ARMY IDAL EHR HLIDC _____
21. CDEK THE LASLH _____
22. THE HOYLL DAN HET YIV _____
23. ARHK HET READHL LEGANS NIGS _____
24. LL'I BE HOEM FRO ISSHMCRTA _____
25. ETL RHTEE BE EPCEA NO RAHTE _____
26. THE ELTWEV YASD FO SCMAHITS _____
27. TNWRIE RANLOENDDW _____
28. VILRSE ELBLS _____
29. O AMSSTCIHR TERE _____
30. TI MEAC OUNP A HTDGMIIIN REALC _____

