

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

APRIL SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 am. Worship Service
Grace Lutheran, 1326 South 26th Street

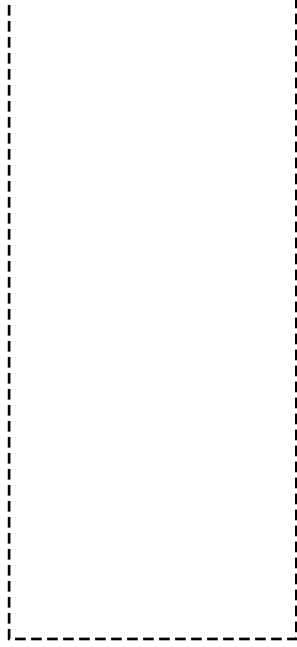
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary Grace - Brenda Spahr
Editor/Church Secretary St. Luke's - Nancy Klusaw
Sexton - Alma Lopez

Delivered to the Post Office March 28

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THE GRACE MESSENGER

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St. Luke's Echo

1905 - 2024

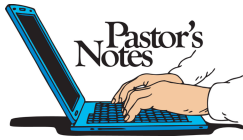


April Worship Services will be
held at Grace Lutheran, 1326
S. 26th Street



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



The first third of the year 2024 is now past. One of the significant opportunities we have as citizens is to actively participate in our democratic process called voting. Our Spring Primary Election comes up in early May. The Nebraska Legislature made a decision that now requires us to have an appropriate ID to verify who we are thus enabling us to vote. If you need an appropriate ID, but do not have one, please use this address to get the proper information to secure an ID. (<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/voter-id>)

Sometimes I have felt a bit unprepared for the decisions that I need to make in order to cast my ballot. Perhaps the following considerations might help decide what to do? Asking questions like the following (and more?), may help to facilitate theological critical thinking.

1. How important is moral integrity and character in presidential leadership? What are the Christian teachings on humility, honesty, and compassion?
2. Christian teachings often stress the protection and support of the vulnerable and marginalized. Are the proposed policies regarding immigration and healthcare aligned with these values?
3. Does the ELCA, and Christianity generally, promote Peace and Non-violence? If so, are decisions or actions proposed by the candidate aggressive or provocative, domestically or internationally, and if so contradictory to these principles?
4. Does Christianity consider the environment a sacred trust to protect? If so, environmental policies that prioritize industrial and economic growth over ecological preservation can be seen to be at odds with this stewardship principle.
5. Does Christianity teach compassion, love, and empathy towards others? If so, actions or rhetoric lacking in compassion or empathy may be a theological reason to question a leader's suitability.

I find it an honor to be able to be actively involved in our democratic processes. It requires that I have to take the time to learn about a candidate or a proposed policy. I believe this is a part of what God calls me to do as a partner in the care of people and this world.

I hope you will use your time and voice to participate in our democratic process in May. May God lead and guide your decisions.

Pastor Laaker

Stewardship as Vocation

A few years ago, Catherine Malotky wrote on this topic. "Like you, I am a stewardship leader in my congregation. Sometimes I wonder why we work at stewardship in congregations. Of course, we have to pay the congregational bills, and for a long time, stewardship fell under that umbrella. The stewardship conversation has evolved over time, though, as the church's identity has changed. Church is no longer the center of community life, as it was when many of my ancestors made their way as immigrants to a land that was new to them. Social services around us are no longer born exclusively in churches. There was a time when money given to the church was all about making the community a better place. We could see and touch this because we lived next door.

"Perhaps the church can help us learn to think of ourselves as stewards, choosing a management perspective rather than a consumption perspective. If we are merely consumers, we don't have to engage in questions about whether our consumption will impact our grandchildren's well-being. That's simply not a part of a consumer's world view, which is based on a childlike focus on one's own benefit. However, if I instead think of myself as a steward of the earth, my communities (faith and civic), my own body, and my family, then I have moved into a different point of view — one that assumes a long-term perspective and demands some kind of agency from me. I need to be an adult. Business conversations sometimes ask that you move to a higher altitude to identify larger themes and issues. A steward would do such a thing, primarily because a steward's calling is to manage the life she/he has been given on behalf of someone else, and for the sake of someone else. A steward is all about the vital business of the world, because the well-being of the world God loves depends on it."

Pastor Laaker





Grace 2024 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Barnaba Dyedi	Sarah Emery
Arlone Farber	Greg Hula	Janet Hula
Eva Martin	Andrea Spahr	Amanda Vazquez
Pastor Laaker		

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

Council Meeting Notes - March 12, 2024

Call to Order: Sarah Emery called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Gathering of Prayers: Prayer concerns were offered for individual and family concerns. Prayer for Pastor and Mary's upcoming trip to be safe and enjoyable. Thanks and hopes for spring rain forecasted this week. All who are enjoying current Easter/Spring breaks. Struggles and grieving folks in Gaza and Ukraine – that God may be present in their lives.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from

1) Proverbs 3:29 tells us to trust and not harm our neighbors, and 2) 1 Thessalonians 2:8 which tells us to be ourselves and share God's message with others.

Visions for Ministry: Council began reading a new book: *Leading Faithful Innovation* by Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder and Tessa Pinkstaff. Introduction included three vignettes to set the stage for future chapter discussions. We need to be honest in asking what we (GLC) are about. "Faithful innovation is the process of learning new ways to embody Christian identity and purpose in a changing cultural context" (pg4). We should be asking "God" questions which can be fun and exciting rather than "Church questions" which don't get us anywhere. The authors offered questions and descriptions for faithful, innovation and leadership. We should listen for the Spirit speaking to and working through us.

Minutes: The minutes of the regular February 14th meeting of the council were approved.

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

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

Mission Share: The monthly Mission Share contribution and San Andres contribution were both made in February.

Committee Reports

Christian Education: Pastor was asked to conduct a Baptism and Early Communion instructions in the near future.

Evangelism/Outreach: Thrivent funds are available for the Crossroads Connection dinner we will be hosting, Sunday, April 7th. Folks wanting to help with the meal met briefly after Sunday worship to discuss.

Finance: Safe Deposit Box signers have been identified: Pastor Laaker, Brenda Spahr and Juan Vazquez.

Endowment Board Report was presented. Fund allocations were ratified by motion.

Property: Greg Hula suggested that we plant another tree near the book box in the parking lot. More information to follow.

Service/Social Ministry: OTOC's annual fund raiser event will be held Sunday, April 28th. Tickets purchased early are \$30.00, \$35.00 at the door. Grace has agreed to provide a basket for the silent auction.

Support/Stewardship: No report.

Worship: Rev. Glenn Schacht will be our guest pastor in Pastor Laaker's absence for next two Sunday's (3/17 & 3/24) and he will be joining us for Wednesday mid-week dinner and conversation, March 20th.

Council agreed on having a potluck supper at St. Luke's prior to the Maundy Thursday worship service March 28th.

Augustana is having Good Friday service, March 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Easter service is at the regular time, 9:30 a.m. at St. Luke's this year.

Unfinished Business: Conversations with St. Luke's – nothing to report yet. One-on-one conversations are in progress. Synod Assembly – June 1 & 2.

New Business: Mary Thompson's family is planning to have a celebration of life service here at Grace on Saturday, May 11th. More information to follow.

Announcements: Andrea will provide closing prayer in April.

Adjournment: The council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Hula.

Continued...



St. Luke's 2024 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 - March 14, 2024

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

Devotions: Pastor Laaker led devotions from Daily Texts – Isaiah 30:19 and Matthew 15:28.

Guest/Public Comment:

1 None

Agenda: Agenda was adopted by motion.

Minutes of February 8, 2024, meeting: Minutes were adopted by motion.

Minutes of February 25, 2024, Special Council Meeting: Minutes were adopted by motion.

Book Study: The introduction of the Leading, Faithful, Innovation was discussed. Please read Chapter 1 for next month.

Unfinished Business:

- 1 Roof status – We continue to wait to hear from the roofer for a start date.
- 2 Conversations with Grace and St. Luke's continue.

Reports:

Pastor's Report – A written report was provided. Students from Concordia College in Minnesota stayed at church as they traveled to and from Arkansas to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity project. There has been continuing issues with graffiti and vandalism on church property.

Continued...

President's Report – A written report was provided.
Treasurer/Finance Report – A written report was provided. Two CDs were opened at First National with funds from the sale of lot.
Financial Secretary's Report – A written report was provided.
Memorial Fund Report – A written report was provided.
Building and Grounds Report – An oral report was given. New lights have been installed in one room of the educational unit. Other items of vandalism have been addressed.
Evangelism – John Kolb gave an oral report.
Fellowship – No report – Maundy Thursday will be a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m.; Service at 6:30 p.m. with communion.
Stewardship – No report.
Parish Education – No report.
Social Ministry – Cindy Fleming gave an oral report. "Love Your Newest Neighbor" is our new project. Household items (toothpaste, etc.) as well as blankets, comforters will be collected. OTOC will be "Celebrating Community" on Sunday, April 28 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Omaha Fire Fighters Hall. All are invited. Pastor has information regarding this.
Worship and Music – Dave Ruffner gave an oral report.

All reports were adopted by motion.

New Business:

- 1. April's council meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.
- 2. We are continuing to look for a representative for the Nebraska Synod in June. John Kolb has volunteered. A second congregational member is welcome to attend.

The meeting closed with prayer at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Tefft, Secretary

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.
:.....



Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.

1 Kings 8:28

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

Vicki Cox
June Hilmer
Samuel Mantzaris
Pam Reents
Rose Wynn



Terri Durham
Richard Krambeck
Carolyn Matson
Marilyn Van Ormer



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
Vicki Cox - Home
Richard Krambeck - Trinity Villiage, Papillion
Dee Nielsen - Peyton, CO
Rev. Terry Nielsen - Echo Hills
Jeri Swanson - Hillcrest Estates
Marilyn Van Ormer - Home
Doris Westman - Hillcrest Estates



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!

OTOC's Celebrating Community
Sunday April 28, 2024 4:00-7:30 pm
Firefighters Hall 60th & Grover



Silent Auction Registration and Event Ticket Sales Open
March 15
Go to <http://bidpal.net/otocaucaution2024>

If you participated in the OTOC Virtual or In Person Auction in 2021, 2022 or 2023 you may already be registered and may not need to register again. You will need your password to log in or you can reset your password.

You can purchase tickets for yourself and guests. You can also purchase tickets to be donated to someone that OTOC selects. Tickets are \$30 in advance - \$35 at the door.

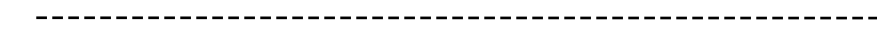
You will have to enter your credit card number to purchase tickets. If you registered in a previous year make sure your credit card information is up to date. The expiration date may have changed.

Please feel free to share this link with family or friends who may want to attend the event or bid on the silent auction.

Please contact Carol Beaty 402-332-8215 if you have trouble registering or purchasing tickets.

Bidding on auction items will open on Saturday April 20 and close at 6:30 on April 28, the night of the event. We are accepting items for the Silent Auction until April 10.

Contact Carol at cabeaty@cox.net or Colleen at cdmomaha@gmail.com if you have an auction item to donate.



A Training for Congregational Leaders!

Saturday, April 13, 2024 - 9:00 am - Noon
Online via Zoom
Registration, to learn more and to register go to the Nebraska Synod Website: nebraskasynod.org/event/lets-fill-your-toolbox/

This 3-hour session will include specific training for: Council Presidents, Council Treasurers, Council Secretaries, Committe Chairs and Office Administrators.

Plan to attend and INVITE your congregational leadership for a morning of fun and learning!



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

Thank you Jean, Miriam, Rod, Robin and Diane for sharing your music ministry with us and providing such beautiful music during worship services.

Thank you Deb and Vicki for taking care of the altar, and preparing communion.

Thank you Cindy, Janice, Connie, Deb, Frank, and Theresa for reading during worship services during the month of March. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Bob and Connie for making sure the grounds were picked up for the South Omaha Community Care Council.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Lenten Dinners.

Thank you Janet, Bob & Connie, Rose Marie, Eva, John and Ron & Donna for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly newsletter! Thank you Bob and Connie for delivering the newsletter to the Post Office.

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. Also for the wonderful "pop" of Spring decorations you put up around St. Luke's!

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!

Thank you Pastor Glenn Schacht for sharing your ministry with us during Pastor and Mary Laaker's vacation.

thank you



Grace's

Birthday:

1 – Sarah Emery
Eva Martin

8 – Elizabeth Koka

14 – Thomas Emery

16 – Daven Everitt

Anniversary:

17 - Joel & Nena Gammon 3

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, April 9, 2024
12:00 Noon



Join us at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, 2650 Farnam St.

Cost: \$3.00; Bring your own lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided.

Guest speaker is Jane Erdenberger with Omaha Public School Board of Education. Free will offering will be directed to Omaha Public School Foundation.

Call Mardelle Gocek at 402-292-1328 by Sunday, April 7, to reserve your seat.



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

BIBLE STUDY By the time you read this, we will be celebrating Easter, reminded that Christians are Alleluia people. I know that. This column is intended to be a Bible study. I get that, too. I had intended to write about an "attitude of gratitude".

I can't do it, though; I just can't. My days are haunted by photos of emaciated children. I wake at night wondering if the bombs are falling now. One nation is deliberately starving the children of another, shooting them at point blank range, dropping two-ton bombs on their homes until the houses are pounded into rubble. AND NO-ONE STOPS THEM!

How is this possible? American people go about their daily lives as if it doesn't matter? Why are we not screaming in the streets that something is very, very wrong?! After World War II, Americans could honestly say, "We didn't know what Hitler was doing".

Now, though, we DO know. We get constant news reports. You Tube posts videos from the West Bank and Gaza. There are new ones almost every day. The world is shocked and horrified. The U.N. tries to pass resolutions condemning Israel for war crimes, telling them to stop at once - and then the U.S. vetoes them!

Israel is accused by South Africa at the ICC of genocide and multiple war crimes. Every time a Jewish Israeli citizen moves into a settlement built on Palestinian land, Israel violates the Geneva conventions, set up after WWII to prevent horrors that happened then from ever occurring again. And Israel keeps building!

And those two-ton bombs that are orphaning thousands of kids in Gaza? Some of them are made by General Dynamics over in Lincoln. WHY DOES ISRAEL GET AWAY WITH THESE HORRORS? Guilt over the Holocaust? Maybe. Because OCT. 7th was brutal? Yes, but here's truth you haven't heard before: Hamas didn't behead babies or anyone else. That was a lie. Hamas did not burn autos or houses with people alive inside. Those were lies, too. But it was four months later by the time investigators debunked the lies, so people believe what they heard in October. This is vicious, deliberate evil.

So, as people of faith, how are we to respond to such news? By turning to God? Yes. With faith? Yes. But how... that remains to be seen.

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

St. Luke's



Birthdays:

- 3 – Justin Rhode
- 10 - Mike Pierce Sr.
- 14 - Ryan Tefft
- 19 - Karli Meisinger
- 20 - Edward Nodean
- 22 - Trevor Meisinger
- 23 - Cynthia Fleming
- 26 - Frank Durham
- 28 - Dolores Castro

Anniversaries:

- 4 - James & Connie Tefft 37
- 7 - Ed & Jane Nodean 52
- 10 - Frank & Terri Durham 25

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

As you celebrate your special day, 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 special day and for many years to come.

St. Luke's Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 9:30 am in the Educational Unit for fellowship and Bible Study. Karen Chapman will have devotions, we will celebrate with an Easter Brunch potluck. Everyone is welcome to come join in the learning, conversation and refreshments.



The women of the Mary Circle discussed "Quilt and Ministry Kits". In the past the women of Grace and St. Luke's made quilts and gave them as gifts to several organizations. We brought this up to see if there is an interest in once again making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you would be interested in gathering together, visiting with one another while creating quilts, coffee time and conversations, please contact Brenda or Nancy at the church offices.



While we look forward to the bright, warm days of summer camp, we'd like to invite you and your youth to come back to camp this spring! There truly is a retreat for everyone:

Mother & Tween Daughter Retreat, April 13-14, 2024. The programming for spring will match last fall's retreat.

Explore! Day Retreat, April 20, 2024. It's an awesome opportunity for those who aren't sure if an overnight at camp is right for them, as well as those who love camp and want to come back for the day. The programming is different from the fall Explore! Day.

New this spring, we are offering a Mom's Day retreat for those who have campers attending Explore! Day. There'll be fun, fellowship, and relaxation - an opportunity for busy moms to take a retreat while their campers have a great day too.

Saturday, April 6th



Fellowship, Silent Auction, Dinner, Awards & Live Auction.
A View West Shores, 110 South 243rd Street, Waterloo, Nebraska

Carol Joy Holling Camp promises that no camper will be turned away because of their inability to pay. Each year, we directly help nearly 300 campers who need financial assistance to attend.

The annual Heart of Camp Gala enables us to continue extending the invitation to more campers. Without the generosity of our friends, this would not be possible!

To buy tickets, make donations or learn more, visit CarolJoyHolling.org/gala

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.

**Clothing Pantry Hours
Tuesday and Thursday**

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. @ Project Hope
Clothing pantry is located in the **upper** level of
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.
6201 N 60th Street



Are you cleaning out closet space? Ready to donate a few clothing items? Consider donating to Project Hope, they continue to provide winter clothing and outer wear for those in need. Please check out their website at www.projecthopeomaha.org for suggested items in need. If you have any questions, please call Project Hope's office at 402-453-7649.

Volunteers are in need, if you have time to lend a helping hand between Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, please call Jennifer at 402-453-7649 to schedule volunteer time.

We are called to feed and clothe God's people in need. We believe nutritious food contributes to good health. We value people with love, hope, compassion and dignity.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

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 ~ Even Holidays!**

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

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.

There is a variety of volunteer opportunities for anyone interested.
Call the church office for additional information.

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.



Grace Lutheran and St. Luke's have 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 and some businesses will donate 5% to a charity of your choice ~ either St. Luke's or Grace.

Register your **Bakers Plus card** with Kroger and choose Grace or St. Luke's as your charitable choice!

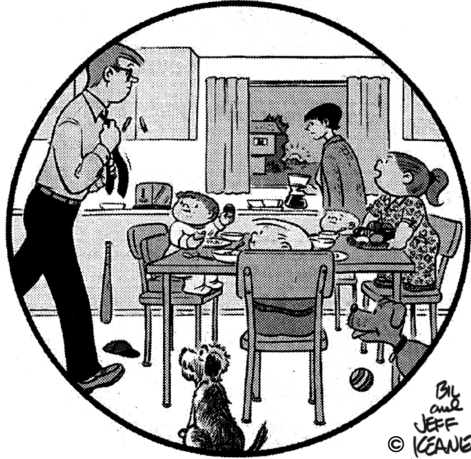
Ronald McDonald House: Save your pop tabs. They use the proceeds to pay the utilities. A box is provided in the back of the sanctuary for the tabs. Our most recent contribution of pop tabs brings our total to 129,000.

Eye Glasses. Do you have old eye glasses that you no longer use? A box is located in the back of the sanctuary to place them. They will be given to the Lion's Club to be used for individuals in need.



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.



"How do you want your egg done this Easter morning, Daddy? Purple? Green? Yellow? ..."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Bil & Jeff Keane
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God's kids say & do the funniest things

I was talking to my kids at dinner about what Easter is all about. My daughter Laney, age 4, said 'I know, Mom, that is when they went to the grave and Jesus was *alive* and then he rose up to heaven because, you know, that IS where he works.'

Lori Beck, Ramstein Village, Germany via Barbara Laney, Hickory, NC



Easter Morning

Oh, Lord,
What a beautiful Easter morning
You have given us.
The weatherman said rain but here it is,
This shiny bright blue day,
Fragrant with flowers and the scent of pines
Warm in the sun.
I hear the church bells in the distance
Pealing out their song of joy
And I sing out, too -
Praise the Lord!
Jesus Christ is risen today!

~ Marjorie Spalsbury,
from her book, *Gentle Hills*



- E**mpy Tomb
- A**ppearances
- S**keptics Converted
- T**ransformed Apostles
- E**xistence of the Church
- R**ite of Baptism

Easter Word Search



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

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|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ANGEL | FORGIVENESS | PALM |
| BIBLE | GLORY | PASSION |
| BLESSINGS | GOD | PRAYER |
| CELEBRATE | GOOD FRIDAY | RELIGIOUS |
| CHRIST | GOPEL | RESURRECTION |
| CHURCH | HEAVEN | RISEN |
| CROSS | HOLY | SACRIFICE |
| DECORATE | JESUS | SAVIOR |
| EASTER SUNDAY | LAMB | TRADITION |
| FAITH | MIRACLE | WORSHIP |

