

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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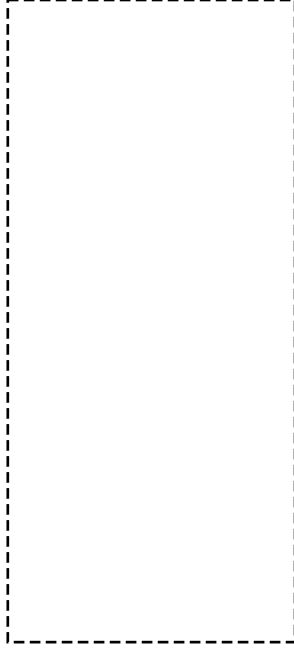
NOVEMBER SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 am. Worship Service
St. Luke's, 2815 I Street

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

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St. Luke's
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THE GRACE
MESSENGER

1889 - 2025



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

Grow, Love, Serve

Connect with us on the web: stlukesomaha.org
graceluth.com



Our Lenten theme for this year is “Broken and Beloved – Stories of God’s Steadfast Love.” This theme has been developed by Rev. Dr. Char Rachuy Cox for the Nourishing Vocation with Children

Project from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

The chosen scripture is Psalm 34:18. “The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.”

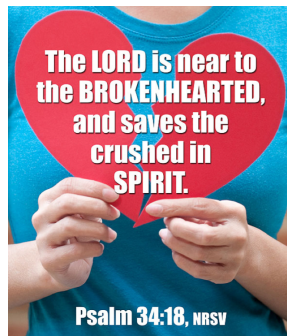
The theme in summary is as follows: Throughout our lives, we often face the reality that two seemingly different or opposite things can be true at the same time. The sun can be shining, and the temperature can be freezing. Times can be hard, and we can be filled with optimism. A project may never be finished, and it can be done. We may feel like we are both making a lot of progress, and we are standing still, or maybe even going backwards. Different realities, both true.

The same can be said for our very selves. We are never just one thing, and oftentimes, the very essence of who we are can seem like opposites. Martin Luther said that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Two different things, opposites, both true at the same time. Lent is an especially good time to reflect upon such things, to consider and wonder about what it means that within our very selves, we are more than one thing at any given time. This Lent, you are invited to reflect upon what this “simultaneous-ness” means for your life by dwelling in the theme “Broken and Beloved – Stories of God’s Steadfast Love.”

Under this theme, you will consider biblical characters who embody various experiences of brokenness and beloved-ness. You will wonder about how these characters speak to your own experiences. You will be invited to consider how brokenness and beloved-ness are a part of your own life experiences, and you will be reminded again and again that amid all the different things that can be true at the same time, one thing is a constant – the steadfast love of God.

I hope you will come and participate in this exploration of “Broken and Beloved.”

Pastor Laaker



Stewardship



The world’s poorest families need more than relief. **They need patient, longer-term support to overcome the challenges that trap them in poverty.** Here are two examples of families that churches have helped to break the cycle this year:

Nepal: Overcoming Generational Poverty

Nageswor Chaudhary tried many jobs to provide for his family, but he always came up short. Even though he is intelligent and hardworking, as a Dalit - a member of the lowest caste - his opportunities were limited.

Congregations like yours are helping the poorest families learn new farming skills to increase their incomes. For Nageswor, that meant building a greenhouse and learning to grow new, stronger crops. With LWR by his side, he has increased the size of his farm sixfold in three years. Now he can afford to feed his family and pay for his children’s education, with enough left over to save a little.

“Now I do not need to rely on others, or stretch out my hands to others for money,” says Nageswor.

Ukraine: Restoring Farms Destroyed By War

Since retiring, Valentina and Alexander Starikova have farmed their land for food and income. But when Russian troops attacked in February 2022, their village was among the first to be invaded. By the time the troops retreated several months later, the Starikovas’ farm was badly damaged.

The kindness of Lutheran congregations provided agriculture support to 5,500 families like the Starikovas’ this year, including training on how to assess fields for landmines. Farmers learned new techniques for increasing production and received small grants to restore operations. We also provided seeds to grow the ingredients for borscht - a nutritious staple meal in Ukraine that offers comfort and the strength to keep going.

“It is hard work,” Valentina says, “but working on the land is not only about obtaining food to eat, it is also for the soul.”

Thank you for 80 years! Lutheran World Relief was born in 1945 out of a call for Lutherans to love their neighbors in Europe recovering from World War II. With each generation, this ministry has grown, reaching farther and staying longer to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. Until your love reaches every neighbor.



St. Luke's 2025 Council Members

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

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Treasurer: Nancy Klusaw

Financial Secretary & Memorial/Special Gifts: Rose Marie Lad

Council Notes ~ February 13, 2025

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

Devotions: Pastor Laaker led devotions from Daily Texts – Jeremiah 6:16 and Hebrews 6:11-12.

Agenda: Agenda was adopted by motion.

Minutes of January 2025 meeting: Minutes were accepted by motion.

The minutes of February 2, 2025 Annual Meeting were received.

Unfinished Business:

1. Review of the Annual Meeting – The meeting was held and went well.

Reports:

Pastor's Report – A written report was provided. Several conversations have been held with Pastor Omar concerning the fear the community is living in. A member from Lutheran Family Services met with the Metro Urban Cluster to speak on the false statements that have been made about the services they provide. Pastor Laaker made a plea to all to make calls to our state's representatives regarding this situation. After presentation of materials, Steve Braun moved; John Kolb seconded, to change the building's insurance from 80% replacement cost to Actual Cash Value (which will save the church \$5,571 annually). Motion carried. Ash Wednesday is March 5 at Grace. A potluck will be held prior followed by service in the sanctuary.

President's Report – A written report was provided.

Treasurer/Finance Report – A written report was provided.

Financial Secretary's Report – A written report was provided.

Memorial Fund Report – A written report was provided.

Building and Grounds Report – Steve Braun gave an oral report.

- a. The flat roof over the walkway will now be repaired by McKinnis. Any further payments will be made when the final bill is received.
- b. The two windows that were broken by vandalism in the education wing have been fixed.

Motion to accept all reports as presented carried.

New Agenda Categories:

1. Grow: Early communion instruction will be led by Pastor Laaker.
2. Love:
3. Serve:

New Business:

1. It was agreed to offer space to the Christy Heights Quilting group if they wish to use our building.
2. Joint council – A combined council will be formed with members from each church. Four to five volunteers from each congregation will become part of the new leadership team.

The meeting closed with prayer at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Tefft, Secretary

Early First Communion Class

Pastor Laaker is planning for this class to be held for parents and children wishing to begin receiving communion. The first day of class will be March 23 after worship.



Please let Pastor know who would plan to attend.



Continued.....



Grace 2025 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 ~ February 11, 2025

The regular meeting of the Council was held on February 11, 2025. Council members shared their prayer concerns for individuals, the leaders in our government, our country, Barnabas' family, immigrants impacted by the current political situation, and Palestinians.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Leviticus 19:15 and James 2:1. The first tells us that equality should guide us, showing no partiality toward any one group. The second says we shall not claim the faith of Jesus while showing partiality.

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

Christian Education: Pastor plans to offer Early Communion instruction during Lent.

Evangelism/Outreach: Crossroads Connection - Amanda will talk to Vicki and ask about potential dates for a dinner.

Finance: Endowment distributions were ratified by motion. Pastor shared an update from Pastor Edgar and Prince of Peace Pentecostal.

Property: Colleen stopped in to prepare for Andrea's wedding and helped identify which stops are not working and need to be fixed on the organ.

Service/Social Ministry: A representative from Lutheran Family Services shared information at the Metro Urban Cluster meeting addressing the lies and falsehoods relating to the government contracts. There is no reason they should be portrayed in the way they were by people who are not stewards of the resources. 1 in 50 people in the US is served by Lutheran Services of America.

Continued...

This includes immigration, health care, counseling, Medicaid, housing, etc that are guaranteed by the resources that Congress allots. LIRS indicated there were 11,000 people in the refugee resettlement program who had been completely vetted and were awaiting their airline ticket to come to America. 1,600 had their ticket in hand at the airports to come when the President shut the program down. You are encouraged to Call your Congressional representatives about this and other matters that concern you.

Rep Don Bacon	Sen Deb Fischer	Sen Pete Ricketts
402-391-3411 (Omaha)	402-938-0300 (Omaha)	402-550-8040 (Omaha)
202-224-6551 (DC)	202-225-4155 (DC)	202-224-4224 (DC)

Worship: Lent Theme - Broken and Beloved, Stories of God's Steadfast Love.
Ash Wednesday potluck - March 5th at Grace, 5:30 meal, 6:30 service.

New Business: Service project idea – LFS see info in the newsletter
New Joint Leadership Team – up to 5 folks from Grace and 5 from St. Luke's.
Andrea, Sarah, Janet, and Brenda volunteered.

Announcements: Baby shower for Barnabas and Hanan Feb 22nd. They can use gifts of diapers, baby clothes, etc for their baby boy.

Adjournment
The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Our Lenten season begins this week with Ash Wednesday. We will have a potluck meal at 5:30 pm, Worship Service will be at 6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran.



Our Lenten theme will be "Broken and Beloved - Stories of God's Steadfast Love."

There will be a sign up sheet posted for volunteers to prepare a simple Lenten meal that will be served at 5:30 pm.





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:

Marcia Beck
June Hilmer
Samuel Mantzaris
Carolyn Matson
Pam Reents



Vicki Cox
Richard Krambeck
Eva Martin
Ed Nodean
Marilyn Van Ormer



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

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Charles Tuw, Moses Loda, John Boato, Barnaba Dyedi and Nenchi Ilka are the elders for the Sudanese Worshipping 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
Marilyn Van Ormer - Home
Doris Westman - Hillcrest Estates



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

Thank you Rod, Robin and Miriam for sharing your music ministry with us and providing beautiful music during worship services!

Thank you Arlone, Cindy, Mary and Vicki for reading during worship services in February. It is greatly appreciated.

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

Thank you Janet, Bob, Connie, Rose Marie, Eva, Ron, Donna, Andrea and Marissa, for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly combined 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!



BIBLE STUDY

Have you ever wondered what it was like for a biblical prophet to be called by God to speak the truth to the people of Israel and their leaders? I wondered this when I read "If I must die", a poem written for his five-year-old daughter, Shymaa, by a Palestinian poet, author, university professor, and, I think, prophet, Refaat Alareer. I wonder the same again as I read his book, If I Must Die, published a year after his death by Israeli rocket fire, published just a few months after Shymaa's death alongside her husband and baby.

We know a little bit about the experience and response of a few biblical prophets. Moses heard an angel and saw a burning bush. Ex. chapter 3. We know that Moses tried to dissuade God by saying that he couldn't speak well. Ex. 4:10-11 How did God answer him? Then there's Jonah, told to go preach in Nineveh, lead city of the Assyrian empire. He ran away. Jon 1:1-3

But the prophet we look at today is Nahum, called much later than Jonah, but also to preach about Nineveh. The book of Nahum is very short, even for a minor prophet, less than five pages in all. All we know about Nahum's experience is that he had a vision. Na 1:1 But, oh, did he preach a fiery oracle!

He prophesied the downfall of Nineveh, which occurred in 612 BC, using vivid imagery in most of chapter two and all of chapter three. First, he reassured Judah, Na 2:1-3, that the Assyrians would never again plunder and nearly destroy them. The people of Judah must have been delighted to hear that "... the Lord is restoring the vineyard of Jacob." Na 2:3 Assyria had been a vicious conqueror, and Judah's hatred for them is reflected in Nahum's tone. Na 3:1-3

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, still a crown prince, defeated Neco in the battle of Carchemish in 605 BC, and, just a year later, the Assyrian empire fell to Nabopolassar. The joy of Jerusalem, though, would be short-lived, for that city, too, would be taken by Babylon only a few years later, leading to a long and dolorous exile in Mesopotamia.

Sara welcomes comments and questions at: 402-686-1693.



Well-Being Box Campaign

Partnering with Lutheran Family Services, Grace and St. Luke's will be participating in the Well-Being Box campaign during March.

The Well-Being Box campaign will assist Lutheran Family Services clients who are in need with everyday items. Please join us as we collect items for the Household Cleaning Supply Kit. We are requesting new items and hope that you will understand. We want to give the program participants respect, dignity, and something they need.

Household Cleaning Supply Kit Needed Items

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Sponges | ◆ Trash bags |
| ◆ All-Purpose cleaning spray | ◆ Paper towels |
| ◆ Toilet Brush | ◆ Hand Soap |
| ◆ Toilet Bowl Cleaner | ◆ Cleaning Towels |
| ◆ Dish Soap | ◆ Mop & bucket |
| ◆ Laundry Detergent | ◆ Broom |
| ◆ Disinfectant wipes | |

Please bring your donation to Grace during the month of March. If you have any questions, please speak with Cindy or Janet.



Lutheran Women of Omaha
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
12:00 Noon

Join us at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 61st & Western
Cost: \$7.00

Program will be Omaha Fire Department - "Safety in the Home for Seniors."
Free will offering will be determined by March 11th.

Call Mardelle Gocek at 402-292-1328 by Sunday, March 9th, to reserve your seat.



St. Luke's



Birthdays

1 – Kevin Pavlik
5 - Sarah Noah
12 - Mary Laaker
19 - Jan Gabriel
30 - Sharon Jacobson
30 - Vicki Hall

Anniversaries

16 - Pastor & Mary Laaker 51
21 - Darrell & Janice Fulmer 60

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.



St. Luke's Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:30 am in the Educational Unit for fellowship and Bible Study. Karen Chapman will have devotions, Deb Ludwig the lesson and Rose Marie Lad will serve as hostess. Everyone is welcome to come join in the learning, conversation and refreshments.

Thrivent Choice Dollars can have tremendous impact on an organization.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Grace or St. Luke's Lutheran Church by directing your remaining 2024

Choice Dollars. You have until March 31, 2025 to direct those 2024 dollars. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



Grace's

Birthdays

12 - Mary Laaker
12 - Carolyn Matson
13 - Hannan Koka
14 - Suata Lewa
16 - Martina Koka
22 - Marsha Moyer
22 - Regina Lewa



Anniversaries

16 - Pastor & Mary Laaker 51

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

Celebrating Community!

OTOC's 16th Annual Spring Fundraiser

March 30, 2025 4 - 7 pm
Omaha Firefighters Hall
6005 Grover Street

Virtual Auction March 22-30

If you need a paper ticket,
please contact Vicki Cox at
402-333-5980



Scan here to buy tickets!



<https://one.bidpal.net/otocaucaution2025>

Tickets: \$30 (\$35 at the door)

If you plan to participate in our silent auction, you can also use this link to register your bidding account! Bidding for the auction will open on Saturday March 22 and close at 6:30pm on March 30, the night of the event.

If you participated in the OTOC Virtual or In Person Auction in 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024 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. To purchase tickets or bid in the auction you will have to enter your credit card information. If you registered in a previous year make sure your credit card information is up to date as the expiration date may have changed.

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



As quilters and kit makers, your hearts, passion for service and steadfast dedication abound in love, growing with each season. This year, the faithful work of your hands stretched far across oceans, comforting those in the midst of disaster and reminding our neighbors they are never forgotten. It surrounded the most difficult to reach, even if that meant those in our own backyards, and served as a healing balm for the broken. Thank You for sharing the abundance of your hearts - and God's almighty love - with others.

Most shipments of your quilts and kits start at the Port of Baltimore before making their way to neighbors across the globe. But following a horrific accident, the ships themselves became the final destinations - and the seafarers were the intended recipients. You love showed up as 150 quilts and Personal Care Kits for those trapped onboard seven cargo ships.

During Lutheran World Relief's fiscal year (October 2023 - September 2024) 370,818 Quilts; 140,117 School Kits; 127,621 Personal Care Kits; 45,690 Baby Care Kits; and 5,568 Fabric Kits have been shared throughout 16 Countries worldwide!

A poster has been posted on a bulletin board in the fellowship hall for your opportunity to see the global map and all the different countries that were touched by the gift of a quilt or any number of additional items mentioned above.

Healthy Meals - Healthy Hearts

1 in 7 households experience a lack of access to affordable, nutritious food.

14 million children live in food-insecure homes.

Diets rich in veggies reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Good nutrition can prevent diseases like heart disease, high blood pressure, and cancer.



Because of your generosity, 89 non-parishable food items and \$30.00 went to support the ministry of Loaves and Fishes Pantry.

Upcoming Events at Camp Carol Joy Holling:



March 7-8, 2025 Carol Joy Holling Camp is hosting yet another Middle School Lock-in this spring! Join in the fun of night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God. This lock-in provides the chance for youth attending Summer Camp, and/ or Confirmation Camp the opportunity to begin diving in to God's grace and growing in faith. Youth that are just wishing to spend time with friends, learn more about God, and have a fun time will also find a meaningful message at this lock-in and an experience they can take with them for the rest of their lives.

UFO Retreat, March 16-19, 2025: These retreats are for crafters of any kind. Bring your own projects and use this time away to get caught up or do new projects! It's a great time to meet new friends, learn new skills, and be inspired by others' creativity. Come stay in a beautiful place with high-comfort facilities and great food - you'll leave refreshed and ready to start other projects.

High School Lock-In, March 21-22, 2025: Come join in the fun of all-night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God. The Lock-In also serves as a preview to our 2025 Summer Camp theme. This event provides the chance for youth attending summer camp the opportunity to begin diving into God's grace and growing in faith. Youth that are just wishing to spend time with friends, learn more about God, and have a fun time will also find a meaningful message at this Lock-In and an experience they can take with them the rest of their lives.

March 25 and 26: Jay Novicki day camps are an opportunity for participants (21 and older) with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities to enjoy a taste of camp. Each half-day session includes worship, an inclusive activity, and lunch. Every month has a new theme, and campers are encouraged to return month after month!

All activities are designed to be inclusive of campers at all ability levels. Activities may include:

Adaptive archery, Creative arts, Carnival games, Fishing, and Outdoor education.

Staff and volunteers lead programming at a ratio of approximately 2:1. Campers' needs are a top priority.

To learn more about any and all of the events listed above or to register for any of the events, please visit NLom.org or call Laura Stalder at 402-944-2544.



Grace Lutheran and St. Luke's have some additional ways that you could contribute without spending any out of pocket funds.

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? Please give your old eye glasses to Janice Fulmer. They will be given to the Lion's Club to be used for individuals in need.



"988" The Nation's Mental Health Hotline

"988" has been activated as the new three-digit mental health program hotline. Anyone who needs help with their mental health, particularly people in crisis or those struggling with mental health issues, should call this number. Operators speak both English and Spanish and have access to interpreters with over 150 languages.

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

The current Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis, even after 988 is launched nationally.

Website: suicidepreventionlifeline.org and 988lifeline.org



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, paper grocery sacks and egg cartons!** 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.

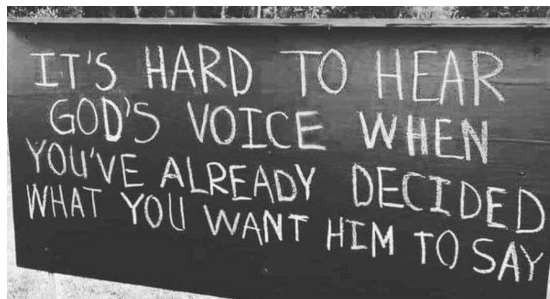
There is a variety of volunteer opportunities for anyone interested.
Call the church office for additional information.



Project Hope, Inc.
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. Clothing Pantry Hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

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.



Going to church one day, a man looking for a place to sit asked a lady, "Is the seat next to you saved?"

She replied, "No, but I'm praying for it."

ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH



PRAYER

SACRIFICE

FAITHFUL

LENT

ASHES

SPIRITUALITY

PALMS

REFLECTION

FORGIVENESS

REPENTANCE

FOREHEAD

PROMISE

CHURCH

OBLIGATION

FASTING

WEDNESDAY

WORSHIP

BAPTISM

Any time of spiritual discipline, such as Lent, calls the disciple to an intentional focus on that which is not pleasing to the Father, nor helpful to the body or soul, it is in order to recognize areas which may block communion with God. While the inspection often begins with the shortcomings of others, it ultimately becomes awareness that those shortcomings are within...

...But recognizing shortcomings is of no value unless there is resolve; it would be like opening up a wound without treating it. The delight of Lent is not the hard work of discipline, but the great reward of letting God provide for healing the very tools that you can offer to others.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons, who were fighting over who would get the first one.

The mother said, "Hey, if Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

One brother turned to the other and said, "You be Jesus."

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