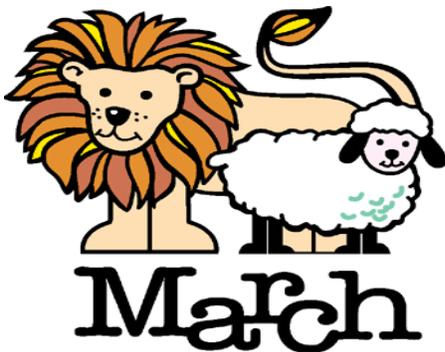


Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in care
and in service to all.

THE GRACE MESSENGER



March 2006

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

Return Service Requested

Phone: (402) 341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com

Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker

Editor/Church Secretary – Pam Reents

Sudanese Ministries - John Ivo Mounto

Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr

Organist - Cody Talarico

Sexton - Regina Ivo

Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE
Permit No. 39

2006 Council Members		
Frances Campsey	Andrew Edwards	Arlone Farber
David Hufford	Greg Hula	Ernest Olson
Barbara Nelson	Richard Settgest	Brenda Spahr
Pastor Laaker	Ivo Mounto	

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:		
Financial Secretary: Janet Hula	Treasurer: Margie Sutej	



The regular meeting of the Council was held February 14. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing – Richard Settgest, Norene Fitle, Frances Campsey, Cheryl Brown’s grandson, Paul Lang (Ivo’s cousin), Jack (Ernie’s friend), Ken Hufford, for our troops deployed, for lost family members, and for those who don’t have anyone to love them. Pastor led devotions from Jeremiah 21:14 and John 4:36 which spoke about punishment and our need to rejoice for the one who sows and the one who reaps.

Visions for Ministry: Pastor introduced the new study book, “Becoming a Blessed Church.”

Andrew Edwards was elected Vice President. Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Please continue to give generously.

Christian Education had no new report.

Evangelism/Outreach had no new report.

Finance reported on a letter received inviting us to consider the ways we might help Grace Lutheran Church, New Orleans rebuild.

Property reported that plans are underway to have the remaining tile floors rewaxed.

Service/Social Ministry had no new report.

Support/Stewardship received an invitation to name a Mission Interpreter.

Worship reported on the plans for Lent. The council approved the request from Myra Jimenez for use of the sanctuary for her wedding in June.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: A workshop entitled, “Abundantly Blessed” is being offered at Kountze, March 19, 2-7 pm. The Council Visioning Ministry for the future will be held, Sunday, April 2, Noon – 2 pm..



Young Adults Speak

Are you between the ages of 18 - 30? ELCA Church leaders know young adults are out there, they just don’t know how we fit into today’s church. Come voice your opinion, discuss with other young adults and form a statement to report to the Nebraska Synod.

Omaha’s Discussion will be at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue on Saturday, March 4th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, email lutherancrystal@yahoo.com

On the way home from Ft. Worth, TX, I was reading an article by Jeffrey D. Jones entitled, *Leading for the Future*. I was struck by the article and want to share in summary what he had to say.

Jones begins by saying that “In the past, pastoral leadership was all about playing various roles: preacher, teacher, counselor, administrator, social activist, and more. In the future those roles will no longer describe the effective pastor.” He says that pastors were and in some cases still are schooled in these roles. I think he is right in saying that we are still schooled in knowing how to fulfill these roles. This makes it scary if indeed these roles will not serve me well for the future.



He says, “Leading for the future isn’t a matter of roles or even the development of new roles. The diversity of ministry settings created by the change that is now taking place will make it impossible to define a set of roles that will ensure effective ministry for pastors. Even if it were possible, these roles would become outmoded and ineffective as rapidly as they were defined. In the future it won’t be about roles. What will matter most is qualities. Leadership effectiveness will be shaped not by playing the right roles but by embodying the right qualities.”

He then goes on to list and define the qualities:

1. Leaders for the future have the heart of a servant. To be a servant leader means to understand that our purpose is to live for others.
 2. Leaders for the future have the mind of an architect. They will be about creating functional beauty.
 3. Leaders for the future have the spirit of an ascetic. They will be able to go deeper into the self in order to know God more deeply.
 4. Leaders for the future have the arms of a hugger. There will be no escape from diversity, so leadership will need to evidence a warm inclusivity.
 5. Leaders for the future have the strength of a gymnast. This will need to be strength of spirit which will allow them to focus and perform near miraculous feats under great pressure in the midst of great distractions.
 6. Leaders for the future have the legs of a marathoner. The work that needs to be accomplished won’t be accomplished soon. Leaders must stay for the long haul.
- Leaders for the future have the soul of a poet. Poets help us create new realities through words and images.

I am challenged by Jones’ description of a leader. I am grateful that as he concludes his article he says that “The leader for the future isn’t a person. It is a team.”

We have much to do here as the people of God called to love and serve. I can’t do that alone. But together we can. Together we have the capacity to live for others. We have the capacity to create beauty. We have the courage to ask the deeper questions about what God wants to do here. Together we can extend our arms around all of God’s people and share a warm embrace. Together we have the strength of spirit which will allow us to perform near miraculous feats. Together we have the capacity to be in this work for the long haul. Together we can craft the images that will inspire us.

I invite you join me in this wondrous adventure.

Pastor Laaker



Lenten Dinner Schedule

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Worship Service at 7:15 p.m.

Sponsor

Free Will Offering for:

March 1 Ash Wednesday	Sunday School Department	Sunday School Supplies
March 8	Lutheran Men in Mission	LMM Projects
March 15	Ruth Dorcas Women's Circle	Circle Projects
March 22	Kids At Work	Supplies and Special Projects
March 29	OPEN	
April 5	Alice Friedlander, Louise Al-sager and Arlone Farber	Church Library for new books
April 13 Maundy Thursday	Bob and LaVonne Moss	LMM and W/ELCA Projects
April 13 Easter Breakfast	Loren and Marsha Moyer and Family	Habitat for Humanity

Lenten Worship Services to Feature Congregation Members

March 1st marks the first day of Lent and Ash Wednesday. The worship service will begin at 7:15 p.m. following Lenten dinner prepared and served by the Grace Sunday School. A traditional service with readings and communion is planned. Come for a time of reflection and repentance, remembering that our sins brought death but Christ, through His death and resurrection, paid the price of our sin and brought us eternal life.



This year's theme for Wednesday Lenten Worship will be "Faith Stories of the Congregation; How God Touches My Life." Beginning on Wednesday, March 8th, each week will feature a person involved in the life of Grace Lutheran Church will be sharing their story of how God works in their lives. The service will begin at 7:15 p.m. each week following the Lenten dinner.

As in past years, our service will include music and liturgy from the Holden Evening Prayer. People from the congregation are encouraged to contact David Hufford if they wish to be a part of the choir on Wednesday nights. Practices will be held after worship on Sundays.



**Next Grace Lutheran
Men in Mission Breakfast
Saturday,
March 18, 2006
8:00 a.m.**

The Women of the Grace Lutheran ELCA are collecting items for the Oaks Indian Mission as part of their participation in the Spring Gathering.

Tangibles List

Necessities

- ◆ Mouthwash
- ◆ Hairbrushes & Combs
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Dandruff Shampoo
- ◆ Shampoo & Conditioners
- ◆ Hair Spray, Mousse, Hair Gel
- ◆ Bath Soap (Liquid & Bar)
- ◆ Tennis Shoes (All sizes)
- ◆ Socks (All sizes)
- ◆ Undergarments (All sizes)
- ◆ Razors & Shaving Cream

Medical Supplies

- ◆ Tylenol & Motrin
- ◆ Antibiotic Ointment
- ◆ Lice Shampoo
- ◆ Alcohol/Peroxide
- ◆ Cough Medicine
- ◆ Band-aids

School Supplies

- ◆ 100 Count Brown Paper Bags
- ◆ 100 Count Paper Plates
- ◆ Wet Wipes
- ◆ Quart Size Storage Bags
- ◆ Scotch Tape
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ Glue Sticks

Please DO NOT leave the items on the Pantry Shelf.

If you have things to donate, contact Barb Nelson, Marilyn Van Ormer or LaVonne Moss.



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

W/ELCA Board Meeting

**March 6, 2006
1:00 p.m.**

Hostess
Barbara Narducci

W/ELCA Circle Meeting

**March 14, 2006
1:00 p.m.**

Bible Study Leader
Norma Olson

Hostess
Barbara Nelson

I read recipes the same way
I read science fiction.

I get to the end and think,
"Well, that's not going to happen!"

From *365 Day brighteners to Lift Your Spirits*

Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday Nights
6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper
7:15 p.m. Lenten Service

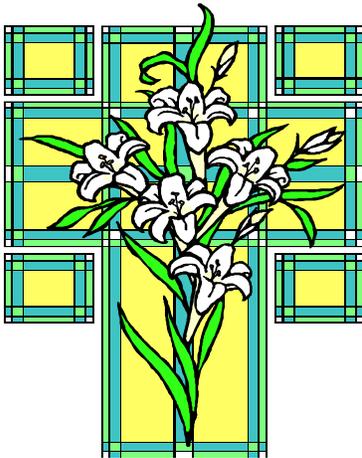
April 9
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service



Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 13
6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper
7:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday April 14
No Supper
7:15 p.m. Good Friday Service



April 16
6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast served by the Moyer family.
9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class.
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion.

Easter
He is Risen!

Prayer Concerns for Friends and Family



- ◆ Willie Aponick - for God's guidance in his life.
(Grandson of Frances Campsey)
- ◆ Janice Beno - for her health. (Sister of Frances Campsey)
- ◆ Jim Beno - Health concerns. (Francis Campsey)
- ◆ Dawn Fusselman - for child's health concerns.
(Granddaughter of Frances Campsey)
- ◆ Rachel Moss - for health concerns. (Bob and LaVonne Moss)
- ◆ Ryan Shomers - for on going health concerns for this child. (Ron and Donna Adrian)
- ◆ Rex Olson - for healing as he deals with cancer. (Don and Norma Olson)
- ◆ Jeanette Mendoza - Direction for her life. (Attender)
- ◆ Norene Fitle - Pray for strength, especially at the end of each week.
- ◆ Dean Bauer - Health Concerns. (Father of Jason & Kym Bauer)
- ◆ Richard Settgest - Strength as he undergoes chemo for lymphoma.
- ◆ Callie Meyers - Suffered a stroke. (Friend of Frances Campsey)
- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Rose Hamilton - Underwent surgery for cancer. (Aunt of Andrew and Christi Edwards)
- ◆ Thelma Harrahill - Health concerns. (member)
- ◆ Frances Campsey - Health concerns. (member)
- ◆ Linda Whitney - Struggling with on-going cancer. (Friend of LaVonne Moss)
- ◆ Pray for Brenda Spahr as she directs After School Program. Pray for the word to get out about the program and for the children to come to this safe, fun environment. Brenda is also organizing a youth group.

Sudanese Church Requests

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese Sunday School. Regina Ivo is leading the children and needs more volunteers. **Praise:** God has supplied some money to help fund the SKAMP Sunday School for the Sudanese children. Pray now that God would lead the leaders to the right curriculum.
- ◆ Pray for the newcomers who have recently arrived as they adjust to live in America.
- ◆ Pray for the ELCA Sudanese leaders across the country as they dialog and make plans to increase God's work.
- ◆ Pray for Pam Reents as she continues the hunt for Bibles and songbooks in the Nuer, Madi, and Dinka languages. Churches in the area and around the country are desperate for God's Word in their native language.

Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church
Bishop David deFreese, Nebraska Synod
Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

Pray for wisdom for your new Church Council and the NCD Team as they lead Grace Church in 2006.

“Without prayer no work is well begun.”

Lady Fanshawe, (1665) Wife of Sir Richard Fanshawe,
Bart, ambassador from Charles the Second to the courts of Portugal and Madrid

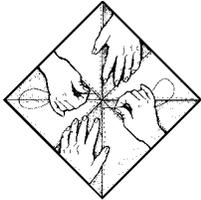
After School Program

Free!

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday

Games, Crafts, and Fun
Geared for Elementary Kids!

Brenda Spahr
Director of Youth and FUN!



Quilting on Mondays! at 9:00 a.m.

If you have the morning free, drop by and help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs. Coffee break is at 10:00 a.m.

Kids At Work 2006



Hello! Hello! Hello!

Can you hear me now?

Kids At Work is sponsoring the Lent Dinner for March 22.
Want to Help?

It's time to start thinking about Kids At Work!

Watch your mail, new contracts will be mailed out shortly!!!

Kids At Work is sponsoring the Lent Dinner for March 22nd and all the proceeds will go toward the program. I'm looking for some of the kids to help serve the dinner, if you are interested in helping please contact me at the church office at 341-7730.

That same old question will be asked again; who would like to volunteer to be a team leader for Kids At Work? If you are not quite sure if you could commit to the program, ask some prior leaders like Frances, Alice and Jim Costello. If you want further feedback, talk to some of the kids who have been apart of the program, like Julia, Samantha, Angela, Dillon or Tori.

Be the first volunteer for the summer of 2006, it's really a great experience for everyone involved!

Brenda Spahr
Director of Kids At Work

Happening in the Library!



Do you have some books on your shelves at home that you are finished with? The Library Board is collecting good used books for resale to benefit the church library. A box has been placed in the library for your donations.

The books do not have to be spiritual in nature, just in good condition with wholesome storylines. We welcome any kind of used book, including children's books, clean romance novels, mysteries, fiction and non-fiction. We will also accept children's videos, CD's, or cassettes. Some of your donations that are suitable may be added to our church library.

Each week during Lent, members of the Library Board will have new books out on a table in the upper fellowship hall. Stop by and browse through the books. The book table will be self-serve with a place to deposit your money should you decide to purchase any items.

All proceeds will go to buy more books for our church library. The used book sale will begin on March 1, Ash Wednesday. If you have books to donate, look for the box in the church library. If you have questions, contact Marsha Moyer, Library Board Chairwoman.

Calling All Our Faithful Readers!

Have you read a book in the library and want to continue reading more books in the series or by the same author? Contact Marsha Moyer, Barb Nelson or Brenda Spahr and let them know which ones you'd like to see on the shelves!



Do You Have an
Overdue Book at
home?

Could ya' bring it
back...pretty please?



2006 God's Creation Calendar

Only \$6.00!

Look for the Display in the Front Entry.

All proceeds go to the
Library for new books.





"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Project Hope

The Theme for March is Dried Beans or Rice.

These are things our clients can not purchase with their food stamps.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Diapers | Dish soap | Bar soap |
| Deodorant | Toothbrush and toothpaste | |
| Mouthwash (without alcohol) | Feminine hygiene products | |
| Hair products (combs, brushes, picks) | Shaving Cream | |
| Razors | Dry Laundry Soap | Bathroom tissue Kleenex |

Matching Funds available for Project Hope

For the ninth straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger agencies nationwide using it to help raise funds during March and April, 2006.



As you give whatever you can, your money will be doubled!

If you wish to participate in this project, use a pew envelope and mark it Project Hope/Feinstein and drop it off at the office or place it in the offering plate.



On Sunday, February 5th,
Super Bowl Sunday,
we collected \$117.01
for the Lutheran Pantry

 * If English made any sense, *
 * lackadaisical would have *
 * something to do with a *
 * shortage of flowers! *
 * Doug Larson *
 * *****

Needs for the Sudanese Room

We need:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Children's clothing - All sizes. | Wire hangers |
| Paper or plastic bags | Toys and children's books. |

We have some African newcomers. They are in desperate need of beds. If you can help, Call Pam in the church office, mornings at 341-7730.

Community News



Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

Next Meeting -
March 16, 2006 7:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church - 1326 S 26 St.
Topic - **Neighborhood Spring Clean Up
In April!**

**Membership dues are only
\$5.00 a year per household!**

CPNA
1326 S 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105

Call 341-7730 for more information.

Medicare D Drug Information and Enrollment

ENOA & VIE
4223 Center Street
Omaha, NE

Open to the Public

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 16
Tuesday, April 11
Thursday, April 20
Tuesday, May 2

Final Enrollment Day

Monday, May 15, 2006
Appointment Only
Call 444-6444

Bring your Medicare Card
and List of Medications

Contact Mary Laaker for more information.

Northwestern College Orchestra
On
"The Wild, Wild Midwest Tour"
Sunday March 5, 2006
3:00 p.m.
93rd and Dodge, Omaha, Nebraska
Freewill Offering to
Northwestern
College Orchestra appreciated

FREE 50th Anniversary Music Celebration

Morning Star Lutheran Church
331 S 85 Ave
February 26, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

Featuring Morning Star's Handbells, Praise
Band and Choir, Adult Choir, Youth Choir,
Children's Choirs and Organ.

You are invited to stay after the concert for a
Talent Show and Pancake Feed.



Alzheimer's disease and other related disorders cause progressive memory loss and the inability to perform activities of daily living.

Caregivers and family members of individuals with Alzheimer's are invited to attend a Caregiver's Education program on Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at St Joseph's Villa at 2305 South 10 Street, in Omaha, NE.

There is a \$25.00 family registration fee. For more information or register, call 402-502-4301.

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church



- Extra special thanks to Ken Hilmer for his faithfulness in shoveling the church sidewalks for the last few years. Ken is unable to continue in this capacity so we are looking for volunteers to take over for Ken. Contact the church office if you are willing to help.
- Thanks to LaVonne Moss and all the people who helped provide food for Myra Watson's memorial service.
- Thanks to Jerry Van Ormer, Bob Moss, Ken Hilmer and Jack Williams for moving the "stuff" in the basement so that the floors can be waxed.
- Thanks to Eva Martin for stuffing bulletins the last few Thursdays.
- Thanks to Cody for his "wonderful" additions to some of the worship songs for Sunday. (People are still talking:-)
- Thanks to the quilters for the beautiful quilts and lap robes they are making for World Relief and for local nursing homes. The workmanship and color selection are a joy to behold!
- Thanks to Sharon Irwin's Dinner Club for providing cookies for coffee time after worship on February 19th in loving memory of Myra Watson.

Dear Friends of Grace Lutheran,

Thank you so very much for the love and support you have given us during the passing of our mother. We truly appreciate your kindness through memorials, cards, personal messages and friendship. Your thoughtfulness and prayers have helped us during this difficult time.

The family of Myra Watson



Dear Friends and Family at Grace,

We are so blessed to have a great family and such wonderful friends! Thanks so much for celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary with us on January 29th after worship.

We appreciated all the lovely cards, gifts and well wishing we received as we celebrated our special day together.

We wish God's blessing on you all.

Richard and Gloria Moore

Thank You, Grace Lutheran Women,

Thank you very much for your generous gift of \$76.00 for the support of our stimulating Christian program seen weekly by thousands of children in the KM3 viewing area on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Friends of Jean's Storytime



Virginia McGill
Director

Gabriella Ortiz, Assistant
Douglas County Health Department
Se habla español .

Our Interfaith Health Service and Douglas County Health Department's Bi-Lingual Spanish Yoga Program was recently featured on KPTM, Fox 42 News, with Taylor Wilson. The segment was filmed at Cristo Rey Church, where our Yoga program is located. While yoga participants Janet Hula and Virginia McGill refused to go on camera, they were filmed rendering PERFECT renditions of Yoga's "Broken Toe Pose". Pastor Maria Liz Conner. (Pastor at Cristo Rey Church) and Thelma Paniagua (Lutheran Pantry South Manager at Cristo Rey), were also featured in the segment.

Our Interfaith Yoga Instructor, Theresa Murphy, was nominated by Interfaith for a KPTM "Heartland Hero" Award. Her amazing volunteer work for the past year in partnering with Interfaith and the Health Department to offer bi-lingual yoga classes was featured in the segment. Theresa has been an inspiration to all of her students and her award is well deserved.

Theresa is opening a second Yoga studio, so her work will be focused on getting the new studio up and running. She will check in on Interfaith from time to time, but due to her work load, she is handing the Yoga baton to one of our current students. Nicole Johnson, RN with the Visiting Nurse Association, has been training diligently with Theresa and will step in for Theresa as our new Instructor. We are excited to welcome her and blessed by her commitment to volunteering with Interfaith.

All are welcome to join Nicole and her class every Monday from 5:15 to 6:15 pm at Cristo Rey.



Get In Touch:

They keep telling us to get in touch with our bodies. Mine isn't all that communicative but I heard from it the other day after I said, "Body, how'd you like to go to the six o'clock class in vigorous toning?"

Clear as a bell my body said, "Listen witch... do it and die."

Food Facts:

- ◆ **The 3 most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser - in that order.**
- ◆ **Americans on the average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.**
- ◆ **Ten percent of the Russian government's income comes from vodka sales.**
- ◆ **Every time you lick a stamp, you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.**
- ◆ **A raisin dropped in a glass of champagne will repetitively float to the top and sink to the bottom.**
- ◆ **If injected intravenously, nutmeg is extremely poisonous.**
- ◆ **Pearls melt in vinegar.**
- ◆ **The machine that makes Hershey's Kisses looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt, thus the name.**

Save!

When to Call the Pastor or Church Office

Your church staff wants to serve you, and it is our goal to do this as effectively and efficiently as possible. Most important to us is being available to you in times of sickness or trouble.

Here is a partial list of occasions when you should call the pastor or the church office:

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY – this includes any life-threatening situation, serious injury or illness, especially when there is death in the family or whenever it appears that the death of a member is imminent, or any other urgent family crisis or personal trauma. In such a case, please call the pastor immediately day or night. Your pastor should be notified immediately when a member has died. But it is best if the pastor can be contacted before death occurs, when possible, so that he can minister to the dying person as well as to the family.

Whenever you or someone in your family enters the hospital, or faces impending surgery.

When you have suffered a loss in your life, such as the death of a loved one, an impending divorce, a miscarriage, unemployment or loss of a business, or lingering illness or injury.

Four to six months, or more, before a wedding is anticipated, and right away if a wedding is to be cancelled.

When a baby is born or adopted, and when a baptism needs to be scheduled.

When Holy Communion is desired by someone homebound or unable to attend Sunday worship.

When you are troubled in conscience, struggling with a problem, or facing a major decision.

When you are facing a court date in a significant trial or lawsuit.

When you have questions about Christian faith and life, the Bible or theology.

When you are aware that a member is becoming inactive or needs help.

When an unchurched neighbor moves into the community.

When you are upset with the pastor or about something in the congregation.

When something wonderful has happened to you!

When you have extra tickets to a Huskers game you don't know what to do with.

Your staff would also appreciate being notified, as soon as possible:

When you are going to change your residence or mailing address, or phone numbers at home or at work.

When there is a change in your marital status or the custody arrangement for your children.

Except for emergencies, most of these items can be dealt with during our regular office hours, 8:30 to 12:00 Monday through Friday, when the church secretary is available to direct your call. Pastor's usual day off is Friday.

How to Contact Pastor

The first number to call is 341-7730, and there is also a recording that can take your message if you so desire. You can usually reach Pastor at the office Monday through Thursdays for regular business. He is also available for evening appointments on request. Pastor checks the church email at graceluth@graceluth.com, or for more confidential messages, send to pastor@graceluth.com.

When it is necessary, Pastor's home number is 342-2610 and you can leave messages on that phone also. If Pastor is away from his home or office, please call his cell phone at 672-0241.

Will Pastor Visit Me?

If you would like Pastor to visit you at home or work, please call him and set a definite time. Pastor makes frequent visits to hospitals and hospice situations when he is informed of a person being there. Such situations, like emergencies, do not require invitations; we only need to be informed. Pastor does quarterly visits to commune our homebound members; but if someone in that situation also wants Pastor to make a visit, please call and set a specific time. And you do not have to be sick, homebound, or in any trouble to receive a visit, but a direct invitation is appropriate and appreciated.

From the Editor

Two Bad Boys

I have an enemy. My enemy makes my life difficult. It sometimes paralyzes me so that I can't function. Most of the time, I am not expecting my enemy to attack when it does. He creeps up on me and assaults me by whispering in my ear. My enemy has a name. Shame.

Shame has a best friend. Fear. Fear usually comes along for the assault. Shame tells me that I am not good enough...that if I would try harder, I would be more successful. Fear chimes in and shouts that even if I tried harder, I would still not be good enough at the task a head of me. These two enemies double team me from both sides.

"Try harder."

"Not good enough."

"You're going to fail."

"Inadequate"

On and on, these two buddies try to dissuade me from my tasks. Lately, they have been working overtime to try to make me miserable and have been succeeding. I have been listening to these two more than I have been hearing God. This morning, as I was reading my Bible, sadly for the first time in a while, I came to Psalm 71. The very first verse caught my eye.

"In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame."

Refuge. The word jumped off the page. What a beautiful word. The dictionary says that the word refuge means "a sheltered or protected state safe from something threatening, harmful, or unpleasant." That's what I need. A safe place away from these two evil friends. I continued reading Psalm 71.

"From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you."

Yes, I have known the Lord for a long time! I realized I had allowed these two enemies to cause me to "forget" who is my rock (verse 2) and who has given the command and is waiting to save me. (verse 3)

*"Be not far from me, O God; come quickly, O my God, to help me. May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace. But as for me, **I will always have hope**; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long, though I know not its measure." (Verses 12-15)*

This morning, I decided to get a different friend. Hope! The expectation of something good coming from the Lord. Shame and Fear will still try their best to stop me but with God's help, Hope's voice will win!

"Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up. You will increase my honor and comfort me once again." (Verses 20 & 21)

Even if life isn't going very smoothly and I'm feeling low, here is a promise that God will be my comfort. I just have to call on Him to shove Shame and Fear out the door.

Who's bothering you today? Shame? Fear? Anxiety? Loneliness? There are lots of those caustic enemies trying to side track you from God's plan for you. Read Psalm 71. Ask God to act. Share your victory with someone! Smile as your enemies lose their hold on you and find themselves OUT!

Pam Reents, Editor

The logo for ELCA Disaster Response. It features the letters 'ELCA' in a vertical column on the left, 'Disaster' in a large, outlined font in the middle, and 'Response' in a bold, solid font at the bottom. A horizontal line is positioned above 'Disaster'. To the right of the text is a circular icon containing a cross and other symbols.

Urgent News Regarding Hurricane Disaster Efforts Through the ELCA

The shelters are in the midst of closing, some on very short notice to the clients. When no accommodations can be found, the people are put out onto the streets to find their own shelter! The weather has changed dramatically from warmth to cold nights and mornings. This shift in weather requires warm clothing and inside shelter from the elements. It is these same people who will remain unsheltered because there are no shelters, no apartments to rent, their extended families are consumed with their own survival and community services are limited. FEMA trailers continue to be slow in coming and in the meantime, this community is confronted with a homeless catastrophe that could easily escalate into rage and violence. These homeless individuals are struggling on a day-to-day basis with the reality of basic survival--food, shelter and necessities of living.

The church is called to respond. Judy Bultman, director of the Lutheran Episcopal Disaster Response at Bethel Lutheran Church in Biloxi, MS writes:

“Yesterday I cried out in my prayers, "God, I just can't do this!" That prayer was immediately followed by God's voice softly saying to me, "Judy, you must do this!"and I cried. I just feel so helpless and hopeless in this situation”

“Let me explain: Since Katrina, people have been living in whatever was left of their houses since the storm. Some of these homes are off their foundation, but the owners have continued to live in them because they have nowhere else to go. At least they had a roof over their heads and some semblance of walls around them. Some homes are entirely gone except for their porches and people have set up tents on their porches. Some don't even have porches and have found tents and are living in them.”

“A friend of mine told me that she felt lucky and guilty at the same time because their bedroom is still standing; she, her husband and daughter have been living in that one room since the storm. But, she has a sister whose house was directly across the street and was demolished. Her sister has been pleading for her and her family to stay in that one room. There are probably thousands of families like this living in "what is left", simply because there is nowhere to rent, buy, or move...especially for the poor. Not only do they not have a home, their automobiles have been destroyed and they have no way to get anywhere to get relief.”

“We have taken our ministry to these victims into the streets where the people are living. Slowly people began coming, and before we knew it our truck was surrounded by shoeless adults and children shivering in the cold, reaching up, begging for our quilts and meager food supplies. We emptied the truck in a matter of moments and then began to take orders for much needed items like shoes, jackets, more quilts, and always detergent, detergent, detergent!”

“Everywhere we went that day, we found that people were being put out of what was left of their homes. We had heard in the news that the Red Cross Shelters were shutting down on the following Monday. These people have nowhere to go, no place to live. We cannot get enough quilts, tents, blankets, Coleman stoves and lanterns, basic camping gear but, actually survival items for these victims....”

Your help is urgently needed. Your prayers and gifts in support are urgently needed to enable disaster response efforts. You may give through Grace Lutheran Church by designating “Katrina Recovery Fund” on your World Hunger Envelope or by using a pew envelope. One hundred percent of your gift will be used as you designate. Thank you!

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Project Hope ended feeding an average of about 480 families a month, 5,786 families for the year. This was another record for us! We also helped an average of 250 families a month with free clothing that had been donated to us. In addition to giving out clothing, we try to give out disposable diapers, donated quilts (both adult and baby) bathroom tissue and other personal care items when available.

May God continue to bless each of our ministries.

Thank you for the items you donated to the pantry.

Mary Ann Johnson,
Executive Director of Project Hope.

Broccoli Salad

Janet Hula

(Mother, Jo Costello's recipe, served at Myra Watson's memorial luncheon & requested by many!)

4 -5 cups	Raw Broccoli florets cut in small pieces
1 cup	Dry roasted peanuts or substitute 1/2 package of sunflower seed kernels
1 cup	raisins
1 small	Red onion, sliced
6 - 8 slices	Bacon, fried crisp and cut into pieces (substitute Bacon Bits)

Dressing

1 cup	light salad dressing (i.e. Miracle Whip)
1 Tablespoon	Sugar or Sugar Substitute
1 Tablespoon	Vinegar

Mix together and add to Broccoli mixture. Let sit for a few hours or overnight.



Peace Event

Seeking Peace Within...with the Earth...with the Divine

Thursday, March 2, 2006 8:00 p.m.

St Cecilia's Cathedral 701 N 40th Street, Omaha, NE
FREE ADMISSION

Consirare - Host Choir

Kevin Vogt, Organist - St Cecilia's Cathedral
Iowa City West High School Chamber Choir
Minnesota Boychoir
Dakota Chamber Chorale

Special Appearances by US Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser, Grammy and Dove Award Gospel Winner, Cynthia Clawson, Roosevelt Credit, Stuart Hinds, Cameron Powers and Christina Sophia

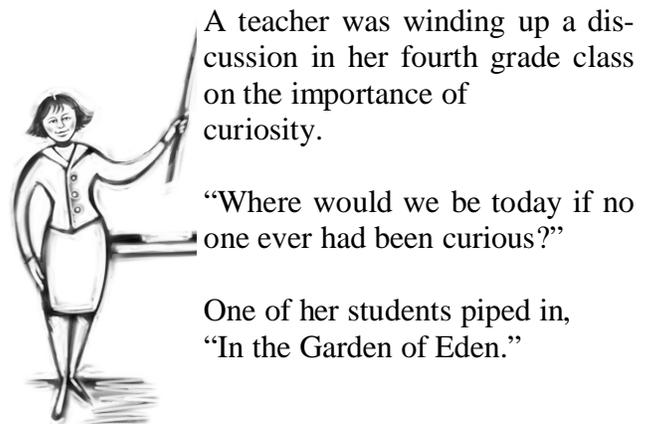


March is

Foot Health Month
 Humorists Are Artist Month
 National Furniture Refinishing Month
 National Frozen Food Month
 National Noodle Month

Special Days at Grace Lutheran Church

March 1 - Ash Wednesday - Dinner and Lent Worship.
 March 6 - Grace W/ELCA Board Meeting.
 March 8 - Dinner and Lent Worship.
 March 14 - Church Council Meeting.
 March 15 - Dinner and Lent Worship.
 March 18 - Grace LMM Prayer Breakfast.
 March 21 - Ruth Dorcas Circle Meeting.
 March 22 - Dinner and Lent Worship.
 March 29 - Dinner and Lent Worship.



Stupid Crook



I noticed my husband standing on the bathroom scale, pulling in his ample stomach.

Thinking he was trying to weigh less with this maneuver, I quipped, "I don't think that is going to help much, hon."

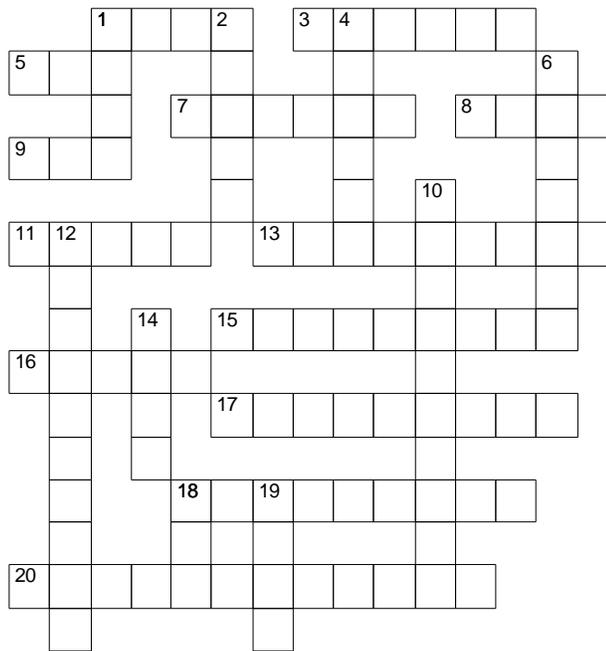
"Sure it does," he said. "How else can I see the numbers?"

Police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message "He's lying" was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect wasn't telling the truth. Believing the "lie detector" was working, the suspect confessed.

Mark Chapter 8, Puzzle 1

Across

1. as well
3. collect
5. a small number of
7. savior
8. sea worthy vessel
9. path
11. once more
13. disregarded
15. apostles
16. started
17. argued with and tried to test Jesus
18. what the people were after eating
20. number of people fed



Down

1. gone
2. additional
4. respond
6. seven of these full of food were left
10. Jesus felt this for the people
12. age group
14. time period
18. put
19. obtained

WORD LIST

again	baskets	compassion	forgotten	other	took
also	began	days	four thousand	Pharisees	way
answer	boat	disciples	gather	satisfied	
away	Christ	few	generation	set	

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What do you get if you cross a four-leaf clover with poison oak?

A rash of good luck.

What do you get when you cross a pillowcase with a stone?

A Sham Rock.

Why did St. Patrick drive all the snakes out of Ireland?

He couldn't afford plane fare.

Why should you never iron a 4-leaf clover?

You don't want to press your luck.

What do you call an Irishman who keeps bouncing off walls?

Rick O'Shea.

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

Because they're always a little short.

Irish Laugh

Mrs. Dugan and Mrs. Riley were talking one day about Mr. Riley and his constant drinking. Mrs. Dugan said, "I have an idea about how to stop him from spending so much time at the pub. Every night he comes home through the cemetery. One night you should get disguised and spook him when he comes staggering through."

So Mrs. Riley waited in the cemetery one night until she heard her husband coming. She jumped up and a startled Riley said, "Who are you??"

Mrs. Riley replied, "I am the devil!"

With that, Riley shook her hand and said, "Glad to meet ya, I'm married to your sister."