

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

THE GRACE MESSENGER



October 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 - Ambros Lado

Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

Faith in Action - Julie Chytil

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U.S. Postage
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Omaha NE
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2006 Council Members

Frances Campsey	Andrew Edwards	Arlone Farber
David Hufford	Greg Hula	Ernest Olson
Barbara Nelson	Marsha Moyer	Brenda Spahr
Pastor Laaker	Ivo Mouto	

Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej

The regular meeting of the Council was held September 12. The Council members shared their prayer concerns which included care concerns for Darlene Spahr, Desirae Martin, Donna (Marsha’s sister-in-law), Doug Farber, Hope Rodriquez, Harlan Morter, Scott Adrian, Thelma Harrahill, Frances Campsey, Seth Bostrom, Cheryl’s grandson, protection of our military personnel, a desire for a lasting peace in the Middle East, thankfulness for the rain, hope for those rebuilding in the Gulf Coast and that our efforts to help Grace, New Orleans, would receive an outpouring of goodness. Pastor led devotions from Psalm 138:8 which spoke of God’s steadfast love and Revelation 11:15 which spoke of Christi’s kingdom.

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued its study of “Becoming a Blessed Church.” Chapter six described the qualities of becoming a Blessed Leader.

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

Christian Education reported on the plans for Confirmation on Sunday, September 24. Nine youth attended the overnight. David Hufford will lead an adult class on “Being Lutheran,” first and third Tuesdays of the month, 7-8 pm beginning October 3.

Evangelism/Outreach reported the After school program would begin September 18.

Finance reported that \$600 had been donated towards Grace, New Orleans. This will be matched with \$500 from our Thrivent matching funds. The Library Committee is offering 2007 Calendars on a pre-sale basis.

Property reported that bids are being sought for work on the tower roof.

Service/Social Ministry reported that the Halloween Party will be Friday, October 27, 7 pm.

Support/Stewardship reported that Lutheran Planned Giving Services will be presenting workshop following worship on Sunday, October 15. A potluck will be held after worship that morning so that we can stay and be engaged with the presentation.

Worship had no new report.

Unfinished Business: NCD efforts need to be jumpstarted.

New Business: Pastor Laaker requested the opportunity to take a two month sabbatical in early 2007.

Announcements: The council will meet with the councils from St. Luke's and Cristo Rey, Thursday, September 21.

From Pastor Laaker



The Council and I continue to read through the book, “Becoming a Blessed Church.” At our recent council meeting, we read chapter 6, Becoming a Blessed Leader. The author makes the point that “the key ingredient in becoming a blessed church is leadership.” I am amazed at the number of books, magazines, conferences, etc, that focus on leadership. Now I would agree with the author that most clergy received little practical leadership training in seminary. I guess I am just stunned that clergy have not acted on that lack of training by availing themselves to good conferences over the years to fill that void. I would suspect that for many lay persons the only leadership training that they have had has been on the job. This can be excellent training but often times it runs counter to some of our Christian values.

One of the pieces that are necessary for good Christian leadership is spiritual growth. Yet, I wonder, have we as followers of Jesus sought to deepen our prayer life, grow in our understanding of Bible, practiced spiritual disciplines? I would not be uncommon for you to respond, “Huh?!” Henry and Richard Blackaby, in their book, *Spiritual Leadership*, have what I think is good definition: “Spiritual leadership is moving people on to God’s agenda.” How well are we doing in that regard?

The author quotes the Blackabys: “The ultimate goal of spiritual leadership is not to achieve numerical results alone, or to do things with perfection, or even to grow for the sake of growth. It is to take their people from where they are to where God wants them to be. God’s primary concern for all people is not results, but relationships.”

We have been asking the question about relationships through our NCD efforts on loving relationships. How are you doing? Are we intentionally listening to others’ stories seeking to deepen our spiritual understandings of their journey in faith? Have we sat down and visited with someone we don’t know so well? Have we asked those persons we know well, what is it that draws you into this church family?

The author makes the case that spiritual leaders have the following characteristics:

1. Faith-filled
2. Hopeful
3. Loving
4. Discerning
5. Prayerful
6. Humble
7. A Servant

We shared wonderful stories from our lives. We challenged each other to think of concrete things we could do to form leadership within Grace Church.

We would invite you to consider, what particular steps can this church and your leadership take to encourage faith, hope, love, discernment, prayer, humility, and servanthood among its leaders?

I welcome your thoughtful response.

Pastor Laaker



Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Here are some ideas to get you started!

1. Ask him if you can go along on those Hospital and Shut-in visits.
2. Discover your Spiritual Gifts, and actually DO something with them in your church.
3. When you see him, tell him about the new insights you have as a result of meditating on last Sunday's sermon.
4. Meditate on last Sunday's sermon.
5. Grow up.
6. Anonymously (if possible) leave his favorite candy bar on his desk or in his mail slot. (Pastor Laaker loves chocolate and nuts!)
7. Invite him to go fishing, golfing, or some other shared interest -- without an agenda. (He loves baseball and NE Football)
8. Call him on the phone and ask what his prayer needs are.
9. Actually pray for his needs after he tells you what they are.
10. If he's married, call his wife and do #8 and #9
11. If he's not married, quit trying to "fix him up" with someone.
12. Mow his lawn -- anonymously -- while he's away from home.
13. Ask him how you can help him.
14. Actually help him after he answers #13.
15. Quit complaining.
16. Compliment him when he does things right.
17. Say "Amen!" (at the appropriate times) while he's preaching. Saying "Amen" to a preacher is like saying "sic 'em" to a dog.
18. Hug him and tell him you love him.
19. If he's married, send his wife flowers and a thank you note -- she plays an important support role. Also see #11
20. Now that you've read this list, actually do some of it -- now.

From www.case-studies.com/articles/pastor_appreciation2.htm



Joint Thanksgiving Service

On November 22nd, Grace Lutheran Church will be participating in combined Thanksgiving worship at 7:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church located at 25th and E Streets. Several South Omaha churches will come together on Thanksgiving Eve to pray, sing and lift up their corporate thanks to God for the manifold blessings showered upon us all. Refreshments will follow the bilingual service.

Come Celebrate!



**Next Grace Lutheran
Men in Mission Breakfast
Saturday,
October 21, 2006.**

W/ELCA Board Meeting

Monday October 2, 2006

1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Marilyn Van Ormer

Circle Meeting

October 17, 2006

Bible Study - Gertrude Hufford

Hostess - LaVonne Moss



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Quilting on Mondays!
at 9:00 a.m. for Lutheran World Relief.**

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.

You Don't Know What You're Missing!



Lutheran Women of Omaha Luncheon

October 10, 2006

12 Noon \$5.00 per person

Lord of Love Church

10405 Fort Street

Program: The Ronald McDonald House

Project: The Ronald McDonald House - Monetary

Reservations by Sunday, October 8th to
Lorraine Palma (455-4342) or Mardelle Gocek (292-1328)



Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends



- ◆ Thelma Harrahill - Recovery from on going illness in the Hillcrest nursing home. (member)
- ◆ Francine Wise - ongoing health issues. (Pastor 's office person at Lutheran Metro Ministries)
- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Rex Olson - for healing as he deals with cancer. (Don and Norma Olson)
- ◆ Rose Hamilton - Healing for her cancer. (Aunt of members, Andrew and Christi Edwards)
- ◆ Frances Campsey - Health concerns. (member)
- ◆ Linda Whitney - Struggling with on-going cancer. (Friend of LaVonne Moss)
- ◆ Dan Reents - In Remission, Pray for continued healing. (Brother-in-law Pam Reents)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - Ongoing therapy after his stroke. (member)
- ◆ Alice Friedlander - Healing for a back injury. (member)
- ◆ Darlene Spahr - Back surgery and healing. (member, Brenda Spahr's mother-in-law.)
- ◆ David Hufford - Recovery from surgery for blood clot in his shoulder. (member)
- ◆ Scott Adrian - Recovery from surgery to repair a hole in his heart. (member)
- ◆ Evelyn Reimer - Recovery after her lower leg had to be amputated. (member)
- ◆ Harlan Morter - Recovering at home after being hospitalized. (member)
- ◆ Betty Coniglio - Recovery at home after being hospitalized. (member)

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 Church Council and the NCD Team as they lead Grace Church.

Pray for the members of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Orleans as they recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. **Praise God** - \$600.00 was raised for the Grace from Grace Project making the contributions from Grace, Omaha, total \$2,100.00 (\$1,000.00 from Endowment, \$500.00 matching from Thrivent for Lutherans and the \$600.00 raised at our dinner.)

Thanks to God

- 50 Teen Bibles and 50 Children Bibles in English as well as 20 Dinka Bibles have been purchased and delivered to the Sudanese Church for distribution. 100 Nuer Bibles are on the way from Africa and are scheduled to be here in early December. Pray that they will arrive for Christmas!
- Grace Lutheran Church Survival English as a Second Language Class has been recognized by the Service Learning Consortium, a state organization consisting of 23 higher learning institutions, a the community Partner for 2005-2006. Thanks to God for enabling the volunteers to work together with the Sudanese community, women specifically, to enhance their transition into American culture.

Sudanese Church Requests

- ◆ Ivo Mouto - still trying to get home to Africa to see his mother who is aging and ill. (Ivo is the lay Pastor for the Sudanese Church worshipping at Grace)
- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese Women as they try to form an Christian Women's Association. They are now in the process of developing a mission statement.
- ◆ For a church in Mabaan - 3 weeks ago, the thatched roof pavilion-type building collapsed as the village people were worshipping, injuring several and killing a small boy. The church is trying to figure out a way to rebuild. They have contacted Ivo Mouto for prayers and any financial support that might be available.

News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church



Congratulations, Confirmands!

Congratulations to Jeni McPeck and Samantha Trejo for completing the requirements for Confirmation.

Jeni is the granddaughter of Jim Costello, daughter of Jackie McPeck Costello and John McPeck.

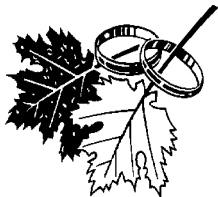
Samantha is the granddaughter of Urbano and Lori Vasquez.

Jeni and Samantha's confirmation ceremony was September 24, 2006 during morning worship. Everyone attending worship was invited to celebrate with the girls and their families at a cake reception after morning service.

Community Partner Commendation for Grace Lutheran Church

On Friday, September 22nd in Lincoln, NE, Grace Lutheran Church received the Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education *Community Partner Commendation in Service-Learning Award* for the work being done among Sudanese women and children in tutoring and teaching ESL. Grace Lutheran Church was selected to receive the award from candidates throughout the Midwest by a consortium of 23 colleges and universities.

The award comes as a result of our partnership with the Service-Learning Department of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. UNO has provided Grace Church with many wonderful students who have used this opportunity to learn about the Sudanese culture.



Congratulations to Juan and Amanda Laaker Vazquez upon their upcoming wedding on September 30, 2006 at Grace Lutheran Church

May God bless your marriage with love, friendship, patience and peace.



Halloween Party
October 27, 2006
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

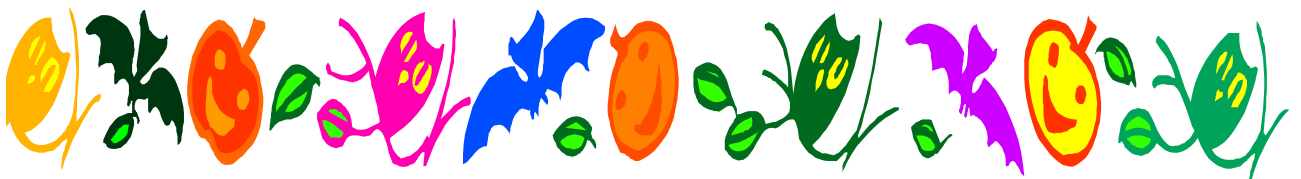
Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 St.
Omaha, NE
341-7730

Admission is \$2.00 per person.
Includes refreshments and 10 game tickets

Ring Toss
Mummy Wrap
Bingo
Cake Walk

Use your tickets to play
games.
Additional game tickets are
10 cents each
Win Prizes.

Best Costume Contest
Prizes awarded in several age categories



PARTY NEEDS FOR HALLOWEEN

Plans are underway for this year's Halloween Party.

Naturally, your help is needed. Please look over the list below and help where you can.

Donated items should be placed in the Halloween Donation Box in the upper fellowship hall.

Items needed for the Halloween Party . . .

Costume Contest Prizes

Four prizes are needed in each of the categories below. So, a total of 20 prizes are needed (approx. value \$40.00 - \$80.00). Prizes should cost around \$2.00 to \$5.00 each, and be something that can be used for Halloween, or have a Halloween theme.

Suggestions:

Flashlights, creepy toys like spiders, ghouls, etc., pumpkin carving kits, decorations, pumpkins.

	Boys	Girls
Preschool	1 st & 2 nd place	1 st & 2 nd place
K – 2 nd Grades	1 st & 2 nd place	1 st & 2 nd place
3 rd – 6 th Grades	1 st & 2 nd place	1 st & 2 nd place
7 th – 12 th Grades	1 st & 2 nd place	1 st & 2 nd place
Adults	1 st & 2 nd place	1 st & 2 nd place

Game Prizes

Approximate TOTAL Cost is in parentheses for those who would rather donate money. Feel free to donate any amount!

Hundreds of trinkets (penny-nickel-dime stuff) for carnival games (approx. value \$50.00)

Dum-dum suckers for the "Lollipop Tree"

Bottles of pop (2 liter or smaller) for "Ring Toss"

Cakes for the "Cake Walk"

White Elephants or desirable give-always for "Bingo"

Miscellaneous

Toilet Paper for the "Mummy Wrap"

Cellophane treat bags for popcorn and candy

Cash. A donation container will be placed in the back of the church each Sunday beginning Oct. 1st.

The next party planning meeting will be held at the church, Wednesday, October 18th, 7:00 pm.

Please contact Janet Hula
with questions, 733-1142.

Refreshments

3 large bags of Vic's Popcorn (approx. value \$10.00 per bag)

8 gallons of Punch or Apple Cider (approx. value \$20.00)

20+ bags of wrapped Halloween candies for "Candy Dash" and treat bags (approx. value \$60.00)

Cookies!! Homemade or store bought, they all seem to get eaten.

Volunteers

Most importantly, your **time** is needed in planning and participating the night of the party.

Last year, we had nearly 150 folks in attendance. As you can imagine, lots of volunteers are needed to ensure that the party runs smoothly and will be fun for all (approx. value – *priceless!*). A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. All are welcome!



Grace Church
Summer Reading Club
"Walked" Many Miles
27,441 miles! (pages)

(That's all the way around the
Equator - 24,900 miles - with over
3,400 miles to spare!)

Congratulations to our readers! The names marked in bold were the winners in their age group!
Destinations listed are based on round trip mileage. Each person read enough pages to reach the listed destination and come home again.

The Read to Me Crowd "walked" to

Emily Bauer - Des Moines, IA
Hayden Bauer - Sioux City, IA
Alicia Adrian - Fremont, NE

Grades 1-3 "walked" to

Andrea Spar - Billings, MT
Angelina Adrian - Sleepy Eye, MN
Marissa Halfhill - Wichita, KS
Bianca Fredrickson - Brownville, NE

Grades 4-6 "walked" to

Alexandra Everitt - Minneapolis, MN
Donavan Halfhill - Oklahoma City, OK

Grades 7-12 "walked" to

Julia Traynor - Winston Salem, NC
Samantha Trejo - Hutchinson, KS
Angela Everitt - Winnebago, NE
Nick Fredrickson - Waubonsie State Park
North of Hamburg, IA

Adults "walked" to

Barb Nelson - Seattle, WA
Eva Martin - Portland OR
Lori Vasquez - Orlando, FL
Grace Traynor - Columbia, SC
Gertrude Hufford - Laramie, WY
Pam Reents - North Platte, NE
Brenda Spahr - Columbus, NE
Marsha Moyer - Lincoln, NE
Janet Hula, Lincoln, NE

The Sweet Treat Social and Library Award Celebration was held on September 17th after church. Everyone in the categories listed were awarded certificates and a treat bag with goodies for hiking. The winners in each category received extra prizes. All the children and adults who read the minimum number of pages required received free ice cream.

WELL DONE, EVERYONE!

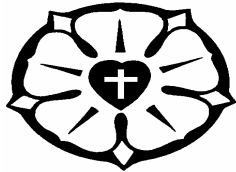
Keep Reading and your "adventures" will continue!

New Bible Study Group Every Other Tuesday Night

Beginning

October 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
In the Upper Fellowship Hall

“On Being Lutheran”



Discussions will be led by David Hufford and are for any one wanting to find out what a Lutheran is, wanting a refresher course, or those who just like hanging around Lutheran Churches to find out what's going on.

The Bible Study Group will use the book by Timothy Lull, *On Being Lutheran: Reflections on Church, Theology, and Faith*, 2006, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis.



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

Games, Crafts, and Fun
Geared for Elementary Kids!

Free!

Director, Brenda Spahr

A Safe Haven & A Safe Place to Play!

**Note: If there is no OPS school,
there is no After School Program.**

Back by Popular Demand!

Buy Your 2006 God's Creation Calendar Today!

Fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran Church Library

Each calendar contains beautiful scenic photography enhanced with inspiring Scriptures from the Holy Bible.

Some features of our popular 12-month, 28 page calendar include:

- 12"x9" pages
- high-quality, heavy-weight stock
- gloss-coated photo pages
- matte-finished calendar grid pages
- a superb writing surface
- ample space to write appointments
- a special page for important phone numbers
- 2005 - 2007 year-at-a-glance calendars



Only \$5.00!

A sign up sheet has been posted to take your order!

Expect delivery by the first part of November.



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Pantry Needs

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

Project Hope
The Theme for October is
Canned Fruit, Fresh squash & Pumpkins.

Project Hope always needs boxes of zip lock bags in quart or gallon size, soup, peanut butter, macaroni, pasta, rice, diapers, bathroom tissue and feminine hygiene items.

We Need Empty Ice Cream Buckets!

Project Hope puts baby items in them when they fill pantry orders.



Annual Church Women United Nut & Candy Sale
Benefit for Uta Halle Girls Home

Just in time for Holiday Baking...or snacking!•

Place your order by October 16 for delivery in early November.
Payment for your order will be due upon delivery.

A sign up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board.
Contact LaVonne Moss at 556-4131 for more information.

Nebraska Lutheran World Relief Ingathering November 6, 2006

What to donate:

- ◆ Quilts and blankets
- ◆ Light and medium weight clothing for men and children.
- ◆ Sweaters of all kinds for men, women and children.
- ◆ Pieces of woven or synthetic blend fabric large enough to make a dress.
- ◆ Soap in ORIGINAL wrapper.



Please make sure all items donated are clean and in good shape. Bring your donations to the church and put them by the pantry shelves.

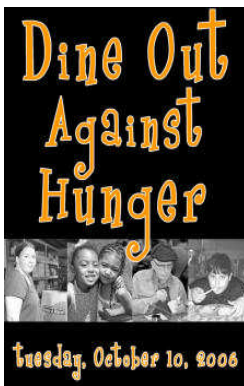
We are asking that all donations be at the church by 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 6th so that the boxes can be packed, labeled and taken out to Brown Transfer. If you wish to volunteer to help get the items ready for shipment, contact Marilyn and Jerry Van Ormer through the church office at 341-7730.

24th Annual Omaha Crop Walk

Sunday, October 8, 2006 Beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Starting from First Christian Church
6630 Dodge Street Omaha, NE

Sponsor a Walker! Several people from Grace Church including our Confirmation Kids are waling this year. Their pledge forms are located in the sanctuary on the back table. 25% of the money raised will go to the pantry system here in Omaha! The rest goes out to feed the world!



Dine Out!
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Participating Restaurants will donate
10%
to the Omaha Food Bank

RESTARANTS INCLUDE:

- Ampe's Cafe (Carter Lake IA) ● Arena Sports Bar & Grill ● Barrett's Barley Corn ● Belcastro's ●
- Bistro 121 ● Blake's Soda Fountain ● Blue Sushi Sake Grill ● Bohemian Cafe ● Brazen Head Irish
- Pub ● Brewsky's ● California Pizza Kitchen ● CappuGino's ● Charlie's On The Lake ● Charlie's
- Philly Grill ● Cici's Pizza (all three locations) ● Come On Into My Kitchen ● Crescent Moon Ale
- House ● Culver's (all three locations) ● Das Rheinland German Restaurant ● Deli at Spirit World ●
- Dinker's Bar & Grill ● Dundee Dell ● Ethnic Sandwich Shop ● Fernando's (both locations) ● Gaeta's
- Restaurant ● Goldberg's II Dundee ● Hector's (both locations) ● Hiro Sushi ● Islamorada Fish
- Company ● JC's Chicago Style Deli ● Johnny's Cafe ● Julio's ● Julio's Old Market ● La Casa
- Pizzeria ● Lansky's (both locations) ● Le Peep Restaurant (both locations) ● LeVoltaire ● Little King
- (eleven locations) ● Lo Sole Mio ● Lum's Restaurant ● Mama's Pizza ● Matt's Grill & Catering ●
- McFoster's Natural Kind Cafe ● Mimi's Cafe ● New York Burrito (both locations) ● Nick and Tony's
- Chop House ● Nicola's Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar ● Noodle Zoo ● Oscar's Pizza and Sports Grill
- Ozark Smoked Meat ● Pasta Amore e Fantasia ● Pepperjax Grill (five locations) ● Petrow's
- Restaurant ● Pizza Gourmet ● Pizza Shoppe & Pub ● Planet Sub ● Red Zone BBQ ● Roja
- Mexican Grill ● Roman Coin Pizza (both locations) ● Samuel Mancino's Italian Eatery ● San Diego
- Taco ● Sgt. Peffer's Italian Cafe - Millard ● Sgt. Peffer's Italian - Saddle Creek ● Sheridan's Frozen
- Custard ● Shuck's Fish House ● Spaghetti Works (both locations) ● T-Bones Grillhouse ● Tanner's
- Bar & Grill ● Taste ● Taxi's Grille and Bar ● Valentino's, West ● Valentino's, Northwest ●
- Valentino's, Galleria ● Zio's Pizzeria (all three locations) ●

Omahafoodbank.org has an updated list of participating restaurants



"A house is made of
walls and beams.

A home is made of
hopes and dreams."

Unknown

Save the Date!

Come Dedicate the Newest Home Full of Hopes and Dreams.

Sunday, October 22, 2006 2:00 p.m.

Dedication of the
Neighbors South Coalition
Habitat for Humanity House

Rosenda Medina-Howell Home

3024 W Street



You're Invited

Come celebrate the completion of more than 200 homes!

What: A Multi-Faith Music Festival - *Many Faiths, One Mission*

When: Sunday, October 15, 2006 (6:00 p.m.)

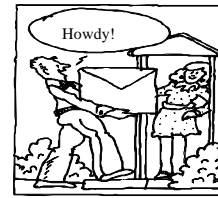
Where: All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo Street

You're invited to attend this free Multi-Faith Music Festival - directed by **Hal France**, the former Artistic Director for Opera Omaha. Whatever your role in helping make families dreams come true, *Come Celebrate!*

If you have questions, please call Tracie McPherson, Habitat for Humanity's Faith Relations Director, 457-5657, ext. 105 or tmcpherson@habitatomaha.org.

Performers include: Sacred Heart Choir, South Omaha Arts Institute-Luna y Sol Mariachi, Salem "Voices of Victory", Hindu Temple Dance, Temple Israel, All Saints Episcopal, Blue Barn Music Festival, El Museo Latino's "Chomari" Ballet Folklorico Mexicano, The Bahi'a Faith, St. Paul United Methodist Church, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Choir and other local artists.

Community News



Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

October 19, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
1326 S 26 St.



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

CPNA
1326 S 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105

Call 341-7730 for more information.



ElderAccessLine is a Service of Legal Aid of Nebraska

Call 827-5656 Free Legal Advice for Seniors Living in NE.

The ElderAccessLine serves people over 60 throughout the State of Nebraska. Topics include but aren't limited to homestead exemption, spousal impoverishment rules under Medicaid, Medicare, consumer and debt collection practices, divorce, and grandparent rights.

People can call the ElderAccessLine for free legal advice, resources, and brief services. The attorney will be available by phone to talk with callers, and can provide some simple legal documents such as Powers of Attorney, simple wills, and Advanced Directives.

The ElderAccessLine is open for callers:

Monday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Tuesday 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Thursday 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am to 12: pm

You Missed it! But there's still a way to find out more!

On September 18th, Grace Lutheran Church hosted a seminar on **Advanced Directives and Living Wills**. Copies of the documents you will need to have in place are available through the church office along with the handout sheets. If you would like to review the materials, contact Pam in the office for more information!

College of St Mary 2006 Speaker Series on Service and Justice

*What the Waters Revealed:
Katrina's Lessons for Omaha
Poverty and Race: Amplifying Inequalities*

Wednesday, October 4, 2006
Gross Conference Center
Admission is Free.

College of St. Mary
7000 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE

For more information call 399-2632.

A Time for Celebration
Pella Lutheran Church
120th Anniversary

Vennelyst Park
9100 N 30 Street
Omaha, NE

Come celebrate with us at the park for the church service and/or picnic. The meat, drink and tableware will be provided. Please bring a side dish

Church Service with Holy Communion

At 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Mark Seem, Minister

Old Fashioned Picnic

At 11:45 a.m.

Sack Races
Balloon Toss
Horseshoes
Relay Races

There will be lots of
food, fun and fellowship

A map and Directions to Vennelyst Park is posted on the bulletin board.



Dakota Road

Live in Concert!!

Sunday, Oct. 15th @ 7:00pm

**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
93rd and Dodge St.
Omaha, NE**

Free Admission!

A freewill offering will be taken.

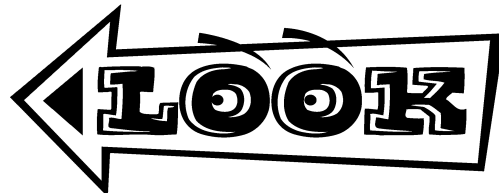
Dakota Road has become known nationally for their stirring original music and playful performance style. They craft powerful stories of life and faith woven in colorful music styles ranging from acoustic ballads to rocking anthems. Their songs of struggle and hope connect with people of all ages and walks of life. Admission is free but a freewill offering will be taken.

Don't Miss this opportunity to see

Dakota Road in Concert on
October 15th at 7:00 p.m.
St Timothy's Lutheran Church
510 North 93rd Street Omaha, NE

Did you know?

Grace Church gets newsletters from many of the ELCA Church in the metro and from several other non profit organizations.



These Newsletters are available to read on the table in the UFH by the comfy chairs in the corner. It's a great way to find out how our sister churches are doing around the city!



Hymn Festival

**50th Anniversary
Hymn Festival
2 PM Sunday,
October 1, 2006**

St Mark Lutheran Church
1821 N. 90th Street
Omaha, NE 68114
402-391-6148

Admission - FREE

A variety of hymns and songs
with various readings.
3 vocal choirs
Handbells

Brass
Percussion
Worship Band
Organ

Younkers Community Day Saturday, November 11, 2006

Buy a \$5.00 Booklet and get a \$10.00 Coupon!
Your \$5.00 will go to the Lutheran Pantry.

Each booklet contains a \$10 coupon good on almost any merchandise item priced at \$10 or more (customers spend \$5 for the booklet and get \$10 back on their first purchase!), plus eight 20% off coupons and offers for three great bonus items, available on Community Day only. All coupons are valid on top of our already low One Day Sale prices.

Contact the Church office or Pastor Laaker
for Coupon Booklets!



Day

November 11, 2006
at Younkers

It's a great day to shop!

Attend our Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar.

Your Will may be out of date if:

- it was written before the 1997 tax law changes.
- you have acquired more property.
- your children no longer live at home.
- you have increased your assets.
- your church or other charity is not in your present will.
- your spouse has died.
- you have received an inheritance.



**Lutheran
Planned
Giving
Services**

There may be other changes in your life that may justify revising your will or writing a will if you do not have one.

Plan to attend the Wills, Estates, and Gift Planning seminar being held at our church on:

Date: October 15, 2006

Time: Noon

Location: Upper Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran Church
(Potluck and or meal followed by the seminar.)

Stress Free Christmas Gift Giving

Having trouble deciding what to get that loved one who has “everything” they need?

How about donating to Global Health Ministries in the name of your recipient?



Perhaps this year, you and those special people on your gift list could “Help bring peace, healing and hope” to people around the world with a gift to Global Health Ministries.

Christmas Card Packets are available on the back table in the Sanctuary.

The gift card packet includes:

- A folded card (8” x 5.15” in color) with an envelope to mail to the person you are honoring.
- A donation form with options for gift allocation and envelope to mail to GHM.

Your Christmas donation helps cover the cost of:

- Facilities for patient care
- Mosquito netting to protect a family from malaria
- Monthly subsidy for a remote clinic
- Drilling a village well
- Training cost for nurses, technicians and other health care personnel
- Combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and supporting those already affected
- Sending a sea container of donated medical supplies

First Lutheran Church

Annual Fall Festival of Colors

31st and Jackson
October 21-22, 2006

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Crafts, Bake Sale, Silent Auction
4:00 p.m. Pork/Sauerkraut Dinner
Adults: \$8.00 Children 5-12: \$4.00
Reservations by October 15th.

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Silent Auction, Crafts and Bake Sale
11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Chuck Wagon Lunch, Horseback and Donkey Rides, Face Painting and more.
Proceeds to support Lutheran Service Corp, Inter-City After School Program, Seminary Training - Russia, Medical Needs-Tanzania and the ELCA Disaster Fund.



Call 345-7506 for Tickets or more information.



**FAITH
IN ACTION**

"A neighbor's independence depends on you"

The *Faith in Action* program is looking for volunteers to help fill the needs of the following requests our office has received:

- A gentleman has requested help with light housework, friendly visiting and simple meal preparation once a week.
- A young woman who is visually impaired has requested assistance from someone to help her read her mail once a week.

If you are interested in "putting your *Faith in Action*" to help with either one of these two individuals, please let me know.

Thanks,

-Julie Chytil

Faith in Action: 660-2652 or call your church office for more information

faithinaction2005@hotmail.com

"Love thy neighbor as thyself"

Bread in a Jar

2/3 C shortening
2 2/3 C sugar
4 eggs
2 C canned pumpkin
2/3 C water
3 1/3 C Flour
2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp ground cloves
1 1/2 tsp salt
2/3 C chopped nuts

Grease insides of 8 one-pint wide-mouth canning jars well. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Cream shortening and sugar together. Beat in eggs, pumpkin, and water. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, spices and salt. Add to pumpkin mixture. Stir in nuts. Pour into prepared jars. Bake for 45 minutes.

When done, remove jars one at a time. Wipe sealing edge and screw lid and ring on tightly. **The heat will vacuum seal the jar and the bread will keep for up to one year.**

Substitute one for the following for pumpkin: 2 C shredded apples or carrots, 1/3 C applesauce plus 1/4 C crushed pineapple, 1 C whole cranberry sauce, 2 C mashed bananas, 2 C shredded zucchini, 2 C mashed peaches



Change

From the Editor

About two months ago, I decided I needed a place to retreat to. I was longing for a quiet place where I could put my thoughts together without the daily noise of the city intruding. I thought of going to a retreat center for an overnight visit but since I am not comfortable in strange places, I dismissed the thought. Around the same time, my friend, Joyce, and her family came for a visit from Canada. Joyce lives in a place where there were spectacular places to hike and breathtaking views. She has used her time in the wilderness to strengthen her relationship with God. I found myself wishing for just such an opportunity. As I asked God where He wanted to meet me, an idea popped into my head. The Lauritzen Gardens. I gathered my Promise Bible, a journal, and my CD Walkman into a small back pack and headed to the gardens to look for a special place to meet the Lord. I have gone often. I have not been disappointed.

As the late afternoon autumn breeze brought in the smell of fall, I listened to the bugs making their “whizzer, whizzer, whizzer” sound. That sound always reminds me of endings. The end of the day. The end of the summer season. I became aware of the smell of the grass and the heavy headed plants bobbing in the wind, the cool crisp air with the hint of winter lurking in the hazy autumn breeze as nature began preparing for the change of the season.

As I pondered change, I thought about how autumn represents changes for me as well. Fall represents a time of beginning for me. I was born in the early fall. I married the love of my life in autumn. New tasks begin. Harvest time, school, preparations for the yearly tasks in the life of the church...change. I tried not to feel overwhelmed by the things that need to be accomplished by the end of the year. I reached for my Promise Bible. This passage caught my eye. Haggai 2:4-9. I wrote in my own paraphrase.

“ Yet now be strong, O child of mine, says the Lord, O Pamela Jean, daughter of Willard and Lois, my faithful servants, and be strong all you people of the land and work; for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts. According to the word pact (covenant) that I made with you when you came out of your slavery (your abuse, your addictions, the darkness that binds you) so my spirit remains among you. DO NOT FEAR. For this I say. Soon...in just a little bit, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. I will shake all the nations and the desire of all nations will come (Jesus!) and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. It’s all mine! The silver, the gold everything you think you own. When I come, the old will become new and there will be peace!” Change.

I spent some time considering the words God had shown me. Be strong. You are not supposed to feel in control. That’s my place. You will feel at peace if I’m in charge. You have had good up-bringing by faithful servants of mine. You know the truth. I promised you abundant life. God has delivered me from so much already. Even though there are still struggles with old horrible circumstances that try to invade my daily living, I have a covenant with God. Everything is covered! His Son has already paid the price for my sin, my wrong choices, my shortcomings. He has already given me a peace that passes understanding. I just have to dial it in and claim it! That’s how I prepare for change.

Today, I will take comfort in knowing that my heavenly Father is in charge. I don’t have to be frightened when I hear of the bad state the world is in. I can set aside the fear of feeling overwhelmed, alone and out of control about the things I must accomplish before I sleep again. I will turn over all of my circumstances to His care and direction. I will open my heart and my ears to listen for His covenant word to me. His Spirit remains with me and brings PEACE!

Pam Reents, editor

Stuck on Jesus

Some things deeply confuse me. Some times they are haunting.

This past spring, one of our Call Committees released a pastoral candidate announcing: "He was too stuck on Jesus."

Of all the reasons to not continue pursuing the possibility of a particular pastoral leader, being "too stuck on Jesus" seems, at worst blasphemous, and at best, silly.

Are any of us "too stuck on Jesus?" Could such a characteristic even be possible? The actual reality of such a concern explodes the question: "What does it mean to be the church?"

Have we lost the flaming center of our existence? Have we wandered so far astray that the cornerstone is no longer recognized? Do we know who we are as the people of God if Jesus is not the central focus of our very life together? What God has done on our behalf through Jesus our Christ grants identity, purpose and hope for the Church. The Body of Christ lives through its connection with its very Head. Dare we not be "too stuck on Jesus."

OR...is it possible that what frightened this Call Committee was the passion for Christ this candidate articulated? Is it possible we all have grown so dulled to the honest excitement Jesus' love should stir, that when it is expressed, we feel uncomfortable? Have we so intellectualized God's action of salvation, that our hearts and emotions no longer sore? Is God's grace amazing? Is the thrill real?

OR...are we allowing an old, tired heresy to get a foothold in our efforts to respond as Christ's Church? Every pastor has probably heard someone express the damaging misconception: "Well, you know the church is really just a business." NO! Absolutely not. In what way did Jesus teach or model with his followers a business paradigm? Where in the Bible is there any bottom-line other than the Kingdom of God? How does "Thy will be done on earth as in heaven" give a business learning?

AND...can we confront that heresy by exposing the deficient reasoning inherent, even beyond spiritual terms. Jim Collins, the author of the leadership classic Good to Great that so many corporate executives quote like the Bible, states: "We must reject the idea – well intended, but dead wrong – that the primary path to greatness in the social sectors is to become 'more like a business.' Most businesses – like most anything else in life – fall somewhere between mediocre and good...many widely structured business norms turn out to correlate with mediocrity." (Good to Great and the Social Sectors, Jim Collins, p. 1) God calls us to be so much more! God's economy is not the world's economy. The Church is not a business...never has been, never should be!

RATHER...the Church, the Body of Christ, is a living organism made up of flawed human beings who are "stuck on Jesus"...or should be! We are a faith community striving to allow God's loving mercy to be lived out in the lives of a hurting, needy generation. The church is the acting agency responding to grace, trying to reflect the light of Jesus Christ in this dark world!

I pray we all grow more "stuck on Jesus"...that our lives will exhibit the wonder and power of what our God has done, is doing, and will do. Can we say with the disciples on that road to Emmaus: "*Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked...*" Luke 24:32

Be the Church? Help others get "stuck on Jesus."

Bishop David deFreese



Adopt-A-Dog Month
Computer Learning Month
National Apple Jack Month
National Car Care Month
National Clock Month
National Cosmetology Month
National Dessert Month
National Pickled Pepper Month
National Popcorn Poppin' Month
National Pretzel Month
National Sarcastics Month
National Seafood Month
National Kitchen and Bath Month
Vegetarian Awareness Month

Special Days in October at Grace Church

October

- 3 - *On Being Lutheran* Bible Study begins.
- 8 - Crop Walk.
- 10 - Dine for Hunger.
- 11 - Prayer Service for Healing.
- 15 - Legacy of Giving Seminar.
- 15 - Habitat Celebration at All Saints Episcopal Church.
- 22 - Habitat House Dedication.
- 27 - Church Halloween Party.
- 29 - Daylight Savings Time Ends.



Early Sunday Morning October 29, 2006



"I think this would be a good day for someone to take one last shot at getting a pledge out of Oscar Lander."



My mother and I returned to my parents' house late one evening to find my father, my college-age brother, Steven, and my ten-year-old sister fast asleep. Mom had forgotten her

house keys, so we knocked loudly, first at the back door and then the front and side doors. We yelled my father's name over and over, with no answer. The car horn aroused the neighbors but no one at our house. We drove into town and phoned home, finally waking Steven.

When we got back, he let us in. Dad was in bed, snoring, with the television on. Mom quietly switched it off. Dad woke right up.

"Don't turn that off," he said. "I'm watching it!"

Bible Wordsearch

Elijah & The whirlwind

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle # 133

2 KINGS CHAPTER 2



APPEARED	GOD
ASKED	GROUND
BACK	HEAVEN
BOWED	HORSES
CHARIOT	INHERIT
CLOAK	ISRAEL
COMPANY	JERICO
CRIED	JORDAN
CROSSED	MASTER
DIFFICULT	PICKED
DISTANCE	PORTION
DIVIDED	PROPHETS
DOUBLE	SEPARATED
DRY	SERVANTS
ELIJAH	SPIRIT
ELISHA	STRUCK
FALLEN	TAKEN
FATHER	TORE
FIFTY	VALLEY
FIRE	WHIRLWIND

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

----- Psalm 9

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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PEACEFULL PUBLICATIONS

A Few Final Thoughts:

“If you ain't makin' waves, you ain't kickin' hard enough!”

“The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.”

“The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.”

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