

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

# THE GRACE MESSENGER



April 2006

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1326 South 26th Street  
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

**Return Service Requested**  
**Dated Material**

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## **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**

**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 March 14. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing – Richard Settgest, Norene Fitle, Frances Campsey, Ernie Olson, Thelma Harrahill, Francine Wise’s daughter Monique, thanksgiving for the successful surgery on Cheryl Brown’s grandson, Rusty (David Hufford’s friend with new job and death of his mother), for our troops deployed, for rain, for the concern about avian flu, for those affected by the fires in Texas and the tornados in MO, KS, and IL. Pastor led devotions from Isaiah 57:15 and 2 Corinthians 3:4 which spoke about God as an emergency medical technician and God in our heart.

Visions for Ministry: Pastor introduced the new study book, “Becoming a Blessed Church.” Conversation began on how to open our hearts and minds to God in our communities in such a way that we become blessed in everything.

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

Christian Education had no new report.

Evangelism/Outreach reported that new contracts for Kids At Work were sent out. The welcome dinner will be Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

Finance had no new report.

Property reported the basement floor was re-waxed and the upper fellowship hall will be re-waxed next week. Ambros Lado has replaced Regina Ivo as custodian. Would folks be willing to come and do some spring cleaning?

Service/Social Ministry reported that there were three new ESL students.

Support/Stewardship had no new report.

Worship reported that Lent was underway. David Hufford is composing a song for Easter.

Unfinished Business: The council will present a request to the Disney Endowment Board to provide a \$1,000.00 gift to Grace Lutheran Church in New Orleans for the purpose of reconstruction following the hurricane damage. Andrew Edwards and Brenda Spahr will attend the Abundantly Blessed Workshop, Sunday, March 19.

New Business: The council decided to offer a seminar by Lutheran Planned Giving in October.

Announcements: The Council Visioning Ministry for the future will be held, Sunday, April 2, Noon – 2:30 pm. at St. Luke’s Lutheran.



One of the regular email subscriptions that I read offered this information from barna.org by way of Christianity Today.

*Churchgoing Children Grow Up to Keep the Faith: But study finds many still unclear on biblical teachings*

The Bible admonishes believers to “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it,” and a new nationwide survey provides some statistical support for Proverbs 22:6, a verse often quoted by Christian parents and educators.

According to the latest report by the Barna Research Group (BRG), adults who attended church regularly as a child are three times as likely to be churchgoers as adults than are peers who avoided church during childhood. They are also much more likely than their unchurched peers to be involved in church-based and personal spiritual activities.

The BRG survey of 1,003 adults found that roughly 71 percent of those interviewed had regularly attended church as youngsters. Sixty-one percent of those who attended church as a youngster still attend regularly, while 78 percent of those who were not churchgoers as children remain absent from churches.

But the California-based Christian organization said the most shocking finding of its study was the limited impact long-term church attendance has had on the theological beliefs of Americans.

The survey revealed that adults from both churching and unchurched backgrounds held similar views—often at odds with biblical teaching—regarding the existence of the Holy Spirit, the reality of Satan, the means to eternal salvation, the perceived accuracy of the Bible and the holiness of Jesus Christ.

“People who were churching as youths were much more likely to state that their religious faith is very important in their life today, but there was not much evidence that such faith had made much of an impact on their belief structure,” BRG president George Barna said.

The survey discovered that churching-as-children individuals were twice as likely as unchurched-as-children adults to be born again Christians (44 percent vs. 24 percent).

However, a minority of both groups believes in the existence of the Holy Spirit and of Satan, and a majority believes that eternal salvation can be achieved by doing enough good deeds. Only a minority of both camps strongly believes that the Bible is totally accurate in all that it teaches.

The study also revealed that church attendance is declining through the generations, regardless of childhood church experience. The drop is steeper, though, among adults who did not go to church as a child.

The study noted that church growth experts have long held that one of the major reasons why unchurched people return to a church is to give their children meaningful religious experiences. “While there is clearly merit to that argument, the research suggests that this benefit may not be as substantial as in the past,” it concluded.

*Continued on next page*

Overall, 63 percent of adults who attended church as children now take their own children. In contrast, only 33 percent of adults who were not churched bring their own children to a house of worship. "Attending a church appears to be more a function of one's personal experience when young than a sense of responsibility to one's own children," Barna commented.

This article raises a number of interesting issues. I invite your reflection and I would welcome personal conversation on any of the topics covered.

*Pastor Laaker*



## **ELCA Bishops, LIRS President, Call for Fair and Just Immigration Reform**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ELCA) -- The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Chicago, and Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., president, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Baltimore, and 53 ELCA synod bishops, sent a statement March 27 to U.S. Senators, calling for fair and just immigration reform. The issue is to be debated the week of March 27 in the Senate, and the statement will appear in the March 28 issue of "Roll Call" -- the newspaper of the U.S. Capitol.

LIRS is a cooperative agency of the ELCA, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"We are compelled by the spirit of Christian solidarity that transcends borders and by the life of Jesus, himself a refugee as a young child, to call on you to oppose immigration reform legislation as currently proposed," Hanson and Deffenbaugh said in an introductory letter sent to the Senators along with the statement.

The statement was written out of concern for language in the legislation currently under consideration in the Senate which would criminalize pastors, service workers and faith-based volunteers who provide humanitarian aid to undocumented immigrants. The statement also opposed language that would "[criminally] punish immigrants who seek only to work or remain with their families with sentences of up to two years."

Those endorsing the statement requested specific changes to the legislation currently under consideration:

- \*oppose the criminalization of the church, its ministers and its members, who provide humanitarian aid to undocumented immigrants.
- \*oppose provisions which criminalize undocumented presence.
- \* provide a path to permanence for individuals currently residing and working in the United States as well as their families.
- \*ensure basic constitutional due process rights in the enforcement of our laws.
- \*include in the legislation the bipartisan "Agricultural Job Opportunities Act" for farm workers -- a measure negotiated by growers, agricultural employers and farm workers -- to create an "earned adjustment" program enabling some undocumented farm workers and H-2A guest workers to obtain temporary immigration status with the possibility of permanence, which revises the existing H-2A worker program

"As members of a church with immigrants, and with roots in immigrant churches in a nation of immigrants," the statement said, "we urge the Congress to make these corrections to the bill, or to reject it."

A copy of the full statement is posted on the bulletin board at the church or available on line at <http://www.ELCA.org/advocacy/immad0306-5.pdf>



# Lenten Dinner Schedule

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

Sponsor

Free Will Offering for:

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 16 Easter Breakfast	Loren and Marsha Moyer and Family	Habitat for Humanity

## Lenten Worship Services

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.

The Wednesday Lenten Worship Theme, "Faith Stories of the Congregation; How God Touches My Life." has been featuring a person involved in the life of Grace Lutheran Church. The evening begins with a Lenten dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:15 p.m.



## Easter Cantata



## Guest Choir Ministers at Grace Lutheran

On Sunday, April 2nd, the Rejoice! Lutheran Choir from Omaha presented an Easter Cantata during morning worship. The choir, under the direction of Ray Swartz, told the Easter story through music and the Word.

All attending were invited to stay after the worship service for a cookie reception in honor of our guest choir.

Father of light,  
in you is found no shadow of change but only the fullness of life and limitless truth. Open our hearts to the voice of your Word and free us from the original darkness that shadows our vision. Restore our sight that we may look upon your Son who calls us to repentance and a change of heart, for he lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.



# Worship Schedule *For Lent*

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

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



# BEHOLD, CHRIST HAS RISEN!

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.



**Next Grace Lutheran  
Men in Mission Breakfast  
Saturday,  
April 15, 2005  
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
- ◆ Hair brushes & 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**

**April 3, 2006.  
1:00 p.m.**

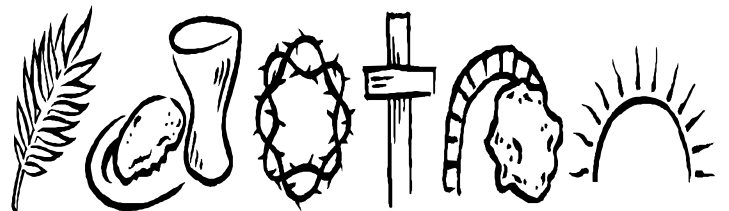
Hostess  
Norma Olson

**W/ELCA Circle Meeting**

**April 18, 2006  
1:00 p.m.**

Bible Study Leader  
Barbara Narducci

Hostess  
Gertrude Hufford





## Prayer Concerns for Friends and Family

- ◆ Jeanette Mendoza - Direction for her life. (Attender)
- ◆ Norene Fittle - Pray for strength, especially at the end of each week.
- ◆ Dean Bauer - Health Concerns. (Father of Jason & Kym Bauer)
- ◆ 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 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)
- ◆ Dan Reents - Undergoing chemo for cancer. (Brother-in-law of Don and Pam Reents)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - Ongoing therapy after his stroke. (member)
- ◆ 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. Pray for her as she begins organizing kids and volunteers for the Kids at Work Program for this summer.

### Sudanese Church Requests

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese Sunday School.
- ◆ Pray for the newcomers who have recently arrived as they adjust to live in America.
- ◆ Pray for the Nuer family whose son was recently killed in a hit and run here in Omaha.
- ◆ 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 begins 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 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





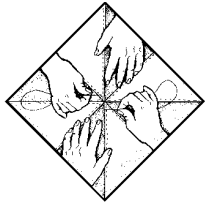
# After School Program

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.

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## Kids At Work 2006



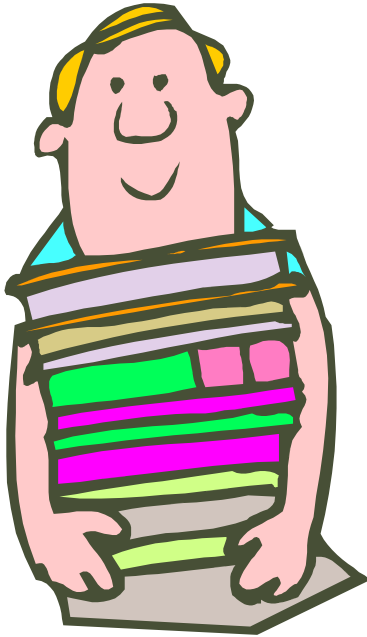
## Kids At Work Preparations Underway for the Summer Program

The Lent Dinner on March 22<sup>nd</sup> went very well. A very big THANK YOU to all the youth who helped serve the dinner and dish out the yummy Root Beer Floats for desert. They were Alexandra Everitt, Andrea Spahr, Angela Everitt, Angelina Adrian, Donovan Halfhill, Julia Traynor and Samantha Trejo.

The contracts have been sent out and the program as of today has eight spots filled. If you are interested in being a part of Kids At Work this summer, please complete your contract and mail it in today!

I'm asking that same old question again; would you 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 Campsey, Alice Friedlander and Jim Costello. If you want further research, 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!

2006 God's Creation Calendar  
**ON SALE!**

**Only \$5.00!**  
**Look for the Display in the  
Upper Fellowship Hall.**

All proceeds go to the  
Library for new books.

The used book sale going on during the Lenten season continues. Stop by the table and look at the books offered for purchase. All the proceeds from the book sale will go to buy new books for the library.

## **It's Not Too Late!**

The Library Board is collecting good used books for resale to benefit the church library. A box has been placed in the upper fellowship hall 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 end on Maundy Thursday.

If you have books to donate, look for the box in the upper fellowship hall. If you have questions, contact Marsha Moyer, Library Board Chairwoman.

## **Good Reading**

**The O'Malley Chronicles by Dee Henderson (Volumes 1 and 2)**

The O'Malleys are a close knit "adopted" family of men and women who met in an orphanage as children. They learn to rely on each other and God through many obstacles.

Each has an important job. Kate is a hostage negotiator, Marcus is a U.S. Marshall, Lisa is a forensic pathologist, Jack is a firefighter, Rachel is a trauma psychologist, and Stephen is a paramedic.

Originally, these were published as individual books but have now been put together in two volumes. Full of suspense, intrigue and even a little romance, these books are a GOOD READ!



# "Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

## Project Hope

The Theme for April is Canned Vegetables

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.

### 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.

### Pray for the people of Oaks Indian Mission, one of our Nebraska Synod partners in ministry.

Bishop Floyd M. Schoenhals, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, sent the following message this morning to Pastors and Congregations in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod:

On Sunday evening, March 12, 2006, a tornado touched several communities in Northeastern Oklahoma. Pr. Jack Russell, EbenEzer Lutheran Church, Oaks, OK, informed me this morning that the storm touched down in the communities of Leach, Twin Oaks, Kansas, and Colcord not far from the Oaks community. At this time Pr. Russell reported that he is not aware that any member of EbenEzer had significant storm damage. That will continue to be assessed. Pr. Russell also reported that people in the community of Oaks saw the storm and heard the "roar" that accompanied it. The Oaks Mission School served as a temporary shelter for the people of the community. As a result, many of the basic supplies are depleted. The Women of the ELCA are collecting these items for their Spring Gathering project. Check page 7 of this newsletter for a complete list.

# Community News



## *Columbus Park Neighborhood Association*

Next Meeting -  
April 20, 7:00 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church - 1326 S 26 St.  
Topic - **Neighborhood Spring Clean Up  
on April 29th!**

**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

### **Open to the Public**

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

## Forum on Omaha Together One Community

### **Shaping a Community that Works for All**

- ◆ Educational equity, adequacy and accountability
- ◆ Relief for the high cost of prescription drugs
- ◆ Nebraska drivers certificate for immigrants

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Cary Hall

First United Methodist Church  
7020 Cass Street, Omaha

*With Republican Gubernatorial Candidates*  
Congressman Tom Osborne has committed to attend.  
Governor Heineman and Mr. Dave Nabity have been invited.

## **Lutheran Service Corps' Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament**

Monday, May 15, 2006  
Players Club at Deer Creek.  
The tournament fee includes  
lunch, dinner, a gift bag and a  
chance at a pin prize at every hole (18 holes)



Contact Heather Abbott at 250-3599 or Bill Davis at 598-5883 for information and registration forms.  
More information, fees and a schedule of events are posted on the bulletin board.

## **Craft Show**

Hanscom Park United Methodist Church  
1 Block south of Center on 45th Street

Saturday

April 29, 2006 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Used Book Sale (by the Pound)

Lunch

Garage Sale

Bake Sale

Gift Basket Raffle

Great Plains  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
**Scrapbooking Fair**  
April 29, 2006  
7612 Maple St.  
10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Vendor Displays, "How To" Workshops,  
Free snacks & Beverages, Free door prize  
drawings

**Lots of table space to crop with friends!**

\$5.00 Admission at the door  
Proceeds benefit the Ladies Auxiliary  
Thomas Pierce Memorial Scholarship Fund  
for students with disabilities and the Great  
Plains PVA Adapted Sports & Recreation  
Program.



### **Musical Instruments Needed**

Do you have an old unused  
trumpet, clarinet or other in-  
struments collecting dust in your closet?

The Salvation Army is sponsoring the  
Band and orchestra Instrument Round-  
Up to supply underprivileged youth the  
opportunity to learn to play an instru-  
ment. Used Instruments of all kinds in-  
cluding guitars, brass, windwoods,  
strings, drums and percussives, and key-  
boards (no pianos or organs, please) are  
needed. For a list of drop off locations,  
check the church bulletin board or con-  
tact Gregoria Kadrlík at 898-5936

### **Concert**

Contemporary sacred Music by  
Ric Swanson  
Director of Contemporary Music  
First Presbyterian Church

A Grace Filled Life  
April 23, 2006  
6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
34th and Farnam  
\$15.00 donation (kids free)

All proceeds to the  
First Presbyterian Food Pantry  
Featuring Ric and many local musicians

Ric's Credits: over 200 radio and TV commercials,  
National Public radio, Mannheim Steamroller,  
Jerry Lewis, Red Skelton, Shirley Jones,  
Johnny Mathis to name a few.

### **The New Religious Pluralism Implications for American Democracy**

Dr Robert Wuthrow will present a lecture building  
on his recent book, *America and the Challenges of  
Religious Diversity (2005)*

**Monday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

Skutt Student Center Ballroom  
Creighton University Campus

This lecture is free  
and open to the public.

Free parking at 24th and Cass.

*Professor Wuthrow is Andlinger Professor of Sociology and  
Director of the Center for Study of Religion at  
Princeton University.*



**FREED FOR LIFE**  
Benefit Dinner for Prison Ministry

*"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." -- John 8:36*  
Join us for the Freed for Life Benefit Dinner for Prison Ministry!

April 22, 2006 6:00 p.m.  
Sheridan Lutheran Church  
Lincoln, NE

\$25 individual tickets      \$200 for a table of 8

For more information on Freed for Life, please call (402) 591-5063 or email  
[dhansen@lfsneb.org](mailto:dhansen@lfsneb.org). More info posted on the church bulletin board.

# News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

## Our New Sexton



### Staff Changes

Ambros Lado has been hired as sexton and will be cleaning the church building each week. Ambros, wife Elizabeth, and children Shaban, Shedu, Sonia, Sherif, and Omaira have been a part of Grace Church for over two years.

Ambros replaces Regina Ivo Mounto. Regina is in her final months of nursing school and will be graduating this spring. We thank Regina for her faithful service and pray God's best as she begins her new career.

To my friends and family at Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the great support and love you all showed me in the past weeks. I know that your prayers on my behalf were heard and answered. My family and I appreciate your concern for me.

I am at home now and beginning the process of rehabilitation as a result of my stroke.

Ernie Olson



## Excerpts from Reflections on Dad

Written by Dr. Ann Settgest for her father, Richard Settgest (August 7, 1939-March 22, 2006)

I will begin by saying that in addition to loving him dearly, I liked my Dad as a person. He always told me that he would have enjoyed knowing me even if I weren't his daughter – well...the feeling is mutual. He was such a cool guy. I had the honor and privilege of spending the past 8 months with him after his diagnosis. While of course I already knew my Dad, this experience was in some ways delightful. I found that the more I knew him, the more I liked him. He was full of surprises. The lessons I learned were numerous: His ability to enjoy his life in spite of difficult circumstances these past months reminds us that happiness is truly available to us all, depending on our perspective.

My Dad's world view was beautiful. He was not ready yet to die – he explained to me that he was not necessarily scared of death or going to heaven, but rather he felt the world is too exciting and interesting to leave just quite yet. He wanted more time. He was nearly panicked toward the end trying to read everything he could and stay informed. He thrived on knowing what was happening on this fascinating planet.

My Dad had no use for things. He never attempted to impress the neighbors – or anyone for that matter. He spent his time and resources doing what he loved – playing duplicate bridge, traveling, talking to people and learning more about the world. He always said, "If you want to make me jealous, don't buy a fancy car, house or boat".

My Dad was a good parent. He always said he had two pieces of advice for raising children: 1) Don't do anything obviously stupid and 2) Get out of their way. While he stayed out of my way in terms of not attempting to control who I would become, he was always deeply involved in my life. While he loved to tease that I was the reason I was an only child, I know that he was extremely proud of me. He did argue though that it was easy to tell which one of us was smarter – it must be him since I had required so many more years of school! I truly think he was funny. My Dad was straightforward, focused, and direct. One of my persistent memories will be of him ordering his coffee as he always did - black and real. He couldn't have been more real himself. I love him so much and I miss him terribly already.

*If you wish to send condolences, Ann will be staying at her dad's house for the next month or so to clear up his estate.*

*A copy of the whole eulogy is posted on the bulletin board.*



**Welcome, Julie Chytil**

**Newest Member of the  
Interfaith Health Services Team**

### **Faith in Action, Ayudantes Viejos**

Greetings! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Julie Chytil and I am the new program coordinator for the Faith in Action program beginning right here in your congregation. Our program, Faith in Action, Ayudantes Viejos is sponsored by Interfaith Health Service and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. If you're like me, you know someone – perhaps a family member or neighbor – who needs help getting around. Maybe it is an older parent who needs help with the groceries or maybe it is a neighbor who needs a ride to the doctor. You help out when you can, but millions of Americans have no one to turn to for help with daily tasks.

In fact, according to a recent survey, approximately 16 million older Americans struggle with daily activities as simple as shopping, cooking and housework. Nearly one half of those who have difficulty do not receive any help from family or others. The lack of assistance and difficulty finding additional help threatens the ability of these older Americans to continue to live independently in their homes and communities.

That is why The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is stepping up its efforts to recruit volunteers and encourage them to help their neighbors in need. Through a national initiative called Faith in Action, the Foundation is encouraging people to volunteer through its national network of free, interfaith, community-based programs that provide services to those with long-term health needs. Faith in Action, Ayudantes Viejos is a part of this initiative and provides free services right here in Southeast Omaha.

Volunteers shop, cook, drive, or just visit those who need help with daily activities. They help their neighbors stay in their own homes and in their own communities and give people the gift of independence—a gift that older Americans treasure above all others. It's a wonderful thing when people of many faiths come together to help their neighbors in need.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and excited about working within your congregation. In the meantime, think about becoming a volunteer or think about someone you know who would benefit from receiving volunteer services.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 672-7334 or e-mail me at: [jlchytil@hotmail.com](mailto:jlchytil@hotmail.com)

Sincerely,

Julie Chytil



## ***Interfaith Health and Latinas in Action Thank Instructor***

Last week at Grace Church, our Latinas in Action group hosted a surprise birthday party for our wonderful and talented aerobics instructor, Hilda. Hilda has been a tireless teacher for Interfaith 4 days a week for the past year!

We planned the party from Wheeler Church when Hilda had left for the day, which we thought was very sly. Participants signed up to bring beverages (but NOT soda, as Gaby Ortiz will not allow "unhealthy" and sugar laden beverages at our events because she is a promoter of health!), enchiladas, fruit salads, jello, tuna salad and fresh fruit. Cristina, a participant in our group who is being trained by Hilda to be an aerobics instructor herself, brought one of her famous strawberry cakes, one which fed our participants and children who attended the celebration. It was the biggest non-wedding cake we had ever seen and oh-so delicious!

Hilda's son and daughter attended the celebration since they had the day off from OPS for teacher conferences. They shared with our group that they were very proud of their mom and were happy to be a part of the day honoring her. They led us in singing "Happy Birthday" to their mom and in passing out cake to our group members.

It was clear from the care and planning that went in to hosting the party that our women have the deepest respect for Hilda. Gaby and I share this feeling of respect and gratitude for all Hilda has done for our programs at St. Luke's, Wheeler, Grace and the YMCA. We are blessed each day by Hilda's enthusiasm in teaching and strong commitment to promoting community and wellness. Hilda is a shining example of a person who goes out of her way to help our neighborhoods become stronger and to help our neighbors get to know one another through her work with Interfaith and the Latinas in Action group.

*Virginia McGill, Coordinator  
Interfaith Health Service*

*For more information on these programs or any of the others offered by Interfaith Health Service, contact Virginia McGill at 660-6689 or at the church at 341-7730.*

### **Free Classes**

**Latinas in Action/ Aerobics**  
(Childcare Provided)  
Tuesday - St Luke's Church.  
Wednesday - YMCA on O St.  
Thursday - Wheeler Presbyterian.  
Friday - Grace Lutheran Church.

**Beginning Yoga**  
Monday Evenings - Cristo Rey Luterana

Call Virginia at 660-6689 for details.

### **Interfaith Health Team**

Virginia McGill, Director (402-660-6689)  
Gabiella Ortiz, Assistant (402-660-1035)  
(Douglas County Health Department)  
*Se habla español .*

Robert Wood Johnson  
Faith in Action Program Ayudantes Viejos  
Julie Chytil, Coordinator (402-672-7734)



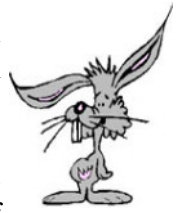




April is  
 International Guitar Month  
 Keep America Beautiful Month  
 National Anxiety Month  
 National Humor Month  
 National Welding Month  
 National Garden Month,

Awwww...

There was a man who entered a local paper's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.



### Peanut Butter Crunch Cake

From the kitchen of  
 "Saint" Charlotte Palczynski  
 (because everyone says this is "heavenly")

- 1 package of Supermoist yellow cake mix (with pudding in the mix)
- 1/2 cup of brown sugar, packed
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1 package of mini chocolate chips (6 oz)

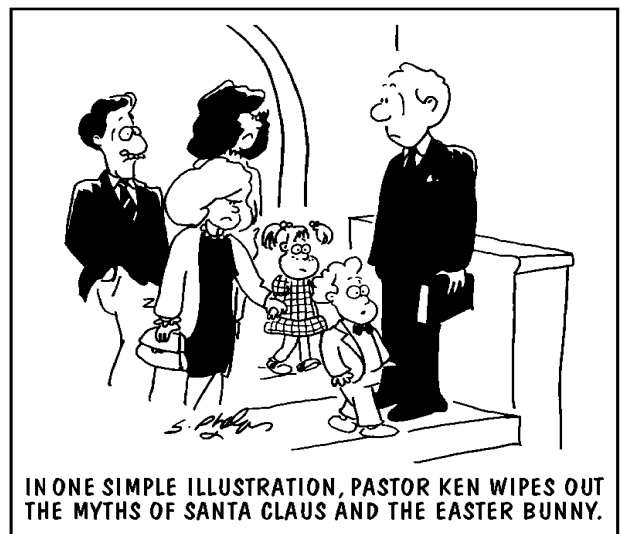
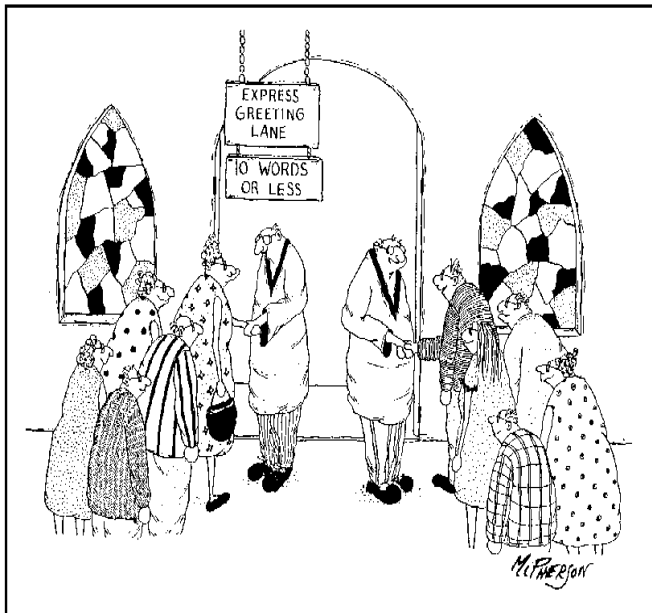
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
 Grease and flour a 9 x 13 x 2 cake pan.  
 Beat dry cake mix, brown sugar and peanut butter in a large bowl on low speed until crumbly. Reserve 2/3 cup for topping. Beat remaining crumbly mixture, water, oil and eggs on low speed scraping bowl frequently for approximately 2 minutes. Pour batter into pan. Fold in 1/4 cup to 1/3 cup of chocolate chips into the batter, reserving the rest of the chips. Stir nuts into reserved crumbly mixture and sprinkle over the batter. Sprinkle remaining chocolate chips over the top. Bake 40 to 45 minutes.



Daylight Savings Time begins on April 2.

*Go to bed early on Saturday night April 2nd!  
 You will lose an hour of sleep.*

**Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night!**  
*If you don't, you'll be late for church!*





## Easter Word Search

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

### WORD LIST

Burial  
 Christianity  
 Cross  
 Crucifixion  
 Death Earthquake  
 Empty Tomb  
 Eyewitnesses  
 Gospels  
 HeIsRisen  
 HistoricalFact  
 JesusChrist  
 Prophecy  
 Resurrection  
 RomanGuards  
 Salvation  
 Stone  
 Substitute  
 ThirdDay

## The Elevator

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and back together again.

The boy asked his father, "What is this, Father?" The father responded "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is." While the boy and his father were watching wide-eyed an old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched small circles of lights with numbers above the walls light up. They continued to watch the circles light up in the reverse direction. The walls opened up again and a beautiful 24 year old woman stepped out.

The father said to his son, "Go get your Mother."

