

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

# THE GRACE MESSENGER



## MAY

May 2006

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

1326 South 26th Street  
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

Return Service Requested  
Dated Material

Phone: (402) 341-7730

Email: [graceluth@graceluth.com](mailto:graceluth@graceluth.com)

Web Site: [www.graceluth.com](http://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

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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 April 11. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing – Norene Fittle, Frances Campsey, Ernie Olson, Thelma Harrahill, Darlene Spahr, Doug Farber, Dean, thanksgiving for the healing of Cheryl Brown's grandson, Rusty's new job, David Hufford's checkup showing no cancer, for our immigrants, and for rain without hail. Pastor led devotions from Isaiah 55:6 and John 15:7 which spoke about God being present and God leaving.

Visions for Ministry: Council discussed the first chapter of, "Becoming a Blessed Church."

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 Interfaith Health has begun introducing the Faith in Action program. Pastor requested that someone, other than himself, be willing to lead the NCD Team.

Finance had no new report.

Property reported that the children's room in the basement will have a new ceiling installed. The AC units have been serviced.

Service/Social Ministry reported on the ESL tutoring of children. Pastor spoke about the Immigration Rally. Pastor invited folks to sign up for the Neighbors South Coalition Build. Pastor invited the council to send postcards to our elected Congressional people urging resolution of the concerns surrounding Agusta Victoria Hospital in Israel.

Support/Stewardship had no new report.

Worship reported that services are prepared for Holy Week and Easter. The Council accepted the invitation from Cristo Rey to join with St. Luke's and Cristo Rey for worship on Sunday, May 7, Cinco de Mayo, a bilingual service.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Sunday worship, May 7, 10:30 am at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2315 I Street.



## Peaceful Rally for Immigration Reform

From the Desk of  
Pastor Laaker

The day dawned with bright sunshine. I had been invited to join my brothers and sisters at the Heartland of America Park and walk with them up Harney Street. Little did I know the impact of that simple assent to participate in this walk.

I arrived in time to see the crowd begin to swell in number. Then over the loud speakers came the call for all clergy to come up on the walkway above the crowd. My initial reaction was to simply stay with those with whom I had struck up a conversation. Why bother with going up? Then the call came again and those around me urged me to go up as was requested. So I went.

Little did I know the sight that would greet my eyes. I was overwhelmed. There were hundreds, no thousands of people gathering for the walk. I was stunned. My heart was touched as I watched a steady stream of people, all dressed in white, pouring into the gathering area. They came like small streams swelling a growing river.

Then Fr. Zouha, from Our Lady of Guadalupe, began to speak of the powerful presence of God calling people to stand for the rights of those dispossessed, the amazing grace of a God that claims all people and desires for them to be a blessing to others, and the joy of standing shoulder to shoulder, all as immigrants to this great land. As he concluded, he asked all the clergy present to raise their arms in blessing over the crowd as he read the Aaronic Benediction: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Wow! What an amazing feeling to be part of peaceful, respectful demonstration for immigration reform.

Our  
faith  
traditions  
admonish us to  
welcome the  
stranger  
and the alien.

*Continued*

## And then the walk began....

Why was this rally important? Partially because the debate of immigration reform has reached a fever pitch and much of it has been filled with misguided patriotic fever that does not respect the dignity of the human person. In December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that makes it a crime to offer assistance to a person who resides here illegally.



How do we balance the dignity of people, value family and family values when it is a crime to help someone, even though they are illegal? Our faith traditions admonish us to welcome the stranger and the alien. Lutheran Metro Ministry following Jesus' example ministers to the basic needs of human beings in the city. Jesus' help and assistance to the Canaanite woman means for LMM that we must help others regardless of their status. In addition, our core values are action, compassion, respect, justice, hope and transformation.

LMM will advocate, educate and stand with those who seek a reasonable solution that respects the dignity of all.

*Pastor Laaker*

## NATIONAL



Day of  
P  
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## May 4, 2006

The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens.

**Take a few minutes to pray for our country on May 4th.**

*“If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.”*

2 Chronicles 7:14  
Amplified Bible



**Men in Mission Breakfast**  
**Saturday, May 20, 2006**  
**8:00 a.m.**

Come have a great breakfast and great fellowship!  
Stay to study God's Word.

*What will God do in your life if you commit  
to listening to and sharing the Gospel?*



*Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**W/ELCA Board  
Meeting**

**May 1, 2006**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Hostess:  
LaVonne Moss

Want to connect with women of faith?  
How about studying God's Word together?

**Come to the  
W/ELCA Circle Meeting**

**May 16, 2006**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Bible Study Leader:  
LaVonne Moss

Hostess:  
Norma Olson



**Wednesday Night**  
**May 10, 2006**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Candle light Prayer Service  
for Confession,  
Meditation and Healing  
at Grace Lutheran Church.

***People of all faiths welcome!***



**5th Annual Cinco de Mayo  
Joint Bilingual Worship Service  
With Mariachi Band**

**St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
Cristo Rey Luterana  
Grace Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, May 7, 2006**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**St. Luke's Church**  
**2315 I St.**

The usual Sunday School and  
Confirmation groups will meet at  
Grace Church at 9:00 a.m.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Free!**  
**Monday thru Thursday**  
**Games, Crafts, and Fun**  
**Geared for Elementary Kids!**

**Program Ends May 25th**  
**Thanks for a good year!**

Director, Brenda Spahr



**JOIN US**  
**AFTER**  
**SCHOOL**



## Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

*Don't forget to use the Prayer Ventures page at the back of this newsletter as reminder to pray for the various ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America locally, nationally and globally.*

- ◆ 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)
- ◆ 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. **Praise:** Blood counts are looking better.  
(Brother-in-law and Pam Reents)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - Ongoing therapy after his stroke. **Praise:** Slowly regaining movement on his left side. Recovering at home. (member)
- Pray for our graduating college seniors as they prepare for their careers; Dustin Moyer and Amanda Laaker.

### 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 ESL Student Sarah and Harun as they mourn the death of Harun's brother, William, from disease back in Africa.
- ◆ Pray for the ELCA Sudanese leaders across the country as they dialog and make plans to increase God's work.

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.

"Even so, I'm bold to ask: Pay attention to these my prayers, both intercessory and personal, O GOD, my God. Listen to my prayers, energetic and devout, that I'm setting before you right now."  
 1 Kings 8:28 (The Message)

# Kids At Work 2006



## Kids At Work Youth Work Program *Earning, Saving & Learning!*

*Have You Signed up Yet?  
Hurry, the program is filling up fast!*

June 4th through August 6th, 2006

Grace Sunday Worship Attendance Required  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays - Work Days

Weekly work hours: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
*For more info, call Brenda Spahr at 341-7730.*

**Annual Welcome Dinner for Kids At Work**  
May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Upper Fellowship Hall

All the Kids At Work Families and  
Grace Lutheran Church Council Members  
are invited.

*Look for your invitations in the mail.*

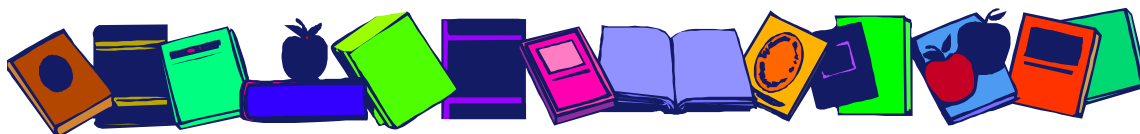
### **Kids At Work Participants:**

Please remember to open your bank accounts and return your contracts! If you have lost the new bank form, just give me a call. Time is just flying by and soon the program will be starting.

### **Calling All Able-Bodied People!**

I'm still asking that question; would **YOU** like to volunteer to be a team leader for Kids At Work? Pretty soon I'll be begging and coming to you next, you have been warned!!! Any questions, please give me a call here at church, 341-7730.

Brenda Spahr, Director



## Happening in the Library!

Thanks to all the folks who purchased books and calendars during our Lent used book drive. We would also like to thank Alice Friedlander, Arlone Farber and Louise Alsager for donating the proceeds of their Lenten dinner to purchase library books. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise over \$175.00.

### **We Need Your Input!**

What new books would you like to see in the church library?

In the next few weeks, the Library Board will be taking a "field trip" to the local Christian Bookstore to purchase books. We would love to know what types of books you like.

- ⇒ Who-dun- it?
- ⇒ Romance?
- ⇒ Adventure?
- ⇒ Historical Fiction?
- ⇒ Science Fiction/Christian Fantasy?
- ⇒ Children's/Young Adult?

Is there a series you would like us to fill in or continue? An author you love?

We are gearing up for our Church Library Summer Reading Contest which will begin in June. We would love to add books that will educate, edify, entertain and intrigue you.

Contact Marsha Moyer, Brenda Spahr, Barb Nelson or Pam Reents (church office) with your ideas.



“Helping Hands”  
Hope for the hungry, hopeless  
and homeless.



**Project Hope**  
**The Theme for May is Soap.**  
Laundry Soap, Dish soap, Hand soap  
Got any small hotel size soap? Read the story below for a giggle!



Attached is some correspondence which actually occurred between a London hotel's staff and one of its guests. The London hotel involved submitted this to the Sunday Times.

Dear Maid,

Please do not leave any more of those little bars of soap in my bathroom since I have brought my own bath-sized Dial. Please remove the six unopened little bars from the shelf under the medicine chest and another three in the shower soap dish. They are in my way. Thank you, S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

My day off was last Wed. so the relief maid left 3 hotel soaps which we are instructed by the management. I took the 6 soaps which were in your way on the shelf and put them in the soap dish where your Dial was. I put the Dial in the medicine cabinet for your convenience. Please let me know if I can of further assistance. Your regular maid, Dotty

Dear Miss Carmen,

The new maid you assigned me must have thought I was a new check-in today, since she left another 3 bars of hotel soap in my medicine cabinet along with her regular delivery of 3 bars on the bath-room shelf. In just 5 days here I have accumulated 24 little bars of soap. Why are you doing this to me? S. Berman

Dear Mr. Kensedder,

My bath-size Dial is missing. Every bar of soap was taken from my room including my own bath-size Dial. I came in late last night and had to call the bellhop to bring me 4 little Cashmere Bouquets. S. Berman

Dear Mrs. Carmen,

Who left 54 little bars of Camay in my room?! I came in last night and found 54 little bars of soap. I don't want 54 little bars of Camay. I want my one bar of bath-size Dial! All I want is my bath size Dial. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

You complained of too much soap in your room so I had them removed. Then you complained to Mr. Kensedder that all your soap was missing so I personally returned them. The 24 Camays which had been taken and the 3 Camays you are supposed to receive daily (sic). I don't know anything about the 4 Cashmere Bouquets. Obviously your maid, Kathy, did not know I had returned your soaps so she also brought 24 Camays plus the 3 daily Camays. I don't know where you got the idea this hotel issues bath-size Dial. I was able to locate some bath-size Ivory which I left in your room.

Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Mrs. Carmen,

Just a short note to bring you up-to-date on my latest soap inventory. As of today I possess:

- On shelf under medicine cabinet - 18 Camay in 4 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 2.
- On Kleenex dispenser - 11 Camay in 2 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 3.
- On bedroom dresser - 1 stack of 3 Cashmere Bouquet, 1 stack of 4 hotel-size Ivory, and 8 Camay in 2 stacks of 4.
- Inside medicine cabinet - 14 Camay in 3 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 2.
- In shower soap dish - 6 Camay, very moist.
- On northeast corner of tub - 1 Cashmere Bouquet, slightly used.
- On northwest corner of tub - 6 Camays in 2 stacks of 3.

Please ask Kathy when she services my room to make sure the stacks are neatly piled and dusted. Also, please advise her that stacks of more than 4 have a tendency to tip. May I suggest that my bedroom window sill is not in use and will make an excellent spot for future soap deliveries. One more item, I have purchased another bar of bath-sized Dial which I am keeping in the hotel vault in order to avoid further misunderstandings. S. Berman

**Project Hope Really Does Need Soap!!**





# Neighbors South Coalition Habitat For Humanity

The Build Will Begin Friday, June 24th

Volunteers are needed to help with building this home. Even if you don't have experience, you are welcome. Construction experience is not a requirement! People are needed as helpers, "go fors" and food service.

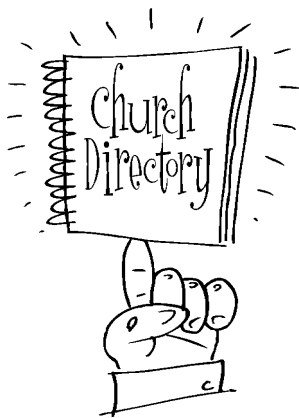
Volunteer forms are available at the back of the sanctuary or through the church office by calling 341-7730.

**3020 W Street  
Omaha, NE**

## **Grace Collects 173 items for the Needs of the Oaks Indian Mission in Oaks OK. Thanks for your generous gifts!**

3 pair of Tennis shoes  
6 pairs of socks  
1 package of paper napkins  
3 packages of paper plates  
5 boxes of Kleenex  
2 cans of shaving cream  
24 disposable razors  
3 bottles of mouth wash  
4 containers of wet wipes  
9 cans of deodorant  
38 bars of soap

2 bottles of body wash  
3 bottles of shampoo  
3 bottles of conditioners  
1 hairbrush  
24 combs  
12 tooth brushes  
3 tubes of tooth paste  
4 boxes of freezer bags  
3 boxes of band aids  
3 packages of paper lunch bags  
9 glue sticks  
4 rolls of scotch tape



### **2006 Grace Lutheran Church Directory is Ready!**

At last, the church directory is completed and printed. If you have not done so already, copies are available at the table in the back of the sanctuary.

*Please take only one copy per household until all members have received one.*

**It is bad to suppress laughter.  
It goes back down on spreads to your hips.**  
Fred Allen

# Community News



**Join the Neighborhood Association!  
Membership dues  
\$5.00 a year per household!**

Send your money to  
CPNA care of Grace Lutheran Church  
1326 S 26 Street  
Omaha, NE 68105  
Call 341-7730 for more information.

## *Columbus Park Neighborhood Association*

Next Meeting - May 19  
Grace Lutheran Church - 1326 S 26 St.  
Topic - Spring Clean Up Results  
Neighborhood issues, New website plans.

For more info about CPNA,  
contact Stephen Stout at 344-4738.



Got any old cell phones?  
*Consider donating them  
to St Thomas Church  
for the YWCA*

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is collecting cell phones (including all cell phone components, battery chargers, etc.) from Saturday, April 22, 2006, through Memorial Day weekend. The cell phones will be given to abused women and their families to be used for emergencies (calling 911). Individual cell phones need to be sealed in a plastic bag with all the components, battery chargers, etc.

Grace Lutheran Church will accept the items at the church office and pass them on to St Thomas Church at the end of the drive.

Contact the church office at 341-7730 or drop them off after Sunday morning worship.



**National Police Week  
Omaha Metro  
May 12th - 15th, 2006**

National Police Memorial Week is a special time set aside to honor all those who serve and protect our communities across the metro area. Show your gratitude to those who serve the public by placing their lives on the line, daily, bringing safety and security to our communities in their roles as Law Enforcement Officers.

More information on the various activities planned for the week is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.



## **Camp Carol Joy Holling Work Day**

May 20, 2006

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Wrap up 1:00 p.m.

Free Lunch for All Workers

Reservations requested by May 15th to help with planning lunch.  
Call Toll Free at 1-888-656-6254 for reservations or information.



**n e b r a s k a  
s y n o d**

It was only a three minute conversation, but it was authentic, deep, and honest...and in the midst of it, Margo taught me anew what it means to be Christ's Church. The pastor showed me where I was to sit during worship before preaching, front pew on the left, and there sat Margo. Simply stated, "Margo likes to sit there." I sat down, said a silent prayer, leaned over, held out my hand to shake, and said "Hi, I'm Dave deFreese."

"Hi, I'm Margo...I'm mentally disabled...I love the church, because I love God...it's like my family. I just moved out of my mom's house and into my own apartment. Last night was my third night. I'm a little scared, but God's with me. I treat my neighbors good. I'm thankful you're here."

**WOW!** Margo taught me so much...so quickly. Margo's insight into what it means to be the church can encourage and inspire those of us who strive to lead Christ's church.

**FIRST...**Margo told me her truth right away. No pretense. No reason to hide. Margo wanted to be known, and loved for who she is. "I'm mentally disabled," she announced, not proud, just honest. It was refreshing to be told the truth so soon and so plainly. You and I begin worship of our God in honesty. At the start, we admit we are flawed...not all we want to be or should be. No pretense. No reason to hide. God knows it and we need to articulate it, but it is not easy because we do not like our flaws, our truth. And yet at the same time, it is liberating to be so honest and transparent...free of any pretending...to be genuinely known...warts and all.

As leaders of the church, we need to help keep it honest...honest about its flaws...personal and shared... individual and corporate. Too often we forget or just go through the motions, or pretend that they are really not so prevalent or so damaging. More than simple flaws, at the beginning of worship, we confess our sin to God before each other. Sin that is selfishness that gets in the way of our relationship with God and with each other. We need that confession, because far too often as we live together, we act like we are surprised when sin enters our community. We dare not be surprised by sin, its reality or its hurtfulness. Rather we must be honest about it, talk about it in real ways, and deal with it...because God has!

**SECOND...**Margo told me about her love...for God and God's church. "It's like family"...and that is not the syrupy, sentimental illusion of family, but rather the blood relationship that causes folks to hang in there with each other...care for each other...even during times when they do not like each other. The Church, the body of Christ, is joined by the blood of Jesus...given and shed so that we might be alive together. Margo made it clear, it's about love...love God...love God's church. Too often, people within the church lose sight of this focus, that it is God's church, not mine nor yours...but God's. They also forget that they are to love it, not control it or manipulate it. As leaders within the church, we are called to always seek God's agenda. To humbly ask, "What is God's will?" In far too many conversations I have with other leaders, we seem to have abandoned this simple command to love God's church and to speak in terms that exhibit that we know it is God's church.

**THIRD...**Margo also reminded me that life is an adventurous journey. "I just moved out of my mom's house and into my own apartment. Last night was my third night." Adventure which pushes us out of our comfort zones, stretches us and grows us. Without really knowing Margo and her mom, I do not doubt this movement was a huge step fraught with hesitation, worry, and fear. And yet for growth's sake, they did it! Many congregations forget the adventurous journey of being God's people. They get stuck in fear...contented into stagnation...dulled to the wild calling of being salt and light in a needy world. We are called to deny ourselves, take up the Cross of Christ for the sake of others, and lose ourselves in making a difference. Sadly, too many of our congregations have become country clubs with crosses on top, focused only on taking care of their own members. This is not being the church! From my vantage point of watching two hundred sixty some congregations, I can tell you without question, the healthiest, most vibrant faith communities spend very little time focused on themselves. Rather, they exist for others. They burn for service, longing to help and shine the light of Christ into a darkened world. Through them, hurting people are embraced, hope is given, and it is an adventurous journey. Martin Luther encouraged us to "sin boldly!" This means that we are to trust and try...trust God's love and respond as best we can. Trust and try!

**FOURTH...**Margo's raw honesty continued as did her faith: "I'm a little scared, but God's with me." I felt honored to hear such pure trust and faith proclaimed...brilliantly lived! I pray I can be so faithful, I pray that for all of us! Because we are all "a little scared, but God is with us!"

**AND FINALLY...**from Margo hear Jesus' calling and her faith response: "I treat my neighbors good. I'm thankful you're here." I believe she does care for her neighbors because I experienced her goodness personally. She welcomed me with gratitude. Jesus told us to love our neighbor. He did not qualify nor describe, but plainly articulated that His followers were to treat others with care and kindness. Margo said she was really trying to do that and she lived that out with a stranger who was now sitting beside her. Margo's act of hospitality was genuine, warm and gospel. God used her. Margo could teach many of our congregations Christ's embrace, and the impact that it can have for others to know Jesus our Christ. We need to be vigilant in lifting up Jesus' command to love our neighbors, our enemies, all other people. Our welcome needs to be genuine and our care for all expressed clearly. It may not be easy, but it is of God and it gives life. Margo's acts of faith and declaration of love is what Jesus' church is really about. Are we the Church? Can we live in honesty, encouraging transparency in all of our communities' activities? Do we love God and love God's church? Can we relish the adventurous journey that God has called us to be on, and even when we are scared, to know that we are never alone, that God is with us? As you lead, continue to encourage love of our neighbors, because Christ commanded it. May God bless you and strengthen you...and use you!

David L. deFreese  
Child of God and Bishop

# News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church



## Congratulations to

- ◆ Amanda Laaker, daughter of Pastor Damon and Mary Laaker, who is graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan College in Lincoln with a degrees in Political Science and Spanish. Amanda is employed at the Paralyzed Veteran of America in Omaha as the Director of Government Relations. Amanda and her fiancée, Juan, are planning their wedding for September 30th here at Grace Lutheran Church.
- ◆ Dustin Moyer, son of Loren and Marsha Moyer, who is graduating from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a degree in Construction, Management and Engineering. Dustin has been promoted to Assistant Project Manager with Lueder Construction Company.

## With Our Thanks

- ◆ To Jack Williams, Jerry Van Ormer, and Bob Moss for their ongoing work in the Lower Fellowship Hall Kids Room. New lighting has been installed. Stop by and check out the great warm effect the new lighting has in the room. Plans to renovate the play area and add more storage space to the room are in the works.
- ◆ To all who provided the delicious Lenten dinners and the Easter breakfast: the Grace Lutheran Sunday School, Grace Traynor, Norma Olson, Lutheran Men in Mission (Greg Hula, President,) the Ruth Dorcas Circle (Barb Nelson, President,) Kids At Work (Brenda Spahr, Director,) Mary Laaker, Donna Adrian, Alice Friedlander, Arlone Farber, Louise Alsager, Bob and Lavinne Moss, The Loren Moyer family, Loren, Marsha, Jessica and Dustin.
- ◆ To Eva Martin and Brenda Spahr for their extra work helping Pam, the church secretary, prepare, print and collate the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter bulletins.
- ◆ To Jerry Van Ormer for his work on fertilizing and tending the church yard.
- ◆ To all the ladies involved with the Monday morning quilting for Lutheran World Relief and lap robes for residents in the local nursing homes: Marilyn Van Ormer, Gertrude Hufford, Barb Nelson, Alice Friedlander, Norma Olson, and LaVonne Moss. God blesses so many others through here and around the world with the works of their hands.
- ◆ To Gloria Moore whose needlework provides exquisite handmade knitted baby layette items for Church Women United.

### Deli Meat Cheddar Muffins

*Janet Hula's HIT cooking class ESL Recipe*

*Preheat Oven to 450 degrees.*

*Heat in skillet:*

1 Tablespoon Margarine

1/2 cup Onion, diced (**omit for Pastor Laaker :-)**

1/2 green pepper, diced

*Sauté until onion is golden and pepper is soft.*

*Add:*

4 oz Cheddar cheese, shredded

4 eggs, lightly beaten

1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1/2 Tablespoon Mustard, Spicy or regular.

*Stir to combine and set aside.*

Spray muffin tins with non-stick cooking spray.

Open 2 tubes ready to bake refrigerator biscuits & 4 oz thin sliced deli meat, or Budding type meat.

(your choice of ham, turkey, chicken or skinned, boned, cooked & diced left overs.)

Separate each biscuit into two halves. Put 1/2 of the biscuit on the bottom. Spoon egg mixture over biscuit. Place a bit of meat on top of mixture and top with other biscuit half.

Bake until biscuits are golden brown, 15-20 minutes. Serve warm.

Makes 20

*We all agreed that this tasted wonderful and is very simple to make. Thanks Janet! It's a keeper!*



Virginia McGill  
Director, (402) 660-6689

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

Interfaith Health Services is pleased to welcome Gloria Corrales as a part-time volunteer. Gloria is working with our exercise and educational groups and is helping Gabriela and me keep up with the demand for programming, reporting and grant activities.

Participation in our morning programs has grown in the past year. The increase in participants includes a need for more educational materials, presenters and child care activities. Gloria is great in all of these areas and is a much needed addition to our team.

Gloria is a trained presenter for Women and Values, a series of classes which encourage women to support one another and offers a curriculum on increasing self esteem. She has taken several computer classes, as well as numerous other language and accounting classes.

Gloria speaks English and Spanish. She has lived in Nebraska for 6 years. She and her husband have two sons, ages 10 and 7. Gloria and her family are members of Saint Ann's church and active in the church community.

Interfaith is blessed to have Gloria working with our women's groups at Grace, Saint Luke's and Wheeler Churches. Please introduce yourselves to her if you happen to be around during one of the classes. She is easily recognized by her warm smile--one of the best in the entire world!!!!

*Virginia McGill, Director of Interfaith Health Service*

**Trauma Season Should be "Helmet Season"**  
Keeping Kids Safe

"Trauma season," as doctors call it, extends from April through September, and while all traumatic injuries are serious, head injuries have the highest rate of lasting complications. That's why emergency physicians are saying trauma season should be synonymous with "helmet season."

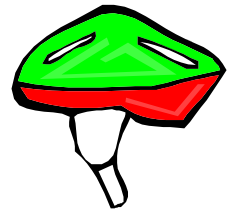
Children should wear helmets if they are playing on a toy or vehicle that gets them going faster than they can run, or makes it easier for them to fall or stop suddenly. Any sport that involves the potential for head injury should also utilize helmets.

When a child sustains a concussion, it means they have shaken or hit their head hard enough to bruise the tissues inside the skull causing bleeding into and around the brain. There are hallmark

signs parents need to watch out for, first immediately after the injury, and then later in the day.

Signs include:

- Loss of consciousness
- Vomiting
- Amnesia
- Vision problems
- Change in other senses
- Feeling "dazed" or hazy
- Headache that doesn't go away
- Balance problems
- Seizures
- Shaking or tremors
- Change in muscle tone, weakness



If your child has any of these signs, they should be seen by a doctor right away.

from [www.vanderbiltchildrens.com](http://www.vanderbiltchildrens.com)

# Faith in Action/Fe en Acción



**FAITH  
IN ACTION**

## I WOULD LIKE:

- A Friendly Visitor
- A weekly phone call
- Someone to assist me with grocery shopping
- Someone to assist me with making meals
- Help with:  
 letter/card writing  
 paperwork  
 filling out forms
- Someone to read to me
- To have small chores or light cleaning done
- Help with yard work or minor house repairs
- I am taking care of someone homebound or disabled and would like a few hours of relief
- A ride to services or an appointment
- Help with mending clothing
- I currently receive many of the services listed above

## I CAN:

- Be a friendly visitor
- Make a weekly phone call
- Assist someone with grocery shopping
- Assist someone with making meals
- Assist someone with  
 letter/card writing  
 paperwork  
 filling out forms
- Read to someone
- Help someone with small chores or light house cleaning
- Help someone with yard work or minor household repairs
- Tend to someone who is homebound or disabled for a few hours
- Drive someone to services or to an appointment
- Assist with mending clothing
- I am already providing some of the services listed above

I am willing to volunteer 1-3 hours per week as a group leader, matching up volunteers to those in need

Do you know someone who is in need of assistance?

If so, we will contact you directly for more information

My family is willing to volunteer for this project

I can't volunteer, but could possibly donate stamps, cards or other program supplies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Julie Chytil, Program Coordinator  
E-mail address: [jlchytil@hotmail.com](mailto:jlchytil@hotmail.com)

Phone: 672-7334  
Fax: (402) 341-7731 (please call 341-7730 before faxing)

# Faith in Action/ Fe en Acción



**FAITH  
IN ACTION**

Hello! Hopefully you have heard about the Faith in Action/Fe en Acción program right here at Grace Lutheran Church! I invite the members of Grace Lutheran Church to join us in sharing and extending a helping hand to the elderly and disabled. We are currently looking for both volunteers and names of individuals who may be interested in receiving caregiving services.

Sometimes a little help, or a little company, can make a world of difference for someone temporarily/or permanently homebound. Faith in Action/Fe en Acción provides assistance to homebound people and their families, without charge. The volunteers choose from a variety of activities like shopping, making telephone calls, helping with light cleaning, meal preparation, or relief for family caregivers. With just one half hour a week you can make a difference to a person who is alone.

## **Several examples might be:**

- \*An 85-year-old woman with a heart condition can no longer manage by herself. She needs somebody to help with groceries every other week. She worries because without this help she may not be able to remain in her home.
- \*One lady arrived home from the hospital, after having an operation. She would like a little help with cleaning, until she recovers.
- \*A 79-year-old man, recently widowed, misses the company of his wife and meals she fixed. To have a neighbor visit him and help him cook a meal would mean the world to him.
- \*A husband and wife recently had triplets that were born prematurely. They would appreciate a volunteer who would help with laundry once a week.

## **There are many ways to participate with this ministry:**

1. Perhaps you know someone who needs the help of a good neighbor?
2. Perhaps you need help because of some illness? We all take turns being the one who receives help from time to time.
3. Perhaps you need temporary help after an operation?
4. Perhaps someone is afraid to ask for help? With volunteers from the Church we can provide this aid.
5. If you like getting to know people, you can be the person who matches volunteers with people in need.
6. Perhaps you want to help as a volunteer. Even in one hour a month you can assist someone in your community.

We are in the process of collecting information to be able to match the needs of the elderly with people who can help. If you are interested in participating in the ministry of Faith in Action/Fe en Acción, please complete the form attached and place it in the basket at church during collection, fax it, e-mail it in to myself or drop it in the mail.

We want to work with Grace Lutheran Church and take the opportunity to put our faith into action. We believe that no one must remain alone or isolated. We pray that together we can continue bringing the love of God to our neighbors in need. We always remember that we must love our neighbors as ourselves.

God bless you!

Julie Chytil Phone: (402) 672-7334 Email: jlchytil@hotmail.com  
c/o Wheeler Memorial Presbyterian Church  
4501 South 23rd Street  
Omaha, NE 68107



## From the Editor

One of the difficulties of getting older is that your eyes don't see as clearly. I haven't been willing to invest in prescription lens and the eye doctor says it's not necessary quite yet. The other day, I saw a good sale on some reading glasses. I searched through the various frames and magnification strengths until I found a pair I thought would suit me. I removed the old pair I was wearing and tried on the new ones. Instantly, the world looked different. I did not realize how badly my view of my surroundings had been affected by those

scratched and dirty lenses.

God began to speak to my heart. There are many things that cause my view of the circumstances around me to become fuzzy and distorted. Sin and discouragement are big ones. My lenses begin to get dirty as I allow things that I know displease God to settle in and take residency in my life. I gradually become unaware how much my sin clouds my daily spiritual vision. Like a frog in a pot of cool water slowly heated, I don't know how much danger I'm in. I experience anger, hatred and depression...emotions that drain the love of living for God away.

As I thought about the things that were clouding my vision, I realized God was again reminding me that in order to get a clearer picture of my situation, I had look through spiritual lens that were continually being cleaned by the Holy Spirit. I have to get back into the Word. If I want a clear spiritual view, God's Word is the place to start. We think we see clearly. We make decisions based on how we see things. But, if we change our lenses by looking into the Word of God, His Bible and spending quality time with Him, we begin to see things in a new way. Our lenses are clean and strong. All the impurities we saw looking the old way, change. We see new colors and brighter, clearer pictures of God's will for us. We have victory over the enemies that hold us back

This morning I found a testimony by David in 2 Samuel 22. It is wonderful!

*"But me he caught--reached all the way from sky to sea; he pulled me out of that ocean of hate, that enemy chaos, the void in which I was drowning. They hit me when I was down, but God stuck by me. He stood me up on a wide-open field; I stood there saved--surprised to be loved! God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him. When I cleaned up my act, he gave me a fresh start. Indeed, I've kept alert to God's ways; I haven't taken God for granted. Every day I review the ways he works, I try not to miss a trick. I feel put back together, and I'm watching my step. GOD rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes."*

*(Verses 17-25, The Message)*

Is it time to change your lenses? Have you spent any deep time with God? Short daily devotions are good but are you always just "sipping" and never really getting a good long drink of God's refreshing message of His love and longing for a relationship with you?

*Pam Reents, Editor*

Oh, I want to know you more  
Oh, I want to know you more  
deep within my soul I want to know you  
Oh, I want to know you  
And I would give my final breath  
To know you in your death and resurrection  
Lord, I want to know you more...

*Word and music by Steve Fry*





**MAY**

May is

- Better Sleep Month*
- National Good Car Care Month*
- National Photo Month*
- National Salad Month*
- National Egg Month*
- National Barbecue Month*
- Revise Your Work Schedule Month*
- Date Your Mate Month*
- National Hamburger Month*
- Fungal Infection Awareness Month*



**Mother's Day**

May 14, 2006

Don't forget to call your Mother!



"Choir Work-Out Video..."

A businessman on his deathbed called his friend and said, "Bill, I want you to promise me that when I die, you will have my remains cremated."

"And what," his friend asked, "do you want me to do with your ashes?"

The businessman said, "Just put them in an envelope and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service. Write on the envelope, 'Now, you have everything.'"



**Memorial Day**

May 29, 2006

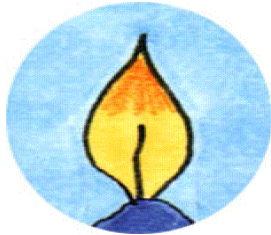
Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations, that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided Republic.

~John A. Logan



June 4th

*Wear Red Clothes to Church!*



## Word Search

**Matthew 5:13-16**

***"You are the light of the world."***

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

*Find the following words from the Gospel passage:*

ALL

EARTH

HEAVENLY

LIGHT

SHINE

CITY

FATHER

LAMP

MOUNTAIN

WORLD

DEEDS

GLORIFY

LAMPSTAND

SALT

## Suck it in!

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?"

