

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

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1326 South 26 Street  
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

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

**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/Jason Bauer**

**Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill**

**Faith in Action - Julie Chytil**

**May 2007**

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

2007 Council Members  
 Ron Adrian                    Andrew Edwards            Sarah Emery  
 June Hilmer                   David Hufford                Greg Hula  
 Ernest Olson                 Brenda Spahr  
 Pastor Laaker                John Ivo Mounto

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Officers Serving the Congregation but not on Council:

Financial Secretary: Janet Hula            Treasurer: Margie Sutej



The regular meeting of the Council was held April 10. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing – Darlene Spahr, Bernard Jacobs, David Feurst, Pastor Bob Johnson, Mary Hock, Ivo Mounto for strength and safety with the social work he is doing getting food for the people who are hungry in Sudan, to put an end to the genocide, care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal and for safety of all of our military personnel, and for Pastor Laaker for well deserved rest and relaxation during his Sabbatical. Greg led devotions from Jeremiah 7:3 and Romans 13:11; which spoke about amending our ways and let God dwell within our daily lives.

Visions for Ministry: Council continued sharing in discussion of “One Body One Spirit”, which included the differences of multiracial, multicultural and multiethnic around us.

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

Christian Education Adult Sunday School class reported more than normal attendance on Easter morning. On Being Lutheran getting very interesting and all are welcome to join.

Evangelism/Outreach reported that the ESL classes are now taking a break until the fall.

Finance - no new report.

Property no new report.

Service/Social Ministry had no new report.

Support/Stewardship Library collected \$61.80 during the Lent Book Sale.

Worship Concerns regarding the Altar care that some items may need plating.

Unfinished Business: Possible candidates for Nebraska Synod Assembly in June were discussed.

New Business: None.

Announcements: The next joint meeting with St. Luke’s and Cristo Rey councils will be Monday, April 16, 6 p.m.



Well my sabbatical time is coming to a close. Soon I will be with you. I plan to return to the office on Tuesday, May 1. As my last learning event, I plan to travel to Kansas City on Monday, April 30, to see the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit. I remember the early stories written about the Scrolls when they were first found in the early 1960's. Many of the scrolls have had an impact on the translations of the Old Testament books represented by the scrolls. It will be a treat to see the display.

This has been a wonderful renewing time. It has been good to be free of the responsibilities knowing that many capable leaders have helped keep things moving and I was free to rest and recharge. Are you ready to set sail on some new adventures? Okay, maybe I should wait until we've had time to reconnect and check out whether the visions for our future touch your heart in similar ways.

I trust your celebrations of Lent and Easter were meaningful and life changing. Truly God has done an amazing work in Jesus. God's love for us transcends all the fear and stuckness that keeps us from acting with confidence on the good news of an abundant life to be found in Christ.

Spring is upon us. New life is bursting forth everywhere. This is a wonderful depiction of the work of the Spirit among the people of God. The Spirit opens the channels of new life. Let us rejoice in the ways the Spirit leads us in ministry in the months ahead.

I am looking forward to being with all of you once again. This time has flown by fast for me. Again, thank you for making this time away possible. I am deeply appreciative.

*Pastor Laaker*



I have a friend who always seemed to lean slightly to the left all the time.

A guy has one arm and decides he doesn't want to go on with life, not being able to do the things other guys can do with two arms. So, he goes up to the 20th story of a building and is trying to build up the nerve to jump. As he's standing there a guy comes walking on the sidewalk below.

The one-armed man notice's that this other guy has NO arms at all. He watches as the guy stops on the sidewalk and starts dancing and spinning in circles. The one-armed man thinks to himself how selfish he is... in that he has one arm and is ready to end it all! So, he decides to go down and talk to the No-armed man.

He goes down and walks up to the guy and says, "Hey man... I've been up on the 20th floor considering to end it all because I have only One arm... Here you are with No arms and are dancing around. What's your deal?"

The guy with No arms says, "Arrrrr... dude I'm NOT happy! My nose itches!!!"

Moral: Think Differently. If you got no arms, get a friend to itch your nose.

## GUIDANCE

"When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music.

One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.

It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G" I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God," "u" and "i" dance." God, you and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and everyday.

May you abide in God as God abides in you.

Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life."

*You have turned my mourning to dancing*

*Ps 30:12*

*"You changed my mourning into dancing..."*

*Anonymous - [www.appleseeds.org](http://www.appleseeds.org)*

## NATIONAL

## Thursday, May 3, 2007



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.

### **Prayer Service for the National Day of Prayer**

Grace Lutheran Church has been invited to join with Faith Bible Church, Stephen Stout of Good Neighbor Ministries and other churches in the area to have a service of prayer on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Faith Bible Church is a neighborhood church just down the street at 1555 S 27<sup>th</sup> Street. (27<sup>th</sup> and Hickory) The prayer focus will include 20 minutes each for our city, our state, our country and our world.



**Men in Mission Breakfast**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2005**  
**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 7, 2007**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Hostess  
 Barb Nelson

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

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

**May 15, 2007**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Bible Study Leader  
 Marilyn Van Ormer

Hostess  
 Gertrude Hufford

**May 27, 2007**



Pentecost is a time of **red** --  
 a color of fire and zeal and  
 passion and heat. The Spirit  
 is incendiary within us.

- **Please wear red or orange to Grace Church on May 27th..**

**Other Ideas for Celebrating Pentecost**

- **Serve red and zingy foods** like Italian pasta dishes with hot sausage and tomato sauce or Mexican food with red peppers and chilies and tomatoes.
- **Gather** with family, friends, and perhaps a new acquaintance and eat that "red supper."
- **Light a candle** on the table for each person who's there, as well as perhaps ones for other loved ones who are especially missed. Use that time to say something brief about where the Spirit's flame burns in your life.

*Ideas from [www.spirithome.com](http://www.spirithome.com)*

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

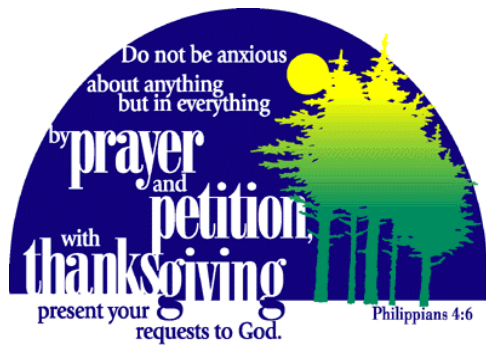
**Games, Crafts, and Fun**  
**Geared for Elementary Kids!**

**Free!**

Director, Brenda Spahr



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



## Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - On-going therapy after his stroke. Pray for help as he is trying to find another job that will enable him to continue gaining strength (member)
- ◆ Alice Friedlander - To gain strength after an injury to her back. (member)
- ◆ Darlene Spahr - COPD, Darlene has been re-hospitalized due to her difficulty breathing. (member, Brenda Spahr's mother-in-law.)
- ◆ Harlan Morter - To gain strength after being hospitalized. (member)
- ◆ Betty Coniglio - Continued recovery from heart issues. (member)
- ◆ Mae Lane - Recovering at daughter's after being hospitalized. (member)
- ◆ Ana Lopez - Teen with long term medical needs. (Family involved in ESL food basket project)
- ◆ Ambros Lado - Pray for Ambros and his rehab team as they practice skills to enable him to go live at home with his family. Ambros is in Quality Living Rehab Center. Pray for courage.
- ◆ Seth Goodman - Pray for courage and strength to overcome his addiction in rehab.  
(Nephew of Pam Reents.)
- ◆ Charles and Maxine Moyer - Maxine has been diagnosed with cancer. She has recently been hospitalized with other health issues. Pray for strength for their adult children who are providing 24 hour care for Charlie. (Parents of members, Loren and Marsha Moyer)

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

Pastor Laaker (just back from sabbatical leave)  
Bishop David deFreese, Nebraska Synod  
Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Church.

### Sudanese Church Requests

- ◆ Pray that Ivo Mounto would be able to meet the needs of his people and return to the USA soon.
- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Pray that the elders in the church community will have wisdom in their counsel.
- ◆ Pray for the organization of a women's organization forming to help meet the needs of our immigrant Sudanese women. The organization, SOTRU, will be working to help these women find funding for home based business opportunities.
- ◆ Pray for Titus Duli, Ivo's temporary replacement as church leader here at Grace. Titus and Tereeza's newborn baby has a dislocated shoulder as a result of her difficult birth. Titus and Tereeza are trying to get help for the child but as of yet, cannot get an accurate diagnosis and treatment underway. They have another appointment soon. Pray that the Doctor would be able to find the correct course of action to relieve this child's pain.

# Kids At Work 2007



## Kids At Work Youth Work Program

**June 3 is Kick Off Sunday!**

Sunday Worship Attendance Required  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays - Work Days

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Brenda Spahr, Director  
341-7730

The Kids At Work Program, a program that links elementary and middle school aged youth to faithful worship, learning responsibility and saving their earnings, needs people to volunteer to be team leaders on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon during June and July.

The Kids At Work Kick-Off is on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> with the first workday being Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Even if you can only work once or twice during the summer or weekly, your help would be welcomed. If you have a project idea that you think the Kids At Work could do for the church or for someone in the area, give me a call at church, 341-7730 or at home, 551-4347.

**The Annual Welcome Dinner for Kids At Work will be held on May 21st at 6:30 p.m.** All the Kids At Work Families are invited as well as Grace Lutheran Church Council Members. Invitations will be arriving shortly.

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.

*Brenda Spahr,  
Kids At Work (KAW) Director*

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## Happening in the Library!

### Thanks a Bunch!

Thanks to all the folks who ordered shirts during the library fund-raiser. Our shirts will be here shortly. Also, we raised over \$150.00 for the library between the Lenten Book Sale and the Lent Dinner. The remaining books will be donated to the Project Hope Book Bank. Thanks for your donations.

### Are You Ready For A New Adventure?

Next month, the Library will kick off the Grace Lutheran Library Summer Reading Club. The theme for the summer will be announce in the next newsletter.

### Have You Been in the Library Lately?

Many new books have been added to the shelves.

- 5 books of the Guidepost "Choir Mystery" Series - Easy to read!
- "90 Minutes in Heaven" - The author, Don Piper, just spoke in Omaha. Story of his death in a automobile accident and his near death experience. Fascinating!





# "Helping Hands"

Hope for the hungry, hopeless  
and homeless.



**Project Hope**  
The Theme for May is Soap.

Laundry Soap, Dish soap, Hand soap



## **SEW FUN!**

The quilters are making beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief and little lap robes for some of the patients at local nursing homes.

### **Want to help?**

They meet most Mondays  
from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

No special skills required.

From the

## **Project Hope Book Bank**

"Easter blessings to you all! Once again, I'd like to thank everyone who has donated items for the Book Bank at Project Hope. We have received so many wonderful children's books, adult books and devotional material. A special that you to the churches that provided The Very First Easter books which we shared during Holy Week.

At this time, we have enough National Geographic magazines and Reader's Digest on hand.

Thank you again for your continued support."

Cindi Sadowski, Book Bank Coordinator.

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



May 19, 2007

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Wrap up 1:30 p.m.  
Free Lunch for All Workers  
Reservations requested by May 11th  
to help with planning lunch.

Call Toll Free at 1-888-656-6254  
for reservations or information.

Lutheran  
Service  
Corps  
Golf  
Tournament



Lutheran Service Corps' 4th Annual Golf tournament will be held Monday, May 21, 2007 at Oak Hill Country Club.

This is a fundraiser for Lutheran Service Corps. The fee includes lunch, dinner, pin prizes and a gift bag for every golfer.

For more information, check the bulletin board at church or contact bill Davis at 598-5883



# 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 Don Reents, President at 342-6754

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Need Some Help with Your Life?

**Free Counseling is available  
through the Community Counseling Program**

Allyson Campbell, CMSW, LMHP is available to offer confidential counseling to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. Her office is at St Luke's Lutheran Church, 2315 I Street. Her hours at St. Luke are Tuesdays and Thursdays for 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 733-0172 to set up an appointment.

The goal of the Community Counseling Program is to bring professional councils offices closer to people's homes and ensure these services are available to everyone regardless of ability to pay. The service is made available to members of the community through support from the Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation, St Luke's Lutheran Church, and Omaha Public Schools.

**National Cancer Survivor's Day**  
June 3, 2007  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Cancer Survivors Park  
105th and Pacific.  
Omaha, NE

The event is free and many activities are planned such as food, information on surviving cancer, children's activities, music and featured speakers.

*The public is invited to attend.*

The Master of Ceremonies will be  
Ms. Malorie Maddox from  
Channel 6 WWT

Please feel free to recommend a cancer survivor for the 2007 Spirit of Survivorship Award. For more information call 933-5800.

**Rummage**



**Sale**

**Wheeler Presbyterian Church  
Seafarer Mariners  
Annual Rummage Sale**

Wheeler Memorial Presbyterian Church  
4501 South 23rd Street  
Omaha, NE

Saturday  
April 28, 2007  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Come and Browse, Shop and Eat!**

# Free Trash Dump!

## Columbus Neighborhood Clean Up

May 12, 2007 Only  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
***NO EARLY DROP OFFS!!***



Drop Off Site for Columbus Park  
St Vincent dePaul Thrift Store Parking Lot  
2101 Leavenworth - Omaha, NE  
**No Chemicals      No Batteries      No Concrete**  
(Appliances, Tires and Yard Waste drop off sites listed below)  
Paint cans accepted if the lid is off and paint is dry in the can.

Trash pick up service is available for seniors and physically challenged. Call Don Reents at 342-6754 to be placed on the list.

If you have a pick up truck and/or can volunteer to help either at the drop off site or in the trucks, please call Don as soon as possible.

Pop, Hot Dogs and Chips  
will be sold at the drop off site!

Volunteers are needed to help run the concession stand and to donate cookies and cupcakes.

Proceeds go to benefit the Neighborhood Association. Call Don at 342-6754 if you can help.

### Recycling Is Great!

A special dumpster will be provided at our site for scrap metal.

**Taking Iron, steel, brass, aluminum & car parts.**

Appliances must be taken to: **South High School - 4519 South 24th St.**

**Free Tire Dump - Upland Park North Parking Lot-**

**30th and Upland Parkway**

or

Columbus Park will accept tires at our dumpsite for **\$1.00 each!**

Yard Waste must be taken to: **River City Recycling - 6030 South 60th.**

A Small number of passes will be available at our drop off site.

**Please consider donating your usable items to St Vincent dePaul!**

Tubs will be available for your donations.

# News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church



- Thelma Harrahill and her son, Jim have relocated to Kansas City so that Jim and his sister's family can care for Thelma. If you would like to send a card to Thelma, Contact the church office for her new address.
- The Survival English Class for Sudanese has concluded until the fall. Thank you to all the people who helped to make this year so successful.
- Welcome back, Pastor Laaker! Pastor Laaker will return to the church on May 1 after his two month sabbatical is finished. The family of Grace Church would like to thank Pastor Neal and Mrs. Ardis Von Seggern for filling in for Pastor Damon in his absence. We appreciate Pastor Neal and Ardis's ministry among us. May God be with you.
- Thanks to Jerry Van Ormer, Bob Moss and Ken Hilmer for their work on the stage area down in the basement. The guys were able to fix the damaged vinyl slide curtain. It looks great, fellas!

Dear Friends and Family,

I want to thank you for celebrating my 80th birthday on Sunday, April 15, after worship.

I am truly blessed to be a part of a family, both immediate family and church family. Your cards and birthday greetings have made my day several times as I read and re-read the beautiful sentiments you gave.

May God bless us all in the coming year.

Jim Costello

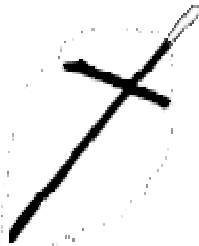
We like someone because.  
We love someone although.

**Camp Carol Joy Holling**  
***"This Land is Your Land"***  
**Day Camp**

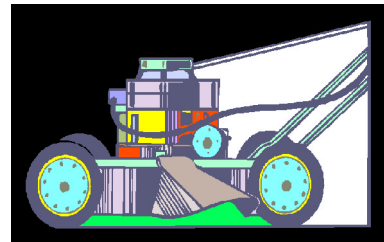
**Saturday, May 5,**  
for youth grades 1-3  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Spend the day at camp celebrating creation and learning how to be better stewards of the earth. The day is packed with nature games, activities, hiking and a closing devotion. Bring a sack lunch and beverage to enjoy. Adult volunteers are invited to stay for the day.

The cost is only \$6.00 per child. Registration is due by April 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Help Us Keep the  
Church Lawn  
Beautiful**



Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn. If you can help, please sign up on the church bulletin board or contact the church office at 341-7730

**Has God touched your life?  
Do you like to tell stories?**

If you answered yes, you will want to join the ELCA as a Mission Interpreter.

Mission Interpreters:

- bring good news to light and share it with the congregation
- tell the story of congregation, synod and ELCA ministries.
- provide 2-way communication for faithful supports of ELCA ministries.

Want to know more about the program?

**Come to Mission Interpreter Training  
Wednesday, May 16 from 6pm. - 9pm.**

**Rejoice Lutheran Church  
2556 S 138 Street**

For more info check the bulletin board or contact Jim Schmidt at 334-0654.



Virginia McGill  
Director, (402) 660-6689

Douglas County Health Department  
Gabriella Ortiz, Se habla español. (660-1035)  
Gema Wolde, Bilingual (660-1035 Leave Message)

### **Interfaith Instructor Receives Volunteer of the Year Award from United Way**

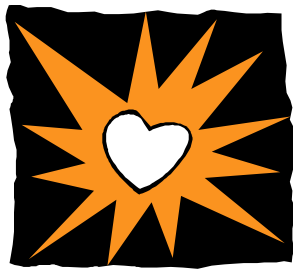
This month, the Latinas in Action/Interfaith Health Service exercise and educational programs celebrated the birthday of Hilda Vasquez, our dedicated aerobics teacher and beloved volunteer. Hilda is just one of the many women who help make the Latinas in Action program such a success. She teaches as many as 5 grueling sessions of aerobics each week in both the morning and evening classes. Not content to have her students learning the same moves, she is always on the lookout for new music, new dance routines and new ways to improve the program. Participants are always engaged by her teaching style.

Hilda even showed up to teach two different classes on her birthday, one morning class at 9 am and one evening class at 6 pm. Her children, Uriel and Maria accompanied her to the evening party Gema and I hosted for her at Grace Methodist Church. Hilda is humble, efficient and reserved and does not like a big fuss made about her. But we could tell from her facial expressions that she enjoyed the celebrations.

It was with great pride that I nominated Hilda for the United Way's Volunteer of the Year Award in the category of Adult Education this year. Having a person like Hilda to nominate means that the nomination and accompanying essay practically write themselves because she has so many positive qualities and is so dedicated to the community in her service to others. The hardest part was keeping the essay trimmed to two pages. Hilda was selected to win the award and will be attending a luncheon on April 18th to receive it. Gaby, Gema, Hilda's mom and sister, Patty with the Health Department, as well as a few Latinas in Action participants will all accompany Hilda on the big day. We are all thrilled for her and believe she is a most deserving winner.

Please join us in congratulating Hilda on her award and on her many years of service to the community!

*Virginia McGill, Interfaith*



**FAITH  
IN ACTION**

We want to be at your meetings! That's right, invite Faith in Action of Interfaith Health Service to your next council meeting, women's group meeting, etc, and we will not only share the message about how the Faith in Action program works, we will provide refreshments for the entire group!

As summer approaches, it may a great time for families to volunteer together to visit a senior or help with an outdoor clean-up project at someone's home. Let us know if you and your family including children and grandchildren are up for a summer of service! Remember, Faith in Action is flexible and can meet your needs as a volunteer.

God Bless!

*Julie Chytil, Faith in Action*

Julie Chytil, Program Coordinator

[faithinaction2005@hotmail.com](mailto:faithinaction2005@hotmail.com) (English) **660-2652**

Olga Jaimes, Outreach Worker

[faithinactionofihf@hotmail.com](mailto:faithinactionofihf@hotmail.com) (Spanish)

[www.fiavolunteers.org](http://www.fiavolunteers.org)



## From the Editor

# Too Much

“Let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”

Psalm 119:133b (NAS)

“I have been pondering the phrase from Psalm 119 that says, “Let not any iniquity have dominion over me.” No sin (iniquity) is good to have in our lives. I sometimes find it hard to confess my specific sin to God even though I want a personal relationship with Him and my sin clogs the communication. I would rather just say “Forgive me, Lord, for the bad I do.” and be done with that part of my prayer so I can get on with the “asking” part. Selfish!

I have a girlfriend and her husband who had an argument with their teen daughter. They required the teen to write an apology note to them before she got off of restriction. The teen simply complied with the her parents direction by writing something like, “I’m sorry for what I did. Please forgive me. I love you.” My friend didn’t accept the apology note as it was written because, while her daughter had said she was sorry, she didn’t take the time to really think about what she had done and learn from her iniquity. The lesson here is that there is merit in thinking about how you were tempted, what you did, what the consequences of your sin brought, and saying to God (an each other) what it is exactly that you are sorry for.

As I thought about not wanting iniquity to have dominion over me, I thought about the obvious sins I needed to confess. Those were actually easy to list because they were such glaring examples of disobedience. The ones I had a harder time admitting to and confessing are the sins I would call the “too much” sins. We all have “too much” sins in our lives. What is a “too much” sin?

Usually I think of the word “*much*” in a good light. *Much* is mostly used as a measurement. “*Much*” sounds like abundance as in, “There was much rejoicing” or “God has given me so much.” The dictionary defines the word *much* like this: “great in quantity, measure or degree.”

If I put the word, “too” before the word “much,” I head in to the negative. The list of habits and hobbies that follow the words, “too much” are endless. A little of any of these things isn’t necessarily a sin. It becomes a sin when we do it too much as in, “Too much food to eat” becomes gluttony,” “Too much television or computer time becomes laziness” or “Too much liquor” becomes alcoholism.” “Too much money” can be greed. “Too much” of anything becomes an addiction/obsession and means that somehow I am out of balance with God’s plan for my life. Being out of balance with God’s plan and purpose usually means we also miss a special blessing of peace and stress-free living that God wanted to give us. Our lives today are so full of stressful living. Could it be that we would live a more quiet, purposeful life for God if we avoided the sin of “too much?”

**Yes!**

So as you take stock this week in your walk with God, what things in your life fall under the category of “too much.?” It can be anything that is good or pleasurable but that is done to excess. Is there a sin of “too much” that needs to be confessed in your life? Philippians 4:5 says, “*Let your moderation be known to man.*” Let’s ask God to direct us to guide us to watch out for anything in our lives that might be “too much.”

*Pam Reents, Editor*



**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*



May 28th  
**Memorial Day**

*Memorial Day*  
 "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

**Attributes of a Godly Mother ...**

She has accepted Christ as Savior  
 And Lord of her whole life;  
 She has peace with God,  
 That calms her inner strife;  
 She knows how to trust  
 The Father for all things;  
 She is right and just,  
 In the guidance she gives.

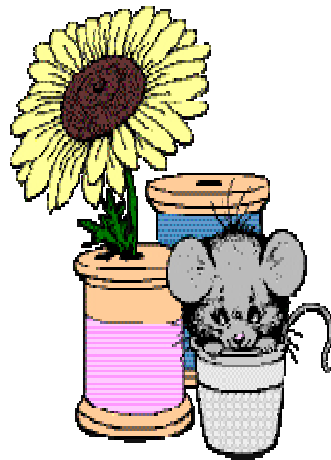
She knows how to pray  
 For her family's daily needs;  
 She can point the way,  
 Which God wants all to go;  
 And always seeks to guide  
 Her family towards God;  
 For she abides in the Lord,  
 Walking the way He leads.

She knows how to share  
 the importance of the Holy Word;  
 And seeks to reach her child  
 From the depth of her heart;  
 She always tries to be  
 Loving, gentle, and kind;  
 She helps her child grow  
 In divine wisdom, insight, and grace.

She takes a house and makes it  
 A pleasant home for her family;  
 And if her children stray  
 A forgiving love they will find.

One who aspires to be all of this,  
 A Godly Mother she is indeed;  
 For she has not been remiss,  
 In reflecting the Almighty God  
 In whom she believes,  
 For all her children to see.

- *Treasury of Quotable Poems* -



*Happy Mother's Day*

**To all the Church  
"Moms"  
in our lives:**

Even if we are not biologically related to you, your love and support of us makes you our honorary mothers this month.

We will always be grateful for your influence on us, your prayers on our behalf and your spiritual guidance.

**We Love You Very Much!**

**Special Days  
at Grace Lutheran Church in  
May**

- 1 - "On Being Lutheran" Study.
- 6 - Alice Friedlander's 80th Birthday Celebration After Church.
- 9- Prayer Service at Grace.
- 12 - Neighborhood Cleanup -  
Dump site at St Vincent dePaul  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 13 - Mother's Day.
- 15 - "On Being Lutheran" Study.
- 21 - Kids At Work Welcome  
Dinner with the Church Council.
- 27 - Pentecost!

**Wear Red to Church!**

- 28 - Memorial Day.  
Celebrate Safely - Church Office Closed.

Check the church calendar or  
the bulletin board for more details

## Mother's Day Bible Scramble

Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage. Solution at the bottom of this page.

“NDA EHS WVOED A WVO, NDA SIDA, O ROLD FO TSSOH, FI UTOH WTLI NIEEDD OOLK NO EHT TONLIFFCA FO TNIHE NMIHDDAA, NDA RRMEEEEB EM, NDA TON TROGFE TNIHE NMIHDDAA, UTB WTLI VIGE UTON TNIHE NMIHDDAA A NMA LIHDC, TNHE I WLLI VIGE MIH UTON EHT ROLD LLA EHT YSDA FO SIH EFIL, NDA TRHEE SLLHA ON ZRROA OMEC NOPU SIH HEDA. “

Hint - This was the prayer of a woman in the Bible who desperately wanted to be a mother!

Extra Credit: What was her name? What did she name her son?

### Don't Ever Complain About Your Job Again!



<http://www.ahajokes.com>

### Kid's Wisdom for Mother's Day

- When your mom is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer.
- Never tell your mom her diet's not working.
- Stay away from prunes.
- Never leave your three-year-old brother in the same room as your school assignment.
- If you want a kitten, start out by asking your mom for a horse.
- Felt-tip markers are not good to use as lipstick.
- Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat.
- When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone.

The baby pigeon said, "I can't make it; I'll get too tired." His mother said, "Don't worry; I'll tie a piece of string to one of your legs and the other end to mine."

The baby started to cry.

"What's wrong?" said the mother.

"I don't want to be pigeon towed!"



[www.ahajokes.com](http://www.ahajokes.com)

If I can be  
of any help,  
you're in more  
trouble than I  
thought.

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