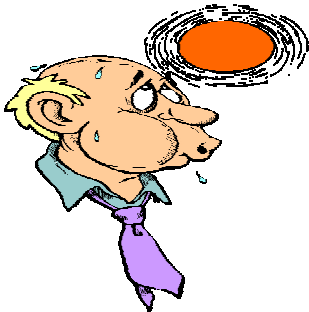


Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in care
and in service to all.

THE GRACE MESSENGER

August 2006



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

Return Service Requested

Phone: (402) 341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com

Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Christian Education

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker

Editor/Church Secretary – Pam Reents

Sudanese Ministries - John Ivo Mounto

Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr

Organist - Cody Talarico

Sexton - Ambros Lado

Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

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



Council Reports

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 July 11. The Council members shared their prayer concerns which included care concerns for Bishop deFreese’s family on the loss of his mother, the Lane family on the loss of John, III, the Fitle family on the loss of Norene, ongoing health concerns for Frances Campsey, Thelma Harrahill, Mary Kay Lee (neighbor of Arlone Farber), Doug Farber, Scott (David Hufford’s friend), David and Scott as they work on Scott’s book, for blessing and success on those leading our Vacation Bible School efforts, blessing on our conversations with our sister churches, wisdom for Regina Mouto as she prepares to take her Nursing Boards, wisdom for leaders to work for peace, the ongoing needs of our Sudanese brothers and sisters, and thanksgiving for rain. Pastor led devotions from Isaiah 44:21 and Revelation 21:6 which spoke of a God who is both personal and corporate and one that gives life through water.

Visions for Ministry: The Council continued its study of “Becoming a Blessed Church.” This chapter described a Blessed Church as an encouraging place. A conduit through which God channels his mercy and love. A guiding star that leads. A Blessed Church is one that is alive in Christ, dynamic and creative in its worship.

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

Christian Education reported on the plans for Vacation Bible School. Kids at Work helped distribute fliers in the neighborhood. Thanks were expressed to Greg and Janet Hula for the work on the outdoor banner. David Hufford asked if folks would be interested in a specific adult class on “Being Lutheran.”

Evangelism/Outreach reported on The Kids At Work Program as it continues to touch lives.

Finance presented the Endowment Board report. It was approved as presented.

Property had no new report.

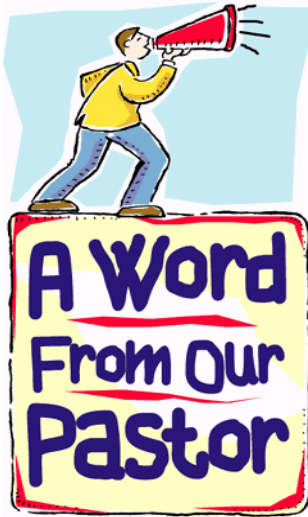
Service/Social Ministry had no new report.

Support/Stewardship had no new report.

Worship had no new report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: the Library Board plans to hold an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 17.



I am writing these notes at the end of a very busy week. At the beginning of the week, I was asked to be part of delegation of religious folks who would sit down with Senator Hagel and Representative Terry's staffs. We wanted to bring the plight of the Palestinian people to their attention and ask how we could assist in keeping them informed from our Christian contacts in Palestine.

We then gathered as a community to surround Mae Lane and her family as they laid to rest her son, John, III.

At the same time, Norene Fitle's family was gathering to surround her in with their love and care during the last moments of her earthly life. Then on Friday, July 14, we laid her to rest.

As we gathered to celebrate Norene's life and the faithfulness of God's care for her, I read a quote from Lou Buscaglia which Norene kept on her refrigerator. It reads like this:

"The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no tickertape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along; people will appreciate our compassion, our unique talents. Someone who will live a happier life merely because we took the time to share what we had to give. Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have a potential to turn a life around. It's overwhelming to consider the continuous opportunities there are to make our love felt."

Jesus taught his disciples many things. One of his teaching moments was captured by Matthew and we've come to know those teaching statements as "The Beatitudes." One of those statements read like this: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. This seems to be in keeping with Lou Buscaglia's remarks. It was also true of Norene's life.

I made the following reflections. The word we render as "meek" is difficult to translate from the original Greek into English. We tend to link the words "meek" and "little," as in "he is a meek, little man." There are unfortunate implications with the word "meek" which imply a meek person is without courage, or self-respect, a broken-spirited person. The Rev. David H.C. Read tells us of being informed while he was at a Scottish church that a certain young man was going to enter the ministry. The person relaying this information said to him, "I am so pleased. He's just the type (to be a pastor) -- a nice, harmless boy." Years ago the word "meek" had a different meaning than it does today. Once upon a time the word "meek" characterized a person who was free of self-will, someone who wasn't interested in getting his or her own way, but was interested in the good of other people. This is a word that only makes sense today when it is understood as describing the relationship between God and ourselves, not simply a description of how people relate to one another. The Greek word which we translate as "meek" was used to describe a horse that was bridled, ready to run a race. The meek are those disciplined and controlled by God, ready to run God's race. To be meek is to believe that God is in charge of our lives and to let God control and direct our lives just as a horse lets its owner take charge of the bridle. When God is in control, then the whole earth is ours. Meekness is not weakness. It is a word that denotes self-control. It is a gentle, controlled, disciplined spirit.

I would hope that as we seek to live our lives in faithfulness to God's calling of each one of us, we might consider the tremendous power of God's work in and through us.

Pastor Laaker



W/ELCA Board

No Meeting in August

September Meeting
September 11, 2006
(Note change to 2nd Monday
because of the holiday)

Ruth Dorcas Circle

No Meeting In August

September Meeting
September 19, 2006



Grace Lutheran Men's Breakfast

Saturday,
September 16, 2006.
8:00 a.m.

Come On Back!

Quilting will resume on Monday,
September 11th at 9:00 a.m.
See you then!



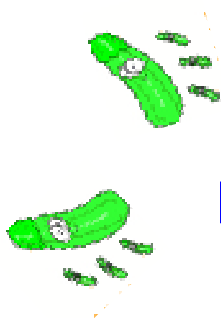
Paper Products and
drinks will be provided.

Tuesday
August 15, 2005
6:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Location:

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 S 26 Street
Omaha, NE

This is a potluck picnic.
Bring your favorite foods to share.



Zucchini's terrific!
Like bunnies, prolific!



Kids At Work 2006



We have been blessed and fortunate that the weather this summer has been cooperative, so far. Even though it is getting to be a real summer scorcher outside, we haven't slowed down too much! The work must still be completed.

Through our work with the Temme House, we have helped maintain their food pantry and clothing rooms. We have also helped out at their warehouse putting additional items in their proper places. Jake, Angela, Danny, Alexandria, Julia, Alexandra, Bradley and Shedun have all worked with the Temme House this past month.

Our ongoing work at Cristo Rey has been rewarding, I have heard that Taylor, Julia and Samantha gave the sanctuary and kitchen a good cleaning (even cupboards!!!) On another visit to Cristo Rey, Shaban taught Nick how to mop and now Nick is able to help mop at home. Moms, there is hope. They are learning to clean and are able to help out at home now!

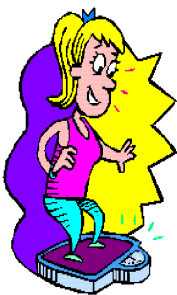
The Lutheran home has set up a regular work plan for Kids At Work to assist with. The KAW kids start their morning with rolling silverware in napkins, then move on to folding laundry. After that, if there is no shredding to do, they go outside and pick up litter. Friendly competitions are going on to see who can roll the most silverware the best and quickest!

Precious Memories Daycare has been interesting; every visit is a little different. This past month our workers have made connections with some of the children and now the children have started requesting certain workers to return! Emma, a little girl at the daycare made a connection with Taylor. Other kids at the daycare named Kaitlyn, Josh and Brandon, are eagerly waiting for Nick to return and play!

Our summer is going by pretty fast! We only have three more weeks of Kids At Work 2006!

Kids! Don't forget to faithfully save toward the Super Saver Award given out at our last worship service together for the summer. The KAW kids that have saved the required amount will receive an extra bit of money for their diligence! The awards will be given out on August 6th during worship service.

Brenda Spahr, Director of Kids At Work

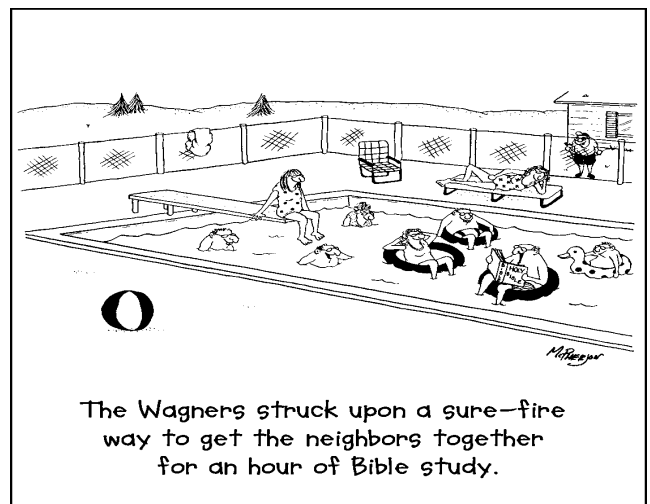


Two kids went into their parents bathroom and noticed the weigh scale in the corner.

"Whatever you do," cautioned one youngster to the other, "Don't step on it!"

Why not?" asked the sibling.

Because every time mom does, she lets out an awful scream!"



The Wagners struck upon a sure-fire way to get the neighbors together for an hour of Bible study.



Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

"Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth;
Help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart."

Martin Luther

Ask and it will be given you...

Grace Church Member, Family and Friend Requests

- ◆ Thelma Harrahill - Recovery from on going illness in the Hillcrest nursing home. (member)
- ◆ Francine Wise - ongoing health issues. (Pastor 's office person at Lutheran Metro Ministries)
- ◆ Jeanette Mendoza - Direction for her life. (attender)
- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Rex Olson - for healing as he deals with cancer. (Don and Norma Olson)
- ◆ Rose Hamilton - Healing for her cancer. (Aunt of members, Andrew and Christi Edwards)
- ◆ Frances Campsey - Health concerns. (member)
- ◆ Linda Whitney - Struggling with on-going cancer. (Friend of LaVonne Moss)
- ◆ Dan Reents - Undergoing chemo for cancer. (Brother-in-law of Pam Reents)
- ◆ Ernie Olson - Ongoing therapy after his stroke. (member)
- ◆ Mae Lane and family - Mourning the loss of son, John Lane III (Mae is a member)
- ◆ Ralph, Rebecca and Joe Fitle - Mourning the loss of wife and mother, Norene Fitle. (Norene was a member)
- ◆ Telly Mouto - Child recovering from a near-drowning accident. (daughter of Regina and Ivo Mouto, Lay leaders in the Sudanese Church worshipping here at Grace)

Sudanese Church Requests

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese leaders in the city as they work to grow the city's African churches.
For the leaders as they pursue more Christian education.
For creativity and energy to do the things God is asking of them.
For boldness as they educate the Sudanese families in the ways of God.
- ◆ Ivo Mouto - still trying to get home to Africa to see his mother who is aging and ill. (Ivo is the lay Pastor for the Sudanese Church worshipping at Grace)
- ◆ Regina Ivo - Pray for her to pass her State Boards for her Nursing license. The test is at the very end of July. (Regina is Ivo Mouto's wife)

Thanks to God

- ◆ for the success of the Kids At Work Program this summer.
- ◆ Paul and Virginia McGill - their new son, Nick in Guatemala has been released for adoption. The McGill family will be leaving at the end of July to get Nick! (Associate staff)
- ◆ Jim Costello's leg is recovering nicely. (member)
- ◆ LaVonne's Moss's eye surgery went well. (member)

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

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

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

Pray for the members of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Orleans as they recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. See the separate article in this newsletter regarding Grace/Omaha's involvement.

Come as you are
Bring a blanket, lawn chair
or sit in on of our chairs.

Sunday August, 13, 2006
10:30 a.m.

Worship out on the front lawn
under the shade of our gorgeous old tree.

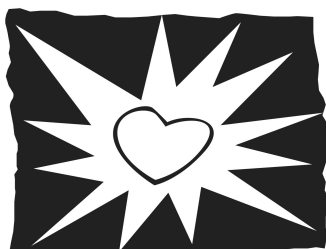
Invite Your Friends and Neighbors.



Outdoor Worship

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are
the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

Marcel Proust



FAITH
IN ACTION

“A neighbor’s
independence
depends on you”

The Faith in Action program will be hosting several informational sessions where you can learn more about the Faith in Action program. Volunteer opportunities will be discussed and information will be provided about the care giving services available. Watch for the dates in September!!

-Julie Chytil

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

faithinaction2005@hotmail.com



Interfaith Health Service is an ecumenical partnership of South East Omaha congregations joined by health care providers, community agencies and college personnel committed to enhancing human dignity by identifying, providing, improving and coordinating services to meet the holistic health and wellness needs of individuals, congregations and communities.

Interfaith Health Services is pleased to welcome Gema Wolde to our staff. Gema (pronounced "Hema") will be working with Gabriela every Friday morning at Grace Lutheran Church and every Friday evening she will be in charge of our night exercise classes at Grace United Methodist Church.

I have known Gema for 4 years. She worked with Douglas County Health Department as an Outreach Worker and was instrumental in bringing about the partnership which eventually evolved into our exercise and educational classes. Gema worked with Gaby and me to build up our wellness programs. When she began to work with us, only about a dozen women were participating in our groups. She helped us build the programs up while promoting health and wellness in the community. We are thrilled that she is able to join us again in our expansion. Her position will be funded by our Alegent grant money.

Gema speaks both English and Spanish. She enjoys spending time with her husband and children, learning new crafts, and is a certified aerobics instructor. Gema is a true people person who enjoys being around others and motivating them to care for their health. I hope you can take some time to welcome Gema as part of the Interfaith team.

On a personal note, my husband and I will be leaving soon to travel to Antigua, Guatemala, to meet our new son. Nicolas William Cucol-McGill is 9 months old and is living at the same children's home in Guatemala where our son, Jack Pablo, lived. We feel truly blessed to be welcoming Nicolas in our lives. I will be on maternity leave for 12 weeks but look forward to seeing you all in the Fall. Please keep us in your prayers as we make the journey and transitions ahead.

The Interfaith Health Service work will continue in my absence with the help of Gabriella Ortiz, Gema Wolde, Patty Falcone and Teresa Hergott from the Douglas County Health Department, and Julie Chytil of the Faith in Action Program. Contact the Grace Lutheran Church office (341-7730) or the Douglas County Health office (444-7475) if you want to get in touch with any of these staff members.

God has blessed me with these lovely women to continue our work while I am away. Remember them in your prayers as they work together to meet the needs of the community.

Virginia McGill

A doctor of psychology was doing his normal morning rounds when he entered a patient's room. He found Patient #1 sitting on the floor, pretending to saw a piece of wood in half. Patient #2 was hanging from the ceiling, by his feet.

The doctor asked patient number 1 what he was doing. The patient replied, "Can't you see I'm sawing this piece of wood in half?" The doctor inquired of Patient #1 what Patient #2 was doing. Patient #1 replied, "Oh. He's my friend, but he's a little crazy. He thinks he's a light bulb." The doctor looks up and notices Patient #2's face is going all red.

The doctor asks Patient #1, "If he's your friend, you should get him down from there before he hurts himself"

Patient #1 replies, "What? And work in the dark?"



4th Annual Grace Lutheran Summer Reading Program.

How many "miles" have you walked
in this summer's "Take A Hike"
Church Library Reading Contest?

You still have a month to get "mooving!"

Two months has passed in the Summer Reading Club!

The Reading Program goes from June through August 31.

Anyone completing the minimum number of pages in his/her age group will receive free admission to our Social to be held in September, a certificate and a small consolation prize .

As you read your books, be sure to record the number of pages on your hive on the poster outside the library.

Minimum requirements for free admission to our Social are:

50 pages for the "Read to Me" crowd. (Non Readers and early beginners)

75 pages for the Primary grades (Grades 1-3)

125 pages for the Elementary Grades. (Grades 4-6)

225 pages for everyone 7th grade to 110 years old :-)

In September, our Social will be a fund raiser for the Church Library! Look for more details in the next newsletter.

"Books are funny little portable pieces of thought."

Author - Susan Sontag

Argh! That Woman!!!!

The clerk asked me, "Cash, check or charge?" after ringing up my purchase.

As I fumbled through my wallet, she noticed a remote control for a television set in my purse.

"Do you always carry your TV remote?" she asked.

"No," I replied. "But my husband refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the meanest I could do to him!"



"Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

Pantry Needs

Project Hope
4205 Boyd St
Omaha, NE 68111

Project Hope
The Theme for August
Shampoo, Conditioner, toothpaste
and toothbrushes.

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

We Need Empty Ice Cream Buckets!

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



Neighbors South Coalition Habitat For Humanity

Build Site: 3020 W Street

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.

Help the Lutheran Service Corps Get Ready for the Fall Volunteers!

Lutheran Service Corps Wish List

- Laundry soap, dryer sheets, stain remover
- Dishwasher soap (powdered), dish soap
- Liquid hand soap, bar soap
- Ziploc/ sandwich bags, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, tall kitchen garbage bags, clear trash bags
- Cleaning Supplies such as multi-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, drain cleaner.
- Feminine Products
- Health care items such as ibuprofen, antacid tablets, cold and sinus meds, oral thermometer, heating pads, ice packs.
- Twin Bed Frames
- Brown paper yard bags
- Ice melt.

Good With Wood?

Lutheran Student Center's
3rd Annual Woodworking Auction
Sponsored by Thrivent for Lutherans



September 24, 2006
UNL Campus
535 N 16 Street
Lincoln, NE

New handmade wooden items are needed for the 3rd annual Woodworking Auction. All entry forms are due August 1st. More information and entry forms are posted on the bulletin board.

Please drop these items off at the church office so that they can be directed to LFS.

Grace Lutheran Church/Omaha to Help Grace Lutheran Church/New Orleans Recover From Hurricane Katrina

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is located in Lakeview, one of the areas hardest hit by Katrina. In late August, 2005, Hurricane Katrina flooded Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Orleans with several feet of putrid water, inundating the sanctuary, narthex and the first floor of the educational building for weeks. The congregation, as well as the buildings were devastated. Other congregations around the country have helped the New Orleans church begin reconstruction and mold remediation.

The hurricane affected all aspects of people's lives. Many parishioners' homes were flooded. Some lost their jobs, while the jobs of others moved them out-of-town indefinitely or simply demanded more as the business attempted to survive. Sometimes, families have been split with one parent out-of-state, another in New Orleans and the kids living with other family where they started attending school shortly after Katrina.

The Grace Lutheran Church (Omaha) Council and Endowment Board members have approved a gift of \$1,000.00 to help Grace Lutheran Church of New Orleans with expenses and rebuilding. Additionally, a fund-raiser dinner is planned for the second Sunday in September. More details will be announced in upcoming weeks.

If you would like to contribute specifically to this project, please mark "Grace/New Orleans Rebuild" on the memo line of your check and drop it in the offering on Sunday or mail your gift to

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105

THRIVENT BUILDS MOBILE
coming to NEBRASKA!



What's big and red and has the power to change lives?

The Thrivent Builds Mobile, and it's bringing the "joyful noise" of homebuilding to Nebraska on August 5th. We hope you'll join members of other Lutheran congregations and people throughout Nebraska to tour this unique traveling exhibit.

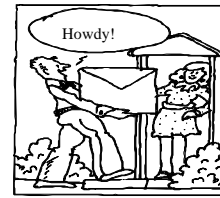
You'll get a first-hand look at why substandard housing is such a serious problem and how we can all be part of the solution by helping families build simple, decent, affordable homes and achieve greater economic independence.

The Thrivent Builds Mobile is sponsored by Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, an unprecedented expansion of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans'® long-standing commitment to Habitat for Humanity® International.

The Mobile will be parked the Lowe's store at 144th and W. Maple Road from 10:00 a. m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 5th.

Lowe's will also be sponsoring additional children's "workshop" activities. Complimentary refreshments will be available.

Community News



*Columbus Park
Neighborhood
Association*

Next Meeting
August 17, 2006

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

CPNA
1326 S 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105

Call 341-7730 for more information.

School Physicals for Children

***\$ 40.00**

Call to Schedule an Appointment

734-4110

OneWorld Community Health Centers
4920 South 30 Street, Suite 103



Bring a copy of child's immunization (shot) record.

* Most insurance plans accepted including Medicaid. People who do not have insurance can apply for the discount program. Charges for services are based on income. Please bring proof of income for one complete month to determine the discount.



National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1st!

How would you like to:

- ◆ Improve the safety of your block
- ◆ Have a fun time with your neighbors
- ◆ Build community
- ◆ Take part in a huge, nationwide program?
- ◆

**Turn on our porch light on August 1st
and meet your neighbors!**

When neighbors know and care about each other, they feel more comfortable reporting crime and suspicious behavior to police. More people watching out for each other and calling 911 will make your block a safer place.

Garden Walkers 2006
A walking club for ages 50+
8:30 a.m. Tuesdays
Through October 31

Lauritzen Gardens and the Nebraska Medical Center Health and Wellness Club have teamed up to offer an exciting program - the Garden Walkers - to individuals age 50 and older. The Garden Walkers will meet every Tuesday morning from April 18 to October 31 at 8:30 a.m. in the Lauritzen Gardens visitor and education center. The Garden Walkers program is free to Lauritzen Gardens members. Regular \$7 daily admission is required for non-members.

All Garden Walkers receive a free pedometer, courtesy of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

From the Editor

Testify

I love to hear stories. Those of you who know me also know I love to TELL stories, too. I love sharing the drama, suspense and comedy of my life with my friends. I like talking about the wonderful things that my husband does, my daughter does and my mother does. It's easy to talk about the ones we love with pride and admiration. But lately, I have become aware of how infrequently we talk about the wonderful things God does for us in our day-to-day lives. It seems awkward to talk about the intimate things God teaches us through our quiet times and through daily occurrences. In my younger years, I had a pastor who would ask me in casual conversation, "What has God been teaching you this week?" I would feel a loss for words, not because God wasn't "probably" doing things in my life but because a.) I wasn't expressly looking for His hand in the everyday things and b.) I felt funny sharing it

I recently attended a worship service that included seven stories or testimonies of what God had done in these men and women's lives. Each person had a different story and different perspective on what God had taught them through the difficulties of their lives. God's peace, God's patience, God's forgiveness, God's ability to radically change a life. As I listened, I found myself wanting to share what God had been teaching me, too I resolved to tell my friends about the specific things God was doing in my life. I recalled a Bible study I participated in that discussed the early church's habit of talking boldly about Christ and the story of His death and resurrection, even though it often meant persecution. The word used in the original language to describe how they shared their story was "breathing in and out." In other words, testifying or telling the story about God and his workings with them was as natural as breathing to them. I want to tell my own stories about God's goodness in my life to feel that. Natural...like breathing!

Lately, I have had a difficult time studying my Bible. I still miss the Bible that got stolen last year even though I have replaced it. I haven't been able to stick to one study and follow it through. Finally last week I remembered an old Bible my parents had given me in 1973. It's not a translation, that is, something that has been taken directly from the original languages. This Bible is a paraphrase which is written by someone who has read the passage and rewritten it in his own words. It is not the kind of Bible you read and base theology on. It is "easy" reading.

I have been rereading through the Psalms. I love this book of the Bible! It is emotional and real. The psalmist lays everything out before God. I have been pondering his willingness to be open before God. He is happy, scared, amazed, ashamed...every human emotion is woven through his words. Furthermore, many of these psalms were written to be sung by the choir and congregation. The psalmist is sharing how he feels about God and what God is doing with the people around him. The people in his community of friends are blessed by the writer's openness in revealing what God is teaching.

I began to read Psalm 71. The psalmist is reviewing his life out loud before God. He remembers how many times God gave him safety and refuge from enemies, how his relationship with God goes all the way back to childhood, how his success surprised everyone around him and the fact that all the good things that had happened in his life had come from God's blessing and protection. **Psalm 71:16** says "I walk in the strength of the Lord God. I tell everyone that you alone are just and good." **Verse 17** "...I have constantly testified to others of the wondrous things you do." **Verse 18**, "Give me time to tell this new generation about all your mighty miracles." **Verses 23 and 24**, "I will shout and sing your praises for redeeming me. I will talk to others all day long about your justice and your goodness."

So talk to me and let me talk to you about the things God is teaching us. Let's share with one another the blessings and answers to prayer that have been a part of God's dealings with us daily. Sharing together will bring all of us closer together, both in our relationships with each other and our relationship with God!

(All Quotes from the Living Bible)

Pam Reents, Editor

Palestinian Troupe Al Raja shares dance moves in June!

Nebraska Synod, ELCA - Beatrice, Fremont and Omaha) - Hundreds of Nebraskans watched and talked with a group of young folk dancers, Al Raja Palestinian Dance Troupe, who came to Beatrice, Fremont and Omaha to share their culture and help Americans understand who they are and how they live. The Christian and Muslim teens from the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah wanted to meet American youth and see how they live.

They got to do just that! Home stays allowed the teens and their adult sponsors to live and talk with a wide variety of Nebraska Lutheran families. They visited congregations, farms, colleges, local attractions, attended local community events, and danced. Their performances drew nearly 1,000 to the three sites.

"Al Raja was one of the best events I attended this year...it was FABULOUS. I also enjoyed the consciousness raising and encouragement toward P-E-A-C-E," said the Health Ministry Coordinator of Interfaith Health in Omaha.

"It was awesome and inspiring; learning where these children or young adults have come from and they still had smiles on their faces while they danced! You could genuinely see they were happy to be dancing," said the Grace Lutheran Church's Director of Kids at Work.

The ELCA advocates dignity and justice for all people, and peace and reconciliation among the nations. The Al Raja dancers' tour is part of the church's special strategy for engagement in Palestine and Israel. They will be part of both of the ELCA Youth Gatherings in San Antonio, Texas in July.

Voting members of the ELCA's 2005 Churchwide Assembly urged congregations to participate in the campaign, "Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land," to build awareness and engage in accompaniment and advocacy for peace with justice between Israel and Palestine.

Sponsors of the Al Raja Dance Troupe visit in Nebraska Synod are:

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Nebraska Synod Justice Ministries
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Beatrice
Lutheran Metro Ministries, Omaha
Global Mission Committee of
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
Nebraskans for Peace
Midland Lutheran College, Fremont

This article is from the June/July edition of the Nebraska Synod Newsletter. More pictures can be found online at www.nebraskasynod.org/news/currentnews.

The quotes by the Interfaith Health Coordinator and the Kids at Work Director in the above article are our own Virginia McGill and Brenda Spahr!



August is...

- National Catfish Month
- National Golf Month
- National Eye Exam Month
- National Water Quality Month
- Romance Awareness Month
- Peach Month
- Foot Health Month



August

Special Days in August
at Grace Church

- 2 - Last Day of KAW.
- 6 - KAW Awards in Worship
- 9 - Prayer Service.
- 15 - Church Picnic
- 31 - Church Summer Reading Club Ends.

Blond Pole Planters

There was this midwestern phone company that was to going hire one team of telephone pole installers and the boss had to choose between a team of blondes and a team of brown-haired guys.

So the boss said to both teams: "Here's what we'll do. Each team will be installing poles out on the new road. The team that installs the most poles gets the job." Both teams headed right out.

At end of shift, the brown-haired guys came back and the Boss asked them how many they had installed and they said they'd put 12 in.

Forty-five minutes later, the blondes came back in and they were dragging. The boss said, "Well, how many poles did you guys install?" The team leader wiped his brow and sighed, "We got three in."

The boss gasped, "Three? Those guys put 12 in!"

"Yeah," said the blond leader, "But you should see how much they left sticking out!"

Be Quiet...or Else!

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church.

Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud.

Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

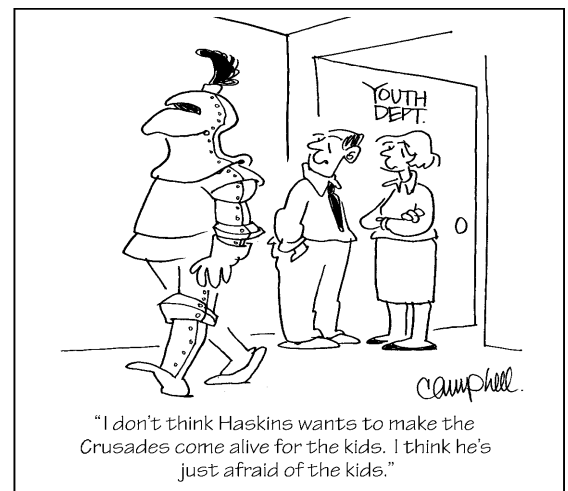
The Bible in 50 Words

- God made
- Adam bit
- Noah arked
- Abraham split
- Joseph ruled
- Jacob fooled
- Bush talked
- Moses balked
- Pharaoh plagued
- People walked
- Sea divided
- Tablets guided
- Promise landed
- Saul freaked
- David peeked
- Prophets warned
- Jesus born
- God walked
- Love talked
- Anger crucified
- Hope died
- Love rose
- Spirit flamed
- Word spread
- God remained

"Never miss
a good chance
to shut up."

Will Rogers

www.clean-funnies.com



Kids Bible Wordsearch

People in the
book of Acts
Puzzle #4

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

Acts Chapter 1:1-12



ABRAHAM
ALEXANDER
ANANIAS
ANDREW
ANNAS
BARSABAS
CAIAPHAS
DAVID
ISAAC
JACOB
JAMES
JESUS



JOHN
JOSEPH
JOSES
MARY
MATTHEW
MATTHIAS
PHILIP
PILATE
SAMUEL
SAPPHIRA
THEOPHILUS
THOMAS

BARTHOLOMEW
BARNABAS

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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A boy was taking care of his baby sister while his parents went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take her along.

"I'll never do that again!" he told his mother that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!"

"Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his mother said.

The boy said, "It wasn't that. She ate all the bait."

www.clean-funnies.com

“Faith is putting all your eggs in God's basket,
then counting your blessings before they hatch.”

Ramona C Caroll