

**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**  
**Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr**  
**Organist - Cody Talarico**  
**Sexton - Ambros Lado/Brian Sutej**  
**Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill**  
**Faith in Action - Julie Chytil**

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

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



**September 2007**

# **THE GRACE MESSENGER**



## 2007 Council Members

Ron Adrian  
June Hilmer  
Ernest Olson

Andrew Edwards  
David Hufford  
Brenda Spahr  
Pastor Laaker

Sarah Emery  
Greg Hula

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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 August 14. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: Care for those in need of healing – Darlene Rogers, Connie Chandler, Kathryn Reichert, Bernard Jacobs, Darlene Spahr, Kelly Jackson, Jodene Caruthers, Mary Vondra, Jean Matson, care for those within the Grace family that they continue to heal, direction in becoming a multi-racial congregation, where is God moving us in this issue, all of the unrest and conflict in the world and for safety of all of our military personnel, we pray for the families and victims of the Minneapolis bridge, we pray for the miners in Utah, their families and the rescue personnel, we pray for David's nephew who is getting married on Saturday, we pray for guidance and wisdom for Bishop Hanson who was recently re-elected for another six year term.

Pastor led devotions from Job 4:17 and Romans 5:8; which talks about God's love and care.

Visions for Ministry: Council continued sharing in discussion of "One Body One Spirit", chapter 6, Inclusive Worship.

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

Christian Education: Joint confirmation classes with First Lutheran and Cristo Rey will now invite 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Evangelism/Outreach: Kids At Work end of summer report provided.

Finance: No new report.

Property: The new air conditioning units are being installed one by one and all units should be transferred over within the next week. A report from MUD indicates that our new boiler has already saved us \$1,300. Ambros Lado has been working at Grace in the Upper Fellowship Hall one hour a week performing light duty.

Service/Social Ministry: No new report.

Support/Stewardship: The material for the fall stewardship program is in if anyone is interested.

Worship: August 12<sup>th</sup> service was moved indoor due to extreme heat, the next outdoor worship is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, which will be the Neighborhood Picnic.

Unfinished Business: Pastor shared photos of the new Lakota Lutheran Church in Scottsbluff, NE.

New Business: The next Tri-council meeting with St. Luke's and Cristo Rey was held on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at Cristo Rey. Ivo called on Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, and is hoping to come back for a visit around the middle of October. Greg and Janet Hula will be attending the Fall Lay Leadership Event, November 16-18.

Announcements: Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Fall Stewardship/Leadership Gatherings held at Resurrection in Gretna from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



# FROM THE PASTOR

School has begun. Programs are resuming that took a break during the summer. This is the time to reflect and reconsider God's call to us to be stewards of all that God has given us. Nathan Dungan wrote this reflection, "A Mentor Remembered," on the website: [Share, Save, Spend](#).

"Losing someone close to you is never easy.

"This is especially true when the person who dies is one of your mentors - someone who, for me, played such a significant role in shaping and influencing not only what I do, but more importantly how I do it.

"Skip, a native of Seattle, Washington passed away at age 63 just 10 months after being diagnosed with stage-four lymphoma. He was a man of unquestionable integrity and the embodiment of what it means to be a servant-leader.

"I am dedicating this column to Skip and his family and will share three important lessons I learned from him over the years.

"Lesson #1: The best mentors are excellent listeners. I first met Skip in the early nineties at a meeting we both attended in Minneapolis. At the time he was managing a large group of financial advisors in Seattle. He was a highly respected leader both in the company and the greater financial services industry.

"At the meeting, I was the clear neophyte in the group. But that didn't matter to Skip. Not only did he encourage me to share my opinions, but he was an eager and thoughtful listener. From Skip I was reminded to listen first and speak second regardless of the person's age or experience.

"Lesson #2: Be generous beyond your wildest imagination. Skip taught me several important lessons about the role generosity should play in our lives. First and foremost is that if you have been blessed with opportunities and resources it is essential to share frequently with those less fortunate. Skip was incredibly generous with both his time and money and he inspired countless youth and adults to do the same. Whether it was for causes and individuals here in the U.S. or abroad, he was always looking to extend a hand of generosity. Skip embodied the Golden Rule.

"Lesson #3: Embrace life for all it has to offer. Skip loved to learn, to meet new people and to play. I have seen pictures of one of his five young granddaughters painting his toenails a wild color and he was smiling and laughing. He went out of his way to meet new people and learn about their life and stories – especially in Mexico where he and his wife own a home. His thirst for knowledge extended well beyond his home-court of traditional financial topics. He was well read on a wide variety of topics and he passed the love of learning on to many others including his two sons and granddaughters."

These lessons: 1.) Listen well; 2) Be generous beyond your wildest imagination; 3) Embrace life for all it has to offer, are wonderful reminders to us as we live in faithfulness with our Creator and Redeemer responding to the call of the Spirit. This is faithful stewardship.

*Pastor Laaker*



*Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

## **W/ELCA Board Meeting**

Monday, September 10, 2007  
1:00 p.m.

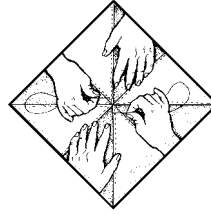
Hostess: Barb Narducci  
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## **Circle Meeting**

Tuesday, September 18, 2007  
1:00 p.m.

Bible Study Leader: Barb Nelson  
Hostess: Norma Olson

## **Quilting for Lutheran World Relief resumes on Monday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m.**



The Grace Quilters will begin creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Monday, September 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you have the morning free, drop by and help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs. Coffee break is at 10:00 a.m.

## **Helpful Tip**



Always keep several  
Get Well cards on the mantel.  
If unexpected guests arrive,  
they'll think you've been sick  
and unable to clean.



## **Halloween Party, Friday Evening, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Only two short months until the Annual Halloween Party. Please be setting aside some "white elephant" gifts for Bingo prizes. White elephant suggestions might include knick knacks, games, puzzles, toys in good condition, books, Halloween decorations, etc..

As the time gets closer, donations of money, game prizes, candy, pop, and baked items will be needed. Most of all, several volunteers will be needed to assist with putting on a great party.

This year's party is set for Friday evening, October 26th.  
Watch for posters and drop off boxes and sign up sheets in September.  
Thanks in advance for helping to make this year's party a success!

Janet Hula  
Party Coordinator

Hope is the ability to hear the music of the future.  
Faith is having the courage to dance to it today.

<http://www.oneliners-and-proverbs.com/>



# Sweet Treat Social

"Climb to New Heights"

Awards for Summer Reading Club  
Ice Cream Banana Splits with all the toppings.

**September 23, 2007**  
**After Morning Worship**

*Cost - 50 cents for youth age 12 and younger  
\$1.00 for 12 and up.\**

*\*Free for all in the reading club who completed the required pages .*

Stop by after worship and have an Ice Cream Treat in celebration of the accomplishments of our Summer Reading Club Members. Everyone who completed the required number of pages for their age group will receive free ice cream, a certificate and a prize. Awards will be given to the readers with the most pages read in each category. Look in next month's Grace Messenger for a list of the participants and the winners in each category.

**Funds raised go to purchase more books for the library.**

If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make,  
who would you call and what would you say?

***Why are you waiting?***

*(Stephen Levine) <http://www.oneliners-and-proverbs.com/>*

## Calling All Youth Entering the 6th,7th & 8th Grade!

*o you want*

- ☼ to have a deeper, stronger faith?
- ☼ to know more about the Bible and what it teaches?
- ☼ to understand why we worship the way we do and what it means?
- ☼ to be connected to God and to your church in a closer meaningful way?
- ☼

***Join our Joint Confirmation Class with  
First Lutheran, Grace Lutheran & Cristo Rey.***

New and exciting activities are planned for this year's confirmation experience. Contact Pastor Laaker or the church office for more information.





KAW 2007  
Wrapping Up.  
Thanks for a Great Summer!



**Way to Go Amber!**

Amber Morlan received special recognition for her perfect attendance during the 2007 Summer Program!

Pictured left to right: Amber, Brenda, and Andrea.



**Last Day Worship Awards Recognition!**

Pictured from left to right back row: Pastor Laaker, Julia Traynor, Taylor Adams, Shaban Lado, Liz Singles, Linda Pafford, Louise Alsager, and Brenda Spahr. Front row: Shedu Lado, Jake Quandt, Amber Morlan, Danny Quandt, and Andrea Spahr.

Not pictured: Bradley Collett, Brianna Collett, Angela Everitt, Donovan Halfhill, Alex Jindra, Patrick McPeck, and Adam Mendoza.

Have a Safe and Fun School Year!





## Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends

*Ask and it will be given you...*

- ♦ Frances Campsey - Frances was involved in a car accident. Her wrist is broken and her face is bruised from the air bag deployment. Pray for strength. (member)
- ♦ Ambros Lado - **Praise Item!** Ambros is going home at the end of August to live with his family after being in rehab for his stroke for almost 10 months. Ambros continues to come Tuesday mornings to work at the church for an hour, doing some light cleaning. (member)
- ♦ Kathryn Reichert - Healing for her cancer. (Granddaughter of Don and Norma Olson)
- ♦ 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. (relative of members, Don and Norma Olson)
- ♦ Rose Hamilton - Healing for her cancer. (Aunt of members, Andrew and Christi Edwards)
- ♦ 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 - Pray for healing. Alice fell in mid-August and is recovering at the Good Samaritan Home. (member)
- ♦ Darlene Spahr - COPD, struggles with breathing issues. (member, Brenda Spahr's mother-in-law.)
- ♦ Harlan Morter - For ongoing strength related to health concerns. (member)
- ♦ Betty Coniglio - Continued recovery from heart issues. (member)
- ♦ Mae Lane - Recovering from a fall. Mae has been moved to St Joseph Villa for recovery. Mae's home was recently vandalized. Pray for God's hand of protection to cover it. (member)
- ♦ Seth Goodman - **Praise Item!** Seth is enrolled in a medical treatment center for his addictions. (Nephew of Pam Reents.)
- ♦ Richard Moore - Hospitalized at Creighton for heart related problems and pneumonia. (Richard and Gloria Moore, members)
- ♦ Jody Talarico-Kunze - Undergoing testing for fainting. (Mother of Cody and Jennifer Talarico. Cody is the church organist.)

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

Pastor Laaker

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 for John Ivo Mounto. Pastor and Pam in the church office have heard from Ivo. He sends his love to everyone at Grace and asks for prayer as he gets training in South Africa to enter politics in Southern Sudan. Ivo is planning to come home for a visit in October, Lord willing. He says there is much work to do reconciling refugees, government issues and dealing with civil unrest.
- ♦ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Pray that the elders in the church community will have wisdom in their counsel. Titus Duli, David Nange and Silas Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.
- ♦ Pray for the Women's Organization, SOTRU, as they begin to get business opportunities for Sudanese women and other immigrant families. The Sudanese women have an opportunity to sew earth friendly shopping bags for cash for an entrepreneur. Pray for wisdom in negotiations.

**New Beginning Sunday**  
September 2, 2007  
Come to the Fall Party!

In celebration of a new Sunday School year, cake will be served to the youth during the Sunday School hour!

Bible Stories, Cake, Fun and Connecting with Friends

Superintendent of Sunday School  
Grace Traynor



The Choir will begin getting ready for performances during Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas beginning September 30 after worship.

The first practice will include an overview of music, and a discussion about performance dates.

September 30, 2007  
After Worship

All those interested in singing with the choir are invited to come to this meeting. Folks of all ages are welcome!  
Contact David Hufford for more information.

Maturity means being emotionally and mentally healthy. It is that time when you know when to say yes, when to say no, and when to say WHOOPEE!



Free

Afterschool Program  
Monday - Thursday  
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Starts Monday, September 10th  
Fun  
Crafts  
Snack

Safe place to hang out  
Ages Kindergarten through 6th grade welcome!

*Brenda Spahr, Director of Youth and Fun*



**JOIN US  
AFTER  
SCHOOL**





# "Helping Hands"

Working Together in God's service

## Pantry Needs



## Project Hope

The Theme for September is  
Toilet Paper, Paper Towels and Diapers

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.

*Please bring in your paper and plastic sacks.*

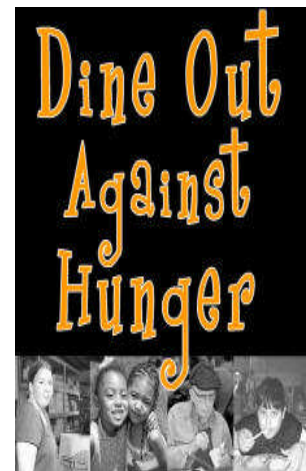
**Bring all items to the Church and place them on the pantry shelves in the Upper Fellowship Hall.**

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Circle the Date  
October 9, 2007

### Dine Out Against Hunger

Participating Restaurants will donate 10% of the days proceeds to the Food Bank to help feed the hungry in the Heartland. For a list of participating restaurants, check out the church bulletin board or go to [www.omahafoodbank.org/](http://www.omahafoodbank.org/)



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### 25th Annual Crop Walk 2007



**October 14, 2007**  
**1:30 p.m.**

Starting from First Christian Church  
6630 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE

As a walker - The CROP walk is for the entire family from baby to grandparents. There are routes of 1, 2, and 5 miles. You choose how far to walk. Parents can push strollers or pull wagons. There are rest and water stops along the way and transportation back to the start if you need it.

As a Sponsor - Even if you cannot walk you can participate by sponsoring someone who can. Offer to sponsor a walker with a pledge per mile of a donation and make a real difference in meeting hunger needs at home and abroad. Crop Walk Sponsor Sheets will be available in the church office and at the back table in the sanctuary.

## God is Good Anyway

*Excerpt from "Overjoyed" Devotions to Tickle Your Fancy and Strengthen Your Faith. Women of Faith, 1999*

We can't change these seven realities:

- Things are always changing.
- It rains on the just and the unjust.
- We are aging by the minute.
- The rules aren't fair.
- You can't please all people all the time.
- You can't heal another person's wounds.
- God is good anyway!



How often we need to be reminded that, regardless of our circumstances, God is constantly being good. And we're not the only ones who are forgetful. So is your best friend, the person in the pew in front of you, and the driver waiting in the car next to you at the stoplight.

But we're often reluctant to say, "God is good." We think our cup has to be full before we can share with somebody else. That's a big lie!

You don't have to be wealthy to start giving to the poor. You don't have to be perfectly organized to start giving of your time. You don't have to have a beautiful home to invite other people in. You don't have to be especially gifted to start making a difference in this world.

If you don't have it all together, join the club. You want to minister or start on the road to success? Use what you have. Begin with things in your hands. As you give out of your emptiness or loneliness, the gifts flow back your way.

Don't wait to start smiling if you're feeling blue. The Lord gives us a face but it's up to us to provide the expression. You have a beautiful heart that is loved by the Lord Jesus. That's all you need. So don't wait until your troubles are behind you. The only person whose troubles are behind him is the school bus driver!

Go to the phone and call a friend. Remind him/her that God is good. If your friend doesn't agree right now, tell him/her that God is good anyway!

*Barbara Johnson*



## "Can't Wait for 2008" Let's see what God will do!

The Fall Stewardship Campaign will begin at the end of October. Is anyone willing to serve on the Stewardship Committee? Responsibilities would include meeting with Pastor and others on the committee, helping the church secretary with the various mailings, and insertion of World Hunger envelopes in the offering envelope boxes. Contact Pastor or Pam in the church office if you interested in helping.

As you continue to give of your time, talent and resources to conclude 2007, prayfully ask God about 2008.



## Hanscom Park United Methodist Church

(1 Block south of Center on 45th and Frances)

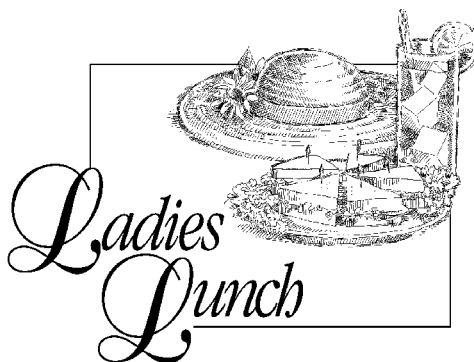
4444 Frances Street

Omaha, NE

Saturday, September 22, 2007

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Craft Show, Garage Sale,  
Used Book Sale, (By the Pound)  
Gift Baskets and Lunch



## Church Women United Luncheon

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

11:30 a.m.

Luther Memorial Church

6099 Western Avenue

Omaha, NE

Cost - \$5.00

**Program - Goodfellows/Omaha World Herald**

**Project - Undie Tuesday -**

Bring underwear and socks for the Open Door Mission and Project Hope

RSVP by Sunday, September 9 to

Lorraine Palma - 455-4342

## Younkers Community Day

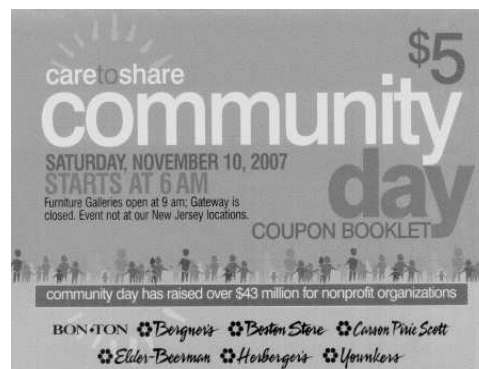
Saturday, November 10, 2007

Buy a \$5.00 Booklet and get a \$10.00 Coupon!

Your \$5.00 will go to the Lutheran Pantry.

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

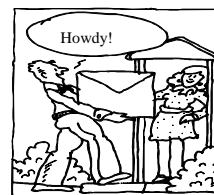
Contact the Church office or Pastor Laaker  
for Coupon Booklets



Presale Event - November 3 - 9, 2007  
Come and pre-select your items for  
pickup on November 10th.

Check the bulletin board for more info.

# Community News



## *Columbus Park Neighborhood Association*

September 20  
7:00 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1326 S 26 St.

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

CPNA  
1326 S 26 Street  
Omaha, NE 68105

Call 345-1700 for more information.



Wednesday Morning, September 26, 2007

It's tough being a Christian student today. We're forced to make a lot of choices about who we are, and who we're not. We're supposed to be deciding on our future, when the present is hard enough to deal with.

**See You at the Pole** We have a lot of dividing lines drawn for us. They're invisible, but we see them clearly every day. The grade we're in, the kind of grades we make, overachievers, underachievers, geniuses, slackers. The groups we hang with--jocks, preps, goths, sk8rs, gamers, or geeks. As a Christian, the church we attend, how we pray, the way we worship, and how we interpret the Bible. And yeah, even in 2007 race can still divide. Many of us are asking, "Where do I belong? Who cares about me? Why don't I fit in?"

See You at the Pole™ isn't about groups, grades, clothes, or churches. It's about praying. It's about all of us coming together and laying aside all the labels for one day, simply to call out to God, just as Jesus did in John 17 and say, "Lord, may we be one in you--whether jocks, preps, geeks, Pentecostals, Baptists, Lutherans, Catholics, freshmen, or seniors--may the world believe that You are real and have sent us to touch other through you, regardless of the dividing lines drawn by a broken world!"

So are you in? Are you ready whatever group you're in, to join us in the circle?

## Harvest Dinner and Concert

First Lutheran Church at 31st and Jackson

September 22, 2007

Concert 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Simone Weber & Friends

Dinner 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Pork and Sauerkraut

Adults \$9.00 Children 4-12 - \$4.00 under 3 Free

Bake Sale - 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Quilt Raffle - available until 5:30 p.m.

Drawing at 6:00 p.m.



## News from the Families of Grace Lutheran Church

- Congratulations to Dustin Moyer on his engagement to Rachel Williams. Dustin is a member of Grace Lutheran Church and is the son of long-time members Loren and Marsha Moyer. An afternoon wedding is planned in early October.
- Good luck to Julia Traynor for being selected to be on the school volleyball team in Wahoo. Church people, encourage Julia! From the reports, she's going to be a "star." Do you have a young person who will be in sports, music or other organizations this year? Let us publish their events so that we can encourage them!
- Thanks to Ambros for his diligent work in the upper hall and cleaning windows. He is finally living at home after his major stroke last November. He is joyful to be home with his loved ones.
- Special thanks to Marilynn Van Ormer and Barb Nelson for their continuing work putting quilt tops together this summer. When the ladies resume quilting on September 10th, there will be a great deal of tying to do.
- Thanks to Gertrude Hufford for her ministry of sending greeting cards in connection with W/ELCA. Her ministry reaches out to our shut-ins and the folks who are hospitalized or in need of encouragement. If you have a loved one who needs cheering, please contact the church office so that Gertrude and the Grace women can send them a note.

Do you have an announcement or a special item to share with the church family? Leave a note at the church office call, or email Pam at [graceluth@graceluth.com](mailto:graceluth@graceluth.com) We love to share happy news!



### 50th Birthday Party for Pam Reents

The family of Pam Reents invites the family of Grace Lutheran Church to celebrate Pam Reents' 50th birthday party. The celebration will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in the Upper Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 8th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by signing up on the bulletin board or calling Pam's mother, Lois at 551-9201 so that the family will know how much supper to prepare.

#### Easy Quesadillas

*From [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)*

- 1 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into strips
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 onion, sliced into strips
- 2 tablespoons salsa
- 10 (10 inch) flour tortillas
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar-Monterey Jack cheese blend

vegetable oil until they are no longer pink. Add the onions and fry (stirring constantly) until they are translucent. Mix in the salsa (you may want to add more to taste).

- 3. Place the tortillas between two damp paper towels and microwave on high for 1 minute.
- 4. Fill half of 1 tortilla with the chicken mixture and cheese, then fold the tortilla over the full half. Repeat with remaining tortillas and filling. Arrange the quesadillas on a cookie sheet.

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a cookie sheet with non-stick cooking spray.
- 2. In a large skillet, fry the chicken strips in

Bake the quesadillas in the preheated 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) oven until the cheese has melted. Cut the quesadillas into fours.



# The Little Lutheran

Nurture our Christian faith in little children you know and love. If you are a parent, godparent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or friend, send a gift subscription of the Little Lutheran to children in your life who are age 6 or younger.

The Little Lutheran is a monthly (with combined May/June and July/August issues) 24-page picture book. For \$24.95 your child will receive 10 issues a year packed with fun. To subscribe call 800-328-4648 or visit [www.thelittlelutheran.org](http://www.thelittlelutheran.org).

The Little Lutheran comes directly to the child. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, godparent, aunt, uncle or friend of a toddler, this publication is one way to show you care.

The stories are meant to be read by or with children, so the text is simple or rhymed. The art is vivid, bold and engaging. The stories are faith-based, so you'll be helping to nurture a child's spiritual awareness from a young age.

In addition to stories, The Little Lutheran will contain prayers, songs, puzzles, activities, rituals and more to help children become aware of God's presence and activity in and around them.

**Free sample copies have been given to the church and are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Take a look at them. They are really fun!**

After personally interviewing thousands of unchurched Americans, researcher Thomas Rainer has published the result. Many of the following findings may surprise you.:

- Most of the unchurched prefer to attend church on Sunday morning if they attend.
- Most of the unchurched are not anti-religion.
- Most Americans have never been invited to church - **NEVER**.
- 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if they are invited.
- 2% of church members invite an unchurched person to church.
- Most of the unchurched feel guilty about not attending church.
- Very few of the unchurched have had someone to share with them how to become a Christian and, Christians have not been particularly influential in their lives.
- The attitudes of the unchurched are not correlated to where they live, their ethnic or racial background or their gender.
- Many of the unchurched are far more concerned about the spiritual well being of their children than themselves.



*From the Nebraska Synod "Fill...Spill...Thrill" Newsletter (August 2007) [www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)  
Contributed by Nile Buch*

**"Trust in no substitutes; seek no other refuge, lean on no other crutch but the Living God. Love Him as you love no one else on earth. "**

"But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds." Psalm 73:28 NIV

*Charles Swindoll "Growing Deep in the Christian Life", p.109*





*Grace Matters is a 30 minute radio program of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

Hear it on KFAB - 1110 AM  
Sunday mornings at 7:05 a.m.

### **Upcoming Programs in September**

September 2, 2007 – Janet Peterman – *Ritual Living With a Flair* (Colossians 3:16-17)

We often speak of rituals as being boring, dull, or even dead. The word ritual is laden with many negative connotations in peoples' minds. But rituals can drive life. They can even restore life. The Rev. Janet Peterman believes so thoroughly in their power that she has authored a book of sacred rituals for special moments and crises in life. It's not your average compilation of friendly rituals for easy times, but it is what you or a friend may wish to know about for that trying time that can befall any one of us.

September 9, 2007 – Eboo Patel – *The Dangers of Religious Totalitarianism* (Acts 2:1-21)

If you are tired of trying to make sense of why certain expressions of religion irritate you so thoroughly, you need to meet Eboo Patel. Chances are good that what is bothering, or even infuriating you, is what Patel calls "religious totalitarianism." Or it could be your own mistaken assumption that no one knows the truth unless they know your version of it. Eboo Patel is an articulate man of faith who is founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core – an organization devoted to advancing religious understanding and respect.

September 16, 2007 – Andrea Jaeger – *Holy Laughter* (Genesis 18:12-15)

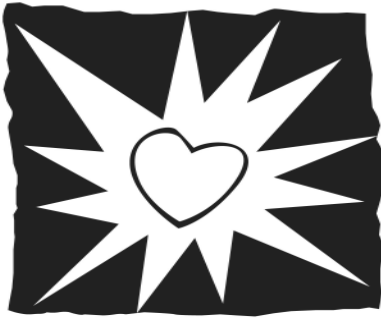
Those who follow the tennis world closely know the name Andrea Jaeger. In the mid-1980s she was playing number two in the world on the women's pro circuit. That was young Andrea. Following a career ending injury as a teenager, she engaged in a serious refocus of her life. Today, she is an Anglican Dominican sister who devotes everything she is to kids who live with life-threatening diseases. It's quite a life, mixing tears, laughter and a whole lot of fulfillment.

September 23, 2007 – Wayne-Daniel Berard – *Retrieving Our Jewishness* (Mark 6:3)

If Christians are not careful, we have a dangerous tendency to view the Bible as an exclusively Christian book. Where this perspective exists, we do a serious disservice to both the Jewishness of Jesus and the Jewish roots of our own faith. Wayne-Daniel Berard, professor and author, who was born of a Jewish parent and adopted by a Catholic family, practices his faith today as a Christian and a Jew. He calls on Christians to explore "with open heart and mind" the Jewishness, not only of Jesus, but of themselves.

September 30, 2007 – David Hilfiker – *Seeing Into the Eyes of the Poor* (Deuteronomy 15:1-11)

David Hilfiker did what many people think about, but never have the courage to do. He and his family left comfortable living in a rural community to begin a new life among some of America's poorest people in an urban ghetto. Few upper-middle class people understand the plight of the poor quite like this physician. He contends that the only way to really know what it means to be poor, and to quit treating "the poor" like a category, is to look them in the eye and get to know them.



**FAITH**  
**IN ACTION**

*A neighbor's independence  
depends on you"*

Look what an hour of your time could do!

**Can You Help?**

Hope your summer has been great! As we wind down into fall, I'd like to share some of the stories of those who are helped through the Faith in Action program. Here are just a few stories of care receivers in the program and the needs they encounter.

- Mary\* is 84 years old and has been independent woman her entire life. She has lived in the same south Omaha apartment for over 35 years. In February, she fell and broke her hip while grocery shopping. After being in a nursing home and completing rehab, Mary is back at home and doing well. She continues to need help with rides to the doctor, the grocery store or even just someone to bring her a home cooked meal once in while.
- Stacey\* is a 25 years old and legally blind. After graduating college last year, she moved to Omaha and began working full-time. She needs someone to help her read her mail once a week and go through other paperwork. Someone who likes cats would be appreciated!
- Susan\* lives in her own home with her two dogs. She has many stories to share about her life. Due to various medical conditions, she is unable to get out to do her own grocery shopping and she would like someone to help do her grocery shopping. She makes a list and just needs a volunteer to buy what is on the list!

There are more stories to be shared! This is just a few of the many people who are part of the Faith in Action program. Think about how you can share your time and talents to help make simple, everyday tasks that we take for granted, much simpler for these individuals. Call us at 660-2652 to find out how.

Julie Chytil  
Faith in Action of Interfaith Health Service  
660-2652  
faithinaction2005@hotmail.com

*\*Names have been changed*

It is not what you gather but what you scatter  
that tells what kind of life you have lived.



## Interfaith Participants Enjoy a Summer Celebration

The Interfaith Latinas in Action participants and families joined together this month for a well-deserved pool party and family day. We held the day at Robin Hill Pool (near 50th and Vinton), and were allowed the use of the adult pool and children's pool for the entire afternoon.

160 participants signed up for the day. Since it was a rare cloudy summer day, not everyone who signed up attended, which was a good thing, because we still had over 120 participants and we were over capacity for the pool!!

Our families brought lunches and beverages. During pool breaks, we played games and visited. The highlights of the day for me were watching Gema's daughters teaching a group of their peers how to dive (both Gema's daughters are on the swim team at school and the pool seems to be a second home to them), catching up with some of our morning participants whom I have not seen for a while, seeing how Esmeralda's daughters have grown, and sharing food with Gaby and her family.

When the pool staff needed to end our time of swimming after one o'clock, not one person was ready to leave. I inquired about extending the pool use time, but since another party was booked after ours, it was impossible. Gaby, Gema and I all believed the day was a huge success. The children had so much fun swimming. And the adults also enjoyed a Saturday near the water.

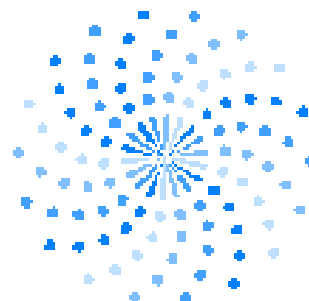
The teenagers who participate in Interfaith's Teens on the Move Club are already asking me if we can go swimming as a group again this year. It's late in the season and school will be starting soon, so we hope to book the pool again next year for a family day.

In the meantime, we look forward to the closing festivities for our Teen Club and to some memorable moments as our summer program ends for the youth.

### Contact Information

Virginia McGill  
Director, (402) 660-6689

Gema Wolde  
Gabriela Ortiz  
Douglas County Health Department  
Se habla español.



No amount of  
darkness can  
hide a spark  
of light.

Grace Lutheran Church  
invites you to  
Outdoor Worship and  
Neighbor's Day  
**Sunday, September 9th**

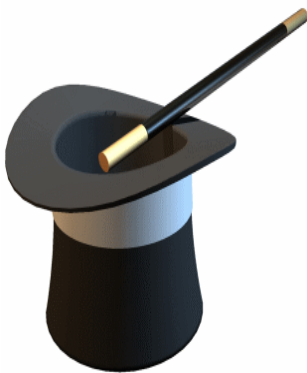


Invite a Neighbor to Church

Outdoor  
Worship  
SERVICE

- 10:30 a.m. Meet outside and worship in the shade of the gorgeous old tree in the front church yard.
- Music, Scripture, Children's message and Pastoral Message.
- Come as You Are! Bring a lawn chair, blanket or sit on one of our chairs.
- The Grace Sudanese Church will join with us in worship.

- 11:45 a.m. Join us for a cookout! Hotdogs and hamburgers, condiments, drinks, and paper products provided by the church.
- Church families: please bring fruit salads, veggie salads, chips and desserts to share.



- A magician is coming to perform.
- Yard games are planned for all ages.

**We Need Volunteers!**

- Kitchen Help
- Game Leaders
- Flyer Distribution
- Set and Take Down

Sign Up on the sheet outside the church office



## From the Editor

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Psalms 34:8a

I am not really an adventurous eater. I had the opportunity to eat Sudanese food for the first time at party a few years ago. I thought I was eating noodles until one of the Sudanese women who was bilingual asked me if I knew what I was eating. Of course, I was wrong about the noodles. It was goat intestines! The ladies giggled and said in their heavily accented English, “We think you will vomit now.” Yes, ladies, you were almost right although I was able to avoid being embarrassed and was able to keep my meal down! If I think about it even now, I get a little “green around the gills.”

As I was thinking about my family menu planning for the week, the verse “taste and see that the Lord is good” from Psalms came to mind. I had never really considered this verse, feeling that it was pretty self explanatory. But as I contemplated it, I couldn’t quite get to the root of the meaning. I looked up the word taste in the dictionary and found that there were several ways that the word is defined. One of the descriptions is to put a small amount in the mouth in order to test its flavor. Another definition listed is to experience something, especially for the first time. I guess if it’s something really good, the next time you’ll want a lot more than a taste!

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.” What does it mean to “taste of God?” As the dictionary defines it, it means to let Him into your mind, even for just a little bit the first time and see what it’s like. The more you taste, the sweeter it is. I have experienced the taste of God in my life. As a child, I wanted to know that God was pleased with me. My childhood experience of God happened in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The Gospel was explained to in very simple terms. I took Him into my life by accepting what He did for me when He sent Jesus Christ to pay the price for my sin. I understood that the only way for God to be pleased with me was because the consequences of my sinfulness were covered by Christ taking my punishment.

Now that I’m older, I can tell you that I have tasted of God in a more mature way. I have seen His love for me in the many blessings He has sent to me. I see God’s leading, sometimes only clearly in retrospect after examining the difficult road I have just traveled. I see God’s goodness in some of the people around me: healing, new guidance in old endeavors, the faithfulness of His people to do the work He sets before them, safety from the evil that could so easily destroy us all. Yet, I believe the Psalmist is urging me to continue to taste, to keep putting His Word in my heart and in my mouth. There is commitment in daily tasting God’s goodness, His faithfulness, His mercy, His plan, His love...just in experiencing all of the attributes of God made available for me to sample.

Tasting of the goodness of the Lord is a smorgasbord. Something new to sample each day as God provides a way for me to know Him intimately. I love what the Bible translation, **The Message**, says in Psalm 18:25, “The good people **taste** your goodness, The whole people **taste** your health, The true people **taste** your truth,” So many “flavors.”

So if your spiritual life is stale, take a new taste. Choose one God’s attributes and study it, join a Bible study, spend a little extra time during the week re-reading the scripture passages in the Celebrate insert from Sunday, read different translations, dig a little deeper into your time alone with God. Taste again and see that the Lord is good!

*Pam Reents, Editor*



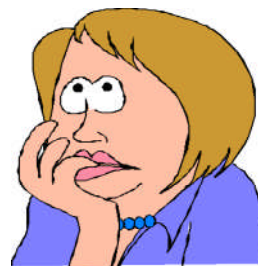
## September Trivia

- ☼ has 30 days.
- ☼ 9th month of the year.
- ☼ named after the Latin word “Septi” or “Septem” which means “seven” because originally the calendar year started in March making September the 7th month. This was changed in the Roman calendar in 153 BC.
- ☼ Flower - Aster or Morning Glory.
- ☼ Birthstone - sapphire.

From the pulpit the pastor declared, “Lord, without you, we are but dust.”

A four-year-old girl leaned over and asked her mother in a loud voice, “Mommy, what is butt dust?”

*Joyful Noise Newsletter October 2007*



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### What's Up, Doc?

Doctor: "Take the green pill with a glass of water when you get up. Take the blue pill with a glass of water after lunch. Then just before going to bed, take the red pill with another glass of water."

Man: "Exactly what's my problem, doc?"

Doctor: "You're not drinking enough water."

<http://www.oneliners-and-proverbs.com/>



A duck walks into a bar and asks, "Got any grapes?"

The bartender, confused, tells the ducks that no, his bar doesn't serve grapes. The duck thanks him and leaves.

The next day, the duck returns and says, "Got any grapes?"

Again, the bartender tells him that, “no, the bar does not serve grapes, has never served grapes, and, furthermore, will never serve grapes.” The duck, a little ruffled, thanks him and leaves.

The next day, the duck returns, but before he can say anything, the bartender begins to yell: "Listen, duck! This is a bar! We do not serve grapes and if you ever ask for grapes again, I will nail your little duck beak to the bar!"

The duck is silent for a moment, and then asks, "Got any nails?"

Confused, the bartender says “no”!

"Good!" says the duck. "Got any grapes?"



# Luke, Chapter 12, Puzzle 1

## WORD LIST

adversary	many
allowance	moth
banquet	parable
baptism	penny
barn	punishment
crop	rain
dark	ravens
demand	ready
distressed	reap
ear	reconcile
eat	rich
entrusted	roof
fear	say
food	servant
grass	sow
head	spin
hell	unbeliever
hour	wear
interpret	word
kill	
kindled	
lilies	
magistrate	
manager	

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r n i p s b i c q m a n y k w
h w t r e g a n a m d y d i p
t o p k i l l p t r v n e n s
o s u d l k a a t e e n t d e
m u n r i c h e p i r e s l r
a d b r l s v r t b s p u e v
y l e t a r t s i g a m r d a
h e l l q v t r v r r r t e n
b r i o r a e w e a y h n d t
k e e u w p u n i s h m e n t
o f v t p a q n s s s k r a d
g o e l i c n o c e r e e m d
p o r c s c a c u a a z d e r
t r p a r a b l e d o o f d o
x k y d t j x f y b q x e c w
  
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A computer beat me at chess once.  
But, it was no match for me at kick boxing.

3 friends die in a car accident and they go to an orientation in heaven. They are all asked, "When you are in your casket and friends and family are talking about you, what would you like them to say?"

The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor of my time, and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher which made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow."

The last guy replies, "I would like to hear them say ... Look, He's Moving!"



<http://www.cleanjoke.com>