

St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
2315 "I" Street  
Omaha, NE 68107-1814  
402-733-5881

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**SEPTEMBER SUNDAY EVENTS**

9:30 am. Worship Service  
St. Luke's, 2815 I Street

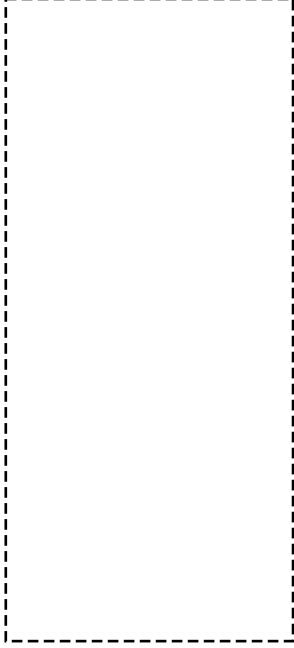
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker  
Editor/Church Secretary St. Luke's - Nancy Klusaw  
Editor/Church Secretary Grace - Brenda Spahr  
Sexton - Alma Lopez

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St. Luke's  
**Echo**

1905 - 2024

THE GRACE  
MESSENGER

1889 - 2024

  
S E P T E M B E R

September Worship Services  
will be held at St. Luke's  
Lutheran, 2315 I Street



With love to reach out, to serve,  
to welcome all in the name of  
our Lord Jesus.

**Connect with us on the web: [stlukesomaha.org](http://stlukesomaha.org)  
[graceluth.com](http://graceluth.com)**



August was a very busy month. Omaha Public Schools began their Fall semester. Our relationship with Liberty Elementary and Spring Lake Elementary continues. I worked with our contacts with the Second Grade Teachers to

secure new book titles for reading, the number of classrooms and the number of students in those classrooms. Books have been ordered and received so that we can begin reading in September. I am grateful for the volunteers who set aside time to read to the students and share their love of learning.

McKinnis Roofing began the roof replacement on the big roof at St. Luke's during the hottest week of the month. They completed the roof work in seven days. We are now waiting for the finishing installation of the gutters and downspouts. Unfortunately, during the set-up of scaffolding on the west side, we learned of weakened roof members over the enclosed walkway. We await the determination of what needs to be done and who will be responsible for cost of repair.

Grace had a new door to the alley installed. This facilitates the receiving and distribution of the pantry goods. The new door needs to be painted so if you are wondering how you might help and would like to paint, speak to me.

The joint Discernment Team met and explored possible ideas for a new mission statement. They also began work on a new vision statement that elaborates the mission. They will meet again to explore this work further.

I am grateful for the five or six skilled musicians that have been assisting our worship time with their musical skills. Each of these talented individuals brings a special passion to the work of music for our worship.

As we enter the Fall Season, I hope each of you will consider how you might support one another, encourage one another in their faith response and discover ways to be Christ to the neighbor. The opportunity to build relationships is available each week as we gather to praise God.

*Continued....*

The Scripture Readings from John 6 over the past few weeks have challenged us. Jesus' desire to be the bread of life for all has been the focus. The gift of himself is available to us through the bread and wine of communion. The Holy Spirit engages us through these physical means to call, gather and enlighten us in the faith. May we respond with joy.

Just a quick reminder: Please register to vote. If you have done so already, great. If not, don't delay, do so now. Your vote is important as we chose those we wish to be our representatives.

Pastor Laaker

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## Stewardship

Our Fall theme will be "Moving Forward by Faith." Earlier this summer, Chuck Lane shared a workshop on cultivating stewardship. One of the first things he said, was "generosity has the capacity to transform us."

Our efforts to encourage sharing do transform us. Several bags and boxes of items were taken to Youth Emergency Services (YES) this past month. We are currently collecting prepackaged goods to share in our effort to be God's Work, Our Hands.

By faith, we receive God's gifts of life. We have the stories of Abraham, Moses, Joseph and Elijah as examples. There are many others who lived moving forward by faith.

As we move forward, how will we exemplify the faith that God provides?

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Visit [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) to Register to vote; Update your registration; Find your polling place; Find out what is on your voting ballot.

To vote by mail call:  
Douglas County 402-444-8683  
Sarpy County 402-593-2167





### St. Luke's 2024 Council Members

Steve Braun	Annette Chipman	Frank Durham
Cindy Fleming	John Kolb	Nancy Klusaw
Dave Ruffner	Molly Sedlacek	Connie Tefft
Pastor Laaker		

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Officers Serving the Congregation:

Treasurer: Nancy Klusaw

Financial Secretary & Memorial/Special Gifts: Rose Marie Lad

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Council Notes ~ August 8, 2024

Frank Durham called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Devotions: Pastor Laaker led devotions from Daily Texts – Genesis 39:23 and Galatians 5: 22-23.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted by motion.

Minutes of June 11, 2024, meeting: Minutes adopted by motion.

Book Study: Chapter 5 “Faithful Innovation as a Way of Life for the Church” of the **leading, faithful, innovation** was discussed. Please read Chapter 6 “Faithful Innovation as a Way of Leading” for next month.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Roof Status – Steve Braun gave an update. Steve has been working with four individuals from McKinnis Roofing. The roof is on. The sky light has been caulked. Gutters are on and they are continuing to install down spouts.
2. July 31, 2024 Wind storm – There appears to be no damage on church property.
3. Conversations between Grace and St. Luke's - A Discernment Team with members from each church will meet August 10, 2024.

**Reports:**

**Pastor's Report** – A written report was provided. Pastor helped plan and conduct the funeral for Jeri Swanson, as well as for a non-member Eva Eastwood. He has visited Ed Noddean, who has been hospitalized at UNMC.

**President's Report** – A written report was provided.

**Treasurer/Finance Report** – A written report was provided.

**Financial Secretary's Report** – A written report was provided.

**Memorial Fund Report** – A written report was provided.

**Building and Grounds Report** – An oral report was given. Steve Braun reported that Dave Ruffner and Dan Ruffner have been working on weed control around the church's grounds.

**Evangelism** – John Kolb gave an oral report.

**Fellowship** – Annette Chipman gave an oral report.

**Stewardship** – No report.

**Parish Education** – No report.

**Social Ministry** – Cindy Fleming reported that the items that were collected for YES – Youth Emergency Services – were delivered. It is the 50th anniversary of “God's Work, God's Hands.” It will be on Sunday, September 8th at St. Luke's and October 13th at Grace. Snack bags will be prepared and passed out on those respective dates as to include both churches.

**Worship and Music** – The hymn selection committee met on July 16, 2024. Music is scheduled through October.

All reports as presented were adopted by motion.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Tefft, Secretary

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**God's Work, Our Hands!**  
**Sunday, September 8th, St. Luke's; Sunday, October 13th, Grace**

One of the greatest examples of how our congregations share love with their neighbors is through their feeding ministries. This year marks the **50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger**, and we're excited to celebrate the impact that thousands of people from our church have made on communities around the world.

Donations are needed to place in food bags, for example: snack crackers, individually wrapped candy and juice boxes. The food bags will be assembled on **September 8th** following worship service which would then be handed out along 24th Street that same afternoon. Along with handing out food bags, we will be asking folks for any prayer concerns that they would like to be addressed. The process will be repeated again on Sunday, **October 16th** following worship service at Grace. **Everyone is welcome and invited to help by participating in one or more of the following: make a donation, assemble food bags, walk to hand out the food bags and collect prayer concerns.**

Any questions, please speak with Nancy, Cindy, Janet and Brenda.

Continued.....



## Grace 2024 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Barnaba Dyedi	Sarah Emery
Arlone Farber	Greg Hula	Janet Hula
Eva Martin	Andrea Spahr	Amanda Vazquez
Pastor Laaker		

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Officers Serving the Congregation:  
Financial Secretary: Janet Hula      Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

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Council Meeting Notes ~ August 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Council was held on August 13, 2024. Council members shared prayer concerns for a member's brother, the victims of violence/accidents/disease, people experiencing homelessness, kids starting school, Barnabas as he searches for a job and continues his studies for becoming a pastor, and for his wife's health, Pastor's sister's health, the situation in Ukraine, and for peace in the Middle East.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Psalm 96:1 and Luke 19:37-38. The first tells us to praise God through song. The second reminds us that the disciples actively praised God.

Visions for Ministry: Leading Faithful Innovation by Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Tessa Pinkstaff  
The authors discussed the challenge of creating discipleship with people on the outskirts, encouraged building practices from a curiosity standpoint, and shifting from a performative to a formative model of ministry. We can learn a lot from the standpoint of curiosity and wonder, and if we are open to a different approach, we have an opportunity to grow in our faith and invite others along on that journey. Read Chapter 6 for next month.

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

Christian Education: Confirmation begins Wednesday online, August 21.

Evangelism/Outreach: We continue to provide support to Liberty: books for reading program for 2nd graders beginning in September and we have readers lined up for the 4 classrooms.  
Immanuel Vision Fund money delivered more Kleenex, disinfecting wipes, pencils, and dry erase markers.  
OTOC is holding a candidate accountability session on Sunday, October 20th.

Finance: Immanuel Vision - opportunity to request a grant.

Property: Alley Door has been installed, but we still need to clean up some of the edges and it needs to be painted. Parking Lot Door still in the works.  
HVAC - need to follow up. Pastor noticed that the metal brace that holds up a gutter on the south side was on the ground, possibly rusted through, so that needs to be checked out.

Service/Social Ministry: God's Work, Our Hands: We will collect individually wrapped snack/lunch type items and package them up with fruit and water and prepare lunch sacks to hand out to the neighborhood. We hope to have 75 sacks made. We will do this twice, once at St. Luke's to pass out on 24th Street and then again at Grace to pass out along 24th Street. Quilting - Eva would like to get that going again starting in September. There are a few ladies at St. Luke's who are interested in participating. The quilts will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Habitat for Humanity volunteer/work opportunities coming up. A company donated 4000 non-perishable food items to the Loaves and Fishes pantry. We will get a thank you to them.

Support/Stewardship: none.

Worship: Hymn selection committee met and chose music for the next 3 months.

Unfinished Business: Grace/St. Luke's Vision Team offered a brief report.

New Business: Crossroads Prison Ministry September 15th - 6:00pm Service, Meal following (about 6:45pm) Pastor will talk to Pastor Edgar about possibly providing tamales for this meal, as he had indicated interest.

Announcements: We received a postcard from Shepherd of the Hills who will be celebrating 150 years of ministry.  
Amanda will provide a prayer in September.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

Continued...





*Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.*

*1 Kings 8:28*

**Please keep in your prayers the individuals listed below who have health issues and concerns:**

Marcia Beck  
June Hilmer  
Samuel Mantzaris  
Ed Nodean  
Pat Scarpello  
Rose Wynn  
The family of David Hula  
The family of Larry Chapman



Vicki Cox  
Richard Krambeck  
Carolyn Matson  
Pam Reents  
Marilyn Van Ormer



**Pray for wisdom for your Church Council at Grace and St. Luke's Lutheran.**

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us. Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Damon Laaker, St. Luke's and Grace Lutheran Churches  
Bishop Scott Johnson, Nebraska Synod  
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Charles Tuw, Moses Loda, John Boato, Barnaba Dyedi and Nenchi Ilka are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

*Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers.*

**Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:**


Dolores Castro - Home  
Vicki Cox - Home  
Richard Krambeck - Trinity Villiage, Papillion  
Dee Nielsen - Peyton, CO  
Rev. Terry Nielsen - Echo Hills  
Marilyn Van Ormer - Home  
Doris Westman - Hillcrest Estates



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10



-  Thank you Mary for your weekly dedication running the recording equipment every Sunday during worship service.
- Thank you Donna & Ron Adrian and Brenda Spahr for taking care of the altar, and preparing communion.
- Thank you Jean, Rod, Robin and Miriam for sharing your music ministry with us and providing beautiful music during worship services!
- Thanks to everyone that helped with worship services during the month of August. It is much appreciated.
- Thank you Janet, Bob, Connie, Rose Marie, Andrea, Ethan, Ron, and Donna, for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly combined newsletter!
- Thank you to all those that help keep both church grounds neat by picking up trash around the churches.
- Thank you Alma for keeping both Grace and St. Luke's clean and so welcoming to everyone who enters.
- Thank you to all Loaves and Fishes Pantry Volunteers; for delivering food items on Sunday mornings, unloading and putting foods items away until Monday mornings, getting everything ready for Mondays and in greeting and serving all with smiles, care and love!

Sarah Baker is a granddaughter of Mary Thompson and through the company, Viterra that Sarah is an employee; a very large donation was given to the Loaves and Fishes Pantry early in August. There were approximately 4,000 non-perishable items that were given!. Thank you for sharing food with those in experiencing food insecurities in the community.



# St. Luke's

# September

## Birthdays

- 3 – Wendy Rhode
- 5 - Jessica Noah
- 8 - Jeanette Kalasky
- 8 - Sara Pahl-Ramirez
- 11 - Karen Martin
- 15 - Caleb Noah
- 20 - Tyler Olbrey
- 26 - Susan Burney
- 26 - Doris Westman

## Anniversaries

- 4 - Bob & Nancy Klusaw 42
- 23 - Doug & Vicki Hall 52

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office and let us know!

Happy Birthday in faith! May blessings be upon you! On your birthday, remember that you were wonderfully made by God and rejoice in God's love. You are so blessed to be you and to share the amazing love of Jesus on your birthday! May God bless this day with more love than your heart can hold.



St. Luke's Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, September 14, 2024 at 9:30 am in the Educational Unit for fellowship and Bible Study. Janet Hula will have devotions, Deb Ludwig the lesson and Rose Marie Lad will serve as hostess. Everyone is welcome to come join in the learning, conversation and refreshments.



Path Assist, now available in your area, connects you to the resources you need to be healthy and improve the quality of your life. The Path Assist program is designed to help you confidently navigate local health and social service resources and advocate for your needs. The goal of Path Assist is to help you address issues like housing, food, transportation, access to medicine, isolation, and more before they become serious problems. Path Assist is a free program, you can sign up on their website at: [www.path-assist.com/gethelp](http://www.path-assist.com/gethelp) or call 402-265-6551.

# Grace's



## Birthdays

- 1 – Terry Nielsen
- 3 – Munna Lewa
- 5 - Lealen Costanzo
- 7 - Ronald Andersen
- 13 – Loren Moyer
- 28 – Damien Rodriguez

## Anniversaries

- 14 - Ron & Donna Adrian 51
- 24 – John & Brenda Spahr 30
- 26 - Greg & Janet Hula 32
- 30 - Juan & Amanda Vazquez 18

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office and let us know!



## Quilters for Lutheran World Relief

Resuming on Tuesday, September 10th from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. Join a lively group of people and assemble amazing tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief organization. These quilts are delivered around the world to areas most in need of a little comfort. Please feel free to stop by check out the activity, enjoy a cup of coffee and fellowship with one another. No experience necessary!

Lutheran Women of Omaha  
Tuesday, September 10, 2024  
12:00 Noon



Join us at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1725 South 60th Street  
Cost: \$7.00

Guest speaker is Eilene and Rachel, Tanzanian Experience. Free will offering will benefit Project Hope.

Call Mardelle Gocek at 402-292-1328 by Sunday, September 8th, to reserve your seat.

**Sunday, September 22, 2024**  
**Noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**6th Annual**  
**Bread for Life Event**



This year's event will be held at Lutheran Church of the Master, Satellite Pantry Location, Fellowship Hall at 2617 S. 114th St., Omaha, NE 68144

12:00 PM - Registration, Tour the Pantry, Fundraising, Fellowship and Beverages.

1:00 PM - Meal Served and Event Program.

Project Hope is a food and clothing pantry registered as a non-profit organization in 1985. We are called to feed and clothe God's people in need. We believe nutritious food contributes to good health. We value people with love, hope compassion and dignity.

Reservations are due by September 1, 2024

Please visit: [projecthopeomaha.org](http://projecthopeomaha.org) to reserve your spot and learn more about the mission of Project Hope, Inc. or call 402-881-1165.

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Endowment Fund Scholarship Program  
For the 2024-2025 School Year



The Endowment Fund's Scholarship Program assists in achieving educational goals by providing scholarships. If you will be attending college during the 2024-2025 school year, now is the time to apply!

In an email to [stlukes@stlukesomaha.org](mailto:stlukes@stlukesomaha.org) please provide the following information:

1. Your Name
2. University, College, Conservatory, or other institution you will be attending
3. Evidence that you have been accepted for enrollment by that school (i.e. upload a picture of your acceptance letter, or college schedule)
4. What your degree or study program you are pursuing
5. Short paragraph about your previous schooling (previous college year or senior year of high school year)

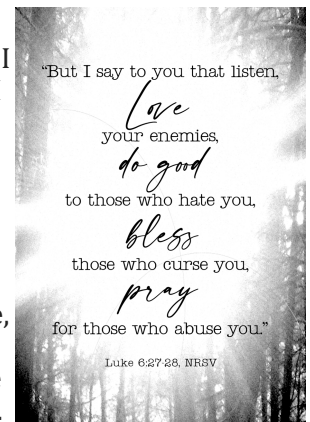
Please send your email by September 15, 2024. We look forward to hearing from you!

**BIBLE STUDY** Today's Scripture in Luke's Gospel, Luke 6:27-35, follows just after the Beatitudes and attached Curses. (Isn't it curious that Luke is the only Gospel writer who adds curses to the list of Beatitudes?) Some people look at this 'Love your Enemy' section as an extra, an optional add-on to the basics of the Beatitudes. " Oh look, it's the Golden Rule! Isn't that nice? "

When I hear that, I think, "Wait! Have you actually read these verses?" This is not quick and easy stuff! Take verse 29, for example... "To the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic." And Jesus repeats the idea in the next sentence. "Do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you." Does Jesus expect us to obey this command literally?( I have a feeling about that - more next month.) What a departure from the way most of us live our lives! What a contrast to the way the world works! (And Jesus has already told us to do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who treat us badly.) REALLY?

Well, I have prayed for one who treated me badly. OK, my teeth may have been clenched, but I did it. Bless those who curse us? How many of us even believe in the power of blessings and curses, as people used to believe? I don't know. I do know that Jesus wants us to be free and creative. Not holding grudges keeps us free. About creativity, I am reminded of the rabbi in "Fiddler on the Roof", who was asked by a villager if there is a blessing for the Tsar, in that time of terrible antisemitism and pogroms, the rabbi replied, " May the Lord bless and keep the Tsar... far away from us!" I like that! I like that a lot, because there is something of freedom and dignity in it, refusing to be cowed or broken by the harsh realities with which we sometimes have to live in this world. And it's funny!

I have never been robbed at gunpoint, in part because I never learned to use a cash register, and I have never worked as a store clerk or bank teller. I can imagine, though, that I would open the cash drawer at a robber's command, and I would probably say something like, " Go ahead and take all the cash you want, Honey, because I am not going to fight you for it!" Of course, that's easy to say when it's not your money. My main concern would be that we both get out of the situation alive, preferably unharmed. Why? The robber and I are both worth a whole lot more than the cash, and we need to be protected a whole lot more than it does.



Sara welcomes comments and questions at: 402-686-1693.



## House Meeting Campaign



In May of 2025, all 7 of Omaha's City Council Members and the Mayor will be up for re-election! This is the prime opportunity for

OTOC to meet with these candidates and discuss the issues WE care about!

This fall, OTOC members will be conducting house meetings to identify leaders and the pressures that affect them so we can build a strong agenda of issues!

Contact your OTOC leaders about participating or hosting a house meeting!

Save the Date: Sunday, October 20, 2024, 2:00pm, St. Pius X, 69th & Blondo. More information to come regarding Candidate Accountability Session.

# Medicare Open Enrollment Event

Volunteers Assisting Seniors (VAS) will be holding a free Medicare Open Enrollment event at Grace Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

You could save money on your Medicare prescription drugs by reviewing your prescription drug plan during Open Enrollment (October 15-December 7) You may also review, compare, and switch Medicare Advantage Plans during Open Enrollment.

Medicare drug plans can increase their premiums, deductibles and prices at the pharmacy each year. Medicare Advantage plans can also change what services and drugs they cover each year, in addition to potentially increasing premiums deductibles and copays.

**Volunteers Assisting Seniors can help!** Call (402)444-6617 beginning September 3 to schedule a personalized appointment to review your Medicare plan with a certified counselor.

**Registration is required, NO WALK-INS. Event is by appointment only. To reserve your spot, please call VAS at 402-444-6617 and leave a message including the date and location of the event.**

Additional dates and locations can be found on the bulletin board, or in both church offices.

Our Mission: Empowering seniors with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their benefits.

For additional information visit our website at: [vas-nebraska.org](http://vas-nebraska.org)

Sign outside Panther Creek Church of the Brethren, Adel, IA:

"You are on God's most wanted list. Just give up."

~ via Rev. Dale A. Schoening, Madrid, IA  
Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

## Disaster Response Update

Beloved in Christ,

We continue to be thankful for the tremendous response to the destruction caused by multiple tornadoes touching down in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa during the month of May. In less than 24 hours after the May 10th storms, Nebraska Synod congregations in Bennington, Blair, and Elkhorn opened their doors to provide shelter, food, and other resources to those most impacted by the storms, and others contributed generously through their time, goods, and financial support through those congregations and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response.

One of the ways that we do this work together as the Nebraska Synod is through the **Nebraska Synod Disaster Response fund**. Through this fund, we are able to help respond to needs related to recovery and rebuilding for the long-haul. If you feel so inclined to respond and help your neighbors in need, we invite you to prayerfully consider this financial opportunity. All gifts to the disaster fund are used in response to recovery, responding, and rebuilding to disasters. Disaster response work is a marathon and not a sprint.

Please visit the synod website at [nebraskasynod.org](http://nebraskasynod.org), we have relaunched a **disaster response page** where various resources are shared and will be added in the days and weeks ahead. We will do our best to keep you updated of needs and thank you for your prayers and for all that you are doing for your siblings in Christ impacted by these storms and tornadoes. If you have any questions, please reach out to Deacon Timothy Siburg directly.

In deep and hope and trust,  
Bishop Scott Johnson and your entire Nebraska Synod Staff





Grace Lutheran and St. Luke's have some additional ways that you could contribute without spending any out of pocket funds.

Take a few moments of your time to download the app for **TAGG - Together A Greater Good**; they partner with several community business. Take a snapshot of your receipt and some businesses will donate 5% to a charity of your choice ~ either St. Luke's or Grace.

Register your **Bakers Plus card** with Kroger and choose Grace or St. Luke's as your charitable choice!

**Ronald McDonald House:** Save your pop tabs. They use the proceeds to pay the utilities. A box is provided in the back of the sanctuary for the tabs. Our most recent contribution of pop tabs brings our total to 129,000.

**Eye Glasses.** Do you have old eye glasses that you no longer use? A box is located in the back of the sanctuary to place them. They will be given to the Lion's Club to be used for individuals in need.

In the United States millions of children receive breakfast and lunch at school throughout the academic year. However, when school is out for the summer, there is a critical gap in nutrition assistance for school-aged children.



Only 11 out of every 100 children who receive school lunches during the school year also have nutrition support during the summer. This means that as many as 89% of children and their families in the U.S. who need nutrition support in the summer aren't getting it.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are already at work in ministries and projects all over the United States to meet the needs of their congregations and communities.

Help a child in the United States get the nutrition they need this summer with a gift to ELCA World Hunger today. Your generosity extends God's warm hospitality with food on the table.

Can we count on you to give a meal and help feed children in need this summer?

ELCA World Hunger Envelopes are available in your church office! Thank you.



## Loaves and Fishes Pantry

Grace Lutheran Church  
1326 South 26th Street  
402-341-7730

**Pantry is Open 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Every Monday ~ Even Holidays!**

Variety of fresh foods donated by  
Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

The Pantry continues to reach out to those in need on a weekly basis. Clients of the Loaves and Fishes Pantry are asked to park along Poppleton Street. Participants are then directed through the alley to pick up prepared sacks and bags of much needed food items. **The Pantry is in need of clean plastic grocery bags, paper grocery sacks and egg cartons!** Please continue to keep the Pantry and all the work that is done in your prayers. *All are served with love and care.*

Do you know of a family or individual in need of food assistance?  
Please share the Pantry information with them.

There is a variety of volunteer opportunities for anyone interested.  
Call the church office for additional information.

**Lutheran South Pantry**  
4401 South 23rd Street ~ 402-502-7070



Items that clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are always appreciated: Dish Soap, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Diaper wipes, and Diapers, especially sizes 6 and pull-ups.

**We always need paper or plastic bags.**





“What is the similarity between a grandmother and a webiste?”

You can’t deny the cookies.”

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**Why Grandparents are the Best**

They always remember your birthday, even without a Facebook notification.

The make delicious food.

They understand all too well how annoying your parents can be.

They always say yes to dessert.

They’re never too busy to play a game or read a book.

They made it through life without Google.

They don’t care how long it takes you to get your shoes on.

They brag about you to their friends.

They send cards in the actual MAIL, sometimes with actual CASH.

They have the best stories...and always have time to listen to yours.

*shared from Google Images*

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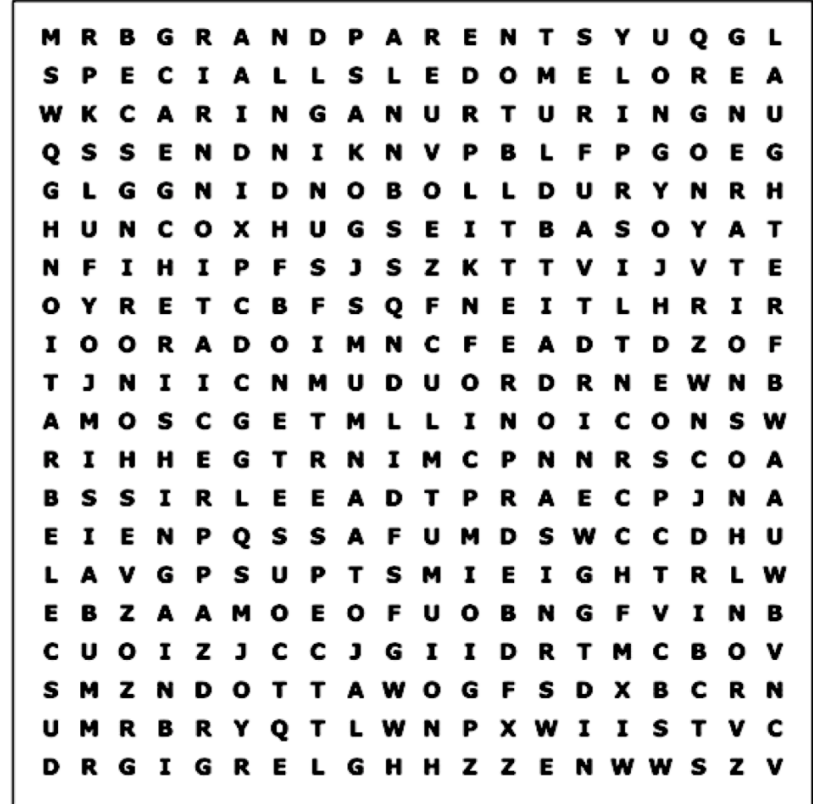
Humor: The most useful sense

“Inside every one of us is the countless potential for creativity. In addition to sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch, we possess that most unusual sense: humor. Of all the ups, downs, and in-betweens of life. (Hey, it works for me!) Is it possible that we all might benefit by adopting a more light-hearted approach to life?”

~ Leigh Rubin, Cartoonist/columnist, via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Dover, DE  
Reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

# Grandparents Day

Note: Words are hidden in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



Unconditional	Laughter	Support	Hugs
Wisdom	Gratefulness	Joyful	Guidance
Role Models	Commitment	Celebration	Joy
Nurturing	Honoring	Admiration	Special
Appreciation	Generations	Respect	Grandparents
Blessing	Bonding	Kindness	Cherishing
Connection	Caring	Pride	Gifts





Every childhood should be filled with warm memories and playful days ... a life of wonder, possibility, love and joy. Childhoods like the ones you most likely might remember.

Instead, over the past decade, we've seen the childhoods of so many of our young neighbors filled with war, famine, natural disaster and heartache. Their toys lay strewn across broken roads covered in debris, their homes have been reduced to ruin and rubble, and their days of carefree play outside are gone.

**Their childhoods have been interrupted.** Your compassion is critical to restoring joy to children's lives.

... children like **Diana Yurchenko**, whose little world was turned upside down when Russian troops invaded her homeland of Ukraine. Diana was enjoying a fun visit to her grandparents' house when the war broke out. It began like any normal visit you may have had with your grandchildren or grandparents.

One minute, Diana was being lovingly spoiled by her grandfather and her grandmother, Lidia. **Moments later, her grandparents were using their bodies as human shields to protect little Diana from shrapnel.**

One day, Russian soldiers invited residents to come out of hiding to receive supplies. Because Lidia needed food and medicine for her granddaughter, who she loves so much, she took the risk.

Yet "just two hours later, shells and cluster bombs started to fall, and many people were wounded there," Lidia said. She and her husband barely escaped.

After this horrifying attack, they fled their home to the forest. There, they hid in the basement of a ranger cabin — living off the land and donations from people in the town — until they received word their town was liberated and returned home.

Sadly, this false sense of freedom was short-lived. The very next day, there was a massive explosion in their yard. Lidia felt the great responsibility of keeping her granddaughter safe. "I couldn't hold it [together] any longer," Lidia shared. "I started crying and said, 'I can't go through this anymore.'"

You can imagine the heavy burden Lidia carries as she worries for the safety of her granddaughter. And feel the fear young Diana has every day, wondering if her world will ever be safe again.

Thankfully, Lidia, her husband and Diana fled to a safe haven where Diana can rest her head peacefully at night — without the threat of bombs. She can also participate in art therapy programs with other children who experienced the trauma of seeing horrific violence and feeling unimaginable heartbreak at such a young age.

*Continued.....*

By sharing your blessings today, you provide safe shelter, warm meals and therapy services for children like Diana and their families who are traumatized.

**Your love is reaching your neighbors in need no matter how far...**

...like young Micael in Peru. Micael also lives under the love and care of his grandparents who worried they couldn't provide him with enough nutrient-rich food to give him a healthy start to life or teach him valuable lifesaving skills like farming.

Yet, thanks to generous and caring people, like you, who want children to have bright futures and happy childhoods, Micael's grandparents were able to learn sustainable ways of growing food, raising livestock and earning an income.

His grandmother, Eusebia, is thankful for your support, which has transformed their lives. "I feed my children, myself," Eusebia said. "The same in the greenhouse. I have my food, my chard, my spinach, my lettuce ... My hen is the same way. I sell eggs. I feed my children. That's how I live."

Your generosity helped Micael's grandparents lift themselves out of poverty and bring joy and hope for a bright future into his young life.

**No child should ever have to battle hunger like Micael or violence like Diana... but sadly, young Aichata's childhood is being interrupted by both.**

She and her family were forced to flee violence in their hometown to live in the Segou Region of Mali. But their move to find safety has brought nothing but pain and tragedy. Aichata's only brother died, and her mother is suffering from a debilitating illness that traditional healers in the area can't treat.

With her mom often unable to work, Aichata and her sisters go hungry and aren't growing properly due to the lack of nutrient-rich food. **"When the children don't get food, they get sick ... I have to then rely on God," said Aichata's mother.**

Will you be the answer to their prayers?

Your giving heart allows children like Diana, Micael and Achiata the chance to feel the joy of childhood — just like the children in your life that you love so much.

Together, we will persist until your love reaches every neighbor.

