

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380
402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
stlukes@stlukesomaha.org
Web Site: www.graceluth.com
www.stlukesomaha.org
Like us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha
www.facebook.com/stlukesomaha

AUGUST SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 am. Worship Service
Grace Lutheran, 1326 South 26th Street

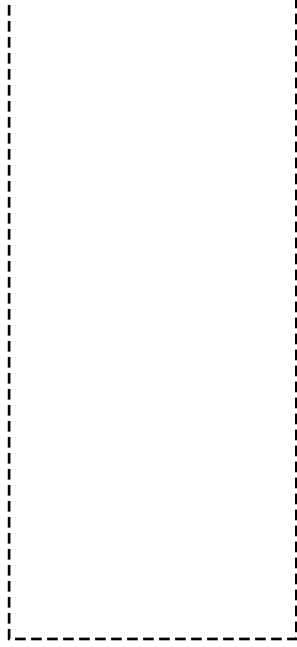
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary Grace - Brenda Spahr
Editor/Church Secretary St. Luke's - Nancy Klusaw
Sexton - Alma Lopez

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THE GRACE MESSENGER

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St. Luke's Echo

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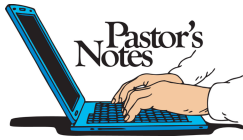


October Worship Services will
be held at Grace Lutheran,
1326 S. 26th Street



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

Connect with us on the web: graceluth.com
stlukesomaha.org



Soon it will be time to exercise our responsibility as citizens. Our Nebraska Synod offered some links to materials that might be of consideration as we prepare to vote. I was delighted to see this pledge from a sister community: St. Philip's Episcopal Church. I offer it for your reflection. Please vote!

As a person of faith committed to the life and teachings of Jesus, I make this pledge to all people regardless of their political beliefs, whether we are in agreement or disagreement, and regardless of who wins the election.

With respect to my words and actions, whether in person or through social media, I pledge and commit myself, both before and after the election -

- To love others as Jesus has loved me (John 13:34);
 - To treat others as I would want them to treat me (Luke 6:31);
 - To love my enemies, do good to those who hate me, bless those who curse me, and pray for those who abuse me (Luke 6:27-28);
 - To "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ" (Book of Common Prayer, 305); and
 - To "strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being" (Book of Common Prayer, 305).
- This I pledge in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings!
Pr. Laaker

Visit 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



Stewardship

"What we do with money flows from (more importantly) impacts our faith in Jesus."



Paul, in writing to Timothy, says the following: "What about people who are rich in this present world? Tell them not to think of themselves too highly, and to set their hopes, not on something so uncertain as riches, but on the God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and eager to share. That way, they will treasure up for themselves a good foundation for the future, and thereby come to possess the life which is really life."

I couldn't help but think of this admonition of Paul when I heard some of the conversations following the "God's Work, Our Hands," action on September 8. The joy of sharing the treat bags, hearing stories of God's work in a person's life, the gratitude and delight of faces as they opened the bags, provide a good foundation to experience the life that is really life.

Thanks be God!
Pastor Laaker

Attention Nebraska Synod High School Youth!!



Are you a leader? Do you WANT to be a leader? How can you be a faithful leader? What does faithful leadership look like?

Join us November 22-24 at Covenant Cedars Camp in Hordville, NE for a weekend "leadership lab" where we will explore these questions and more! Throughout the weekend, we will hear "shining stories" from youth and adults in Nebraska who have felt the call to faithfully use their leadership skills in daily life. Together, we will explore how lesser known Bible characters used their leadership skills in surprising ways. Through interactive team building activities (our leadership lab), we'll explore our own leadership styles. We'll have time to practice using (and sharing) our gifts and leadership skills and of course we will worship, fellowship and have fun together!

To learn more and register visit: nebraskasynod.org



Grace 2024 Council Members

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

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

Council Meeting Notes - September 10, 2024

The regular meeting of the Council was held on September 10, 2024. Council members shared prayer concerns for individuals, New Orleans hurricanes, Western forest fires, Ukraine & Palestine, transitions, those affected by the high school shooting, praise for those in the medical field helping others.

Devotions: Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the "Daily Texts" from Psalm 111:1 and Revelation 19:5. The first tells us to praise God with others. The second reminds us also to praise God.

Visions for Ministry: Leading Faithful Innovation by Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Tessa Pinkstaff

The authors discussed the importance of taking the time to rest, reflect, and grow in our own relationship with God to better be able to lead and serve others in theirs.

Read the Conclusion for next month.

Guest: Jon Stuehm - SOS Heating and Cooling shared the plan for repair the roof-top AC unit.

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

Christian Education: none

Evangelism/Outreach: Crossroads Connection - next Sunday 6pm service, 6:45pm meal

Finance: Immanuel Vision Grant options?
FNBO CD comes due at the end of September.

Continued...

Property: Painting - someone kindly re-painted the block windows in the alley. Thanks!

Parking Lot Door - threshold has been repaired.

Service/Social Ministry: God's Work - positive response to giving out snack bags to people along 24th Street; will do again at Grace in October. Quilting group began. Medicare Event - Volunteers Assisting Seniors holding Medicare enrollment event in November at Grace. OTOC events: Candidate Accountability Session on Sunday, October 20th at 2pm at St. Pius X (Preston Love, Don Bacon, & Tony Vargas will be present). Immigration and Refugee Taskforce project - rolls out on Wednesday, Sept 18th - Nebraska Alliance for Thriving Communities. It brings together all of the employers across the state saying we need to do something about the immigration issue because we need immigrants to strengthen our communities. (Bankers, cattleman, hospitality, medical, etc)

Support/Stewardship: None

Worship: None

Unfinished Business: Grace/St. Luke's Discernment Team updated their progress.

New Business: There are resources on the synod website regarding communications during this election season.

Announcements: Pastor will take vacation the first week of October and will be out of the office the week of October 21st for the Voyagers conference. Ron will provide a prayer in October.

Adjournment: The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Vazquez, Secretary

Reformation Sunday
October 27, 2024

In remembrance of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517 and the beginning of the Reformation, wear red or orange.





St. Luke's 2024 Council Members

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

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Treasurer: Nancy Klusaw

Financial Secretary & Memorial/Special Gifts: Rose Marie Lad

Council Meeting Notes - September 12, 2024

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

Devotions: Pastor Laaker led devotions from Daily Texts – Psalm 82:3 and 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

Agenda: Cindy Fleming moved; Dave Ruffner seconded to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Minutes of August 8, 2024, meeting: Cindy Fleming moved; Molly Sedlacek seconded, to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Book Study: Chapter 6 of Leading, Faithful, Innovation was discussed. Please read “Conclusion – Discovering God’s Hopeful Future”, for next month.

Unfinished Business:

1. Roof status: Steve Braun gave an update. Steel down spouts have been installed. Flat roof over the gated entry still has issues.
2. Conversations with Grace and St. Luke’s – The Discernment Team, with members from each church will meet on September 21, 2024, and October 12, 2024,

Reports:

Pastor’s Report – A written report was provided. Pastor conducted a funeral for Larry Chapman. Confirmation classes have begun online. Pastor has attended the OTOC Immigration and Refugee Taskforce meeting. Grace will be holding a Medicare Open Enrollment event on November 6, 2024.

President’s Report – A written report was provided.

Continued...

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 provided. Please be sure to pull shut the 24th Street door.

Evangelism – An oral report was given. Sign on 24th Street continues to be changed. Reading to the second graders at Spring Lake will continue for the 24-25 school year.

Fellowship – An oral report was given. Fellowship hour continues to be successful.

Stewardship & Parish Education – No new report.

Social Ministry – An oral report was given. Sunday, September 8, 2024, was God’s Work Our Hands Sunday. A total of 81 Snack Bags were assembled and distributed. Two prayer requests were received. We will be assembling and distributing Snack Bags on October 13, 2024, at Grace.

Worship and Music – An oral report was given. Hymn selection meeting will be held October 15, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

John Kolb moved; Steve Braun seconded, to accept all reports as presented. Motioned carried.

New Business:

1. Quilting Group meets every Tuesday at Grace from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The meeting closed with prayer at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Fleming, Council Member



Nebraska Brass will be at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church on Friday, October 18th at 7:00 pm.

Enjoy an evening and Celebrate with the sound of a Brass Quintet playing favorite songs!

Tickets are: \$18 for Adults; \$15 for Seniors (65+); Children and Students are free. If you have any questions, please call the church office 402-341-7730 (Grace) or 402-733-5881 (St. Luke’s).



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



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, Grace and St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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 Worshipping 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



Quilters for Lutheran World Relief

Tuesday mornings at Grace Lutheran Church from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. 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!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We will walk with people around the world afflicted by war, displacement, disease and poverty by collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.

During the month of October, we will be collecting items each week to assemble 60 Personal Care Kits on Reformation Sunday, October 27th following worship services. The Personal Care Kits provide basic sanitation and hygiene items for families who have lost their belongings in some of nature's devastating disasters. These kits help individuals to stay healthy, clean, and preserve personal dignity.

Items needed to complete a Personal Care Kit are:

Bar of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping.)

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended.)

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging.),

Combs.

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional.)



You can be a part of this journey and bring an item or two and brighten the hope, faith, and future of an individual or a family through Lutheran World Relief.

There will be a basket in the back of the sanctuary to collect donated items. If you have any questions, please speak with Brenda Spahr.

What is Pastor Appreciation?

In 1994, The American Christian Organization Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance.

When is Pastor Appreciation Day?

Showing national gratitude for clergy members is celebrated on the second Sunday in October why it's important to celebrate Pastors and Clergy Members! When we consider all that religious leaders do, it became clear on how important it is to celebrate and uplift our hardworking clergy.



Pastors and clergy serve the church daily.

Clergy members prepare weekly messages, manage the maintenance and financial obligations of their church, and, most importantly, nurture the spiritual well-being of their congregants.

Pastors and clergy serve the church and community during major life moments.

Clergy participate in the highs and lows of the lives of their church-goers and other members of the community. They lead mourners during funerals, pray over the sick, and minister to the imprisoned and abandoned. Clergy members bear the emotional pressure heaped upon them by disgruntled congregants and absorb the hostile criticism of an increasingly anti-religious society.

Clergy members oversee our most joyous occasions. They play a vital role in marriages, baptisms, Holy First Communion, and requests for special blessings. Religious workers also uphold the institution of marriage by counseling struggling couples to hold fast to their marital vows and guide the Lord's flock by giving clarity to those with a fractured sense of faith.

Last, it's important to note that clergy members often risk their physical well-being for the sake of doing God's Work. Clergy serve as missionaries in hostile areas worldwide, care for people with contagious diseases, and literally stand at the front lines of social justice movements.

How do we appreciate Pastor Damon Laaker?

With a celebration on Sunday October 13th after the church service! Here is an opportunity to share and support a cause that Pastor Laaker holds close to his heart, "World Hunger". There will be a basket on Sunday, October 13 for cards to Pastor and donations to "World Hunger".



God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 8th held at St. Luke's. A total of 81 Snack Bags were assembled after church service, during the fellowship hour by many hands! There were ten kids and nine adults distributing the Snack Bags to people we met while walking South on 24th Street. Two prayer requests were received and a very interesting story was told by a man who received a text from his 12-year-old granddaughter who lives in Tennessee just that morning. His granddaughter said an angel came and visited her during the night saying Papa wasn't feeling good, and now we stopped to hear his story. God is here. God's Work Our Hands Sunday, October 13th we will be assembling Snack Bags after church service, during the fellowship hour at Grace and will be distributing the Snack Bags and inviting prayer requests from people walking North on 24th Street.





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 Jean, Miriam, Rod, and Diane for sharing your music ministry with us and providing such beautiful music during worship services.

Thank you Karen and Rose for taking care of the altar, and preparing communion.

Thank you Vicki, Deb, Theresa, Sara and Connie for participating in the readings during worship services in September.

Thank you Bob and Connie for preparing for the South Omaha Community Care meeting.

Thank you Janet, Rose Marie, Eva, and Ron & Donna for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly 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!



1611 1/2 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Hours for Breakfast and Lunch
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri & Sat. from 7 - 2
Closed: Wed and Sun

Specialty Coffee, Pastries, Bagels, Pizza, Soup, Salad, Daily Specials!
No set prices. Community Cafe - donate, instead of pay.
Eat here - feed the Community.



We are grateful to have had the opportunity to share the love of Christ and discuss the wonders of who we are Created to Be with over 1,400 campers at Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills Camps this past summer.

We all know how faith comes alive when we step outside of our day-to-day routines and explore faith conversations with our peers at camp. Check out these opportunities for the youth of your congregation to get back to camp this fall and winter:

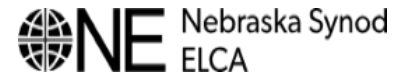
October 5, 2024 - 9:00am - 3:30pm. Our Explore! Day Retreat is an awesome opportunity for those who aren't sure if an overnight at camp is right for them, as well as those who loved camp this summer and want to come back for the day.

October 18-20, 2024 - All New Couple's Retreat. Use this time to refresh your connection with your partner. Reconnect in a place that provides a quiet and relaxing space with nature as a background. For questions, contact our Adult Programs Specialist, Jessica, at JWeltz@NLOM.org or 402-944-2544.

November 2-3, 2024 - Father Son Retreat.
November 8-10, 2024 - Middle School Retreat!
November 18-19, 2023 - Mother Daughter Retreat!

To learn more about these retreats and to register, visit: CJHCenter.org/upcoming-retreats.

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship, and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table. Travel will be by Windstar motorcoaches, and housing will be in residence halls at Vanderbilt University, with an overnight stop each way in St. Louis. Each participating congregation is asked to register one adult leader for every six youth. Adulter leaders must be at least 21 years of age.



Cost of event: Early bird (submitted before Dec. 1, 2024) \$630. Regular registration: \$680.

Additional information can be found by visiting the website at: nebraskasynod.org

Grace's



Birthdays:

- 7 – June Hilmer
- 10 – Jordan Vazquez
- 11 – Jonah Laaker
- 16 – Tom Emery
- 18 - Jericho Vazquez
- 24 - Donavan Halfhill
- 26 - Rosemary Gaunt
Chadney Everitt
- 27 - Jady Vazquez
- 29 - Andrea Spahr

Anniversary:

- 6 - Dustin & Rachel Moyer 17
- 18 - Micah & Carrie Laaker 21

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



St. Luke's

Birthdays:

- 9 – Rich Hanson
- 11 - Karen Chapman
- 12 - Mary Helwig
- 19 - Robert Klusaw
- 23 - Barbara Kolb
- 28 - Annette Chipman

Anniversaries:

- 11 - Steve & Karen Braun 50
- 19 - Jerry & Cynthia Creasy 22

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

BIBLE STUDY

Last month, we looked at Luke's Gospel 6:27-35. This month, let us continue with that, adding on verses 36-38, as well. I raised the question of whether Jesus wants us to take his commands here literally or not, and wrote that I had a feeling about that. My feeling is: sometimes yes, sometimes no. Another way to say it would be: it depends. This whole section of the Gospel, I think, comes out of the deep, intimate relationship that Jesus shares with his Abba, and is more about attitudes than about specific actions. So praying for someone with teeth clenched, as I once did, doesn't cut it, because the attitude of understanding and compassion isn't there.

This is made more evident in the verses we added on today. It's all about compassion, not judging, not condemning, and it's running over with generosity and abundance. Just like the Holy One! These are attitudes that I want to grow into, and are based in the awareness that it's all a gift. Everything is gifted! We are endlessly blessed by God's giving, even self-giving, and that one's the hardest to bear, yet the most desirable, too. In that context, how much does it really matter if a thief takes an article of clothing, some jewelry, or if someone fails to return what they have borrowed? Maybe not so much, and that frees us to be creative in our responses to each other, and to all.

Sara welcomes discussion, by text or phone, at: (402) 686-1693.

St. Luke's Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 9:30 am in the Educational Unit for fellowship and Bible Study. Wanda Rhode will have devotions, Teri Durham the lesson and Karen Chapman will serve as hostess. Everyone is welcome to come join in the learning, conversation and refreshments.



Disaster Response Update

Beloved in Christ,

The clean up continues after the destruction caused by multiple tornadoes touching down in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. Nebraskans have stepped up in a time of need, as we always do. Now we begin to turn our thoughts toward how we continue to step up for our neighbors in the days, weeks, and months to come.

On the synod website (nebraskasynod.org), we have relaunched a **disaster response page** where various resources that are shared will be added in the days and weeks ahead. If you have any questions or if you need to report from your congregation about households or families who have been impacted by the storms and tornadoes, please reach out to Deacon Timothy Siburg directly.

Red and White ELCA Disaster Response envelopes can be found on the back table in the sanctuary.



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 and paper grocery sacks!** 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.



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!

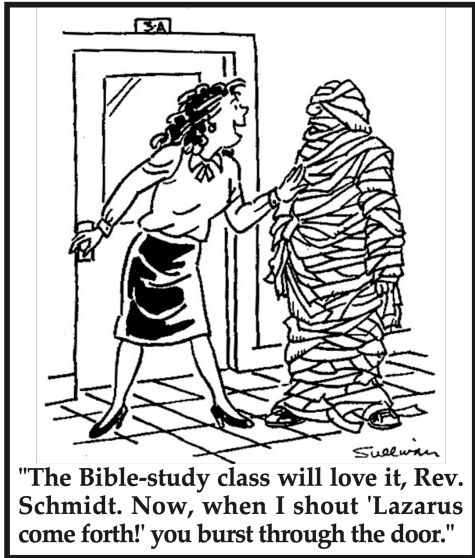
Ronald McDonald House: Save your pop tabs. They use the proceeds to pay the utilities. A box is provided in the back of the sanctuary for the tabs. Our most recent contribution of pop tabs brings our total to 129,000.

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.



The United Nations World Food Programme recently warned that acute food insecurity has reached an unprecedented high, affecting a record 349 million people — up from 135 million in 2019. That is a shocking statistic. ELCA World Hunger partners here in the United States and around the world are telling us about the financial strain caused by the rising hunger crisis, and we come to you humbly, **asking for a donation.**

Through ELCA World Hunger you support families as they address root causes of hunger and poverty through such multifaceted solutions as education, agricultural training and microloans for women. Our faith calls us to be in relationship with our neighbors, and that is what makes your partnership so important.



"The Bible-study class will love it, Rev. Schmidt. Now, when I shout 'Lazarus come forth!' you burst through the door."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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One Halloween night, three of us were returning from our evening classes at the university. We were dressed in our habits.

Three young men followed us, making snide remarks. I turned suddenly and faced them without saying a word.

One of them exclaimed, "Hey, they're for real!" They thought we were in costume. They quickly melted into the shadows and we went home peacefully.

~ via Sr. Mary Norbert Bauer,
Daughters of Divine Charity
Hackettstown, NY

Christians are like pumpkins

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then God cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. God removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then God carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

This was passed on to me by another pumpkin. Now it's your turn to pass it to other pumpkins. I liked this enough to send it to all the pumpkins in my patch."

~ via Rev. Bud Frimoth, Portland, OR

God's kids say & do the funniest things

"The other day, my daughter Marcia and I were discussing longevity. 'I've discovered how to make time stand still,' she said. 'How?' I asked.

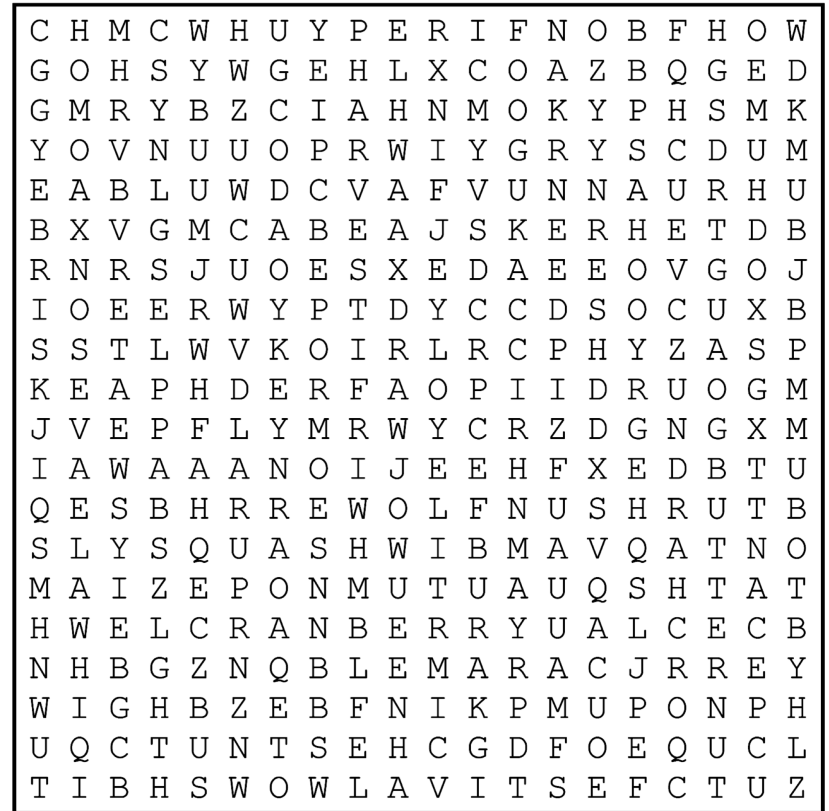
"You take the batteries out of the clock!" she said.

~ Winslow Fox, M.D., Chelsea, MI

Jokes on this page reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com



Fall Word Search



Word list:

ACORN	CHESTNUT	GOURD	PECAN
APPLES	CIDER	HARVEST	PUMPKIN
AUTUMN	CORN	HAYBALE	SCARECROW
BONFIRE	CORNUCOPIA	HAYRIDE	SPICE
BRISK	COZY	LEAVES	SQUASH
BUTTERNUT	CRANBERRY	MAIZE	SUNFLOWER
CARAMEL	FESTIVAL	ORCHARD	SWEATER



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