

Rally Day Plans Come into Focus!

Rally Day 2011 looks to be one of the most exciting ever. It will surely be a day of fun and fellowship with many activities for everyone. It all happens on the first Sunday after Labor Day - Sunday, September 11th.

Here's what you can expect:

- Two worship choices: A traditional indoor worship at 8:30 a.m. and a festive outdoor worship at 10 a.m.

Immediately following the outdoor worship, the picnic and activities begin, including ...

- Tasty food: grilled burgers, brats and hotdogs; ice cream and more
- Music by Caribe
- VEAP food drive raffle
- Silent auction with funds benefitting Camp Wapo and VEAP
- Inflatable basketball game
- Live animal show with Martha Herbert
- "Minute-To-Win-It" Competitions, Hot Wheels Racing and Bottle Blast
- And much, much more!

Watch the Messenger and the Church bulletin for more exciting announcements.

Want to help make Rally Day 2011 the best ever? Bring silent auction donations to the church office. Call the Church office to inquire about volunteer opportunities. Or consider joining the Rally Day Planning Committee. Contact Kris Brehmer with questions and ideas!

Meet our New Intern - Leslie Mahraun

Hello Oak Grove!

My name is Leslie Mahraun, your intern from Luther Seminary. I am married to Dan Mahraun and we have a son, Benjamin Mordecai. I grew up in Aurora, Colorado and I am a graduate of Bethany College, a college of the ELCA, in Lindsborg, KS.

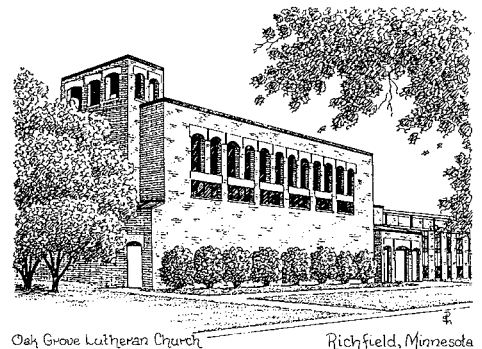
My husband, Dan, is also a Lutheran College grad, and Wartburg is his alma mater. Dan is a professional musician and voice teacher.

Our son, Benjamin is a recent Gustavus Adolphus grad and will do his student teaching (vocal music) this fall near St. Peter, MN.

Being with my family (which includes our pet cat) and friends, cooking, eating, reading, creative writing and knitting are some of my favorite things. I enjoy movies and television, playing board games and cards, and I love the outdoors, theater, music of all kinds, museums (especially art) and learning about other cultures and traditions.

As a family, we love living in the Twin Cities and we are happy to make our home here. Thank you so much for welcoming us into your church family.

As a baptized child of God, I love to worship, sing, and give God praise and I am honored to be your intern for 2011-12. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you.



Oak Grove Lutheran Church Richfield, Minnesota

July 2011

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July Birthdays

- 1 – Earl Eklund, Jane Marie Jefferson
- 2 – Andrew Grabow, Jerry Peterson, Jane Sundin
- 3 – Lilah Rasmussen, Gerald Stuermer
- 4 – Jacob Barnes, Maxine Oman, Ron Robillard
- 5 – Staci White
- 6 – John Aura, Charles Langeness, Jim Moe,
Donna Paakkonen, Steven Ruotsinoja,
Christopher Ryks
- 7 – Thomas Dean, Travis Follett, Catherine
Langeness, Cameron Sundin
- 8 – June Carney
- 9 – Carolyn Bacon, Randall Gerdes, Kathleen
Olson
- 10 – Jeanette Bollum, Tom Eichlersmith
- 11 – Marilyn Hammer, Kim Kranz, Lorraine
Widme
- 12 – Spencer Carlson, Lorraine Doose, Jann
Eichlersmith, Sharon Kielty, Vi Refsal
- 13 – Judy Adams, Al Tuff
- 14 – Marguerite Frush
- 15 – Joyce Brekhus
- 16 – Lorraine Dayon, Jan Gambaiani, Russell
Lupkes
- 17 – Erin Olson, Liz Taylor, Amber Tietze
- 18 – Sarah Grob
- 19 – Richard Highum, Stacey Stanley
- 20 – Noah Barnes, Jan Basant, Marcie Bishop,
Joan Liljenquist
- 22 – Alexis Curry, Morgan Curry, Donna Fors,
Jim Kinney, Kelly Zoellmer
- 23 – Natalie Adams
- 24 – Joan Peterson, Sophie Wordehoff
- 25 – Pat Decker
- 26 – Erik Anderson, Jim Kassera, Vonnie Nelson
- 27 – Greg Oman
- 29 – Megan Benzschawel, Terry Gambaiani,
Frank Ojile, Matt Schmidt
- 30 – Char Anderson, Judith Renneke Bihari,
Tlanezi Guzman, Greg Peterson
- 31 – April Hartke, Mike Lueck, Lloyd Stromback,
Edith West

Women's Summer Bible Study Continues for Two More Months

All women of OG are invited and welcome to participate in a 3-session Bible study this summer. We are meeting at 7PM in the Fireside Room on the second Tuesday of the month: July 12, and August 9.

The title of the study is "Renew, Respond, Rejoice". The July 12 session will focus on discerning and using our gifts in a service response to God. The August 9 session exhorts us to "Rejoice in the Lord" even when things are complicated or unresolved.

No advance preparation or knowledge is necessary; study materials and light refreshments will be available. Please consider attending one or both of these informal sessions as your schedule allows.

If you would like additional information, you may contact Lynn Stertz, 612-869-3697, lstertz@usfamily.net or Kelli Olson, 651-221-0017, vbolson7827@hotmail.com.

Baptisms



June 12 – Vivian Grace Vik

HELP WANTED

The YOUTH of Oak Grove are having a
SCRAP METAL DRIVE.

Please see the attached list of items wanted. Proceeds will benefit the YOUTH PROGRAMS here at Oak Grove. Questions can be directed to Morgan & Alexis Curry or Julie Tvete.

Scrap metal collection dates- Sunday July 10th and 24th- 9:30-10:00 and 11:00-12:00; Thursday July 7th and 21st- 7:00-8:00 PM in the back of the south parking lot.

Please save the following:	CAN NOT ACCEPT:
Steel	Aluminum foil
Stainless Steel	Paint cans
Brass	Aerosol cans
Copper	
Aluminum	
Aluminum pop cans	
Soup & Vegetable cans	
(LABELS REMOVED PLEASE)	



Miracle Grow*

“The earth produces automatically, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain” -Mark 4:28

Jesus says this to describe the kingdom of God using an image any kindergartener can understand. During your first year of school they give you a plastic cup, a bit of soil and a hard, brown lima bean, and with some water and a little patience you discover for yourself what Jesus said is true. The plant comes up all by itself.

Jesus liked to use the language of growing to describe how God’s kingdom is present in the world. Sometimes seeds grow against all odds and despite the perils that surround them. Sometimes weeds grow up alongside the good seed and it takes some wisdom to know how to reap the harvest. Sometimes it’s the smallest seed of all that produces the largest results. During the middle weeks of July we’ll be hearing those parables during our worship time, and the stories of growing seeds lead us, finally, to a picture of the most bountiful of harvests, where Jesus shares a meal with more than 5,000 of his closest friends.

The “earth produces automatically,” but a certain amount of faith and hope is required once you cover that seed in the dirt. Will it get enough water? Too much water? Not enough sunlight or too much of that? Insects and disease are real threats, as are the furry creatures that can mow down a row of spinach in my garden overnight. And around the globe various blights reduce the yields of rice and wheat, and a late flood or an early frost in the corn and soybean belt can wreak havoc on a hungry world.

Still, Jesus seems quite optimistic about the prospects for both present and future. Of course he’s talking less about agriculture than about the kingdom. That kingdom, he insists, is ever surprising and unstoppable; something so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out. (Matt. 16:18)

Pastor Tom Zarth

* *Not an endorsement of any gardening products.*

Note of Thanks. . .

Open Arms in South Africa Update:

Thank you so much! With your assistance and that of my friends and family, I was able to raise \$2300 for Open Arms – totaling over \$8500 for my entire group. If you want to follow along with my travels, visit my blog online at: <http://theadventuresoftigger-notpooh.blogspot.com/>

Otherwise, I am hosting two forums this fall – one for China and one for South Africa.

Elise Tvette

Remember Oak Grove in Your Estate Planning

When you make your will, consider naming Oak Grove Enduring Gifts as one of your beneficiaries. Already have a will? You can update it to include Oak Grove Enduring Gifts as a beneficiary. You can help Keep Oak Grove Alive and Growing. Contact Pastor Tom or Maynard Wood for more information.

— Kitchen Konnection —

Last month I mentioned Vitamin D. If you counted on sunshine for yours, I don’t think any of us got enough. Rainy days and clouds filled so many of our days. Let’s hope that the official calendar date for summer will bring us plenty of sunshine in the months ahead. I have had many clouds in my life lately even on the sunny days, but our glorious SON is making them brighter every day. I pray that He is doing the same for you. Have a wonderful July; I will have more tips for you in August. I hope that you tried the dressing recipe from last month; let me know if you liked it.... God Bless, Margie

P.S. Another hat I wear is of the president of the Women of Oak Grove. This is just a reminder to please fill out the survey that was included in the May and June messenger. We, the board, would love to know what you are thinking and will begin to share those thoughts very soon!!!

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Ephesians 3:16-17...

Lutheran Social Services Update

Camp Noah

I'm remembering the record player that was my Christmas gift when I was nearly 5. The records included some Bible stories put to music.

"Oh, children, little children The Ark is going to leave. So step inside and take a ride, It's raining I believe."

Well, members of Oak Grove rained blessings unto the ark for Camp Noah!

Many thanks to generous donors of Oak Grove for responding to the opportunity to provide arts and crafts kits for children attending Camp Noah. The tremendous response resulted in a doubling of the goal of making 24 kits to 48. Kits were assembled in between church services on Sunday, June 19. Lutheran Social Services takes Camp Noah to communities nationwide that have experienced natural disasters such as tornadoes and floods. Camps are scheduled for July and August. An additional kit assembly event may be scheduled, so watch the church bulletin and our Facebook page for updates. The need is great, with so many families affected by numerous disasters in the last three months. LSS also welcomes your financial donations to support Camp Noah.

Camp Noah is also recruiting volunteers to teach the day camps. Volunteers need to be available to travel for a week, and the cost is \$250 per volunteer, plus travel expenses. More details here: http://www.lssmn.org/camp_noah/

In the last four years Camp Noah has held 167 camps, serving 7220 children and youth in 17 states.

Camp Noah is proud to be a part of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and its mission: to express the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives and builds community.

Lutheran Night at Twins

Baseball Game is Tuesday, July 19

Watch the Twins play at Target Field and help LSS support the Metro Homeless Youth Programs! The game is on Tuesday, July 19th at 7:10pm against the Cleveland Indians! Ticket price is \$30 each with \$7 from each ticket going back to the Metro Homeless Youth Program. Tickets can be ordered online at www.lssmn.org/strikeout

Last year, tickets sold out, so early ordering is recommended!

Ask Dr. Dana . . . an occasional column on questions on theology and practice

Dear Dr. Dana,

I am a Catholic who attended your church service with a friend the other day. I was so surprised when the Apostles' Creed was said and there was the sentence: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church". I guess I didn't expect to hear Catholic mentioned in a Lutheran prayer. Why is this? Why isn't it Lutheran church instead? The gentleman I was with told me to drop you an email and ask this question since he didn't have an answer.

Sincerely, *****

Dear ***** Thanks for the question. For many years all Lutherans used the phrase "Holy Christian Church" when citing the Apostles Creed. In the 1970's a move was made to return to the more ancient form of the Creed by substituting "catholic" for the word "Christian". The word catholic (small "c") was first used by Christians around the year 112 AD and was used to refer to the universal Christian church as opposed to the different branches of early Christianity. In its simplest meaning the word catholic means all Christians who believe in the basic doctrines of the church as laid out in the Apostle's Creed. In this sense the word catholic

would refer to all churches, Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic that proclaim Jesus Christ as savior and Lord.

dr. dana

Do you have questions about church, theology, the Bible, the history of the church?
ask.dr.dana01@gmail.com

Senior Driver Refresher Improvement Program Offered at Oak Grove

Thursday, July 7 from 1 – 5 p.m. – cost: \$20

The Drive Improvement course is open to the public; pre-registration is requested. A MN Highway Safety and Research Center certified instructor will teach the class.

Persons 55 and older who complete the course qualify for a 10% discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years. Call 1-888-234-1294 to register.

Last month I gave information that some of you could take to be part of our TRIENNIAL gathering in Spokane, Washington for the Women of the ELCA, July 14-17, 2011. The information would let you participate at the event without traveling out there.

There are two websites to note, the first is for patterns: www.shawlministry.com or any of the many books on the topic available at your local library. You can work alone or in a group. Taking the trains to the gathering in Spokane? You'll have time to whip up at least one.

The second is: www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial gathering in the "Activities" section, you'll find the "Prayer Shawl" collection page, where you can print out a label to be added to the completed shawl. Laminate it and attach it to the shawl with a ribbon or yarn.

Another attraction at this event will be Author Jane Redmont and her book: *WHEN IN DOUBT, SING; PRAYER IN DAILY LIFE*.

She says: "Prayer in daily life is today's prayer; not tomorrow's anticipated prayer, not next week's routine (the prayer equivalent of "I will join the health club next week"), and not yesterday's prayer, the one that no longer 'works,' the prayer we prayed as children, or the one we prayed when we were in another mood, another place, another life situation.

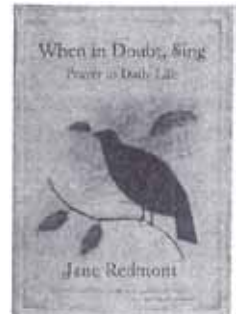
Our whole life belongs in prayer: emotional, intellectual, physical, sexual, social, economic and political in the broadest sense of that word. Our doubts and our pain, not only our wishes and our dreams. Our whole selves. Beware the trap or tyranny of the "ought." Acknowledge what is. Tell the truth about your life. Begin where you are—not somewhere else."

The following is a review by Emily Hansen, director for stewardship and development, for the Women of the ELCA.

"In this book, triennial gathering speaker Jane Redmont, encourages us to remember and nurture the prayers and prayer styles we have been taught, but she also encourages us to leave prayers and practices behind if they are no longer relevant or helpful to us. Her overall message is that we need to continually find ways to renew and refresh our prayer routines if we are going to find the time and space for prayer in our busy lives.

There are no rules or right ways to pray, she says. Instead, Redmont gives us a guide of practices and types of prayer—connecting to God through writing, touch, meditation and even singing.

Whether you are inclined to pray silently in meditation or pray with your whole body, Redmont weaves throughout her book exercises and examples of ways to pray. She also explores prayer in various stages of life, and from the group dynamics of prayer to the individual nature of prayer, Redmont uses significant experiences from her own life to help you discover different prayer practices. Redmont also has written a wonderful chapter on children and prayer that discusses not only ways to pray for children but the powerful ways we can learn to pray with children.



Her book is a rich and diverse guide that encourages us to be open to change in our prayer lives and to come to know prayer as she knows it, as an experience of relationship and great hospitality.

In addition to being an author, Jane Redmont is a professor of religious studies at Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C. She has worked in campus, parish and urbane ministries and is preparing for ordination in the Episcopal Church.

You can find a copy of this book in our church library.
Dawn Sankey, Secretary

Church Council Adds New Members

In response to a resignation and an open at-large position, the Oak Grove Church Council has asked two youth members of the congregation to fill the role: Christy Peterson and Mackenzie Curry.

This creates 6 at-large members, while congregational bylaws call for 5, but the council felt it would be easier for the youth if there were two of them instead of only one. The council decided to proceed with this arrangement and offer a change in the wording of the bylaws at the next congregational meeting in January.

Meanwhile, we welcome these young women to leadership positions in the congregation with gratitude for their willingness to serve.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT OAK GROVE

2011-2012

Rally Sunday, September 11

*Outdoor Worship at 10 a.m.
Followed by a picnic and activities for all ages
Silent Auction
from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

Sunday school starts September 18

*Oak Grove Sunday school 9:45-10:45 for kids ages 3 years – 6th grade
Fee: \$15 per child (\$35 maximum per family)*

Child's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian(s) names _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ E-mail Address _____

Any allergies, medical or learning concerns? _____

Would you like to help with Sunday school in any way? _____

Oak Grove Lutheran
7045 Lyndale Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
612-869-4917
www.oakgrovelutheran.org

JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Kids Leave for CASTAWAY 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	27 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM City of Richfield Public Meeting	28 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	29 8:00 AM SCRAPBOOKING DAY 7:30 PM Youth Basketball Study Hall	30 9:00 AM Summer Stretch 7:30 PM Basketball	1 Loaves and Fishes 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING	2 10:00 AM Messenger practice 11:00 PM Kids Return from CASTAWAY
3 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	4 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting	5 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	6 7:30 PM Youth Basketball Study Hall	7 9:00 AM Summer Stretch 12:00 PM Senior Driving Improvement 7:30 PM Basketball	8 7:30 AM Stamping Up Open House	9
10 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	11	12 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Women's Summer Bible Study 8:00 PM Basketball	13 7:30 PM Youth Basketball Study Hall	14 Wedding rehearsal 9:00 AM Summer Stretch 7:30 PM Basketball	15 Wedding	16 10:00 AM Messenger practice
17 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	18 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 6:00 PM City of Richfield Public Meeting	19 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	20 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 7:30 PM Youth Basketball Study Hall	21 9:00 AM Summer Stretch 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 7:30 PM Basketball	22 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	23
24 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM Drama Camp Set-Up 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	25 9:00 AM DRAMA/MUSIC CAMP 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch	26 9:00 AM DRAMA/MUSIC CAMP 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	27 9:00 AM DRAMA/MUSIC CAMP 7:30 PM Youth Basketball Study Hall	28 8:30 AM Housing Committee 9:00 AM DRAMA/MUSIC CAMP 9:00 AM Summer Stretch 9:30 AM Spiritual Formation Room Reserved 7:00 PM DRAMA CAMP PERFORMANCE 7:30 PM Basketball	29 7:00 PM TIM Team Week at WAPO starts (Gr 9-12)	30 4:00 PM WEDDING
31 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Camp WAPO begins (Gr 4-9) 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball	1	2 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	3 7:30 PM Youth Basketball Study Hall	4 7:30 PM Basketball	5 Loaves and Fishes TIM Team Returns from WAPO (Gr 9-12) 2:00 PM Camp WAPO ends (Gr 4-9) 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING	6 10:00 AM Messenger practice

Oak Grove Lutheran Vacation Bible School

July 18 - 22, 2011 Ages 3 yrs. old - 5th grade

\$20.00 per student - \$50.00 family max - Scholarships available

Please register by July 11, 2011

Child's First Name

Last Name

Grade completed/age

Date of Birth

Parent/Guardian(s) Names _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____ Cell _____

Any allergies, medical or learning concerns? _____

Would you like to help with VBS in any way? _____

Who will be picking up your child from VBS? _____

Questions and Registrations may be directed to: Kris Brehmer, Education Coordinator at
Oak Grove Lutheran Church - 7045 Lyndale Ave. S. Richfield, MN 55423 - 612-869-4917 ext. 14
Kris@oakgrovelutheran.org