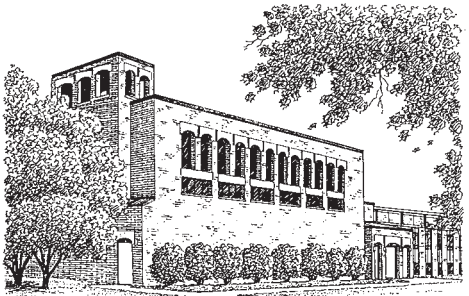


Women's Summer Bible Study

All women of OG are invited and welcome to participate in a three-session Bible study this summer. We will meet at 7 PM in the Fireside Room on Tuesday evenings June 2, July 7, and August 11. The topic is "Mary: A Woman For All Seasons". We see Mary in the Bible over the decades of her life. In this study we will take a closer look at the seasons of Mary's life.

No advance preparation is necessary; study materials and light refreshments will be available. Please consider attending one, two, or all 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 Kathie Curry, 952-888-0440, dkcurry042096@aol.com.



Oak Grove Lutheran Church Richfield, Minnesota

Financial Update

As of April 30, Oak Grove showed:

| | April. 30, 2009 | April. 30, 2008 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Offering Income | \$146,428 | \$145,475 |
| Other Income | \$ 20,890 | \$ 18,617 |
| Total Income | \$167,318 | \$164,092 |
| Total Expenses | \$184,577 | \$180,130 |
| Income less Exp. | (\$17,259) | (\$16,038) |

These amounts do not include Missions Income and Expense.

The good news is that we are on target, and slightly ahead of last year for gifts and contributions. Thanks to all for your faithful stewardship. While expenses are slightly higher than at this period last year, they are still within budgeted amounts, and should even out somewhat over the summer months.

The budget approved at the annual meeting in January 2009 projected total gifts and income of \$527,200, and expenses exceeding income by \$23,540.

Please continue to prayerfully consider what can be done to meet the goals we set together.

Missions Update

Through your generosity:

- ❖ The annual talent show raised \$353 for Trinity First School in Minneapolis, which was matched from the Missions Fund.
- ❖ The Noisy Offering on Palm Sunday raised \$1,751.56 for the Heifer Project. With matching funds, we sent \$3,500 to purchase animals to send to families around the world so they could have sustainable living.
- ❖ A special offering raised \$2,091.08 for Loaves and Fishes Too. With a \$2,000 match from the Missions Fund, this should buy supplies for the meals Oak Grove members prepare and serve in 2009.
- ❖ The Volleyball Marathon netted \$3,623. With a missions match, we sent \$2,208 each to Our Saviour's Shelter, Cornerstone, and VEAP to support their missions in the community.

What a difference we make together!

June 2009

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Congratulations to our Oak Grove Graduates

- Ben Blomgren** graduates with an Economics and Political Science Degree (BA) from St. Cloud State University.
- Ashley Keller** graduates from U of W – Eau Claire with a degree in Education
- Eric Worringer** graduates from Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science
- Erik Botsford** graduated from St. Cloud State University with a double major in Business Finance and Business Management
- Michael Oien** will be graduating with a masters in psychology from the University of St. Thomas in June

Congratulations to the following high school graduates:

- Megan Anderson** – Richfield High School
- Trenton Blades** – Richfield High School
- Kayla Brehmer** – Richfield High School
- Molly Bucher** – Minnehaha Academy
- Jane Marie Jefferson** – Richfield High School
- Daniel Johnson** – Lakeville High School
- Anna Swenson** – Kennedy High School
- Elisa Tvete** – Burnsville High School





June Birthdays

- 1 – Les Hanson, Ashley Keller, Warren Swanson
- 2 – Patrick Grob
- 3 – Adrian Athey, Dorothy Cook, Arnie Moe
- 4 – Ann Olson
- 5 – Cordelia Agrimson, David Curme, Roy Johansen, Patrice Moe, Spencer Sundberg
- 6 – Gabriel Gomez, Sam Luna, Brian Oman, Velma Peterson, Julia Philibert
- 7 – Alison Brandt, Thanh Dang, Eunice (Harold) Johnson, Marissa Klein, Timothy Peyton
- 8 – Carol Rowell
- 9 – Rev. Frank Andersen
- 10 – Bonnie Bucker
- 11 – Joel Becker, Erik Botsford
- 12 – Jill Ahlstrand, Marcia Longley
- 13 – Kayla Travers
- 15 – Elliott Best, Jim Blomgren, Norma Skogheim, Adam Zarth
- 16 – Sylvia Dietzler, Jeanne (Gordy) Hanson, Jane Peterson, Amy Tvete
- 17 – Mary Beth Mohn, Mardy Sotebeer
- 18 – Emily Baumbach, Erik Beggs, Erin Stertz-Follet
- 19 – Eunice Jurgens, Donald Lusty, Nicholas Truedson
- 20 – Molly Foss, Terri Frankovich, June Sveum
- 21 – Alex KIELTY, Valada Krossin, Shannon Olson, Linda Petersen, Lawrence Schultz
- 22 – Bruce Barnes, Brett Jacobson, Laura Van Dyk
- 23 – Deanne Beaudet
- 24 – Amy Borg
- 25 – Mark Panning
- 26 – Jon Olson, Darla Polzin, Lynn Thompson
- 27 – Anne Bauer, John Bjostad, Theresa Bonneville, Linda Knutson, Connie Lupkes
- 28 – Ramon Ring
- 30 – Zeke Thomas Rice



Circle Meetings for June

All Circles are Tuesday, June 2, unless noted

Esther – 6:30 at Donna Paakkonen’s house:
7327 Wentworth Ave. S. Bring a Salad to share.

Katherine – 5:00p.m.–at Applebee’s in
Southtown Center

Lydia-Ruth – 7:30 p.m. at Kathryn Strating’s,
6900 16th Ave S

Rebecca – Reservations at 11:15–at Edina Park
Plaza Restaurant

Sarah – **June 9th** at 11:30 a.m. Lunch at
Edinburgh Park Plaza, 3330 Edinburgh Way

Spotlight on Women

Women provide a meaningful ministry at Oak Grove in so many ways. One of our desires is to have more women involved in Circles because they provide a deep bonding experience among the women who are members, provide an opportunity for Bible study, spiritual learning and growth, and they provide a venue for service opportunity. And, we have FUN!

In the months ahead you will hear about activities encouraging women to visit a circle. No long term commitment, no pressure, just an opportunity to test drive. We will be having summer circle at the church for all women, circle members or not. We will make a personal contact with women who join Oak Grove and extend an invitation to visit a circle. We will have an ‘Invite and Pray’ month when we will invite women and pray that God will do His will in their lives. If it is the right time for them to participate, we trust that God will bring them to us.

Know that God has a place for you, whether in circle or in other activities. Know that you will find fellowship and friends. Know that YOU are welcome!



Deaths

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Vivian Tinseth, whose funeral was held at Oak Grove on April 30th



Walking

I do not always think about God when I walk through my neighborhood, the way the mystics and spiritual sorts think I might.

Too distracted, I guess—my attention caught by the red flash of a cardinal's wings across the street; the barking of a small dog protecting his family from me, who is no threat at all; the scent of a backyard fire-pit smoldering like a northwoods campfire; the skirl of a red-wing blackbird in the distant marsh; the pair of cottontails running into the bushes, apparently eager to create more of the creatures destined to devour my newly planted sunflowers; the "for sale" sign on a neighbor's property foreclosed; the graffiti on the bridge over the creek—not all of it crude: one message—tenderly—apologizing to an unknown reader for ruining his summer; a girl on a bench, where artists gather with easels to paint the beautiful scene, crying as she spoke to someone on her cell phone...

"Pantheism" is a heresy to Christians, as it insists that somehow everything is God.

"Pan-en-theism" is a word that people use to describe the way that God is somehow IN all things. It's an important distinction.

So maybe I AM thinking about God when I walk the local scene, even if I don't always know it as that. The presence of God – for real—in the child playing ball in the front yard with his mother; in the hungry hawk soaring overhead; in the burr stuck to my sock when I wander—close to the marsh; in the crying girl, and the empty house, and the enthusiastic rabbits... in the quickening of my heartbeat and breath as I climb the last hill before home; in the pleasure that is getting there.

The psalmist writes: "Blessed are those who walk in the light of your presence."

Writing this just now, at the end of a good walk, I'm thinking that just might be anywhere.

Pastor Tom Zarth

Host Families Needed!

Host a new Chinese student arriving in July or August! **If you have an extra room in your home, could you prayerfully consider a hosting experience?**

This is a very rewarding and meaningful volunteer opportunity in which you have a chance to make an impact for eternity. Being a host family requires 4 main commitments:

- 1.) Meet your Chinese student at the airport.
- 2.) Provide him/her with a room and basic hospitality for 1-7 days.
- 3.) Assist as you are able and as needed, in transportation, getting a cell phone, opening a bank account and finding an apartment.
- 4.) Pray for your student.

The *Hospitality Center for Chinese* will support you in this endeavor, such as helping with transportation! If hosting is even a remote possibility for you, we would love to talk with you and answer any questions you might have. Contact Phyllis at 651-639-8226 or email phyllisose@juno.com. For more info about this ministry to Chinese, visit www.hcchinese.org.

Furniture Donations Needed!

The *Hospitality Center for Chinese* is also looking for gently used furniture donations, to give away to Chinese students and families. If you have furniture you'd like to donate or would like to be a volunteer driver, please let us know! Items that are most needed include: beds, desks, chairs, and tables. Contact Peter at: 651-659-9740 or email peter@hcchinese.org to donate. For more info about this ministry to Chinese, visit www.hcchinese.org.

Notes of Thanks. . .

Thanks so much for the prayers, cards and phone calls during and after my neck surgery in April. I'm so grateful to be part of the Oak Grove family that is so caring. God's blessings to one and all.

— Doris Bender

Thank you to all who helped with the Oak Grove plant fundraiser. Your support helps our youth go to summer camps. The sale of plants totaled nearly \$6800 with a total profit of over \$2200 for our Oak Grove campers. Thanks again to all those who bought plants, helped unload the trucks, filled the orders and helped with clean up, etc.

We had a great crew of helpers for the meal OG served at the Hospitality Center for Chinese in March. Thank you to all those who provided food, helped serve, and donated money for the meal. It was much appreciated by the HCC staff and all the guests. About 120 people enjoyed the dinner, some musical entertainment, and speakers on the topic "Hearing God's Voice". As always, the guests were invited to receive prayer and to hear more about the Christian faith.

- Tom & Lynn Stertz

Dear Brice, Tom, Oak Grove Church Council and Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I cannot thank all of you enough for the presence of Jesus you have been in my life since I was a little kid. Whether it be Sunday school classes with my mom, Confirmation with Brice and Tom, random events all over the place, just generally causing trouble with David, Brian and Josh at Oak Grove or supporting our family in our grief over the loss of my mom six years ago this summer. I have been blessed to be in your midst.

You all are the reason that I am where I am today and can proudly say that I will be graduating from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science will be on my way to Seminary to be an ordained minister in the ELCA. I am blessed to call many of you friends and all of you brothers and sisters in Christ, and I thank you for your generous support of my education next year, and I pray that I am able to live up the hope you have placed in me.

Let us thank God for the community that is Oak Grove and that was a holy place for me for so long, a place where I was able to wrestle with the reality that is God's work is Jesus, and His revelation in my life and all of ours. I wish you the Grace and Peace that only the true, living God can give.

Blessings to all of you.

Your brother in Jesus, Eric Worringer, President, Jacob's Porch (Lutheran Campus Ministry at The Ohio State University)

Thanks to the leadership of our Sunday School kids and your generosity in their "noisy offering" \$3,500 was raised for Heifer International. The Sunday School kids voted to spend the money on the following: 4 water buffalo, 2 pigs, a flock of geese or ducks, 2 trios of rabbits, a sheep, and 4 "knitting baskets" each one containing 2 llamas and 2 sheep. A great effort to provide a sustainable source of food and income for some of the world's poorest people.

Senior Dining

Come enjoy a nutritional meal in a fun and social atmosphere. The senior dining program at the Richfield Community Center at 7000 Nicollet provides a noon nutritional meal for \$3.50 for people 60 years and older and \$6.25 for diners under 60.

There are always special luncheon parties including monthly birthday parties that always include special treats.

Don't miss this opportunity of getting out and meeting people over a healthy meal. Reservations are necessary two days in advance of your dining date by calling 612-869-6662

— Kitchen Konnection —

I know that I do not have a menu to report for this month, but I decided that I still needed to get my two cents worth in. (*And I did not want you to miss or forget me over these summer months.*) I do hope that Mother Nature decides to give us summer weather this year; it sure has been a very cool spring so far.

I want to remind you that the downstairs lounge and kitchen are used for summer coffee hours between services. If you attend the second service (10:00 instead of 11:00), please feel free to come early and visit with the early birds. It is a great opportunity to keep in touch with old friends and possibly make some new friends in your own congregation.

We all know that attendance drops during the summer for a number of reasons; such as long vacations, weekend getaways, or just plain old lazy Sunday morning sleep-ins. But, if you are in town, Oak Grove is the best place to be on those beautiful, sunny, (or rainy) Sunday mornings. Hope to see you there!!

God Bless and keep you safe on your summer journeys. - Margie

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31