

“Open Arms in South Africa”

On May 22, I will be leaving the United States for Cape Town, South Africa to study abroad with the University of Minnesota. During my time in South Africa I will be learning about the effects of the change in governmental power from apartheid to a democracy. As part of that learning my group is partnering with Kevin Winge, the creator of Open Arms. This local non-profit organization was created to assist people with HIV/AIDS with their food needs. They operate in South Africa as well as Minnesota. In South Africa this is done by delivering food parcels twice a year to families living in the townships that have members who are infected by the virus or who have lost members due to the virus. These food parcels contain enough staples like flour, sugar, corn meal, rice and beans to sustain a family of seven for one month. It also contains a bucket that the family can keep and continue to use when the food has run out.

The group that I am traveling with has been put in charge of raising money for the purchasing of the food parcels, which cost \$50 apiece. We are also going to be assembling and delivering each parcel during our stay. We would like to raise enough money to deliver 250 parcels. That means that my entire group must raise \$12,500 before we leave. It is my hope that Oak Grove’s members will assist me in raising at least \$800 to contribute to the total that my group is hoping to raise by contributing to a door offering on May 8. Another option is to purchase a food parcel online by going to <http://www.openarmsmn.org/donatenow> and completing the form. Under “Donation Information” click the circle that says “Food Parcel-South Africa” and in the comments section please indicate that this is for the U of M group.

Thank You!
Elisa Tvette

There’s Music in the Air . . .

There will be an interesting combination of instrumental and vocal music performed at the Thursday Musical Community Concert presented at Oak Grove on Sunday, May 1st at 3 p.m.

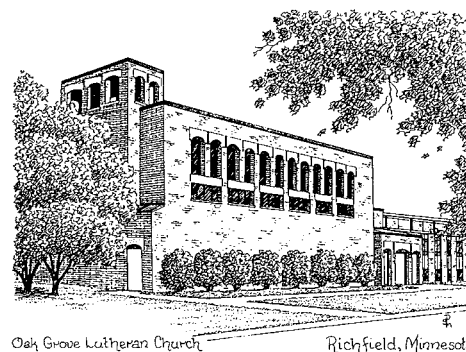


Jean Krinke has selected two Bach pieces for organ and one has an arrangement for two keyboards so we will have to the opportunity to hear “In Thee Is Gladness” as an organ/piano duet, with Sandra Saliny at the piano. There will also be other organ selections.

Mary Kirchner, mezzo soprano, will be singing Mozart, six Spanish songs by Granados and a closing group of Cole Porter tunes that will surely delight you. Mary will be accompanied by Jim Reilly at the piano.

We are indeed fortunate to have this ongoing collaboration with Thursday Musical. We hope you will come out to hear these outstanding artists on May 1st. The concert will take an hour and there will be an opportunity to meet the artists in the narthex after the concert and have something to eat and drink. Where else can you go to hear outstanding music and have a snack, for free? Tell others about what is happening at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 1st at Oak Grove.

OGCS’s Task Force



Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Richfield, Minnesota

May 2011

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May Birthdays

- 1 – Debra Benson, Gerald Fors, Brandon Oman
 - 3 – Mike Hanson, Sharon Ojile, Jeanne Seleen, Jessica Wehrle
 - 4 – Edward Penz, Mark Reinhardt, Kristin Schultz
 - 5 – Benjamin Blomgren
 - 6 – Kim Bjostad, Bruce Boyea, Joan Snyder
 - 7 – Dan Curry, Maurice Moe, Mallery Mohn
 - 8 – Matthew Koppang
 - 9 – Pam Krause, Chris Sunne
 - 11 – Kelly Tietze, Janet Travers
 - 12 – Jil White
 - 14 – Azor Kleven, Winnefred Nelson, Don Solt
 - 15 – Jim Forst
 - 16 – Tiana Bastain, Al Erlandson, Marca Kassera, Gabe Philibert, Paul Thompson
 - 17 – Jeff Bodahl
 - 19 – Tiffany Fors, Andy Memelink
 - 20 – Gladys Krohn
 - 21 – Richard Reinhart
 - 22 – Angela Sammon
 - 23 – Woodrow Brown, Rev. Lester Dahlen, Benjamin Dimond, Adam Tuff, Catherine Urbach, Maynard Wood
 - 24 – Robert Bauer, Ron Keller, Sam Louris, Lois Lusty
 - 25 – Rosalie Bjorkman, Kevin Larson, John Zarth, Merle Zarth
 - 27 – Harris Morseth
 - 28 – Patricia Botnen, Luiza Peterson
 - 29 – Matthew Meinke
 - 30 – Scott Bihari, Samuel Boyea, Marion Swanson
 - 31 – Vicki Engelhard
- (Missed in April: Lillian Johnson- April 13)**

Circle Meetings for May

- All Circles are Tuesday, May 3, unless noted
- Esther** - 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Hostess will be Char Anderson
- Katherine** – 1:30 p.m. at Elizabeth Anderson’s, 6901 Oakland Ave. S.
- Lydia-Ruth** – 7 p.m.
- Rebecca** – 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Hostess will be Polly Wickum.



Deaths

- We extend our sympathies to the following families:
- Dorothy Johnson**, who died March 25. Her funeral was held at Oak Grove on April 2.
- Jean Erlandson**, who died April 10. Her funeral was held at Oak Grove on April 14.



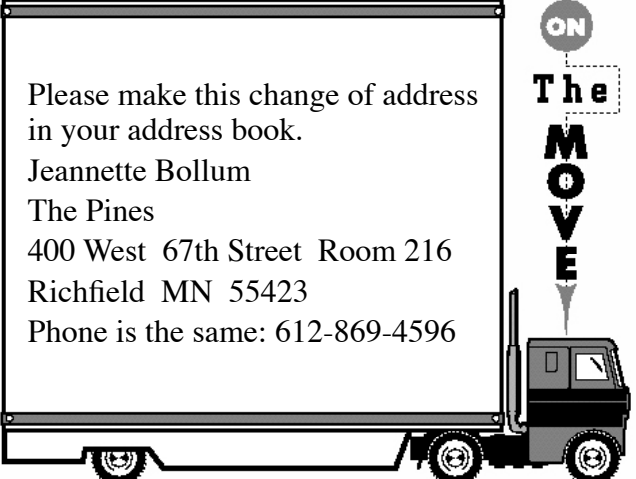
Baptisms

- April 9** – Sofia Victoria LaMeyer

ON
The
MOVE

Please make this change of address in your address book.

Jeannette Bollum
The Pines
400 West 67th Street Room 216
Richfield MN 55423
Phone is the same: 612-869-4596





Accounting For the Hope Within

Back in the day, Lutheran churches made a practice of “testing” their young people before their confirmation. Some of you remember it well. Some of us have only heard the stories. It seems like no one who went through it thought it was a good idea at the time. Wondering which memorized portion of the Small Catechism they would be called on to recite in front of the adults was a worrisome situation. Sweaty palms, upset stomachs and sheer terror abounded.

Somewhere along the way people got the idea that a less-stressful culmination to confirmation studies would be a written “statement of faith.” It also seemed more authentic to have kids say what it is that they do believe, rather than recite something from memory that Martin Luther wrote about what they should believe. For decades now, a written and read-aloud statement of belief has been the standard practice at Oak Grove and many other places.

Every year as I consider what a good experience this is for our young people I think about how good an exercise this would be for all of us. What would happen if each one of us sat down with a sheet of blank paper and a pen and had to reach

down inside ourselves and pull out a statement of just what we believe? Could we articulate with honesty and conviction our thoughts about God, Jesus, the Spirit, the church? Would we dare to say openly where we see God present in the world and in our lives, and the opposite, too—where God seems absent? Would we be willing to probe the mysteries and ask the hard questions, and not just deliver the answers people would expect from us? Every year some of us cringe to hear some of the things that can come out of a 9th grader when we thought we were teaching them something else. I wonder which of our own secret doubts or heresies would work their way to the surface in our own statements?

Maybe you should give it a try. See what happens. 1st Peter tells us we should all be able to make an account for the hope that lies within us. And Jesus tells us not to worry—the words we need, just like the faith that’s there in the first place, are given as a gift of the Spirit. Got a pen? A blank page? I always look forward to reading what the kids write. I’d love to read yours, as well.

Pastor Tom Zarth

Paint-A-Thon Volunteers Needed

Bringing back an old tradition!!

Volunteers will paint the home of low-income seniors and people with disabilities on August 6-7, 2011. If you are interested in this service project, contact Kathy Curry at 952-888-0440.

What a great way to help our neighbors!!

Remember Oak Grove in Your Legacy 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. Contact Pastor Tom or Maynard Wood for more information.

Golden Oaks . . .



The Oak Grove Golden Oaks will gather at noon on May 19th for lunch and a program which will not only be educational but will have an element of fun. Come and discover. All retirees and those thinking about retiring are invited. Or maybe you are just curious. Come and join the group, John Bjostad will serve up one of his delicacies, chicken salad with all the trimmings.

The program will be presented by Brenda Moore, ELCA Foundation and Mike Johnson, Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp. You will learn how as a part of your estate planning, you can help keep Oak Grove Alive and Growing, sustain the expanding ministry of WAPO and/or provide continuing support for other Christian ministries. Program arranged by the Oak Grove Enduring Gifts Committee.



The following 9th graders will be confirmed on Sunday, May 1. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they prepare for their special day.

Noah Andrews, Jacob Beaudet, Mackenzie Curry, Thomas Eichlersmith, Will Gamble, Ryan Hinton, Kelsey Holmes, Kyle Holmes, Matthew Lupkes, Joshua Maenke, Nicholas Martin, Maddie McClement, Michelle Murphy, Christy Peterson and Jeffrey Reinhardt.

May God bless you all as you confirm your faith and love in Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Are you or someone you know graduating in 2011? If so, please let the church office know. You can call the church office at 612-869-4917 or email georgeanne@oakgrovelutheran.org

Rally Day 2011

Planning is Underway!!

Rally Day 2011 may seem far away, but planning for our annual church celebration is underway. Rally Day 2011 will be held on Sunday, September 11th. As always, you can count on great fun, food and fellowship as the Oak Grove family returns to start the fall calendar of church activities.

Organizing an event like Rally Day takes a lot of planning. That's why we're thinking about this end-of-the-summer celebration before the summer has even begun.

Here's what you can do to be part of the planning team:

- Start considering what you can donate to the annual silent auction
- Join the Rally Day Planning Committee (Contact Kris Brehmer through the Church office)
- Pray for sunny skies with mild temperatures

Watch for more exciting details about this year's Rally Day. It's going to be fun!

— Kitchen Konnection —

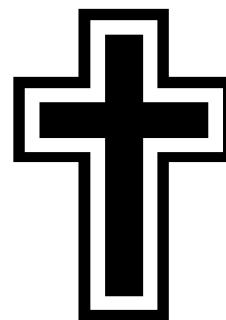
They say that all good things must come to an end; Wednesday evenings at Oak Grove are a very good thing. And even though Wednesdays do not get wiped off the calendar for the summer months, activities on Wednesday evenings at OG do get wiped out for the summer months; that means that many of you need to start cooking again and I get time off. In some ways, we both lose, because I will miss you and you have to be on your own for dinner... but I will continue to write this article and then "I'll see you in September" for dinner once again. (Anyone remember that song?) For the summer months, I will share tidbits of information on plans for 'greening our congregation,' nutrition facts, recipes and any other fun things that I think of as we go along. Thanks to many of you who tell me that you look forward to reading my article...I pray that I will not let you down.

Our last Wednesday evening meal for this season will be May 4 as the youth choir will have its last rehearsal before singing on May 8 and most other activities will have ended for now. Congratulations to all the young adults who will be confirmed on May 1. I hope that whatever the summer months have in store for you and your families that Wednesday evenings (and all evenings), will continue to be great food for your soul...God bless and keep you, Margie

May 4 - Pizza, Salad, & Dessert

Everyone welcome. \$4.00 per plate

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...



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

Earlier this year Jan Philibert hosted an Anti-Racism awareness seminar that was intriguing. I found that: “White Privilege” that many of us have, can also be referred to as “Bigotry or Prejudice.” We hold the privilege that allows one to not have to think about race on a daily basis.

Reasons we noted to combat this issue are to:

- Bring the world back to the way God created it
- Become fully human
- We do better, when we all do better
- For generations to come
- That we’d become more flexible while listening to others
- Sharing among equals
- Teaching others through conversations
- Bringing on more awareness with a smile

This brings me to the point of Judgment in the Christian life. Highlighting the article by E. Louise Williams from our March 2011 issue of Lutheran-Woman on Judgment:

God’s work is not judgment or condemnation but forgiveness, reconciliation, love and grace. In calling us to be disciples, Jesus invites us into that work which is impossible when we operate out of a judgmental spirit.

In baptism St. Paul reminds us that to be baptized is to be clothed with Christ. We no longer have to depend on our fig leaves. God gives us a much better covering—Jesus Christ.

Spiritual discipline can help keep the soil of our lives receptive and responsive to the working of God’s spirit in us and around us. It is God—and not our disciplines—who effects change in us.

The following disciplines might be good tools to help prepare the way for God to change our hearts to become less judgmental and more loving.

Remembering our baptism

Much of our judgmentalism grows from a lack of trust in God’s grace—for ourselves and others. A daily remembrance of baptism can help root us in God’s grace—that is, God’s amazing love for us no matter what we have done or how far we have wandered away.

Fasting

For a period of time, perhaps during the season of Lent, we might try fasting from judgmental words. Keeping silent whenever judgmental thoughts arise may help us become more conscious of what triggers our judgmental attitudes, and if we don’t speak judgmental words, we don’t pull others into the same judgmental spirit.

Compassion

The Hebrew word for compassion shares the same root as the word for womb. We might say that compassion is womb-love. To practice this discipline is to see every other person as one who is born from the same womb as we are. To view another with compassionate eyes is to look for the family resemblance, to see how we are alike rather than to look for what makes us different.

Hospitality

The spiritual practice of hospitality is to make room for others, to give them space to be themselves. Where a judgmental spirit distances one person from another, hospitality invites the other person to come closer, to be at home in our space.

This discipline may mean welcoming people into our homes or our congregations. It may mean receiving people into our awareness. It may also mean a kind of hospitality of heart that seeks to be accepting and non-judgmental.

Remember to be gentle with yourself in these disciplines and practices. They are only tools to be used to open yourself more and more to God’s amazing grace. It is that grace that will transform us into more graceful people.

E. Louise Williams is executive director emeritus of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, Valparaiso, Ind. She teaches an online theology course through Valparaiso University, leads retreats, writes and speaks on spirituality and discipleship.

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:26 & 27

Dawn Sankey

WELCA, Secretary

SUMMER STRETCH

Summer Stretch is a program that combines service projects in the morning and fun activities (swimming, bowling, etc) in the afternoon. It is open to teens entering 7th-10th grades in the fall. The program will run on 7 Thursday’s this summer (June 16th-July 28th) from 8:30-5:00. Cost is \$100 for the 7 weeks which includes all activities, a t-shirt and a Valleyfair ticket for August 4th. (If you are going to Wapo with Oak Grove, the alternate Valleyfair day is June 20th) Watch for registration forms in your e-mail or in the mail. Sign-up! Get a friend to sign up! Questions-contact Julie Tvette at 952-894-2361.

Still Calling all Women of Oak Grove Brainstorming Continues. . .



The event on April 16 was not well attended, but was a huge success. There was time for fellowship and relaxation: yoga, hand and foot massages, spiritual direction, and delicious snacks. The following survey was presented to those who attended and is now being forwarded to you. Please take a few minutes of reflection to complete this survey and mail it to OG or leave it in the church office. Also, it might be available to submit via our website. I will keep you posted on that. Your input is so valuable to the future of our women's group here at OG. We, your members of the board, pray that you will take time in your busy schedules to share your interests with us.

Possibilities Survey - Oak Grove Lutheran Church Women

What is your age group? 18-25___26-50___51-75___75 & over___

Are you interested in any of the following activities?

___Bible Study...Format?___Forum___Mini Series___Individual

___Book Study

___Support Group....Your topic of interest_____

___Walking Club

___Yoga/Exercise Class

___Other?_____

How often would you be willing to participate?

___Weekly...1x___2x___

___Monthly

___Studies for...4 weeks___6 weeks___

What day or days are most convenient for you?_____

___morning___afternoon___evening

Do you belong to a Circle here at Oak Grove? ___yes___no

If NO, are you interested in learning more about the circles with the possibility of joining? Please leave your name and phone number if you would like to be called.

NAME_____Number_____

Would you be interested in Intergenerational Activities, such as mentoring/pairing young to older either individually or in a group setting?

Examples: Prayer Partner, Cooking and/or baking together, sharing hobbies, adopted grandparents, other suggestions?_____

Would you participate in a community service project sponsored by the Women of Oak grove? ___yes___no

Examples: Meals on Wheels, Paint-a-thon, Serve meals at a homeless or Domestic Violence shelter, etc. Other ideas?_____

Please share any ideas, hopes and dreams, and/or suggestions that you have for the women of Oak Grove and the community.

Thank you for answering this survey. Please return it to the church office and you will receive a free gift.

God Bless!

Margie Risch, Carolyn Aura, Dawn Sankey, Marilyn Tuff, Kelly Olson, & Kathie Curry



MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 8:30 AM Worship Service 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Confirmation Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:00 PM Fireside Room Reserved 3:00 PM Thursday Musical Concert 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>2 6:00 PM Basketball 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 CIRCLES MEET 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Sarah Bible Study 6:30 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM Basketball</p>	<p>4 9:30 AM Bible Study 2:30 PM Blood Drive 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Carols 7:00 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Joyful Singers</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM NSR Training 4:00 PM Richfield Square Dancing Club 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 12035 7:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>6 Loaves and Fishes 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING 7:00 PM Troop 262 Overnight</p>	<p>7 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 11386 5:30 PM Gym Reserved</p>
<p>8 8:30 AM Worship Service 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM No Sunday School - Happy Mother's Day 11:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>9 6:00 PM Basketball 6:00 PM Danila Society 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 11386 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 8:00 PM Basketball</p>	<p>11 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Carols 7:00 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Enduring Gifts Committee 7:00 PM Joyful Singers</p>	<p>12 6:00 PM Basketball 7:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>13 5:00 PM STAMP-A-STACK 7:00 PM Square Dancing</p>	<p>14 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM STAMP-A-STACK 9:00 AM Paulson Hall reserved 10:00 AM Messenger practice 6:00 PM Gym Reserved/Square Dance Lessons</p>
<p>15 8:30 AM Worship Service 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 3:00 PM Thursday Musical 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>16 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM Basketball</p>	<p>18 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Carols 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Joyful Singers</p>	<p>19 12:00 PM Golden Oaks Basketball 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 12035 7:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>20 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Wedding 10:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 11386 6:00 PM Gym Reserved/Square Dance Lessons</p>
<p>22 8:30 AM Worship Service 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>23 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball</p>	<p>25 6:30 PM Carols 7:00 PM Joyful Singers</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Housing Committee 8:45 AM Spiritual Formation Room reserved 6:00 PM Basketball 7:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>29 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Caribe 5:00 PM Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>30 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 12035 7:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>3 Loaves and Fishes 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM Messenger practice</p>

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE
Oak Grove Lutheran Church Blood Drive
Wednesday, May 4th
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Donor Requirements

- You must be a least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission) and eat a good meal within a four-hour period before donating.
- You must be in good health.
- You must be free from colds and flu for 3 days.
- You must bring a photo ID with you to the drive.

Did You Know?

- Each week, 2,700 volunteer donors are needed to help supply blood to patients in our area hospitals.
- Your single donation can save as many as three people's lives. Blood is needed for cancer and surgery patients, burn victims, accident victims, premature infants...the list is endless.

If interested, please contact the church office at 612-869-4917 to sign up.