

# Women of Oak Grove Sunday

## November 13, 2011

The women of Oak Grove will be leading the service on this annual celebration of community using the traditional Thankoffering Service of the ELCA.

Our intern, Leslie, will deliver the message and other women of the church will share their time and talents by greeting, ushering, reading, special music and all other tasks that are necessary in our weekly worship experience.

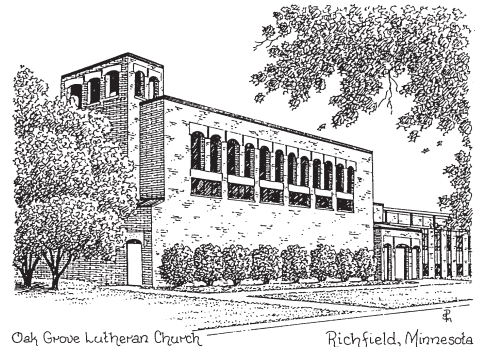
The beautiful quilts that are made by our own Care Club will be displayed before they are donated to Lutheran World Relief.

All women will have the opportunity to come forward with her special thankoffering that will support the total outreach of the organization. I suggest you start saving your change now. Collect it in your own envelope or jar; envelopes will also be available the day of the service, November 13.

What are you thankful for? If you have any thoughts or special prayers to share on our Thankoffering Sunday, please submit them to the office and we will do a special insert for the bulletin.

I thank God for each one of you.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, Margie Risch



Oak Grove Lutheran Church Richfield, Minnesota

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## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

7:00 p.m.

*Pumpkin pie and coffee provided  
served by Lydia-Ruth Circle*




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## Advent Celebration



Save the date of Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m. for this year's wonderful Advent Celebration service! The theme for this year's service will be "Heaven Cannot Hold Him." We will have a guest cellist and possibly a violinist—look for more details coming in the December Messenger.

## November 2011

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## November Birthdays

- 1 – Nick Ryks, Ryan Tietze, Sally West
- 2 – John Bucher
- 3 – Leah Mohn
- 4 – John Grabow, Mark Hueg, Mary Wood, Brent Wunderlich
- 6 – Beverly Bjostad, Larry Martin, Allan Wold
- 7 – Kristin Anderson, Bob O'Brien
- 8 – Nikki Lueck
- 10 – Annamarie Frankovich
- 11 – Jeanie Best, Noreen Dean, Timothy Nelson, Jim Nycklemoe
- 13 – Hailey Murdick
- 14 – Ruth Engh
- 16 – Kristin Highum, Jennifer Whitely
- 17 – Gladys Loney, Gerald Pederson, Delores Roberts, Lynn Stertz
- 18 - Daniel Clifford
- 19 – Jean (Richard) Hanson, Ellen Peterson
- 20 – Denise Gesme, Lisa Hoyne
- 21 – Lisa Martin, LaVone Studlien
- 22 – Renata Schubkegel
- 23 – Vicky Hagen, Kenneth Hanson, Steven Whited
- 24 – Miriam Haines, Thomas Truedson
- 25 – Sarah Becker, David Brehmer, Lorraine Utterberg
- 26 – Jan Philibert, Elisa Tvette
- 27 – John Krohn
- 28 – Mona Burns, Doug Hanson, Rebekah Wunderlich
- 29 – Tim Botsford
- 30 – Alyssa Anderson, Marilyn Jacobson, Kevin Krohn

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

## Circle Meetings for October

All Circles are Tuesday, November 1, unless noted

**Esther** – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

**Katherine** – 1:30 p.m. Hostess is Miriam Haines,  
6615 Lake Shore Drive #117

**Lydia Ruth** – 7:00 p.m. at Kathryn Strating's,  
6900 16th Ave S.

**Rebecca** – 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
Hostess is Naomi Nycklemoe.



## Weddings



**September 24:** Jessica Coulsen and Peter Tapper

## Baptisms



**September 25** – Abigail Eileen Bajula



## Replacement Parts

One of the good stories in the Book of Genesis tells of a strange encounter in the night. Jacob, camped out by himself on a riverbank, suddenly finds himself in the struggle of his life. An unknown assailant takes hold of him and wrestles with him through the nighttime hours. It's dark and Jacob can't see for sure: is it a man? Or an angel? Or even, as Jacob seems to believe, possibly even God himself? The Bible leaves the mystery open for us to consider.

Two things happen because of that wrestling match: Jacob walks away with a new name, "Israel," and he's walking now with a pronounced limp. The nighttime struggle had thrown his hip out of joint, and some say Jacob carried the painful reminder of that night for the rest of his life.

I've been telling myself lately that it's probably the result of some old high school wrestling match

that has been the cause of the pain in my own hip these days. I was never much good at wrestling, so physical damage was always a distinct possibility. Or maybe it's the result of an old football injury. Plenty of others have used that excuse rather than admit to the frailties of age or the onset of arthritis. But I suppose I'm just fooling myself.

Anyway, the doc told me that the hip is shot and my one chance at walking normally is to change it out for a replacement version. To be honest, this was not on my agenda. But it happens, as many of you can attest to personally, and my goal is to be as tough and confident about the whole thing as I've watched you be.

I've talked with the council and staff about some time away for the rehab part, but expect to be back with you before long. Look for the guy with a new spring in his step. And thanks for your prayers.

Pastor Tom Zarth

## Council's Corner

*So ..... How are we doing?*

In early calendar year 2010, the congregational council decided that 4 times a year (April, July, October, December), instead of mailing all contribution statements to our members, it would be a good idea to have them available in the church narthex for personal pick-up by members. Why you ask? For a few reasons:

- 1) It gave council members an opportunity to greet members and say "Thank You for your contributions to Our Church".
- 2) It created a cost-saving opportunity for Our Church. The more that was saved in expenses, the more that was available for ministry and mission, which, if you think about it, is what God has called us to do with, and for His Church.
- 3) It provides an opportunity for members to see council members and ask. *So... how are we doing?*

The answer: In calendar 2011, the congregation

passed a budget at the annual meeting that indicated offerings for the year would be at least \$475,000. Through October 10, 2011, offerings totaling \$347,566 have been received, leaving \$127,434 remaining to meet our planned budget.

Based on the annual budget of \$475,000, the budget for offerings received through October 10, 2011 was \$353,000. As you can see, there is a deficit of \$5,434 from what we have received (\$347,566) versus what was budgeted (\$353,000).

Time remains to meet the congregational-approved and planned budget. Together, as Our Church, we have the opportunity to meet the pledge we made to Our God.

And yes, congregational council members will be in the narthex in early December to hand out contribution statements through November 30, and to express our thanks and gratitude for your contributions, and to answer *So.... How are we doing?*

I hope you were able to enjoy our Salad Supper last month, a lot of thought and planning went into it.

Thank you to those of you that came, looking forward to our next: **GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

November 17 .....Truffles....by Michelle Myroniuk

Come prepare yourself for the Holiday's

December 15 .....Christmas cards written by all...

Bring your lists and fellowship as we prepare our mailings

We'd like to encourage you to keep reviewing our bulletin board downstairs with our Trivia Question which is: Which of these sayings come from the King James Bible?

- 1."As pure as the driven snow."
- 2."In the twinkling of an eye."
- 3."Gave up the ghost."
- 4."O ye of little faith."

Come find the answer at our WELCA board.

While revisiting one of my favorite books, *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul*, I came across this story titled *The Gift of a Mommy*.

I have found nursing patients with cancer to be a challenging and rewarding occupation. It has certainly been a good distraction from my own familiar challenge of parenting two teens. Whenever I start thinking that dealing with drivers' licenses, curfews, grades and peer pressure are overwhelming, I remember what Rebekah faced, the courage she showed, and suddenly my problems don't seem so difficult after all.

I remember the day she was admitted to the ward. As I reviewed her admission papers, I was surprised to see that she was 32 and being admitted for chemotherapy to treat breast cancer that had been diagnosed two weeks earlier. I entered the room and introduced myself.

Rebekah, her eyes sparkling with love and her ponytail bouncing, introduced me to her husband, Warren, and her daughters, Ruthie, age six and Hannah, age four. Cradled in her crossed legs wiggled her third daughter, Molly, age two.

While I filled out forms, Rebekah directed the unpacking of her suitcase—a comforter made by her grandmother, a poster of cheer from her church circle and a family portrait for her bedside table, along with her worn Bible. Warren gathered the girls to go to the airport to pick up Grandmother."

"I need to place a needle in your arm to give you the chemotherapy," I explained.

"I'll do anything to get well for my husband and girls

I can handle throwing up, losing my hair and being tired, but I'm absolutely terrified of needles." Rebekah's voice shook and her eyes brimmed with tears. "You can cry, but please don't move. On the count of three..."

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.." Rebekah said loudly as the needle slid smoothly into the vein. With the successful completion of the intravenous, Rebekah asked, "What is your favorite Bible verse?" "John 11:35," I answered. "Jesus wept." "Oh! That's a sad verse," she replied, a bit somberly. "It brings me comfort, knowing that Jesus is sad when bad things happen to his people. It demonstrates to me a human side of him that I need to know when I care for sick people. I know he can and will heal the sick, but returning to health can entail sad times, so I know he is there to support me in the sad times so that I can support my patients.

"I'll have to give that some thought," replied Rebekah.

For the next 18 months, I saw Rebekah on a regular basis to receive chemotherapy and radiation. A chest X ray showed the cancer had spread and there were no further medical weapons to use against the cancer. How could I support her in this new challenge?

I entered Rebekah's room and found it cluttered with paper, tapes and tape recorder. "Nan, I'm making tapes for my daughters, to know what I feel, think and advise on important occasions. I don't want them to forget me. Do you have any suggestions?"

I looked over her list—first day of school, becoming sweet 16, first date, first kiss, confirmation, etc. She let me listen to the tapes, which were moving and filled with motherly advice, encouragement and love. Rebekah taped each day from her notes as she grew weaker and weaker.

Rebekah explained to her young daughters that she was making special tapes that their dad would keep for them to listen to later. She explained that she was going to live with God and help him get a home ready for them when they were very old.

We all knew the end was approaching. I was surprised when I got a frantic phone call at home from a **nurse** who said that Rebekah was pleading—begging that I come with a blank tape. Making a mental checklist of all the tapes she had made, I could not imagine what topic could have possibly been forgotten.

Entering Rebekah's room, I noticed she was hav-

*(Spotlight continued on page 5)*

## Note of Thanks. . . . .

Thank you to all of you who remembered our Princess Brinkley with your prayers and thoughts in her 16 month battle with brain cancer. It was a long, hard battle which she lost on September 26th. My niece, Mindy, and her husband, Noel, and son, Porter, are doing fine, thanks to their strong faith and good support system. They will miss Brinkley forever but are comforted in knowing that she is now in the arms of Jesus. Please continue to pray for them and my sister, Beth, and her husband, Terry. Brinkley touched many lives in her short 5 years and it was very evident in the people attending her visitation and service. Her brain and tumor were donated to St. Jude's so that hopefully they will be able to help other children with brain cancer.

- Jane Peterson

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*(Spotlight continued from page 4)*

ing severe shortness of breath and was very anxious, gasping, "Nan, do you have the tape?"

"Take a deep breath. Of course I have the tape," I replied.

As I set up the tape recorder, she explained, "This is my most important tape." I held the microphone close to her mouth and she began, "Ruthie, Hannah and Molly, someday your daddy will bring a new mommy home. I want you to make her feel very special, and how proud you will make me feel if you are kind, patient and encouraging to her as she learns to take care of each of you. Help her set the table. Please bring her dandelions to put in the special vase—most important, hug her often. Please do not be sad for long. 'Jesus cried.' He knows how sad you are and he knows you will be happy again. I love you so much, Hannah, Ruthie and Molly. Big hugs, your first mommy."

I turned off the tape player. "Thank you. I can sleep now."

I adjusted the pillow under her head and rolled a pillow to her back and exited quietly.

Rebekah died two days later. I mailed the tape to their dad four years later when Warren and the girls prepared to welcome their new wife and mommy. - Nan Pinkston

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

Under the Shadow of the Almighty,  
Dawn Sankey, Secretary

## — Kitchen Konnection —

November is traditionally the month of thanksgiving. What are you thankful for? I am eternally grateful for a God who loves me; a God whom I can trust and believe in. I am thankful for my family, food, and for having a roof over my head. I am thankful for Oak Grove and the opportunity that I have to serve within this community. And I am very grateful that many of you like my cooking enough to come and join us for our Wednesday evening meal. As the days are getting a bit chillier and fall is definitely upon us, I will add soup or chili to the menu. So, if are not hungry enough for a full meal come for some homemade soup and chat with your friends; two things that are always on the Wednesday evening menu at OG are fun and fellowship. Remember, Wednesday evenings at O.G. are great food for the soul!

God bless, Margie

\$4.00 per plate.

All dinners served with salad bar and dessert.

Dinner served 5:45-6:30pm

November 02	Cheeseburgers & Fries
November 09	Mexican Night
November 16	Ham & Au gratin Potato Casserole
November 23	NO DINNER - Happy Thanksgiving!
November 30	Italian Night

*That my heart may sing to you and not be silent, O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever. Psalm 30:12*

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## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

7:00 p.m.

*Pumpkin pie and coffee provided served by Lydia-Ruth Circle*



# Milestone Updates

## Fifth graders and parents learn to be good stewards of God's gifts



What's in Jesus' wallet? Advertisers spend billions of dollars on ads selling their products directly to preteen and teen kids. How do our values help our kids be good stewards of Jesus' wallet? Fifth graders and their parents dreamed of having a million dollars to spend starting off the Stewardship Milestone October 16. Then, it was

time to learn how to be good stewards as a family.

Statistics on bankruptcy rates for young adults state they are in the second highest group in the nation, so it's important for families with young children to start taking advantage of money talk opportunities. Fifth graders are an ideal age to expand discussions on money because of their basic math knowledge, emerging interest in shopping, and willingness to learn about the real world. While talking "money" can be difficult; using games, TV commercials, allowances and real life money moments can help families discuss money and values with their kids. Attending this year's Stewardship Milestone were Jack Wold with parents Scott and Lisa and Clarissa Schmidt with parents Cindy and Tony.

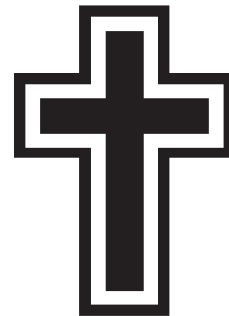
## Three-year-olds receive Spark Story Bibles on October 2

Finley Jones, Christian Schmidt, Ben Simpson, and Brynja Aikin gathered to listen to stories from their new Bibles read by their Sunday School teachers Christy Peterson, Katherine Zoellmer and Alexis Curry. The Spark Story Bible features colorful pictures with favorite stories like God's Promises to Abram and Peter's Dream.



The Bibles are gifts from Oak Grove to celebrate the start of their Sunday School journey.

Special guests were Wee Praise Director Carol Swenson and Accompanist Morva Klein who taught the three-year-olds "Jesus Loves Me" and the "B-I-B-L-E" songs.



## Tapestrees and OakTones to sing again!

The women's and men's choral groups will begin rehearsals soon to perform at services in November and December.

The women's group, The Tapestrees will rehearse October 30 and November 6 to perform at the services on November 13.

The men's ensemble, The OakTones will rehearse November 27 and December 4 for a performance at the December 11 services.

All rehearsals will be between the services (9:50 – 10:30) in the sanctuary. The groups are open to anyone high school age and older who would like to sing

We are privileged to have Dan Mahraun (Intern Leslie's husband) conducting the groups.

Dan served for 10 years as Director of Choral Activities at Bethany College (Kan.) and music director of the Bethany Oratorio Society. He holds degrees from Wartburg College and the University of Northern Iowa, and a D.M.A. in the literature and performance of choral music from the University of Colorado at Boulder.



# NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	<b>31</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	<b>1</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM GIRL SCOUT TROOP 12810 8:00 PM Basketball	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study 3:00 PM Memorial Blood Drive 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Youth Basketball 7:30 PM Youth Group Study Hall	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM NSR Training 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:30 PM Basketball	<b>4</b> Loaves and Fishes 4:00 PM SCRAPBOOKING 5:00 PM Make a Christmas Card SU! Event	<b>5</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Fellowship Hall reserved 10:00 AM Messenger practice
<b>6</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Council Meeting 8:00 PM Basketball	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Youth Basketball 7:30 PM Youth Group Study Hall	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:30 PM Basketball	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Moonlight Madness 7:00 PM Richfield Square Dance	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 1:00 PM Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Eagle Scout Ceremony and Reception
<b>13</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Blood Pressure checks 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Lord's Prayer Milestone - 1st graders 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM Fellowship Hall reserved 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM GIRL SCOUT TROOP 12810 8:00 PM Basketball	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Youth Basketball 7:30 PM Youth Group Study Hall	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:30 PM Basketball	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Messenger practice 12:00 PM Piano Recital 6:30 PM Youth Movie Night
<b>20</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM CARE CLUB 6:00 PM Basketball 6:00 PM Stamp-a-Stack 8:00 PM Basketball	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 7:30 PM Youth Basketball 7:30 PM Youth Group Study Hall 8:00 PM Chorale	<b>24</b> Paulson Hall/Fireside reserved 9:00 AM Fellowship Hall reserved 6:00 PM BASKETBALL	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells
<b>27</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service	<b>28</b> 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch	<b>29</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Youth Group Study Hall 8:00 PM Chorale	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM NSR Training	<b>2</b> Loaves and Fishes	<b>3</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study

## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



In praise of the blessed season of our Saviour's birth, Oak Grove invites you to help beautify our sanctuary with a Christmas poinsettia.

You may pick up your plant following the service on Christmas Day or afterwards at the church.

Your order and payment (checks payable to Oak Grove Lutheran Church – marked for poinsettia plant) must be received in the office by Monday, November 28.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin) as given by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
The person(s) who it is in memory or honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Red (Quantity) \$8.95 each

\_\_\_\_\_ White (Quantity) \$8.95 each

Total cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_