



Oak Grove Rally Day It's Here! Sunday, September 7



All the things you enjoy about Rally Day are back, including:

- A Festive Outdoor Worship at 10 a.m. Bring your lawn chair or a blanket—our Messenger band will be there to lead us in praise and worship.
(Traditional indoor worship is still at 8:30 a.m.)
- A fun picnic after the worship service with lively music from Caribé, great food hot off the grill and good fellowship; popcorn and ice cream treats.
- Fun activities for all ages: free games for kids, a pitching machine, Bingo and more.
- A great Silent Auction benefiting Camp Wapogasset and Circle to Success.
- Bottle Blast where you draw a card and could win a bottle of anything from vinegar or Mountain Dew to motor oil or glue.

But this year is even better with these added attractions:

- Tricky Troy (the magician and animal balloon guy) returns as Captain Jack.
- Pie Eating Contest with separate age categories for kids and adults.

Here's how you can still help make this year's Rally Day a huge success:

- Donate silent auction items or cash to purchase prizes. Notify the church office at 612-869-4917 as soon as possible if you plan to make a donation.
- Donate bottles of almost anything (plastic bottles only please) for Bottle Blast.
- Volunteer to help! We can always use more help! Notify the church office.

New Picture Directory

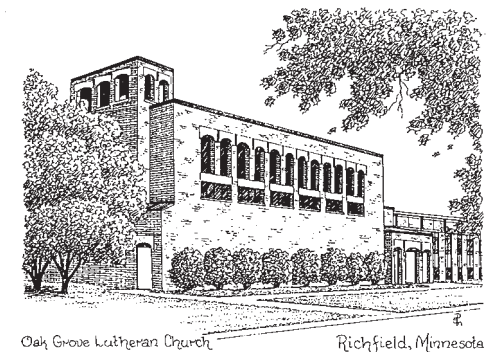
We've had a great response so far. About 160 individuals/families have signed up to have their pictures taken for our new Directory! A pictorial directory is a valuable and useful tool. It helps families get to know one another and it's a handy, easy to use parish phone book!

This service is provided to the church and participating families at NO cost. Each individual/family that has their picture taken will receive a free Directory and a free 8x10 picture. There will be opportunity to purchase additional pictures also.

At this point, individuals and families that have not had a chance to sign up for photography times will be called by the appointment center of Busson Portrait Directories. Look for that call!

If you have already signed up for a time slot but need to make a change, please call 1-800-685-3002, x-416 and ask for Sue Cook to help you.

Our new Directory won't be complete without YOU!



Oak Grove Lutheran Church Richfield, Minnesota

World Premier Performance at Oak Grove on Sunday, October 12

by Nancy Gertner

CLIMB Theater will stage the world premiere of their new play, "Return to Honor," at Oak Grove on Sunday afternoon, October 12, 2008, at 3 PM.

Written to be presented at schools and churches or community venues, the play will have a cast of three, and is written by Buffy Sedlachek of CLIMB Theater. The play was developed with support from Oak Grove's new Community Grants program announced at the annual meeting in January 2008.

Oak Grove members are encouraged to bring guests that are interested in furthering this new mission by promoting the play to schools and churches in communities interested in welcoming people home from their combat experiences.

Members are invited to serve on the Task Force planning the reception to follow the world premiere. A planning meeting will be held at the church on Monday evening, September 15 at 7 PM. You may also contact Nancy Gertner via email: nancygertner@mac.com or leave notice with the church office. Members are also invited to share military memorabilia for a special display at the reception. Suggestions for people to invite to the

World Premiere should also be submitted to Nancy. Her phone number is 952-929-2886.

The play's theme reflects on military people returning home from combat. The play will provide information on challenges people face in re-integration, and community resources available to help. The message will include the love, acceptance, and forgiveness that is a trademark of Oak Grove Lutheran Church.

Thank you to all Oak Grove members for supporting our many missions, and to the members of the Mission Fund Task Force that review requests for the Community Grants: Margaret Olson, Cheryl Nycklemoe, LaVerne Fandrei, Tom Stertz, and Holly Blades.

For more information on the nationally recognized, non-profit performance CLIMB Theater, see: www.climb.org

CLIMB Theatre is a non-profit traveling theatre company, based out of Inver Grove Heights. CLIMB, which stands for Creative Learning Ideas for Mind and Body, performs for over 450,000 students and adults annually, typically in a school setting. This last year, CLIMB performed its interactive plays and classes on character education in 10 states and two countries.

September 2008

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September Birthdays

- 1 – Becky Hanson, Oscar Johnson
- 2 – Kristi Benson, Julie Foley, Michael West
- 4 – Dorothy Ahlstrand, Robin Highum
- 5 – Bob Olson
- 6 – Molly Bucher
- 7 – Ryan Hummel, James Jorgensen, Adam Koens, JoAnn Lewis, Jake Meyer, Renae Schreyer, Jody Sunne, Scott Tammen
- 8 – Rebecca Schnacky, Rev. Tom Zarth
- 9 – Famboara Philibert
- 10 – Roberta Martin
- 11 – Kathryn Cahill, Anne Johnson, Jacob Moe
- 12 – Deidre Boyea, Michele Myroniuk, Andy Van Dyk
- 13 – Mabel Eichorn, Sam Miller
- 14 – Michelle Christenson, Samantha Johns, Margaret Sundberg
- 15 – Nicholas Potz
- 16 – David Maurer, Dale Wold
- 17 – Dorothy Gisvold, Daniel Grabow
- 20 – Gary Sundin
- 21 – Phyllis Eklund, Ruby Olson
- 22 – Ron Bender, Kristin Decker, Joan Moe, Dylan Mohn, Jordan Schreyer, Corby Serk
- 23 – Julie Berg, Phil Fandrei, Deloris Stine
- 24 – Beatrice Windseth
- 25 – Dianne Dimond, Peggy Lien, Marion Simonson
- 26 – Marie Becker, Bernice Nelson, Jack Skurdalsvold
- 27 – Curt Tvete
- 28 – Del Hamaker, Colleen Murphy
- 29 – Dorothy Main, Marilyn Tuff
- 30 – Jon Ahlstrand, Jerry Benson, Alvin Johnson, Laura Stok

September Forums

September 14 and 21 - Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

The ELCA is writing a social statement on human sexuality. The initial draft is prepared and congregations are encouraged to study it and offer input and feedback. Oak Grove member Dana Nissen will lead us through this process.

September 28 - Book of Faith

Part one of a series of forums on Lutheran insights for Bible study. Led by Pastor Tom.

Circle Meetings for September

All Circles are Tuesday, September 2, unless noted
Esther – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Katherine – 1:45 p.m. at Elaine Hafertape's, 6420 12th Avenue

Lydia-Ruth - 6:30 p.m. at Carol Tveite's, 9343 Quinn Road. Bring a salad to share and one or more white elephants.

Rebecca – 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Gladys Krohn, hostess

Sarah – 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Agnes Schmidt, hostess

Golden Oaks . . .



We will be sponsoring a bus trip to the Plymouth Playhouse on November 26 for the 1 p.m. show of The Church Basement Ladies, A Second Helping. (All shows were full until then.)

Please come to a meeting on Monday, September 15 to help plan our year and hear Avis Shorer speak of her experiences as a World War II combat nurse. (Very interesting.) Time: 1:00 p.m.

Also there will be a bus tour to St. Paul with Bob Duke on October 6 at 9:30 a.m. to 12 or 12:30 p.m.

Please sign up for these events in the church office. Money for these events will be determined once I set up the buses.

Watch your bulletins for further information or call Dianna Sorenson at 952-884-1365.



Handbell / Handchime News

Fall and Rally Sunday also brings the beginning of the handbell/ handchime practice schedule.

Joy Bells - (9th grade and older) meets on Saturdays from 9-10 beginning September 20

Spirit and Faith Bells - (7th grade and older)- Letters will be mailed to your home with information about these groups. Rehearsals will begin October 1 (Spirit-6:00-6:30 and Faith 7:30-8)

Junior Bells - (4th-6th graders) meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:00 beginning September 10 with a mandatory parent/student meeting. Rehearsals begin September 17, 6:30-7:00.

Grand Chimers - (1st-3rd graders) meet Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:30 beginning September 10 with a mandatory parent/student meeting. Rehearsals begin September 17, 7:00-7:30.

There will be no bells and/or chimes on Wednesday September 24 because of the Confirmation kick-off. Call Julie Tvete with questions (952-894-2361).

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	1 OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	2 Circle Meetings 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Caribe practice	3	4 5:00 PM Circle to Success 7:00 PM Life In Christ Church	5 4:00 PM Scrapbooking 5:30 PM Loaves and Fishes	6 8:00 AM Rally Sunday Set-Up 10:00 AM Messenger practice
7 RALLY SUNDAY 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Tapestrees rehearsal 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship Service 11:00 AM Rally Day Picnic and Festivities 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	8 3:30 PM Youth Action Crew	9 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Care Club 7:00 PM Caribe practice 7:00 PM Church Council	10 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Pastor Brice meets with 7th Graders and parents 7:00 PM Grand Chimers	11 7:00 PM Life In Christ Church	12 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 PM Richfield Square Dance Club	13 10:00 AM Wedding
14 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Oaktones rehearsal 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball 6:30 PM Singles Group Information Night	15 Oak Grove serves Meals on Wheels 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 1:00 PM Golden Oaks Youth Action Crew 3:30 PM Bible Study	16 Oak Grove serves Meals on Wheels 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM WELCA Salad Supper 7:00 PM Caribe practice	17 Oak Grove serves Meals on Wheels 8:30 AM Housing Committee 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Pastor Brice meets with 7th Graders and parents 7:00 PM Grand Chimers	18 Oak Grove serves Meals on Wheels 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 5:00 PM Circle to Success 7:00 PM Life In Christ Church	19 Oak Grove serves Meals on Wheels 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 10:30 AM Bible and Ballet Classes 5:00 PM Stamp-a-Stack	20 Susan Boehm friends and family serve at Our Saviour's Shelter 8:30 AM Stamp a Stack 9:00 AM Joy Bells 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 10:00 AM Messenger practice
21 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:45 AM Tapestrees rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	22 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch 3:30 PM Youth Action Crew 7:00 PM Bible Study	23 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Care Club 7:00 PM Caribe practice	24 No Bells/ Chimes 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Kick Off	25 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 7:00 PM Life In Christ Church	26 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 10:30 AM Bible and Ballet Classes 6:00 PM Richfield Squares Dance	27 9:00 AM Joy Bells 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes
28 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Oaktones rehearsal 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	29 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 3:30 PM Youth Action Crew 7:00 PM Bible Study	30 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Caribe practice	1 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Junior Bells 7:30 PM Grand Chimers Faith Bells	2 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 5:00 PM Circle to Success 7:00 PM Life In Christ Church	3 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 10:30 AM Bible and Ballet Classes 4:30 PM Scrapbooking Loaves and Fishes	4 9:00 AM Joy Bells 9:00 AM Kindermusik Classes 10:00 AM Messenger practice



Book of Faith

I remember the first time the Bible really meant something to me. At Wilderness Canoe Base, up in the Boundary Waters, they gave us campers a New Testament in a translation that was new at the time: "The Good News for Modern Man." As an eighth grader, I considered myself a "modern man," so I figured there must be something in there for me. It went through the journey with me, stowed in the Duluth pack, but came out each night when there was nothing else to do but read. In particular, I remember the Letter of James sounding cool, like something I'd never heard before.

A lot of people have stories like that: remembering how the power of the Word has somehow spoken in their lives. Others don't. And with those folks that sometimes becomes the problem... For whatever terrible reason, the Bible has often been a dividing point between Christians. Do you know the Bible as well as I do? Can you recite from it chapter and verse? Have you turned to it often enough

for solace or direction? Is your interpretation of what you read good enough? Plenty of people just give up. Too much work. Too many feelings of inadequacy.

That's one of the reasons I'm excited about the ELCA's new "Book of Faith Initiative." This is a five-year effort to help us Lutherans engage more with the Bible. Here's the vision: "That the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlightened, empowered, and sent by the Word."

Two things in those words grab me: that this is for the whole church, that is, that we all have ways to grow in this respect; and that it's a question of "fluency," which implies that it's natural that individuals will come at this from different levels. I would hope that approach might increase the number of people who would engage in this conversation. Please watch for ways that you might participate in the coming days.

Pastor Tom Zarth

Sing a Joyful Song to the Lord



Chorale (co-ed)

Rehearsals - Wednesday at 7 p.m. (beginning Sept. 3)

Sing - 8:30 a.m. service at the first, second and third Sunday's each month - 11:00 a.m. service at the fourth service.

Oak Tones (men)

Rehearsals - the second and fourth Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Sing - as often as possible

Tapestrees (women)

Rehearsals - the first and third Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Sing - whenever possible

Everyone from 9th grade to 90 years old are welcome!



Please Note

Oak Grove has a new weekly e-newsletter. Would you like to be informed about what's going on via email? Sign up on the bulletin insert on Rally Day or email Pastor Tom with your email address. tzarth@oakgrovelutheran.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT OAK GROVE 2008-2009



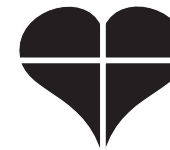
It all starts on Rally Sunday, September 7

Oak Grove Sunday School 9:45-10:45 for kids ages 3 years—6th grade

Fee: \$15 per child (\$35 maximum per family)

You can register your child by calling the church office at 612-869-4917.

Notes from the Parish Nurse



By Murt Hanson

Limitations in Life

"I know that faith made my life possible and that of many others like me. . . Faith is not a cushion for me to fall back upon; it is my working energy." Helen Keller.

Daniel Grippo, writer of Caring Mentors series, encourages us to find our special gifts despite our own disability or limitations "because the human spirit can't be limited." He encourages us to let others help us and to pursue our dreams.

Helen Keller was an inspirational person whose courage and determination helped her face a challenging life. She lost her sight and hearing at the age of 18 months. Anne Sullivan, a young, visually-impaired woman, came to be Keller's teacher; her persistence helped Keller to learn to spell and to speak. After graduating from college with honors, Keller began a writing career.

You may recall seeing the movie "The Miracle Worker." It is based on an autobiography of Keller's life and shows how she overcame the obstacles in her life. Recently Mike and I enjoyed a documentary, "Young at Heart." This story also depicts people with limitations who are letting others help them pursue a dream later in their lives.

Grippo reminds us "that sometimes the biggest obstacle is our own mind."

Check out the Care Notes display in the narthex for more information on Helen Keller and other inspirational people led by their faith.

Additional Notes:

Blood Pressure checks will be done on Sunday, September 28, between services in the Intern's office off of Paulson Hall.

Faithfully Fit Forever exercise classes will not meet in September. Classes will resume Tuesday, October 7th.

Single? Interested in forming a singles group here at oak Grove?

Here are some ideas: Meet monthly for a night out; movie, bowling, dinner, etc... ● Book study or discussion on topics of interest to the group ● Bible Study/ Prayer support ● More ideas?!

If you are interested, please join me in the Fireside Room on Sunday evening, September 14, at 6:30pm. We can share ideas and decide if we can go forward as a group. If you are single by choice, widowed, divorced, or just have not found that 'certain someone', please come. No age limitations. We all have gifts to share. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me: 612-866-0858 -Margie Risch

Notes of Thanks. . .

We would like to thank everyone who came to dad's 90th birthday celebration at Edina Care Center. Dad had a wonderful time greeting church friends and visiting with people from the "old neighborhood." He totally enjoyed the whole day. We all remember fondly the old church, youth group, choir, and mom's Circle. Seems like dad was always at the church visiting or fixing something electrical. He talks about how much his church family means to him. Thank you all so much.

- Bonnie Drake, Morrie Klukken's daughter

Thank you from Our Saviour's Housing:

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." William James, AM. Psychologist and Philosopher
Dear JoAnn,

We want to extend our thanks for the time you spend as a dinner coordinator for Our Saviour's Housing. A special thanks to all the volunteers at Oak Grove Lutheran Church who help prepare and serve the meals. You do make a "difference" and we appreciate it! Thank you!

- Maryellen, Volunteer Coordinator.

Kitchen Konnection

Wednesday evening dinners will begin on September 10 and you will see a new/old face in the kitchen. I was church cook from 1993-2000, and then Kathie took over. Circumstances in our lives have changed, so I will be back in the kitchen.

Please join me in thanking Kathie for her years of hard work and dedication in serving us. And then, join me and the helpers on Wednesday evening for good food, fun, and fellowship. Give your cook the night off; come early to dine before your kids head off for choir, bells, or confirmation, or before you head off for choir, meetings or back home to watch TV. Whatever your evening activities may be, you are always welcome for dinner at Oak Grove.

All meals are \$3.00 each. Salad bar and dessert are included. If you offer to help set-up or clean-up, your meal is free. There will be a sign-up sheet available after the first dinner.

September Menu

Sept 10 - Mexican Buffet
Sept.17 - Chicken Sandwich/Fries
Sept.24 - Hamburger Gravy/Mashed Potatoes
I am looking forward to serving you.

Margie Risch