

# Grace Matters

the radio ministry of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Living in God's amazing grace

Spring 2007

## You Matter to Grace Matters

### The Grace Matters Good News Fund 2007

Private gifts support every aspect of *Grace Matters*. For 30 minutes each Sunday *Grace Matters*, the radio ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, offers a fresh expression of Christian radio with host Peter Marty and his guests.

The *Grace Matters Good News Fund 2007* is a new giving opportunity that allows listeners and friends to secure the continued quality and growth of this radio ministry. Support of the Good News Fund is critical to the program as it underwrites 100% of the annual production budget. The Good News Fund benefits every facet of the *Grace Matters*' operation. A gift to the Good News Fund is the first and most important gift we ask every listener and friend to consider.

The *Grace Matters Good News Fund 2007* provides an opportunity for you to contribute to the growth of this important radio and Web ministry and help us reach more people each week. Your Good News Fund gift matters to *Grace Matters*.

Why is participation so important? Your participation is fundamental to assuring a solid financial future for *Grace Matters*. A high percentage of giving by our regular radio and Web listeners demonstrates the importance of this ministry. Every gift extends the gospel's message to those who depend upon this program for spiritual nourishment and guidance.

In addition to your gifts of financial support, please keep the **Grace Matters**' radio program, staff, and host Peter Marty in your daily prayers. Your continued prayer support is vital and greatly appreciated.

Your gifts to the *Grace Matters Good News Fund 2007* is all about extending the grace of God to more and more people. Thank you for considering the fund in your giving plan for this year.

Ways to give to the  
***Grace Matters Good News Fund 2007***

#### Secure Online Giving

[www.gracematters.org](http://www.gracematters.org)

**Simply click on support Grace Matters in the left menu bar to make a gift online**

#### To Make a Gift by Mail

Please send your check to:

***Grace Matters***

***8765 W. Higgins Rd.***

***Chicago, IL 60631-4101***

#### Call To Make a Gift

Please call an ELCA Resource Information Specialist at 1-800-638-3522 to make a credit card gift.

*Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.*



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# From the Producer



*Grace Matters*  
producer  
Susan Greeley

## ***Spiritual Renewal***

Scripture constantly challenges us to think more deeply about what God wants for us.

When I think about renewal I think about rest, re-energizing, self-reflection, and reconnecting with others. But then I remember the offertory response I grew up singing from the Lutheran Service Book and Hymnal: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

God's idea of renewal goes far deeper than my own. Yes, it's good to slow down. Yes, it's healthy to savor a physical and emotional rest from our busy lives. But God calls us to more: a complete renewal of our spirit and our relationship with God. Psalm 51 talks at length about what God desires from us and for us. This kind of renewal is deep-seated and enduring. It cannot help but spill over into every aspect of our lives.

This "sacrifice of the spirit" is what I find inspiring in the lives of people who share their stories on *Grace Matters*. It's

embodied in the undivided life that Parker Palmer speaks about so eloquently. Its stamp is all over Marie Fortune's work with domestic abuse victims and Elizabeth Hausler's earthquake-proof houses. Its melody courses through the music of Mary Oyer and Knute Ogren.

If you missed any of these programs I invite you to go to [www.gracematters.org](http://www.gracematters.org) and listen to them on-line. There you can also sign up to download our weekly podcast so you can listen to *Grace Matters* anywhere and anytime. If you don't have a computer you can subscribe to our CD or transcript mailings. It's my prayer that hearing the faith stories of others will be a helpful tool as you seek to renew and deepen your own relationship with God.

## ***Grace Matters***

The radio ministry of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The *Grace Matters* newsletter is published four times a year. It is distributed without charge.

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# Memorials That Live to Serve and Bless Others

## IN MEMORY OF:

*A gift to Grace Matters is a special way to remember a loved one who has gone to be with the Lord. Your memorial gift will help carry the gospel to thousands! (Gifts received through 02/02/07)*

### **Olaf Akland**

Judith Akland

### **Helen Kantén Chromy**

Mr. & Mrs. J. Forrest  
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### **Esther Sanford**

Rev. & Mrs. Victor Brandt

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### **Enoch Wiechmann**

### **Rose Anna Wiechmann**

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Ruth Johnson

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Carole Kaleva

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Marilyn Klein

### **Glenita Buckner**

### **Art Burke**

### **Gretchen Burke**

### **Elvin (Al) Hanson**

Leland Pederson

### **Marvin Pederson**

Mavis Pederson

### **Ruth Connor**

Dr. Warren & Wilma Pierson

### **Elenora Larson**

### **Eleanor Stucke**

Rev. Raymond & Ivoly  
Reinholtzen

### **Kathleen Gardner**

Khristine and Brent Rogers

### **H. Alan Taylor**

Rev. Maurice A. Schaus &  
Rev. Kelly Taylor-Schaus

### **John O. Schepeler**

Marie Schepeler

### **Viola Schulz (mother)**

Rev. Leon & Carolyn Schulz

### **Helen Haack**

Rev. LeRoy & Elisabeth Stadem

### **Rev. Conrad Thompson**

Mark & Marjore Thompson

### **DiAnn Radoush**

WELCA St Paul's Lutheran  
Church, Gaylor, MN

### **Irene Thorson**

### **Olenka Slette**

### **Eddie Pederson**

### **Hilma Muskers**

WELCA Zion Lutheran  
Church, Viroqua, WI

### **Parents**

Sharon Wheeler

## IN HONOR OF:

*Spreading the gospel through a gift to Grace Matters is also a wonderful way to remember a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion! (Gifts received through 02/02/07)*

### **Communication Services Staff**

### **Rev. Peter Marty**

### **Rev. Charles Maahs**

Kristi Bangert

### **Katherine & Pedro Marengo**

### **Charles & Ruth Nicholson**

John Dennis

### **Rev. Peter Marty**

Betty and Ed Fauble

### **Bishop James Justman**

### **Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe**

Rev. Darrel & Mary Golnitz

### **Rev. Walter Wangerin, Jr.**

Rev. Linda Hanus

### **George's Birthday (husband)**

Doris Kasdorf

### **Brenda J. Engelby**

Dixie L. Miller

### **Great Great Grandchildren**

Alfred & Louise Moenke

### **Frances Hartmann (mother)**

Carolyn Petersen

### **Amy Hanson**

Carolyn & William Schildgen

### **Flora Johnson (mother)**

### **Verna Stoneberg (mother)**

The Rev. Theodore &

Dr. Carla Stoneberg

### **Rev. Neal & Sue Mather**

Wesley and Iva Thelander

### **CW4 David Thoren (son)**

### **Senior Master Sargeant Garth**

### **Peterson (son-in-law)**

Rev. Arnold & Barbara Thoren

### **All those who speak the Word,**

### **especially Pastor Peter Marty**

Nicholas & Shelby

Vanderborgh



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## *New Stations*

WGL - AM 1250

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Fort Wayne, IN

WWGL - FM 102.9

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Fort Wayne, IN

WLEN - FM 103.9

6:30 a.m. Sunday

Adrian, MI

# From the Host



## Renewal

By Peter W. Marty

Most Christians today tend to quantify the results of their work or faith. If money is raised for Katrina survivors, the natural

question becomes, "How much?" If food is served at a homeless shelter, the cook wonders, "How many are coming and will this recipe do the trick?" A pastor or priest may recall the number of baptisms performed or marriages rescued in the last year. Thus, the focus is all on how much we have done for the *objects* of our ministry.

Jesus, however, focuses on what effect our acts of love have on *us*. He cares as much about what is happening to his disciples as anything they might accomplish for others. One day, when seventy disciples came back all fired up about their evangelistic successes, Jesus showed more interest in the difference God's authority and presence had over them than the authority or presence they had over the demons in other peoples' lives. He celebrated their joyful return, but only briefly. He made clear that the transformation of the disciples from their acts of faith was what really mattered.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds." This is how the apostle Paul put the terms of faith in his letter to the Romans. As much as following Christ is a religion of the heart, so also is it involving of the mind. We are asked to think! Acting

from blind faith and deep trust does not mean that we park our brains at the door. God gave us a mind precisely to be transformed in ways that would reflect divine holiness.

If you seek to transform your life and want to change the way you do things, the place to begin is with mental attitude. Transformation is the product of a changed outlook. But we don't ordinarily think this way. If our circumstances can be altered first, *then* we will consider a shift in attitude. But the Lord works differently. God is moved more by a basic change in our thinking than by some fussing with our circumstances. Circumstances are always changing. They come and go. But a consistent attitude transformed by love and faith toward whatever circumstances we face can make all the difference in the world for living a life that bears the fruits of renewal.

Charles Eliot, the one-time president of Harvard University, said something that I take to heart and reflect on as often as I am able. "Don't tell me what you value," he said. "Tell me what you take for granted and never question." This was his way of saying that living always includes a process of reviewing assumptions. We need to renew our minds constantly. And in the case of faith, we need to renew them with our sights set on what the Lord Jesus Christ would have us be.

Thank you for taking this ministry of Grace Matters to heart ... and to mind. We rely on your financial support and prayerful commitment to keep on the air and the Web. May the benefits of everything we do keep transforming your life from the inside out.



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