

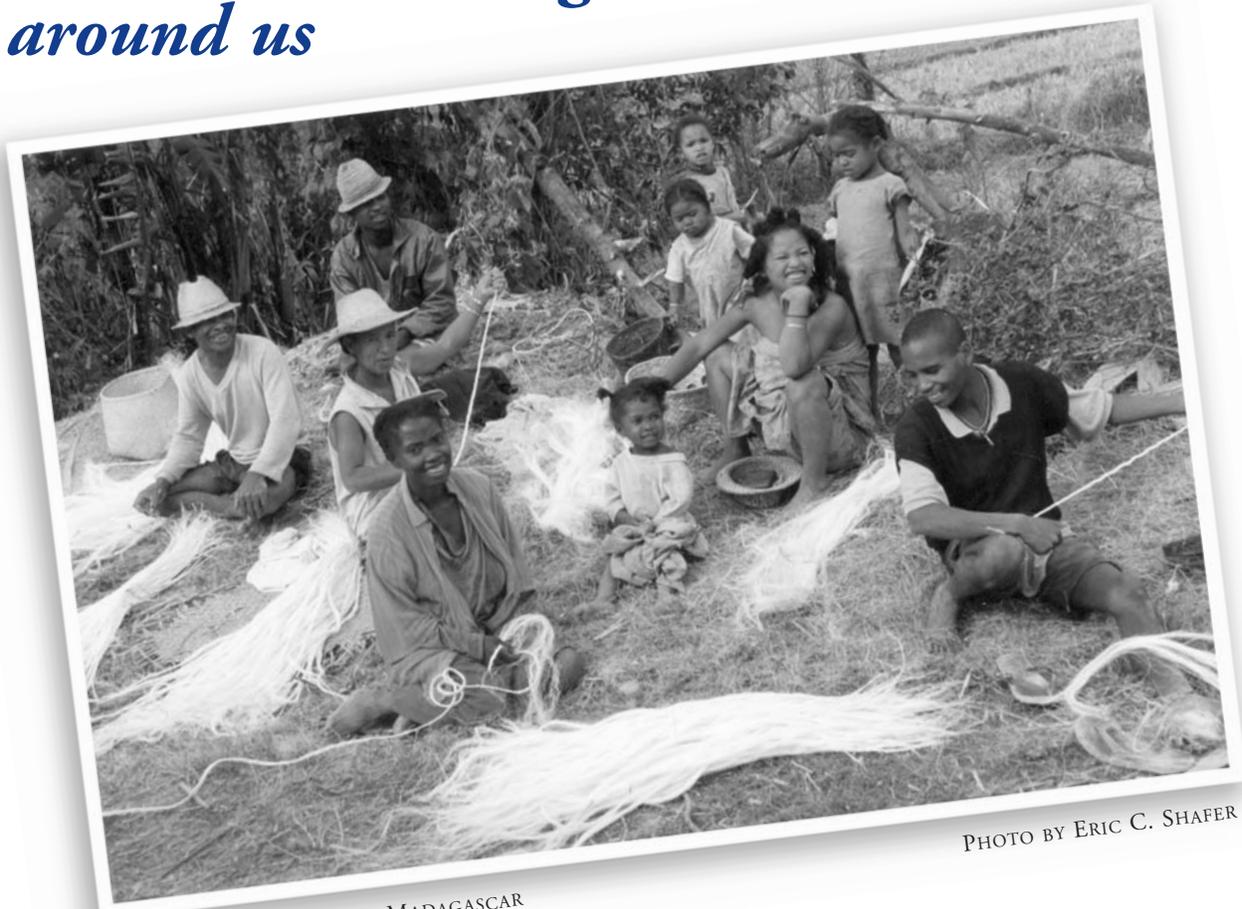
Grace Matters

*the radio ministry of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Summer 2005

Taking time to stop

*...and see the blessings
around us*



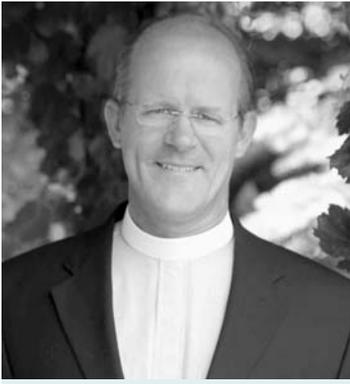
FAMILY MAKING ROPE IN MADAGASCAR

PHOTO BY ERIC C. SHAFER

Living in God's amazing grace

 www.gracematters.org





From the Desk of The Rev. Peter W. Marty

The Sheer Gift of Blessedness

Dear Friend,

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy,” according to the famous song in Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*. But, honestly, “the livin’ is NOT easy” for everyone this summer. Farmers are breaking their backs to keep the crops in high gear.

Inner city apartment dwellers without a cross breeze, much less air conditioning, are not exactly ready to call the summer heat “easy.” I know a young boy who absolutely dreads summer, when custody arrangements have him moving in with his father, a man whom he fears.

Summertime livin’ isn’t easy for everyone, perhaps most of all for you! But look deeper than your immediate circumstances and you may find

there is something better than the often over-rated “ease of living.” There is blessing. It may be unobtrusive or quiet blessing. Sometimes it’s noisy and obvious blessing. But blessing is what you have when you discover that you belong to Christ and that you matter to other people.

Contrary to popular opinion, blessedness in the Christian life is not dependent upon health, wealth, or any other *thing* we might achieve. It must arrive on the doorstep of your heart as a gift. That’s why I like to think of it as the recognition of a precious relationship—something we cannot force, anymore than we can compel a friendship to happen.

Look for every chance this summer to step back and take stock of your life and your loves. If it helps to sit in a hammock and sip iced tea, go for it. Just remember: Christian people do not count their blessings. They give thanks for them, and share them.

Thank you for the blessing of your relationship, and for every prayer and gift that grows this blessing.

PETER

“Blessing is what you have when you discover that you belong to Christ and that you matter to other people.”

Grace Matters... a blessing indeed!

*Thoughts from The Rev. Donald Hallberg,
Executive Director, ELCA Development Services*

Each week Pastor Marty and guests reach out to thousands of people over the airwaves. You have been a faithful listener to *Lutheran Vespers* and now to *Grace Matters*. Many of you have told me, and my own family experience tells me, that this vital radio ministry has been a blessing. I believe that grace does matter. I believe that *Grace Matters*, coming into our homes, brings the Word to us in important ways whether or not we are able to attend our own churches week by week. And this happens through the grace of our generous friends and listeners who so faithfully support this broadcast.

I remember one blessing in particular that came to *Grace Matters* a year or two ago. What a marvelous surprise. A gift that was and is a true blessing. A long time listener of *Lutheran Vespers* had died. Her attorney called the Foundation of the ELCA asking about our radio ministry and after some discussion he told me that his client had listened to the radio ministry every week. He knew the blessing that *Lutheran Vespers* had been for her. He then said: "Because she was blessed so will this ministry be blessed."

Yes, this saint of God left a major portion of her estate to support the future of what we now know to be *Grace Matters*. She had been blessed to be a blessing for many others.

You too can be a blessing for others by remembering *Grace Matters* in your will or estate planning. Through an ELCA Charitable Gift Annuity, your gift will give back to you for life and also one day serve as a blessing to *Grace Matters*. For more information on how you might bless others with your gifts, call the ELCA Foundation at (800) 638-3522 ext, 2970. Blessings to you.

Ask your attorney to use the following legally correct words in your will:

I leave _____ to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, c/o Foundation of the ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631 for *Grace Matters* endowment that others might be blessed with this ministry in the years ahead.



Blessings Shared

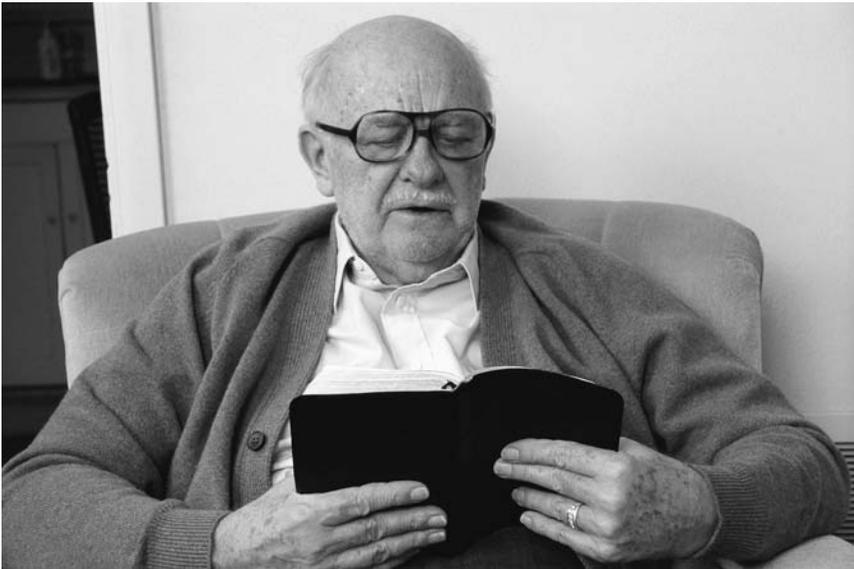
The following individuals have blessed *Grace Matters* and our listening audience by leaving a gift this past year for this broadcast in their wills. The legacy of grace through Christ will continue through their hearts and loving memory.

- Emily Baechle
- Mildred Fossum
- Myrtle Hara
- Mildred O. Hartje
- Irene L. Witte
- William Raymond Anderson Trust
- Ernest Prestin Trust

Broadcasting Blessings...

*by Linda Janssen Gjere,
Nebraska Synod Director for Communications*

**“This radio broadcast is a gift to you from
Salem Lutheran Church in Fremont, Nebraska...”**



PHOTODISC

That’s how the listeners to *Grace Matters* learn who has provided the money to pay for the air time each Sunday morning on KFAB-AM in Omaha, Nebraska.

One such sponsor is Salem Lutheran Church in Fremont. Their Endowment Board gave \$5,000 to match a \$5,000 grant that was received this year to fund our Lutheran radio presence in the Midwest. This wonderful blessing is just the most recent gift from Salem who has been helping with the air time costs for our Lutheran radio presence

on KFAB-AM for the past 10 years. *Grace Matters* reaches people in their homes, vehicles, and places of work, blessing them with words of inspiration and comfort.

When individuals, church councils and endowment boards, organizations or agencies sponsor our radio ministry, they bless people they don’t know or see; they reach out to invite people into God’s grace. Thank you, Salem Lutheran Church for helping others find out just how much “Grace Matters.”

The mission of Salem Lutheran Church is to reach out to others, proclaim God’s Word, share our faith, and celebrate our love.

Blessings From Our Listeners

“Today I have sent a note to a shut-in who has health problems and is confined to her home. I have given her the time and the station and encouraged her to listen to *Grace Matters* on Sunday mornings. I will share my copy of Pastor Marty’s wonderful message with my unchurched neighbor who has driven me to church recently and is asking many questions about Lent. I will continue to send notes to other shut-ins.” – *DOROTHY, DIXON, IL*

“We listened to your radio program yesterday morning. It brought back strong memories of smelling fresh coffee and listening to the radio in my home with my father when I was a little girl. As a listener yesterday, I felt you were chatting just with me. Thank you.” – *MARCI, IOWA*

“We listened to the debut of *Grace Matters* and we gave it four thumbs up!”
– *LARRY & LINDA*

News To Use!

You can be a blessing to others...

...**help others hear *Grace Matters***. Call us and we’ll send you a packet of information to help you place the program on a station in your area.

...**pray specifically for *Grace Matters***. If you would like to be part of the prayer team for this ministry, send us your e-mail or postal address. Prayer letters will be sent periodically throughout the year.

...**share *Grace Matters* around the world**. This program is received as a blessing by people in many countries. You can help others hear Pastor Marty’s message by inviting them to listen at www.gracematters.org at any time.

...**help others stay connected**. It’s often hard for folks who travel, students, the hospitalized, and even our beloved pastors to experience the joy of *Grace Matters*. You can share this program with them through a gift subscription. They’ll receive each program on CD or in written transcript. We’ll even include a gift card from you with the first CD or transcript. Perhaps you’d like a subscription for yourself as well. Just call to subscribe!

...**serve as a loving reminder**. Just call your friends and neighbors and say, “Turn on your radio, it’s time for *Grace Matters*.”

“Just to be is a blessing.
Just to live is holy.”

–*Abraham Joshua Heschel*



Grace Matters
the radio ministry
of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

How to contact us:

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brenda.engelby@elca.org

Telephone: 800/638-3522 ext 2967
773/380-2967

Web site: www.gracematters.org

Mail: *Grace Matters*
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101



Brenda Engelby

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From the Editor

Thank you for the blessings!

You have blessed my heart and soul with your gifts of precious letters. It feels so much like getting notes from family members. Elizabeth wrote, *“Your Grace Matters (Spring 2005 issue) stories were a help to me as my husband passed away January 4, 2005. We were married 54½ years.”* Oh, Elizabeth, know that our prayers are with you...

From Gerald, *“I have terminal cancer, 85 years old now. God’s grace through Christ is wonderful.”* May God’s love and peace be with you... And Marjorie said, *“May God continue to bless all in your office and the meaning your ministry has in lives of all who listen.”* Thank you...

From St. Mark Lutheran Church, *“Here is a check for \$500.”* Your gifts do make us all partners in this ministry...

From a pastor, *“Thank you for being God’s voice on a Kentucky highway. I am glad you came into my car and accompanied me on my drive.”*

From Carolyn in Puerto Rico, *“I had not been aware of this program. I came across it ‘accidentally’ and received a blessing.”*

“Thank you for the book by Pastor Bob Herhold. Bob and I were students together in the early WWII years.” That note came from Gordon.

And a precious note to Peter from JoAnn, *“There were so many good things about your presentation today. You have a wonderful way of saying complex things in a totally accessible way.”*

What a blessing this sweet companionship is that we have with each other. I’m praying for you, too. Each day when the mail is placed on my desk I rest my hands on the stack and thank God for each person who has written. When I turn on the computer and see a special message from you, or when I actually get to talk with you on the phone, I give thanks again. Thank you for the blessings!

What a blessing this sweet companionship is that we have with each other.

Listen to *Grace Matters* Online!

by Rex Paisley, ELCA Web Manager

Is *Grace Matters* not on the radio in your area? Maybe it's available, but you missed a program. Do you ever wish you could listen again or share a particular message with someone you know?

We have great news to share! *Grace Matters* is now available whenever you or anyone else wants to listen. All you need is internet access.

Go to gracematters.org and click "listen to the program." There you can download the MP3 audio

file to play on your computer with Windows Media Player, QuickTime, or RealPlayer. If you have a portable media player, try synching to the "podcast." The podcast file teams with free ipodder software (available at ipodder.org) to synch the most recent four *Grace Matters* programs every time you dock your media player. The podcast makes recent programs available wherever you are with your portable media player. Thanks for listening!

Gifts that Live to Serve & 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 March 31, 2005)

Reinhold Mueller

Pastor Richard & Mary Ann Bahe

Memorials

Eleanor Baaken

Amy Valeria Toso

Robert & Joyce Bruns

Muriel Gustafson

Marilyn A David

Thelma Tessari

Robert E Rasmusson

John Nelson

Mildred White

Dr. John & Helen Erickson

Wallace (Wally) Reierson

Arlen Holmen

David C. Bower

Donovan Parker

Rev. Myron & Florence Grams

Helen Faith Miller

Mildred Gauer

Ellin Greene

Paul Haar (husband)

Leona Haar

Edith Hanson

Edith Hanson Family

Solvieg Eckanger

Rev. Leslie & Wanda Hernes

Harriet E Lang/Rasmussen (mom)

Dick Hitchcock (husband)

Rubena Hansen

Ruth Hitchcock

E.K. Michealson (dad)

Ruth Johnson

Dr. Donald Jorgensen (husband)

Virginia Jorgensen

Richard Kanning

Pat Kanning

Dennis Knutson (husband)

Carol Knutson

Alle Lindroos

Genevieve Keranen

Vernon Larson (husband)

Janet Larson

Dave Fjoslien

Marrida Myron

Erlyn T Johnson

Marsha Nelson

Arlene (sister)

Carolyn & Richard Olson

Laura Christian (mom)

Lucille Olson

Edith Hansen

Lili Hassler

Robert Folkers

Rosella Grove

Leland Pederson

Alida Storaasli

Gerda Fiske

Merlan Budd

Dr. Warren & Wilma Pierson

Sgt. Mike Carlson (killed in Iraq)

Rev. Mark & Dorothea Sallmen

Ellen Nelson

Margaret Sandness

Frederick Eastman

Anne Sauer

Rev. David & Anne Marie Rath

Alwin & Frieda Schowalter

Rev. & Mrs. Quintin Schowalter

John O. Scheperle (husband)

Marie Scheperle

Arden Sween

Agnes Severson

Estelle Jacobson

Mary Jane Skoglund

Albert & Esther Gallmeyer

Marie Storms

Connie Score

Wesley & Ruth Sunvold

Rev. Conrad M. Thompson

Mark & Marjore Thompson

Ruth Youngberg

M. Osborne

Margaret Trygstad

Our Parents

Lyle & Alice Verhulst

Charles T Klinksick

Marcia Wagner

Alida Storaasli

Mrs. Reuben Wangberg

Martha Foertsch

WELCA Trinity Lutheran Church, Donora, PA

Lonny Clausen

Phyllis Jurgenson

LaVonne Pearson

Sharon Anderson

Helen Werner

William Hansen

Rev. Charles & Ruth Werth

Ralph Manwarren

Elverne Ziemke

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 March 31, 2005)

John & Barb Kirk's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Mabel Thompson's 86th Birthday

Ruth Anderson

Pastor Walter M. Wangerin Jr.

Anonymous Friend

Duane & Marie Benson

Ruth Hitchcock

Steven & Lois Raether

Rev. Richard Sansgaard

Marj Leegard

Marie Benson

Jerry & Audrey Bueide

Rev. Floyd Olsen

Donald & Phyllis Coleman

George's birthday (husband)

Doris Kasdorf

Rev. Karl & Leota Landgrebe's

60th Wedding Anniversary

Luella Kirchner

Clara Renner (sister)

Ruth Proft Dannehl

Merton Johnson's 90th Birthday

Ronald & Arleen Martin

Dr. Martin Marty

Linda Nelson

Dr. Martin Marty

Pastor Peter Marty

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL

50th Wedding Anniversary of

Rev. Palmer & Shirley Sevig

Rev. Palmer Sevig

You Matter to *Grace Matters!*

hymns are truly songs written for the heart. They speak God's Word to us and fill us with faith and hope for the journey before us. St. Olaf Choir has released its much-awaited follow-up CD to *Great Hymns of Faith*, complete with classics like "When Peace Like a River," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "Amazing Grace." And for those who love to sing along, the words to each song are included. This treasured collection is now available on CD for you in appreciation of your support of *Grace Matters*.



If you'd like to receive your copy of *St. Olaf Choir: Great Hymns of Faith Volume II*, simply check the box on the enclosed reply form when you send your gift today. Please remember to make your check payable to *Grace Matters!*

We welcome these new stations to the *Grace Matters* family!

KDUZ 1260AM
11:30 a.m. Sunday
Hutchinson, MN

WLYC 1050AM
8:00 a.m. Sunday
Williamsport, PA

WWJL 95.9FM
5:30 p.m. Sunday, &
8:00 p.m. Wednesday
Brookville, PA

WOC 1420AM
10:00 a.m. Sunday
Davenport, IA

WBHP 1230AM
9:00 a.m. Sunday
Huntsville, AL

WCGB 1060AM
6:00p.m. Sunday
Juana Diaz, PR & Ponce, PR

KWYS 920AM
7:05 a.m. Sunday
West Yellowstone, MT

WHOS 800AM
8:30 a.m. Sunday
Decatur, AL

Coming Up On *Grace Matters*

what exciting and blessed programs we have to look forward to this summer. Peter will be interviewing a special guest on each program. We eagerly anticipate hearing from Mary Ylvisaker Nilsen who, with her family, has written *For Everything A Season: 75 Blessings for Daily Life*. That program will air on June 5.

Also in June, Peter will talk with Linda Schroeder who has a ministry with ex-prisoners, with Pastor Lars Claussen who unicycled across the United States in support of native ministries in Alaska, and with Susan Macdonald Bray who is a naturalist. In his message, Peter will relate each of these life experiences with the faith that is so evident in their lives.

In July, Peter will talk with Brenda Meier who works with the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) coffee project which brings in sustainable income for coffee growers, and with Dennis Dewey who is a biblical storyteller.

**Please call us or visit our website, www.gracematters.org,
for updated TTTs and listings!**