



Fresh Idea for Spring

Pastor Justin Wiese and members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Madison, Neb., listen to *Grace Matters* programs for their Sunday adult forum.

Immanuel is a small rural congregation in the northeastern part of the state. Of the 30 regular worship attendees 15 or more put on a pot of coffee 45 minutes before services begin and listen. Pastor Wiese views it as a “way of bringing in a variety of speakers, which we couldn’t normally do.”

“*Grace Matters* gives us a glimpse of the bigger church” said Wiese, “Grace is important in the world.”

I’m a Listener!!!!

Do you listen to *Grace Matters* on a particular radio station?



If a regularly-scheduled broadcast does not air, please call your local radio station and let them know. It’s important to tell them you’re listening and you miss the program. And please let *Grace Matters* know the program did not air — just give us a call or send us an e-mail. Our only way of monitoring local broadcasts is to depend on listeners like you to let

us know when a program is missed, cut short or rescheduled. Recently more than 16 listeners let one major metropolitan radio station know a Sunday morning *Grace Matters* broadcast did not air. The station clearly recognized this high-class problem, and rescheduled the program.

Holy Week on *Grace Matters*

Palm Sunday, March 16 — Program host Peter W. Marty takes you from a street fair in Palm Springs, Calif., to the dusty road in Jerusalem where Jesus made his final and triumphant entry prior to his death. Along the way, he stops to contemplate the silence of Jesus and what Jesus was willing to absorb. Reconciliation becomes the focus of Jesus’ ministry in those final days, as he demonstrates that being in relationship is much more important than being right.

Easter Sunday, March 23 — In this special meditation Peter ponders the Easter story from the Gospel of Mark. He takes a candid look at the Christian life lived in light of the resurrection. Believing people must be on the move, open to new possibilities. They cannot park their faith in contentment with the past, or in coziness with the present. Living the Christian life well is all about trying to keep up with the risen Christ, who keeps showing up several steps ahead of us.

Ten Ways to Support *Grace Matters*

1. Pray for those who need to hear the message of grace.
2. Share your stories about how *Grace Matters* makes a difference in your life.
3. Call the general manager at your local radio station and tell him/her how much you enjoy, or would enjoy, hearing the *Grace Matters* program on their station.
4. Support the ministry with your financial gifts. Remember that contributions are 100 percent tax deductible.
5. Sponsor a local broadcast.
6. Invite your friends, families and neighbors to listen to the *Grace Matters* radio program.
7. Volunteer your time to promote *Grace Matters* in your congregation.
8. Download a podcast of the current broadcast or listen to past programs from the *Grace Matters* Web site.
9. Send us programming suggestions — we love hearing from you!
10. Give a gift CD subscription of *Grace Matters*.

For more information on supporting *Grace Matters* and to download programs go to: www.gracematters.org.



Faith That Soars

By the Rev. Peter W. Marty, host of *Grace Matters*

If you have ever been to a live butterfly pavilion, you know that the first thing you have to do is take your coat off; it's warm and moist in that greenhouse-like environment. Then you notice God's playful way with color. There is a whole kaleidoscope of color right in front of your eyes — citrus and white lady swallowtails, banded tigers from Central America, and chocolate pansies from Asia happily fly from nectar post to fruit tray and back again. It's lovely.

It is especially impressive when you stop to think about the radical transformation required before a butterfly can show off its colorful wings. There is that tough and nasty period inside the cocoon. The caterpillar must exist for a time as a gelatinous blob before it can burst forth from the sac and stretch its wings.

You can see why some people find the emergence of the butterfly symbolic of the resurrection. This may indeed seem analogous to our dying, but it really isn't. We have to die — with finality — in order to be resurrected, and a caterpillar doesn't exactly die. It metamorphoses. There is also the miracle of a crawling creature transforming into a beautiful aerial acrobat. But even then the joy is short-lived. Most butterflies have a life span of only about two weeks.

However imperfect the analogy between the new butterfly and the resurrection, we can still appreciate the colorful and carefree nature of this creature's existence, especially given the weightiness of our lives. Easter is a season for Christian people to unhitch their burdens and soar. It's a time to enjoy the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. It is a time to live with hope and purpose.

Grace Matters is committed to giving wings to your faith. We want nothing more than the weekly transformation of your life. Help us spread the color and liveliness of the Gospel to other people who are anxious to get their lives off the ground. Your gifts make a huge difference. Thank you for your heartfelt generosity to this radio ministry.



Gifts received through February 13, 2008

In Memory of:

Rev. Norman & Catherine Prestbye
Arletta & Roger Anderson

Eric W. and Mary Biedermann
Rev Eric A. & Carolyn Biedermann

Helen Linkert (sister-in-law)
Esther Dahlberg

Betty Deaver
Earl Deaver

Marge Eastvold (Susan Greeley's step-mother)
Robert & Georgia Eastvold
Miriam Woolbert
David & Dixie Miller

David Hanson

Ray Zawada
Hannah Circle, Zion Lutheran Church, Viroqua, Wis.

Clarence A. Kroening
James Jagow
Charles & Gail Dietz

Phyllis Lorenz
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Rev. Conrad Thompson
Mark & Marjore Thompson

August C. Weigand
August Weigand Family

Wayne Jensen
WELCA Spring Lake Lutheran Church, Spring Lake, Wis.

In Honor of:

Marie Ringhand's 100th Birthday
Ruth Anderson

Presenters at the 2007 Association of Lutheran ResourceCenters:
Bishop Mark Hanson
Beth Lewis
Paul Edison-Swift
Mim Woolbert
Ramona Hermanson
ELCA Region 3, St. Paul, MN

Dorothy Wodrow

Paul Gust, Jr.
Virginia Robertson

D JH Gardner
Christine & Brent Rogers

Bishop Julian Gordy
Rev. Darrell & Mary Golnitz

Berta Olson's 103rd birthday
Hannah Circle, Zoar Lutheran Church, Viroqua, WI.

Caroline Blain (Prayer Partner)
Frances Hartmann

92nd Birthday of Carolyn's Mother
Carolyn Heidemann & Karl Andersen

Christ's Birthday
Doris & George Kasdorf

