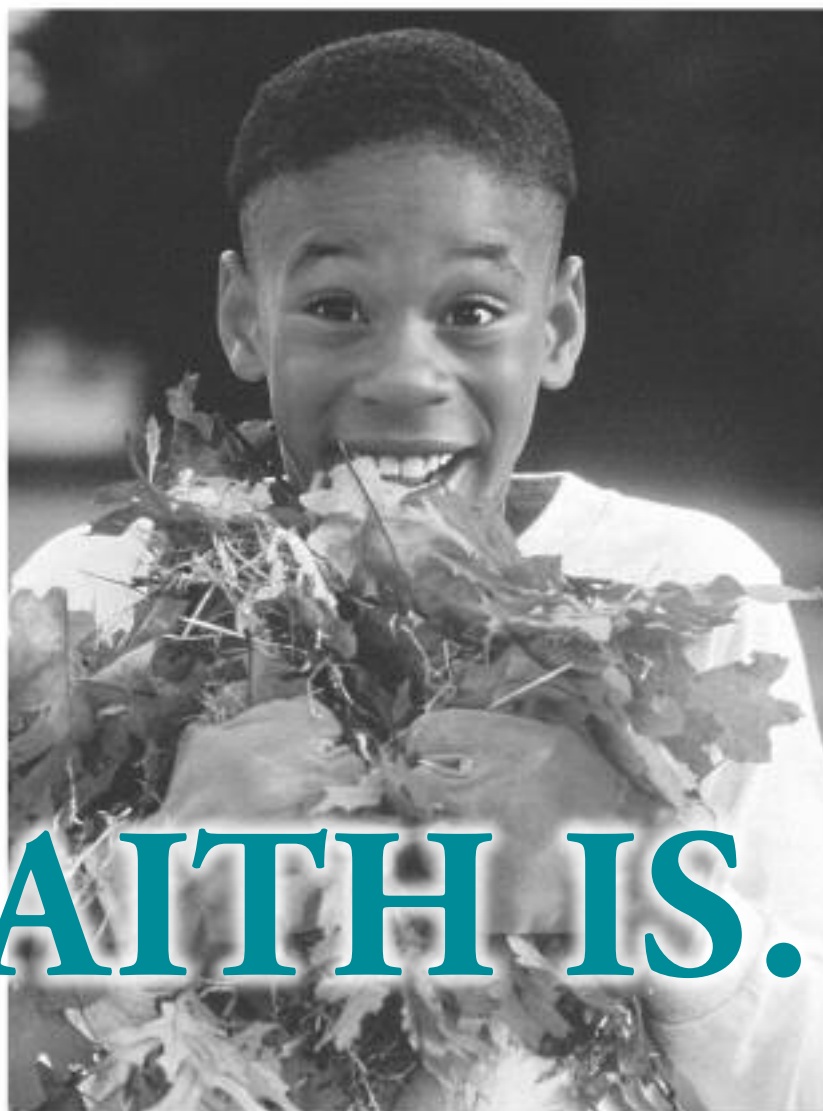


Grace Matters

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

Fall 2005



FAITH IS...

Your gifts help others faithfully walk in God's grace: see inside!

Living in God's amazing grace

 www.gracematters.org





The Rev. Peter W. Marty

Host of *Grace Matters*
www.gracematters.org

From the Host

Faith is... Openness to God's Grace

Dear Friend,

I was in a chocolate store in Florida some weeks ago, hunting down a chocolate truffle for that late afternoon bike ride energy I needed. Protein, you know. Two little boys at the other end of the counter had their hearts set on some chocolate-covered gummy bears, heaped on a tray beneath the glass. The clerk put a scoop of these rubbery things on the scale, only to find that the digital readout bore no resemblance to the change in the kids' hands. She removed half the pile with her latex glove. That wasn't enough. It was still

too expensive for the 50 cents between them. You can imagine the look of disappointment on the faces of these boys when she finally handed them their meager plastic bag. How were they supposed to know what a "price per pound" sign meant?

In a world where nearly everything is weighed, measured, or calculated, it's refreshing to discover that faith has nothing to do with any of these things. It is beyond all measurement. Either you have

it or you don't. When the disciples were trying to measure their faith one day—"Lord increase our faith"—Jesus just turned and told them they had better get acquainted with a tiny mustard seed and start comprehending its relationship to faith.

Faith is not a feeling that can be measured. It's openness to the extravagance of God's grace; it's a deep personal trust that God knows what God is doing. When Jesus says that God gives the Spirit away *without measure* (John 3:34), he means it. God doesn't dole out the Spirit in dribs and drabs. No, the grace of the Spirit flows and flows beyond all capacity to measure. Faith becomes our incalculable response to this divine generosity.

Peter's column continued on next page...

[Faith is] openness to the extravagance of God's grace; it's a deep personal trust that God knows what God is doing.

Peter's column continued from page 2...

The little boy on the cover of this newsletter reminds me of two lines from Robert Frost's poem, *Gathering Leaves*. As Frost describes the weightlessness of autumn leaves in a person's arms, he writes:

*But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.*

That poem, this boy, and your life will sooner or later cause you to realize that the most important things in life cannot be measured or explained.

I can't begin to measure or explain the impact of this program on peoples' lives. But if it helps create some fresh openness in you to the extravagance of God's grace, it's all worth it. Thank you for your faith in this *Grace Matters* radio ministry. We need your support. Our gratitude for every gift runs deep.

Enjoy the leaves flowing over your arms and into your face!

PETER

Faith is... Giving so others may hear

Your faith has made a difference in your life, and your faith can make a difference in the lives of thousands of others. You can continue to be a blessing to this ministry and help ensure that others will hear the message of hope and salvation by adding the following to your will or estate plan:

"I leave _____% to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, c/o Foundation of the ELCA, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631 for the *Grace Matters* Endowment Fund."

For assistance, or other creative ways to support *Grace Matters*, including a charitable gift annuity, please call the ELCA Foundation at (800) 638-3522 ext. 2970.

Thank you for your faith
in this *Grace Matters* radio
ministry. We need your
support.



Finding Faith In Our Everyday Lives!

if we take a solid look at the world around us, we are surrounded by the goodness of God's creation. The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, our family, friends and neighbors—all of them point us to the author of our faith. It is our prayer at *Grace Matters* to help others deepen their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and welcome the faith he offers to each one of us. The following words and thoughts are here for you to widen your understanding of faith and the richness it brings to our lives each day.

“Faith is saying ‘Amen’ to God.” —*Merv Rosell*

“The Christian faith offers PEACE in war,

COMFORT in sorrow, STRENGTH in weakness, LIGHT in darkness.” —*Walter Maier*

“Faith doesn't wait until it understands;
in that case it would not be faith.”

—*Vance Havner*

“Faith never knows exactly where it
is being led, but it trusts the one
who is leading.” —*Peter W. Marty*

“Faith in God will not get for
you everything you may want,
but it will get for you what
God wants you to have.”

—*Vance Havner*



Grace Matters
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of the Evangelical
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News To Use!

You can help build the faith of others

Bring *Grace Matters* to your community! We would like to send you a special brochure that will help you place the *Grace Matters* broadcast in your area. This step-by-step outline will guide you through the process and answer many questions you may have. Please give us a call if you would like a free copy of this brochure. We pray that many of our friends in ministry will help bring the blessing of *Grace Matters* to even more people in their community.

Share this faithful message with others! Does a friend or relative of yours live in an area where *Grace Matters* is not heard, or maybe the time the program airs is not a good time of day for them to listen? Perhaps *you* would like the convenience of listening to *Grace Matters* on CD. Order a CD subscription for yourself or as a gift for someone you love. You can also order a written transcript of each program. Call and subscribe today.

Did you know? A part of the ministry of *Grace Matters* is to send CDs to missionaries and chaplains serving around the world—even those in war zones. Your gifts bless the lives of these honorable people as they listen to God's Word through the messages of Peter Marty on *Grace Matters*. Thank you for giving them a special gift of encouragement.



Snapshots of Faith

We regularly receive letters and e-mails from listeners and friends like you, sharing the faith they have in God and the way God works through *Grace Matters*. We also hear from people who request copies of messages or resources we've featured. If you would like to share with us any message on your heart, please contact us using the information on the facing page.

“I listen faithfully every Sunday morning to *Grace Matters* program at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Peter, you are a very creative preacher and your messages are a real blessing to me. Thank you for sharing—you have blessed my heart and soul and I feel the spirit of the Lord is with me. I am very happy to be in contact with this ministry. I begin each day by taking time to pray for all of you at *Grace Matters* and also your families. Please remember to pray for me too.” —*GLADYS*

“Could you please send me a written transcript of the program that aired in June featuring a ministry with ex-prisoners? I have a friend whose son is an ex-convict and attempting to adapt to life on the outside. I thought the message would be pertinent and encouraging to my friend.” —*MARGARET*

“Enclosed is a gift to *Grace Matters* in memory of my dad. I miss him so much especially on Father's Day. Thank you for the comfort I receive from *Grace Matters* (and formerly *Lutheran Vespers*).” —*RUTH*



Brenda Engelby

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From the Editor

Faith is... Active

f aith.

I recently learned this definition of faith: *It is not an idle, inactive grace, but shows itself by producing in us love to God and our neighbor.* How cool is that!

I immediately thought of my Grandma Babo—that wasn't her real name, but that's what we called her. A tiny woman with a glorious wreath of pure white hair is how I remember her. She always had lemon drops in her dresser drawer, she braided my hair ever so gently, and she had an oil cloth on her table. She loved flowers too, especially Lily of the Valley and Lilacs.

My mother was one of her eight children raised during the Great Depression. It was an awful time. The cow died because there was no food to give her, my mother's baby brother died in the flu epidemic, supper was often potatoes followed by more potatoes, and each year only one of the eight kids could go to the church picnic because the entry fee was a nickel.

But, there never was a time when a tramp (as they were called then) or a beggar was turned away from the kitchen door—even if all grandma had was potatoes or bread, the tramps, those hungry, unemployed folks of the depression, never left without something. I was told that grandma would heap a plate as full as she could, and carry it to them with a smile. As she scraped the butter paper clean and peeled see-through skin off those potatoes, my grandma prayed fully trusting that God would take care of her children.

Grandma had to go to work. She spent the early part of every day at the bakery baking bread and pie, and then she "took in wash," to try and make ends meet. Yet my mother and her siblings never heard a sigh, a sob, or a complaint—grandma's thoughts were for her neighbor who was ill, and for the neighbor who didn't go to church.

I have my grandmother's Bible. It's so worn I hardly dare turn the pages, but in that precious and holy book is my name written in her hand. The names of all her children and grandchildren are there. Hers was not an idle faith. Her example taught those eight children about God and about loving your neighbor.

God, give me a faith like that of Grandma Babo.

**God, give me a faith like
that of Grandma Babo.**

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering was held in San Antonio, Texas, July 5–10, 2005. *Grace Matters* hosted an Ice Cream Social for 450 women who all had the opportunity to meet host Peter Marty, learn about *Grace Matters*, and meet each other as they enjoyed their ice cream.



Above: Host Peter Marty enjoying the opportunity to share time with the group.



At left: Ellen Gifford and Marlene Doran of United Lutheran in Bella Vista, Arkansas, with Peter Marty.

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 June 10, 2005)

- Esther Brenden**
Dr. & Mrs. John Erickson
- Anna Manger**
Ralph Larson & Arlene Feistner
- David Brandt**
- Martin Eitzmann**
Rev. & Mrs. Myron Grams
- Millie Connick**
Rev. David & Jeanne Hoyme
- Leonard Hackbarth**
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Maland
- Bill Albrecht**
Rev. Harris & Luetta Hostager
- Morris Kalmoe**
Mr. & Mrs. George Kalmoe
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Dehn
Hazel Kalmoe

- Rev. Leland Jackson**
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Maland
- Margaret Jerdee**
Arvid & Adeline Myhrwold
- Orin Lerdal**
Joe & Phyllis Skinner
- Don Loundsbery**
Rev. Leroy Stadem
- Mike Gremmert**
Marilyn Swanson
- Rev. Conrad Thompson**
Mark and Marjore Thompson
- Our Parents**
Lyle & Alice Verhulst
- Stanley Hendrickson**
Rev. & Mrs. Harold Vold

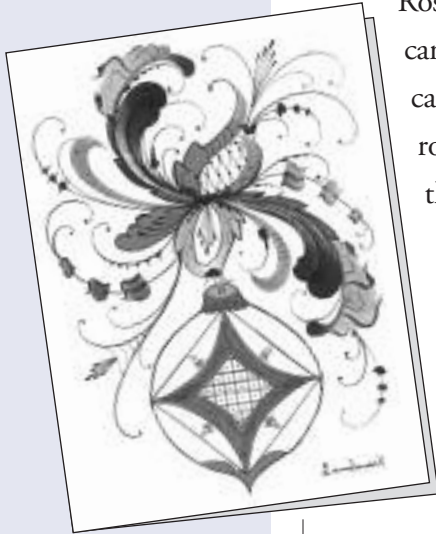
IN HONOR OF:

- 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 June 10, 2005)
- 40th Wedding Anniversary of Cal & Carol Romsos**
 - 50th Wedding Anniversary of Howard & Lucille Ness**
Ruth Anderson
 - Pastor Peter W. Marty**
Tad & Mary Doering
 - 90th Birthday of Bertha Larson**
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fuhrer
 - Gavin James Lepore**
(birth of 4th great-grandchild)
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Moenke
 - 65th Birthday of Marilyn Swanson**
Marilyn Swanson
 - Pastor Carlson's Retirement**
Mary VanHaute

Christmas Is Coming!

and we have something special to offer to you as a supporter of *Grace Matters*. The gifted artist, Don Landsvik, has graciously shared his beautiful Rosemaling with us again—this time in the form of unique Christmas cards. Five intricately painted designs will allow you to choose just the right card for each person on your list. Inside each card is a scripture verse and room for your personal greetings. Each of these cards could be framed—the art work is so compelling.

When you request these cards, please send a gift of support for the ministry of *Grace Matters*. Many people will be blessed when they hear the Christmas story as told by Pastor Peter Marty, and you can help make that possible. **It's not too early to get your Christmas cards!** We encourage you to order your cards (five in a package) now, when you send in your supporting gift.



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

KDIA 1640AM
10:00 a.m. Sunday
San Francisco, CA

WTTB 1490AM
8:00 a.m. Sunday
Vero Beach, FL

KCOG 1400AM
7:45 a.m. Sunday
Centerville, IA

WSVG 790AM
10:00 a.m. Sunday
Mount Jackson, VA

WELY 94.5FM & 1450AM
6:00 p.m. Sunday
Ely, MN

WFBG 1290AM
11:00 a.m. Sunday
Altoona, PA

WVAM 1430AM
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Altoona, PA

Coming Up On *Grace Matters*

inner-city African-American young men are among societies most forgotten. Youth director Leslie Hunter of Holy Family Lutheran Church in the Cabrini Green area of Chicago is reaching these boys right where they are—through the unique gift of rap. Be sure to listen on September 4th as Hunter shares his own story, and his mission and ministry with us.

It has been four years since 9/11. How goes it with the people who lost loved ones, or witnessed the falling of the towers? Listen on September 11 as we hear the “after” stories and how God has worked in the lives of survivors of this tragedy; and listen on September 18 as Steve Siler, award-winning composer, tells us how dramatically his life changed following a tragic event. Learn why Steve left Hollywood to begin *Music for the Soul*. Steve now writes “issues-oriented” music that “aids in recovery and healing, and brings hope to people in their most hopeless places.”

Also coming up on *Grace Matters*, the story behind the book, *Blindsided by Grace*. Bob Molsberry, pastor, husband, father, and tri-athlete was struck by a hit-and-run driver while he was riding his bike. Now several years later Bob talks about “accepting our limitations and finding the gift in our limitations.”

Please call us or visit our website, www.gracematters.org, for updated Titles, Texts, Topics, and other listings!