



*Pastor Harlan Heier, Shirley Heier, Pastor Keith Pearson and Ruth Pearson*

## Thank you!

Pastor Harlan and Shirley Heier and Pastor Keith and Ruth Pearson are listeners/donors to *Grace Matters*. This radio ministry is only one thing the Pearsons and the Heiers have in common. They are also members of "The Amazing Grays," a group of retired pastors and spouses in the Nebraska Synod who meet monthly for support and fellowship.



*Susan Greeley visits with Betty Peterson and Vivian Ingraham during the April WELCA spring salad luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Omaha.*

## Thank you!

Many local Women of the ELCA groups have been longtime supporters of this radio ministry. More than 230 Women of the ELCA groups sent offerings to *Grace Matters* in 2007. Will you help us increase that number? Please suggest this ministry to your own Women of the ELCA members.

## Where there's a will...

"People don't really think of the radio ministry when they're preparing their will. They think of camps or colleges or seminaries, but not radio."

- ELCA gift planner

This is one of the challenges we face as we work to strengthen the financial support of this ministry. Radio outreach is not a "brick and mortar" project, a tangible entity that a donor can see or touch. Radio does touch and change lives in deep and profound ways, but this usually happens in private.

How do we know that? You tell us. In your e-mails, letters, phone calls and personal meetings you share what an important part *Grace Matters* plays in your faith life. For every story that you tell us of inspiration or courage or renewed faith, we know there are many more known only to God.

## ...there's a way

Over the years *Grace Matters* has been blessed by generous saints who have remembered this ministry as part of their estate plan. We don't have large numbers of gifts that come in from wills and bequests, but the funds we do receive help spread the gospel to thousands of people each week.

Will you be one of those people who leave a legacy of proclaiming the gospel? Please consider naming *Grace Matters* in your will or estate plan. A simple sentence may be all you need: "I leave (% amount) to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, c/o the ELCA Foundation, located at 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, Ill. 60631, for *Grace Matters*." (The example and information provided is for illustrative and educational purposes only and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax or legal advisor about proceeding with your estate plan.)

The ELCA foundation staff will be happy to answer any questions you have about legacy planning. Please contact Susan Greeley for more information at 800/638-3522, ext. 2954.



## So Many Distractions

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

While attending a conference on Florida's West Coast recently, I noticed that the announcements on virtually every hotel and restaurant marquis were the same. The hotels did not advertise "vacancy" or "no vacancy." The restaurants did not tout "grilled salmon or broiled grouper specials." They all read: *Lights out for turtles*.

This is nesting time on the beaches for loggerhead sea turtles. Between May and September the females have used their flippers to excavate a cavity in a dry part of the beach. Once depositing up to 125 eggs each, they cover them with sand and head back out to sea. Sea turtle hatchlings tend to emerge from the nest at night. They orient themselves toward the brightest horizon—usually the moon reflecting on the waves. Lights from nearby buildings, porches and streets can disorient the hatchlings and they may wander inland where they often die of exposure. If they stray away from the water, many hatchlings may be killed by predators like birds and crabs. Hence the plea: *Lights out for turtles*.

Every species has its distractions. For loggerhead sea turtles it's the wrong kind of light, but for humans, there's a host of forces that compete for our attention. There are persistent voices telling us to shop and there are noisy voices telling us

we don't need God. Envy and jealousy often pull us off course. So does business.

*Grace Matters* exists in this world to help you retain spiritual focus in your life. My aim in every program is to help people just like you gain and keep "a center" to life—specifically, a gospel center. That's why I talk with so many guests about what it is that helps them keep their eye on the grace of God.

All of this programming happens because of your gifts. Please be generous in your support of *Grace Matters*. I know there are scores of good causes for which you must pledge your dollars. But if *Grace Matters* gives special focus to your spiritual life, consider a thoughtful gift today. We need your support.



## Gifts received through May 15, 2008

### In Memory of:

**Orville Hoveland**  
**Kenneth McDonald**  
**Violet Thorsbakken**  
**Helen Larson**  
**Cal Romsos**  
**Richard Degerman**  
 Ruth C. Anderson  
**John Heckert**  
 Bud & Bonnie Fox  
**Genevieve Kienow**  
 Gloria I. Fuhrer  
**Ed Thomas**  
 Rev. Myron & Florence Grams  
**Lois Eidsness**  
 Rev. Leslie & Wanda Hernes

**Clarence Kroening**  
 Arnold & Mae Behrens  
 Paula Behrens  
 Nancy Lange  
 Paul & Valerie Jost  
 Phyllis Kroening family and friends  
**Ben Moerke**  
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**Bea Nordling**  
**Lydia Peterson**  
 Leland Pederson  
**Paul Gust Jr. & Dee Gust**  
 Virginia Robertson  
**John O. Scheperle**  
 Marie Scheperle

**Jeanette Wulf**  
 Rev. LeRoy and Elisabeth Stadem  
**Rev. Conrad Thompson**  
 Mark & Marjore Thompson  
**Lyle Greeley**  
 Carl & Helen Olson

### In Honor of:

**Laura Lindenbaum's 100th Birthday**  
 Rev. Robert & Carla Hannemann  
**Dr. Jim & Allie Lu Dunberg for their long & faithful service to the Fairfield Community**  
**Our 65th Wedding Anniversary**  
 Donald & Doris Johnson  
**Viola Nord's 95th Birthday**  
 Ronald & Arleen Martin  
**Our birthdays!**  
 Gary and Jeanne Setterlund

