



Spirit 
of  Grace
Lutheran Church

Bringing the Spirit of Grace to all People

February 2012



I, Jesus,
have sent my
angel to give
you this testi-
mony for the
churches.

I am the
Root and the
offspring of
David, and the
bright Morning
Star.

(Rev 22:16)

Photo of the Milky Way
courtesy of Dan Jacob

Worship Schedule

Saturdays, 5:00 pm and Sundays, 9:00 am

All are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors.

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church

15820 W. Clearview Blvd.
Surprise, AZ 85374
In the heart of Sun City Grand

Phone: 623/977-6000
Fax: 623/544-3550
Web site: www.spiritofgrace.com

Mission Statement

“Bringing the Spirit of Grace to all people”

Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 9:00 am

Education Hour

Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am

Office Hours

8:30 to 4:00 Mon—Thurs

8:30—12:00 Fri

Staff

Rev. Steven Haggmark, Interim

Susan Ramsay, Pastoral Asst.

Linda Stratman

Director of Parish Life
linda@spiritofgrace.com

Gerry White

Director of Finance & Admin.
jerry@spiritofgrace.com

Gil Korito, Bookkeeper

gkorito@spiritofgrace.com

Sheila Marlow

Secretary/Receptionist
sheila@spiritofgrace.com

Fred Bornhoeft

Director of Music

Accompanists

Elaine Indahl

Georgette Harper

Fred Schreiber/John Sanchez

Facilities Managers

Prayer Requests



Would you like us to pray for you?

The Prayer Chain Ministry is a very special ministry at Spirit of Grace. There's a praise song called "Great Things Happen When God Mixes With Man." Intercessory Prayer is a way of adding a holy ingredient into our lives that can make a noticeable and sometimes miraculous difference for others who are facing difficult times. We hope you will consider a call to this ministry.

If you would like to become a member of the Prayer Chain or if you want the members of the Prayer Chain to pray for you or a loved one, please call the Church office at 977-6000 or use one of the pink forms at the Office Window or send an e-mail to prayer@spiritofgrace.com.

New Members Class



If you are new to Spirit of Grace, we invite you to attend a Welcome Session with Pastoral Assistant Susan Ramsay and Director of Parish Life Linda Stratman. You will meet new friends, learn more about the mission and vision of Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, and discover the various opportunities to serve. All are invited to attend.

Call the church office at 977-6000 for more information or to indicate your interest in membership at Spirit of Grace. Our next Welcome Session is Thursday, February 12th, at 10:00 am.

Just when you think you are
winning the rat race --
along come faster rats.

—Submitted by Brenda Parker

Thank You from Pr. Gary & Kazuko

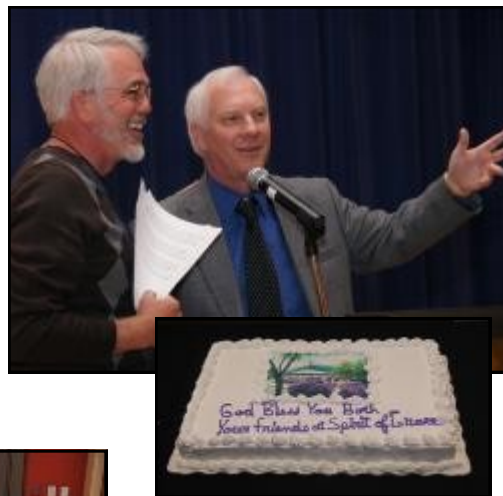


Kazuko and I can't thank you enough for the marvelous retirement party you gave us! It is something we will always remember. From beginning to end, we were overcome by your expressions of love and gratitude. The wonderful words that were spoken (well . . . perhaps except . . . the ones about my puns!) were very touching. The very thoughtful gifts you shared will always be treasured. The memory book was especially meaningful - Kazuko and I read every letter the next day - several of them brought tears to our eyes. What wonderful memories we will have forever! Your most generous financial gifts were

overwhelming to us!

We feel so amazingly blessed! We want you to know how much we love you and how grateful I am for your allowing me to end my ordained ministry in such a positive, uplifting way. Know that you and Spirit of Grace will be in our hearts and in our prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Gary & Kazuko





Upcoming
Fellowship
Events

Moveable Feast

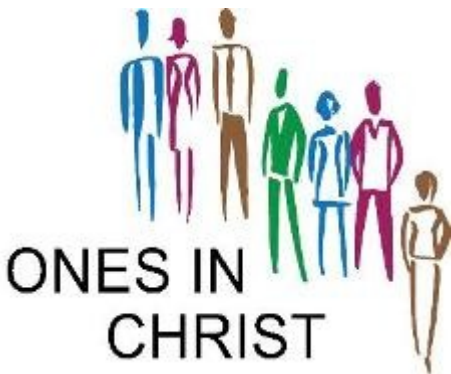


the art of the party

"A MOVEABLE FEAST" - Our progressive dinner last winter proved to be so much fun we're repeating it again this year! The last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, February 12th. The tickets are \$6 per person and will be limited to 176 guests.

At 5:00 pm on Sunday, February 26th, you will begin this fun evening with appetizers in a SOG member's home. At 6:30, everyone will convene for the main course in the Fellowship Hall. Then at 7:30, you will go to a

When you buy your ticket, you will be asked if you want to be a host home for either appetizers or dessert. If you do not want to be a host home, you will be asked whether you will bring an appetizer or a dessert. If you are a host home, you provide the beverages, plates, napkins, silverware as needed. The guests bring the appetizers and desserts. Everyone does a little, and we all have a great time!



Dinner at the "5 and Diner Delux on Bell Road at Avenue of the Arts, **Monday, February 20th** at 5:30pm . Sign-up sheets are in *Café Grace* or call Darlene Boday at 544-2584 or Nancy Rock at 556-4598 to put your name on the list.



January 2012

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council met on January 26, 2012.

The financial report showed that we ended the calendar year in a good financial position. All bills are paid and current.

President Ray Poole reported that the Rev. Steven Haggmark has agreed to serve as a part-time interim pastor during the vacancy created by Pastor Gary's retirement. The details were agreed upon and the necessary documents were signed and delivered to the Synod office. Pastor Haggmark will be introduced to the congregation at services the weekend of February 12/13 and will officially begin his duties on February 15. We look forward to his time with us.

Susan Ramsay presented her Pastoral Assistant Report that highlighted the work of the Outreach Ministry and the administrative duties that she performed in preparation for the time of vacancy.

Steve Coffman reported that plans for the 2012 Golf Tournament are progressing well. He also received one bid that he received for lighting improvements in the sanctuary. Additional bids will be obtained before any decision is made.

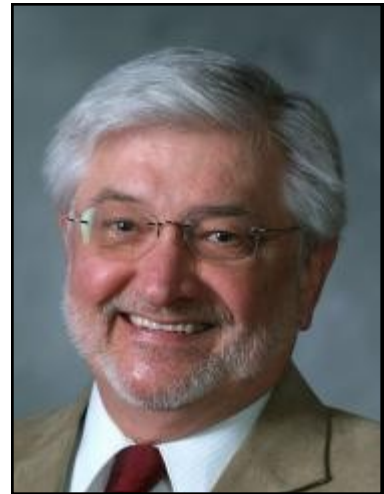
The next Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Cindy Mooney
Secretary

REV. STEVEN A. HAGGMARK

Our interim pastor at Spirit of Grace for the next several months of transition will be Rev. Steven A. Haggmark. Pr. Haggmark expresses his great appreciation for the trust placed in him and his ministry by the Parish Council and the members at Spirit of Grace, and he looks forward to serving the Lord with us.

Steven Haggmark is a native of Kingsburg, California and received his undergraduate education at California State University San Francisco, majoring in Philosophy and Comparative Religion. He married Nancy Johnson, his wife of 37 years, in 1974.



In 1974, Pr. Steve became the Principal of the American Lutheran Elementary School in Burbank, California. This experience opened him to the Call to ordained ministry. In 1977, he and Nancy moved to St. Paul, Minnesota where he pursued the Master of Divinity degree and ordination at Luther Seminary.

From 1980 to 1988 Pr. Steve was Associate Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Rosemount, Minnesota. This call was followed by a return to Luther Seminary to pursue a PhD in Systematic Theology, which he received in 1992. During the writing of his dissertation, Pr. Steve was interim pastor for two congregations in Minnesota; Spring Lake Lutheran in North Branch and St. Stephen Lutheran in West St. Paul.

Upon receiving his PhD, Pr. Steve and Nancy received calls in 1993 from the ELCA-Global Missions to teach in Southeast Asia. Most of their time was spent at Satya Wacana Christian University in Salatiga, Indonesia on the island of Java. They also were instructors in continuing education for pastors in India, Malaysia, and Singapore. Their task was completed in 2001, and they returned to Minnesota.

In 2001, Pastor Steve became Visiting Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College in S. Peter, Minnesota as well as adjunct professor at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. From 2007 to 2010, he was Associate Professor of Missions, Islamic Studies, and World Religions at Luther Seminary. He moved to the Phoenix area in late 2010, where Nancy works for the medical school of the University of Arizona, to pursue his dream of serving again in a congregation of the ELCA.

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REV. STEVEN A. HAGGMARK—Continued from page 6

Pastor Steve has written, "Over the past few years, while teaching at a Lutheran college and at Luther Seminary, I have sought to keep alive and productive my involvement in parish life with the hope that I might return to congregational ministry. I have learned that while God's love for me is certain and complete, the role of pastor is not about me, but rather I am a part of God's unfolding desire to reconcile all creation for eternal life and peace in the blood of the cross (Col. 1:19-20). We are all called to make known this mystery, once hidden, but now revealed in Christ (Col. 1:25-29). My ministry knows no greater joy than when people take hold of this ministry and run with it. I pray that I might work with God's children at Spirit of Grace to make this happen as you prepare for a new pastor."

Pr. Steve will be with us 25 hours per week and will be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays during this interim period.



From the
**COUNCIL
PRESIDENT**

The year 2012 brings new challenges for the church council, namely Pastor Gary's retirement. The Congregation Council has interviewed the interim pastor appointed by the Bishop. We have also contacted seven references provided by the interim pastor candidate. The Congregation Council has endorsed the appointment of Rev. Steven A. Haggmark. Pastor Steve will be introduced at church services on

Saturday and Sunday February 11th and 12th and he will have the opportunity to meet our congregation at the Super Saturday Supper on Saturday and Café Grace on Sunday. Pastor Steve will work part-time at 25 hours weekly. He is scheduled to start work the week of February 13th and be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Pr. Steve he will be assisted by Susan Ramsay, Pastoral Assistant, Bruce Belanger, a member and Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) for the ELCA, Kerri Sandusky, a Master of Divinity graduate, and Fred

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—Continued from page 7

Ramsay, member and ordained minister. All will be available to assist in spiritual needs and caring for our congregation during the call process.

The Call Committee has completed the Ministry Site Profile (the Profile) and turned the Congregation Council has reviewed, approved and sent it back to the Call Committee chairperson to send to the Synod Office. This is PHASE 1.

Once the Synod office receives the Profile, the Synod Mobility Team evaluates congregational openings and reviews potential candidates. Any Spirit of Grace congregational member who may know a potential candidate should contact that individual and request that if he or she is interested, he or she should have the mobility papers forwarded from their synod office to the Grand Canyon Synod Office. The Bishop then contacts potential candidates and forwards the Profile for their review. The Bishop presents names of candidates to the Call Committee. This is PHASE 2.

If any congregation member has a question or concern about the transition, please speak to one of the council members. The Council is doing everything possible to make the transition a smooth process. We will communicate with you through Temple Talks and updates in *Grace Notes*.

Blessings,

Ray Poole

Council President



Food Ingathering

Your generous support of those less fortunate in our community is most appreciated.

Bring your non-perishable food items on the first Saturday and Sunday of every month to the worship service.

This month: **Saturday & Sunday, February 4th & 5th**



NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee has completed, and the Congregation Council has approved, the Mission Site Profile (MSP) that is an essential part of the process to find a new Pastor. The MSP is a summary of who we are, where we are, what we believe in, what our vision is, and what experience and gifts we feel are essential in a new Pastor to lead us forward. This profile will be submitted to our Grand Canyon Synod office approximately February 6th. It will then be released for publication within the ELCA nationally. Interested candidates will then need to complete a personal profile, which is forwarded to their Synod office, wherever that may be, and then to the Grand Canyon Synod office. Our Bishop will review these submittals and forward the information on qualified candidates to our Call Committee. Candidates will be screened and interviewed by our Call Committee.

The Congregation of Spirit of Grace is welcome to assist in this process by contacting potential candidates they feel are qualified, and if that person is indeed interested, he or she should contact the Call Committee. However, the candidate will still have to submit a personal profile, which needs to be routed to our Bishop in the Grand Canyon Synod office. The Call Committee will be running an ad of its own in *The Lutheran* magazine, and any respondents will also be routed through the Synod office.

It is difficult to estimate the time it will take to actually find and install our new pastor. But this is a process that best fits patient and thorough investigation. And your patience and prayers of support are essential.

A Temple Talk to introduce the Call Committee, and provide an update on our progress, will be held at the services on Saturday February 4th and 5th.

Dave Sitzman



WOMEN OF SPIRIT OF GRACE

First of all - Our thanks to Pastor Gary and Kazuko Hess for all they have done for the Women of SOG. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement!

February:

We continue with our Bible study of the Gospel of Mark. Session number six is called "**Tough Questions.**" The exchanges of questions we find in chapter 10 of Mark's gospel have a contemporary feel. They represent the kind of questions we ask--and Jesus asks of us--today.



Theme verse for February 2012:

"Take heart, get up, he is calling you"

Mark 10:49

Join us for bible study and lively discussions. The February circle schedule is listed below; choose a time and day that suits you best. You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to join a circle; **ALL** women are welcome!

Circle News:

Miriam circle decided that they would like to join with another circle. Their choice fell on Esther circle and both circles have agreed that they would merge. Their joint first meeting will be of **February 21**. All Esther and Miriam circle members and visitors please note that this is a later than usual circle meeting date.

February 2 – Spring General Meeting:

We hope to see many of you on February 2 at the Spring General meeting. You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to come to the Spring General meeting. **All** women are welcome; friends, neighbors, and visitors. In case you want to come and you have not bought your ticket yet, there will be some tickets for sale at the door.

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WOMEN OF SPIRIT OF GRACE—Continued from pg. 6

The meeting will be in the form of a baby/toddler shower, where we bring a simple, unwrapped gift for the Phoenix *Crisis Nursery*.

Where: Church's Fellowship Hall

Time: 11:00 am – 1:45 pm

Catered Lunch: \$7 per person



Support Box Tops for Education

The Women of SOG still collect General Mills box tops, which are now being used for the benefit of Nadaburg school in Wittman. Recently, we have not been doing a good job in collecting box tops, so we urgently ask you to participate in this important ministry. Please clip the box tops and deposit them in the box provided for donations in the Fellowship Hall.

Our display in Café Grace shows only a small sample of participating products. Please help us to help the children of Nadaburg school and choose products which participate in the Box Top program.

—**Harriet Washington**
for Martha Circle

Cactus Conference:

This year this annual conference of the local WELCA clusters is particularly important for us,



Date: March 10, 2012

Place: Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church
11025 N 111th Av., Sun City, AZ.

Theme: Visioning Our Faith Journey

Registration: 8:30 am





Program: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cost: \$8 per person, which includes lunch and materials

Flyers with more detailed information will be available shortly at church. For more information please contact Jerry Philip at (623) 271-8055.

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Upcoming Events:

-  **February 2: Spring General Meeting**
-  **February 13-14: Women's Retreat**
-  **February 20: Board Meeting**
-  **March 10: Cactus Conference**

Circle Meeting Dates and Places - February 2012

- Martha** **Monday, February 6 at 9:30 am**
Harriet Washington, Bible study leader
Mavis Campbell, Hostess
16025 W. La Paloma Drive, Surprise
- Mary** **Monday, February 6 at 2:00 pm**
Joanie Hallin and Muriel White ,Bible study leaders
Cheryl Nagler, Hostess
20936 N. Vista Trail, Surprise
- Esther/
Miriam** **Tuesday, February 21(!) at 9:00 am**
May Bonneau, Bible study leader
Meets at church
- Elizabeth** **Wednesday, February 8 at 1:00 am**
Carol Junge, Bible study leader
Meets at church
- Deborah** **Thursday, February 9 at 8:30 am**
Janet Steinwand, Bible study leader
Donna Miller, Hostess
15630 W Cypress Point Drive, Surprise

Join in the study of the Gospel of Mark. The session for February 2012 is called "Tough Questions."

You do not be a member of Spirit of Grace to come to circle meetings; ALL women are welcome.



**Stewardship
Weekend
February 25 & 26**

On the last weekend of this month we will have our annual stewardship campaign. Before you enter the sanctuary, please stop by the tables in the narthex and pick up your pledge card. A sample pledge card is included with this edition of the Grace Notes on the next page so you can come prayerfully prepared to fill out your pledge card and bring it forward during the worship service.

Notice that if you are single you may indicate the areas of ministry you wish to volunteer for by using "X." If you are married "H" indicates husband, and "W" indicates wife.

The financial pledge is an annual pledge, so the amount you write down should indicate your total annual intended contribution. Please be as generous as possible. We especially need your generous support during the transition period because there will be additional transition expenses. Your commitment to Christ and the ministries of Spirit of Grace is greatly appreciated!



RETIREMENT PARTY

This was an endeavor that took a while to complete but has suddenly come and gone. To all of you who helped make this a success, we say thank you. You planned activities, you provided music and song, you sold tickets, you wrote tributes, you decorated tables, you participated in the program, you attended the celebration, and you helped in so many other important ways. There are too many to name individually, but the event would not have been a success without you.

God bless our Spirit of Grace family.

Phil Nelson and ***Helen Kain***

SAMPLE ONLY

2012 Time and Talent—Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church

PRINT Name _____

Phone: _____ PRINT Email: _____

If not a full-time Arizona resident, what months are you here? _____

There are many different ways to serve our Lord at Spirit of Grace. We invite you to check your areas of interest using H for Husband and W for Wife. If you are currently volunteering in a particular ministry, please check it again this year so we know that you are willing to continue.

- ____ Altar Guild
- ____ Banners/Visuals
- ____ Choir _____ Hand Chimes
- ____ Sound/Lighting: Sat _____ Sun _____
- ____ Usher/Greeter: Sat _____ Sun _____
- ____ Welcome Center: Sat _____ Sun _____

- Nurses:
- ____ CPR/AED
 - ____ Blood Pressures
 - ____ Substitute Secretary
 - ____ Printing Bulletins
 - ____ Bulletin Assembly

- ____ Scripture Reader: Sat _____ Sun _____
- ____ Café Grace Servers
- Funeral Support:
 - ____ Help in Kitchen
 - ____ Bring Food
- ____ Keenager Luncheon Help
- ____ Prayer Chain Team
- ____ Fellowship Event Team
- ____ Food Bank Delivery
- ____ Card Ministry
- ____ Library Helper
- ____ Gifts of Hope Team Member
- ____ Health Ministry Team
- ____ Outreach Worship Ministry Team

- Caring Corps:
- ____ Transportation
 - ____ Prepare Meals
 - ____ Light Housework
 - ____ Handyman Chores
 - ____ Respite Care for the Caregiver
- Building Maintenance:
- ____ Carpentry
 - ____ Electrical
 - ____ Plumbing
 - ____ Vacuum
 - ____ Clean Windows
 - ____ Clean Restrooms
 - ____ Set up Tables/Chairs
 - ____ Painting

I Am So Blessed by You, Lord—I Want to Support Your Church

My/Our annual contribution to the Ministry and Benevolence Budget will total \$ _____ this year.

Giving period – May 1, 2012– April 30, 2013

My/Our annual contribution to the Building Debt will total \$ _____ this year.

Signature/s

PRINTED Name/s



January was a month of significant changes for the **Outreach Worship Ministry**. The number of volunteers participating in this ministry more than doubled. On January 7, 17 individuals attended and completed a four-hour training session, and they were all commissioned at the Sunday worship service on January 22. A number of them are already conducting and assisting with the retirement facilities' worship services and all of them will be involved by the end of this month. Those joining the ranks of the **Outreach Worship Ministry** are: Jean Ayers, Bruce and Marilyn Belanger, Peggy Bosse, Karl and Barb Boldt, Hershel and Marilyn Clauder, Lois deLis, Chuck and Jan Kinney, Cheryl Morgavan, Phil and Ellen Nelson, Brenda Parker, Barb Stenberg, and Lou Strong.

This increase in the number of volunteers has come just in time because God has seen fit to expand this ministry once again. In early January, the ministry core team met with the management of The Madison Retirement Facility in Sun City West on Spanish Garden Drive to discuss providing worship services there. The Madison is an independent living facility and a sister facility to Vista de la Montana which we are already serving. It has not had on-site worship services for a couple of years.

The first worship service at the Madison will take place on Sunday, February 5 at 11:15 am. The addition of The Madison brings to three the number of facilities being provided worship opportunities by the Spirit of Grace Outreach Worship Ministry teams. The other two are Vista de la Montana on Parkview Place and The Woodmark in Sun City.

If you would like more information about the **Outreach Worship Ministry**, contact one of the team members. They are easy to spot at Spirit of Grace worship services. They are the ones wearing the wooden cross pendants.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, NRSV)

--Bernie Ryan



Wednesday
Bible Studies

"Miracles of Jesus"
concludes
Wednesday, February 8
10:00 am
Lead by Susan Ramsay



Ash
Wednesday
Service
February 22

7:00 pm
using the
Holden
Evening
Prayer

**NEW BIBLE
STUDY!!!**



NEW TOPIC—

"The Last Days of Jesus"

NEW TIME—7:00 PM

NEW LEADER—Keri Sandusky

**BEGINS—February 15 through
March 28**

Why not make this bible study a practice for Lent this year? Lent isn't always for "giving up." Instead, decide to learn something new during Lent.

NOTES FROM OUR LIBRARY FOR FEBRUARY

If you are one of the people who has not yet read Dan Olson's, *African Sand in My Sandals*, this is your chance. The library has two copies available for checkout.

Many of you know the Wickre sisters of our congregation. We have their book entitled *Eight Maids A' Milking*, written by the eight Wickre sisters, which is the story of their early lives on the farm. You will enjoy their heart-warming story.



February Library Schedule

2/5/12 - Joy Mitchell
2/12/12 - Margaret Yurecko
2/19/12 -
2/26/12 - John & Tina Outly

—LindaLu Miller



This Issue Photo Credits:

Cover: Dan Jacob

Retirement Party: Ed Kain

THANKS!