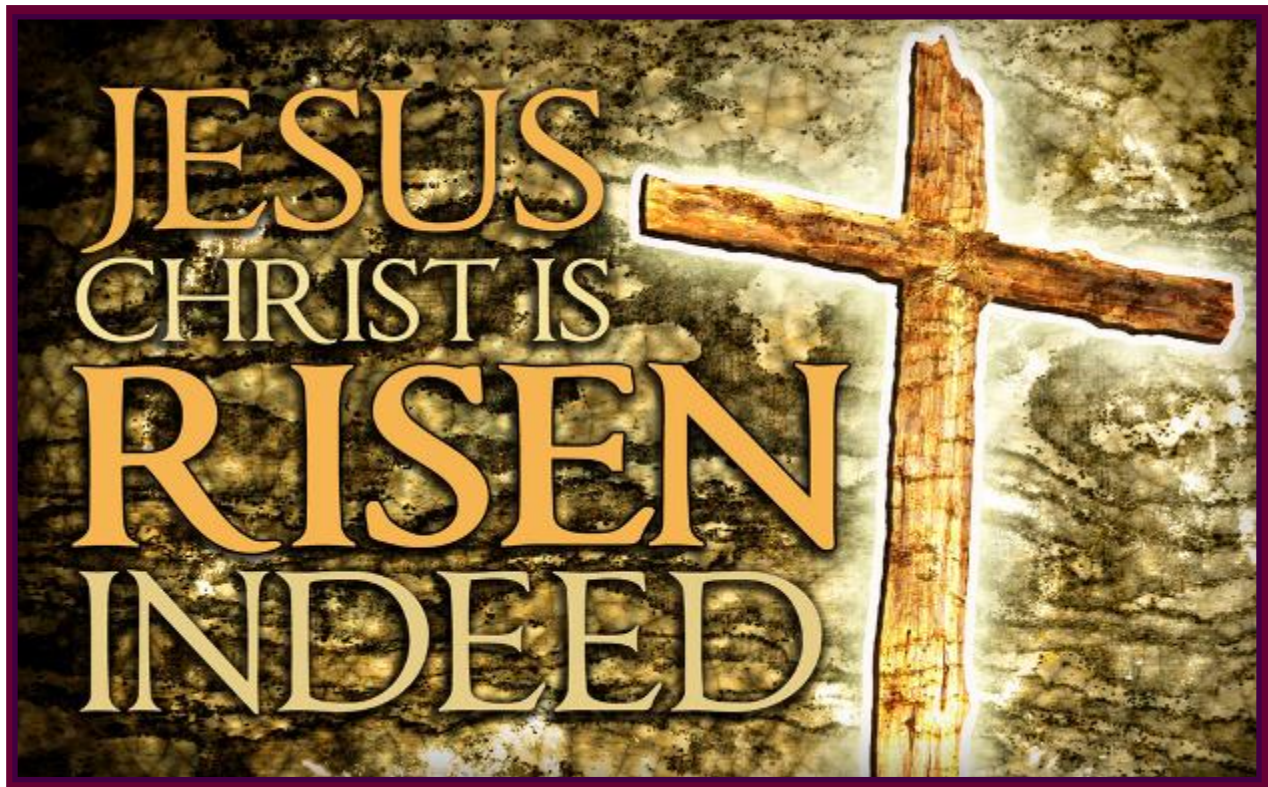




## ***GRACE NOTES ~ APRIL 2024***



### **Worship Schedule**

**Saturday, 5:00 pm & \*\*Sunday, 9:30 am\*\***

### **Mission Statement**

*Proclaiming God's Love, God's Promises, and the Abundant Life*



Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SpiritOfGraceSCG/](http://www.facebook.com/SpiritOfGraceSCG/)

**Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church**

15820 W Clearview Blvd

623-977-6000

*In the  of The Grand*

[www.spiritofgrace.com](http://www.spiritofgrace.com)

**Worship Times**

**Saturday 5:00**

**Sunday 8:00 & 10:00**

**Staff**

**Pastor Scott Hackler**

[pastorscott@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:pastorscott@spiritofgrace.com)

**Glenn Schultz**

Director of Finance & Administration

[glenn@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:glenn@spiritofgrace.com)

**Deborah Frusciano**

Faith Community Nurse

[deborah@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:deborah@spiritofgrace.com)

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Facility Manager

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**Norm Lindstrom**

Assistant Facility Manager

**Annie Huston**

Grace Notes Editor

[annie@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:annie@spiritofgrace.com)

**Merly Miranda**

Administrative Assistant

[merly@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:merly@spiritofgrace.com)

**Staff - Continued**

**Ken Carnes**

Choir Director

**Sandy Hobbs**

Choir Accompanist

**Sue Hunter**

Worship Pianist

After the Lord Jesus  
had spoken to them,  
He was taken up into  
heaven and He sat at  
the right hand of God.

Mark 16:19





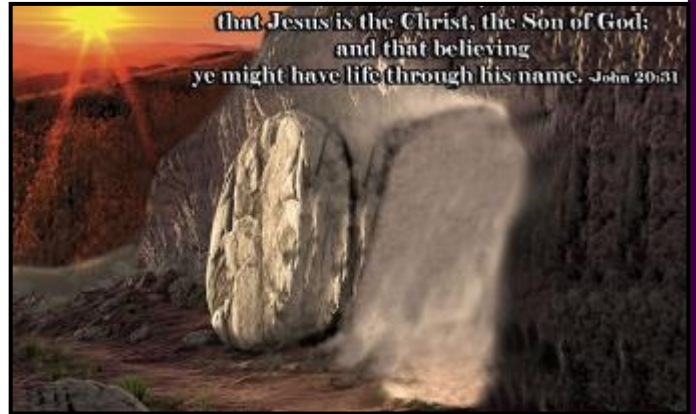
## ***'The Other Side of Holy Week'***

It is April and strangely, we are on the other side of Easter. I expect Easter to be in April not March. But this year it was in March. The last time Easter was in March was 2016 and in the last 100 years only 22 Easters were in March. I have reason to expect Easter in April.

Does it matter that it was in March this year? Not at all.

What matters is that it returned this year as it does each year (*usually in April*), as a gift to refocus us, remind us, and return us to the great mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

Each week we come together in worship with our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. We try to make meaning as God gathers us, speaks to us, feeds us, and sends us as the baptized body of Christ. Christ's death and resurrection are directly in the center of that search. They are the heart of our life and faith. Our problem is that distracted by too little sleep, the search for success, a medical diagnosis, a broken relationship, or a myriad of other things, we can find ourselves far from the center.



But then comes the yearly gift of Holy Week and Easter. Our eyes and ears, our hands and feet, our mouths and minds are taken to a defeated grave and triumphant resurrection. We are drawn back to the center of it all, confident that no matter the problems we face, God has won the ultimate victory.

Now on the other side of Easter, we hold tight to that victory. As we gather each week, from April to next Easter (April 20, 2025) we will face the same obstacles that can move us from the center and our hope. Let's walk together and no matter how far from the center we might find ourselves, remind each other that Easter is still there, and will be there waiting for us.

***On the other side of Easter...Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

*Peace and joy to you!*

**Pastor Scott**





**FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024...**

	February	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2023
Income	103,626	70,049	165,147	152,201	66,205
Expenses	67,034	72,703	154,519	158,962	66,200
Fixed Asset Purchases	-0-				
Mortgage Balance	459,963				
Households:	446		-		446
Members:	733		+1		745

**Glenn Schultz,**

*Director of Finance & Administration*

**FOOD INGATHERING via Cash Donations**

**Our contributions are much appreciated by the Valley View Community Food Bank!**



If you have not given to this effort and want to be a part of it, you may send a check by mail or drop it off at the office.

**\*\* Be sure to note that it is for the Food Ingathering. \*\***



**Contribution Total For MARCH: \$1,920**

**\*\*The Food Bank uses our monetary donations to purchase items they are in most need of, at a generous discount allowing them to purchase even more!**

**Glenn Schultz,**

*Director of Finance and Administration*



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – MARCH MEETING

The Council started off the new year with a planning retreat on March 2, 2024. New and existing Council members spent time discussing several topics including a *Gift Policy* for how to use bequests received through generous insurance policies, estates, and gifts. Our thoughts were shared with the Finance Committee as they work to develop a standardized procedure for using gifts recently received and those Spirit of Grace might receive in the future. The Finance Committee will be considering a policy which will be shared once it is complete.

**Betsy Gusea-Gerringer**  
Council President

**Jan Hylan**  
Vice President

**Sue Kopcha**  
Secretary

**Paul Reichenbach**  
Member

**Treedah Magee**  
Member

**Bruce Belanger**  
Member

**Ted Grove**  
Member

**John Kilgus**  
Member

**Jo Ann Miller**  
Member

Also discussed was the status of Strategic Planning Initiatives underway for the coming year including Marketing/Welcoming efforts, building a more dynamic worship experience, and making our property welcoming and accessible. There are a lot of initiatives underway for each of these areas and it would be difficult to update you in this short article. Please watch for future updates in "*Grace Notes*".

Our Finances are in good shape and a lot of this is due to you responding to the Stewardship for all Seasons appeal. We sincerely thank you for your commitment to Spirit of Grace's mission, Vision, and Values. If, for some reason, you haven't had a chance to submit your commitment, it's not too late. You can drop it off at the church office, mail it or place it in the offering plate.

Deb Frusciano (*Faith Community Nurse*) and Sheri Bengston (*WELCA President*) presented a proposal to the Council for a new program called **Meals of Joy** which would provide up to three days of meals for Spirit of Grace members when ill, returning home from surgery, or need some temporary help. The Council felt **Meals of Joy** was a good fit and was excited about the opportunity to care for our members who are facing a challenging time. Funding was approved for the program on a six-month trial basis. You will be hearing more about this program and what it offers later this month.

***Betsy Gusea-Gerringer,***

Council President

## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY & FORUM SCHEDULE (10:00—11:00)**

**April 3—Forum: LIVING WELL WITH OLDER EYES** – How to protect your vision and reduce the risk for long term complications. **Led by Dr. Dennis W. Siemsen.** (See page 7)

**April 10—Bible Study: THE EASTER WITNESS, Part I** - A look at the Gospel writers accounts of Easter **w/Pastor Elaine Siemsen.**

**April 17—Workshop 9:00-Noon — DEMENTIA:** What We Need to Know About Dementia, But Are Afraid to Ask...  
**w/Dementia Education Specialist Shelly Drews.** (See page 11)

**April 24—Bible Study: THE EASTER WITNESS, Part II** - A look at the Gospel writers accounts of Easter **w/Pastor Elaine Siemsen.**



### ***A Short Earth Day Prayer from Civic Engagement Ministry***

As believers, we have been given the command to take care of God's creation. Earth Day provides a great opportunity to pray Earth Day prayers for our environment and ask God to help us protect, cherish, look after, and enjoy His creation so that those after us might too. The Civic Engagement Ministry asks you to celebrate God's wonderful world not only on Earth Day, but each day.

***Creator God,***

***We are deeply thankful for the work of Your hands. As we celebrate Earth Day, we are reminded of the beauty of creation, and the need to steward it well. It is such a blessing that we get to be surrounded by this constant reminder of Your presence, power, and beauty. We ask that every day that we get to live on this planet would serve as a reminder of the gift of creation. Help us to take care of Your creatures and creation, and to enjoy its beauty each day.***



***In Jesus' name, Amen.***

***Contact Nancy Jacob - Nljacob@aol.com - with prayer concerns on this and other civic issues. Thank you for your prayers.***

## ***Living Well With Older Eyes ~ APRIL 3 - 10:00***



Age brings about a greater potential for vision challenges. Changes in the eyes and other structures that contribute to vision can affect the quality of life for today's seniors.

In this session, we will discuss how the visual system changes with age, the most common age-related eye diseases, and how to adapt to vision.

***Dennis W. Siemsen, OD, MHPE***

Emeritus Consultant in Optometry and Low Vision

***Please join us in the Fellowship Hall!***

*DR. SIEMSEN HAS LECTURED EXTENSIVELY BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY ON THE TOPIC OF LOW VISION. HE IS A DIPLOMATE OF THE LOW VISION SECTION OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY, AND IS BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF CERTIFICATION IN MEDICAL OPTOMETRY. HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN, NEUROLOGIC VISION LOSS, AND VISUAL ACCESSIBILITY IN BUILDING DESIGN.*

### ***CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY***

#### **Volunteer at West Valley Community Food Bank!**

***Can you spare two hours*** on a Saturday morning to help others in the West Vally area receive much needed food from their local food bank?

Below are the next Saturday dates to note for bagging food items and will be handed out on these dates:

**April 20, May 18 and June 15 from 9:30—11:30**

Wear supportive shoes (chairs are available) and plan to have some great conversation with others from Spirit of Grace while you help God's people in need!

Sign up with me at [\*\*\*marvinbrinkman@gmail.com\*\*\*](mailto:marvinbrinkman@gmail.com) and let me know if you need to carpool. We likely will have someone who will give you a ride!

***Marvin Brinkman***  
C.E.M. Member



**VICKI AND MARVIN BRINKMAN, KEN CARNES & MARSHA GILFORD PREPARING PACKING BAGS**

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE - MARCH 2024



***Work on the four major initiatives has begun. We encourage all of you to join us in accomplishing these initiatives.***

**Growth and Engagement** – A marketing plan is under development. A Singles ministry is being planned. A ministry to assimilate new members into the life of Spirit of Grace is also being planned. Local communities are being made aware of Spirit of Grace through personal contact and printed materials. An evangelism plan will be prepared to reach our local community. Consideration is being given to street presence and signage.



**Contact: Betsy Gusea-Gerringer 307-631-9755**



**A Welcoming and Accessible Facility** – An architect is assisting us in describing our needs and the best use of our present space.

**The architectural review committee will be meeting with the architect in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 on March 6, March 20, and April 2.** People interested in being part of the committee are

welcome to attend those sessions. **Contact: Treedah Magee 623-229-8302**

**A Financial Plan to Support and Sustain our Mission** – Stewardship for All Seasons (**SAS**) is underway. Members have been asked to submit statements of intent concerning planned giving during the coming year. Stewardship education is being planned to assist individuals in understanding the importance of Stewardship in their lives and to assist with planned giving questions.

**Contact: Phil Nelson 206-304-6321**



**Creation of a Dynamic Worship Experience** – Recruitment of vocalists, instrumentalists, and small groups is underway to highlight worship music. Varying styles of music are being planned. A Worship and Music committee is being formed. Consideration is being given to periodic **"Music Sundays"**. A welcoming plan for new attendees is being planned as well.

**Contact: Sue Kopcha 623-606-3704**

**Phil Nelson**

*Strategic Plan Committee*



## ***History of April Fools' Day ~ April 1***

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with '**Hunting the Gowk**' in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by '**Tailie Day**', which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.



## ***ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY ~ APRIL 24***



Celebrated annually on the Wednesday of the last full week of April. National Administrative Assistant's Day is a once a year time to recognize our administrative assistants, and other office support staff for their hard work and dedication all year long!

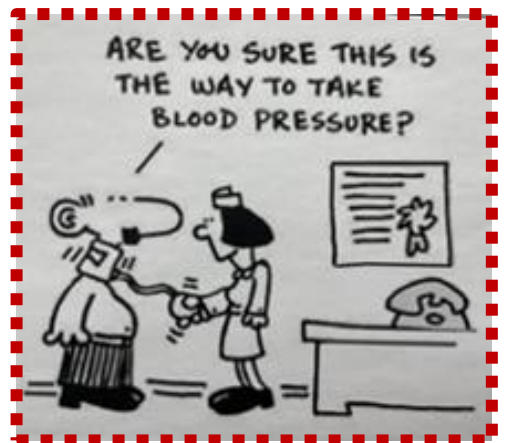
***THANK YOU, MERLY MIRANDA!***



## ***BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS***

Regular blood pressure checks are an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Hypertension is often at the root of heart disease, and if left untreated can cause organ damage.

**Have your blood pressure checked — April 21**  
***Immediately following the 9:30 Service***  
***in the Conference Room.***



**IT'S TIME FOR MORE FELLOWSHIP!!**

**JOIN US FOR GAME TIME AND FELLOWSHIP IN  
CAFÉ GRACE!! Cost: \$5 ~ APRIL 15 @ 1:30**



It's time for fellowship!! Shut the TV off and come join us for an afternoon of fun around the table. We'll play *Joker*, *Bunco* and *Dominoes*. There is instruction & help for those who don't know the games, so you may join in on this fun afternoon.

We'll have treats to enjoy as you play, and prizes to win!! So what can you lose, but an afternoon of fun & laughter with your Spirit of Grace family!

**CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION ... MAY 2**

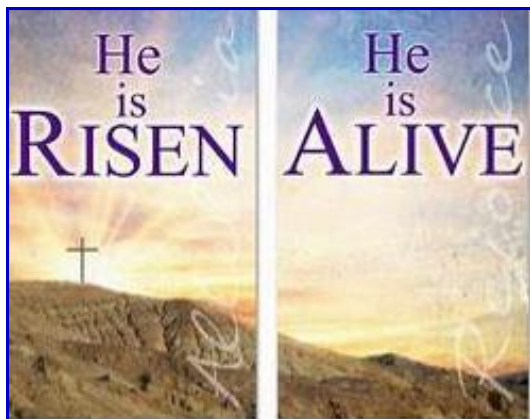


In May we'll be off to Mexico to celebrate "***Cinco de Mayo!***"  
Mark your calendars -- ***Tickets go on sale starting April 6 & 7.***  
This event will be on a Thursday evening!! ***Cost: \$25***

Good food (*chicken enchiladas and beef tacos*), and loads of fun activities and good fellowship!

***Watch for more news next month!!***

***Dorothy Carnes***  
Fellowship Ministry



***ON THE EVENING OF THAT FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,  
WHEN THE DISCIPLES WERE TOGETHER, WITH THE  
DOORS LOCKED FOR FEAR OF THE JEWISH LEADERS,  
JESUS CAME AND STOOD AMONG THEM AND  
SAID, "**PEACE BE WITH YOU!**"<sup>20</sup> AFTER HE SAID  
THIS, HE SHOWED THEM HIS HANDS AND SIDE.  
THE DISCIPLES WERE OVERJOYED WHEN  
THEY SAW THE LORD. ~ JOHN 20:19-21***

## **DEMENTIA WORKSHOP:**

*What We Need to Know About Dementia, But Are Afraid to Ask...*

**Wednesday, April 17, 9:00-12:00** in Spirit of Grace Fellowship Hall

**Orchard Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care of Surprise  
will be providing lunch for this event.**

***Join us for a morning of learning and sharing with  
Dementia Education Specialist Shelly Drews!***



By educating seniors and their families, Shelly believes they can become empowered to make informed decisions for themselves and loved ones, along with important choices that can determine their quality life in the future.

Shelly is the Dementia Education Specialist for Heritage Communities.

***This workshop will discuss the following:***

**Normal vs Non-Normal Aging**

**What is meant by the term Dementia**

**What is MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment)**

**Facts about Dementia that Doctors don't share**

**What to do if we are concerned that we or a loved  
one may have Dementia**

**Hard conversations**

**POA (Power of Attorney) in Arizona**

**Financial Options**

**Living Options**

***Don't miss the opportunity to attend this free workshop.  
Invite your friends and family!***

**SAY HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS . . .**



**LINDA MAREK** ~ Comes to us from Rathdrum, Idaho and resides in Sun City West. Linda is a retired school psychologist. While her two sons, Tony and Dave Powell, were recently visiting, Linda requested to have her new member reception while they were here. They are a musical family and her sons own a unique business in Idaho. They build unusual string instruments like the Harp Guitar that Dave is holding in the photo and they also perform. (*See their website for photos, [tonedevilharp guitars.com](http://tonedevilharp guitars.com)*) Tony and Dave sang and played their instruments during the offering. Thank you for sharing your talent!

**JOE & KELLY SCHRAM** ~ Come to us from Ovid, Colorado. Joe is a retired Irrigated and Dryland Farmer. He enjoys golf, fishing and antique tractors. Kelly is a retired Farm Service Agency Administrative Assistant, & USDA Program Technician. Her time for doing fun things is cut short due to always being busy doing books for the farm, taking care of livestock, family and lots of mowing.

Joe and Kelly attended our last car show we hosted in our parking lot and thought they would try us out, came to a service and now they have joined! *Nice!*



**REMINDER:**

**Beginning the first Sunday in April, we will be going back to one service only on April 7.**

**\*\*There is also a time change - now at 9:30\*\***

***Our Saturday service remains the same at 5:00.***







**IT'S COMING!**



**RACHEL'S DAY IS COMING TO SPIRIT OF GRACE!!**

Child Crisis Arizona has for over four decades run programs to intervene during crisis and implement long-term solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through these efforts they assist the most vulnerable in overcoming serious trauma, and navigate a pathway to achieve success: emotionally, economically, and socially. They are in the process of adding a building that will be a one stop shop to provide families with resources.

Over the years Spirit of Grace has helped many children by supporting Child Crisis AZ, however there are more that need help. I have seen what this congregation can do and I am sure that you will surprise me again. As of this time I have not received Child Crisis AZ wish list. Please watch for the bulletin insert and the poster in the narthex that will have it. All items must be new or you may choose to donate by gift card or monetarily. If you are writing a check, please make it out to Child Crisis Arizona. ***Gift cards that are used for children to get back to school outfits and shoes, and should be for Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon, Kohl's, Ross or old Navy.***



**\*\*Tables will be in the Narthex for your contributions from April 13th to the 28th\*\***

### ***Much needed items...***

Monetary gifts will be used to help in the expansion of their campus. Projects are ***Whispering Hope Ranch***—a camp for children with disabilities, as well as children in foster and residential care. Also extended foster care for older children while pursuing higher education or employment, kinship, and a support system for those caring for their relative's children.

***ITEMS NEEDED:*** Full size hygiene items—shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, sunscreen.

Clothing for children and teens—all sizes. Gift cards that can be used to buy clothing. All items must be new.

***Checks should be made out to 'Child Crisis Arizona'  
All contributions are tax deductible.***

***Continued on next page...***

**I would like to share with you a few comments from children who have been helped by Child Crisis Arizona in the past:**



*"I appreciate greatly what you all do. Without this program a lot of us wouldn't be where we are today."*

*"You made an impact in my life that I can carry with me to help my family and the community."*

*"I came to you alone and frightened, neglected, hurt and abused. I now have hope again I can grow into a fine young man."*

*"It is said you can't change the world but you have changed my whole world."*

**Thanks in advance for your support  
of the children!!**

***Debra Cunningham***

***Questions: Call me at 623-933-6829***

If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, this is a place where you can find people who understand the deep hurt you feel. GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a loved one.



GriefShare is a Christ-centered small group. Each GriefShare session includes a video seminar featuring top experts on grief recovery, plus real people sharing their real stories. After each video presentation, we spend time in small groups discussing what was presented and how it applies to what is going on in our lives. **Even if you have attended GriefShare sessions in the past, join us for this new 4th edition. It contains updated information and relevant content for today's issues.**

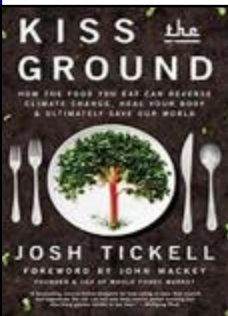
Each session is independent. The 13-week series is free to attend, however a donation of \$20 is suggested to cover the cost of your workbook. Call the church office to register. 623-977-6000. *Call Deborah if you have any questions. 602-909-8369*

**We meet on Thursdays — April 4, 11, 18  
10:00-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall**

***GriefShare Leaders:***

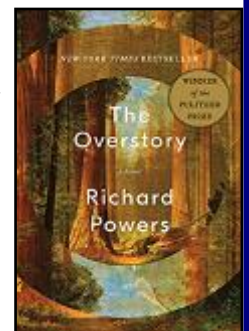
**Deborah Frusciano  
Miriam Hackler  
Carol Starnes**

**Earth Day**, celebrated on April 22, was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues. Today the Earth Day Network collaborates with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. More than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, the largest secular civic event in the world. ***Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, Justice*** is the ELCA's statement on environment adopted in 1993.



***Kiss the Ground: How the Food You Eat Can Reverse Climate Change, Heal Your Body & Ultimately Save Our World*** is both a book by Josh Tickell and a Netflix documentary narrated by Woody Harrelson. Since 1950, the world's population has increased from about 2.4 billion to 7.4 billion. Feeding this many more people has been possible because of processes like taking nitrogen from the air for fertilizer and producing chemicals that were weaponized in WWI and WWII, chemicals that are now being sprayed on our food crops. In addition to human health issues, the most serious consequence is "desertification", the degrading of soil into lifeless dirt. But soil can be saved by the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, the very gas whose increasing concentration in our atmosphere is propelling climate change.

***The Overstory*** is a novel by Richard Powers that weaves the human story with that of trees, creatures that do most of the same things we do—breathe, eat, reproduce, give gifts, communicate, learn, remember and record the events of their lives—just more slowly and over a life span of hundreds or thousands of years. While appearing to be a collection of unrelated short stories, in which trees are everywhere but incidental, they come together in the life of Dr. Pat Westerford who spends years alone in forests doing research.



At first mocked by her peers, she eventually becomes celebrated for an astounding and real discovery: a forest's trees are all communicating via a nuanced chemical language transmitted from root to root. The human characters who have held our attention for 150 pages turn out to be the shrubby understory, for which we couldn't yet see the forest. When viewed from very high up, through the lens of a thing that's been alive since before Jesus, this is a gigantic fable of genuine truths meant to tell us that humans aren't the only show on earth. *(Taken from a review by author Barbara Kingsolver)*

***Carole Parnell,***

Spirit of Grace Librarian



*OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR  
THOSE WHO MOURN...*



For Ron Mjelde and family of **Char Mjelde**, who passed away on February 2. Char and her husband Ron have been long time members of Spirit of Grace since 2005.

For the family of **Bill Lobitz, 97**, who passed away on March 13. He has been a long time member of Spirit of Grace since 2006. Bill was a WWII Veteran for the Army Air Corp and served in Guam and the South Pacific. He spent his career as an Aeronautics Engineer. Upon retiring Bill was a member of the Grand Singers, and played golf and tennis. Bill loved music, played a swing clarinet and was active in our Spirit of Grace Choir. His first wife died in 1992 and he later married Polly who passed away in 2014. Bill leaves behind a son, John and two daughters Carol and Kristie. Services will be sometime in May.



**How many times have we thought we would like to express appreciation for something or someone but never get to it? If you would like to express gratitude, please share it with me at [annie@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:annie@spiritofgrace.com) or on a note and I will post it here.**

I would like to express my gratitude for Pastor Elaine. She has been there for the congregation and Pastor Scott, especially since Pastor Gary retired. She also held an interesting and worthwhile Bible study recently that was attended by many. Thank you Pastor Elaine for all you do for Spirit of Grace including preaching, altar guild, choir and many other gifts you share with us! ~ **Marianne White**

I had my right hip replaced on March 7, 2024. I am doing great! I have four more weeks of PT. I wanted to say thank you to all of my friends at Spirit of Grace for all the Prayers, Cards & Phone Calls. I really appreciated all the warm wishes it meant so much to me in my recovery.

~ **Ro Dreager**





This symbol - with the cross, water and a white lily - identifies the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God: baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty and vitality that rise out of that life-giving baptismal water. The symbol also reminds us of the mission of the Church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." **MATTHEW 28:19**

## **Women's Ministry of Spirit of Grace (Women of the ELCA)**

***"Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established." (Proverbs 4:25-26 NASB)***



Have you ever hiked any of the numerous desert trails around our community? I have experienced the adventure of a few short hikes with my husband, Dennis. The word adventure means ***"an unusual and exciting typically hazardous experience or activity"***. Spirit of Grace was the ***"adventure"*** site of a Women's Retreat on Monday, March 4. It wasn't hazardous (*I don't think*), but it was unusual for us to have a retreat like this one at the church. The women enjoyed the fellowship, the program by Cyndy Warnier on the Beatitudes (and our attitudes), the uplifting songs, being matched with a prayer partner, and ending the day with an inspiring Taizé worship service.

Today I find myself on a new adventure. I accepted the position of President of the Board for Spirit of Grace women's ministry called WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). I now look forward with excitement and anticipation to working with the WELCA Board, the fellowship Bible study groups (Martha Circle, Mary Circle, Deborah Circle, Rachel Circle and Elizabeth Circle) and all the women of Spirit of Grace. I hope we can find more and new ways of working together to engage more women in fellowship with one another, in supporting God's work in our church, and in meeting the needs of those less fortunate in our community and in the world. Prayers appreciated!

***"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)***

In Christ,

***Sheri Bengston***

President, WELCA Board

***Start out your Spring by ...***

***Attending A Women's Bible Study Circle in April!***

The April Bible Study session will focus on food. Our faithful stewardship of the earth includes paying attention to the ways we eat. **The study begins on page 32 in the March/April edition of Gather Magazine, the one with the yummy grapes on the cover.** Copies are available in the church library if you do not have a subscription.

**Monday, April 8, 9:30—Martha Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall.**

Circle leader is Barb Stenberg: [bstenberg3@gmail.com](mailto:bstenberg3@gmail.com)

**Monday, April 8, 1:00—Mary Circle will meet in the Conference Room.**

Circle leader is Sue Tedell: [sjtedell@gmail.com](mailto:sjtedell@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, April 9, 9:30—Rachel Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall.**

Circle leader is Jerry Philip: [jmphilip22@yahoo.com](mailto:jmphilip22@yahoo.com)

**Thursday, April 11, 9:30—Deborah Circle will meet in the Conference Room.**

Circle leader is Jean Schlenvogt: [jeansch101@hotmail.com](mailto:jeansch101@hotmail.com)

**Thursday, April 11, 1:00-Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Conference Room.**

Circle leaders are Judy Butz: [jbmaui25@aol.com](mailto:jbmaui25@aol.com) and Carol Junge: [jungecarol@juno.com](mailto:jungecarol@juno.com)

# Women Learn About Beatitudes at Retreat



Cyndy Warnier led the women in a program exploring **"My BE-Attitude"**. Highlights included sharing with prayer partners and others, singing, discussing our attitudes, breaking bread together, worshipping in a Taizé service, and even a little "loosening up."







## ***Last Chance for Registration***

**The biennial Cactus Conference Women's Gathering's registration is due by Friday, April 5.**

***"Sea of Galilee meets Silicon Valley Artificial Intelligence, Faith Communities & Faith"***

Brian Flatgard, Director of Communications, ELCA, GCS, will present two morning sessions addressing "Artificial Intelligence, Faith, and Faith Communities". We'll enjoy a lunch prior to hearing from women's ministry leaders, Myrna Well-Ulland, President, Churchwide; Laura Krueger, President and Suki Kisling, Ambassador, Grand Canyon Synod, prior to our closing communion service.

**\$16 registration/person** (inc. morning coffee+ & lunch). Complete the following and return with **\$16/person by Friday, April 5** to: Cactus Conf., Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13724 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375. **Please make checks(s) payable: Women of the ELCA-GCS.**  
**Questions: [gskogen@umn.edu](mailto:gskogen@umn.edu) (Geri Skogen)**

**Printed Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Amt. and #(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed E-mail(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church Name(s) and Town(s):** \_\_\_\_\_



## **LIBERTY QUARTET CONCERT—March 10**



Pastor Gary was called up to the stage to do a song with the group and was awesome! He has a long time relationship with the Liberty Quartet and it showed!

### **'HIS STRENGTH TOUR' MARCH 10...**

What a great concert this amazing talented group put on for Spirit of Grace! As you can see, it was very well attended. We loved the music, a little bit of everything including beautiful Gospel music. They are so talented and yes, funny! A great time had by all! They promised to return next year, so don't miss it! Thank you Dorothy Carnes and the Fellowship Team!





## Faith Community Nurse Corner: *What's Going On...??*

Did you know that there are affordable options for transportation in the City of Surprise and surrounding areas for seniors aged 65 and above and ADA certified people with disabilities.

- The program covers those who live in Surprise, Sun City, Sun City West, Goodyear, and other local cities. (Unfortunately, residents of Buckeye do not qualify under this program.)
- Did you know that if you live in the city of Surprise and are over 65, you qualify for transportation to anywhere in an 8-mile radius for only 3.00 each way?

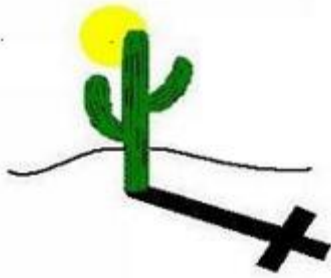
With today's gas prices, that is a true bargain. If you need to take longer trips or need more frequent trips, there are also options for you. Many people may have transportation issues because they no longer drive or drive out of the immediate area. Valley Metro RideChoice is a great affordable option for transportation. When using RideChoice you will get access to a network of transportation providers such as local taxicabs, Uber, Lyft, or other local companies with wheel-chair accessible vehicles. We had a presentation last year from the City of Surprise about this program. Many people signed up then and have been using the program to come to church and go to doctor's appointments. I am highlighting it again for those of you who may not have signed up yet.

### **Fun facts:**

- You can use the transportation for going to church, the store, your friend's house, the movies, hair salon, doctor's appointment, or just about anywhere. Twenty one-way rides are allowed each month for the basic program at \$3.00 each way for any reason.
  - Up to three people can ride with you at no additional charge picked up at the same location.
  - You are encouraged to schedule your rides at least 24 hours in advance to assure availability, but same day rides are available. The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
  - If you need wheel-chair accessible service, just ask. There is no additional charge. Let them know this when you schedule.
  - **Get Started:** To check for eligibility and for assistance with filling out an application, call the HSCV Department - Neighborhood Services Division at 623.222.1550. The application is available online via the Valley Metro Website. For more information, you can also check out the Valley Metro RideChoice Surprise Service Guide (PDF).
  - **Booking:** Once registered, please call 602.716.2111 to request a trip, change or cancel a trip or check on a requested trip
  - **Payment:** Simply provide a credit card, debit card, or check routing number when you book your trip, and you are all set. There is no need to carry cash or a credit card when you travel.
- This is one of the best bargains around. Save on gas, and wear and tear on your car. Take advantage of this great program. Call me if you need assistance signing up or have questions about the program.

***Deborah Frusciano RN BSN ACRN CT***

Faith Community Nurse  
deborah@spiritofgrace.com



## **WEST VALLEY LUTHERAN THRIFT SHOP**

### **We Love Our Volunteers!**



Last month we celebrated our wonderful volunteers, who generously give thousands of hours every year, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Last year our 200+ volunteers worked over 44,000 hours in the shop. According to the federal government, an hour of volunteer time in Arizona is worth \$25+. That means our volunteers saved the thrift shop more than a million dollars in payroll last year.

### ***WAY TO GO Volunteers – That's Good Business!***

Our volunteers are awesome and without them we could never have donated over \$10 million dollars in grants over the past 30 years. Right now we're looking for Cashiers; Men and women who are friendly and love interacting with others. These folks are the face of the shop!!

With summer quickly approaching, getting more qualified cashiers trained and working is a priority. **We are looking to fill morning and afternoon shifts – Monday thru Saturday.**

***Join us, won't you? Shop with us, donate your gently used goods or join us as a volunteer. Call us today to schedule a tour or a pick-up. 623.815.7061***

*Hope to see you there!*

***Lynn Morey***

**West Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop, 10615 W. Peoria in Sun City - (623) 815-7061**

***Also follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/](http://www.facebook.com/westvalleylutheranthriftshop/)***



**The word 'whiskey' comes from the Gaelic phrase "uisge Beatha," or "water of life."**

Irving Berlin dedicated all royalties from "God Bless America" to a fund of the same name, specifically for the benefit of such youth organizations as the Boy Scouts in New York City. To date, more than \$10 million has been raised.

**By 2027, Sweden plans to boast of a city made entirely of wood.**



HE IS WHO MAKES THE CLOUDS RISE AT THE END OF THE EARTH,  
WHO MAKES LIGHTNINGS FOR THE RAIN AND BRINGS FORTH  
THE WIND FROM HIS STOREHOUSES. ~ PSALM 135:7



'The Grand' March 15

