



Our Vision
To Bring the
Spirit of Grace to All

And when the disciples
saw him walking on the
sea, they were troubled,
saying, It is a spirit; and
they cried out for fear.

—Matthew 14:26

Grace Notes - August 2023



Worship Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 and Sunday, 9:00

Mission Statement

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



Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SpiritOfGraceSCG/

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church

15820 W Clearview Blvd

623-977-6000

In the  of The Grand

www.spiritofgrace.com

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00

Sunday at 9:00

Staff

Pastor Scott Hackler

pastorscott@spiritofgrace.com

Pastor Gary Benson

pastorgary@spiritofgrace.com

Glenn Schultz

Director of Finance & Administration
glenn@spiritofgrace.com

Deborah Frusciano

Faith Community Nurse
deborah@spiritofgrace.com

Sheila Marlow

Office Manager
sheila@spiritofgrace.com

Jerry Huston

Facility Manager
jhuston@spiritofgrace.com

Norm Lindstrom

Assistant Facility Manager

Annie Huston

Grace Notes Editor
annie@spiritofgrace.com

Staff - Continued

Fred Bornhoeft

Director of Music

Ken Carnes

Choir Director

Sandy Hobbs

Choir Accompanist





A Message From Pastor Scott...



GENEROSITY

I recently viewed a video by the Bible Project on Generosity, and I thought I would share my take on its message.

Imagine a great dinner party. When you arrive you are greeted by the host who gave you the invitation. As you look around you see all kinds of people who are enjoying each other's company. The place is beautifully decorated. The spread of food and drink is amazing. There is more than enough for everyone. The host didn't miss a thing to make sure that the needs of all are cared for. You and the other guests can just enjoy the company of one another and the host. This is a party you will never want to leave and you recognize that it is all because of the host who has provided everything.

When you open the first pages of the Bible you see a picture of this party. God is the host whose creation is amazing and an expression of love for the humans who are his guests. It is a world of beauty and abundance. Everyone's needs are provided for.

Sadly, that world broke down because of sin. Fear, scarcity and struggle are words that come to mind. This is actually the world that Jesus experienced, a world of violence under military occupation, terrible poverty and a longing for that life that is like the dinner party, but not much hope that it could happen.

Still, Jesus had a way of reminding us that we do live in an abundant and beautiful world and that our fear and worry isn't worth the stress. ***"Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"*** (Luke 12:24-25)

Sure, Jesus knew the reality that sometimes there isn't enough for some, but he viewed the world through the lens of scripture. The Bible makes the claim that scarcity isn't the problem, the problem is our lack of trust of God's provision. We worry that we won't have enough. When that happens, our mindset of scarcity turns into an impulse of self-preservation and with that feelings of envy and anger. The party is over!

Continued on following page ...

A Message from Pastor Scott ... continued



But as we read the Bible, we see God's response. The host, Jesus, returns to that spoiled party. Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 8...** ***For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.*** He not only trusted God's provisions for himself, he invited his followers to do the same, to live a life that is built on trust in God's goodness, love and generosity.

It can be such a challenge to trust that God is generous and let go of the belief that there is not enough. So we pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us the ways of Jesus, our generous host.

And when you trust there is enough, no doubt, you start seeing opportunities everywhere to share your time, money and attention.

Thank you for your generosity. Keep it going! Your neighbor needs you!

In the peace of Christ,
Pastor Scott

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO 'SUBSCRIBE' & 'LIKE' SPIRIT OF GRACE ONLINE WORSHIP VIDEOS???



The more '**Subscribers**' and '**Likes**' we have, **YouTube** will recommend Spirit of Grace videos to the general public that will enable the channel to grow and reach more people. *Very important!*

**There is no charge when you subscribe, just an email and a password!
Easy! You cannot 'like' unless you are a subscriber.**



After you subscribe, click on the bell and you will be sent a notification each time something new has been posted on the Spirit of Grace YouTube channel!

Spiritofgrace.com

Jerry Huston

Facilities Manager



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JUNE 30...

	June	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2022
Income	46,796	51,864	405,585	400,569	393,267
Expenses	71,298	100,397	419,325	449,912	391,625
Fixed Asset Purchases	-0-				
Mortgage Balance	513,567				
Households:	442		-		443
Members:	734		-8		749

Glenn Schultz,

Director of Finance & Administration



FOOD INGATHERING via Cash Donations

Please know...YOU are making a difference!!

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

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!

Contribution Total For JULY — \$3,355



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.**

Glenn Schultz,

Director of Finance and Administration



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE:

AUGUST 2023

Because of the heat and the members traveling attendance through the month of July is down a little. We are averaging a little over 200 per weekend plus the people that are watching the service on-line. Thank you for your continued support.

However, our financial picture still looks good. Just a reminder that Spirit of Grace needs our financial support through these summer months. Please see Glenn Schultz's Financial Report in Grace Notes. The food gathering support for June was \$1,975. This contribution goes to Valley View Community Food Bank. They will be sorting food for hungry families at their facility on **August 5 from 9:00 – 11:00** and are looking for volunteers to help. If you can help them, please contact **Marsha.Gilford@gmail.com** for more information. Thank you for your continued support.

The Strategic Planning Committee has presented four MRA's that the council approve that will be presented shortly to the congregation and we will be asking individuals to become involved.

Plans continue to move forward on our **25th Anniversary of Spirit of Grace** celebration.

Blessings in Christ,

Ellie Brooks
Vice President

Julie Townsend
Secretary

Bruce Balanger,
Congregation President

Treedah Magee

Terry Pierce

Paul Reichenbach

Sue Barbour

Candace Renwall

Betsy Gusea-Gerringer

Our Vision: To Bring the Spirit of Grace to All

Mission Statement: Proclaiming God's Love, God's Promises, and the Abundant Life

New Member Welcome Session!

It is a monthly opportunity for those who are new and those not so new to learn about why our church exists and how you can be more connected and committed to our ministry. You will meet other prospective members, learn more about our mission and vision, discover various opportunities to serve and become more deeply involved in the life of **Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church**. *Everyone is invited to attend!*



Our next Welcome Session is Monday, August 14 at 10:00.

Please call the church office at 623-977-6000 for more information or to indicate your interest in attending.

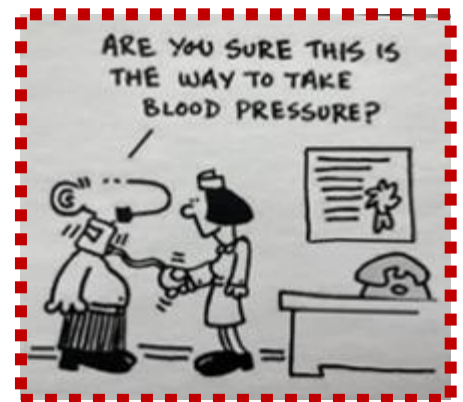
Hope to see you there!

Pastor Scott

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 *August 13* —
Immediately following the 9:00 Service in the
Conference Room.**



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” ~ Matthew 25:35-36



We are pleased to present the new 4th edition GriefShare program this fall. It features new videos with updated information and relevant content. The new workbook is easy to follow and includes insights from individuals who have gone through many of the same experiences that you have. ***New topics include:***

- **Is this normal?**
- **Your grief journey**
- **Loneliness and sadness**
- **Self-Care**
- **Fearful and overwhelmed**
- **Anger**
- **Regrets**
- **Grief and your household**
- **Grief and your friendships**
- **Questions for God**
- **Stuck in Grief**
- **Hope and Resilience**
- **What do I live for now?**

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. You do not have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a loved one. The loss can be recent or in the past.

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 as a group discussing what was presented and how it applies to what is going on in our lives.

If you are interested in coming to the 13-week series, or have questions, call Deborah Frusciano at 623-977-6000 ext. 140, or email deborah@spiritofgrace.com. Each session is independent of the other.

The 13-week series is free to attend; however, a donation of \$20.00 is suggested to cover the cost of your workbook. Registration is required either by registering on griefshare.org or calling the church office.

We will meet weekly, September 7 to November 30, 2023, 10-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All sessions meet on Thursday except: October 11, November 15, November 22. These are on Wednesday.

GriefShare Leaders:

Deborah Frusciano
Miriam Hackler
Carol Starnes

*****FELLOWSHIP EVENTS COMING UP — GET YOUR CALENDARS OUT!**

Fellowship will soon be up and running, so watch for more details to come!



However! On-line registration for our first annual event begins August 18:

The ever popular, super exciting, **PIZZA & BINGO!** Good food, good fun with friends, and GOOD PRIZES!

September 17 at 5:00

SEE YOU THERE!!



*****October 1— CONCERT BY THE TREMBLE CLEFFS AT 3:00**



*****October 22 — OCTOBERFEST**



*****November 12 — HARVEST HOME DINNER**

Dorothy Carnes

Fellowship Ministry



Carl Leffler was a mathematics professor who invented at least 6,000 Bingo card combination cards and is rumored to have gone insane afterwards.

Winning the jackpot ranks fifth in the reasons why players join bingo games. It turned out that the top priority of bingo players is to find enjoyment.

Statistics show that Americans spend over \$90 million on bingo cards alone per week.



Faith Community Nurse Corner

HOME CARE FOR VETERANS

Veterans are now eligible to receive care from contracted providers at no charge with a VA referral. The VA Homemaker and Home Health Aide program is available to ALL veterans who demonstrate a need for assistance in their home. There are no financial or service-related qualifications other than an honorable discharge.

A Homemaker and Home Health Aide is a trained person who can come to a Veteran's home and help the Veteran take care of themselves and their daily activities. The services of a Homemaker and Home Health Aide can help Veterans remain living in their own home and can serve Veterans of any age. Homemakers and Home Health Aides are not nurses, but they are supervised by a registered nurse who will help assess the Veteran's daily living needs.



This program is for Veterans who need personal care services and help with activities of daily living. This program is also for Veterans who are isolated, or their caregiver is experiencing burden.

Homemaker and Home Health Aide services can be used in combination with other Home and Community Based Services. Services may vary by location.

Homemaker Home Health Aides work for an organization that has a contract with the VA. Homemaker or Home Health Aide services can be used as a part of an alternative to nursing home care, and to get Respite Care at home for Veterans and their family caregiver. The services of a Homemaker or Home Health Aide can help Veterans remain living in their own home and can serve Veterans of any age.

For more information on this program, visit [VA Homemaker & Home Health Aide](#).

One local company that is contracted with the VA is ***ComForCare***. They have been successful in serving our community.

Deborah Frusciano RN BSN ACRN CT

Faith Community Nurse

SAY HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS . . .



KRIS FULLER ~ Comes to us from Aberdeen, South Dakota. Kris, her sons Chayton and Mitch, and Hannah, have been searching for a new church and once they found Spirit of Grace, they unanimously agreed we were the lucky one! Kris said they found us to be so friendly and caring to them, they knew this was church home for them. Kris is a special needs teacher at Willow Canyon High School.

MITCH FULLER & HANNAH LAIDLAW ~ Hannah is a pre-school teacher and works at Growing Minds Preschool. Mitch comes to us by way of California and South Dakota. Mitch and Hannah have been together for many years. Mitch is a diesel Mechanic for tractors and semi-trailers. His hobby is working on Corvettes.



CHAYTON BOWER ~ He is a student at Arizona State University and loves sports. Chayton works for Uber and has made over 1000 deliveries. He said he also has a dog and a cat.

This wonderful family grew up hunting and fishing together and especially enjoyed fishing for Walleye.



Deepest Sympathy

Those we love
don't go away,
They walk beside
us every day,
Unseen,
unheard,
but always near,
Still loved,
still missed and
very dear.

all-greatquotes.com

....Our Prayers For Those Who Mourn....

For the family and friends of **Kathryn K. Stromer, 80**. We recently became aware she had passed away last year in October. Kathy was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Pastor Harold, January 2022. She is survived by their two children, Angela Blunt, Mark Stromer and three granddaughters.



The Stromer's blessed us with their amazing grace and kindness during Pastor Harold's nearly year and a half as Interim Pastor here at Spirit of Grace. Both were beloved by all who came in contact with them. Their smiles were infectious as was their wonderful humor. They are surely missed by all who had the great pleasure of knowing them.



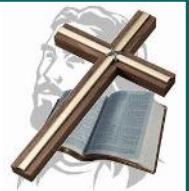
For Lyla Dramise, family and friends, for the passing of her beloved sister, **June Oakins, 92**, on July 23. June was one of eight girls and grew up on the family farm in Veblen, South Dakota. June and Lyla come from quite an interesting family. If you get a chance, you might want to check out their beautiful book called **"Eight Maids A-Milking"** from our library that all eight girls authored to learn more about June and her loving family.

June was active in Spirit of Grace as one of our 'readers', Altar Guild and WELCA.

For Carolyn Steinwand and family for the passing of her husband, **Jonathan Steinwand, 58**, on June 20 after suffering a stroke. Jonathan is the son of long-time members, Rev Elroy and Janet Steinwand who now live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

~ Matthew 5:4



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

A Summer Blockbuster!

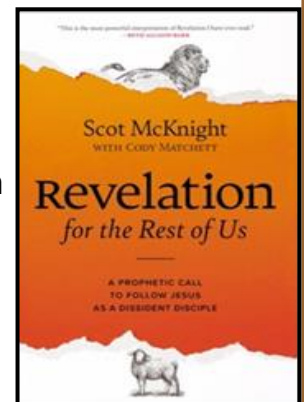


People disappear into thin air, a global tyrant conquers the world, wars



and plagues rage while stars fall from heaven, animals speak, dragons spit fire, a lion is a lamb, and angels or demons engage in warfare. The Bible's book of **Revelation** leads us to the very brink of the unimaginable, peering into the brilliant darkness beyond. For the original hearers of **Revelation**, it was permission to imagine a world other than their own, where God is in control and the powers of Rome are destined for destruction. It was profoundly cathartic and therapeutic for the oppressed people of western Asia Minor and for all readers since. Projecting feelings of fear and resentment onto scenes of defeat and triumph enables people to let off steam by fantasizing divine vengeance. It relieves the pressure toward action in the present and enables people to accommodate themselves to the status quo for the present. To hear or read in evocative images that injustice and evil will be defeated by the good victories of God, offers a hope-filled life and a healing orientation toward life's rugged realities.

John of Patmos wrote down his **Revelation** in order to turn disciples into dissidents of the ways of their world and empire, which he called Babylon. Ways which included military conquest, economic exploitation, injustice and oppression. In **Revelation for the Rest of Us: A Prophetic Call to Follow Jesus as a Dissident Disciple**, authors Scot McKnight and Cody Matchett unpack the rich symbolism of **Revelation**, explain who it was written to, and walk readers through the unfolding storyline, showing how and why its timeless message applies to Christian disciples who want to follow Jesus today. Those who discern the presence of "**Babylon**" in our world are encouraged by this book to learn to speak up, speak out, and walk in the way of the Lamb.



Carole Parnell,

Spirit of Grace Librarian



.... **HANDICAP PARKING SPACES!**

Spirit of Grace has added an additional ten HandiCap parking spaces to our parking lot bringing the total to eighteen. The added spaces are somewhat closer to the entrance making them even more accessible.



Check
this
out!



There are some pretty fascinating holidays spread throughout August which are celebrated in different parts of the world. On **August 1st**, we have World Scout Scarf Day. **August 5th** is National Underwear Day (US), **August 11th** is Mountain Day (Japan), **August 16th** is National Rum Day (US) and **August 20th** is World Mosquito Day. *What a month!*

Unlike most other months, August has just one birthstone – peridot. One of the lesser-known gems, peridots come in shades from grass-green to a more earthy olive hue. They're quite a unique gem, really, and quite rare as they can only be found from two very different sources – they can be formed deep in the earth and expelled to the surface along with lava, and they can be found in meteorites!



It is claimed that peridots have healing powers and can protect the bearer from evil.





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)



You may have heard that my husband had a fall. He landed on his right side and fractured nine ribs. He was in the hospital for five days. We are staying with our daughter, and he is doing well. Slow but sure. I am putting my nursing skills to good use. Thank you for praying for us.

Many Blessings in His Loving-Kindness,
Sue Todd, WELCA President

Combined Circle Summer Gatherings Continue August 10

The heat continues, but the air conditioning keeps WELCA members cool as they continue to study the "**Salvation Now**" summer study from the Gather Magazine. Last month about fifteen women joined the facilitator Anneke Rutgers to discuss Session 2 of the study.

On Thursday, August 10, at 1:00 ~ Noelle Nothelfer will lead us in the final session focusing on *John 15:11* ~ "**I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.**"



Anneke Rutgers & Noelle Nothelfer

Members will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

The study is published in the July/August issue of the Gather Magazine or you can find it on **GatherMagazine.com**. Or, copies will be available to you the day of the gathering.

please join us!

Continued on following page



WELCA NEWS continued ...

*****The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Triennial Gathering will take place right here in Phoenix on Thursday-Sunday, September 21-24.**

Registration forms and more information is available at welcatg.org for this gathering of Lutheran women from all 50 States.

*****September-Circle gatherings will not take place as the WELCA Triennial Conference takes place September 21-24.**



MEET THE WELCA LEADERS ...

Sue Barbour — Chairperson of Martha Circle



We've had three wonderful summer combined circle gatherings, at least two of which I have missed because of traveling. However, now we can begin looking forward to fall and our regular WELCA activities starting up again. If you haven't tried out one of our Bible Study Circles, plan to come join us. Not only will it give you an opportunity to strengthen your faith, but you will meet some ladies who have similar interests as you, or might be from your home state. I have made many new friends at the WELCA events and can say it is well worth your time to come join us.

Be sure to watch for the notices for our Fall Bible Study kickoff on October 12 and our Thank Offering Luncheon in November.

Sue Tedell

WELCA News Coordinator

Who do you say that I am?

Matthew 16:13

