



Merry Christmas to all...

GRACE NOTES ~ DECEMBER 2023

“A MERRY HEART DOES
GOOD LIKE MEDICINE.”
— PROVERBS 17:22

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

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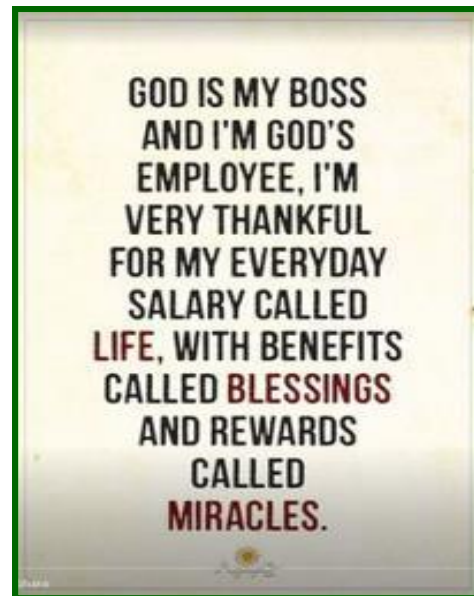
Staff - Continued

Ken Carnes

Choir Director

Sandy Hobbs

Choir Accompanist





Message From Pastor Scott...

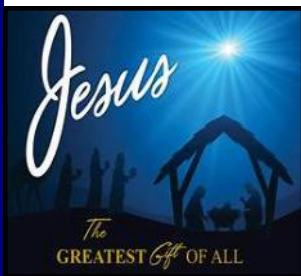


When I lived up in the cold Midwest, there were years that I spent more than a few hours on my knees praying that winter and the snow would hold off. Not that God needed my advice, but I would remind God that the North Dakotans and Minnesotans loved to embrace winter's coming more than we South Dakotans. I was just following the advice of Paul when he wrote to not be anxious about anything

and instead put it to prayer (*Phil 4:6*). So, I prayed. But I remember when it was revealed to me (*maybe by God*) that my prayers were competing with scores of children praying for just the opposite. So, I decided we needed to move to Arizona.



All kidding aside, I'm missing the coming of those snowflakes just a bit. They fit into my sense of our season focused on



waiting and watching for Christ's coming and our Christmas celebration.

The scripture we will read throughout in these weeks point us to him...to look for him. ***He is coming. He's always coming!***

No one knew this more personally than ***Mary and Joseph and their stories inspire us.*** Not only did they know that Jesus was coming into their lives, they put their future in God's hands not knowing where it would all lead.

That was enough. While Joseph needed a little bit of angelic encouragement, they embraced what was to come and looked to the future with hope.

My prayer for you in this season of your life, and ours together, is that like Mary and Joseph you will embrace God's promises like never before. The snow will not likely reach us here, but 'life' will, and it might feel like a cold, icy storm. But that is just when we can count on Christ to be born anew in our hearts and minds, bringing us hope and the peace beyond our understanding.

So rather than try to pray the snow away, ***let's pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"***

Have a meaningful Advent and a truly, Merry Christmas!

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Scott



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31...

	October	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2022
Income	59,649	61,610	615,281	630,881	618,786
Expenses	65,359	68,443	690,043	707,670	673,732
Fixed Asset Purchases	14,961				
Mortgage Balance	486,424				
Households:	441		-1		445
Members:	729		-5		745

The numbers above do not include an extraordinary item in either income or expenses. In August, Spirit of Grace received an Employee Retention Credit of \$144,832, from which was paid a professional fee of \$28,966 for preparation of the applications which generated the credit. The funds were used to open CD's pending the Council's decision on the use of these funds.

Glenn Schultz,
*Director of Finance
 & Administration*

FOOD INGATHERING via Cash Donations

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



Every
 Donation
 Makes A
 Difference

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 NOVEMBER — \$2,150

Thanks!
 for your support

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



Pastor Gary's Gospel Glimpse...

ADVENT... IS IT ONLY A RELIGIOUS TRADITION?

Dear Members and Friends,

Advent is often a time of tradition and traditional expectations. At our house, we have traditions abound. Sara knows exactly where the Christmas wreath is, where the box containing the tree has resided for the past eleven plus months, and of course, where her list for Christmas cards can be located.

All these things and many others are part of **tradition**. Around the neighborhood we see festive light displays; and in the sanctuary of Christian churches we see the "**Advent Candles!**" Now we could go on and on about traditional Christmas expectations, after all I have not said anything about our favorite Christmas cookies!!

Traditions hold little mystic or mystery, we just go about the routine as expected, but Advent for people of faith is much more than tradition. It is the time we "**wait**" upon the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, **renewing our hearts with all that brings love, hope, and peace into our hearts and lives.**



In our world, which is unpredictable in so many ways, traditions can help us reclaim a sense of order, however, the message of Christ seeks to break anew into our hearts and lives with both mystery and certainty. Be it the mystery of how God could love us so much, and the certainty that God's love in Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, is certainty.

As we begin the Advent season of waiting, may we also claim tradition, mystery, and the miracle of **God's love for us ... such love is our greatest gift!!**

In Christ,

Pastor Gary E. Benson



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE:

The financial picture continues to be OK. The contributions in October were slightly down but so were the expenses. Please see Glenn Schultz's Financial Report in Grace Notes. The food gathering support for November was \$2,150. Campaigns for "**Gifts of Hope**" and the "**Giving Tree**" are still in progress. **Thank you for you continued support of these programs.**

The end of November marked the end of Fred Bornhoeft's service as the Director of Music at Spirit of Grace. We thank Fred for his 17 years of service and wish him God's blessings.

The Council would like to thank those individuals that are a part of the weekly recording sessions. Fred Bornhoeft, Jerry Huston – Video Production, and the singers that give of their time and talents, Terry & Cathy Pierce, Nancy Newman, Karen Boeck, Phil & Sue Nelson, Ken Carnes and many more that sing from time to time. Thank you for your service!

Thanksgiving Eve Service – Was very successful and the pies were delicious!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 5, 2023 - 9:00 Strategic Planning Committee Marketing Plan Meeting

January 14, 2024 – 25th Anniversary Celebration – Tickets are now on sale.

February 4, 2024 – Annual Congregation Meeting – Between Services

Betsy Gusea-Gerringer
Vice President

Julie Townsend
Secretary

Blessings in Christ,

Bruce Belanger,
Congregation President

Treedah Magee

Terry Pierce

Paul Reichenbach

Sue Barbour

Candace Renwall

Ellie Brooks

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**.

Our next Welcome Session is Monday, December 4

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

Everyone is invited to attend!

Come Join Us!

Hope to see you there!

Pastor Scott

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
FROM SPIRIT OF GRACE PASTORS & STAFF

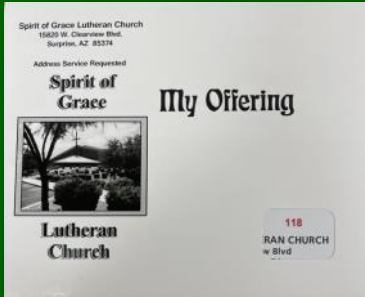
PASTOR SCOTT HACKLER & PASTOR GARY BENSON

GLENN SCHULTZ JERRY HUSTON KEN CARNES

DEBORAH FRUSCIANO FRED BORNHOEFT

NORM LINDSTROM ANNIE HUSTON

SANDY HOBBS MERLY MIRANDA



OFFERING ENVELOPE PACKETS

**AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN
THE NARTHEX—**

DECEMBER 2 & 3

PLEASE PICK UP AS SOON AS AVAILABLE!

THANK YOU!



DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS...



1. *Deck the Halls for Christmas!* We want many elves to arrive to help decorate Café Grace, the Narthex, and outdoors. Even if you didn't sign up, ***PLEASE come join us!!*** We have some elf treats to help sustain you as you work. ***December 1st from 9:00 to noon.***

2. *"White Christmas" @ AZ Broadway Theater.* It's time to pick up your actual ticket with the assigned table seating. ***Tickets will be available December 2 & 3, and also December 9 & 10.*** Catch a ride, car pool, or just drive yourself to get to the theater. Doors open at noon for lunch followed by the matinee. ***"I'm dreaming of a White Christmas....."***

3. *Caroling & Soup Supper—December 10.* Our annual get together to bring cheer to facilities that are near, sing to our homebound members, or other people you know who need to be remembered this holiday season. You may turn in suggestions for caroling of people you know—just ask their permission first. Then turn in their name and address. Once we establish a route, they will be notified of an approximate time for us to arrive. WE DO NOT go into homes, just sing outside. When we are finished, we'll return to the church for chili or chicken vegetable soup and dessert. ***Cost \$10 -This weekend, December 2 & 3, are the last days to sign up before and after services.***

If you have questions, please call the Fellowship phone number, 480-438-1115.

Dorothy Carnes

Fellowship Ministry



BATTER UP...! Surprise Spring Training Is Coming!

ATTENTION: Spring Training game schedules are out and the Fellowship Team has reserved 125 tickets for **the AZ Diamondbacks/Texas Rangers game on March 7 @ 1:05**. Tickets are **\$52 for reserved seating up in the Legion's Deck area with food and drink included in your ticket price**. Any tickets NOT sold must be returned to *THE BALL PARK* in January so get your tickets early!!

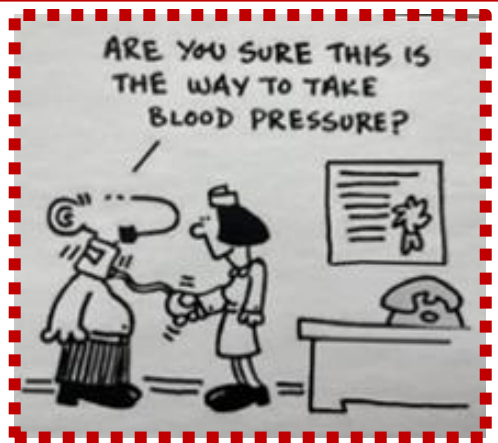
Tickets will be sold in the Narthex before and after services
December 2 & 3 through Dec. 16 & 17 —
CHECKS ONLY PLEASE ! MADE OUT TO SPIRIT OF GRACE.

Dorothy Carnes
Fellowship Ministry

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
December 10 - Immediately following the
9:00 Service in the Conference Room.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...!!

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, December 24 - there will be an Advent Service at 9:00

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00



DID YOU KNOW?

IRA and retirement plan account owners generally must withdraw annually starting with the year they reach age 72 (*73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022*).

If you plan on making contributions to charities (Spirit of Grace for instance), in an amount at least equal to your **required minimum distribution (RMD)**, you should consider taking advantage of the **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** [*don't you just love governmental abbreviations for everything*].

Subject to limitations, having your IRA custodian make the RMD directly to the charity keeps it from becoming reportable income on your tax return. *But please don't take my word for it.*

This information is not meant to be used as professional advice. If you're interested, run it by your tax advisor.

Glenn Schultz

Director of Finance & Administration



CAFÉ GRACE COFFEE SERVERS TEAM!!

Do you like to meet and chat with new members of our Spirit of Grace family? Does the rich smell of coffee wake you up and get you going? We have just the ministry for you!!

******Join the Cafe Grace Coffee Servers Team!****** 🙌

Each week 3 or 4 people are needed to come a bit before the service and set up treats and make sure coffee is made for everyone to enjoy after the service. It's so, so easy and your help about once every two months would be so appreciated by worshippers who love time to see and talk with others.



Just contact me to set up a Sunday of your choosing. See you in Cafe Grace, our wonderful Fellowship Hall!

Sue Tedell (sjtedell@gmail.com)

Sunday Morning Coffee Servers Coordinator



SPIRIT OF GRACE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

An area of interest and focus identified by the Strategic Planning Committee is ***to "Build on our strengths and explore opportunities for growth and engagement"***.

One of the goals to help us achieve this is to develop a **Marketing Plan** and expand ways to reach out within the community as a means of growth at Spirit of Grace. ***An organizational and kickoff meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 5 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00.***

If you have a Marketing background, have experience in promoting the growth and engagement of prior congregations/churches, have ideas on how we can grow and increase awareness of Spirit of Grace and feel you can contribute to this effort, please plan to attend! Treats will be served.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, ***Betsy Gusea-Gerringer at 307-631-9755 or betsygg910@gmail.com***

**Thank you for helping make Spirit of Grace the friendliest
and best place to worship God!**

Betsy Gusea-Gerringer

Strategic Planning Committee

USHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ...



As the *Saturday Night Usher Coordinator*, I'm looking for volunteers who would like to join us for Saturday night services when you are available.

If you are interested, please call me at **417-773-1018** or email me at: ***gj2@att.net***.
We would so appreciate your help!

Thank you, and God Bless,
Glenda Jones

BE A PART OF SPIRIT OF GRACE 'CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY' IN 2024



The Civic Engagement Ministry (C.E.M.) invites all who are interested in serving as **God's Hands and Voice** to help impoverished people. We are fighting the cruelty of hunger and poverty in three ways:
Through our Prayers, Activities, and Input.

Our Prayers—The foundation of our work is in the power of our combined prayers for God's Intercession. A Civic Prayer Group will be led by Nancy Jacob for monthly prayer concerns. We will pray for those outside our SOG walls who suffer from poverty and hunger as well as other concerns. Interested? Reach out to Nancy by phone or email at nljacob@aol.com.



Activities—Generosity continues to inspire as SOG provides financial support to Valley View Community Food Bank. Many thanks to those who have been a part of our ministry to help organize food for distribution, including: ***Ken Carnes, Candace Renwall, Bekki and Reed Hamilton, Ed Burton, Mike Brimie and team from Luke AFB, Anneke Rutgers,***



Kerstin Smith, James Schlenvogt, John Kilgus. (Apologies to anyone missed).

Input—The C.E.M is engaging with divisions of the ELCA including Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS) and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA). LAMA is an advocacy ministry of the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA. We invite you to explore their web site to learn what the ELCA is doing to support hunger issues by using our voices to elected officials who represent us. ***Sign up for their newsletter featuring latest news and highlights from their website at LAMAz.org.***



LAMA and LSS will host Lutheran Day at the Legislature on **Thursday January 18, 9:30—1:30.** ***Save the date to join our SOG group*** who will visit with our elected representatives. No experience necessary. Drivers will be available for carpooling.

Marsha Gilford

C.E.M. Leader

Watch for future God's Hands opportunities in 2024!



ADVENT GIVING TREE - 2023



I read a devotion a few years ago that said "**Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness.**" **The candles of Advent represent hope, preparation, joy, and love.**

The center candle represents Jesus' birth:

The light in the midst of darkness.

For this year's Advent Giving Tree, we will once again, be sharing this light and hope with Military Families at Luke Air Force Base.

We will be collecting gift cards to give to the families. This will enable them to purchase toys/gifts/needed items either at the store or on-line. Gift cards from Target, Walmart or Visa/Mastercard work the best. This year the program will be as follows:



Purchase a **gift card**. These can be found at the retail store at check out, online or in the gift card section of any grocery store or drug store. **Please write the value on the gift card.** Any amount is appreciated. They usually come in denominations of 10, 25 or 50 or you can specify an amount.



Bring your gift card to the church any time between **up to December 15**. There will be a box in the Narthex to deposit the gift cards.



You can also send them a Christmas card and put that in the box. **Do Not** put the gift card in the Christmas card. Please sign your first names only.



The gift cards will be distributed to the families by ***The First Sergeants.***



Council at Luke Air Force Base. The First Sergeants are responsible for the readiness, health, morale, welfare, and quality of life for the Airman and their family members.

Thank you for your continued support of the Advent Giving Tree. Your prayers and generosity show our Military Families how much their service and sacrifice mean to our congregation.

Please Contact me if you have any questions.

Deborah Frusciano

deborah@spiritofgrace.com

602-909-8369 cell

623-977-6000 ext.140 church



FINDING PEACE AFTER LOSS: *New 4th Edition*

Spring Session Starts Thursday, January 25, 2024

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 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.

Please call the church office to register: 623-977-6000. Call Deborah if you have any questions: 602-909-8369.

**We will meet every Thursday, January 25 to April 18, 2024,
10-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**

GriefShare Leaders:

Deborah Frusciano
Miriam Hackler
Carol Starnes



“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ~ Matthew 1:21

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift, Jesus Christ.” ~ 2 Corinthians 9:15



GIFTS OF HOPE ~ 2023



Funds for these items (and many more) are needed by our brothers and sisters in African countries. For over 20 years, our Spirit of Grace congregation has donated funds to Gifts of Hope for faith-based healthcare, food, education, livestock, water filtration, and transportation. With grateful hearts, the recipients of your giving in Africa send their most sincere ***"Thank You."***

How did this begin? During the late 1990s, various Lutheran groups, including the ELCA, joined together in a program called "Stand with Africa – A Campaign of Hope." Spirit of Grace member Pastor Dan Olson (who had served 25 years as Africa Program Director of the ELCA) helped advance this effort to launch our congregation's "Gifts of Hope" in 2002.

What have we accomplished in over 20 years? Spirit of Grace members have donated over \$673,000 in funds to help individuals and families in Tanzania, Liberia, South Sudan, and other African nations. We only work with projects the ELCA supports. This means the projects are all vetted. Over the two decades of Gifts of Hope, children with cleft palates, orthopedic abnormalities, and burns have received surgery and rehabilitation. You have helped fund mosquito bed nets to protect from malaria; goats for milk and cheese; chickens for eggs; a tiller and seed for crops; water pumps; and food for refugees. You helped buy cancer radiation equipment - a project that has a local connection with Barrow Neurological Institute.

What are the opportunities for support this year? You can support projects related to "Healthcare," "Education," and "Nutrition." Examples include support for Kafika House (formerly The Plaster House) which provides life-changing surgeries (with pre-surgical care and post-surgical rehabilitation). Or, The Jacobson Endowed Scholarship- supporting medical training for much-needed local Tanzanian physicians. Or, a school lunch program in Cairo providing humanitarian aid to refugee-status and displaced children. And more.....

Continued on following page ...



(Photo credit: Saint Andrew's Refugee Services)

GIFTS OF HOPE ... continued...



HOW CAN I HELP NOW..??



- **Donate any time from November 18th, 2023 - January 5th, 2024.**
- **Donation forms are available at the Gifts of Hope table in the church narthex, at the church office, or downloadable on the church website.**
- **Submit your donation (by mailing or bringing it to the church).**
- **You may also give through the church website: Click "Give Tab – Go to Fund" and click the arrow for "Gifts of Hope." If you wish to specify a gift, write it in the Notes section.**

Please contact us with any questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your generosity in support of 2023 Gifts of Hope!

Kerstin Smith (630-207-4041)
Winnie Fritz

Gifts of Hope Co-Chairs



With the holidays coming up, ever wonder why we are told to say '**Cheese**' when having a photo taken, which has nothing to do with wanting cheese? But just saying it usually produces a big 'cheesy' smile anyway! Apparently, there is a logical reason for this!



The idea of "**cheesing**" in photos first appeared around the 1940s. The *Big Spring Herald*, a local Texas newspaper, printed an article that referenced the phrase in 1943. While no one knows for certain who came up with it or why, most believe the word itself obliges you to smile. The "ch" sound causes you to clench your teeth, and the long "ee" sound parts your lips, making a facial expression that resembles a grin. *Look in the mirror and try it!*



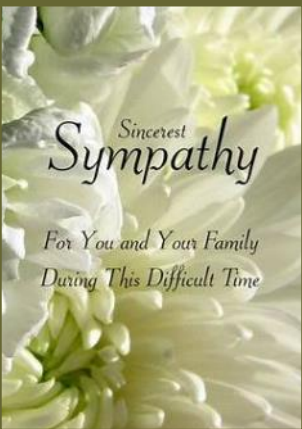
I am thankful for the fellowship team who have had to step up and take over running three events this year so that members could still enjoy pizza & Bingo, Oktoberfest and the Harvest Home Dinner and concert. Several people from the congregation also stepped forward to help, in fact it took a total of 38 people to do HHD. You are all much appreciated! ~ **Dorothy Carnes**

A big thank-you to all of the Fellowship team who worked so hard to make the Harvest Home Dinner and Pie event afterwards go smoothly and helping me when needed! ~ **Jerry Huston**

My thanks and gratitude to each one of you for your participation of assistance in maintaining our Spirit of Grace Church family! **Thank you all!** ~ **Alison Swimley**

I am thankful for Ellie Brooks for her wonderful narrative on the history of Spirit of Grace and our Founding Pastor, Joe Carucci for the '**Special Edition of Grace Notes**' last month. Ellie was able to do an in-depth interview with Pastor Joe and his daughter, Melissa by phone. It was a beautiful reminder of how Spirit of Grace came to be and all the hard work, love and dedication that went into the effort to see it through! And, a loving thank you to Pastor Joe for sharing his and Sandy's story, and for bringing Spirit of Grace to all of us!

I would also like to thank Reverend Carlyle and Sharon Smith for '*loaning me*' their prized possession, a 2003 Spirit of Grace Photo directory. I was able to get all the great photos I needed to help make the story come alive! ~ **Annie Huston, Grace Notes Editor**



Our Thoughts & Prayers for Those Who Mourn ...

Ed Tanneheim and family for the passing of his beloved wife, **Carol Tanneheim**, on November 8.

Carol and Ed have been members of Spirit of Grace since 2019. She was very active at Spirit of Grace and especially loved singing in the choir. Carol participated in many ministries at church including, Caring Corps, WELCA, Women's Circles, Café Grace and pretty much any other activity that was offered.

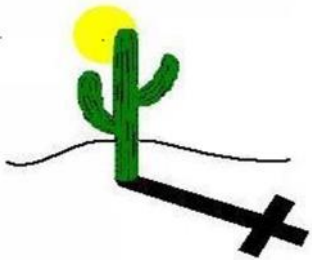
For 34 years, Carol was a teacher in the Chicago Public School system. She loved to travel and spend time with her family and friends. Carol is survived by her husband Ed of 31 years, her eight children and 19 grandchildren.



Our Heartfelt Prayers For...

Bob Navara and his family for the passing of his dear wife, **Twilla Navara** on October 4, following a very long illness.

Bob and Twilla were long time members of Spirit of Grace.



WEST VALLEY LUTHERAN THRIFT SHOP

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES & REWARDS!

As we approach our 30th Anniversary, yes, thirty amazing years of doing God's work, we are grateful for the many blessings bestowed on the **West Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop** and those who have felt its direct impact. **This year alone we have sent \$400K out in grants to over 30 West Valley non-profits.** What we do is not possible without the commitment and dedication of our fantastic volunteers, the ranks of which are unfortunately declining. As we look toward a new year, we pray we will find lots of energetic and happy people to work alongside us.



According to the Mayo Clinic, volunteering actually contributes to a longer life! Plus, volunteering here helps you get your steps in (**no need for a gym membership**); gives you lots of people to talk to (**no need for a counselor**) and provides coffee and snacks (**no need for Starbucks**)!! Add to that a volunteer discount, flexible schedules, and the sheer joy of treasure hunting – what could be more fun? **So come on by, pick up an application and schedule a tour – we'd love to get acquainted and find a perfect place in our Shop Family for you!**

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/



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)

Psalms 16:11. In Your presence is Fullness of Joy. I love the holidays but they do not always bring me joy. I get too busy, entertaining, being entertained, finding the right gifts for everyone, baking my favorite holiday treats, and the list goes on. When I start to feel a little crazy, I have to stop and remember *Who* it is that brings me joy. As you celebrate the holidays may you know the 'Fullness of His Joy'.

Blessings,
Sue Todd, WELCA President



Circles this month will be skipping the third session of the Pilgrimage study and replacing it with the 2023 Advent devotional "Topsy-turvy" by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson. This study is in the Nov/Dec 2023 Gather Magazine which you should have received in mid-November. This devotional will tell of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who praises God for turning the world upside down-or perhaps, turning the world right-side-up. It focuses on the Magnificat song of Mary (Luke 1:46b-55).

Monday, Dec. 11, 9:30 - Martha Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Circle leader is Barb Stenberg bstenberg3@gmail.com

Monday, Dec. 11, 1:00 - Mary Circle will meet in the Church Conference Room. Circle leader is Sue Tedell sjtedell@gmail.com

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 9:30 - Rachel Circle will meet at the home of June Fredericksen, 14118 W. Sky Hawk Drive, Sun City West. Circle leader is Jerry Philip jmphilip22@yahoo.com

Thursday, Dec. 14, 9:15 (note the time change!) - Deborah Circle will meet in the Church Conference Room. Circle leader is Jean Schlenvogt jeansch101@hotmail.com

Thursday, Dec. 14 1:00 - Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Church Conference Room. Circle leaders are Judy Butz jbmaui25@aol.com and Carol Junge jungecarol@juno.com

Continued on following page...



Continued....

Upcoming in Women's Ministry...

Thursday, Dec. 7 at 1:00 - Leader Guide for the December Bible Study with Pastor Scott for facilitators of December Circle Gatherings. Meet in the Conference Room.

****Comfort Covers group met on November 28 but will not be meeting in December.****

They will resume on January 16 from 9:00 to 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet the third Tuesdays of the month in January through May of 2024. Any help is appreciated. Please bring any sewing supplies that you wish. Contact Lynn Kilgus for more information.

Lynn.kilgus@gmail.com



Friday, December 15 at 9:00-noon - Spirit of Grace 25th Anniversary Celebration work day in the Fellowship Hall. We will need as many people as possible to work on table decorations. It will be easy and fun.

If you are able to help, please let me know, Julie Townsend at:

mahjonggrandma73@gmail.com - phone: 515 556 7806.

GRAND CANYON SYNOD WOMEN MEET AT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE...

The 30th Biennial convention was held November 10-12, at the Holiday Inn in Mesa. Women from throughout the Synod were in attendance. ***Just Love*** permeated the event as programs on support services for the hungry, homeless, sex-trafficked young women, under employed and migrants waiting for their applications for asylum prior to being transferred to residences of their sponsors were discussed.



Members of Spirit of Grace in attendance included Marsha Gilford serving as the voting member for our congregational unit, Debra Cunningham offering a hands-on craft project for attendees and Phyllis Borchardt completing seven years as a board member.

The convention concluded on Sunday morning with a service conducted by Bishop Deborah Hutterer. Those attending the service were charged to reach out to our neighbors, and also to encourage all women to participate in Women's Ministries.



WELCA ... FALL THANKOFFERING LUNCH *November 16, 2023*

Cute Dove bars and wash cloths as centerpieces fit in with the speaker Gerry Kroloff, from the Doves Organization, a private, non-profit corporation which coordinates the planning, development and delivery of services for Maricopa County elders, especially those survivors of late-life domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse, 50 years and older. The organization helps older people overcome the unique challenges older victims face as they flee their abusers and work toward self-sufficiency.



Gerry Kroloff
Doves Organization





Re-read the story of the Nativity in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 to find the words that complete the sentences.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| And ___ said, "...all generations will call me blessed. Lk 1:48 | M_____ |
| "Even ___ your relative is going to have a child in her old age." Lk 1:36 | E_____ |
| And Mary said..."My spirit ___ in God my Savior." Lk1:47 | R_____ |
| Praise to the Lord who has come to his people and ___ them. Lk1:68 | R_____ |
| You will give birth to a son and ___ are to call him Jesus. Lk1:31 | Y_____ |
| Caesar Augustus decreed that a ___ should be taken. Lk 2:1 | C_____ |
| Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the time of King ___ Mt 2:1 | H_____ |
| Out of Bethlehem will come a ___ who will shepherd my people. Mt2:6 | R_____ |
| They will call him ___ which means God with Us. Mt 1:23 | I_____ |
| And there were ___...watching over their flocks. Lk 2:8 | S_____ |
| The Magi opened their ___ and presented him with gifts. Mt2:11 | T_____ |
| "A savior has been born to you. He is the ___" Lk 2:11 | M_____ |
| The ___ said to them, "I bring you good news." Lk 2:10 | A_____ |
| The holy one to be born will be called the ___ of God. Lk 1:35 | S_____ |



Carole Parnell,

Spirit of Grace Librarian

THE GRAND CAR CLUB Car Show

November 4th 2023

ALL CARS WELCOME

TheGrandCarClub.com

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church
15820 W Clearview Blvd,
Surprise AZ
(corner of Elm & Clearview)

- DJ Music
- Food Truck
- Raffle (1:30 PM)
- Free Raffle Ticket to Each Entry
- Trophies
- People's Choice Awards

10:00 - 2:00
PAY AT SHOW
Entry Fee \$20
(partial proceeds to church)

FREE TO SPECTATORS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
408-930-0384

THE GRAND CAR CLUB... 'CAR SHOW'!

Spirit of Grace and Pastor Scott with great pleasure hosted the **2023 'The Grand Car Club' Car Show** in our parking lot.

Pastor Scott also had the honor to choose the winner, **a gorgeous 1984 Pontiac GTO Convertible!**

And...the WINNER Owner is: *WALLY BELL !!*

From all accounts the show was a huge success and very well attended!! A great time was had by all! ***Congrats, Wally & Ladonna!***



(Photos provided by Mick McCarville)

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