



Our Vision
To Bring the
Spirit of Grace to All



Grace Notes - July 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

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Pastor Gary Benson

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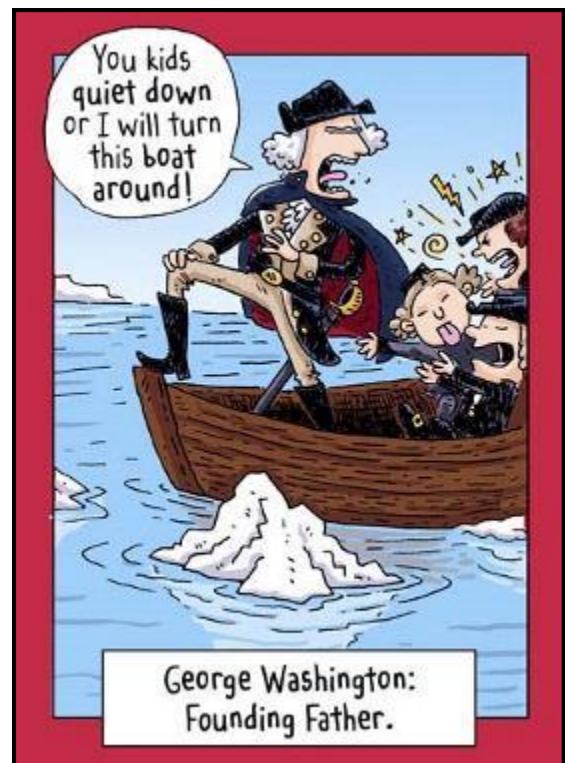
Director of Music

Ken Carnes

Choir Director

Sandy Hobbs

Choir Accompanist





A Message From Pastor Scott...

ROOTS!



In the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, God is irritated with His people who have turned from Him. He tells them that their lives are like a fruitless shrub in a parched desert. They languish without being rooted in the ground that is life giving. God says that being rooted in him takes care of our fear and anxiety, and sustains our fruitfulness.

Listen to the Lord's word as he gave it to the **Prophet Jeremiah:**

"Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." ~ Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV

You see how important roots are? Where are your roots planted these days? By that stream that gives life? God cares about you and your roots. We have a nourishing God who comes to us through means by which we can thrive even when life brings seasons of **"heat" and "drought."**



Sink your roots deep in God's sustaining waters this summer: the word, the sacraments, worship, prayer, community and fellowship. ***This is the rootedness that holds us close to God and God's people. Have a great summer!***

In the peace of Christ,
Pastor Scott



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF MAY 31, 2023...



	MAY	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2022 YTD
Income	67,278	59,598	358,789	348,705	344,918
Expenses	71,023	69,743	348,027	349,515	333,771
Fixed Asset Purchases	-0-				
Mortgage Balance	520,303				
Households:	443		+2		
Members:	751		-3		

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 MAY — \$ 1,110
Contribution Total For JUNE — \$1,975

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:

JULY 2023

Attendance through the month of June is still good. We are averaging a little over 200 per weekend plus the people that are watching the service online.

Thank you for your continued support!

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 May was \$1,110. Thank you for your continued support.

The Congregation Council met by Zoom with Evan Moilan of GSB Consultants to review the results and the long-range plans being developed by the Strategic Planning Committee. Please see Phil Nelson's report on the committee's progress in this edition of Grace Notes.

25th ANNIVERSARY. Plans continue to move forward on the celebration that marks the 25th Anniversary of Spirit of Grace. Council Vice-President, Ellie Brooks and Secretary Julie Townsend, and Treedah Magee are heading up the committee to plan the celebration activities.

Soon the parking lot will look a little different. The Council approved funding for 10 additional handicapped parking spaces. This will be on the west side. Work will be starting on this project shortly.

The "***Stewardship for all Seasons***" campaign will be starting in October. More details are to follow.

Ellie Brooks
Vice President

Julie Townsend
Secretary

Treedah Magee

Terry Pierce

Paul Reichenbach

Sue Barbour

Candace Renwall

Betsy Gusea-Gerringer

Blessings in Christ,

Bruce Balanger,

Congregation President

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, July 10 at 10:00.

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

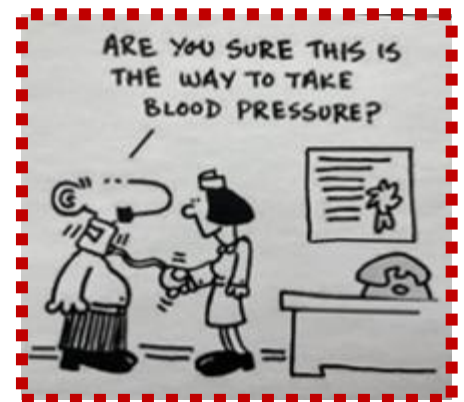
Hope to see you there!

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



For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ~ Galatians 5:13



Happy Independence Day ~ July 4

*Blessed is the nation whose God is
the Lord; and the people whom he
hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

~ Psalm 33:12



There were only about 2.5 million people living in the United States in 1776.

Our national anthem wasn't *'The Star-Spangled Banner'* until 1931. It took 117 years for the words written in 1814 by Francis Key Scott to gain federal recognition. Now, it is easily one of the most famous songs in the country.



The One World Trade Center in New York was designed to be 1,776 feet tall. One of the most spectacular features of the building is its height, which represents the year America declared independence from Great Britain.



George Washington celebrated the 4th of July in 1778 even though he was at war. On July 4, 1778, George Washington treated U.S. soldiers to a double ration of rum and a cannon salute. *Nice!*

It's a tradition in New England to eat salmon on the 4th of July. Eating salmon and peas on Independence Day is a New England practice that dates back centuries. Many swear by the recipe, and have made it a staple for the American holiday. *Yum!*





Thank You, Fellowship Team!

The Fellowship Team has ended a successful year of events, which we hope many of you enjoyed. Maybe you'll find yourself attending one of the events in the pictures that are featured this month. We will take July and August off, as we all take vacations; however, we are still busy planning events for the rest of 2023 and 2024!

Mark Your Calendars For These upcoming 2023 Fall Events:

September 17: Pizza & Bingo with PRIZES!!

October 1: Tremble Clefs Concert

October 22: Oktoberfest

November 12: Harvest Home Dinner followed by

"Faith & Freedom" Tribute Concert by **Sounds of the Southwest**

*****Please take time to thank your FELLOWSHIP TEAM when you see them!*****

**Deb & Pete Cunningham, Lynn Dennis, Janet Berry, Ed & Carol Tannheimer,
Jean & Jim Schlenvogt, Hella Kinney, Mary Ann & Bill Homewood, Shelly Lettiere,
Paul Reichenbach, Sue Barbour, Margaret & Ron Raisanen, Kay Schaeffer,
Mary Peterson, Joyce Lange, Gerry Raat, Colleen Towe, Bonnie & Don Oster,
Ken & Dorothy Carnes.**

We would LOVE to have you join our team! Yes, it seems we are many, but it takes **Many Hands** to put on an event. Some do phone calls, others like set up or clean up, some like to plan events and be creative, all are welcome!! We have a great time and it's a fun way to get to know people in our church.

Please contact me if you're interested in learning more, 563-349-9274.

Dorothy Carnes

Fellowship Ministry



Thank You, Fellowship Team!!



Barn Dancing with Grace - Oct 23

FELLOWSHIP ON DISPLAY!

A few highlights from our season of fun!

Thanks for joining us!!

Dorothy Carnes



Barn Dancing with Grace - Oct 23



Liberty Quartet & Pastor Gary - Feb 26



Seder Meal - April 2



The Salty Dawgs - April 23



Harvest Home Dinner and the Desert Winds Steel Orchestra - Nov 13



The Arizona Swing Kings - January 15



MARICOPA COUNTY 'NEW ALERT SYSTEM' IN PLACE...

Below is an informative article found on a neighborhood website addressing **'property title theft'**. Amid a rise in title theft, Maricopa County has created an easy new alert system!

The **first link** below will give you all the AZ Central news relating to property title theft. The **second link** will take you directly to the State of Arizona (Maricopa County) site to register your email address.

If activity happens on your title, they will send you an email alert!

It's a free service.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2023/06/01/new-title-theft-alert-system-implemented-in-maricopa-county/70263011007/>



Our Prayers For Those Who Mourn...

Gary Hepburn and family for the loss of his wife, **Jo Ann Hepburn, 81**, who passed away on June 3. Gary and Jo have been long time members of Spirit of Grace since 2007. Jo is survived by her loving husband Gary of 61 years; daughter, Christine Guzzardo, son, Jay Hepburn, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Doris Colville and family for the loss of her husband, **Glen H. Colville, 88**, who passed away peacefully on June 13. Glen and Doris have been long time members of Spirit of Grace since 2005. Glen served in the U.S. Army, spending 2 1/2 years in the 101st Airborne and making 25 jumps, all during peacetime. After moving to several states during his career, they retired and have resided in The Grand for the past 23 years. He was an active and proud member of the Nine Hole Golf Club. Glen is survived by his loving wife Doris of 63 years, their daughter, Su Nugent, and son, Andre Colville and four grandchildren.

Al Perissinotto and family for the loss of his wife, **Mary Perissinotto, 88**, on June 18. Al and Mary have been long time members since February 2006. Al, who is originally from Italy, met Mary in her home country of Sweden 46 years ago. They were married 41 years and traveled all over the world with his work as an engineer. Al is Catholic and Mary was Lutheran so they would attend two church services each week; Al referred to it as a "double-header."



HONOR FLIGHT—WASHINGTON D.C.



On May 11, I returned home from a 3-day tour of national monuments in and around Washington D.C. as a Vietnam Veteran. I would like to share the honor with all of you.

The trip was sponsored by **Honor Flight Arizona**, a local organization that selects veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam to participate of one of the several Honor Flights that are scheduled each year. Honor Flight Arizona handled all arrangements including flights, meals, hotel rooms, ground transportation and even the handling and checking of luggage. Volunteers, or *Guardians*, accompanied the veterans on the flight, on the bus and at every step of the way. At every stop the Honor Flight members were welcomed and given priority admission.

Highlights included guided tours of The Naval Academy at Annapolis, Ft McHenry in the Baltimore Harbor and Tomb Of The Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery. Then there was Keith, our coach driver for the tour, who knew and related many stories and facts about virtually everything outside our coach windows. Other sites were the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Viet Nam *'Wall'*, Nurses sculpture, WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, the 911 Memorial at the Pentagon and the new Air Force Memorial.

Three highlights stood out:

- 1.)** On the tour we passed many groups of school children on field trips. Without exception, when we approached the kids, they stopped, lined up to the side and applauded us as we passed by.
- 2.)** As we walked together through the airports we were met by applause from other travelers and as we boarded and exited each leg of our flight we were met by a military or TSA Honor Guard.
- 3.)** On the flight back to Phoenix our tour directors held **Mail Call**. Each member was handed letters from *home* reminiscent of those mail calls we had while in lands far away. The difference was that, while years before many such mail calls resulted in no letters for weeks at a time, this time every one of us received welcomed letters.

Our trip was marked with much laughter and not a few tears. I wish to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to the several Spirit of Grace members whose *Mail Call* cards and letters added meaning to this unique experience and helped add the *Welcome Home* that was missing those many years before.

(please see photos on next page...)

Terry Pierce

HONOR FLIGHT con't ...



*We honor and thank you
Terry and all our Veterans
who have served our country
in years past.
America is truly blessed !!!*



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE...

We continue the process by refining goals, objectives and specific actions that are needed to complete our Strategic Plan. We are excited with our progress. We believe we have identified goals that, when accomplished, will greatly aid us in accomplishing our mission as God's people here in this place and will help us chart a direction for Spirit of Grace now and in the future. In the coming weeks we will present the work that has been accomplished.

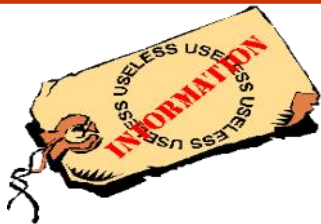
We will provide that information in the following ways:

- **MINISTRY MINUTES AT THE BEGINNING OF SERVICES.**
- **BULLETIN INSERTS AT SERVICES**
- **E-MAIL INFORMATION**
- **A GROUP GATHERING TO DISCUSS INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL.**

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, and please let us know of any questions you may have.

Phil Nelson

Strategic Planning Committee



Tigers' skin is actually striped, just like their fur.

The average person will spend 3 years of his or her life on the toilet.

People who talk to themselves are more likely to have a high IQ.

After reading this post you will realize that the the brain doesn't recognize the second the.

Your shoes are the first thing people subconsciously notice first. Always wear nice shoes.

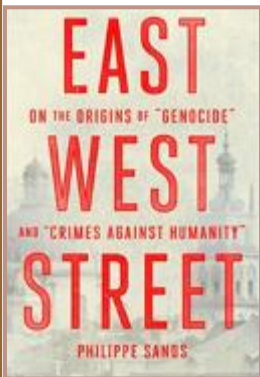
Buckingham Palace in London, England, has 775 rooms, including 78 bathrooms. The White House in Washington, DC, has 132 rooms, including 35 bathrooms.

FROM THE CHURCH ...



GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Once upon a time, it was taken for granted that sovereign nations could treat their citizens anyway they wanted. Perhaps the ultimate expression of that was the Holocaust, but still today we hear stories of people being deprived of their lives, liberty and property in unjust but "legal" ways.



July 17 is the World Day for International Justice, celebrating the creation of the International Court of Criminal Justice in 1998. The ICC is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the crime of genocide and for crimes against humanity as well as war crimes and the crime of aggression. The older International Court of Justice (ICJ), also located at The Hague, hears cases between nations involving genocide and human rights.

Philippe Sands, an expert on international law who has served as counsel at ICJ, is the author of East West Street: On the Origins of "Genocide" and "Crimes Against Humanity." Invited to lecture at Lvov University, in the city where his grandfather was born, Sands began to uncover answers to mysteries in his own family and their connection to the **"fathers of the modern human rights movement"**. Rafael Lemkin and Hersch Lauterpacht both studied at Lvov University before WWII and then came up with **"diametrically opposite, revolutionary concepts of humanitarian law that changed the world."**

Following clues in letters, documents, photos and address books, Sands uncovers amazing coincidences leading to the Nuremberg trials at which both Lemkin and Lauterpacht played a role in the conviction of the men who were responsible for murdering most members of their families.

It's part detective story, part family memoir and all history. **"No novel could possibly match such an important work of truth."**

Carole Parnell,

Spirit of Grace Librarian



Faith Community Nurse Corner

DEMENTIA SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Caring for a loved one with dementia can be challenging for a caregiver. You do not have to do it alone. There are several programs to help ease the stress of being a caregiver.



Sun Health's Memory Care Navigator teams invite you to join the Dementia Caregiver Support Group which offers a welcoming and understanding community where you can find comfort, guidance, and a renewed sense of strength. **Meetings are held at two locations:**

Grandview Terrace Health and Rehab

Center Community Education Room
14505 W. Granite Valley Drive
Sun City West, AZ 85375
Every first and third Wednesday, 3:00-4:00
Call 623-471-9300 for information.

Faith Presbyterian Church

16000 N. Del Webb Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85351
Every second and fourth Thursday, 10:00-11:00
Call 623-471-8384 for information.
<https://www.sunhealthwellness.org/dementia>

Air travel with a loved one who has dementia can be intimidating. Sky Harbor Airport adopted a dementia-friendly initiative in 2021 that added special programming for those traveling with dementia.

There will be a Dementia – Friendly Air Travel Workshop, July 12, 10:00 to Noon. This free workshop is intended for caregivers of persons living with dementia who want to maintain air travel with their loved ones. Learn how to plan and navigate airports and air travel. Representatives from the airlines, TSA and the City of Phoenix Aviation Department will present valuable information. An optional tour of specific locations of the airport will be conducted following the workshop.

Registration is required. Please email: skyharbor@phoenix.gov

In the subject line: Dementia – Friendly Air Travel Workshop Registration

In the body of email: Include your full name, phone number, address and if you would like a tour. Check-in begins at 9:30. There is plenty of parking outside of the building.

This workshop is being held at:

City of Phoenix Aviation Department
2485 E. Buckeye Road
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Deborah Frusciano RN BSN ACRN CT

Faith Community Nurse



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)



Trust in the Lord with all your heart And lean not on your own understanding ~ Proverbs 3:5

Well I have been challenged recently in this area. What do I do when my plans fall apart?

I tend to panic, get mad and even give up. I am good at leaning on my own understanding. When I calm down I remember my verse **TRUST IN THE LORD, LEAN NOT on MY OWN understanding** and guess what? Everything works out. Not always in the way I thought it would, but in the way it should.

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

Please Join US!

COMBINED CIRCLE SUMMER GATHERINGS — Continue July 11 at 1:00

After a wonderful gathering of 20 women met in June to discuss the first installment of the Gather Magazine summer Bible study led by Barbara Stenberg, **the combined WELCA Women's Ministry continues on Tuesday, July 11 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall.**

The study will be found in the July/August issue of Gather Magazine. It should be in your mailbox shortly. There is also a copy in the Spirit of Grace library for you to borrow. Anneke Rutgers will lead the study that day.

This 3-part study deals with the short word, "**now,**" and the role it plays throughout the Gospel of John. The study's author encourages us as we live our lives as Christians to represent Jesus in the "**now**" of life.

Continued on following page

WELCA NEWS continued ...



Did you know...Spirit of Grace Women's Ministry has an anniversary coming up??



At the WELCA Grand Canyon Synod Convention held in Tucson on October 15, 1999, Shirley Piette accepted on behalf of the Women of Spirit of Grace, a framed membership certificate recognizing WELCA Spirit of Grace as an official unit of the Grand Canyon Synod. You'll be hearing more about this milestone as the year progresses.

*****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 ...

Secretary of the WELCA Board



Martha Gilford

Years ago in my home congregation, I attended a WELCA retreat with various presenters, one of whom led a workshop that changed me. From then on, I supported our activities as much as the life of a working mom would allow. But I made a decision that when I retired, I would become more involved with WELCA to continue the opportunity for connections among Lutheran women.

Spirit of Grace has given me that opportunity -- to make new friends and do much-needed Bible study. We have so many interesting, strong women here within our congregation! Join us and share the love!

Martha Gilford,

Secretary of the WELCA Board



June 8, 2023

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church
15820 W. Clearview Blvd
Surprise, AZ 85374

Dear Friends,

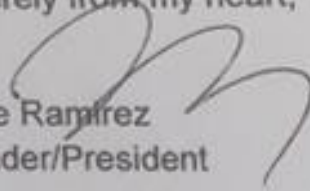
THANK YOU for your generosity, and your CONTINUED support of Valley View Community Food Assistance!

We are able to help low-income seniors, "food insecure"(not knowing where their next meal is coming from) children, families, houseless persons including children, all of them desperately hungry, partly because of YOUR goodness!

As you know, our mission is to serve those in need...with compassion and respect while providing the resources for wholesome nutritious food.

We could not do all that we do, without YOU. Your on-going efforts are so much appreciated!!!

Sincerely from my heart,


Jesse Ramirez
Founder/President

10771 W Peoria Ave Sun City AZ 85351 623-933-3358 vvcfb@yahoo.com

Face book: Your Food Bank www.feedingAZ.org



Whenever the waiter comes back to see how the food is.

