



Grace Notes - June 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

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Pastor Gary Benson

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Annie Huston

Grace Notes Editor
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Fred Bornhoeft

Director of Music

Ken Carnes

Choir Director

Sandy Hobbs

Choir Accompanist





A Message From Pastor Scott...

Significance and Purpose

FOR WE ARE WHAT HE HAS MADE US, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND TO BE OUR WAY OF LIFE. ~ Ephesians 2:10 NRSV

I don't know who first it was that told me, "***Who you are is the consequence of whose you are,***" but those words have stuck with me throughout my life. I came from parents who knew well "*whose*" they were and were the first to teach me that I was a child of God. In teaching me "*whose*" I was, they also encouraged me to discover how God had made and shaped me. They told me that I was special and unique...that who I was would be discovered as I explored life.

My sense of purpose has sure changed through the years and I'm glad they helped me put much of it in perspective. I've learned that wishful thinking alone wouldn't get me there...that I needed to try things on to see how they fit. I think I am still trying things on to see how they fit.

I like the story about a little boy playing in the back yard. He was holding a baseball and a bat. He proudly declares, "*I'm the greatest hitter in the world.*" Then he throws the ball in the air and with a mighty swing, misses it. Again he throws the ball into the air saying, "*I'm the greatest hitter in the world,*" only to miss the ball again. Finally, saying even more loudly, "*I'm the greatest hitter in the world,*" he threw the ball into the air and, once again, missed. He paused for a moment and then began to swagger saying, "*I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!*"

I love that story! I've swung and missed too many times to count, but I've learned that I'm still on the playing field. I'm not going to make the Chicago Cubs lineup but I'm in God's lineup and that means I'm not just a fan or onlooker.

One preacher said that we find purpose at "***the point of contact between our life and efforts, the people in our path and the will of God.***" That makes sense to me and gives me a sense of purpose no matter my age or circumstances.

This summer live a significant and purposeful life through faith that graces others, through hope that inspires, and through love that changes the lives of those it reaches.

In the peace of Christ,
Pastor Scott



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF APRIL 30, 2023...

	April	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2022 YTD
Income	69,801	76,558	291,511	289,106	286,692
Expenses	67,245	69,743	277,004	279,772	268,529
Fixed Asset Purchases	-0-				
Mortgage Balance	527,020				
Households:	444		+2		446
Members:	740		-2		754

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 — \$ Will be updated in next issue.

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:

JUNE 2023

As we approach the summer months more of our winter members are heading back to their summer residences. We wish them God's blessings and safe travels and look forward to seeing them in the fall.

Pastor Gary Benson, our seasonal pastor, leaves us at the end of May and will return in October. We wish both Pastor Gary and Sara a wonderful and relaxing summer.

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 April was \$1,460. Thank you for your continued support!

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to work on our long-range plans. The Committee has been meeting to continue working on plans for the future of Spirit of Grace. It has identified the needs from the survey and Leadership Meeting and will now begin to look at setting the goals for our future growth.

SPIRIT OF GRACE — 25th ANNIVERSARY

Plans continue to move forward on the celebration that marks the **25th Anniversary of Spirit of Grace. The official date is January 10, 2024**, a Wednesday. **The celebration will be held on January 14, 2024.** The Theme will be ***God's Work. Our Hands.*** Council Vice-President Ellie Brooks, Secretary Julie Townsend, and Treedah Magee are heading up the committee to plan the celebration activities. If anyone has any information regarding the startup of the congregation or pictures, please contact Ellie or Julie. This will be a very exciting time for Spirit of Grace!

Ellie Brooks
Vice President

Julie Townsend
Secretary

Blessings in Christ,

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, June 12 at 10:00.



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

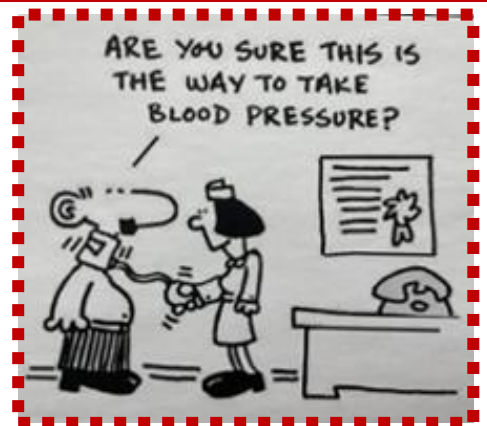
Hope to see you there!

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 June 11 —
Immediately following the 9:00 Service in the
Conference Room.**



If you have missed a worship service, newsletter, or need some information from an article you want to look at again, or maybe upcoming events? Then take a moment to check out our Spirit of Grace website, it's all there and much more! ***Spiritofgrace.com***

If you are enjoying our weekly online worship services, please be sure to ***click on the 'like' button*** and maybe leave a comment to let us know how we're doing!

Everybody likes pie and ice cream! And do we have a deal for you! – Pie, Ice Cream AND... a Movie!!

Your Fellowship Team is putting on a Pre-Father's Day Pie & Ice Cream and Movie Event, June 11 - 1:00. You'll enjoy apple, berry or maybe peach pie with a big scoop of ice cream and then settle back to watch "*Running The Bases*", a faith-based movie.



A heartfelt story about a small-town baseball coach who gets an offer from a larger high school to coach. He uproots his family and leaves the only home he's ever known. However, as a man of faith, he soon faces extreme opposition to his coaching methods from the school superintendent who makes the coach the target of his anger toward God.

Tickets for the event are only \$10..!!

Paul Reichenbach

Men's Breakfast Team Leader



FLAG DAY—JUNE 14

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom He hath chosen for his own inheritance.

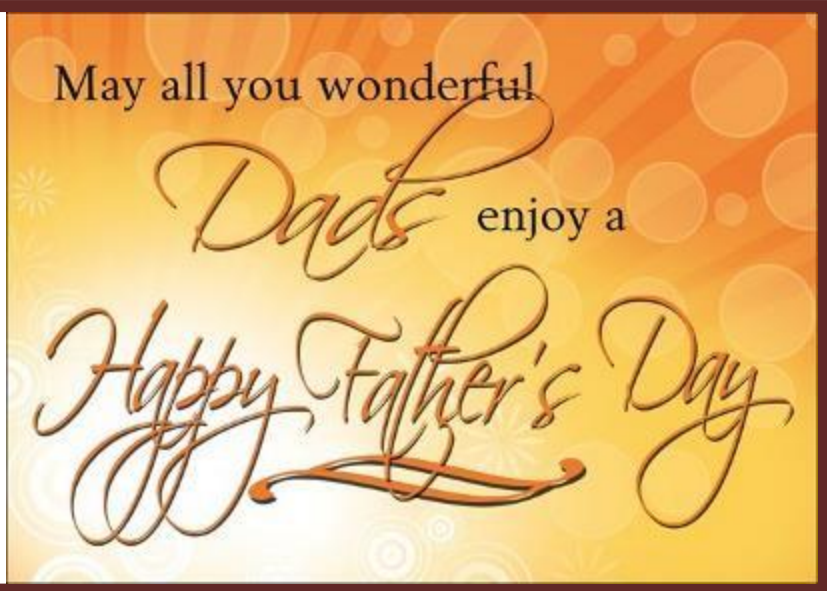
~ Psalm 33:12

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD,
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!**

FATHERS DAY—JUNE 18

A GOOD FATHER... Is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed and yet one of the most valuable assets of our society!

~ Billy Graham



FELLOWSHIP TEAM

After our event on June 18, to honor Father's and all men who are examples to children, family members, and friends; the

Fellowship team will take a much needed break until our first event in September.

But, we are in the planning process for 2024! So, "**See You in September**" as the song goes!

Dorothy Carnes

Fellowship Ministry



If you ever feel 'discombobulated' ... you're not alone!

A lobster's brain is located in its throat, its nervous system in its abdomen, its teeth in its stomach, and its kidneys in its head! It also hears using its legs, tastes with its feet, and tends to favor one front limb, meaning it can be right-clawed or left-clawed.





SEE WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE UP TO IN THEIR SPARE TIME??



Valley View Community Food Bank



Photos by Carol Junge

Twelve members of Spirit of Grace volunteered at Valley View Community Food Bank on May 12th. Teamwork created hundreds of tied bags filled with bars of soap for families who are served by VVCFB. Watch for monthly opportunities to participate in our Spirit of Grace bulletin!

Marsha Gilford

We give to support the children of Phoenix



Debra Cunningham, Coordinator of the Child Crisis Arizona program at Spirit of Grace, reports that with monetary contributions and the hundreds of clothing outfits and other needed items brought for the service project, the generosity of our congregation amounted to about \$10,000.

What a wonderful gift to this worthy charity offering help during crisis situations as well as long-term solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect.



Sue Tedell

WELCA News Coordinator

SAY HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS ...



LINDA SERVAIS ~ Is originally from Wisconsin. She relocated to Glendale in 1980. Linda moved to Surprise eight years ago to be closer to her two sons, her four grandchildren and her three great-grandchildren, all who live here in Surprise. Linda is a retired Medical Technologist from Thunderbird Hospital in Glendale. For fun, Linda loves to hang out with her friends and her grandchildren. She recently began a search for a new church to attend starting with Spirit of Grace and looked no further. She said she knew immediately this church was the one for her. *Nice!*



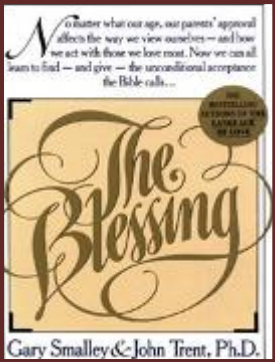
RICHARD & CAROLYN FINCH ~ Richard is a former teacher. He also restored large stained glass windows in church's and other buildings, and owned an antique store in Colorado. Carolyn is a retired Chemical Engineer and was employed at Hewlett Packard for thirty-three years. Richard and Carolyn have been married for 57 years. They have also lived in Washington and Texas.

FRED & JUDY KOESEL ~ Come to us from Grand Lake, Colorado. Fred is a retired J.C. Penney Store Manager. They are from North Dakota but have moved 14 times during his employment to numerous states, Minnesota, Chicago, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, Iowa, Missouri and Arizona. They have lived in The Grand for twenty years. Fred enjoys travel, reading and time with their family. Judy is a retired Registered Nurse and enjoys reading, cooking, travel, and spending precious time with their family.



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

Have you ever wondered how worshipers could *bless the Lord*? Did you know that the word *blessing*, as it is used in the Bible, comes from a Hebrew word meaning *to kneel*, as a camel kneels to take on a rider? In the Old Testament, a blessing came from the father and was associated with an inheritance, thus only available to the oldest or most favored child. In Jewish families today, as for all of us, blessings can be shared often and with anyone. They convey a sense of value that is badly needed in a world where loneliness and the feeling of insignificance have become a disease.



According to *The Blessing*, by Gary Smalley and John Trent, there are five parts to a blessing:

1. **Meaningful touch.** Within the family, hugging and kissing convey comfort, security and acceptance. So do the laying on of hands and sharing of the peace with a handshake for the Church family. This touching is not only symbolic of a blessing going from one to another, but research has shown physiological benefits like the lowering of blood pressure.

2. **Spoken words.** Words have tremendous power to build us up or tear us down emotionally. We need to hear words of love, acceptance and encouragement. Failure to express our blessings in words can be as hurtful as negative remarks, creating insecurity, anxiety and, eventual withdrawal.

3. **Expressing high value.** High value words tell the recipients that they are appreciated for character traits apart from performance or appearance. These are most meaningful if paired with a word picture...the child as a *gift*, the mother as a *loving kitten*, the man as a *lion*, the woman as a *rock of Gibraltar*.

4. **Picturing a special future.** When a person feels there is something hopeful to look forward to, it builds a positive attitude and direction in life. *The Lord has promised to bring you healing. May you prosper in all you do. God will give you knowledge and wisdom. May you walk with integrity and do works of righteousness.*

5. **An active commitment.** This means following up on the blessing by learning more about the person you are blessing, recognizing their qualities and their needs, finding ways to share your blessings with them.

This book has been very helpful to parents, but there is also a chapter on churches. One department in a church *decided to get serious about blessing other people in their lives.* The results spread throughout the entire church and helped bring a new sense of warmth and caring to many people.

Carole Parnell,

Spirit of Grace Librarian



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 or on a note and I will post it here.

I would like to THANK everyone who participated in this year's collection, all of you that helped with the work end of this project and those who brought your donations ***TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN!*** This congregation is made up of some of the best volunteers around and so many children will be helped!

This year's collection was the largest yet. The monetary donations were \$6,420 and this amount was supplemented by \$540 in gift cards. Items collected were estimated to be worth between three and four thousand dollars, bringing your donations to a staggering \$9,960 on the low end.

Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough! You will never know the children that you help but there are many, and you *have made a difference!* I only wish you could see the difference in some of the children I have seen; you would never forget the look on their faces.

Thank you all for your caring and support! ~ Debra Cunningham

"NEED TO CLEAN OUT YOUR SEWING CABINET"?

If you are you a quilter or a sewer, and have scraps of lightweight material you don't need, I would love to have them for a craft project for our WELCA convention coming up this summer.

Please call me at 623-933-6829 or e-mail me at pdcunningham02@hotmail.com and we'll make arrangements to get them from you.



Thanks,

Debra Cunningham



New Rules for End-of-Life Care: A Guide on the Stages of Death

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church

Wednesday, June 14, 10:00 -11:30

Cost: A suggested donation of \$6.00 to cover cost of materials.

Refreshments will be served.

"All praise to God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

~ 2 Corinthians

Caring for someone as they approach the end of their life is not the same as caring for someone who is going to get better. Unfortunately, most people don't know this. That is why Barbara Karnes, RN created this multi award winning film, ***New Rules for End-of-Life Care***. This program shares information on how to care for a loved one at the end of their life. Whether the patient is at home, in a nursing home or hospital, this program will give a family valuable information they need to understand the dying process.

90-minute Program Includes:

VIDEO: *New Rules for End-of-Life Care* — Information on end-of-life care that addresses not only the behavior changes as they pertain to food, sleep, and withdrawal, but pain management and the use of narcotics.

BOOKLET: *Gone From My Sight* — Detailed information on what you should expect to see in the months, weeks, days and hours approaching death from old age or disease. Offers a short, simple, non-medical description of the signs of approaching death.

BOOKLET: *The Eleventh Hour* — Explains what to do and how to care for your loved one during the end-of-life process.

DISCUSSION/QUESTION ANSWER PERIOD: Discussion on what was viewed in the film and questions on content.

Death is not a topic we talk about as much as we should. It is a fact of life that we all die and lose those that we love. This short program is to help us assist those we love at the end of their life. Even if you are not facing this now, we all will at one time or another or have a friend or family member who is. Please join us to discuss this important issue.

The above cited article reflects the authors interpretation of the study and does not constitute medical or mental health advice. Consult your health care provider for your specific needs.

Deborah Frusciano RN BSN ACRN CT

Faith Community Nurse



HAPPY '75th' BIRTHDAY, PASTOR GARY !!



Sara Benson surprised Pastor Gary, and treated Sunday worshippers with two beautiful and delicious cakes to help celebrate his '75th' birthday with friends in Café Grace following the worship service. Thank you, Sara!

Also, just a reminder that Pastor Gary will be off for the summer and will return to us this fall. Thank you Pastor Gary for all you give throughout your time with us each year and sincerely hope you enjoy your well deserved time off! *See you in October!*



*The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **Power of GOD.***

~ 1 Corinthians 1:18



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)



*Some of you will stay here this summer; others will leave.
No matter where you are, I pray you will find green pastures, still
waters and restoration for your soul, and most of all, that you will
experience His loving kindness.*

Many Blessings

Sue Todd WELCA, President

Please join us at a time that is convenient for you (See the list of Circles below.)

First Combined Circle Summer Gathering to meet on June 12.

All women of the Spirit of Grace Church are invited to join with other sisters for an afternoon of fellowship, coffee and treats at 1:00, Monday, June 12 - in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible study for this gathering is found in the May/June 2023 (bright purple cover) Gather magazine on pages 32-37 entitled "**Salvation Now.**"

This 3-part study focuses on one short word, "now," and the role it plays throughout the Gospel of John. "Now" is a small word, but as we will see, not an innocuous one. Jesus is active in every present moment, something we must not forget. The study's author encourages us as we live our lives as Christians to represent Jesus in the "now" of life. If you are not able to attend in person and would like **to attend by "zoom", please contact Anneke Rutgers at annekerutgersaz@gmail.com** and she will send you a link to use to join in on June 12.

Continued on following page

COMING UP NEXT!

***July and August-Second and third combined summer gatherings** studying
"Salvation Now," a Bible study on parts of John.

The dates will be **Tuesday, July 11, 1:00** and **Thursday, August 10, 1:00**. All gatherings will be in the Fellowship Hall. **Watch July's newsletter for information about requesting a "Zoom" link for these two sessions.**



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

*****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.**

*****The date of the combined Circle fall kickoff will be Thursday, October 12 at 1:00 — in the Fellowship Hall.**

Watch for more information in Sunday bulletins and Grace Notes for the program!!

Sue Tedell

WELCA News Coordinator



VETERANS MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY

THE GRAND VILLAGE CENTER ~ MAY 19



Bob Aiken, Vietnam Veteran and past president of *The Grand*, began the ceremony by announcing the presentation of colors by the **Luke AFB Honor Guard**.

Dan Reed played the National Anthem on his bugle and our **Pastor Gary E. Benson** delivered the invocation.



Rene' Mitchell, *The Grand* Board of Director's President, made a brief statement about the Monument before the American Flag and the POW Flag were raised. The flags will continue to fly in the center of the monument.

Barry Curseaden, father of a veteran and current president of the Grand Armed Forces Support Group, was instrumental in keeping the project on track after two retired pilots proposed it in 2011. These two *Grand* residents, Bill Fedor and Jerry Wojtas, are both retired Air Force pilots. Aiken commented, "**When the Grand Board agreed to the project in 2019, it only made sense that Barry would be part of the committee to organize and design the monument.**"



The dedication ended with a recording of "**Proud to be an American**" sung by **Lee Greenwood and the Singing Sergeants**.

Poker chips were given to attendees with the **Grand Armed Forces Support Group Logo** on the front and these words on the back, "**We Shall Never Forget.**" All are sure to be impressed by the beauty of the monument. The night lighting will take viewers' breath away as they stand saluting America's Flag and giving thanks for the men and women, past, present and future who defend our country. **May God bless them all!**

Mick McCarville

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CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Creativity and budget constraints sometimes go hand in hand.