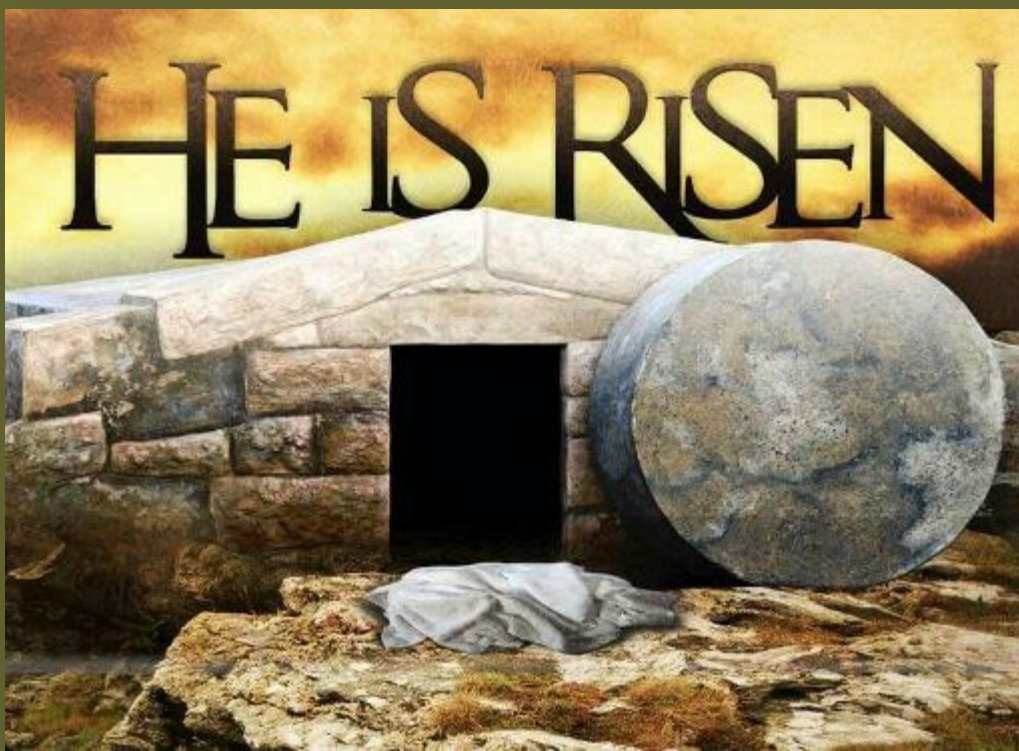




He is not here,
for he has risen,
as he said.
Come, see the
place where he
lay.
(Matthew 28:6)

GRACE NOTES ~ MARCH 2024



Worship Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 and Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00

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 5:00

Sunday 8:00 & 10:00

Staff

Pastor Scott Hackler

pastorscott@spiritofgrace.com

Glenn Schultz

Director of Finance & Administration

glenn@spiritofgrace.com

Deborah Frusciano

Faith Community Nurse

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Administrative Assistant

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Staff - Continued

Ken Carnes

Choir Director

Sandy Hobbs

Choir Accompanist

Sue Hunter

Worship Pianist



FOR THOSE OUT OF STATE PHONE CALLS,
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 10



A CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE FOR THE LENTEN SEASON...

It seems that we just entered Lent, but the last week of March will be Holy Week and the last day of March is Easter. What an important time!

While we don't want to rush through Lent and ignore its preparation for Easter, I am anxious to get to Easter Sunday. It is the most important day of the year for Christians throughout the world. It declares the triumph of Christ over sin and death. The limits of this earthly life are broken and if that is true, the promise of eternal life is true.

As we prepare for that day, I want to encourage you to add a Christian discipline. It is a discipline that doesn't always end up on a list of spiritual disciplines, but it should. It is the discipline of invitation. Please look around at your acquaintances and neighbors and look for an opportunity to invite them to join us in our Easter celebration. Bless and encourage them if they already have a place to worship, but if they don't, invite them to Spirit of Grace.

It is a powerful thing to invite people to church. Without an invitation few will just walk through the doors to join us. An invitation is a loving and caring action that moves people to do something new.

We still have time. Make inviting and welcoming a part of your Lenten disciplines.

Actually, make it a year-round discipline, because the good news of Jesus Christ - his life, death and resurrection - is for everyone, everyday!



Peace and joy to you!

Pastor Scott



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2024...

	January	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2023
Income	61,520	82,152	61,520	82,152	75,978
Expenses	87,485	86,260	87,485	86,260	70,452
Fixed Asset Purchases	-0-				
Mortgage Balance	465,858				
Households:	447		+1		446
Members:	734		+2		745

Glenn Schultz,

*Director of Finance
& Administration*



FOOD INGATHERING via Cash Donations

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

If you have not given to this effort and want to be a part of it, **you may send a check by mail or drop it**

Contribution Total For FEBRUARY — \$1,710



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

Glenn Schultz,

*Director of Finance and
Administration*



COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 2024

The Council met February 22 and welcomed new members **Ted Grove, John Kilgus and Jo Ann Miller. Sue Kopcha** was also elected for one year and **Jan Hylan** for two years to fill vacant, unexpired terms. Council members were installed at all three services on February 24 and 25. Thank you to the congregation for the unanimous support of these candidates and for approving the budget for 2024.

Thank you to past Council President, Bruce Belanger, for his excellent leadership this last year **and to Terry Pierce, Julie Townsend, and Ellie Brooks** for their service on the Council and to Spirit of Grace.

There are many opportunities open for members to contribute time and talent to Spirit of Grace and ask you to consider helping with Scripture reading and ushering (at each of the services), the Marketing Outreach Committee, and acting as the Council Recording Secretary (recording minutes at each council meeting). If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Merly at the church office and she will pass your information along to the appropriate people.



Thank you to everyone who responded to the Stewardship appeal by returning your commitment card. The response has been very good and positive. If you have not had a chance to turn in your commitment, it's not too late. Feel free to mail it, bring it to the office or put it in the offering plate. Don't forget it is easy to set up convenient electronic giving. If you need more information to set this up, please call Glenn Schultz at 623-977-6000.

Strategic Planning is moving forward with many exciting initiatives that you'll be hearing more about in the coming months – all a result of your feedback. Thank you.

Betsy Gusea-Gerringer,

Council President

Betsy Gusea-Gerringer
Council President

Jan Hylan
Vice President

Sue Kopcha
Secretary

Paul Reichenbach

Treedah McGee

Bruce Belanger

Ted Grove

John Kilgus

Jo Ann Miller

'MEET OUR 2024 SPIRIT OF GRACE COUNCIL'...



2024 COUNCIL INSTALLATION—FEBRUARY 24, 2024



**BETSY GUSEA-GERRINGER
PRESIDENT**



JAN HYLEN - VICE PRESIDENT



SUE KOPCHA - SECRETARY



TREEDAH MAGEE



BRUCE BELANGER



TED GROVE



JO ANN MILLER



JOHN KILGUS



PAUL REICHENBACH



Thank you all for your dedication and service to Spirit of Grace!



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 17

Wear green on St. Paddy's day — which is itself an American creation — and you'll be invisible to a leprechaun and therefore safe from their torment. Forget to wear green, and you might just get pinched as a reminder. Also notable, the color green itself only became linked to St. Patrick's Day in the U.S., drawn from the green on the Irish flag and in reference to the Emerald Isle, as Ireland is sometimes called.

Early on, the color of St. Patrick's Day was blue. Americans switched it to green each March 17, and so, too, has the rest of the world. *Grunge.com*



MARCH 19



PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 24



The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the King of Israel!" ~ JOHN 12:12-13

THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL: TRAVEL TO GREECE AND TURKEY

On Wednesday, March 6th at 11:00 there will be a meeting to look at the trip together and see who else might share this amazing journey.

Next fall, join Pastor Scott and visit the footsteps of the Apostle Paul in Greece and Turkey. The 10-day trip will take you from Thessaloniki in northern Greece to Athens and Corinth in the south. A four-day cruise will explore Greek islands and have you setting foot in Ephesus, Turkey. The details are too many to share here.

Follow this link to the website created for this trip:

<https://www.eliastours.com/tours/footsteps-of-paul-tour-with-rev-scott-hackler-spirit-of-grace-lutheran-church>

Pastor Scott



"Experiencing Revelation"

Wednesdays — March 13 and 20, 10:00 -11:15



The Revelation of John, the last book of the Bible, has visions of heaven and a lake that burns with fire and sulfur, saints gathered around God's throne and a whore who sits on a scarlet beast. What does it all mean? What are we supposed to do with it today? ***Come discuss the experience of the book of Revelation with Rev. Dr. Peter S. Perry on March 13 and 20 here at Spirit of Grace!***



Dr. Perry was born and raised in Phoenix and serves St. John's Lutheran Church in Glendale. He received his PhD from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2009. He specialized in the book of Revelation and ancient communication practices. You can prepare for the session by reading the book of Revelation through.

If you'd like, you can experience a recording of Dr. Perry's performance of Revelation at:

Part 1: <https://vimeo.com/789543625>,

Part 2: <https://vimeo.com/789879868>



Final Wednesday Class and Discussion:

Resistant Hope: Fighting Back Against Suffering*

March 6th — 10:00: Rev. Elaine Siemsen

Foundation: When suffering occurs in our own experience or that of another, the first question is often, ***"Where is God? Or Why did God let this happen?"*** The question of suffering is called Theodicy or ***"Where is God in times of Suffering."***

I learned that there have been four traditional answers which cause us to choose between an all powerful/all knowing God or a compassionate one or lead to the logical conclusion that God has no power in our world or in our lives.

******You are invited to join in the final discussion even if you missed the first two!******

February 21, we discussed a definition of suffering and the question of where is God in times of suffering.

February 28, We thought about the different possible answers.

March 6, we will talk about a proposal for responding to suffering that allows God's compassion and love to shine through all of us even in the most painful situations.

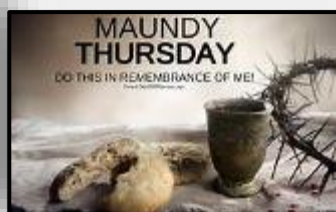
The Conversation is drawn from a book that Elaine wrote several years ago. You can find digital copies on Amazon.*



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 extend a special thank you to Larry and Lorie Maurice, Richard Johnson and David Weeks who volunteer each week in our audio booth during services. It is a tremendous help to me and I appreciate all their efforts and the great job that they do! ~ ***Jerry Huston***





MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28 – 5:00 WITH COMMUNION

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – 5:00 WITH NO COMMUNION

*****SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – NO WORSHIP SERVICE*****

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – 8:00 & 10:00 WITH COMMUNION

HAPPY EASTER...!!!



*“He himself bore our sins” in his body, on the cross,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed. ~ 1 PETER 2:24-25*



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

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall!

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

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

Dennis W. Siemsen, OD, MHPE

Emeritus Consultant in Optometry and Low Vision

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

MARCH FELLOWSHIP ~ GET READY for some great music, fun & laughs!

LIBERTY QUARTET — March 10 @ 6:00 - Doors open at 5:15



Cost: FREE, however a ticket will be required for admittance to the concert.

LIBERTY IN CONCERT

Do you need a boost?? **Do you need to feel "HIS STRENGTH"?** Well, come on in-- it's time for the **Liberty Quartet Concert!** Don't miss this hour of gospel music sung by Royce Mitchell, Paul Ellis, Will Arasmith, and Peyton Olive, with Doran Ritchey on piano. You'll leave feeling uplifted and inspired by the Spirit of God.

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT SPACE IS LIMITED, so pick up a ticket in the narthex before or after services or at the church office only on TUESDAYS.

*****A Free Will Offering will be taken during the concert to help pay for their expenses.**

WHAT'S NEXT..???

GAME TIME—TURN OFF THAT TV AND COME TO GAME TIME AND FELLOWSHIP IN CAFÉ GRACE!!

~ APRIL 15 @ 1:30

We'll introduce you to BUNCO, JOKER (PEGS AND JOKER) and DOMINOES. We'll have some munchies for you to enjoy while you play. **Cost: \$5**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

UPCOMING EVENT: CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION
on MAY 2 with good food, fun & laughter!

Dorothy Carnes

Fellowship Ministry



A SPIRIT OF GRACE SUCCESS STORY... MEN'S BREAKFAST!

'Men's Breakfast' at Spirit of Grace is enjoying a renewed season of enjoyable breakfasts and a great scripture study after the meal. ***The breakfast is prepared by a small but dedicated group of volunteers, including Paul Reichenbach, Mary Ann Van Hart, Chuck Kinney and Mike Stone,*** who arrive early on the last Tuesday of the month, prepare a hot breakfast, and serve the men who are attending the Men's Breakfast event. From a humble gathering of a few interested men, the Men's Breakfast is experiencing an increasing number of men attending the events and January's attendance was over 30.



The prepared breakfast menu is ever-changing with offerings ranging from egg casseroles, to breakfast burritos and sandwiches, and ***the next breakfast on March 26th*** will again feature a delicious breakfast entree, the ever-popular Tater Tots and the always served fresh fruit medley, assorted pastries and juice and coffee. After the meal Bruce Belanger will lead the men in studying selected scripture passages. ***All men of Spirit of Grace***

and visitors are welcome and if you haven't attended a breakfast, come on down, we're ready for you on the last Tuesday of the month!

Paul Reichenbach



EASTER CANDY FUN FACTS

The idea of the Easter bunny delivering candy and eggs originated in Germany during the Middle Ages, with the first written mention of this tradition dating back to the 16th century. Dutch settlers in Pennsylvania brought the bunny to the United States in the 1700's and the rest is delicious history.

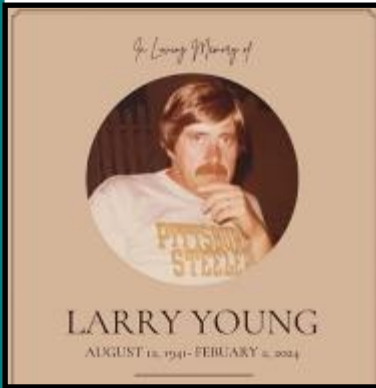
Americans eat about 1.5 million Peeps during Easter. That makes these colorful marshmallows the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy. The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, factory makes an impressive 5.5 million a day.

Americans consume over 16 million jelly beans during Easter. That's enough jelly beans to circle the globe not once, not twice but three times or to fill a plastic egg the size of a 9-story building.

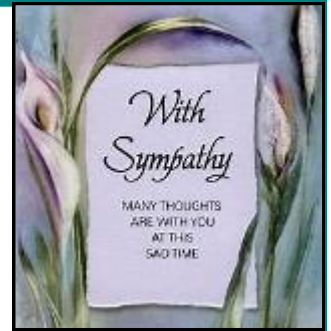
A surprising 59% of people eat the chocolate bunny's ears first!



OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN...



Vikki Young and family for the death of her husband of 46 years, **Larry Young, 82**, on February 2. He had a long history of Parkinson's and passed away from pneumonia due to the disease. They have two daughters and two granddaughters who live nearby.



Larry was Vice President of Teledyne Sprague Engineering in Los Angeles before retiring to Arizona. There will be a Celebration of Life on March 10th and also a Celebration of Life back in his home town of Lafayette, Indiana in August.

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



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

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

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

GriefShare Leaders:

**Deborah Frusciano
Miriam Hackler
Carol Starnes**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY

Volunteer at West Valley Community Food Bank



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

These are the next Saturday dates to note for bagging food items that will be handed out the following week:

**March 23, April 20, May 18 and June 15
from 9:30—11:30.**

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

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

Marsha Gilford

C.E.M. Leader



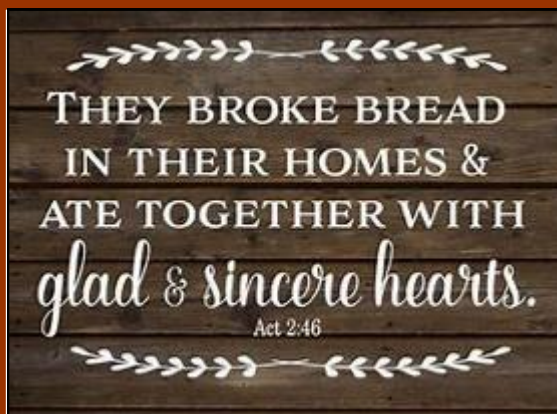
VICKI AND MARVIN BRINKMAN, KEN CARNES & MARSHA GILFORD PREPARING PACKING BAGS

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 **MARCH 17 —
*Immediately following each Service in the
Conference Room.***





BREAKING BREAD: DINNER FOR SIX
"Food brings people together on many different levels. It's the nourishment of the soul and body. It's truly love." Giada De Laurentiis

(Chef, Writer, Television personality).

Breaking Bread: Dinner for Six has been around at Spirit of Grace for many years. It has been called Heavenly Hash and Devine Dinners in the past. It is time to resurrect this popular event!!

New Year, New Name! The premise is the same. A group of six people getting together once a month for three months to share a meal. It does not have to be fancy or expensive. It can be appetizers, breakfast, brunch, or dinner. Simple as soup and salad to pizza or pork chops. Each group decides what works for them. It is rotated each month at a different person's home. As an example, the host provides the main dish and the others bring a salad or dessert. Keep it simple. It is about fellowship. Some people may want to participate but do not feel they can host in their home. That works too. Some groups meet at a restaurant or another person in the group will host. We want as many people to participate as possible.

If you want to participate in this great event there is a sign-up sheet and poster in the narthex or email me at deborah@spiritofgrace.com to sign up. Email or call me if you have any questions. **The first group will be for March, April, and May. Groups will be assigned the first week in March.**

Each group of six will have a leader. That person will contact the other people in the group to set up the first meal. The group of six is comprised of couples and singles. Everyone is welcome! You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to sign up. Invite your friends. The focus is on friendship and fellowship.

Around the table we hear each other's stories and build relationships. Whether making new friends, or digging deeper with old friends, meeting over a meal binds people in special ways. Please join us to Break Bread with each other.

Deborah Frusciano,
Faith Community Nurse

deborah@spiritofgrace.com
602-909-8369 cell
623-977-6000 ext. 140



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

Many of you watched the Super Bowl game February 11th between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs. It was an exciting game that went into overtime, with the Kansas City Chiefs winning the coveted trophy. Thankfully, the game was played without life threatening injuries.

In contrast, how many of you remember January 2, 2023; Monday Night football, the Buffalo Bills / Cincinnati Bengals. Buffalo Bills player, Damar Hamlin suffered a hit to his chest causing his heart to stop. (Cardiac Arrest). Thanks to the training of the staff and equipment that was immediately available, he survived and made a full recovery. He returned to playing football nine months following his injury. While this event was watched live on TV by millions of people when it happened, and received much media coverage, about 350,000 Cardiac Arrests happen each year – 70% of those happen at home.

When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby. ***Help your family, and community by learning 2 simple steps of Hands-Only CPR:***

Call 911

Begin CPR. Press hard and fast in the center of the chest.

These two basic steps can save a life. You are buying time until emergency personnel arrive to administer advanced life support and transport to the hospital. In addition, use of the AED (automated external defibrillator), if one is available, is an extra link in the Chain of Survival.

911, CPR, AED, Emergency Personnel, Hospital = Chain of Survival.

At Spirit of Grace, we have a group of individuals trained in CPR/AED. If you are interested in this life saving training, please contact me to schedule a class. You can help save a life.



Speaking of Hearts.....did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States? More than 650 million American women are living with some form of heart disease, yet only half are aware that heart disease is the number one killer of women. Click on the link below to learn more about heart disease in women and how to recognize symptoms, identify and reduce risk factors. **<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/17645-women--cardiovascular-disease>**

Deborah Frusciano RN BSN ACRN CT

Faith Community Nurse
deborah@spiritofgrace.com



**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY —
ASKS YOU TO LOVE THY NEIGHBOR...**

On Valentine's Day this year we started a period of Lent - a time of love as well as fasting. Civic Engagement Ministry asks that we all pray together to love our neighbors in this world.

Dear Lord,

Thank you, Lord, that you love me despite all of my faults and issues. Lord, I ask that you help me to love my neighbors with that same kind of love that you extend towards me. Lord, help me to see my neighbors through your eyes. Show me practical ways that I can help them, and through that help, then be able to show them the love of Jesus. Help me to put aside my agenda Lord to simply love them, to meet them where they are and to love them as You love them. In Your name, I pray, Amen.



Contact Nancy Jacob at Nljacob@aol.com with prayer concerns or questions about Civic Engagement.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS!!



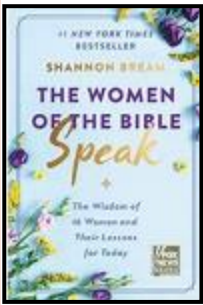
JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH A THIRD TIME...

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests

and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified.

On the third day he will be raised to life!" ~ MATTHEW 20:18-19

FROM THE ...



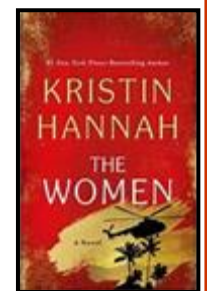
Among the 16 women profiled in *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream, we meet Deborah, a judge during the years when the Israelites 'had done evil in the eyes of Lord and were cruelly oppressed by their enemies.' At God's direction, she commanded her general to assemble an army from among the peasantry and defeat the formidable forces of the Canaanites, but he agrees only if she goes with him. Her confidence in God's promise of victory is fulfilled and there is peace for 40 years.

Wild West Women: Fifty Lives That Shaped the Frontier, edited by Erin H. Turner, includes Lozen, an Arizona Apache woman who played a similar role to Deborah's among her people. A warrior, scout and medicine woman, she rode with Geronimo, Cochise and Vittorio, who said of her, "Strong as a man, braver than most, and cunning in strategy, Lozen is a shield to her people." The last free Apaches would have been captured much earlier except for her "*supernatural*" ability to locate the enemy.



The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore is the story of Elizabeth Packard, a mother of six, who was wrongfully committed to an insane asylum in 1860 by her minister husband because she questioned his religious views. Locked up for three years under inhumane conditions, she prayed that God would grant her the strength to resist. When a smuggled note secured her a public hearing, she was declared "*sane*", but her husband left her penniless and homeless. Amazingly, she reinvented herself, became an advocate for women's rights and better insanity laws. Her best-selling books and success in changing the laws allowed her to reclaim her children, but questions about her sanity persisted. Finally, in 2023, the mental health center, named for the doctor who had kept her imprisoned, was changed to the Elizabeth Packard Mental Health Center in her honor.

The Women is Kristen Hannah's tribute to the 11,000 women, mostly nurses, who served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. Frankie McGrath impetuously volunteers after her brother is killed in the war and his friend tells her, "***Women can be heroes, too.***" She exchanges her sheltered life for one of chaos and destruction where life is a gamble, friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. But the real battle is coming home to a divided America that wants to forget the war and those who fought it.



Carole Parnell,

Spirit of Grace Librarian



ALL THAT JAZZ—February 4th Jazz with a Mardi Gras and New Orleans flavor! The *music was provided by 'The All Stars Band'*, under the direction of Duane Moore. They were **AWESOME!!**

Meet some of our Fun Fellowship Team — Some Incognito!!



DOROTHY CARNES
TEAM LEADER



DEBORAH CUNNINGHAM



MARY ANN HOMEWOOD



JOYCE LANGE



RON RAISANEN



HELLA KINNEY



MARGARET RAISANEN



SHELLY LETTIERE

THANKS TO DOROTHY CARNES AND THE ENTIRE FELLOWSHIP TEAM FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN PROVIDING SPIRIT OF GRACE WITH SUCH GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL EVENTS ! ~ *YOU'RE THE BEST!*





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)

March will mean transition for our WELCA Women's Ministry. Sue Todd will be stepping down from the position of President as she, and her husband Charles will be moving out of our community and Spirit of Grace to be with family in Kentucky. Sue has been an inspiration leading with much joy and enthusiasm for our women's ministry. The Spring Tea Luncheon being a great example (*see photos coming up*). Sue will be greatly missed! As we give her our deep gratitude for her humble service, we will also keep Sue in our thoughts and prayers as she continues her spiritual journey.



As the incoming president, I look forward to working with the WELCA Board and all the women at Spirit of Grace. I ask for your prayers as we move forward serving the women of Spirit of Grace and offering opportunities to grow in God's love and grace together.

Looking into March 2024, our Circle (*Bible Study and fellowship*) Groups will be having a study on **"Rivers: Springs of Life and Hope. We'll discover how rivers are sites of healing, restoration, identity and imagination."** I would like to remind women of Spirit of Grace that all are welcome to join one of the Circle Bible Studies and enjoy the fellowship and spiritual growth we all experience!

God's grace and peace be with you,
Sheri Bengtson, WELCA President



MANY THANKS!

I want to thank you all for your encouragement and support this past year. My husband and I will be moving to Kentucky in March. It has been wonderful working with everyone at Spirit of Grace.

Many, many blessings;

Sue Todd,
Women's Ministries Past President



"Rivers: Springs of Life and Hope" is the title of the March Bible study being discussed by women at their March Circle gatherings. Through stories of biblical rivers that offer a vision of flourishing creation, together we'll journey from the rivers in Eden to the prophetic springs in the desert, and from Jesus' baptism at the river Jordan to the crystalline river of life Revelation. We'll discover how rivers are sites of healing, restoration, identity and imagination. Come flow with us down these familiar rivers. **The study will be in the March/April edition of Gather Magazine. Copies are available in the church library if you do not have a subscription.**



***Come Join a Women's Bible
Study Circle in March!***



Monday, March 11, 9:30-Martha Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle leader is Barb Stenberg - bstenberg3@gmail.com

Monday, March 11, 1:00-Mary Circle will meet in the Church Conference Room.

Circle leader is Sue Tedell - sjtedell@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 12, 9:30-Rachel Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle leader is Jerry Philip - jmphilip22@yahoo.com

Thursday, March 14, 9:30-Deborah Circle will meet in the Church Conference Room.

Circle leader is Jean Schlenvogt - jeansch101@hotmail.com

Thursday, March 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

...And a very fine "Tea" was had by all !!



Lots of Hats and Teapots!

Women's Ministry and WELCA put on a Gala Tea Luncheon with delicious sandwiches, scones, desserts, and plenty of tea. Ellie Brooks explained her work with Search Angels, and the current President passed her gavel to new President Sheri Bengston and installed with Treasurer Adrienne Pederson, Vice President Cathy Nicholson, and Marsha Gilford, Secretary.



Cactus Conference Women's Gathering

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:30 am - 2:15 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

13724 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375

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

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

Theme Bible Verse is: ***"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."*** ~ JAMES 3:17

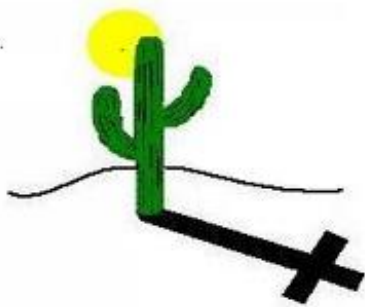
We will also learn about Katie's Fund, our outreach project, prior to our offering.

\$16 registration/per person (including morning coffee+ & lunch). Complete the following and return with \$16/per person by Friday, April 5 to: Cactus Conference, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13724 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375.

Please make checks(s) payable: Women of the ELCA-GCS.

Questions: gskogen@umn.edu (Geri Skogen)





WEST VALLEY LUTHERAN THRIFT SHOP

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

We know when everything is blooming and beautifully green – and our allergies are out of control - that spring is here!



Easter is right around the corner and soon many of our winter friends will be leaving for cooler summer climates.

The show must go on though, and we need you to help us keep things rolling this summer! Most of our volunteers work a 3-hour shift but some work more than one shift or more than one day a week.

The jobs from which a volunteer may choose are as varied as the volunteers themselves. Some choose to hang, steam and price clothing. Others work with dishes and housewares or tools and appliances; pricing and putting them out on the shelves. We have an art department full of pictures and frames and we need people who like that kind of work. Our holiday department is a fun place to work & the craft department needs workers in the shop and working from home. Maybe a job with more "action" is more to your taste. How about being a trucker? We run the truck 3 days a week doing pick-ups and deliveries. **No** special driver's license required - and you get to meet a lot of interesting folks from all over. Are you a "people person"? Cashiers are the face of the shop having first-line contact with our customers.

Our "benefits package" includes fellowship, **that `great feeling you get when you do a good thing'**, a 20% discount on Thrift Shop purchases and yummy snacks at break time!

Sorry, no dental plan ☺

Join us, won't you? Shop with us, donate your gently used goods or come be a volunteer.

Call us today to schedule a tour or a donation pick-up. 623.815.7061

Hope to see you there!

Lynn Morey

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

Also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/

