



GRACE NOTES ~ NOVEMBER 2023

Thanksgiving Prayer...

*Teach us dear Father
When we pray...
Not to ask for more...
But let us rather give our thanks
for what is at the door...*

*For food and drink...
For gentle rains...
For sunny skies above...*

*For home and friends...
Peace and Joy...
...and most of all for love!*

AMEN!

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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*A REMINDER FOR THOSE BACK
EAST/MIDWEST PHONE CALLS...*





A Message From Pastor Scott...

GIVE THANKS...



As we approach the national celebration of Thanksgiving Day we are all challenged to answer the question, "***What am I thankful for?***" But even more important for us would be the question, "***To whom will I give my thanks?***" Feeling thankful is important. Counting your many blessings is a great practice. Doing a blessing inventory might put your life in perspective. But more than feeling thankful it is important to "***give thanks.***"

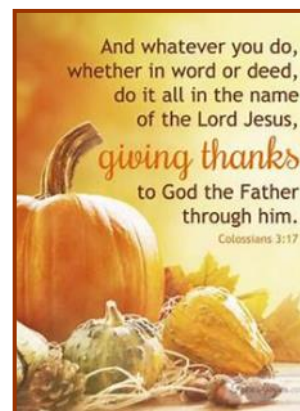
To whom will you give your thanks?

1 Thessalonians 5 says: ***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

So I think I'll make a bit of a list. I am thankful for so much. I do have deep feelings of thanksgiving, but I want to "***give thanks.***" And yes, there are many people to thank but I will start with God and I encourage you to do the same.

Thank you God for...

- ... **parents who shared their faith with me**
- ... **baptismal sponsors who never let me forget**
- ... **a spouse who loves God and me**
- ... **our kids**
- ... **daily bread: food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors. (Luther, Small Catechism)**
- ... **Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the church, prayer**
- ... **all of creation**
- ... **a talented staff that shares a passion for ministry**
- ... **forgiveness**
- ... **music, dance, art**
- ... **an incredibly beautiful Maple tree in my backyard**
- ... **wild animals, especially Trout and flyfishing**
- ... **friends**
- ... **prayer**
- ... **meaningful service to others**
- ... **vacations**
- ... **you**
- ... **everything!!!**



In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Scott



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30...

	September	Bdgt	YTD	Bdgt	2022
Income	37,920	53,908	557,008	569,241	597,469
Expenses	65,944	63,300	617,412	637,427	614,073
Fixed Asset Purchases	-0-				
Mortgage Balance	493,239				
Households:	441		-1		445
Members:	729		-5		745

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!



Glenn Schultz,

Director of Finance & Administration

FOOD INGATHERING via Cash Donations

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 OCTOBER — \$1,270

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...

Dear Members and Friends,

One of my favorite quotes is from C.S. Lewis who penned, "***We need not be taught as much as we need to be reminded!***" And so it is through the years we often are reminded of special dates in history, special precautions we need to take regarding health or relationships, etc.

Also, don't we need, or desire to be reminded of words of insight or inspiration that have meant much to us?

A couple of weeks ago in the ***Through It All .. Claim Joy*** sermon, I mentioned two phrases, quotes that I had come across and I have been asked by some to *remind* them of such words. *Here they are:* "***To worry is to worship the problem, to pray is to surrender the problem!***" And a quote from Parker Palmer's book, ***Let Your Life Speak*** - Palmer writes, "***Is the life you are living, the life you want living in you?***"

Furthermore, during November, let us *be reminded* of scripture that draws us into a spirit of *thanksgiving!* ***Psalm 106:1 — O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*** Or a wonderful hymn: ***Now Thank We All Our God .. with hearts and hands and voices.***



We are gifted by scripture and song wherein, again, we are *reminded* of God's word and promises. Words which, yes, we have heard over the years, yet often need to be refreshed in order to meet us at the point of our need. Indeed, as we read or sing of *the living word of God*, the Holy Spirit desires to stir in our heart, mind, and spirit reminding and assuring that through baptism, we have been marked claimed by God and marked by the Holy Spirit forever. Yes, forever, both in the dark and lonely moments, as well as the moments of certainty and joy, God remains God for us!

As people of faith who gather at Spirit of Grace I share a strong word of gratitude for your ongoing support and faithfulness as partners in ministry. And again, I remind you, ***The church is only supported by the faithful, and YOU are the faithful. To God be the glory!!***

In Christ,

Pastor Gary E. Benson



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE:



MARK THE DATE: November 22nd following the Thanksgiving Eve service your Congregational Council will be serving some very delicious pie! Please plan on joining us for some good pie and fellowship!!

Our financial picture still looks good. Although the contributions were down significantly in the month of September and the expenses were under plan, we are still in very good financial shape. Please see Glenn Schultz's Financial Report in Grace Notes. The food gathering support for September was \$1,270. As we approach the holidays, please keep this ministry in mind as the need to help families increases. Campaigns for "*Gifts of Hope*" and the "*Giving Tree*" will be starting in November. Please watch for more information on these programs. Thank you for your continued support.

This month Ellie Brooks resigned as Vice-President of the Congregation Council and as a member of the Finance Committee. Ellie will continue on Council until the end of her term which expires after the annual meeting. The Council elected Betsy Gusea-Gerringer to serve as Vice-President until the annual meeting. ***Thank you, Ellie for your service as Vice-President this year!***

25th ANNIVERSARY — Plans continue to move forward on the celebration that marks the 25th Anniversary of Spirit of Grace. Ellie Brooks, Julie Townsend, and Treedah Magee continue to work on this project. ***Again, the date to mark on your calendars is January 14, 2024.***

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

All Saints Day



They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from the God
of their salvation. Psalm 24:5

November 1

*Remembering members of our Church who
have passed away since last
All Saints Day, and their families.*



PR. HAROLD STROMER

KATHRYN STROMER

BILL LANG

ARDETH LEWON

ROBERT BORNHOEFT

DUANE DENNIS

ROGER BROWN

LUANN FINKENAUER

CHARLIE HEINZ

DONNA HAYS



JOHN SCHMIDT

JO ANN HEPBURN

SHARON BORNHOEFT

GLEN COLVILLE

MARY PERISSINOTTO

JUNE OAKINS

KARL BOLDT

FRED SCHREIBER

ARVID HERSTEDT

ANN SMITH

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, November 13

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

Everyone is invited to attend!

please join us!

Hope to see you there!

Pastor Scott



HAPPY VETERANS DAY!!

**TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN
IN UNIFORM, PAST,
PRESENT, AND FUTURE,**

***GOD BLESS YOU &
THANK YOU!!***





GIFTS OF HOPE

November 18, 2023 - January 5, 2024

This will be the 21st year our generous congregation has supported our Gifts of Hope campaign to directly support our sisters and brothers in Africa. On **November 4th and 5th** everyone will have an opportunity to meet one of our longtime donation recipients!

The Plaster House Founder (now called Kafika House), Sarah Rejman will be visiting Spirit of Grace from Arusha, Tanzania! The Plaster House/Kafiki House has said they will do a ministry minute at the Saturday 5:00 and Sunday 9:00 services. Sarah will also do a presentation in Cafe Grace on Sunday.

Kerstin Smith and Winnie Fritz
Gifts of Hope Co-Chairs



It's Fall 'Thank Offering Luncheon' Time Again...!!

All women of the congregation are invited to this year's annual 'Thank Offering Luncheon' to be held on Thursday, November 16 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. After business (selection of a new Nominating Committee and report from the September triennial convention and the Grand Canyon convention) is taken care of, women will enjoy a catered lunch consisting of a tortilla wrap, pasta or garden salad, cookies or brownies and beverage. It is being presented by Wildbunch Catering. **Tickets for the lunch will be \$15** and can be purchased in the narthex after services or at Circle gatherings. But then two more important aspects of the day will take place: first, the special short **Thank Offering Service** and then a **speaker from the DOVES**, a local agency for aging.

Sue Tedell
WELCA News Coordinator

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
NOVEMBER 19 - Immediately following the
9:00 Service in the Conference Room.





THANKSGIVING DAY – NOVEMBER 23

We gather on this day to be thankful for what we have, for the family we love, the friends we cherish, and thank God for the blessings that will come.

Happy Thanksgiving!



We need Volunteers to help !!

Please join us **December 15 at 9:00** in the Fellowship Hall to prepare the 25th Anniversary decorations. We will also need volunteers the day of the event to help those who need assistance in carrying their breakfast plate to their table.



There will be sign up sheets at the 25th Anniversary table in the Narthex starting November 18 & 19.

A 'Special Edition' of Graces Notes will be coming out soon to share the "Early History of Spirit of Grace and the amazing story of our Founding Pastor, Joseph L. Carucci ..!!"

Be sure to watch for it!

Ellie Brooks



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MORE ...FELLOWSHIP FUN !!

The Fellowship Team would like to address your concern of the cost of tickets. If you go out to eat these days, have you noticed the increased cost of your bill? It is the same for us, plus we have to pay for delivery, set up & clean up fees. The delivery fees have gone up considerably. If the caterer serves, then there is an extra charge, plus they are now expecting gratuities. We are trying to cut these additional caterer costs, by purchasing our own serving dishes and by having members of the fellowship team do the work of set up, serving, and clean up. These events are for your enjoyment and to have fellowship with others. Please take time to thank the Fellowship Team, who are working harder at each event to cut additional costs for you.

HARVEST HOME DINNER/CONCERT on November 12 @ 5:00. Registration for combo of both dinner & concert has closed.

HARVEST HOME CONCERT ONLY on November 12 @ 6:30. Registration will remain open until tickets are sold out. **Cost \$10**



CAROLING AND SOUP SUPPER—December 10 @ 2:00 ~ Gather at the church to divide into groups to go caroling at facilities for homebound members, and anyone you know who needs some Christmas cheer! Please obtain permission from the individual first, then submit their name and address to the fellowship team. Choose between chili or chicken vegetable for your soup. **Cost: \$10** — **Tickets on sale before and after services November 18 & 19. No online registration.**



AZ BROADWAY SHOW OF "WHITE CHRISTMAS" on December 14 at noon—Registration will remain open until November 12 or until tickets are sold out. Cost \$66

CALLING ON SPIRIT OF GRACE VOLUNTEERS..!!

"DECK THE HALLS" for Christmas on **Friday morning, December 1 @ 9:00.** FREE Snacks will be available for you while you help decorate Café Grace, the narthex, and the outside of our church. **We need men & women both!**

Please Sign up after church services starting November 5.

Dorothy Carnes
Fellowship Ministry



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPE PACKETS

WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

DECEMBER 2 & 3

PLEASE PICK UP AS SOON AS AVAILABLE! THANK YOU!



OCTOBERFEST ~ BEST GERMAN COSTUME CONTEST!

AND THE WINNERS ...

Terry & Cathy Pierce!! 🙌

Runner ups:
John and Sue Tedell (not pictured), and Joyce Lange!

Opened with a Prayer-----



Pretzel bites, mustard and cheese and Root beer!
Activities included: Oktoberfest Trivia Contest.
Games: water glass pong, horseshoes, bottle ring toss & cornhole, German DJ with a few brave polka dancers



Dinner: Two kinds of sausages, sauerkraut and hot German potato salad

Prize drawings from tickets won at games as well as door prizes

Night ended with: Delicious strudel, vanilla sauce and vanilla ice cream



What a fun evening for ALL! Thank You Fellowship Team!



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 **November 4 and 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 also. **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 the 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



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 -12:00

HELP AND HOPE AS YOU NAVIGATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON...

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. The death can be in the past or recent. The seminar will include a video, workbook, and discussion. This is offered by GriefShare and is the new 4th edition with relevant and update information.

The event is free to attend, however a donation of \$7.00 is suggested to cover the cost of the workbook.

YOU WILL LEARN:

How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays.

What to do about traditions and other coming changes.

Helpful tips for surviving social events.

How to discover hope for your future.

This event will be held in the fellowship hall. Refreshments will be served. Please call the church office 623-977-6000 to register so we have enough materials for everyone. Contact Deborah Frusciano for more information 623-977-6000 ext 140 or 602-909-8369 cell.

Please join us for this encouraging seminar and ask you family and friends to attend with you.

GriefShare Leaders:

Deborah Frusciano
Miriam Hackler
Carol Starnes

WEST VALLEY LUTHERAN THRIFT SHOP

“Third Thursday Thrifting”



This summer we tried a new shopping format for people unable to join us during our regular hours of 9:00—3:00. **On the 3rd Thursday of every month, several of the shops in the Sun Bowl Plaza were open from 5:00—8:00.**

There were food trucks in the parking lot and many of the shops offered specials that night. It's been a huge success and will be continued into the Fall.

**Mark your calendars and plan to join us on
November 16th and December 21st
for Third Thursday Thrifting!**

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/

A Thanksgiving Prayer



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



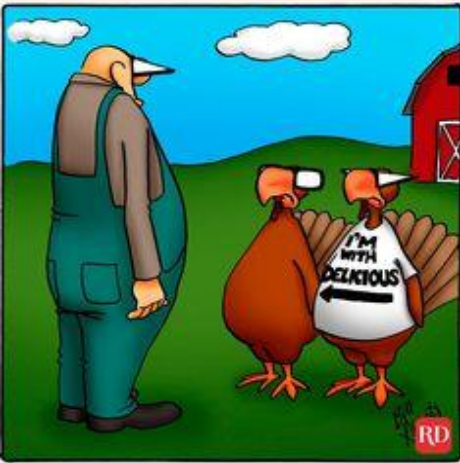
We are thankful for Spirit of Grace being our spiritual home for almost 20 years. Because of health reasons, we are transferring to American Lutheran Church, which is much closer to our home at Royal Oaks. We have been blessed by wonderful pastors, many friendships, meaningful ministries and received much support and comfort when Jim was so ill in 2015. *God bless you all! ~ Jim & Anne Miller*

I am thankful for all the beautiful cards, many prayers, phone calls and welcome visits. There are so many wonderful people at Spirit of Grace. God has blessed me with all of you! ~ **Barb Ryan**

Thank you to the Congregation Council for the generous gift for Pastor's Appreciation Month.

Bruce Belanger

Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM)



DID YOU KNOW..???

There were no forks at the first Thanksgiving.



The first Thanksgiving lasted 3 days.

Congress designated Thanksgiving as an official holiday in 1941.

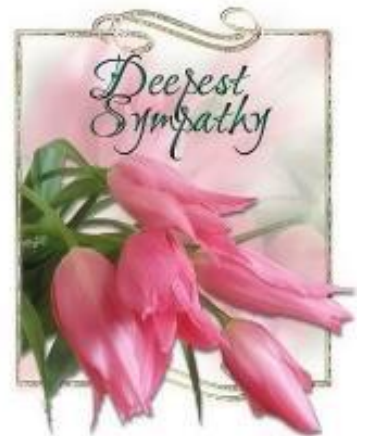
About 280 million turkeys are sold for Thanksgiving.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving has the most liquor sales of the whole year.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy And Prayers...

For the family and friends of **Ann Smith** who passed away October 10. Ann was a member of Spirit of Grace from 2007-2016 and then relocated to Scottsdale to be near her sons.

Ann was living with Parkinson's and Lewy Body Dementia and resided in a memory care facility. Our prayers of support for her family and friends.





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)



It is good to be back! This is a busy time for the WELCA women. Our Bible studies are beginning again, and we are working on our **Fall Thank Offering Luncheon. Come join us!!**

Blessings,
Sue Todd, WELCA President

Circle Gatherings are Back in Session...

Circles this month will focus on **Session 2 "Holy Places: Sanctuary" of the Holy Places study**. It is located in the September/October Gather magazine (dark blue cover with picture of The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City of Jerusalem). **The study is on pages 34-40.**

Monday, Nov. 13, 9:30 - Martha Circle will not meet in November, but Martha members are welcome to join Mary Circle at 1:00 on Nov. 13 or any other circle gathering listed below. Circle leaders: Barb Stenberg bstenberg3@gmail.com and Sue Barbour suebarbour623@gmail.com

Monday, Nov. 13, 1:00 - Mary Circle gathering in the Church Conference Room.
Circle leader is Sue Tedell sjtedell@gmail.com

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 9:30 - Rachel Circle gathering in the a place to be announced.
Circle leader is Jerry Philip jmphilip22@yahoo.com

Thursday, Nov. 9, 9:30 - Deborah Circle gathering in the Church Conference Room.
Circle leader is Jean Schlenvogt jeansch101@hotmail.com

Thursday, Nov. 9, 1:00 Elizabeth Circle gathering in the Church Conference Room.
Circle leaders are Judy Butz jbmaui25@aol.com and Carol Junge jungecarol@juno.com

*****UPCOMING*****

Wednesday, November 15- WELCA Board meets in the Church Conference Room at 1:00.

Tuesday, November 21 at 9:00-3:30—Comfort Covers Workday. All women who want to sew, cut fabric, iron, and tie quilts are welcome to come and help sew quilts to be donated to the I-Help program.

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...



Some quotes from 'With Burning Hearts':

A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life by Henri Nouwen

Sometimes it seems that life is just a series of losses that are part of ordinary life nobody can escape. In the midst of all this pain is the very surprising voice of the one who says, "***Blessed are those who mourn. They shall be comforted.***"

There is a blessing hidden in our grief. The Eucharist presents the possibility to choose, not resentment, but gratitude. The word *eucharist* means literally ***act of thanksgiving***.

"Lord, have mercy" at the beginning of all Eucharistic liturgies is the cry of people willing to confess that we ourselves have something to do with our losses, the bitter fruit of the human choice to say *NO* to love. We approach the Eucharist with a mixture of despair and hope. Yes, we are sinners. Still, there is a voice: "***My grace is enough for you.***" We dare to believe we can find a gift to be grateful for. But for this discovery we need a special companion!

The God who becomes present to us *through God's sacred Word* is the God whose world-embracing love is revealed to us in Jesus, the companion on our journey. The Word lifts us up and makes us see that our daily, ordinary lives are, in fact, sacred lives that play a necessary role in the fulfillment of God's promises.

One of the most decisive moments of the Eucharist—and of our life—is the moment of invitation. We dare to say "***I entrust myself, with all my being, body, mind and soul to you...and most of all I want to know you as the companion of my soul.***" Every time we invite Jesus into our life with all its light and dark sides, something new happens. Jesus is the guest [who becomes the host]. He takes the bread and the cup and hands them to us saying, "***Take and eat, this is my body. Take and drink, this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.***"

The word that best expresses this mystery of God's total self-giving love is *communion*. Through Jesus, God wants to be fully united with us so that all of God and all of us can be bound together in a lasting love. Communion creates community. We no longer belong to the world. We belong to Christ and to a new community of faith that recognizes the God in our fellow humans and manifests itself in very concrete ways: *in forgiveness, reconciliation, mutual support, outreach to people in need, solidarity with all who suffer and an ever-increasing concern for justice and peace.*

Carole Parnell,

Spirit of Grace Librarian



The Twelfth Triennial Convention (2023) of the Women of the ELCA was held in Phoenix, AZ on Tuesday, September 19-September 21, 2023

Julie Townsend from Spirit of Grace was a voting delegate representing Grand Canyon Synod. More than 251 Women of the ELCA voting members worshiped together, conducted business, and elected new officers and churchwide executive board members.

The voting body elected Myrna Wells-Ulland, Phoenix Arizona (Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization), as president. "Women of the ELCA is a wonderful organization," said Myrna Wells-Ulland, elected on the fourth ballot as the organization's president for the 2023-2026 triennium.

"I love the things we do [and] all of the initiatives we have. I know they are challenging... I am really excited about the capabilities we have for this next triennium". *[In Hebrew] Hineni means 'Here I am, Lord. You called me. Use me'. So I'm going to close with that. Hineni.* (by Cindy Novak and Elizabeth Hunter www.womenoftheelca.org)

The Thirteenth Triennial Convention (2026) will be held at Des Moines, Iowa; (the dates will be announced later).

Women of the ELCA Convention:



Grand Canyon Representatives (L-R)...

Susan Drane-Holverson (delegate), Julie Townsend (delegate), Laura Krueger (delegate)

Myrna Wells-Ulland (Elected President Church-Wide Women of the ELCA), Michelle Cegon (delegate), Suki Kisling (convention aide).



'Just Love' WELCA Triennial Convention September 19-23, 2023 ~ Phoenix, Arizona



Conference Attendees: (L-R) Julie Townsend, Barb Stenberg, Marsha Gilford, Phyllis Borchardt, Lorrie Mohrweis, Sue Tedell.



Comments concerning Just Love Triennial Convention of WELCA

Phyllis Borchardt wrote: We arrived on time, registered and were directed to the morning plenary session offering an overview of the Triennial and Gathering and an opportunity to meet international students. The afternoon schedule was filled with workshops. I selected the workshop presented by Lutheran Disaster Relief, whose mission provides coordination of a wide range of activities provided by agencies here in the US and around the world. Their work is under the auspices of the ELCA, yet funded by donations.

Marsha Gilford wrote: Most inspiring to me were the speakers whose personal stories about coming into the US- their sacrifices, fears, dreams- and being met with loving support from LIRS. The women were now in college and actualizing new lives. Their presentations put faces and emotions to those we rarely are able to meet, and they gave us greater understanding. I'm so proud of the compassionate programs funded by the ELCA.

Lorri Mohrweis wrote: The Triennial theme was "*Just Love*". The theme shown through the Worship Services and with all of the Speakers in the sessions I attended. One speaker, Jacqueline Bussie, emphasized this concept when talking about her book *Love Without Limits*. She spoke of loving in a polarized society as she told her story of her challenges and successes. She, as well as many of the speakers, reminded us that Jesus taught us to "*Love our neighbors as ourselves.*" Additionally, she reminded us that it was so important to do this because we don't know what our neighbors are going through and why they need our love. The Gathering was a wonderful experience of Worship, speakers and even time for a reception with some line dancing! I am thankful to have been able to attend.

Sue Tedell wrote: What an event bringing together about 1500 Lutheran sisters to attend workshops about love and how it transcends borders, works through leaders and especially, through each of us as we are "*today's disciples-modeling how to just love*". Rev. Brenda K. Smith led that last session and gave many ideas on just how to be a disciple. She also handed us an ELCA resource on "*Lessons for Today's Disciples*" which could easily be used in our circles. I've always wanted to attend a triennial convention, and as a first time attendee, I wasn't disappointed.



A NICE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

PRESENTED BY THE GRAND DRAMA & COMEDY CLUB

DECEMBER 7, 8, 9, 10, 2023

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY AT 7:00 AND

SUNDAY AT 3:00

ALL TICKETS \$15.00

CASH BAR -1 HOUR BEFORE SHOW TIME.

The show features four Spirit of Grace members: Terry and Cathy Pierce, David and Gerry Seaburg and also features: Rosalee Chapman, Dean Dennis and Robin Weakland

Synopsis:

It's Christmas Eve at Helen Lundeen (Mom's) Minneapolis apartment, three years after her husband died. An unexpected visit from crazy Uncle Bob and their outrageous Grandmother starts the evening on its wild journey. Middle son, Carl, has been charged to write an article about Christmas with his family for his newspaper, or he will be fired. The problem is, he doesn't have his family's consent. One by one, we learn of each family member's secrets, problems, and dysfunctions, and when they learn that Carl is writing an article with some very personal family information, the fruitcake hits the fan. ***The question is... will the magic of Christmas bring them back together?***

This play is a snarky comedy about a bickering, dysfunctional family, with a nod to a sweet uplifting holiday story. Director: Eileen Brooks; Producer Jolene Nerdahl; Stage Manager Leanne Evans



THE GRAND CAR CLUB Car Show

ALL
CARS
WELCOME

TheGrandCarClub.com

November 4th 2023



Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church
15820 W Clearview Blvd,
Surprise AZ
(corner of Rim & 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**

NOVEMBER 11



VETERANS DAY

By Cheryl Dyson.

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride.
We're proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We thank **ALL** veterans just the same.



THANK YOU ALL,

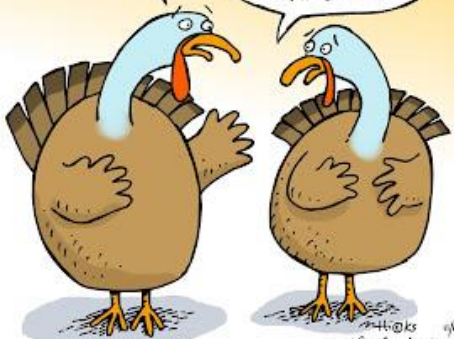


For Your Service!



First the cousins started fighting, then the brothers-in-law started shouting profanities, then the sisters started throwing pots and pans at each other, then the grandma started hitting people with her cane, and that's when I escaped!

oh my! And you say this is a tradition?!



We are Thankful for YOU!



WHAT DID I WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW ?

TO CHOP WOOD!

TO CHOP WOOD!

TO CHOP WOOD!

