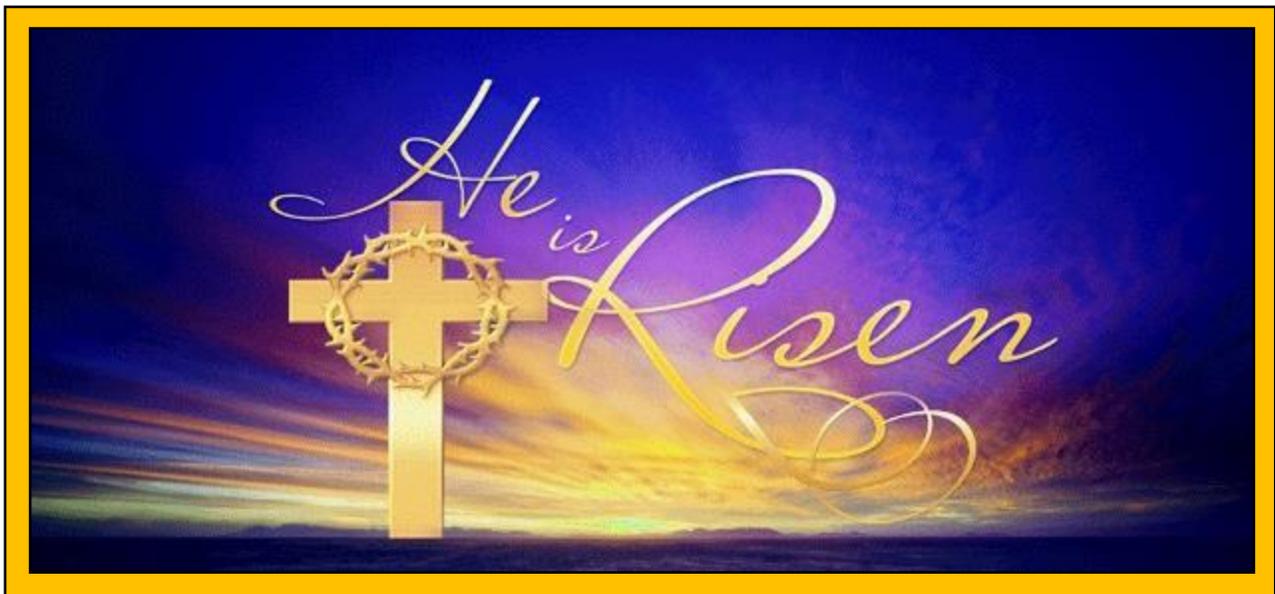




**APRIL 2018**



**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**8:00, 9:30, & 11:00**

**Worship Schedule**

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

*All are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors.*

**Mission Statement**

"Bringing the Spirit of Grace to all people"



Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SpiritOfGraceSCG/](http://www.facebook.com/SpiritOfGraceSCG/)

Spirit of Grace  
Lutheran Church  
15820 W. Clearview Blvd.  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
Phone:623-977-6000

In the  of Sun City Grand

www.spiritofgrace.com

### Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 pm  
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:00 am

### Education Hour

Wednesday Bible Study,  
10:00 am

### Office Hours

8:30 to 4:00  
Monday—Thursday  
8:30—12:00 Friday

### Staff

Rev. Vern Anderson  
Sr. Pastor  
pastorvern@spiritofgrace.com

Linda Stratman  
Director of Parish Life  
linda@spiritofgrace.com

Gerry White  
Director of Finance  
& Administration  
jerry@spiritofgrace.com

Gil Korito, Bookkeeper  
gkorito@spiritofgrace.com

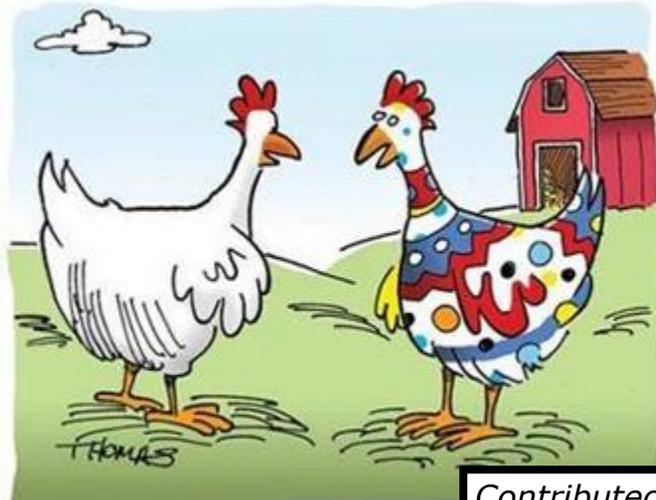
Sheila Marlow  
Secretary/Receptionist  
sheila@spiritofgrace.com

Fred Bornhoeft  
Director of Music

Ken Carnes  
Choir Director

Elaine Indahl  
Accompanist

Jerry Huston  
Facility Manager



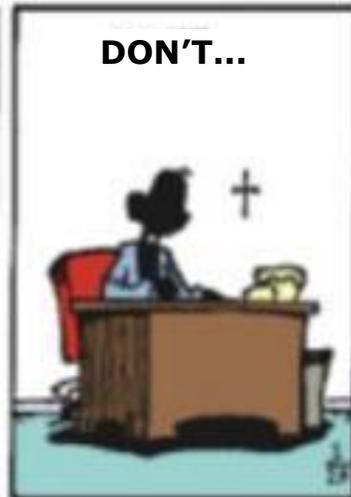
I was an Easter egg.

Contributed by  
Sheila Marlow

**SERMON TOPIC  
FOR SUNDAY:  
SIN**



**DON'T...**



**AMEN.**



Cover art from  
Sheila Marlow

Contributed by  
John Chavez



## EASTER IS #1

Easter is the most important Christian holiday that there is. It is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Yet, what does the resurrection mean and matter for us and all the world 2000 years later?

It means Jesus is who He claims He is. Jesus never claimed to be a great religious leader. He never claimed to be a great prophet. He never claimed to be a man of God. But He did claim to be the Son of God. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." JOHN 11:25 Jesus also said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." JOHN 14:6 Jesus is who He claims to be. He is the Son of God. He is the Messiah. The resurrection shows that Jesus is who He claims He is.

It also means Jesus has the power He claims to have. He said, "No one takes My life from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." JOHN 10:18

No one could keep Him in the tomb. The Romans killed Him. They made sure He was dead. They took a spear and opened up His side. Blood and water flowed from the wound. They were sure He was dead. Jesus' dead body was placed in a tomb. They sealed the tomb with a heavy stone. They placed guards at the entrance to make sure no one bothered the grave. The guards were there 24 hours a day. Yet they could not stop Him from rising from the dead. He said, "I lay my life down and I can lift it up again." No matter what you do – you can't keep a good man down.

The grave is empty because He said He would rise again. That is why the tomb is empty. That is why there was no one there – wrapped up – dead – and buried. He had the power to rise from the dead and He did. He is the resurrection and the life. He has the power He claims He has.

*Continued on page 4*



*Continued from page 3*

Jesus is who He claims He is. Jesus has the power He says He has. Jesus was able to do what He said He would do. He said that He would be resurrected from the dead and He was.

Because Jesus is who claims to be, because Jesus has the power He claims to have and because Jesus can do what He says He can do...Your sins can be forgiven, you can have a purpose for living, and you have a home waiting for you in heaven.

***Happy Easter!***

*Pastor Vern*

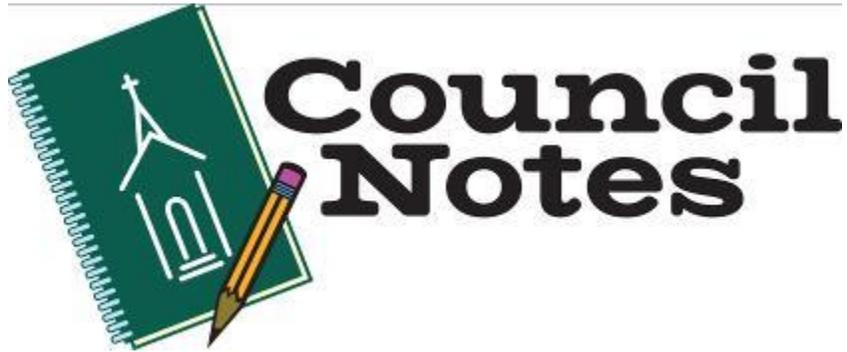
## ***HE CHOSE THE NAILS—THANK YOU***

Thank you to everyone who attended so faithfully our mid-week Lenten devotion and Bible study, ***He Chose the Nails***. How wonderful to have to move from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary to make room for everyone to attend! Special thanks to Fred Bornhoeft for his wonderful Lenten devotionals and leading the Lenten hymn of the day.

Also, thanks to Sheila for setting up and keeping up with all the coffee and goodies for the large crowd. And finally, thanks to Jerry Huston and Jim Miller for taking care of the sound and lighting. Each of you helped make this season of Lent special and meaningful. Thanks again!

*Pastor Vern*





Attendance continues to be good. As you may have noticed, there are very few empty seats at the 10:00 service on most Sundays. The interest in membership is also good as we had 12 people at the new member orientation. The Wednesday morning Bible Study on Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails" instead of an evening service was very well received as we had over 200 in attendance every week and had to have the Bible study/ service in the sanctuary rather than the Fellowship Hall.

Our financial position continues to be strong. We appreciate your continued financial support. The final numbers are in for Gifts of Hope – total contribution was \$36,590.00 with the following breakdown, ELCA World Hunger \$16,390.00, Global Health Arusha Lutheran medical Center \$17,850.00, and Lutheran World Relief \$2,350.00.

You have probably noticed some physical changes around SOG, both inside and outside. The berm of dirt was removed, and artificial grass was installed on the east side of the building. And on the inside, things are much brighter. LED lights were installed in the office area as well as the altar and choir area. All of the parking lot lights were also changed to LED.

The food contribution to Valley View in February was 922 pounds. Your generosity as a congregation is outstanding. This will help a lot of families. Thank you!!

The Synod Assembly is June 14-16 in Oro Valley, Tucson, and we still need 2-4 lay delegates. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Pastor Vern or Bruce Belanger. The Synod will be electing a new Bishop which is a very interesting process.

At the Council meeting in May, we will be distributing gifts to local charities or organizations. If you have an organization that you would like us to consider, please speak to one of the Council members. We would need the following information: purpose of the organization, how many people it serves, and whether or not it receives funding from government programs.

Bruce Belanger, President

Robin Aguilar, Vice-President

Deborah Frusciano – Secretary

Vince Barone

Phyllis Borchardt

Don Cinnamond

Dick Lyda

Treedah Magee

Vicki McCarville

## FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Easter, that most important day in all of Christendom. The day that marked the culmination of Christ's suffering and death and ultimate resurrection. The day that ushered in the promise of eternal life for all who believe. God has promised one day to bestow on believers the crown of life. But until that day He calls us to do His Kingdom's work here on earth.

As a congregation you exemplify what it means to do the work of God's Kingdom. You care for one another. You offer the hand of friendship to those who visit. You are faithful in the study of God's word through educational opportunities. You reach out in love to those who grieve. You invite others to "come and see." You serve in leadership roles. You assist in worship activities. You provide worship opportunities to those in care facilities. You participate in WELCA. You share your musical abilities. You gather for Bible Study. You help feed the hungry. You regularly worship. You pray for those in need. You share your time and your talents and your abilities. And, yes, you give generously of your financial resources. Those monies help fund ministries locally and around the world.

We say thank you for your faithful stewardship of God's gifts to a world in need. Our financial position as a congregation remains strong. Giving through the month of February was above plan and giving through March will exceed plan by a significant amount while expenses will be below plan. For all that you do, we say thank you! May God bestow his blessings on you as your service in His Kingdom continues.

*Phil Nelson*



Income 2 months to the end of February 2018	\$149,674
Expenses 2 months to the end February 2018	\$111,762
Fixed Asset Purchases 2 months to end of February	\$2,381
Mortgage balance as at the end of February 2018	\$977,215
Members 834 Individuals	
521 Households	

*Gerry White*  
Director of Finance & Administration



# HAPPENings

**GOLF OUTING - MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION** - The 20th annual charity golf outing, dinner, and auction is coming up soon. The golf tournament will take place on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the dinner and auction will be on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to the Military Assistance Mission, MAM.



Please join our efforts by signing up to play golf, enjoying a catered Italian dinner, and donating items for the silent auction. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Belvill at 623-302-5950 or Marv Mathews at 623-748-9895.

**BARLEENS** - Friday, April 6—Buses leave the church parking lot at 3:45. We have ONE TICKET available. Please bring your green or pink ticket with you.



## Men's Breakfast

The sign-up for the Men's March Breakfast was the largest in past history, with 45 men signing up to attend. Unfortunately, only 32 men showed up for a good breakfast meal and the devotional discussion that followed. Signing up for the Men's Breakfast is important to make sure enough food is prepared. However, that only works if those signing up show up.

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17. Most men start showing up at 8:00 am for coffee and fellowship. Breakfast is served around 8:25, with the devotional discussion getting underway at 8:45. Breakfast is continental style with at least one hot egg item. No one ever goes away hungry.

Take a look at the "Upcoming" section of the weekend bulletins for sign-up instructions and a hint at what the discussion focus will be. For additional information, contact Bernie Ryan at 623-214-5777.

## DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF SPIRIT OF GRACE?

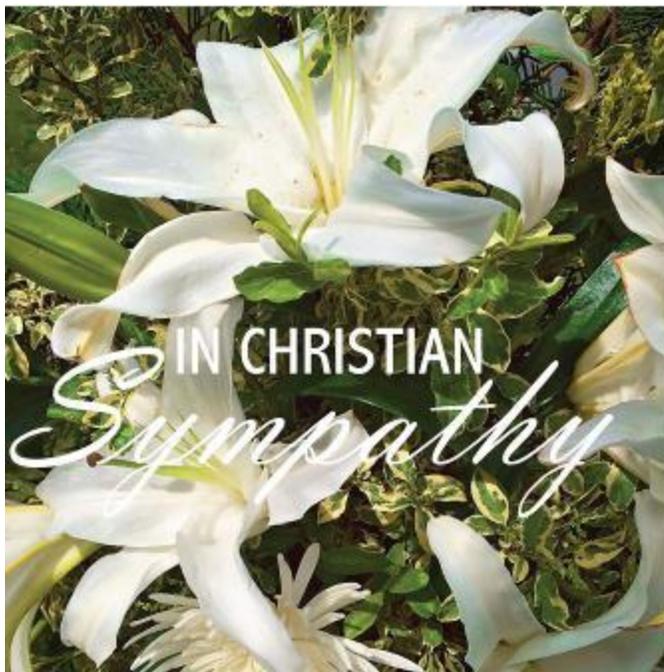
Why not come on **April 19th at 1:00** and meet with Linda Stratman, Director of Parish Life, to get those questions answered.

Attendance in no way obligates you to join.

We'd just like to meet you and others like

yourself who want to know more about the mission and vision of Spirit of Grace.

Our next Welcome Session is **Thursday, April 19th at 1:00**. Call the church office at 977-6000 for more information or to indicate your interest in Spirit of Grace.



We recently learned that long time member **Lou Strong** passed away on January 31st. Lou had been active in Ones in Christ.

**Sam Niko** went home to the Lord on March 29th after a short illness. Sam and his wife Marcia were Spirit of Grace members for two years and had been married 56 years. Our sympathy goes out to Marcia and their family.



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 OF SPIRIT OF GRACE**

**APRIL 2018**



WELCA's New Board

Margaret Yurecko, Vice-President

Phyllis Borchardt, President

Donna Kramber, Treasurer

Cheryl Nagler, Secretary

Saturday & Sunday, April 28 & 29 – Rachel's Day – Gifts for Child Crisis Arizona from Spirit of Grace.

Since 2010, Spirit of Grace Rachel's Day project has been the collection of items for children in need. I would love to say that there is no longer a need, but the truth is that there are still many children who do not have even their basic needs met. Other children live a life of violence and neglect. So once again we will be collecting items to help the smallest of God's children. The items we collect will be delivered to Child Crisis Arizona. Both of the locations are undergoing renovations, and there is a large need for beds, so the cash donations will go to that fund. Other needed items are listed below. Tables will be set up in the narthex starting April 7th to accept your donated items. Cash donations or checks should be payable to **Child Crisis Arizona**.

Spring needs list:

- Clothing – Both Genders
- Athletic shoes – sizes Toddler 4 - Adult 6 (include half sizes)
- Shirts – short sleeve – sizes 2 – 8
- Shorts – sizes 2 – 8
- Pants (jeans preferred) – sizes 2 – 8

Miscellaneous Needs:

- Gift Cards – Amazon, Target, Wal-Mart, Grocery Store, etc.
- Healthy Snacks (non-perishable) – Fruit Snacks, Granola Bars, etc.

*Continued on page 11*



*Continued from page 10*

- Bike helmets – Toddler & Youth
- Sports Equipment – Basketballs, Soccer Balls, Kick balls
- Batteries – AAA, AA, C & D
- Kids Sun block SPF 45+
- Hand Sanitizer
- Birthday Cards
- Area Rugs – neutral colors – 8x10, 10x12
- Paper Products – Kleenex, Paper Towels, Paper Plates
- Plastic Cutlery – Forks, Spoons & Knives

#### Arts & Crafts:

- Washable Glue: bottles and sticks
- Washable paints & brushes – Watercolors, finger-paints, tempera, etc.
- Non-character stickers
- Collage materials
- Washable markers
- Colored Pencils
- Kid-friendly scissors
- Pencils & pens
- Construction paper
- Regular White paper
- Notebooks

We have been advised that at this time they have a two-year supply of donated diapers and wipes.

Debra Cunningham is recruiting volunteers to staff the donation tables for before and after services, managing the cash drawer and keeping the donation tables tidy. Saturdays at 5:00 beginning April 7th; Sundays at the 8:00 and 10:00 services, beginning April 8th. Debra is coordinating the staffing of the tables and asks that you give her a call to advise your availability. She can be reached at 623-933-6829.

Child Crisis Arizona is a 501c(3) and your donations are tax deductible as a charitable contribution. To learn more about Child Crisis Arizona visit their website

<https://childcrisisaz.org/>

## **PASTOR VERN'S BIBLE STUDY TRAINING FOR CIRCLE LEADERS WILL BE THURSDAY, APRIL 5, AT 10:00**

The April 5th Bible Study for Circle Leaders meeting at 10:00 Bible Study leaders will discuss the fourth session of Dr. Powell's four-part Bible study of Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations. Session four: The Prodigal Son **LUKE 15:11-20**.

*Continued on page 12*



*Continued from page 11*

Bible Study meeting dates and places are printed below.

- Martha**                    Monday, April 9, 9:30  
Bible Study Leader: Barbara Stenberg  
Hostesses: Gayle Burns, Char Mjelde  
Meets at Fellowship Hall
- Mary**                        Monday, April 9, 1:00  
Bible Study Leader: Anneke Rutgers  
Hostess: Sue Tedell  
Meets at Fellowship Hall or Conference Room, SOG
- Rachel**                    Tuesday, April 10, 9:30  
Bible Study Leader: Margaret Yurecko  
Hostess:  
Meets at Fellowship Hall
- Deborah**                  Thursday, April 12, 9:45  
Bible Study Leader: Janet Steinwand  
Hostess: Betty Boldt  
Meets at: Fellowship Hall
- Elizabeth**                Thursday, April 12, 1:00  
Bible Study Leader: Carol Junge  
Hostess: Barb Lyes  
Meets at 21609 N. Black Bear Lodge Drive, Surprise 85387

All women are invited to attend and/or join a circle. The first week of the month Pastor Vern leads volunteer Circle leaders in the study of lessons. Circles meet the second week of the month. Choose a day and time that works for you, grab your Bible, come and have coffee and fellowship with the women of Spirit of Grace! Extra copies of the Bible study lessons are in Gather Magazine and are available for check out in the church library.

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### CACTUS CONERENCE GATHERING, MARCH 3

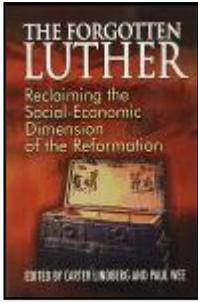
Nine ladies from Spirit of Grace attended the Cactus Conference Gathering at Gloria de Cristo in Yuma. Theme for the day: **JOHN 21:15** "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, LORD," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." The day was inspirational and informative. The ladies on the bus had an opportunity to network on the way from Surprise to Yuma and sources advise some snoring on the way home that afternoon.

Area speakers from the agricultural industry shared information about current practices, conservation, and labor issues impacting their ability to provide 90% of the green leafy vegetables distributed across our country that are grown in the area. Today one farmer feeds 154 people compared to 19 in 1940. Our outreach project was local; *Toma Mi Mano*, Take My Hand provides 24/7 day care services for 24 children 6 months to 11 years of age in Algodones, Baja, Mexico. The children are there while their parents work, many in the fields in the area. The leadership includes members of Gloria de Cristo.



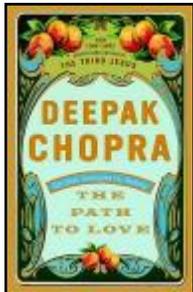
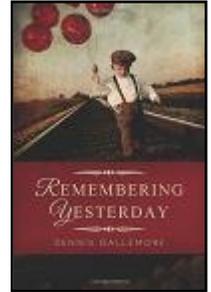
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## NOTES FROM OUR LIBRARY FOR APRIL



***The Forgotten Luther***, by Lindberg and Wee is a book that was written to look back on Luther's sense of social justice, timely since last year was the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. From his earliest days in Wittenberg when he saw the adverse effects of the new market economy on the common people and was overwhelmed by the sheer number of beggars on the streets, Martin Luther had committed a great deal of theological energy and passion to this issue. In the Religion category.

Are you a fan of spiritual stories from the past, present and future? Then you might enjoy, ***Remembering Yesterday***, by Dennis Gallemore. Stories of the past, present, and future fill these pages--stories that are filled with love, hope, compassion, and forgiveness. These are stories that address the heart and soul of Christianity; the most important commandment of all---love God, and love people. In Fiction



If you like reading Deepak Chopra, then stop by and check out, ***The Path to Love***. Dr. Chopra's book is one that can change lives as it invites the spirit to work its wonders on the most complex and richly rewarding terrain of all: the human heart. In Christian Life.



*Continued from page 13*

## WELCA COMING EVENTS

Fall Kickoff	Tuesday, October 9	9:30 Fellowship Hall
Grand Canyon Synod Fall Gathering	Friday, November 9- 11	Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, Phoenix
Fall Luncheon	Thursday, November 15	11:00 Fellowship Hall
Spring Luncheon	Thursday, February 14	11:00 Fellowship Hall

## SPRING IS HERE!

It's happening again! Everything is blooming and beautifully green, baseball fans from all over the country are visiting, and this year, Easter has come and gone - Spring is here! Before we know it, our winter friends will be leaving for cooler summer climates.

The show must go on though, and you are invited to join the team at the Lutheran Thrift Shop! Since we have only one paid staff person, we always need volunteers. Volunteers in all departments: accepting donations, clothing, children's, holiday house, books, housewares, hardware, linens, cashiers, customer service, and truckers - Yes, we always need truckers!

Our "benefits package" includes flexible hours; most volunteers work a 4-hour shift-- but some work several shifts per week, fellowship, that *great feeling you get when you do a good thing*, a 20% discount on your Thrift Shop purchases, and yummy baked goods at break time! Sorry, no dental plan!

Our new shop is huge - plenty of room for more helpers! Join us, won't you? Shop with us, donate your gently used goods or become a volunteer. Call us today to schedule a tour or a donation pick-up.



**10615 W. Peoria Avenue, Sun City**

**623-815-7061**



## **NEXT FOOD INGATHERING IS APRIL 7 & 8**

**Food Ingathering is always  
the first full weekend of the  
month. In February we  
donated 922 pounds! Can  
we top that?**



**STAN & GAYLE GAFFIN** – Stan is from South Dakota and Gayle is from Minnesota. Stan is retired from the banking business, and Gayle was a preschool teacher. He is interested in sports and golf; she likes reading, crafts, and walking. They both have been volunteers at our West Valley Thrift Store for 10 years.

**MIKE & CATHY NICHOLSON** – are from Denver, Colorado where Mike was in the Denver Public Schools for 30 years as a physical education instructor, basketball & football coach, athletic director, and principal. Cathy was an office products manufacturer's rep and later a church secretary. The Nicholsons came to Spirit of Grace because Cathy's parents, Jim & Anita Conwell, are members here. Mike likes anything in the great outdoors especially fly fishing and golf. Cathy likes beading, exercise classes, reading, and fly fishing as well.



**TONY & MARIT ROSACCI** – She's from Brainerd, Minnesota, and he's from Detroit, but now Denver is their home where Tony is semi-retired from owning several Tony's Markets. His son has taken over the day-to-day operation of the business. In retirement, Tony likes anything to do with golf and Marit likes spending time with her dogs.

*Continued on page 17*



Continued from page 16

**LARRY & JANE WARREN** – Jane's from Houston, Texas, and Larry is from Newport News, Virginia. Larry was an aerospace engineer and Jane was an escrow officer in the title business. He likes bikes and trikes, exercise, tennis, and Netflix. She likes biking, hiking, crafting, Bible Study, and singing in two choirs. Although this is their permanent home, they spend four to five months a year traveling in their RV.



**ROD & SUE WILTERDINK** – are both from Wisconsin where Rod was a math teacher and coach and was inducted into the Wisconsin Coaches Hall of Fame. Sue was a church secretary at Grace Lutheran in Grafton, Wisconsin, taught Sunday School for 50 years, and started the Stephen Ministry program. The Wilterdinks tried several churches in this area, but agreed on Spirit of Grace because this one "feels like home." Rod is another outdoorsman who likes anything outside especially softball, golf, and fishing. Sue likes reading and has already become a member of our Outreach Ministry Program. They both enjoy several card games including Hand & Foot.

Have you seen our new website? It is [www.spiritofgrace.com](http://www.spiritofgrace.com) <<http://www.spiritofgrace.com>> and is very easy to follow when you are searching for the newsletter or a sermon or Giving!

Yes, GIVING. You can now make a donation via the website with your debit card, e-check from your checking account, or your MasterCard, Visa, or Discover, but not American Express. On our website, click on *Giving* on the blue bar. The next screen will ask you if you are a first-time user. You will set up your email address and a password. When you return the second time, you will just need to enter your password.

Once you've logged in, you may choose to make a one-time donation or you may set up automatic recurring donations through scheduled giving. This feature will also be available for future Fellowship activities rather than buying tickets before and after the worship services.

A BIG THANKS to Gerry White for his work freshening up our website with its new features!





## **MEDICARE AND A POSSIBLE SCAM**

Here's what you need to know to protect yourself, family and friends throughout the US. Starting April 1st, Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. Scammers are opportunistic and will look for ways to make an illegal and quick buck.

First of all, the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will just show up.

### **WHAT'S THE SCAM?**

Somebody from "MEDICARE" will call to tell you that you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes, you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between \$5-50. They want personal information, a bank account or a credit card number so they can process your temporary card.

### **HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE?**

Remember, Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communication by mail unless you ask them to call.

Spread the word. Feel free to share this. Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize. If it has already happened, personal information has been given out--happens considerably more often than you think--immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft by calling your bank or your credit card company.

From the Texas Senior Medicare Patrol, a division within the Better Business Bureau and submitted by *Nancy Jacob*

# REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

by Dan Olson, author of  
"African Sand in My Sandals"

+ + +

## THE ENCOURAGERS

I appreciate the gift of encouragement. A friend once told me her gift in life has been to encourage others. That is a Great Gift!



I reflect, with appreciation, on those who help with the back page of Grace Notes. In 2011, when my book, "African Sand in My Sandals" was completed, Linda Stratman, the *Grace Notes* Editor asked me to keep writing for *Grace Notes*. That was 40+ monthly articles ago—thanks to her encouragement. Being able to share my stories and thoughts has helped keep me current and creative.

Two other persons have been significant in encouraging me to continue with the writing. Everything in the book and "Reflections" that has been typed and edited has been passed over the last eight years through the creative assistance of my friend and "pen pal," Cosette Swalheim. My dear wife of 58 years, Barbara, has also been significant in suggesting topics, helping with the wording and making sure the stories are true and accurate.

In addition, many others at Spirit of Grace have been encouragers—in emails, over the phone, and in person. In our new home, Royal Oaks in Sun City, **African Sand** has been a popular read. Three copies in our community Library have made numerous trips to residents' apartments and have been helpful in our making new friends in our new home. From time to time, we hear from friends and co-workers who have shared times and experiences in the African communities where we once ministered that they enjoy remembering the events shared.

To those of you who have and are encouraging my writing, I say "THANK YOU! Blessings to you Encouragers!" May these reflections help you in being encouragers to others in your lives.

*Do all the good you can.  
In all the ways you can.  
At all the times you can.*

*By all the means you can.  
In all the places you can.  
To all the people you can.*

*As long as ever you can.*

—John Wesley—1703-1791, English Cleric and Co-founder of the Methodist Church

