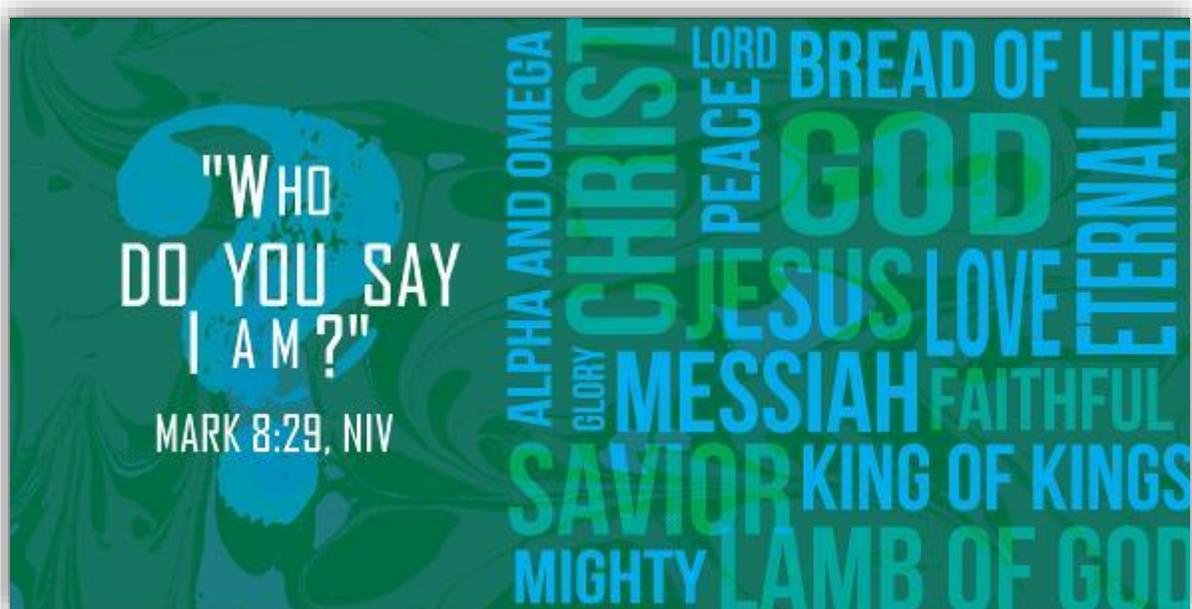




**SEPTEMBER 2018**



## **Worship Schedule**

Saturday, 5:00 pm and Sunday, 9:00 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](http://www.spiritofgrace.com)

### Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 pm  
Sunday at 9:00 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. Harold Stromer  
Interim Pastor  
[pastorharold@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:pastorharold@spiritofgrace.com)

Linda Stratman  
Director of Parish Life  
[linda@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:linda@spiritofgrace.com)

Gerry White  
Director of Finance  
& Administration  
[jerry@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:jerry@spiritofgrace.com)

Gil Korito, Bookkeeper  
[gkorito@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:gkorito@spiritofgrace.com)

Sheila Marlow  
Secretary/Receptionist  
[sheila@spiritofgrace.com](mailto:sheila@spiritofgrace.com)

Fred Bornhoeft  
Director of Music

Jerry Huston  
Facility Manager

Ken Carnes  
Choir Director

Georgette Harper  
Accompanist

# For the Call Committee



"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."



"Just have a seat, Reverend. The search committee will be right in."

**WHAT I'M SEEING** . . . I've been with you now two and a half months as your Transitional Senior Pastor. Coming in from the outside, becoming a part of you, let me now make a few observations about what I'm seeing.

FIRST, IT'S A FRIENDLY PLACE – very welcoming and cordial – which creates a warm feeling!

SECOND, IT'S A WORSHIPFUL PLACE! There seems to be a good commitment to regular and faithful Worship – which is at the heart of a congregation's life.

THIRD, IT'S A PRAYERFUL PLACE – with the Prayer Chain and Prayer Shawl ministries and the after worship Prayer Bench for in-close personal prayers.

FOURTH, IT'S A CARING/SHARING PLACE - The Outreach Worship Ministry touches many lives. The Caring Corps stands ready to respond to those who need a helping hand. The monthly Food Ingathering speaks volumes.

THERE IS MUCH MORE! Structured Fellowship Events, the Men's Breakfast, a well-developed and maintained Church Library, strong Music Ministry, Professional Counseling, Women of the ELCA, Gifts of Hope, etc.

I see Spirit of Grace in these two Scriptures:

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.

**1 PETER 4:10-11**

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.



Cordially in Christ,  
*Pastor Harold*

## **NEW BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULED ...."THE FORGIVENESS OF JESUS!" CONNECTING THE BIBLE TO LIFE**

We all carry guilt and shame – it drags us down and keeps us from enjoying life to the fullest potential. This six-session study offers a fuller understanding of the reason Christ gave His life on the Cross. Jesus came to forgive us – allowing us to move from guilt and shame to *freedom and forgiveness*. As we examine the people He met and set free, you will be transformed by your encounter with the God who loves you so much that He runs to you!

Each session is on Wednesday morning at 10:00 with coffee and refreshments.

September 5 – "The Forgiving Father" – The Parable of the Prodigal Son

September 12 – "Two Aspects of Healing" – Jesus Forgives the Paralytic

September 19 – "Spiritual Sight" – Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

September 26 – "Hope for Sinners" – Jesus' Dinner Invitation

October 3- "A Second Chance" - Jesus Restores Peter

October 10 - "Released to Forgive" – Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath

Each session includes video teaching on the meaning of the Biblical text, Pastor's input and discussion, followed by a second video presentation, "Connecting the Bible to Life."



amazing  
GRACE

### **FALL SERMON SERIES**

The name of this church – *Spirit of GRACE* – has encouraged me to do a sermon series on God's Grace. Grace is the centerpiece of our faith – yet not fully understood or appreciated. Through God's Word we'll let it speak to us and inspire our living! The overall theme is "What's So Amazing about Grace?" We'll unpack the meaning

with these topics: September 16 – "The Grace Awakening!" September 23 – "Dealing with Grace Killers!" September 30 – "Jesus: Full of Grace and Truth!" October 7 – "Grace: Luther's Battle Cry!" October 14 – "Embrace Grace!" and October 21 – "In the Grip of Grace!"



# Council Notes

The Council and the Call Committee had a special meeting in August to discuss the process of issuing a call to a candidate to serve as Senior Pastor at Spirit of Grace.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** There will be a Special Congregational Meeting at 4:30 on Sunday, September 16 for the purpose of voting to extend a call to a candidate to serve Spirit of Grace as the Senior Pastor. Only members and associate members are eligible to vote on this issue. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS,** you don't want to miss this very important meeting.

Although many of our winter residents are gone for the summer and we have a lot of people on vacation, we still continue to show an increase in attendance on a weekly basis.

As I reported last month we had a resignation from the council. As provided in the Constitution of SOG, the council is instructed to appoint a replacement to serve until the Annual Meeting in January 2019. We feel very fortunate to appoint Dave Sitzman to the vacant council position. Dave brings a lot of experience to the council. He has served as President as well as Secretary on past councils. Dave also was the Call Committee Chairman when SOG called Pastor Vern Anderson. Welcome back Dave!!

HELP!! We are in need of individuals to serve as ushers at our Sunday morning service. No experience necessary as Karl Boldt will teach you what the duties are. If you can help in this area, please contact Karl or Barbara Boldt.

*Bruce Belanger, President*

Robin Aguilar, Vice President

Deborah Frusciano, Secretary

Vince Barone

Phyllis Borchardt

Dick Lyda

Vicki McCarville

Treedah Magee

Dave Sitzman



Income 7 months to the end of July \$496,811

Expenses 7 months to the end July 417,980

Fixed Asset purchases 7 months to end of July 57,975

Mortgage balance at the end of July \$938,538

Members 822 Individuals

512 Households

*Gerry White*  
Director of Finance & Administration



# HAPPENings

## FOOD INGATHERING

**September 1 & 2**

***Always the first full weekend of the month***



September kicks off the start-up of the Men's Breakfast gatherings for Fall, Winter and Spring. Spirit of Grace men, set aside **Tuesday, September 18** to attend the next Men's Breakfast. Most men start showing up at 8:00 for coffee and fellowship. Breakfast is served around 8:25, with the devotional discussion getting underway at 8:45. Breakfast is buffet style with at least one hot egg item. No one ever goes away hungry. This Men's Ministry function always ends with the Lord's Prayer no later than 9:30.



Take a look at the "Upcoming" section of the weekend bulletins on September 8/9 and September 15/16 for sign-up instructions and a hint at what the discussion focus will be. The men who help put this breakfast together hope to see you there. For additional information, contact Bernie Ryan at 623-214-5777.



**CHOIR**—Rehearsals with Ken Carnes resume on Tuesday, September 18th at 4:15. If you're interested in singing in the SOG choir, come see what we're about. All singers are welcome.

# HAPPENings

**HARVEST HOMECOMING** – It's time to welcome our winter visitors back with a mouth-watering feast and a patriotic musical revue. This year's event is **Sunday, November 4, at 5:30** and we're looking forward to having you help fill the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$25--watch for details about purchasing your tickets in the bulletin and in next month's *Grace Notes*.

The menu includes Roasted Turkey sliced and sectioned with Nutmeg Gravy and Cranberry Sauce, Honey Baked Ham with Pineapple and Cherry Garnish, Vegetable and Cornbread Stuffing, Buttery Whipped Potatoes, Cinnamon Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Maple Glazed Carrots, House Salad, Rolls & Butter, and Apple & Pumpkin Pies with Whipped Cream.

Back by popular demand—Jan Sandwich and her accompanist Richard Palalay presenting "American Hurrah," a great patriotic show, filled with music, comedy, and audience participation with a tribute to George M. Cohan, taking you on a musical trip across our great country, paying tribute to each branch of the armed services and honoring our veterans in the audience. A rousing, spirited celebration of America! Songs from the show include: Yankee Doodle Boy, It's a Grand Old Flag, America the Beautiful, An American Trilogy... and lots more!!!

*Remember how much we enjoyed Jan as Mrs. Santa Claus?*



# HAPPENings

**BARLEENS** — Another of Spirit of Grace's favorite activities . . . Plan now to be with your friends as we motor coach over to Apache Junction to Barleens Arizona Opry for a great dinner and a fabulous show.

## **BARLEEN'S ARIZONA OPRY'S HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS SHOW**

Tuesday December 4th

3:45 Buses will load in the Spirit of Grace Parking lot

4:00 on-time departure

Dinner and show at Barleen's Arizona Opry

Approximate return time to Spirit of Grace is 11:00

Price of this trip is \$55.00 per person which includes round trip motor coach ride, driver tip, dinner, and the show.

The served dinner is a double entrée of succulent slow roasted beef, creamy Yukon Gold mashed potatoes with classic pan gravy, steamed carrots plus a savory chicken breast accompanied by a fresh, crisp salad and whole wheat roll. There is also a Healthy Plate option suitable for Vegetarians. In addition, Barleens includes a sample of Barleen's signature pork spare ribs. All meals include coffee or iced tea.

There is also a full bar with many specialty cocktails, beer, wine, and soft drinks available for purchase. There is also an Ice cream Sundae Bar at additional cost.

Not included are tips for the servers. Tipping is suggested at the discretion of the participant.

Watch for details about purchasing your tickets in the bulletin and in next month's *Grace Notes*.



If you are new to Spirit of Grace, we invite you to attend a Welcome Session with Director of Parish Life Linda Stratman. You will meet other prospective members, learn more about the mission and vision of Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, and discover the various opportunities to serve and become involved in the life of the parish community. Everyone is invited to attend.



## New Member Welcome Session

Our next Welcome Session is **Thursday, September 20th at 10:00**. Call the church office at 977-6000 for more information or to indicate your interest in Spirit of Grace.

Former associate member **Ron Huston** passed away on August 26th in Omaha, Nebraska. His wife **Jan** passed away in November 2016. Beginning in 2016, their health issues prevented them spending the winters here.

Carol Junge's sister Lottie Tweed passed away on August 27 in Glendale.



## *Deaths*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018



Hey guy's look at mine!

Thought this was suppose to be fun!



I think I can... I think I can...!



Can't I just sing a song?



I'm just here for cookies!

Photos & captions courtesy of Jerry Huston



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**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**



### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY CIRCLE MEETINGS**

Repentance is one of the most powerful acts of a person or a church, making possible not only forgiveness but also reconciliation. Our Fall three-part Bible study by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni will explore how we as Lutheran Christians understand the role of repentance in our faith, especially as we understand God's grace to be unearned and freely given. Pastor Meghan will be the featured speaker at our GCS WELCA Convention in Phoenix on November 10.

**September: Session one – Combined Bible Study--"Time after time: Turning to God"** "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." With these words, the prophet Joel reminds us that repentance is nothing to be afraid of—for when we turn to God, we find grace. What does it mean to (re)turn to God with all our hearts, and how do we do it?

Barbara Steinberg will lead that Combined Bible Study, "Time after time: Turning to God," Tuesday, September 11, 9:30, Fellowship Hall.

Martha and Mary Circle Meetings will resume in October; Rachel, Deborah and Elizabeth Circle Meetings will resume in November. Members staying for the summer months are invited to attend the combined bible study meeting in September. All women are invited to attend and/or join a circle. Extra copies of the Bible study lessons are in Gather Magazine and are available for check out in the church library.



## Other Dates to Remember

Installation of Deborah Hutterer, newly-elected bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, Shepherd of the Valley, 1500 W. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Saturday, September 8, 10:00

Pastor Harold will lead our Fall Kick Off on October 9 at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Fall Gathering Grand Canyon Synod WELCA, Friday-Sunday, November 9-11, Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, Phoenix

Fall Luncheon, Thursday, November 15, 11:00, Fellowship Hall Program: New Life Center in Goodyear; in-kind donations to be announced



Information and registration online <http://grandcanyonwomen.org/2018-grand-canyon-womens-convention-gathering/>

**LOVE** the music . . .meeting other diversified Christian sisters . . . the energy . . . the laughter. . . the food . . . the social times . . . the entertainment. . . **GROW** in learning through multiple, exciting workshops and messages from Churchwide representatives: Joy Michalicek, Pastor Meghan Aelabouni on being "Fully Known, Fully Loved" (and a little bit of Kintsugi!); our Chaplain, Pastor Karn Carroll, Berkley Harris sharing about her year in Senegal with the Young Adults in Global Mission program, learning more about Campus Ministries and the young people who are emerging from these programs, and much more. And, a very special visit from our former Parliamentarian and recently elected Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, The Rev. Deborah Hutterer!!! What a line-up of exceptional mentors! **SERVE** by learning ways to participate in projects being utilized by other women throughout the Synod and beyond.



## IN-KIND GIFTS, SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE AT THE CONVENTION

In Kind Gifts—This year we have two in-kind gift opportunities. We're collecting disposable diapers and wipes for ages newborn through toddler to support the Alleluia Diaper Closet in Avondale. We'll also be assembling Lutheran Social Services Hygiene Kits to provide supplies for a newly-arrived refugee family. This kit includes a full-size shampoo/conditioner (an all-in-one bottle), pack of 4 toothbrushes, large toothpaste, pack of 6 razors, can of shaving cream, combs, 2-pack deodorant, 2-3 bars of hand soap/body wash, and washcloths. Optional items are lotion and mouthwash. Please bring your gifts to the Gathering Room and our University Student Ambassadors will get you started on assembling.



These Gift Baskets were assembled by Mary Circle and were a real hit at the raffle for the Military Assistance Mission golf tournament a few months ago. This photo is for your inspiration.

Instead of a Silent Auction, the Board voted to hold a Gift Basket Raffle inviting churches, units, and individuals to provide unique baskets to be raffled. Proceeds will be divided equally between our Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Schol-

arship Fund and Katie's Fund at churchwide. The ticket price will be \$5.00 for 6 tickets (for \$20.00 you will have 24 chances to WIN!). Let's get creative and see where it takes us. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner.

Blessings,  
*Phyllis Borchardt*  
WELCA President

### THE BEST WAY TO PRAY submitted by Brenda Parker

A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

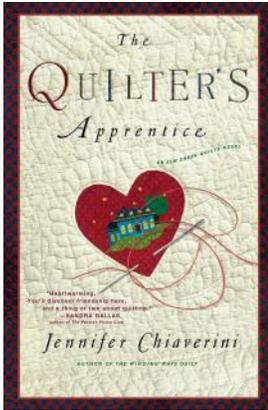
"Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

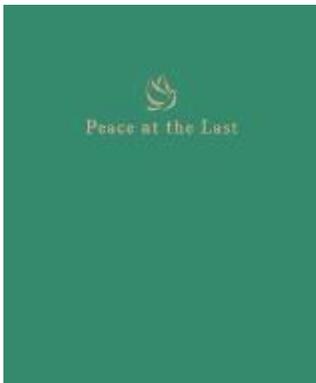
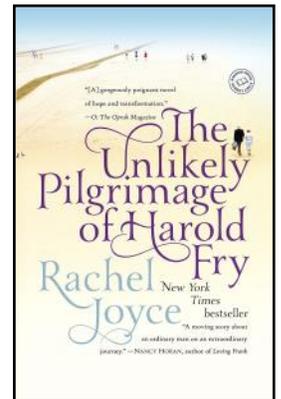
## NOTES FROM OUR LIBRARY FOR SEPTEMBER



Jennifer Chiaverini's bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series starts with *The Quilter's Apprentice*, a timeless tale of family, friendship, and forgiveness as two women weave the disparate pieces of their lives into a bountiful and harmonious whole, and begin the legacy of the Elm Street Quilters.

Just as the darker sections of a quilt can enhance the brighter ones, the mistakes of the past can strengthen understanding and lead the way to new beginnings.

Meet Harold Fry, recently retired, in *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. He lives in a small English village with his wife, Maureen, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. Little differentiates one day from the next. Then one morning a letter arrives, addressed to Harold in a shaky scrawl, from a woman he hasn't heard from in twenty years. Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. But before Harold mails off a quick reply, a chance encounter convinces him that he absolutely must deliver his message to Queenie in person. In his yachting shoes and light coat, Harold Fry embarks on an urgent quest. Determined to walk six hundred miles to the hospice, Harold believes that as long as he walks, Queenie will live.



Finally, if you are visiting someone who is dying, perhaps this book will be a graceful gift to you. *Peace at the Last* is a richly illustrated liturgy for use by individuals and groups who are visiting those who are dying. The text is drawn from the Psalms, the *Book of Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and other sources. Simple musical refrains easily sung without accompaniment are also provided. These words, images, and songs, gathered in a beautiful and portable form, will help Christians to accompany those who are dying, assuring them that "whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8).

LindaLu Miller  
Librarian

What's happening at the Shop:  
Our Holiday House is gearing up for Fall and Thanksgiving. Check out our great selection of furniture and home furnishings. Plus--our deals on clothing can't be beat.

Good Fun-luvin People Always Needed!  
Volunteer opportunities at the shop are as varied as the kinds of donations we receive. Many volunteers prefer to work behind the scenes accepting and processing donations. Small appliances need to be tested, cleaned, priced, and shelved. Clothing is sorted by season, checked for cleanliness, sized, priced and put out on the racks. Sheets, towels, blankets and tablecloths are measured and marked as to size and stocked. Knick knacks, dishes, and kitchen things are cleaned and priced.

Some volunteers prefer to be more visible; strolling the sales floor, interacting with customers and helping people find all the great bargains are great opportunities for them. Cashiers with friendly smiles welcome customers as they arrive and handle all the purchases. No matter what your style, the shop has something for you.

Volunteering at the LTS is as much a social opportunity as it is work time. Most days fresh baked goodies add a few yummy calories to break time where the coffee is always hot and fellowship is abundant. An added perk - 20% off purchases if you're a volunteer!

Did you know people who volunteer actually live longer? That's right, and a Mayo study confirms it! So we have great snacks, a volunteer discount AND you can live a few extra years! What more could you ask for in a job? Call us to schedule your tour soon.

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

**623-815-7061**

**[www.wvlutheranthrift.com](http://www.wvlutheranthrift.com)**



## **HOLD ON**

Hold on to what is good  
even if it is a handful of earth.

Hold on to what you believe  
even if it is a tree that stands by itself.

Hold on to what you must do  
even if it is a long way from here.

Hold on to life  
even when it is easier letting go.

Hold on to my hand  
even when I have gone away  
from you.

Pueblo Prayer  
as quoted by Terry Hershey



# New Member



**REENIE NICHOLS** – is originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and she and her husband Gary have lived in Arizona for 17 years. In the past few years, Reenie wasn't feeling as comfortable at her former church, and she noticed that her friends who attended Spirit of Grace were happy and had a



positive outlook about their worship experience. So after attending here a while, she decided to become a member. She has an extensive Catholic background: K-1st year college. Reenie has traveled all over the US and southern Canada. She is a Hand & Foot player, and enjoys sewing and all kinds of crafts.

## For Pastor Harold



© 1988 Andy Robertson. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

"And, Father, I ask thee now for a good text to accompany this fantastic joke."