



Lutheran Church

**NOVEMBER
2011**

LOG Newsletter

MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN
TO SHARE OUR LORDS LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL PEOPLE



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One of my early memories as a child of 11, coming home from Sweden, was that we would travel around the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area telling stories about Sweden as a family, and sometimes singing Swedish songs. Usually we went to old Lutheran churches where we would find a handful who still spoke Swedish (this was 1984). But I remember going to at least one nursing home (and not the nice kind you see today, but the old-school kind, with the smells and small rooms and bleak tile hallways) and once going to the Minneapolis Salvation Army.

Now, this was not my finest moment. I was not particularly cool in school, but here I was definitely too cool for school. And I don't know why. Somehow I decided it would ruin my reputation (like I had one) to sing in front of the old people at the big shelter/food distribution center downtown. So I sat there and sulked and pouted and refused to let a Swedish word flow from my lips.

But it left an impression on me. This big city. The big buildings. The massive scale of what the Salvation Army did there somehow hit me, even though I didn't tour anything but the chapel. And the neighborhood around: well, let's say there were a few buildings that needed some work – lots of work. And the fact that these people at the Salvation Army were willing to put on those military-esque suits just for all these street people – that stuck with me.

Like a lot of experiences you look back on later in life, you find value in things that you thought were nothing but a pain before. But that's what parents are for, to push you to try things you wouldn't consider, to make you go outside your comfort zone and try things. They're there to make you uncool sometimes, and not ask whether they want to do it. And going downtown to a homeless center, that's the kind of thing a good parent does.

It has through the years influenced how I see church life and ministry. I think about the question, particularly when I'm on vacation, of what kind of a church would I go to if I weren't a pastor.

Lord of Grace Lutheran Church

7250 N. Cortaro Rd.
Tucson, AZ
85743

Church Office Phone

520-744-7400

Website

www.lordofgrace.org

Sunday Worship

8:15 - Traditional
10:45 - Contemporary

LORD OF GRACE STAFF

Lord of Grace Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Church of America.

(www.elca.org)

The newsletter is designed and edited by Len Mowinski. Submissions may be edited for space. Send contributions to lmowinski@comcast.net or the church office.

Staff

Lars Hammar: Senior Pastor
Dani Anich: Administrative Assistant
Dawn Calkins: Adult Choir
April McDaniel: Preschool Director
Erin Draper: Nursery Coordinator
Todd Martin: Organist/Piano
Jacob Acosta: Praise Team
Lisa Parks: Bookkeeper
Thomas Winiger: Chancel Choir

Elected Council Members

Carolyn Bernheim: President
Cheryl Fitch: Vice-President
Steve Mankee: Treasurer
Laurie O'Brien: Education
Lisa Rynda: Youth
Erin Martin: Fellowship
Dan Sherry: Evangelism
Jim Dahnke: Property
Cindy Stein: Worship

Committee Chairs

Charlie Motzko: Technology
Lori Brown: Financial Secretary
Dino Revie: Website
Rita Spindler: Prayer Chain
Melissa Elias: Preschool Committee
Laurie O'Brien and Charlene DeWitt: MOPS Coordinator

What would I look for? Some stuff for kids, for sure. But it wouldn't have to be a gigantic program - just enough to have other Christian kids to play with. It would have to have worship that isn't deadly boring and sermons that don't put me to sleep. Music - I could go either way on that, so that's not critical. But one thing it would have to have is a passion for the poor and the outcast.

Why? Because I believe it's written into the Gospel itself, and without it you're really more of a social club than a church. And, because it does something to the church to care for the poor. It makes you better people. It makes a better community. When the church's resources and energies are focused on those outside the doors, on those who do not have, on how to improve the world and make life better for others, it can find itself too busy to wage wars over small differences of opinion on things. When you have people strung out on drugs who you're trying to get clean, you don't have time to debate the color of the paper on the bulletin board, or whether the bathroom has soft enough towels for your liking, and so on. It prioritizes things. It makes all our middle-class problems seem small. And, it teaches us to see outside ourselves like Jesus did. In short, it teaches us to love.

So maybe I'm thinking about the Salvation Army again because I can see the stacks of blankets and cots in the narthex, waiting for the next time we host a group of men from the Salvation Army here in Tucson as part of Project Hospitality. This is the second winter we've done this program, where around 4 or 5 men, who have been screened by the Salvation Army, come to Lord of Grace for a night. We give them a hot meal, a place to stay, breakfast and a bag lunch for the next day. Then they go back to the Salvation Army again. Last year it was a great hit. Everyone who did it, including our confirmation students, loved it immensely. It was a win-win all around.

This year we've doubled the number of times we do it, so we have openings for people to cook, stay overnight with the guys, and just generally help out. Call Mike Stein if you're interested.

We also are starting another initiative here, with specifics to be unveiled soon, about a campaign to raise water for drilling wells in Africa. As they go through the worst drought in record in East Africa, and several million people are facing hunger, the need is huge. Conversely, in areas with more plentiful water, dysentery is a huge killer, and it's totally preventable. \$500 through Lutheran World Relief will give a whole community a well. And, an anonymous donor has offered to match funds up to \$3000.00 - allowing us to fund 6 wells!! Praise the Lord. In this time of

of scarcity, let's not forget that God's sense of stewardship is the opposite of ours. It is in giving that we gain, and in sharing that we grow.

It is my hope that we continue to make the service and outreach efforts of this church central to our DNA. We will be a better, more attractive church for it, and we will be changing lives. It's exciting to see what we've begun to do, and hopefully this is just the beginning.

Peace,

Pastor Lars

KIDS CLUB STARTING FOR FALL

Kids Club – our Friday night youth events for all kids in K-6th grade are starting up again. **Everyone is invited** to come, and bring a friend. We have games, crafts, and Bible-based activities. First and Third Fridays (except December) from 6pm-8pm at church.

November 4, 2011

November 18, 2011 - movie night

December 2, 2011

We occasionally also have some social events, such as bowling or a field trip. Questions: contact Lisa Rynda (youth@lordofgrace.org) or Anette Jones.

MOPS

MOPS is going well this year, filled with great discussions, devotionals, speakers and crafts as usual. We welcome all mothers of children birth through kindergarten to join us the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the fellowship hall from **9:15 – 11:15**. If your children are older, we would love to have you join us as a mentor mom, we could always use the perspective of a mother who has been through this stage of mothering. Your meeting fee is waived, you will just pay the MOPS International registration fee. MOPS is also participating in Operation Christmas Child and we will have a packing party on November 12th.

The whole family is invited and it will be a fun way to track the boxes with our children involved in the process. We will have crafts for the kids, food and get the boxes ready for drop off. We are looking forward to a women's self defense demonstration speaker in November and a cookie mix craft/fundraiser. We could always use more childcare help. If you are interested in helping out 2 or 4 hours a month to this ministry (or know anyone who is able to), please call me at **572-8556**. Our childcare program is an important part of the success of MOPS and we always need help!

CUB SCOUTS

Pack 219

Did you know that Lord of Grace is the sponsor for the Cub Scout Pack 219? Well, we are! I recently discovered this when my son joined Cub Scouts. Pack 219 is very grateful to have LOG as their sponsor, because without a sponsor a Pack cannot exist. Pack 219 is made up of 10 Dens and within each Den there are 4-8 boys, totaling about 70 kids ranging from 1st grade through 5th grade. There is a mutual desire to develop a closer relationship between the church and the Pack. There are some great opportunities for the Cub Scouts to get involved with at LOG, for example, church clean-up, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas shoe boxes, etc. Plus, what a great way for LOG to get our name out there and invite people to our church. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can get involved with one another, please contact Erin Martin (572-0068 or by email wake_mom@msn.com).

This is to clear up any confusion about announcements, hope this helps.

Announcements should be:

- Emailed to Dani@lordofgrace.org regardless of where the announcement will be published.
- Events the church population does not already know about.
- No more than 3 sentences in length.
- Specific about date, time and location.
- Given to the office no sooner than a month in advance.
- Will appear in the appropriate announcement format 2 consecutive times.

Events and activities should be:

- Cross referenced with the Church calendar to make sure there are no conflicts.

Announcements will go into Sunday's paper bulletin if:

- They pertain to an event that a visitor would be interested in knowing.
- They reflect a change in the regular worship or education schedule.

Announcements will go to the Login and Newsletter if:

- They pertain to activities that effect the general church population.

Announcements will appear on the overhead on Sunday morning if:

- They pertain to an event that a visitor would be interested in knowing.
- They reflect a change in the regular worship or education schedule.
- They pertain to activities that effect the general church population

WHAT IS VIA DE CRISTO?

Richard Krohn, LOG Representative

Via de Cristo is the Lutheran version of the Cur-sillo spiritual renewal movement. It is three days of learning, sharing and inspirational experience living in a Christian community. The Spanish words "Via de Cristo" mean "Way of Christ". The purpose of Via de Cristo is to strengthen the faith of Christian men and women, and encourage them to become more fully committed to serving God in every area of life.

This year the Via de Cristo weekend is co-ed and begins Friday evening November 10th thru Sunday November 13th.

Thursday evening is a time for getting acquainted. During the weekend, participants will participate in talks emphasizing the meaning of grace, the sacraments, prayer and more.

The atmosphere of the three day event is one of joy and grace. The Via de Cristo is filled with

singing, reverence, laughing, prayer, worship and inspiration. A team of people will pamper your every need. Being a Lutheran event, their will be plenty of food and fun.

On the personal side, I can speak for all who've attended the weekend; each has come away from the experience with a strengthening and renewal of their faith.

It is my hope and prayer that you will consider attending this weekend.

Applications can be obtained from our information table in the Narthex. They need be submitted by October 30th. The following people participated in a Via de Cristo weekend and can answer your questions. Carol Buuck, Dawn Calkins, Jim/Joan Danhke, Norm/Jynn Ehler, Janette Corollo, Lars/Kristie Hammer, Ken/Barb Kurtz, Tim/Mary Murphy, Chris Kollen, Len Mowinski, John and Linda Reeves.

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Murphy 11/2
Kim Revie 11/2
Judy Klinger 11/6
Karen Lundstrom 11/6
Laurie O'Brien 11/6
Scott Smith 11/7
Bonnie Hulse 11/8
Noah Mankee 11/8
Dani Anich 11/8
Harry Slingland 11/8
Luiz Gomez 11/10
Richard (Andy) Andrews 11/11
Jim Ash 11/11
William Willcoxson Jr. 11/13
Rich Chapman 11/18
John Teager Jr. 11/19
Norm Ehler 11/23
Maverick Frank 11/23
Loren Gratz 11/25
Lynda Reeves 11/25
Joy Temme 11/25
Leif Hammar 11/28



ANNIVERSARIES

Fred and Janet Yeck 50 years
Marcia and Gene Schmeling 15 years
Delmar and Terri Lowry 34 years
Jack and Paulette Claver 52 years



WORSHIP NOTES

October 30, 2011

Reformation Sunday. Remember to wear red.

November 6, 2011

All Saints Sunday. Those who have passed away in the last year will be remembered.

November 23, 2011

Thanksgiving Eve service with dessert reception afterwards.

November 27, 2011

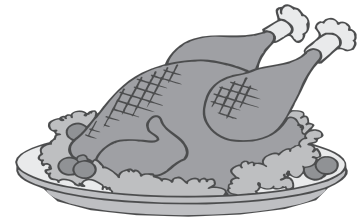
First night of Advent services which will continue each Wednesday night. Service begins at 6:30 pm.

January 1, 2012

Combined Service begins at 10 am.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Sunday School and Kids' Chat are going great this year. We have a great group of teachers and assistants. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or Kids' Chat, please contact me at 572-8556. We are in the process of deciding on a Christmas program as I write this, so I will report this as soon as it is decided. The Sunday School children are participating in Operation Christmas Child this year again. It is a wonderful outreach program that brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift. Along with shoe box gifts, millions of children are given Gospel booklets in their own language. Bulletin inserts will go out on October 23rd and a drop off station will be placed in the fellowship hall on October 30th. We would love for the rest of the congregation to get involved and put their own boxes together, too. Boxes need to be dropped off in fellowship hall no later than Nov. 14th for me to take them to a drop off church in the area. Packing instructions will be in the fellowship hall and online at http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack_A_Shoe_Box/?hometab. Please include your \$7 donation (payable to Samaritan's Purse and note OCC on memo line) to cover shipping fees and project costs or donate online through their "Follow Your Box Donation" option. If you do the online option, you can track your box to its final destination.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

**Mark your calendar for
Sunday, November
20th.**

**We will be having our
Thanksgiving Dinner in
the Fellowship hall af-
ter 2nd service. Look
for signup sheets in the
Narthex.**

Oktoberfest

We had a good turnout at the 5th Annual Oktoberfest, but missed those who did not come! We enjoyed some delicious German cuisine and some good ol' fashion American fellowship. Thank you, Joan and Jim Dahnke, for organizing this fundraiser. And, thank you, Kimberli Kirlin for allowing us to use your home. We were able to raise \$245, which will go towards replacing some items in the kitchen and help pay for the new refrigerator.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New Member Orientation will be November 12th, from 10am to 3pm at Church. Anyone interested in joining the church, or in learning more about becoming a member of Lord of Grace, is encouraged to attend. Please contact Pastor Lars or Dani Anich to let us know you're coming.

Lunch will be included, and nursery is available upon request.

OUTREACH

Previously, the Lord of Grace Outreach team provided prepared dinners to college students at the University of Arizona campus; a **Lutheran Campus Ministry** event. These dinners begin again on August 24th at 6 p.m. and continue each Wednesday during the fall semester for an estimated 20 students. If you are interested in being the coordinator for one or more of these Wednesday dinners, contact me for more information dan.sherry@hotmail.com.

Thanksgiving Baskets

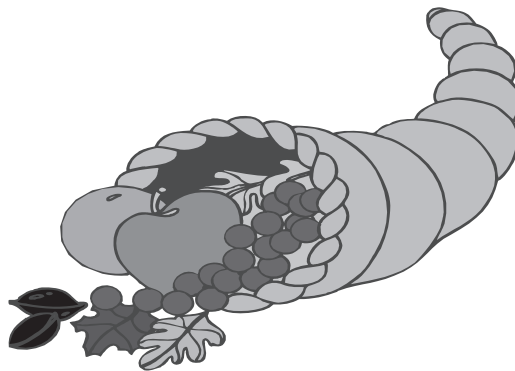
The holiday season is just around the corner. For most of us the thoughts of Thanksgiving conjure up family and friends gathered around a table full of golden turkeys with all the trimmings and lots of scrumptious desserts. However, for many in our own community this idyllic setting is not a reality. Jesus teaches us to take care of those in need, 1 Timothy 6:17-18 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them ... to set their hopeson God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.

In keeping with our Lord of Grace tradition, we will be collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets. Grocery bags with a list of suggested food items and envelopes for monetary donations will be available in the narthex Sunday October 23rd, 30th Nov. 6th and 13th. The deadline for donating the food is **Friday, Nov. 18th**. There will be a table in the fellowship hall for you to drop off your donations.

On Saturday, November 19th, from 9-12:00, the Women of Lord of Grace will be meeting to sort the food and assemble the Thanksgiving boxes. We will also be clipping coupons for military personal serving overseas, and making quilts. All women, young and old, are invited to join us for this outreach ministry.

If you know of a family or individual that is in need of a Thanksgiving basket, please submit the person/family name, contact information for the family and your name to Carol Buuck, Darlene Paul, or to Dani in the office.

Let us all follow Jesus' example and help those in need partake in God's bounty.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Carolyn Bernheim, Council President

We practice stewardship all year long, but it is important to take a step back periodically and ask if we are giving out of habit or if we are seeking and following God's direction in the area of our life that deals with giving back. So what does God ask of us in our giving? In Proverbs 3:9 we are told to *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."* We know that everything we have, everything we are, and everything we hope for comes from God. We can honor his gifts to us by giving not the best of what is left over, but giving to Him first, trusting that He will provide for the rest of our time, money, and energy needs. If we truly believe that all we have comes from God than generosity with his gifts to us should flow freely.

Giving to God is a matter of the heart and is between God and the Giver. God wants us to think through our giving and prayerfully and deliberately consider what we want to give. In Corinthians 9:7 Paul said *"Each man should give what he has in his heart to give, not reluctantly decided or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* As you know from Sunday services, we are starting our Stewardship Campaign. This gives us an opportunity to think though and plan our giving for the next year. A gift given on impulse may be regretted at a later time if the giver committed too much and cannot keep his pledge. On the other hand, had the giver planned properly, he might find he could have given more. Deliberate planning is helpful in deciding how liberal we should be in our gifts. Secondly, the gift should be given freely, not grudgingly or out of necessity. Any manner of unwillingness spoils the act of giving. We should give cheerfully, being glad we have the ability and an opportunity to give.

We are objects of God's divine love and his undeserved favor. We will never lose by doing things that please God. The love and favor of God is better than anything—even life itself.

What does an increase in giving mean to Lord of Grace? An increase in giving is the difference between the church surviving and thriving. At the current level of giving we can keep the doors open and continue offer the same basic ministries that exist at this time. This equates to surviving. If we want to thrive - grow and expand into some of the ministry areas identified by the congregation during the visioning process – there has to be an increase in giving. Think about the ways we could Make Christ Known if giving increases – build an education wing, offer an after school program for elementary school youth, expand youth programming, re-design the courtyard into a functional place for fellowship and where older youth can hang out, offer parenting classes, expand our giving to meet needs in our community as well as expanding giving to the larger church. Wow, I am excited about the possibilities and I am sure you can think of more. Bottom line, I am asking you to pray, plan and consider what level your giving should be. Look in the mail for the Stewardship materials and complete the pledge card to be returned on Consecration Sunday. Together and with God's blessing our gifts will allow Lord of Grace to thrive in the year to come.

Council Highlights

- Please mark your calendar for the Annual Budget Meeting on December 4th, at 0930 (between services).
- We are still looking for a team leader for outreach. If you are interested call Dan Sherry for more information

Announcement

Lord of Grace will be participating with Interfaith Community Services Adopt a Family program this Christmas. We will be sponsoring 5 families this year. We need a small team to organize this outreach project. If you are able to help, please contact Carolyn Bernheim at **744-1157**.

WOMEN OF LORD OF GRACE

The **Women of Lord of Grace** will be collecting food for **Thanksgiving baskets**. Grocery bags with a list of suggested food items will be available in the narthex on Sunday, October 23rd, 30th, November 6th, and 13th. The deadline for donating the food is Friday, Nov. 18th. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall for you to drop off your donations.

On Saturday, November 19th, from 9-12:00, the **Women of Lord of Grace** will be meeting to sort the food and assemble the Thanksgiving boxes. We will also be clipping coupons for military personnel serving overseas and making quilts. All women, young and old, are invited to join us for this outreach ministry. Please bring a pair of scissors to clip the coupons and a snack to share.

If you know of a family or individual that is in need of a Thanksgiving basket, please submit the person/family name, contact information for the family and your name to Carol Buuck, Darlene Paul, or to Dani in the office.

PROJECT HOSPITALITY

Mike Stein

Our church council has given our church the opportunity to participate in the Project Hospitality Shelter Program. The Tucson Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless, in partnership with the Salvation Army and approximately 30 local churches, coordinates Project Hospitality.

Project Hospitality provides food, shelter, and safety to the homeless during the time period of December 6th thru February 17th. Winter is a very difficult time for the homeless as Tucson can experience overnight temperatures in the 20's and 30's.

Lord of Grace would offer overnight shelter for four homeless men for six nights:

Tuesday December 6th

Friday December 16th

Wednesday January 11th

Friday January 20th

Wednesday February 8th

Friday February 17th

The men are served an evening meal, breakfast and given a sack lunch as they leave in the morning. Each evening at 5:30 pm the men are picked up at the Salvation Army Hospitality House and returned the next morning leaving the church at 7:00 am. The shelter program will be held in the church fellowship room. Lord of Grace will provide the cooks and two male overnight coordinators. The Salvation Army provides cots and blankets for the men to use.

If you are interested in serving on a Meal Team or being an Overnight Coordinator please contact: Mike Stein at: 579-0083 or www.candmstein@comcast.net

Thank you in advance for your participation in Project Hospitality.

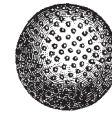
The Invitation I Might Never Have Taken

We had an opportunity to briefly meet a neighbor walking their dog the other day. They were very friendly and we were invited anytime to stop by to use their pool. He gave me his phone number and was on his way. Often times in an invitation like this, I wouldn't call out of the blue to ask if we could stop by. Out of character for me, I called to set up a time to come by to use the pool with my family. The afternoon was a nice time to get to know new neighbors better. While we were there, I had the privilege to pray with one of the neighbors with health issues they were facing. Thank you God for that opportunity!!

If you have a story to share of how God used you to touch someone else or how God used others to help you, please e-mail Cheryl Fitch at jcarc.fitch@gmail.com. Let's encourage each other with sharing how God is using us to reach a world in need of God's love!

GRATITUDE TO THE PAB COMMITTEE

The Preschool staff would like to thank the PAB committee for our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon!! The food was delicious and the company was even better!! We appreciate the support we receive from the PAB, the church office, and the LOG members. Thank you for thinking of us!! Kris, Cindy, Alicia, Jennifer, Carrie, Andrea, and April



FLIM Golf Fundraiser

Phoenix, AZ -- Golf tournament to benefit the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission

– Please save the date, **Monday, November 28th, 2011** (12:30 PM Shotgun Start) to participate in a "scramble" at beautiful Arrowhead Country Club in Glendale. Here's your opportunity to have both a fun day of golf and fellowship and help support the seminary scholarship funds. The tournament is open to men, women and golfing children. The entry fee of \$135 per golfer or (\$500 for a foursome) includes golf, cart, tee prizes, and dinner. If you are a non-golfer, dinner only is \$45! We also need sponsors, raffle prizes, tee prizes and tournament helpers.

Outside the Phoenix area? Contact the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center for ***GREAT*** rates on lodging for Monday night - www.spiritinthedesert.org/

The Fund for Leaders in Mission (FLIM) has been established to provide full seminary tuition scholarships for all of our 1,400 ELCA seminary students at all eight seminaries.

Please e-mail flimgolf@yahoo.com for more information.



Lord of Grace
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Tucson, AZ 85743
"Making Christ Known"

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