



Lutheran Church

OCTOBER
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

I have been thinking a lot lately about the idea of "community". You hear it many different contexts, but they don't always agree.

Non-profit organizations all say they are here to "serve the community". What do they mean? Usually it means people who live in a radius of the center of the social service agency. But does proximity define community? There are people near me, geographically, that I have no relationship with at all, and people far away that I communicate with all the time. I live near lots of people, we share streets and association dues, but does that make us a community?

Online groups like to use the word as well. There is a "gaming community" or an "activist community" on this or that site. But here the people may not even use their real names, just screen names like azcooldude43 or ihatethosepeopleguy or whatever. They don't necessarily show their faces, or know anything personal about each other. Maybe all they see is the computer image they use, their "avatar" or World of Warcraft character. But, without actually meeting in the real world, is this community?

Special interest groups use the word as well. There is a "gay-lesbian community" or a "gun owners community". They share a common political agenda, even all sorts of characteristics, but they don't necessarily know each other or relate. Maybe interpersonal connections are stronger because you meet people in your affiliated group more often than others, at functions or meetings, but you don't know everyone in the group. Is this community?

One thing all these uses have in common is not what you see in them or would notice on the surface, but it's what makes them all different from the traditional use of the word. They are all optional. You can be as involved or not involved as you want. You can join or quit at will. You can relate or not relate. You may hate your association board, but you can just move. You can go offline any time you want. You are never under any real obligation to stay with any of these "communities" if things go sour or, simply, are not to your liking.

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 lmwinski@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

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

This seems to be the way of our culture today: all relationships are optional and open-ended. Nothing is permanent. No commitment is forever. I, as an individual, am free to come and go at will.

In the old, traditional village set-up, where our ancestors lived for thousands of years, community was what you were born into. It involved the extended family, as the primary unit, but also the other families you were connected to, probably through some system of arranged marriages. You had little choice over anything. You worked what they "community" told you to do, you followed its rules, you married whom they arranged for you, and you lived with them on their terms.

In return, you were provided with security, employment, family, support, and a spouse. You were protected by the community from attacks, and were given a place of importance. And if anyone in the community needed something, everyone pitched in and everyone was everyone else's responsibility. Everyone cared for the elderly and the young. Everyone shared food or resources when needed. And none of this was optional. You were never given the option of saying, "This is my pile of yams; I worked for these yams. If you want yams, get your own yams, and if you don't work for them, then you can go without". In this kind of community, everyone was dependent on everyone, so nobody was allowed to starve, but nobody was allowed to be too lazy either.

This is still the best way to guarantee survival for a small group. It's where the word "community" comes from. It's a very Biblical vision. Acts 4, for example, paints a picture of the early Christian Church as very communal.

Acts 2:44-45 All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Sounds a little scary to our ears. Hold ALL things in common? Sell your possessions? But it was how the early Christian church survived 300 years of persecution. When they became Christian their families would usually disown and shame them, maybe even try to kill them. Their employers would fire them, and if they worked on their own, nobody would do business with them. The early Christians needed each other to survive. Being together was not optional. It was not a personal lifestyle choice. It was not a preference to be weighed against all the other things one might enjoy doing. It was life-or-death. And so everyone had to learn to share, be on their best behavior, work things out with each other when there were conflicts, and

always keep the larger picture in mind.

This did not lead, as movies and historians have sometimes romanticized, to a sort of utopian Christian community. Instead, it led to what you would think it would: lots and lots of infighting. But, they worked through it. And those churches that didn't died out. It was this spirit of being willing to tough it out in community that helped Christianity grow and survive to this day.

Christian community, Biblically, is not about a voluntary association for personal fulfillment. It's about the people who follow Jesus coming together to support each other so we can survive in this world and do the work of the Gospel, which we can do better together than apart. It is always going to involve compromises and accepting things we don't like. It is always going to involve having awkward discussions with people we don't agree with that are full of tension and discomfort and hard feelings. If we can't do that, if we bail at the first sign of trouble, we will not survive. If I try to control or manipulate the system to bend it to my way, then that's not community either. Real community, lived like Jesus lived, based on self-sacrifice and love, is always going to involve giving in and making adjustments and working through tensions for the sake of our fellow Christians and the world around us. How well we do this community thing is a great part of our witness to those who don't know Christ. It's a part of who we are. Let's embrace it.

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.

October 7, 2011

October 21, 2011 - movie night

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.

S PONSOR A CHILD THROUGH COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL Starting on Rally Sunday stop by the Compassion table to find out more about how you can make a difference in the life of a child. Check out www.compassion.com for more details.

Study on the “Other Gospels”

***The Other Gospels* – class with Pastor Lars
Wednesdays at either 9:30am or 6:30pm.
September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12**

A 6 week look at some of the books that did not make it into the Bible, who wrote them, what was their world view, and why they were not included. We will also take a look at some of the new interest in the ancient religion of Gnosticism and how it influenced early Christianity and the writing of many of these “alternative” versions of the life of Jesus. No previous knowledge required. Everyone welcome.

Class Schedule for October

Oct 5 – The Gospel of Peter

October 12 – The Gospel of Judas

M^{OPS}

MOPS began the year off with great attendance on September 7th this year. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall at 9:15 – 11:15 am each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. It is a program designed for mothers with children birth through Kindergarten. If you have older children, we would love to have you join us a mentor mom. Your meeting fee is waived, you will just pay the MOPS International registration fee. We would benefit from having your perspective. We are in decent shape for childcare volunteers, but we could always use more. If you think you could devote 2 or 4 hours a month to this ministry, please call me at: 572-8556. Our childcare program is an important part of the success of MOPS and we always need help!

WORSHIP TEAM -- CINDY STEIN

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 through Advent.

December 24, 2011 - Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:00 pm (contemporary) and 8:30 pm (traditional).



BIRTHDAYS

Ron Paul
Charles Motzko
Jackie Slingland
Desiree Verrier
Sarah Winter
William Willcoxson
Mike O'Brien
Richard Krohn
Lisa Rynda
Derek Smith
Cheryl Fitch

Steve Paschal
Jeffrey Fitch
Emily Clymer
Marie Clymer
Erin Draper
Leon Punt
Christina Andrews
Kevin Brown
Darlene Paul
James Willcoxson
Dylan Bearce
Madelynn Mankee
Florence Voigt
Patricia Clymer



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Please welcome our newest staff member Cory Norris who will lead the tech team in ensuring that the overhead presentations run smoothly every Sunday.

Thanks to the Praise Band for a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship on September 17th. They presented a wonderful selection of praise music with a great pot luck meal at intermission. It was an evening to remember.

OUTREACH TEAM GATHERING

There will be a gathering of the Outreach Team October 9th at 9:30 AM in the Narthex. Bring your ideas for Outreach projects that we can organize for the congregation. We will be putting a plan together for the next few months. All are welcome to participate. For more information contact Carolyn Bernheim at 744-1157

EDUCATION UPDATE

Rally Day 2011 was held on September 11th and was a lot of fun for everyone! We had great attendance at service that day and the kids enjoyed all the fun activities. We still have some Rally Day t-shirts to sell which are designed by our very own Jeff Fitch. They are \$10 and the money goes towards our education fund. We actually had a 3-way tie for best decorated table this year! It was between MOPS, Preschool and Education. So we will use the \$25 Fry's gift card for Sunday School supplies.

Sunday School and Kids' Chat

Resumed on September 18th and had great attendance. We have a wonderful group of teachers this year. We could always use more help with Sunday School and Kids' Chat, so if anyone is interested please contact me at 572-8556.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are doing this charitable event this year with the Sunday School kids as well as MOPS and Preschool. More information will be coming soon. If anyone would like to make their own box, please see me. I will be dropping them off during the drop-off week of November 14-21. We will have bulletin inserts soon with instructions and a list of suggested items. In case you aren't familiar with this program, here is the synopsis off of their website:

WHAT IS Operation Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child 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.

ADULT EDUCATION

Paulette Claver is holding an adult bible study at 9:30-10:30 in the conference room as follows:

WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Sept. 18 - Oct. 9

The Israelites come into the Promised Land. What is their final test? What do we learn from them?

PATH TO THE CROSS

Beginning Oct. 23

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Bring your Bible, any version

New Facebook Page

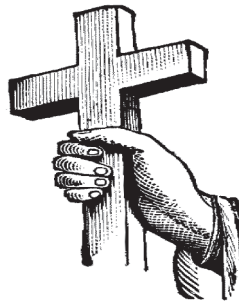
We're switching over our Facebook presence from the "group" we had for a couple years to a new "page". There are several advantages to the page, including, especially, that posts go directly to people's news feeds without requiring people to check on the group page for posts. Also, anyone can "like" the new page and follow along. The address is:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lord-of-Grace-Lutheran-Church/136249486448617?ref=ts>

OUTREACH MINISTRY -- DAN SHERRY

On November 13th, there will be a fundraising "**Crop Hunger Walk**" event at Reid Park in Tucson. LOG member **KIMBERLY MANGAN** is going to be the coordinator for a team from Lord of Grace. If you are interested in becoming a member of this team, contact Kimberly at her e-mail address: grumpygills616@gmail.com.

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.



WHAT IS VIA DE CRISTO?

Richard Krohn, LOG Representative

Via de Cristo is the Lutheran version of the Cursillo 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, there 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.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Carolyn Bernheim, Council President

As I am sitting hoping for inspiration for my message the thought that came into my mind is - Just one Thing. What if members of our congregation each took on Just one Thing. One thing, in one area they haven't served in before or where there is a need. Maybe that is offering to be lector or communion assistant or offering to take a meal to someone who is home bound. Maybe that is saying yes to becoming a leader for team within the church that has no leader or teaching a bible study or Sunday school class. Think about what we as a congregation can accomplish Just one Thing at a time. We could grow the number of bible studies that are offered. We could expand outreach to areas of the community that need help. We could add to the size of the choir. We could better support our own members in their time of need. The possibilities are endless, but all start with Just one Thing.

You may be asking why should I want to serve? The answer is simple - Because we follow a God who serves. Even more, we follow a Christ who loves others. And we have in us a Holy Spirit who gives us gifts expressly for the purpose of building up other people. During the last supper as told to us in Luke Chapter 22, Jesus acts as host to a dinner time, and asks, who ranks greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Then he answers that it is one who sits at the table. So far, so typical. But it would be unlike Jesus not to turn those tables: "But I am among you as one who serves." Jesus is talking about more than being a waiter, though, and is not content with mere talk. He takes on the smellier, uglier task of washing feet. The host cleans, gives manual services of labor, and becomes someone to literally look down upon. The Authority serves. This is not at all the only example of Jesus' Servant-God approach, but it is the most direct.

I challenge you to ask yourselves to prayerfully consider how you can serve with this question. Can I do Just one Thing? I am not asking you to take on the world or take on hours of work to add to your probably already full schedule but rather to look inside yourself and ask is their Just one Thing I could be doing for the congregation that I am not doing now. If the answer is yes, I encourage you to find the ministry leader in the area to which you are drawn to serve and offer yourself. Just think of the things we can accomplish if we are willing to reach out and do Just one Thing.

5TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

Proceeds from this event will benefit Lord of Grace.

WHEN: Saturday October 15, 2011

TIME: 6:00pm to 9:00pm

LOCATION: The home of Kimberli Kirlin
6702 N. Broomtail Drive

Directions From Church:

Left on Ina Road
Right on Broom Tail Drive to 6702
Broom is before Silverbell Rd.

Plenty of parking at house. **NO SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM CHURCH**

MENU: Bratwurst, hamburger, hot dogs, salads, baked beans, chips/pretzels, German chocolate cake and beverages.

TICKETS: \$15.00 each -- Come enjoy an evening for adults only.

Purchase tickets on Sunday 10/02, 10/09 between services.

QUESTIONS: Call Jim or Joan Dahnke
744-2131

BY-LAW APPROVAL

Confirmation was received 9/21 from the synod indicating that the Lord of Grace Constitution and Bylaws were approved as submitted with changes approved at the May congregational meeting. Carolyn Bernheim

WOMEN OF LORD OF GRACE

The Women of Lord of Grace had a lovely luncheon on Sat., September 24th. We discussed various projects or organizations that we could initiate or support including but not limited to:

Aviva: works with foster, abused and/or neglected children; **Springboard-Teen Challenge of AZ:** works with teens with substance abuse; **Youth on Their Own:** works with teens who want to complete their education; **St. Elizabeth of Hungary:** is a Cancer Detection & Treatment Unit – for those that do not have insurance; **Tucson Crisis Pregnancy Center;** and **St. Luke's** assisted living home near UMC.

Our hope is to blend and get to know girls and women of all ages while doing something to benefit our community.

We would like everyone who clips coupons to share the ones that you do not need or use. We understand that these can be sent to our troops overseas to be used in the commissary. No need to worry about an expiration date. Also we would encourage everyone to save the pop top tabs from any cans; Ronald McDonald House makes use of these. Look for a can for the pop top tabs and a box for the coupons on the table across from the bulletin board in the hall going into the Fellowship Hall.

In mid-October will be distributing a list of items needed for our Thanksgiving food bags. We want to start bi-monthly gatherings to work on various projects. The first gathering is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 19th from 9-12:00. We will be assembling Thanksgiving bags, clipping coupons, and working on quilts.

Women of all ages are encouraged to be a part of this exciting ministry! We hope that mothers, grandmothers and aunts can be mentors for the younger girls and the younger girls can inspire all of us. Any ideas for activities that support our mission are welcome. We hope to see all of you on November 19th. You could come for a short time or stay all morning. We encourage our girls and women of all ages to come, share our time, and get to know each other - we have a fabulous and talented group.

If you would like more information about Women of Lord of Grace, please contact: Rose Motzko, Darlene Paul, Carol Buuck, or Nadine Krohn.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

This happened in Chicago, where my husband and I were attending a convention. I was hurrying back to the hotel from "the wharf" to get dressed for our closing banquet and counting my many blessings. I was also wondering how I could possibly "pay back" for the wonderful life I was leading. We had five children, all married, and almost a dozen "grands" and everyone was healthy and seemingly headed in the right direction. My husband was retired and we were constantly on the go. I did not want to make any commitments because I needed to be ready to travel!

Suddenly I turned around as a distraught young woman leaning against her car had caught my attention. "Can I help you?" I asked.

She burst into tears and said, "I locked my keys in the car and I have to get home! My mother is babysitting for me and she has to go to work!"

"We'll call the police!" I replied.

"I did that already and they gave me a ticket for over parking!" She then held up the evidence.

Since my husband was in law enforcement that did not sit well. I could feel the adrenalin begin to flow. And I knew, I just knew, that we were going to get this car unlocked!

I told her just how I felt and asked her to say a little prayer with me. I thanked the good Lord for what He was about to do and she began to giggle!

I took off and spotted a parking garage. I explained my problem to the attendant. He told me he couldn't leave his position but suggested I try a parking lot about a block away. At the next lot, the young man on duty rolled his eyes as if to say "not again", grabbed a familiar looking device fashioned from a coat hanger and told me to mind the store.

It didn't take him five minutes to run to the young woman and her car, unlock it for her and return. I gave him a big hug and hurried on my way.

And yes, I made it to the banquet in time. And what did I learn from this incident? A LOT! You don't have to be involved in helpful projects to be able to "lend a hand"! Just keep your eyes open and your antenna up. "The Lord will provide."

If you have a story to share of how God used you to touch someone else or how God used others to help us, 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!



Lord of Grace
Lutheran Church
7250 North Cortaro Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
"Making Christ Known"

NONPROFIT
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