



Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER  
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

A church consultant showed a picture to a group of Lutherans assembled to learn about how to reach "the youth". His topic was media, and how those under 30 communicate differently than those born before. The photo was of a rock concert where the artist was on stage, and everyone in the audience, even those in the front rows, was looking at him through their cell phones. Most, they figured, were taking pictures. Some were texting to their friends or posting on Facebook what they thought of the performance, but almost none of them were just standing there watching and listening.

To me a picture like this is ridiculous. Why pay to stand there and watch through a screen. I can do that at home, for cheaper. But, it is the way of the world. I thought it was crazy in high school when a teacher from the local Vo-Tech took out a pocket calculator and said one day they would be able to put on a device this size more than in a whole computer. I laughed. Joke's on me.

Communication is now a 24/7 deal, where you must stay in constant contact with your "friends" and have constant access to information. It's also the age where nothing is simply watched and soaked in passively. Every experienced is commented on, classified, stored, posted, saved, recorded and manipulated electronically. In the business world they call this "adding value" to knowledge. You don't memorize things; computers do that for you. You access things and personalize and improve them.

It makes education very different now. The era of the lecture, where you just sit passively and listen to a person speak, and you actually remember what that person said, and come back later and regurgitate it back verbatim, are over. Now every class needs discussion (to process and comment on material), visual augmentation (with photos, art or video) and probably some commentary to reflect on the material.

This is very different from the first 1500 years of Christianity, where most people didn't read or write at all, and had no access to books, so they learned everything orally. They heard it, remembered it,

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### Church Office Phone

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### Website

[www.lordofgrace.org](http://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](http://www.elca.org))

The newsletter is designed and edited by Len Mowinski. Submissions may be edited for space. Send contributions to [lmowinski@comcast.net](mailto: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

### **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  
Mike O'Brien: Preschool Committee  
Mandy Nelson: MOPS Coordinator

repeated it, and did this with amazing accuracy. But their brains were trained to do this. Even those with educations were primarily focused on memorizing. Rabbis would often have the entire Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) memorized, in addition to large sections of law and commentary. And they learned it through hearing or reading it and speaking it back. Jesus would have learned this way, which explains how quickly he could quote scripture back to his opponents: he had it all in his head.

This is how people learned until the Reformation, when the printing press made books more accessible to everyday people. Then we became a written culture, and writing and reading became the primary ways of learning. But most ordinary people were still illiterate, and so the only access they had to the Bible was what they heard read on Sunday mornings. And, again, because they were trained to remember rote from hearing, this was a fairly effective way of teaching scripture. The lectionary, as we have it now with its cycle of Bible readings, was designed along this line of thinking to be repetitive, hearing the same verses over and over every year (the three year-cycle we have now is a 1960's invention). Again, rote learning.

So now we stand with a traditional worship order designed for an oral-written culture, with readings to hear and remember, books with liturgical words to read, hymns with musical notation to follow. But we have whole generations who are virtually incapable of remembering anything from just hearing it, and who become antsy and bored if there's no way to interact or perceive something through multiple media, and who can't read music. So, as a simple issue of communicating the Gospel, we need to reconsider what worship, and Christian education, look like in a visual-technological-multi-media world.

I enjoy using the screens up front to highlight points, to show photos or images that highlight things, and I intend to, at some point, even mix in video at the contemporary service. I am not going to have live twitter feeds on the screen during worship (I saw that at a conference, and it was a disaster, people were writing all sorts of inappropriate things behind the speaker's back, such as "the guy sitting next to me needs move over because I'm not comfortable with it....."), but I do think we need to embrace different ways of learning.

This is also why, when we looked at revising the contemporary service, we made the decision to switch to just reading aloud the one text that's going to be preached on that day. It's not an attempt to limit people's access to the Bible or minimize its importance. Truth is, you can get the Bible for free in print and online. It's an acknowledgement that scripture readings, just

heard orally, without explanation or context or elaboration or discussion or visual augmentation – in other words, without added value – will probably go in one ear and out the other. And, at worst, it will create boredom from a generation unaccustomed to hearing texts read, and their attentions will wander elsewhere. I have read more than one Facebook post from people in worship bored with what they were hearing. Live online sermon criticism....ouch!

This is a challenge to be in a time when our faith is eternal, our traditions are ancient, our scriptures are from another culture and time, and our world is updating every few minutes. But, it's a challenge I enjoy taking on, as it forces us to engage the word, and our encounter with the Gospel in general, in whole new ways that, I believe, bring us to a better and deeper understanding of it.

Peace,

Pastor Lars

### **WE'RE PRAYING...**

With you!! Come up to the front of the sanctuary immediately following second service to pray with a member of the prayer ministry for any needs you have. We are happy to pray with you - no need is too small.

## **FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION**

Classes for first communion will be Thursday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday September 22 from 6-7:30 pm at church. All children first grade or older who have not taken first communion are encouraged to attend. Classes will include instruction both for children and adults, and parents will need to attend with their children. First communion will be at both the 8:15 am and 10:45 am services on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **KIDS CLUB STARTING FOR FALL**

Kids Club – our Friday night youth events for all kids in K-6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**September 2, 2011**

**September 16, 2011** - movie night

**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](mailto:youth@lordofgrace.org)) or Anette Jones.

**S** **SPONSOR 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](http://www.compassion.com) for more details.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Please mark your calendar for Rally Sunday – September 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to learn about the ministries of the church and get involved.
- We are still looking for a team leader for outreach. If you are interested call Dan Sherry for more information
- Thomas Winger was selected to service as the new Chancel Choir Director. He comes to us with solid experience in worship music and will be a great addition to the staff at Lord of Grace.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- CAROLYN BERNHEIM, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The big church event for September is Rally Day. This is our annual event to showcase the ministries of the church and give members the chance to learn about them and get involved. Get involved you say? What does that mean? A person can be involved at various levels. There's basic "involvement" which really just means that you show up regularly and attend worship and maybe a fellowship event here and there. Then there's membership – you acknowledge that you accept Jesus as Lord of your life and you want to become a part of the congregation by officially becoming a member of the church. Then there's active service – which is kind of what I wish more people meant by being involved. Active service is using the gifts that God has given you along with the skills you've acquired to support Lord of Grace and its ministries. Perhaps it even means starting a new ministry.

I find that active service is the most rewarding way to participate at church. I am acquainted with many of our members. The people I have the greatest bond with however are the ones I participate in ministry with. For example, the choir is like a family to me. We see each other at least twice a week, we sing and pray together and I feel very close and supported by all of them - all

I have served with on council and especially the smaller groups that I served on over the years. Had I not chosen to get involved, I would be missing out on the wonderful relationships that I now experience. It is because of this participation that I really feel connected to the church and its members. In other words, for me it is all about the doing.

I hope you will come to Rally Day in the spirit of doing and getting involved. There are many opportunities for service and needs for a wide variety of talents and know how. Whether you have tons of time to give or small amounts, there is something you can do, some way you can get involved. I hope to see you there ready to get in and get serving!

### **MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers**

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is starting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We will meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays during the school year. For more information, contact, Laurie at [education@lordofgrace.org](mailto:education@lordofgrace.org) .

## BIRTHDAYS

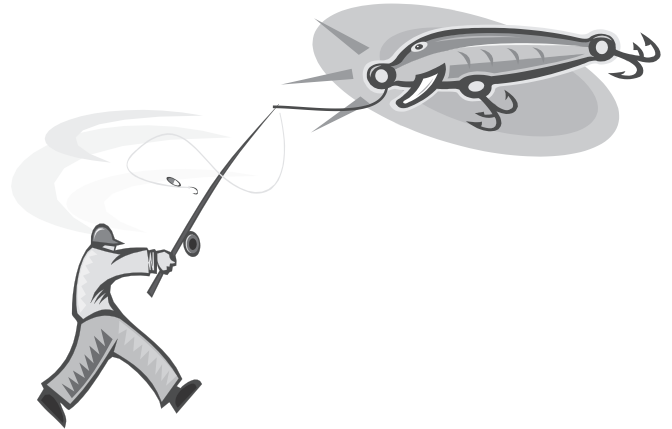
Carol Buuck  
Nicole Jones  
Lori Smith  
David Jagoditsh  
Chester Bockstedt  
Michael Stein  
Marcia Schmeling  
Debbie Paschal  
Rebecca Sather  
Tom Lundstrom  
Vivianna Frank  
Jackie Squyres  
Pat Matthews

Tim Murphy  
Meliss Frank  
Jessica Lowry  
Bruce Dock  
Lou Smith  
Ryan Rickus  
Demar Sather  
Sheila Squyers  
Lonnia Jorgenson  
Boneda Pfund  
Wendy Frank  
Dino Revie  
Kimberli Kirlin

## ANNIVERSARIES

Chad and Erin Martin  
Bernie and Kris Rickus  
Allen and Evelyn Moore  
Chris and Erin Evans

***RALLY DAY***  
***SEPTEMBER 11th***



Rally Day 2011 is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Theme this year is 'Let's Go Fishing'. It promises to be a lot of fun with food, activities for children (including balloon artiste, face painter, games, crafts), photo ops and opportunities to learn about all the ministries our church offers and chances to get involved. Informational tables will be available in between services and after 2<sup>nd</sup> service. We will also have a sub sandwich lunch after 2<sup>nd</sup> service; look for signups soon so we can plan for how much food to order. More details to be announced soon. I invite all ministries to decorate and have a table for signups and information, just let me know so we can plan for space. As always, a gift card will be presented to the best-decorated table for our theme. Use your imagination! Hope to see you all there! Also, Sunday school and kids' chat will begin on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We can always use volunteers. Call me if you have any questions, **Laurie, at 572-8556.**

## 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 8, 15

A 6 week look at some of the books that did not make it into the Bible, who wrote them, what was their worldview, 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:

Sept 7 – Excerpts from Iranaeus’ *Against All Heresies* and the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*

Sept 14 – *The Gospel of Thomas*

Sept 21 – Excerpts from the *Gospel of Mary*

Sept 28 – *The Gospel of Philip*

Oct 8 – *The Gospel of Peter*

October 15 – *The Gospel of Judas*

### A Night of Worship and Praise

Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

Come join us in the sanctuary for praise music, followed by a potluck in the fellowship hall and then more worship and praise with the Praise Band. Bring a can of food in support of the needy in our community. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.. Please contact Jake Acosta at 602-684-2378 or israel2792003@yahoo.com with any questions.

### Combined Service and Pot Luck on Sept 4th

We will be having one combined worship service on Sept. 4 at 10am. Musicians from both the traditional and contemporary services will be playing. Look for the food signup in Fellowship Hall.

### Kickball

Anyone interest in playing in a **co-ed adult kickball league**? We need 6 guys and 4 gals to play, games are Thursday evenings and are played @ Crossroads @ Silverbell park. First games are September 1, and run for 6 weeks, then single elimination tournament, ending midearly October. Please contact Jeff Fitch @ [jcarc.fitch@gmail.com](mailto:jcarc.fitch@gmail.com) if interested.

## 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](mailto:grumpygills616@gmail.com). Kimberly will have an information table at Rally Sunday on September 11th.

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](mailto:dan.sherry@hotmail.com).



### HELP WANTED



Lord of Grace is now taking applications for a part-time person to set up worship slides for our two Sunday services, as well as setting up and maintaining the technology for worship. Contact Pastor Lars if interested.

## WORSHIP TEAM -- CINDY STEIN

September 4, 2011 – Combined worship service.

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).

## TRIP TO MCDONALD'S? BUT I'M LATE FOR WORK!

It was another busy morning and I was running late for work. As I was driving, the Holy Spirit "whispered" to me to go through the McDonald's drive through for breakfast. I'm not a big McDonald's fan, but being obedient to that prompting, I ordered an Extra Value Meal. In line I noticed a very strong gasoline smell. I thought it was coming from my car, but I observed it was from the car in front of me in line. There was a constant flow of gas pouring out from under their car. I yelled to the driver about their dilemma. He was appreciative. I did arrive late to work that day, with my McDonald's meal, but I had an interesting story to tell.

You can share your story too of how God used you to touch someone else's life by e-mailing Cheryl Fitch at [jcarc.fitch@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### MISSING ROUND TABLES

#### THANK YOU FOR PAINTING...

Words of appreciation can't express my thanks to the Men's Group for painting the preschool this summer. Bless you all.

April McDaniel  
Preschool Director

Does anyone know where the 2 round tables from Fellowship Hall have gone? If anyone borrowed please return them. We have many upcoming events this Fall.

#### OKTOBERFEST

Stay tuned for details on this years Oktoberfest fund raiser. As dates and location are finalized, information will be disseminated thru the normal channels.

### WOMEN OF LORD OF GRACE

**Our Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Sisters in Christ at Lord of Grace, our summer is moving along and we are anticipating the start of school, the resuming of more activities and meetings and rehearsals as well as opportunities to grow in our faith and ministries. This month we will be celebrating our first anniversary as Women of Lord of Grace.

There will be a **Women's Brunch held on Saturday, September 24th, 2011 at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall- all women are welcome and encouraged to come! Come and socialize with other women, enjoy delicious food, hear about the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering held July 14-17 in Spokane, WA. as well as information on Missions supported by Women of the ELCA. We will elect a delegate to represent us at the Grand Canyon Synodical Convention to be held here in Tucson November 4-6, 2011 as well as get information about the Convention. See you there!

Pat Sather



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"Making Christ Known"

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