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Lord of Grace

Staff:

Lars Hammar: Interim Pastor
Dani Anich: Administrative Assistant
Dawn Calkins: Adult Choir
Rhonda Karrer: Interim Preschool Director
Erin Draper: Nursery Coordinator

Church Council:

Carolyn Bernheim: President
Bill Witt: Vice-President
DeMar Sather: Interim Treasurer
Laurie O'Brien: Education
Lisa Rynda: Youth
Len Mowinski: Fellowship
Chris Kollen: Evangelism & Outreach
Jim Dahnke: Property
Cindy Stein: Worship

Committee Chairs:

Charlie Motzko: Technology
Lori Brown: Financial Secretary
Len Mowinski: Newsletter
Dino Revie: Website
Cheryl Fitch: Prayer Chain Coordinator

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Summer continues to keep us all hot and dry here in Tucson. Myself, I've always found that I enjoy summer, in a strange way. It's always more quiet in town, the streets are less crowded, and I get to try to get ahead on planning for fall. This summer's been no different. There was the usual ritual of the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly, held at Lowe's Ventana Canyon this year. My family and I also enjoyed the Fourth of July BBQ here at church. Trying to find a good parking spot to get a good view of fireworks has always been a frustration of mine. But being able to sit in our parking lot and watch everything go off, along with the great meal, the activities for the kids, and the relatively easy drive home made it all a great evening.

I've had a few projects in the works as well. This spring I applied to the East Valley Lutheran Thrift Store in Mesa for a grant to rebuild our web site. I expected it to take months for a reply, but we got the full amount in weeks. Since then, we hired Tim Bowen of Creative Slice Green Web Design, here in Tucson at 6th Ave. and 6th St., to design the template for us. Tim's done a ton of local web sites, including the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association, Seven Cups Tea, Tucson Chamber of Commerce, and The Tucson Botanical Gardens. The beta version is already up, as of this writing, and may be up by the time you read this. The web address will remain the same, www.lordofgrace.org, but that's about it. We have all sorts of added features, including blogs, media, and new graphic design. There's even a special library with audio

recordings of sermons (to self-promote a little). Our hope is that this will expand our presence on the web, and help our outreach and evangelism efforts.

My other major work has been with the new Vision Team. As I wrote last month, the purpose of this group is to collect information about us a congregation, and then the wider community, and see where there are areas for strategic growth. Look for details of an online survey (paper copies will be available for non-internet users as well) for ALL adult members and winter visitors. We want everyone's feedback! Once we've collected the raw data, we will be having a series of small group gatherings to get deeper, more personal, feedback from everyone. In addition, I will be setting up a short series of speakers on Sunday mornings during the education hour to share insights about outreach, growth, and challenges to churches in this new cultural context we live in. Each speaker will then be followed by a forum the following week to share thoughts about the implications of the ideas presented.

All this information will be collected and shared as soon as we have it compiled. By the annual meeting in December we will have a report of key ministry areas we could address, challenges and opportunities we have, the vision team will disband, and the work of moving the church forward strategically, and any actions we take, will shift to the council and ministry leaders.

All this has made for a busy, but good, summer. Personally, I get energized by looking at opportunities to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ around our community and our world, and I hope you would too. It's the stuff that makes ministry exciting, that makes congregations strong and dynamic, and that makes being a Christian community really meaningful – and fun.

President's Message

Carolyn Bernheim

I just finished completing the visioning survey.

I am very excited as we begin this process. What a great opportunity to look at how our church works, what opportunities for spiritual growth and service it offers, and figure out if we are meeting the needs our members and the community we live in. I think over the years we became more inward focused and may have missed opportunities to reach out to the community right around us and in Tucson. Our mission statement is "Making Christ Known" but are we really doing this beyond our front doors? Are we always as welcoming to visitors and new members as we could be? Do our bible study opportunities reach the most members and meet their needs for spiritual growth? Do we offer the activities that members and their families want and that will be inviting to new members?

The survey questions will help Lord of Grace identify programs and activities we need to offer to meet the needs of our current members and make our membership grow. The bible instructs us that as Christians, it is our responsibility to continually open our arms to new folks—to allow others into our lives. We shouldn't get so comfortable with the status quo and our own circle of friends (members) that we have no room for more. Paul challenged the Corinthians in a similar situation when they didn't want to accept him and his ministry to them:

"There is no lack of room for you in [our hearts], but you lack room in your own affections [for us]. But way of return then, do this for me—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also [to us]." 2 Cor. 6:12,13.

I challenge the congregation to make every effort to complete the survey. This can be done via your email, using the web information mailed to you or by getting a paper copy in the church office. Also stay tuned for the small group meetings that will be occurring to allow us to discuss the future of the church

face-to-face. This is your opportunity to shape the future at Lord of Grace. Your input will ensure that the church grows in a way that meets your spiritual needs, meets the needs of future members and helps grow our outreach and evangelism to better meet the needs of the community we live in. Let's work together to make Lord of Grace a welcoming church home that really does make Christ known.

The Vineyard has been prepared by God; the Holy Spirit pours out His love and grace within us; let us be devoted to producing beautiful fruit that will bless our lives and the lives we touch.



WOMEN'S RETREAT UPDATE

Karen Mowinski

First, please make sure we have the correct dates for the retreat. **It is scheduled for September 10-12.** Earlier announcements indicated September 12-14.

Now, let me thank all of you for getting your deposits in; this helps so that I can make sure we have enough beds and I order the right amount of books. Details are coming together well and I am grateful to have so many volunteers to help out and car pool.

We will be getting together in August to pull the loose ends together and reveal the garden plans. So you will have time to gather most of what supplies you will need to make this retreat something you'll enjoy for a very long time and want to share with others.

It will help if you start thinking about the Holy Spirit's fruits i.e. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, and Self-control. Start collecting photos you have taken, magazine pictures, memorabilia that have some significant meaning to you of what these fruits look like. Think of examples of experiences or witness to these concepts. I will email a supply list later and ask any retreat participant with scrap booking, card making, Cricut tools and supplies to bring them with you and be willing to share.

CONFIRMATION

The confirmation program at Lord of Grace is starting up again this fall. Anyone in 7th or 8th grades (or in 9th grade who hasn't completed confirmation yet) looking to affirm his or her Christian faith and become adult members of the church is invited to participate in this program. Classes will meet on Sunday mornings during the education hour, and be taught by Pastor Lars and church members. There will also be fellowship and service project gatherings, as well as a spring retreat.

A required parents' orientation (parents only) will be here at Lord of Grace on Wednesday, August 25th at 7pm. If anyone has questions, please contact Pastor Lars at hammarlars@yahoo.com, or by calling the church at 744-7400.

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion instruction will be offered this Fall at Lord of Grace for all children in first grade or older who have not received communion yet. Classes will meet September 8th and 15th at 6pm at church. First Communion will be Sunday, September 19 (at either service). Interested? Contact Pastor Lars for more information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bill Witt

Sunday's sermon was taken from Luke 10: 25-37. This portion of the Gospel deals with the Good Samaritan helping a man who was beaten and robbed and left along the roadside to die. The question in the text was who is my neighbor? We can ask this question to ourselves. To whom can I be a neighbor? Is it the man or woman who lives next door or is it the man or woman who belongs to our church? No, our neighbor is anybody in the the city of Marana or Tucson. Jesus Christ expects us to reach out to all people in need of help. The Samaritan was an early form of the Stephen Minister. This is what the Stephen Ministers would like to do for our church and community.

Stephen Ministers are trained lay individuals who want to help those in our community who need help. What kind of help you may ask? Someone who is facing surgery, divorce, loss of a job, suffering from a disease, or just someone who is lonely and needs to talk and pray with someone.

Lord of Grace has several Stephen Ministers who are ready to do this important ministry. These Stephen Ministers are Tim Murphy, Donna Witt, Cheryl Fitch, Janette Carollo, Laura Hinderacker, Maxine Arvilla, Ron Paul and Bill Witt. Please help us reach out to those in our church and community who need help. If you know of someone please call the church office and give us their name. Your prayers and assistance are needed in completing this important ministry.

COUNCIL CORNER

OUTREACH REPORT - Stepping Out to Help Others -- Chris Kollen

Scripture:

'I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.' – Psalm 140:12

Habitat for Humanity -- Marana

We had a great turn-out for our Habitat work day in June, our next schedule work day is October 9th.

Habitat also has opportunities for volunteers to work at the Marana site during the week. If you are available and would rather volunteer during the week, here's your opportunity!. The workdays are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If you are interested or have more questions, please contact Hailey Gibbons, the Habitat Volunteer Program Coordinator at haileyg@habitattucson.org or call her at 326-1217, extension 210.

Primavera Dinner

We prepared the main meal for Primavera on Friday, July 23. Thanks to all that volunteered!

UPCOMING EVENTS

School Supplies Drive

We are continuing the school supplies drive through the month of August. The box is in the hallway to the fellowship hall for items and gift cards. The following is a list of needed items:

Teachers:

- Reams of white copy paper
- Antibacterial gel
- Jump drives
- Monetary donations, gift cards

Students:

- Backpacks
- Pencils
- Glue bottles and glue sticks
- Colored paper (all colors)
- Lined paper

Pens, Kleenex
Colored pencils, Dry Erase Marker
Markers, Pencils
Scissors
Crayons
Pocket folders
3 ring notebooks
Small supply box
Highlighters
Erasers
Colored tissue paper

Church on the Street – Hygiene Shoe Box Drive

We were contacted by "Church on the Street". They currently have a complex of three buildings, men's facility, women's facility, and an outreach building for serving meals and holding bible study for homeless men and women.

They have recently started up a Women's facility at their location at 22nd and Park. The women's facility is for women who are homeless or have problems with drug addiction etc. They have a lot of needs and are asking us to hold a drive to collect hygiene products for the women. The Youth group and Outreach will be working together on the drive. We will start the drive the beginning of August.

Interested in learning more about Outreach? Please join us at our next meeting on Sunday August 1st between services.

Check out our webpage on the Lord of Grace webpage at <http://www.lordofgrace.org/outreach.shtml>

Call Corliss at 405-4467, Chris at 743-8414 or email outreach@lordofgrace.org.

EDUCATION REPORT-Lori O'Brien Rally Sunday

Rally Day is just around the corner and the theme this year is 'Climb on Board'. It will be held in conjunction with the combined service, August 29th. There will be information regarding all the church ministries as well as volunteer opportunities.

PROPERTY REPORT Jim Dahnke

The church received a thank you card from Joan Marchese to the Men's Group for all the yard work they did for her. She also included a donation check to LOG for the Youth Group.

A Saturday Church Clean-up was held before our 4th of July Picnic.

I worked with Guard Pro and ADT on the church alarm system.

Checking and updating the list of who has church keys and alarm codes.

I Would like to add 1 or 2 more people to the call list for our security system.

FELLOWSHIP REPORT Len Mowinski

Combined Service

The next combined service will be on Sunday August 29th at 10:00 AM. As in the past, a potluck lunch will be served after the service. The church will provide fried chicken. We ask that you bring one of the following: side dish, salad or desert. Look for the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.



ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is launching its Thrivent Choice Dollars program this month. Choice Dollars lets eligible benefit members personally direct a portion of Thrivent Financial's charitable funds to thousands of Lutheran organizations and congregation. Lord of Grace is registered in this program. Please consider directing some or all of your eligible dollars to Lord of Grace.

SECURITY OF THE CHURCH

Carolyn Bernheim

Recently we have been experiencing problems with securing of the church after someone has been in it, resulting in a number of false alarms and episodes where the building has been left unlocked or where doors have not been properly shut. When the alarm goes off, the sheriff's department or fire department usually respond. If it turns out to be a false alarm, we can be charged up to \$250.00 for the response.

The church council is asking for assistance from all members who have keys to the building and security codes. When you are ready to leave the building make sure all doors are shut. This includes the door by pastor's office, out to the classrooms, the fellowship hall doors and main entrance. Do a physical check to make sure that the door is properly closed. Some of the doors stick and need a push to be properly closed. In the future, if the church is fined for a false alarm, we will be passing the expense to the person or group responsible so please be sure the building is secure before you set the alarm and leave. We also want to verify the list of key holders. If you are a key holder, please check in with Dani so she can verify your status. If you are a key holder and no longer need to have a key, please turn the key in to Dani.

With your help, we can make sure that our church home is secure and safe and reduce the expense and frustration of repeated false alarms. Thanks



MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

I am Carolyn Bernheim and I would like to introduce myself and share some things about me that you may not know. I am currently serving as church council president. I was born in Detroit Michigan. My family moved to Arizona in the early 1960's because my mother had lung problems and at the time, Arizona was the place to go with these sorts of health problems. I grew up in Phoenix and after high school graduation, went to the University of Arizona where I received a Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 1976. While I was earning a degree, I also married Stan. Shortly after graduation I joined the Army and spent the next 21 years serving in the Army Nurse Corp. Along the way we had three children, Megan, Erin, and Stanford. I retired in 1997 and we decided to settle in Tucson. That put us right in between my parents in Mesa and my husband's family in Sierra Vista. I joined Lord of Grace that same year just about the time of the one year anniversary of the church and have been a member ever since. I served on council once before as the youth representative and helped start our first junior and senior high youth programs. Since then I have stayed active in the chancel choir and as a member of the altar guild. The girls are married and out on their own. Stanford still lives at home and is starting college classes and working. I am excited to serve as council president alongside the dynamic leadership team that makes up the council.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDY**

Barbara Westrom is hosting a bible study at her house. The study began on July 20th. Please call Barbara for details.
579-8900

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us for bible study and breakfast. We meet at the Pines Golf Course restaurant on Saturday at 7:00 am. The last Saturday is reserved for service projects. Any questions? Want to be added to the email list? Please call Mike Stein.

LORD OF GRACE PRESCHOOL

Now taking applications for Fall 2010

3 & 4 year olds-potty trained

Morning Sessions
9 am to 12 pm

Faith based lessons

Enrollment forms available in office

520-954-6454

COUNCIL MINUTES

Please check on the bulletin board in the Narthex for minutes to the council meeting

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS - MOPS

DO YOU NEED...

A place to come just as you are and unwind, while your children are cared for?

Someone to talk to, confide in, who understands your daily struggles?

Encouragement, inspiration, and guidance during this crazy yet critical stage of mothering?

Information that is practical and relevant to the life of a mother?

Beginning September 2nd

Meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
9:15 am to 11:15 am

Meet in Lord of Grace Church-Fellowship Hall
For more information: 520-744-7400

DONATIONS NEEDED

The church has run out of gift cards from Fry's to donate to the homeless people who come to the church asking for food. Please bring any donations toward this cause to the office or put it in the offering tray clearly marked "food donation". Thank You

LORD OF GRACE VISIONING PROCESS UPDATE -- Phyllis Teager

Phase 1

The Survey: By this time most of you will have received a survey to complete. If you have not received the survey, there is a link on the church website. You will need a pass code that was on the postcard received in the mail. We are asking that all adults from each household (16 years and older) complete a survey. We will be closing the survey on August 8th. If you do not have access to the internet please pick up a paper survey at church or give us a call and we will mail one out to you immediately. On **August 22nd** at 9:45 am between the two worship services, there will be a presentation of the information collected in the survey and how that will assist us throughout the Vision Process. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey, we have had an excellent response so far!

House Gatherings: While the survey is our initial gathering of data for the Vision Process, we will have House Gatherings to further define who we are as Lord of Grace Church. These will be held during the day and during the evening throughout September and October. These small groups will further explore the Lord of Grace community and the surrounding community that we serve in outreach and discipleship. We will explore our hopes, dreams, visions and strengths as a community.

We are looking for **hosts** for the House Gatherings. As a host you would select a date and time and provide light refreshments/snacks. A vision team member will help facilitate the discussion and record information from each House Gathering, please contact Lynda Reeves at 744-6943 or Lynda.reeves@dreamdinner.com Sign-ups to attend a House Gathering will begin on Rally Day August 29th.

Phase 2

Exploring our Surrounding Community: In October, we'll take a look at the surrounding community and mission field to discover the needs that exist. We will look at demographics and will go into the community to do interviews. We will need people to assist with the community interviews.

We appreciate everyone being active throughout this process, so that we are able to define who we are at Lord of Grace and what our priorities should be in our ministry!

If there are any questions or concerns please contact any member of the vision team or Pastor Lars.



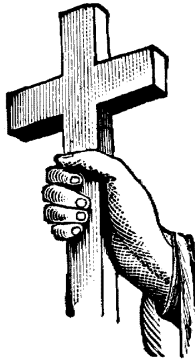
WOMEN OF LORD OF GRACE (WLOG) Pat Sather

What will the newest WELCA unit in the Grand Canyon Synod look like? It would be called "Women of Lord of Grace" and it will be a part of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA). This occurs simply by being a member of this church. The women are active in various groups or activities which are of interest to them, ie. bible study, quilting, crafts, attending a retreat or enjoying the annual May Women's Tea. Women at LOG are a part of a larger company of women, whether in the Santa Cruz Conference, the Grand Canyon Synod or Church wide. As women, we have so much to give to each other and to our church community. There is much to celebrate!

All women at LOG are invited to attend a Women's Brunch at church on Saturday August 28 at 10:00 am to begin the formation of Women of LOG. Information will also be provided on all the various web sites for WELCA,

Lutheran Woman Today and the upcoming Grand Canyon Synod convention November 5-7. Come share this time with other women and have an opportunity to present your ideas and interests. Childcare is available with advance notice. Sign up during coffee hour in the fellowship room. Questions? Call 579-5344. See you there!

Pat Sather is on the Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA Synodical Board and a Lord of Grace member.



VIA de CRISTO
Richard Krohn

You may have heard the words VIA de CRISTO. In fact you probably heard it from me. So to refresh your memory; what is VIA de CRISTO?

VIA de CRISTO is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VIA de CRISTO is a highly structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and brings them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

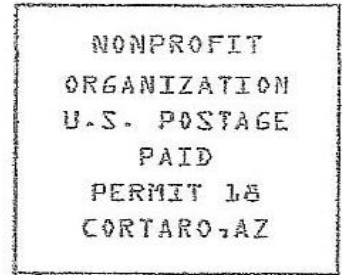
This year, the men's three day retreat is scheduled for October 21 -24. The women's retreat is November 11 - 14. Next month, I'll give you more details about the upcoming weekends. In the meantime, consider thinking and praying that this could be the right time for you to attend VIA de CRISTO.

SCRAPBOOKING

IF YOU ENJOY SCRAPBOOKING... THIS IS THE GROUP FOR YOU! The "Scrap Angels" group was started in October of 2007 with just a small group of ladies and has been growing ever since. We have a great group of women who make the night a fun filled evening. They are all willing to share ideas and new techniques with their fellow scrappers. It's a wonderful way to learn the art of scrapbooking. It's also a great way to make new friends, reconnect with old ones and to have fellowship with ladies who have a LOVE for crafting. The Scrap Angels enjoy scrapbooking, card making, stamping and just spending time together. We laugh a lot, eat a lot and scrap the night away. Each month we teach a scrap booking, card making or stamping technique. We also have layout contests and raffle give-aways. Everyone brings a snack to share (chocolate is always welcome). There is no cost to become a member of our group. We meet the second Friday of every month from 6pm to 11pm. Due to the amount of space required for everyone to spread out, seating is limited, making reservations required. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Kimberli Kirlin @ 250-2211. We would LOVE to have you join us!



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



DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE LORD OF GRACE VISIONING SURVEY

CHECKOUT THE REDESIGNED WEBSITE

Serve only the LORD your God. Respect him, keep his commands, and obey him.

Deuteronomy 13:4