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# Lord of Grace Newsletter

## Staff

Lars Hammar: Interim Pastor  
Dani Anich: Administrative  
Assistant  
Dawn Calkins: Adult Choir  
April McDaniel: Preschool Director  
Erin Draper: Nursery Coordinator  
Todd Martin: Organist/Piano  
Lisa Parks: Bookkeeper

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This is probably one of the harder columns to write, given that our life as a community has been so full of both the very good and very bad at the same time. But, we live in a messy, sometimes ugly and complicated world, where both seem to coexist simultaneously.

Our family was at La Cima Middle School watching soccer games when everyone around us started checking their blackberries and iphones. Something was happening that was taking attention from the kids. It was to turn out, of course, that only a mile away Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and several others were shot. You always imagine these sorts of things happening to someone else, somewhere else. But here? What did we do? What did anybody do to deserve this? And how am I going to explain to my kids?

As many of you know, I teach one class each semester at Pima Community College on Religion and Popular Culture, and have done so since 2008. I never had the shooter as a student, but I have colleagues who did. And while he was bizarre and disruptive to the point of getting kicked out, no one saw red flags that would have indicated this. His inner demons found only incoherent public expression. I try to think of whether I would have identified him as such were he in my class, but I'm not sure I could have. Nor do I want to start looking at every student as a potential killer.

We will probably be a long time in finding some answer to such a senseless act. I will leave most of that work to the criminologists who do this for a living. For me, now, the issue becomes more what do we do now as a people of God? What is our response?

The Bible has TONS of writing from people in time of war, persecution, violence. It tends to fall into either the form of a lament ("woe is me, I'm lost") or a rant ("Lord, punish the enemies and make them suffer"). Take Psalm 17:7-13

<sup>7</sup> Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. <sup>8</sup> Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, <sup>9</sup> from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me. <sup>10</sup> They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly. <sup>11</sup> They track me down; now they surround me; they set their eyes to cast me to the ground. <sup>12</sup> They are like a lion eager to tear, like a young lion lurking in ambush. <sup>13</sup> Rise up, O LORD, confront them, overthrow them! By your sword deliver my life from the wicked.

You see here both a deep faith and longing for hope combined with a desire for punishment, wrath from God. There's both a longing for help and revenge at the same time. And who can blame them? We all probably feel the same, torn between wanting to love everyone, as Jesus said, and wanting to see the unjust suffer.

So what do we do as Christians? Jesus takes this all a step further in Matthew 5:43-46

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

It's what I remember feeling after 9/11, the whole "how can I pray for them" feeling. But, I did what made no human sense, I prayed for Bin Laden (though not easily), and so I pray for Jared Loughlin too, remembering that his inner world is full of pain and loneliness and rejection and anger, a place I would never want to be. While not excusing him, or wishing him to not face the consequences, he is still a child of God.

In the midst of grief and anger, I have found in my 10 years of ministry that holding anger against others hurts us more than them, and gives them the power over our lives. Forgiveness and love bring freedom.

I also try to remember what feels like a heavy responsibility to reach out better to the lost souls of our world, to connect with them, show them that they are loved, even if the world isn't. It feels daunting, but Jesus did.

So I hope we can all continue our journeys of grief together, supporting each other as we go through a process that can't be rushed or skipped over, but just slowly lived through, with each other. The church exists for times like these, so we aren't walking through the world as Christians alone.

Which brings me at long last to the joys and excitements of life. Naturally, Kristie and I are overwhelmed with the support of everyone at Lord of Grace at the congregational meeting. It has been a great year of ministry here, and I can honestly say it's been a lot of fun. We have a good thing going, a good community, and I am excited to now be looking forward into the big picture.

As spring comes, I will be looking forward to continuing our visioning process, focusing now on the community around us and the needs of the world, to open our eyes who needs Christ, and who needs our help the most. Along with that will be some work on youth and worship and whatever else the Holy Spirit sends.

## Council Highlights

### Carolyn Bernheim, Council President

- The church is seeking candidates for Chancel Choir Director and Praise Band Leader. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the office during business hours to complete and application.
- Minutes of council meetings and the latest financial report is available on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- The church is looking for a person or persons to act as wedding coordinator(s). This person would be available to meeting with the bride and groom to tour the facility, for the rehearsal, and the day of the wedding. The wedding coordinator is a paid position (paid as part of the church rental fee). If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carolyn Bernheim – 744-1157.

#### President's message:

Well, another mile stone has been reached at Lord of Grace. We met on January 9<sup>th</sup> and unanimously decided to offer a permanent call to Pastor Lars. It is with pleasure that we welcome Pastor Lars as our new senior Pastor. Hopefully all of you can join us on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM as we make his call official and welcome him as our spiritual leader for the years to come. How exciting! Today I listened to the next installment of information from the Visioning Team. We started the visioning process by looking inward to see if our church is meeting the needs of those who are already members. Today we received information

about the community we live in to provide us food for thought to look at where Lord of Grace can go and grow to meet the needs of those yet to be members. It was interesting to learn what issues are on the minds of the folks in the community around us. I learned that our members are by in large very representative of the community at large. Concerns affecting our community include financial stability both long and short term, maintaining personal health and well being, providing adequate health insurance to the family, parenting issues, and employment issues. Folks in our demographic area are interested in a church that provides spiritual development though programs like adult bible study, activities to strengthen marriages, and youth programs. I encourage you to take a look at the demographic information posted on the Lord of Grace website. All this is important information to help us figure out how we can best serve our community which is the next step of the visioning process. The other thing I invite the congregation to do is pray and be open to hearing what God sees in our future. As we listen carefully to his plan we can begin to move forward and build and grow our church to really make an impact on our community.

Moving forward with this process takes strong leaders. Several council positions are opening up this year (elections will be at annual meeting in May). They include worship, fellowship, vice president and treasurer. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve in one of these positions. Talk to the current council person holding these positions to learn more about what their areas are involved in. We are in the process of forming a nomination team and will let you know who they are and how to step forward to be on the ballot for the open positions in the near future. This is an exciting time to be part of the leadership at Lord of Grace. Don't miss this opportunity to serve.

## **PROJECT HOSPITALITY**

**DeMar Sather**

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 November 28<sup>th</sup> thru February 28<sup>th</sup>. Winter is a very difficult time for the homeless as Tucson can experience overnight temperatures in the 20's and 30's.

**Wednesday February 9th** is the next evening Lord of Grace will be hosting the men. They are served an evening meal, breakfast and given a sack lunch as they leave in the morning.

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 fellowship hall. Lord of Grace will provide the cooks and two male overnight coordinators. The Salvation Army provides cots and blankets for the men to use.

Here is your opportunity to serve. If you are interested in serving on a Meal Team or being an Overnight Coordinator please contact DeMar Sather. Phone 579-5344, e-mail [dandpsather@comcast.net](mailto:dandpsather@comcast.net). Thank you in advance for your participation in Project Hospitality.

## **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Mike Stein**

You are invited to join us for bible study and breakfast. We meet at the IHOP restaurant (Cortaro Road) at 7:00 am. We meet every Saturday except the last one which is reserved for service projects.

## **STEPHENS MINISTRY**

**Bill Witt**

The Servant of the Lord

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
My chosen one in whom I delight,  
I will put my spirit on him and he will bring justice to the people.

He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets,

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged until he establishes justice on earth..... Isaiah 42:1-9

Your Stephens Ministers are the servants of the Lord at Lord of Grace. They are ready to help when called upon in a confidential and friendly manor. If you need help, call the church office to set up an appointment with a Stephens Leader. It is a free service and very helpful.

## **MEN'S RETREAT 2011**

**Mike Stein**

In October, 2010, the men of Lord of Grace attended their annual retreat to the White Mountains. We had the largest group since we started this event four years ago. Sixteen of us traveled to the Lake of the Woods Resort to enjoy four days of fellowship, friendship, food, and fun in the cool of Lakeside, AZ. Four men, including Pastor Lars, made their first trip with us. This year we added an extra day and took a tour of the Tucson Electric Power Springerville Generating Station. As usual, we golfed and fished and held a Bible Study.

This year, we reserved the cabin for September 28<sup>th</sup> thru October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's a wonderful opportunity to better get to know each other. Sixteen men have already committed. If you are interested in joining us next year, please contact Len Mowinski or Mike Stein for details.

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

**Cindy Stein**

February 13, 2011 – Pastor Lars installation service will be held at 4:00 pm.

March 9, 2011 – Ash Wednesday services will be held at noon and 6:30 pm with communion.

March 16 – April 13, 2011 – Wednesday night Lenten services will be held at 6:30 pm each Wednesday night in Lent with dinner starting at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be hosted by various groups within the church and free will offering will be taken.

April 17, 2011 – Palm Sunday services will be held at the usual worship times and will include palm strips for each person at both services.

April 21, 2011 – Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 pm with communion.

April 22, 2011 – Good Friday services will be held at noon and 7:00 pm (no communion).

April 24, 2011 – Easter Sunday will include 3 services (6:30am, 8:15am, and 10:45 am). The first two services will include traditional music. The 10:45 service will include contemporary music. There will also be a sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies several weeks before Easter.

## **EDUCATION CORNER**

**Laurie O'Brien**

Thank you to all who participated in and/or attended Bethlehem's Marketplace. It was a success because of everyone's involvement! After a winter break, we resumed kids' chat during 2<sup>nd</sup> service and Sunday School on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Both have been really well attended. If your child has not joined us for Sunday School yet, we would love to have them! It starts at preschool age and goes through elementary. We meet at 9:30 in the sanctuary for music and greeting and then split up into separate classes. This year we have lots of fun stuff planned to take us through

the Lenten season and Easter and then wrapping up in early May. ***Please note we will not have Sunday School on January 30<sup>th</sup> due to combined service.***

It's not too early to think about Vacation Bible School -- it will be held on June 6-10 here at Lord of Grace. We are currently reviewing themes and need to select teachers and start planning. We usually meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 pm at the church to plan. Our next meeting will be on February 21<sup>st</sup>. We would love to have you join us. If you are interested in helping out with VBS, please contact me at 572-8556.

Thanks for sharing your children! We look forward to a fun and productive spring and another successful VBS!

## **FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

**Len Mowinski**

**Progressive Dinner:** Saturday 2/12/11.

Cost is \$12.00 pp.

Appetizers - 5:30 pm at church

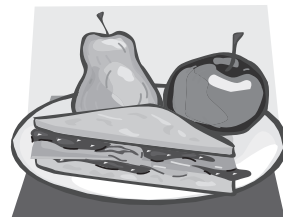
Dinner - 6:30 pm at the host house

Dessert - 8:00 pm at church

**Meal:** Appetizers, main course and dessert. Each host will serve Lasagna, salad, bread and drinks. Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall

**Pastors Installation:** Set for February 13<sup>th</sup>. Service at 4:00pm. Reception to follow.

**Lenten Suppers:** Set for the following dates: March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13. All are on a Wednesday at 6pm. We will be asking different groups to help prepare the meals as we did last year.



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Don Lawler  
Katherine Andrews  
Margaret Windes  
Kim George  
Stan Bernheim  
Janette Carollo  
Alline Horan  
Corliss Jenkins Sherry  
Phyllis Teager  
Joy Fowler  
Mia Gutierrez  
Brad Hustad  
Paulette Claver  
Jim Fowler  
Josh Johnson  
Mykel Frank  
Amber Goerge  
Brett Johnson  
Ken Ledbetter  
Joanne Ash  
Guthrie Frank  
Mary Lagunas  
Joan Triumph  
Kenny Myette Ashworth  
Shannon Honore



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Floyd and Pat Nelson  
Marc and Kimberly Maisto  
Max and Darlene Wager

## **CHURCH BLOOPERS**

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

## **New Member Class**

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Lord of Grace, or learning about becoming a member of Lord Grace, is invited to join Pastor Lars on Saturday, February 12th from 10am-3pm in the fellowship hall.

We will review some of the history of the Lord of Grace congregation, as well as the Lutheran church and our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Also to be discussed will be a review of Lutheran beliefs and doctrines, understandings of the Bible, and some of the history of Martin Luther – all followed by plenty of time for questions.

If you are interested in attending orientation, please contact Dani Anich, our Administrative Assistant. For any questions about membership, contact Pastor Lars, or call the church office at 520-744-7400 520-744-7400.

## **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?



## Announcements & Opportunities

Lord of Grace is taking **applications for two positions, Choir Director and Praise Team Leader**. Please contact the office for an application and more information. For more information, please go to <http://lordofgrace.org>

The **Lord of Grace Preschool** is now enrolling children (ages 3-5 and who are potty-trained) for the Spring Semester. We offer a Monday/Wednesday/Friday program, a Tuesday/Thursday program or a Monday-Friday program. All classes run from 9am-Noon. Rates start at \$105.00 a month. The registration fee is only \$35.00 for the remaining of the school year. We also offer an optional lunch bunch program from 12-1. We provide a safe and healthy learning environment that will stimulate spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and cognitive development of each child. If you have any questions or would like a tour, please contact April McDaniel @ 520-744-7400.

Lord of Grace now has **Zumba!!** Zumba is a fun, energetic cardio workout that gets you moving!! Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall Mon/Wed/Fri from 12:15-1:15 and on Sat. from 8am-9. Childcare is provided but for the Mon & Wed classes only. This is a free will donation (however, if you are bringing children, a recommended amount is \$5 a class since we do pay someone to watch the children). So come on out and try a class! It's so much fun!! All levels of fitness and ages are welcome. No previous experience necessary!! Just bring some water, small towel, and wear tennis shoes! Hope to see you there!! Please contact April McDaniel @ 520-975-4509 with any questions.

The **Lord of Grace Softball team** is getting ready to take the field again!! Our next season starts on **January 31st & goes through mid-April**. We are looking for more players, any age, any skill level, male or female to join the team!!

We play on **Monday nights** @ Crossroads @ Silverbell Park. The cost is \$15 per person, or \$30 if you need a new jersey. Please contact Jeff Fitch @ [jcarc.fitch@gmail.com](mailto:jcarc.fitch@gmail.com) if you are interested in playing, or have any questions.

The **worship committee NEEDS 2-3 New Bakers** to bake the bread we use for Communion. I will provide the recipe. If desired, I will give a demonstration on how to make Communion Bread. I would like to have the new baker(s) start in January, no later than February. If you are interested please call Paulette Claver @ 579-1726, or talk to Dani in the office.

## OUTREACH – REACHING OUT TO HELP OTHERS

Chris Kollen

*Scripture:*

*And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.* **Isaiah**

**58:10**

## Rummage Sale

If you are doing any spring cleaning during the holidays, Outreach is planning on having our annual Rummage Sale in mid-March (date to be set). Please keep us in mind for any possible donations – clothes, larger items (such as furniture).

## Habitat for Humanity – Thrivent Builds

Thrivent Builds is having the Wall raising for its 5<sup>th</sup> home in the Tucson area on Saturday, March 19, 2011. There will be a sign-up sheet for any interested in volunteering. We would like to get a group to car-pool together. Any skill level is welcome!

Outreach is planning on designating part of the proceeds from our Rummage Sale for Thrivent Builds.

If you are interested in contributing directly, contributions to Habitat for Humanity Tucson should be designated for Thrivent Builds to match Thrivent's 2011 grant of \$84,975, and support our local commitment of \$15,450.

**Interested in learning more about Outreach?**

- 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](mailto:outreach@lordofgrace.org)



**PRIME TIME GROUP  
Darlene Paul**

The next Prime Time Group event:

March 27<sup>th</sup> -- Simply Swingin, Sinatra and Friends, a TSO event.

Please join the Prime Time Group if you will. Signup sheets and additional information are in Fellowship Hall. Contact person is Darlene Paul. 572-6322.

**Tee Up for FLIM!**

*A Golf Benefit for Future Pastors*

**Monday, March 21, 2011**

**12:30 PM Shotgun Start**

**Mountain View Golf Club**

**SaddleBrooke, Arizona**

You are invited to participate in The Eighth Annual "Fund for Leaders in Mission (FLIM) Golf Classic." When you register as a single or gather a foursome, you will contribute in a significant way to the growth of the **Fund for Leaders in Mission** endowment that provides educational scholarship assistance to persons preparing to serve as pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Join more than 100 other golfers in this "scramble" event that generates lots of fun and camaraderie! Following golf everyone gathers for a delicious sit-down dinner at 5:30 PM. The evening program (including distribution of Prizes) ends promptly at 7:00 PM.

Look for registration forms in your church narthex or contact:

Pr. Ken Ahlstrand, Coordinator

[pasken@comcast.net](mailto:pasken@comcast.net)

520/481-4536





Lord of Grace  
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"Making Christ Known"

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