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# Lord of Grace Newsletter

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lent is coming upon us – that season of the church year when we sit back and do what goes counter to the culture – we deliberately focus our thoughts and minds on the deeper, darker, more penitential parts of our faith. It's always hard marketing – for marketing, by its nature is universally positive, and it promises the positive in the cheapest, easiest, most convenient way possible. It never asks for sacrifices, self-reflection, true honesty, or any activity that does not immediately promise to put a smile on our faces. But, such is Lent – the season for reflection, mystery, self-examination, and allowing ourselves to explore the forgotten and overlooked parts of ourselves through the passion and cross of Jesus. Without it, Easter becomes almost meaningless. Why rejoice at Jesus' return, when you didn't stop to think about what it meant that he was gone?

As Lutherans we follow the appointed Bible readings for each Sunday, as they are arranged in a three-year pattern called The Lectionary. And while, most of the time, I like using it for picking preaching texts, occasionally I am mystified at the logic behind it. For example, why is Advent about both Jesus' birth and Jesus' second return? Or, why do we get no readings from the passion story until Good Friday? And then we get this huge reading that goes on and on, and we miss half the details, and move on to Easter. Knowing, also, that Good Friday never seems to draw the crowds of Easter, half the congregation misses out on the central story of the Christian faith.

So, I am going to take the liberty of digressing from the lectionary this Lent and focus on part of the passion story according to Matthew for each of the weeks. The order of readings goes as follows:

March 13 – **Garden of Gethsemene**

Matt 26:30-46

March 20 – **Arrest of Jesus**

Matthew 26:47-56

March 27 – **Kangaroo Court**

Matthew 26:57-68

April 3 – **Peter's Betrayal**

Matthew 26:69-75

April 10 – **Jesus vs. Barabbas and Pilate**

Matthew 27:1-26

We will still have Old Testament and Epistle readings, but these will be our Gospel readings.

Along with that, the mid-week services are going to follow a similar theme. We will be doing a series of monologues written from the perspective of various observers of the passion who don't get a lot of lines in the Bible. I am still looking for readers, so let me know if you can take a Wednesday night (no memorization required).

March 16: **Arresting Soldier**

March 23: **Malchus – the High Priest's slave**

March 30: **Person in the crowd at the trial**

April 6: **Accusing Bystander of Peter**

April 13: **Barabbas**

We will be having our mid-week suppers as well before the worship services as well. So I encourage everyone to take part in this chance to delve into what is the central story, the central mystery of how the only sinless person could go from attracting crowds to being public enemy #1 in all a few days.

Pastor Lars

## **A**RE YOU AN OBSERVER

In Acts 20:28 we read : **"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."**

This is the word of the Lord telling us that it is our duty to help take care of his church. What does this mean to us at Lord of Grace? There are many ways to be shepherds in our church. We can pray for members and others, we can teach a class, we can feed the homeless, we can send cards and reach out to others, we can share our musical talents, we can be a member of the church council. We need to pray, and continue to pray for God to lead us in the areas that we feel he can use us the most. When we pray, let us open our hearts and minds and allow God to direct our paths, whatever that area may be.

In the coming months the nominating committee will be sharing information on different positions that are going to be available on the Council. These positions are: Vice President, Fellowship, Outreach, Treasurer and Worship. We are also looking for adult and youth representatives for the synod. We would like to ask that you pray about where you might be able to shepherd in this church of God. If God is leading you towards any of these areas, you can talk to the current council representative in that area, or get an outline of duties for each position from Dani, in the church office. If you feel led to help support His flock, your congregation, your church, in any of these areas, please let the church office know.

Let us all at Lord of Grace look around not only in church but in our lives and see how we can be Blessed to be a Blessing as we continue to work as overseers for the church of God.

## WORSHIP TEAM

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 Lillies several weeks before Easter.



### ZUMBA

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.

### 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?

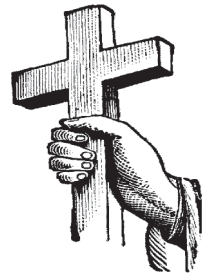
Information that is practical and relevant to the life of a mother?

Beginning September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



Please join WLOG/WELCA for a fundraiser, free will offering, **Spaghetti Dinner** after the 2nd Service on **Sunday, February, 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**Via de Cristo Fundraiser** - An evening of fun and live entertainment for the entire family. At Gaslight Theatre, "Gunsmokin". **Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Show Time 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$18.00 per person. Contact Richard Krohn 940-0504.



## **MEN'S RETREAT 2011**

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.

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

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## **PRAYER PARTNER**

Sign-up to be a **Prayer Partner**. Take advantage of the privilege to **pray for children of LOG**.

What is this all about? Sign-ups will be available soon to **pray** for the children of a LOG family. This is informal - so you can pray anytime that works for you. You will be provided with the names of children of a family, prayer "points" or ideas on how to pray, and age / birthday of the children. (We will be praying for kids from birth through high school.)

Commitment: 1 year

Cost: There is no financial commitment unless you want to send a birthday card or note on occasion. It's up to you!

Prayer is so important, yet so simple. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to bless the LOG children today! Please contact Cheryl Fitch for any questions: 579-7674 or [Prayer@lordofgrace.org](mailto:Prayer@lordofgrace.org)

## **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.

## **A**NNIVERSARIES

Joan and Frank Triumph  
Jeff and Cheryl Fitch  
Jim and Joanne Ash  
Joshua and Lonnia Jorgenson  
Mike and Laurie O'Brien



## **B**IRTHDAYS

Terri Lowry  
Henry Verrer  
Dorothy Compton  
Jack Claver  
Chip Frank  
Frank Triumph  
Grace Ehler  
Demi Gutierrez  
Bob Snelson  
Jeanette Johnson  
Kamryn McDaniel  
Bonnie Holloway  
Erin Cloutier  
Ian Hunter  
Emma Miller  
Valerie Goldner  
Margaret Muller  
Terry Shearer  
Nicole Miller  
Brian Clymer  
Cole Berry  
Betty Johnson  
Julie Salaz  
John Frank  
Richard Kniseley  
Teresa Punt  
Kirk Goerge  
Baylie Mankee



## **EDUCATION CORNER**

If your child has not joined us yet for Sunday school, we would love to have them join us! It's not too late to start. 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 **wonderful lessons and activities** planned to take us through the Lenten season and Easter and then wrapping up in early May. If you are interested in volunteering for Kids' Chat, please let me know, we rotate volunteers so it's not a large time commitment for anyone.

We have begun planning for Vacation Bible School. It will be held here on June 6-10. We are following a curriculum called PandaMania! It will be a lot of fun for the kids and the adults, too! I have always enjoyed volunteering for this big event in our church and find working with the children so rewarding. If you or your teenager are interested in helping out in any way, please let me know. Some of the areas we need help with are: crafts, decorations, food and games. You can reach me at 572-8556.

God Bless!

## **OUTREACH**

### **Rummage Sale**

The Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The proceeds will be split between Habitat for Humanity Tucson and Habitat for Haiti. We will finalize our plans at our next Outreach meeting on March 6th including when everyone can start bringing in items for the rummage sale. If interested in helping us at the rummage sale, please join us at our March meeting!

### **Habitat for Humanity**

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

### Angel Food Ministries

John Reeves gave a presentation at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> services February 13th on Angel Food Ministries. Outreach is very excited about the church's involvement with this ministry. We have applied for Lord of Grace to be a host church. Stay tuned for more information on how you can be involved! If you'd like more information, contact John Reeves.

### Lutheran Campus Ministry

Outreach will be preparing a Wednesday evening meal for Lutheran Campus Ministry in March or April. We are looking for people who are interested in helping prepare the meal or delivering the meal to the University of Arizona. Interested? Contact Corliss or Chris.

### Interested in learning more about Outreach?

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

Attend our next Outreach meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> between services. We meet in the narthex.

Call Corliss at 405-4467, Chris at 743-8414 or email [outreach@lordofgrace.org](mailto:outreach@lordofgrace.org) for more information.

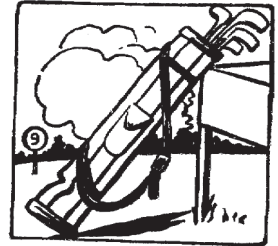
### FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

**Lenten Suppers** will be held on the following dates. The supper is at 6:30pm with the service beginning at 7:00pm.

- March 16<sup>th</sup>** Men's Group -- Corned beef and Cabbage.
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>** Outreach -- Soup and Salad
- March 30<sup>th</sup>** Music -- Mystery Meal
- April 6<sup>th</sup>** Fellowship -- Italian meal, Salad and Bread
- April 13<sup>th</sup>** Youth -- Soup and Salad

### 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



### SALE - DONATE - TRADE

Single mattress and frame. No box spring. Used for one year. Daughter off to college. \$60.00.  
Len Mowinski -- 820-6814

## **VISIONING PROCESS....THE RESULTS ARE IN**

After several months now of doing surveys and gathering data and input from within our congregation and our wider community, the vision team has compiled the results and patterns are starting to emerge about possible directions for our church. Everyone is encouraged to come to a special forum at 12 noon, after the 10:45 am service, on Sunday, March 13 in the sanctuary. Here we will review again the results of the work of the vision team, and discuss implications for our congregation's future.

As with all things in the visioning process, it is vital that EVERYONE participate. We want everyone to know what's going on in our church, what are some of our collective strengths and gifts, and get a better sense of who we are. In addition, there are some interesting things we have learned about our wider community and its needs, both spiritual and personal, that are important for planning any future outreach and evangelism efforts.

As we begin to formulate clear directions and goals for our church, actions we take and any possible changes made will be based on the information we gather and the input received. That's why it is so critical to have as many people involved as possible, so we can all be on the same page and understand not just what we might do to grow our church, but why we are doing it. For lack of any better (shall I say it in Lutheran terms: nicer) way to say this, we need your input on the front end, so we don't have complaints after the fact like "why are we doing this?" or "who decided to move that?" or "I don't understand all the changes being made here" or, especially, "nobody asked me told me anything or asked what I felt". I don't want to go so far as to say "speak now or forever hold your peace." But, maybe I could say, "I might not be as sympathetic to your objections later if you weren't involved in the process when we asked for your input in the first place."

So, this forum will be another way to get everyone on board, let everyone know what's going on, get some final input, and start to make some decisions about general goals for the congregation. After this, the vision team and the council will begin meeting to do the strategic planning, *how* do we get where we want to go, and *how* do we accomplish it? The general plan is to begin moving forward this year, to act now rather than wait too long. So, I look forward to seeing everyone March 13th. If you can't make it, you can contact myself or any member of the vision team (Jeff Fitch, Phyllis Teager, Jim DeGirolamo and Lynda Reeves) and we'll be more than happy to go over anything or answer any questions you may have.

Pastor Lars



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"Making Christ Known"

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