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Lord of Grace Newsletter

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

As I was looking over the church calendar for this fall, one thing that struck me was the number of retreats we have going on. Most of these are three days, one is four, and one, the Men's fishing/retreat, is almost five. It means, for me, that I will be out of the office for several blocks of days at a time. But there's good reason for taking these chunks of time out and that is that the impact goes up the longer one devotes to the experience. In this era of multi-tasking, focus can be hard to come by. And, in matters of spiritual growth and community, one can get far more out of a weekend than 5 or 10 or 20 one-hour sessions spread out.

The reasons for this initially escaped me, but through the years they've become more apparent. Coming off three straight weeks of vacation, I realized that it took the first few days to just decompress and unwind from the stress of work, let go of the tension, and start to let thoughts of work be distant enough that they don't affect you emotionally anymore. When I take little vacations, or little breaks, I find that most of the time goes just to decompressing, and there's less time to truly enjoy. The same principle is at work with spiritual retreats. We have so many things going on in life that an hour or two here or there doesn't give us enough time to emotionally remove ourselves from daily life pressures and step back and see the bigger picture more clearly.

Part of spiritual growth is being aware – aware of what you're thinking, feeling, who you are, what your relationship is with God. But awareness

is hard when you're being pressured by a million little concerns. It's like trying to think clearly in Times Square or Peter Piper Pizza – when all you see is so much stimulation you can't hear yourself think.

The same holds true for relationships. The bonds formed over an extended time together are stronger, and more lasting, than when they come in small chunks. Part of our spiritual growth as Christians is growing with each other in community

Christianity is full of paradoxes, a word I like to use a lot, describing how doing what seems to be the opposite actually produces better results. One of these is that stepping back, taking time away, slowing down, and being highly unproductive for a time can produce some of the greatest experiences, community, and personal transformation. Hence, we make investments in just being, unwinding, and exploring with clear heads our fellowships, our mission, and our community. In the long run, we end up feeling more relaxed and energized, more in touch with ourselves and with God, and more in communion with each other.

Pastor Lars

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carolyn Bernheim

I have been thinking that it is an exciting time to be woman at Lord of Grace. Some of our women are working hard to get a chapter of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) started here. The mission of WELCA is "To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ" The purpose statement of WELCA is "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and

wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. " WOW! I can't imagine what it would be like to be with other women committed to this purpose. What great things we could do within the church and in our community. It is an opportunity to become part of the greater church as ELCA churches throughout the country have WELCA Chapters - image what we can do as part of this greater organization. We have a strong Men's group that have enjoyed serving Christ and the fellowship that stems from this purpose for many years. Women, this is our time to join forces and become strong in service and fellowship. I am also excited about the Women's retreat this month – Fruit of the Spirit. I know it will be a spirit filled time of devotion and fellowship and a time for us to get to know each other just a little better. Thanks to Karen Mowinski for taking the lead and making this retreat a reality. Karen used the analogy of planting seeds and seeing what grows when they are nurtured and watered as an advertisement for the retreat. Well Ladies, the planting has started, the watering is coming. I can't wait to see what grows!

To learn more about WELCA, check out this web site

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA.aspx>



COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank John Berdahl for the outstanding work he did as the Treasurer over the last 3-4 years. John resigned in June and we hope he is taking a well deserved break. John kept the church in the black during times when giving dropped and allowed us to continue to worship and praise God in our wonderful building. I want to welcome Demar Sather who has agreed to serve as Treasurer. Demar jumped right in and is hard at work with council.

Todd Martin was selected to be our first service organist and accompanist. He is very talented and is already making beautiful music at the first service. We look forward to working with him in the months to come.

Len Mowinski graciously offered to serve as the editor of the monthly newsletter. The first issue was out in August and looks great. Thanks to Len for stepping up and filling this position.

GOT FRUIT.... WOMEN'S RETREAT Karen Mowinski

Ready, set, grow! The time for gathering the fruit is nearly here. Twenty three Lord of Grace women will harvest a cornucopia of God's blessings the weekend of September 10th at the Amado Territory Inn. The Bible study is based on Galatians 5:22, we will learn how the Gardener wants to prune and grow us. Our relationship with God and friendship with each other will blossom. Let's meet September 5th after the 2nd service to finalize carpool, directions, balance payment, supply lists and any other details.

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.

LORD OF GRACE VISIONING PROCESS UPDATE -- Phyllis Teager

On Sunday August 22nd in between services the Vision Team shared the results of the LOG survey with congregational members and friends. This survey was the first step in Phase 1 of the Visioning Process at Lord of Grace. In Phase 1 we will be getting to know who we are and what we feel is important and effective about the work we do as church.

We had an excellent response with 116 surveys taken, most of them online. 83% of the surveys were completed by members and over half of them were taken by people who have been members of Lord of Grace for over 5 years. 78% of the surveys were taken by people 50 or older. There were an equal amount of first and second service people responding. Some general questions and answers were:

- 95% feel that LOG is a welcoming community of believers
- 89% feel that they are a part of the community at LOG
- 87% feel called to serve those less fortunate
- 88% feel that a pre-school is an effective outreach tool
- 76% feel they have opportunities to grow in their faith
- 75% feel that it is important to tithe
- 71% have had a friend or co-worker ask them about their faith

As we looked over all the subgroups represented, a pattern emerged—overall people feel that **Worship, Prayer** and **Living the Gospel** are the most important aspects of church life and they feel that Lord of Grace is very effective in these areas. The areas are seen as our strengths. Opportunities to grow were seen in **servicing the poor, community service** and **Christian growth**.

While the information in the survey is extremely useful in getting to know who we are at Lord of Grace, the real discussions will emerge in house gatherings over the next two months. There will be sign-ups for the house gatherings beginning on Rally Sunday, August 29th. If you are interested in hosting a house gathering or would like to join a group, please contact Lynda Reeves at 744-6943 or Lynda.reeves@dreamdinners.com. If you missed the vision survey presentation and would like to learn more about the results contact any team member, Jeff Fitch, Jim De Girolamo, Lynda Reeves, Phyllis Teager or Pastor Lars.

COUNCIL CORNER

OUTREACH REPORT – Stepping 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. The Lord will guide you always, he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land, and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:10-11

School Supplies

We appreciate everyone who donated to our school supplies drive in August.

Church on the Street Women's Toiletries Shoe Box Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated women's toiletry items for "Church on the Street" as part of starting up their Women's Shelter. The youth group will be putting together the toiletries into shoe boxes to give to Church on the Street for the women in their program. They appreciate any help we can provide them!

Tucson House

Thanks to Tucson House birthday party volunteers for the August 25th event.

Habitat for Humanity -- Marana

Please consider joining us for our next Habitat work day on October 9th. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

If you donate to Habitat for Humanity, you can claim it as an Arizona Tax Credit. For more information and a link to the form, go to <http://www.habitattucson.org/give/tax-credit/>.

Interested in learning more about Outreach?

- Please join us at our next meeting on Sunday Sept 19th 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

FELLOWSHIP REPORT Len Mowinski

Gaslight Christmas Show

I've secured 120 tickets for the Christmas show at the Gaslight Theater. The show "The Secret Santa" is scheduled for Sunday December 12th at 3pm. The ticket prices are as follows:

Adults - \$19.58 including tax
Seniors, Military, Students - \$17.40 including tax
Children ages 2-11 - \$8.67 including tax

Signup sheets are located in Fellowship Hall. Please complete one and return it to me or give return to the church office. Checks are made out to Lord of Grace. Write Gaslight in the memo section of the check.

I encourage you to invite your friends and family. First come first served.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

You are invited to attend the next Fellowship meeting on Sunday September 12th at 9:45 am between services.

NEED YOUR HELP

I'm looking for help with coffee hour. This is a once a month commitment to help present coffee hour between services. Please contact me if you are interested.

EDUCATION REPORT

Laurie O'Brien

Sunday school and Kids' Chat planning is underway and it is going to be a really fun fall! Sunday School starts on September 12th and we are doing a curriculum with music, games and activities that will take us through to Christmas. We will end the fall with Bethlehem's Marketplace.

Kids' Chat is starting up again on September 12th as well. We are holding planning meetings on the 3rd Mondays at the church at 7 pm. The next one is September 20th. Anyone is welcome that has any ideas to share or wants to help in any way.

OTHER NEWS

MOPS

MOPS is short for Mothers of Preschoolers and is an International organization that exists to meet the needs of every mom. All moms share a similar desire to be the very best moms they can be! MOPS recognize that the years from infancy through kindergarten are foundational in a mother-child relationship.

"What MOPS has provided for me... is a welcome break; a chance to make new friends; the opportunity to know I'm not the only mom who goes through the struggles and joys of raising young children..."



The Lord of Grace MOPS ministry meets in the Fellowship Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9:15-11:15 beginning September 1st. If you or someone you know is interested in attending MOPS or would like to volunteer for our Moppets program please contact MOPS Coordinator, Mandy Nelson at 245-1732 or cocoa.craver@yahoo.com for more information.



LORD OF GRACE YOUNG ADULTS

For anyone in their 20's, or even going through college, we meet every Friday at 7pm at 1745 E Glenn #204 for fellowship, discussion, and Bible study. Everyone's welcome. For more information, check us out on Facebook at *Lord of Grace-Young Adults*.

Mark your calendars - the first annual young adult retreat will be September 10-12. Contact Pastor Lars for more info.

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.

COUNCIL MINUTES

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Carol Buuck
- Nicole Jones
- Soraya Simi
- Tristan Simi
- Gene Compton
- Lori Smith
- David Jagoditsh
- Jace Besold
- Chester Bockstedt
- Michael Stein
- Marcia Schmeling
- Debbie Paschal
- Rebecca Sather
- Tom Lundstrom
- Vivanna Frank
- Jackie Squyres
- Debra Lemke
- Pat Matthews
- Tim Murphy
- Melissa Frank
- June Law
- Jessica Lowry
- Kane Punt
- Kelli Hanlon
- Lou Smith
- Grayson Lemke
- Ryan Rickus
- Demar Sather
- Sheila Squyres
- Lonnia Jorgenson
- Wendy Frank
- Dino Revie
- Kimberli Kirlin



ANNIVERSARYS

- Bernie and Kris Rickus
- Allen and Evelyn Moore
- B.E. and Valerie Goldner
- Chris and Erin Evans

CHURCH BLOOPERS

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



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 scrap booking. It's also a great way to make new friends, reconnect with old ones and to have

crafting. The Scrap Angels enjoy scrap booking, 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 6 PM to 11 PM. 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!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY God Heard Their Cry

This bible study begins September 19th, Sunday mornings from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Five sessions of DVD and bible study on Israel's time in Egypt and their exodus.

Discussion facilitators are Paulette Claver and Corliss Jenkins-Sherry.



VIA de CRISTO Richard Krohn

The Via de Cristo weekend comes to you wherever you are in your Christian Walk. Participation in a weekend has positive results in a person's life and in the Christian community. The influence of Christ on the individual is transferred to family, church, school, work and social circles. The goal of the Via de Cristo movement is to make Christ the prime influence in one's life and society.

Via de Cristo is grounded in the theology of the Lutheran Church, and is one of many renewal movements of the Church.

This year there are two separate weekends. The men's three day retreat begins the evening of October 21 thru 24 . The women's retreat begins the evening of November 11 thru 14.

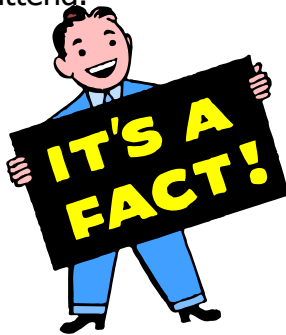
Since it's separate weekends, if you are married both the husband and the wife need to attend.

If you have any questions, additional information or need an application. The following people would be able to help you out.

John & Lynda Reeves, Mike & Cindy Stein, Kevin & Lorie Brown Bill & Donna Witt, Jim & Joan Dahnke, Tim & Mary Murphy, Richard & Nadine Krohn, Norm & Jynn Ehler, John & Julie Salaz, Len Mowinski, Carol Buuck, Joan Finman, Dawn Calkins, Janette Carollo, Chris Kollen.

Deadline for applications is October 10, 2010.

Once again, pray to God that is the right time in your life to attend.



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Len Mowinski

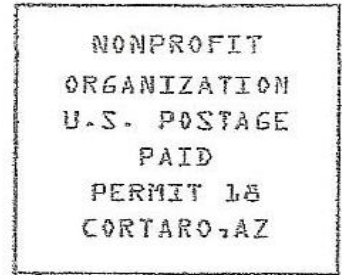
Anyone wishing to submit an article to the monthly newsletter can send it to me at lmowinski@comcast.net. The deadline is the last Friday of the month.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

The Octoberfest fundraiser is being planned as we speak. We are working on the details. Look for specific information in the weekly Log update and the church bulletin.



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



"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;
In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation"

Psalm 5:3