



Sunday Worship Schedule

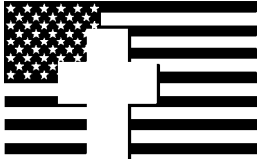
- 7:30 AM Community Pancake Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 AM Educational Hour
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Volume Issue 5

May 2008



MEMORIAL DAY



Monday, May 26th
Church Office
CLOSED

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LIVING GOD'S GRACE AND SHARING THE FAITH

Grace Vine

Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Executive Summary

This Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality is a preliminary document in the preparation of an ELCA social statement on human sexuality. Its purpose is to generate feedback from ELCA members to the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality as it considers what revisions are needed. The deadline for responses is November 1, 2008. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting in Minneapolis (August 17-23, 2009) is expected to consider a proposed text that will require approval by a two-thirds majority.

ELCA social statements are teaching documents that assist the ELCA and its members in forming judgments on social issues. They are meant to aid in communal and individual moral deliberation and moral formation. They also set institutional policy for the ELCA in terms of its social witness to guide its advocacy and aid its work as a public church.

This draft social statement draws upon the wisdom and witness of Scripture and classical Lutheran themes (incarnation, justification, and the freedom of a Christian for service to the neighbor) to address the complex issues of human sexuality. As is consistent with all ELCA social statements, it provides a theological and ethical framework for discussion, discernment, and decision-making. It does not seek to offer once-and-for-all answers for all contemporary questions.

This draft statement is grounded in the Christian belief that the Triune God loves and redeems humankind and reconciles the creation through Jesus Christ. Because we are sinful, we constantly turn away from relationship with God, and therefore from the good of the neighbor and of society. This statement is grounded in the key Lutheran understanding that it is only through God's grace and no action of our own that right relationship with God is restored. God's grace sets Christians free to reflect God's love for us through responsible lives that seek the good of the neighbor and the world. Because of God's mercy and compassion to us, we are called to be merciful to each other. The draft also maintains that God provides constraint and guidance through the teaching and wisdom of the law (in its civil uses) to protect individuals and society from harm.

This draft statement affirms that God has lovingly created all humans as sexual—and therefore relational—creatures. In the Lutheran tradition trust is central to what it means to be in right relationship with God and with the neighbor. In the realm of human sexuality we are called not only to demonstrate trustworthiness in relationships with one another, but also to strive to strengthen institutions and social practices to make this world a more trustworthy place.

Section I (Page 1) recognizes that the Lutheran tradition has a particular and important contribution to offer to challenging discussions which take place in times of pluralism, rapid change, and globalization. Regarding sexuality it does so with a candid awareness of ongoing discernment within our own denomination and around the world. From within this tradition it calls this church to moral discernment with both humility and boldness.

Section II (Page 4) explores a Lutheran approach to sexual ethics in the light of God's incarnation and Christian hope in God who justifies us in Christ and promises the fulfillment of the creation. As people of faith we live in hope, seeking to anticipate in the present those values integral to God's promised future. These qualities include dignity, respect for the body, an understanding of law to serve the protection and flourishing of human relationships, and concern for justice.

Section III (Page 15) describes God's gift of sexuality for human beings as a fundamental dimension of life with both personal and inherently social dimensions and responsibilities. It emphasizes the holistic character of being human.

Section IV (Page 20) investigates how trust among human beings forms, as it does in the basic relation between God and human beings, the basis of healthy relationships, especially those involving sexuality.

Families are a key place in which trust is built up or broken down and this makes the family an indispensable social institution and one that needs tending. A particular concern is how families fulfill the vital roles of providing safety, protecting intimacy, and building trust, especially for the vulnerable. (Page 21)

The well-being of children is of overriding importance, including their sexual safety. This draft statement expresses grave concern over abuse and molestation of children. It strongly reaffirms the ELCA's stated opposition to any form of commercial sexual exploitation. Beyond that, the highly sexualized culture in which children are exposed to adult sexuality is recognized as a failing of adults and society. Children and youth need to be supported, nurtured, and accompanied in their sexual and relational formation. (Page 24)

Sexuality is an indelible feature of human life. At all ages and in all situations there is a need to find Life-enhancing and appropriate expression of this wonderful but complicated dimension of being human. (Page 27) Trust is formed and nurtured in friendships even as they can be a source of harm and distrust. This church must continue to nurture trustworthy relationships. (Page 29)

Degrees of sexual intimacy should be carefully matched to degrees of affection and commitment. For this reason this church teaches that the greatest physical intimacies, such as intercourse, should be matched with and sheltered by the highest level of legally binding commitment (Page 32), as found in marriage between a man and a woman. Because of promises of fidelity and public accountability, marriage provides a context of love, trust, honesty and commitment within which a couple can express profound joy of relationship as well as address the troubles that inevitably will come. (Page 33) While recognizing the contemporary pressures that encourage adult cohabitation, this church does not favor it because of its lack of public accountability and binding commitment. (Page 34)

On the matter of loving and committed same-gender relationships, after many years of study and conversation members in this church continue to hold strongly differing and conscience-bound understandings of Scripture. In discerning where God is calling us, this statement draws deeply on The historical Lutheran tradition of seeking a pastoral response to the needs of the neighbor. In seeking responsible actions that serve others, the statement recognizes various pastoral responses which are being and can be taken by congregations. The draft calls all persons to avail themselves of the means of grace and pastoral care. (Page36)

Finally, **Section V** (Page 39) extends to the area of sexuality the ELCA's existing emphasis on the need to build relevant social institutions in the pursuit of justice and the common good. It affirms that the building of social trust is essential for institutions and for practices that affect or are affected by human sexuality. These include the conduct of commerce, the practice of government, and community standards. Building social trust means accepting our responsibility for shaping structures and institutions that foster and influence social and market forces. These are to support and contribute to strong relationships of trust and accountability in which healthy sexuality might flourish. The pervasive commercialization of the body presents a serious challenge which this church must confront.

Because of God's embrace of all creation in Christ, we in the ELCA are set free for seeking the good of the neighbor. We do so not in an abstract ideal way, but amid the intricacies and conflicts, sins and sorrows, blessings and joys of actual social and individual life. (Page 46)

God's embrace
of all creation
in Christ

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL and GLOW TEACHERS!

From the Diaconal Minister's Desk

A BIG Grace thank you goes out to all our Sunday School and GLOW teachers and those who have worked with children, youth, and adults in all the activities we have had during this year. You have nurtured and loved our children and our adults. You have shown them the face of Christ each week and have shared your faith to help them grow in theirs. We appreciate your dedication and willingness to make a difference in the lives of our youth and adults here at Grace.

May God bless you always to be a blessing to others, and especially to our children!



Sunday School Teachers 2007-2008

Pre-School - K – Linda Schwall and Andrea Sigala

1st -3rd Grade – Tracey Kontz and Judy Baker

4-6th Grade –Kathy Spitler, and Phyllis and Rick Schilling

Confirmation/Junior High – Dana Day, Dennis Morey, and David White

Eighth Grade confirmation/Senior High –Roger and Loraine Ark, Ardie Senft

Sunday School Secretary – Deb Schilling

Music/Opening – Andrea Sigala

Adults – Pastor Roger and Cheryl Thompson



GLOW Children Activity Leaders and Helpers

Tracey Kontz, Phyllis Schilling, Ardie Senft, Ann Terhark, and several of our youth from time to time

GLOW Adult Leaders

Fran Fry, Carol Staffieri, Pastor Roger and Cheryl Thompson

Ardie

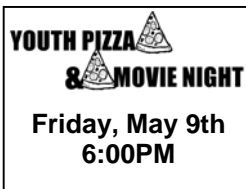
 <p>GRACE CINEMA CLUB Will Meet on Saturday, May 17th 5:00—9:00PM (At the home of Shirley Warner)</p>	 <p>BOOK CLUB The Grace Book Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month 9:30 AM-North Rm If you are interested in joining us, please email Dana at danaday@cox.net</p>
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I a c t w i t h
 s t e a d f a s t
love,
justice, and
RIGHTEOUSNESS
 i n t h e e a r t h,
 f o r i n t h e s e
 t h i n g s I d e l i g h t,
 s a y s t h e **LORD**.
 J e r e m i a h 9 : 2 4



Sunday May 18th



The Street View

By Jeff Jirak MA, C.P.C.

Some of my time on Sunday's is spent being an advocate for the clients who being case managed by different programs. About a month ago I spent 20 minutes talking with a client about her rights to get appropriate mental health treatment. I've seen this woman before but she has never asked for help before. She came on Sunday to ask about housing. Through our conversation it was learned she was being case managed by Magallen, the agency responsible for mental health treatment for people who are Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI). Ct. was informed of the services available to her and she just looked at me dumbfound. I asked her how long she has been with the mental health agency and she stated about "4 years". I asked her if she received any handouts and information regarding her services. She just looked at me and said "I don't know". Apparently she hasn't been in contact with her case manager and living on the streets. She didn't know her case manager and only gave her first name. She was reluctant to give any information about herself. She wasn't open about her alcohol or drug use but did report some in the past. Ct. stated she was taking her medications some of the time but not as consistent as she should. Ct. was informed since she was being case managed by Magallen and been diagnosed SMI she could get housing, counseling, intensive case management, bus passes, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, medications and support. As we talked we decided to develop a plan to get her back into services. She did report staying at the overflows now and then and knows where the clinic is. She did say she could make it on her own. Ct. was informed she could be picked up at Grace tomorrow morning and we could go to the office and try to contact her case manager, which was her best option. She declined saying she'd rather come to the office. She was informed of the time to be there and the process when she gets into the clinic. She was walked through possible scenarios and encouraged to ask for me at any time as I'd be looking for her anyway. I gave her my card and we decided to meet tomorrow. Needless to say, she never showed up and I haven't seen her again. It's hard to say why she chose to not show up? Maybe she was afraid because her alcohol or drug use was worse than she presented. She could have had a significant other who didn't want her going to the zone. Being mentally ill on the streets is very confusing and disturbing to those not knowing the system. She may have forgotten all her rights or hasn't taken her medications. I thought I was as approachable as possible under the conditions and tried not to pry about too many personal things. But sometimes people believe they need to protect themselves since they have been hurt so bad in the past. She did convince me she was ok, she was lucid and coherent during our conversation. She didn't appear to be hallucinating or delusional or suffering from any acute mental problems. What ever the reason, I may never know. All I know is to keep advocating and supporting the homeless of their rights and how to access the system.

Have a great month

Jeff



Calling All Youth

Have you participated in any of the 2008 youth events yet?
Let's make this the time when you join us for these upcoming events

that are just for **YOU!**

Mark them on your calendars and join us!

GLOW is back every Wednesday 5:30-7:30PM – Join us for a meal and Bible Study or help with children's activities.

Thursday May 8th –Last Confirmation Class for 6th and 7th graders – 6:30-8:00PM.

Friday May 9th - MOVIE NIGHT- 6-9PM - It is time to celebrate the completion of another year of confirmation! All confirmation and High school youth are invited. Food, Fellowship, and a "just-for-fun" movie.

May 18th - Youth Led Worship and Affirmation of Baptism for Hannah Garner, Jamie Ramirez, and Mark Schilling – BOTH CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL SERVICES WILL BE IN HOPE HALL!

May 26th - "Youth Alive" END OF THE YEAR SWIM PARTY at Ardie's—
Swimming, Food, and fellowship – 3-7PM

THIS IS WORTH CLAPPING FOR!!

Congratulations to our graduating High School Seniors –
James Estes, Ashley Schilling, and Leiana Schilling
Prayers and blessings to our three Confirmands who will
be confirmed on May 18th – Hannah Gardner, Jamie Ramirez
& Mark Schilling

COMING SOON WATCH FOR DATES!

We will be having at least two more meetings for youth, parents and chaperones who will be going on the Week of Hope mission trip in the Washington, DC area! Watch for the dates.

VBS – POWER LAB needs all our youth as crew leaders and station helpers – PLEASE sign-up if your schedule allows you to participate. June 16th – 20th – 5:30PM-8:15PM

See you in Church

A HEART FOR MOM

Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday, May 11th

Affirmation of Baptism



Please join the celebration when Hannah Gardner, Jamie Ramirez, and Mark Schilling are confirmed at Grace on May 18th, Trinity Sunday at the 11:00AM. Hannah, Jamie, and Mark have completed the confirmation program here at Grace Lutheran that includes two years of class studies and a year with their mentors, Phyllis Schilling, Linda Schwall, and Rick Schilling. Please take the time to pray for these young women and young man as they celebrate this milestone of faith. When you see them, tell them how proud you are of their accomplishment. This is a huge milestone in the faith journey for these youth. This is their opportunity to affirm with a resounding “YES”, before the community of faith, the promises that were made on their behalf when they were baptized as infants.

GLOW BREAKS FOR SUMMER



Our GLOW program will END for a summer break on May 21st
 Until then we will be GLOWING every Wednesday

There is something for the whole family at this midweek fellowship/learning activity!

Dinner is served from 5:30-6:00PM

Music & Singing - 6:15PM

Adult classes and children activities - 6:30–7:30PM

Join the Fun! Come and GLOW with us!

Glow will resume after Labor Day in September.

Thanks to all the volunteers and participants
 who have made GLOW a great success this year!



Mother's Day

Join us for a luncheon on May 11th in Hope Hall
 After the Traditional Service

The men and youth of Grace will be hosting a Mother's Day luncheon. All men, women and children are invited to attend this momentous occasion and enjoy some good "home cooking". Any man, youth or child who is interested in helping out with this event, please contact Ardie at 258-3787 or email - ardie.senft@graceinthecity.com. We have immediate opening for cooks, servers and cleaning-up specialists.

MENU

- Roast Beef
- Buttered Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls and Butter
- Dessert and Beverage



"BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY"

Our last meeting of Sunday School is on May 20th. Come and enjoy a picnic in our own playground. We will have time for some games and also some "yummy" food. What a GREAT way to top off our Sunday School year! **Come and invite a friend to join the fun!**

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!!

Mark it on your calendar:
Sunday, May 18th at 9:45AM



Another Vacation Bible Adventure Is Coming To Grace Lutheran



Join Us For a Visit To the "POWER LAB"
Where Kids Discover the Miraculous Power of Jesus!

Pull out your lab coat and test tubes and get ready for another GREAT Vacation Bible School Adventure at Grace. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us on *June 16-20, 2008* as we have an unforgettable visit to the "Power Lab" where we learn kids learn about "Jesus' Miraculous Power" There will be Bible learning, singing, super crafts, delicious Lab treats, and power games. And of course we can't forget to mention that your favorite from last year, lab assistant Chadder Chipmunk, will have a GREAT adventure in the Power Lab!

We need young adventurers, crew leaders, station leaders, and of course lots of station workers. Watch for more information next month, but in the mean time why not mark your calendar with big letters *POWER LAB VBS - June 16-20th*.



Join us in for our POWER LAB VBS ADVENTURE!!



LEADERS AND GUIDES NEEDED!

Apply today – GREAT BENEFITS

Would you like to be a volunteer leader or guide and help out with this EXCITING POWER LAB Adventure? If you have the following qualifications you will be a successful Adventure Leader or Crew chief!

Love the Lord and love children

Enjoy being with children and helping them to learn about Jesus

Accept children where they are and encourage them to use their abilities

Enjoy a little creative chaos!

If you wish to apply for a volunteer position please call Ardie at Grace - 258-3787 or fill out the bulletin insert on Sunday Mornings during May and put it in the offering plate.

I know you will be in for a great experience!

Training meetings are scheduled on June 1st at 12:30PM in the North Room and June 14th in Hope Hall from 9:30AM-12PM.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY PASTOR DICK HAMLIN



On May 21, 1958 Pastor Hamlin graduated and was ordained from Northwestern Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has served several churches in Minnesota and Arizona. Of those fifty years, 39 have been spent in Arizona with 23 of those years at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church of Phoenix.

It all began at Grace Lutheran Church with an internship in 1956-1957. A life changing year. Currently Pastor Hamlin is a chaplain for Hospice of the Valley and serves on the staff at Resurrection Lutheran Church of Scottsdale, Arizona.

He loves to be called Pastor. He is a true and faithful shepherd who has touched many hearts. Thank you for all of your 50 years of dedicated service.

We love you! God bless you always. Your girls, Jayne, Ann and Jennifer.

Please send a memory note or pictures to:

Pastor Dick Hamlin
c/o Jennifer Hamlin
1109 East Charleston Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85022



**Youth Led
Worship
Service**

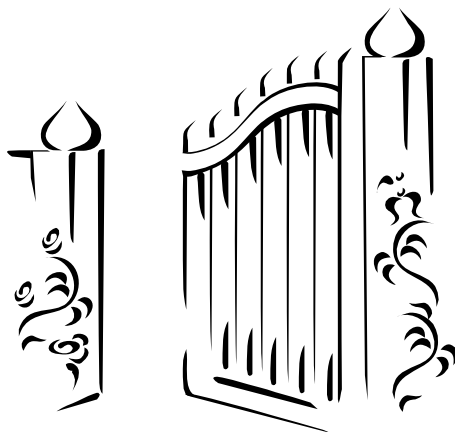
**Sunday, May 18th
Both Services**

The
Church
Office



**Will Be
Closed:**

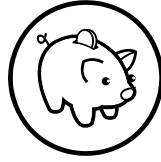
Monday, May 26th



As you can, see the fencing is finally installed! After several weeks of going back and forth with the City and Historic Preservation, we negotiated the height requirements (7' high in front; 8' by the office), style and color. We hope that this will help alleviate some of the problems we've had at night over the past few years relative to vandalism and vagrancy plus provide safer conditions for our custodial staff. All gates will be open during the daytime and in the evenings when there is any activity at church. They will be locked only after hours. We will now be able to repair the glass doors in Hope Hall.

Thanks to you all for your patience.

Cynthia Herrmann
Support Committee Chairperson



YOU HAVE ONE MORE MONTH TO SUPPORT WILBUR'S - "ASU Breaking the Cycle" EMPHASIS

Wilbur our community minded pig is thinking about how fortunate we are to have the ASU "Breaking the Cycle" Clinic right here at GRACE. In May our pig, Wilbur, will continue to gather money for the clinic during their major fundraising time. He knows that many people come to the "Art for Health" Fundraiser on May 2nd right here at Grace, but he thinks it would great if every Sunday during the month of May he would do a little more fundraising himself. *Your offering will be matched by Thrivent!* Please read Gail Peterson's note below for more information on what the clinic does to help so many in our downtown community.

All funds collected during the month of May will be added to the ASU "Breaking the Cycle" Spring Fundraising Efforts

HELP WILBUR ADD UP THE \$\$\$ for ASU "BREAKING THE CYCLE!"

The nurses and staff at ASU's Breaking the Cycle Community Health Care (BTC) graciously thank the congregation in advance for your support of our outreach healthcare through the Wilbur Mission and "Art for Health!" this spring. BTC provides free and low cost family planning and reproductive health services on Grace's for nearly 1,600 individuals each year. Most of our clients are Hispanic women that speak only Spanish and live below the poverty level – they have no health insurance. The services we provide in collaboration with the church recognize the value that a healthy mother is essential to a healthy family. Your support also assists us in providing education to our nursing students – they not only improve their clinical skills, but carry with them the value of service to the vulnerable into their future nursing practices. Many thanks to all of you as we work together in our 8th year of service to the community.



A word for our graduates

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

"Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."



May Birthdays

2nd	Bessie Kipers
5th	Tyler Redman
6th	John Keays
10th	Beulah Baker
12th	Margaret Schumacher
15th	Diane Ericson
17th	Emilia Thompson
20th	Siri Lichte
21st	Adam Wohlbrandt
22nd	Trish Traaen
30th	Cynthia Hermann
31st	Joey Parks



Other Special Dates

- Ascension of the Lord, May 1
- National Day of Prayer, May 1
- Christian Family Week, May 5-11
- Pentecost, May 11
- Mother's Day, May 11
- Trinity Sunday, May 18
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 19
- Memorial Day, May 26

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY
7:30AM Pancake Bkfst
8:30AM Contemporary
Worship
9:45AM Education Hour
11:00AM Trad. Worship
MONDAY
9:00AM Grace Room
TUESDAY
10:00AM Yoga Group
7:00PM Band Rehearsal
WEDNESDAY
9:30AM Bible study/Prayer
5:30PM G.L.O.W.
THURSDAY
6:30PM Choir Practice
6:30PM Confirmation Class
SATURDAY
8:00AM Men's Bible Study



May Dates to Note

Thursday, May 1
9:30AM WELCA General Meeting
6:30PM Confirmation Yr 1 & 2
Friday May 2
5:30PM Art for Health Event
Monday, May 5
7:00PM Men's Bible Study
Thursday, May 8
9:30AM WELCA Bible Study Group
Friday, May 9
6:00PM Youth Movie Night
Sunday, May 11 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
Mother's Day Luncheon
Saturday, May 17
5:00PM Cinema Club Movie
Sunday, May 18
Youth Led Worship/Both Services
Last Day of Sunday School
Monday, May 19
7:00PM Men's Bible Study
Thursday, May 22
9:30AM Grace Book Club Meeting
Saturday, May 24
4:00PM Teacher Appreciation Dinner
Monday, May 26 –MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
3:00PM Youth Swim Party @ Ardie's

Milestones Along Life's Way

Congratulations, blessings, and prayers:

- ❖ Congratulations to our graduating High School Seniors – James Estes (Arcadia H.S.), Ashley Schilling (Copper Square Career Success H.S.), and Leiana Schilling (Maryvale H.S.). Our prayers are with you as you faced with this new beginning in your life journey!
- ❖ Congratulations to our three youth who will be confirmed on May 18th –Hannah Gardner, Jamie Ramirez, and Mark Schilling.
- ❖ Blessings and prayers to Hannah and Mark as they graduate from eighth grade and move on to High School in September.
- ❖ Congratulations and Blessings to Bessie Kipers who will celebrate her 95th birthday on May 2nd.



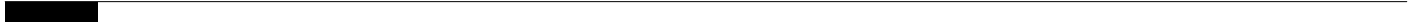
**Grace Lutheran
Church**

Living God's Grace and
Sharing the Faith

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Phoenix, AZ 85004

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Grace in the City