



The Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Vine

“We’re in the City for Good!”

Grace Lutheran Church
1124 North Third Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-258-3787
www.graceinthecity.com
February 2012

God's purpose for Grace Lutheran Church is to listen to God, proclaim Christ, serve all, and open doors

Grace Kitchen Update



Good News!!! Those working in the Grace kitchen will soon be able to breathe a lot easier, literally! Thrivent Financial Foundation awarded Grace a grant of \$5000 along with a matching

grant of \$10,000 to replace the stove and provide proper ventilation for the kitchen. Thanks to the West Valley Thrift Shop, Resurrection Lutheran Church and a family in our congregation, we have met the match and will soon have \$25,000 with which to start the kitchen renovation. There is a gold envelope on the bulletin board in Hope Hall, with the words Kitchen Renovation Ideas on it. Please feel free to write down your suggestions and place your ideas in the envelope. We are working with a kitchen designer who has volunteered his time to help us develop a plan we can implement in phases. All ideas will be considered by the Kitchen Renovation Committee. The names of the committee members are Margie Betz, Evalyn Ehlen, Marlene Haller, Debbi Schilling, Lee Stadler, and Jim Spittler.

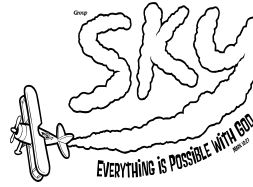
Baptismal Font

Thank you, Jim Spittler, for the new look of the baptismal font. The font now has a sliding cover which adds to the convenience for the pastor when baptizing. When asked how he came up with that idea? Jim replied, “I tried to find what would work best from the old hinged type cover which hung crookedly when opened.” In addition, Jim completely stripped the font. Yes, even those little nooks and crannies, re-staining and varnishing the whole thing, repairing the wood where necessary. He made trips to Grace to make sure he had the right color stain to match the pulpit. He then replaced the baptismal bowl leaving the old one for the centennial committee. Well done, good and faithful servant.



Five Guiding Principles of Grace Lutheran Church

1. Jesus is Lord!
2. Pray, Seek, and Follow God’s Will
3. Share the Good News of Christ
4. Embrace God’s challenge to Love and Serve Others
5. All are Welcome



Vacation Bible School

We have already started planning for VBS coming to Grace **June 11-15, 2012**. Pastor Sarah and the co-chairladies met in January to start the planning. The co-chairs are Margie Betz, Phyllis Schilling and Linda Schwall. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for updates.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Grace Annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, January 22, after the worship service in Hope Hall. Several items of business: Minutes of the 2011 the Annual Congregational Meeting were passed. 2012 budget for Grace Lutheran church was discussed in detail and passed with no objections. Announcement was made of the 2012 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly to be held May 30-June 1, 2012 in Las Vegas, NV. Interested parties should see Pastor Sarah right away. Elections for new council members were held. Outgoing members are Margie Betz, Dana Day, Debbie Schilling and Dennis Morey. Each was thanked for their valued time of service and presented with Certificates of Acknowledgment. Thank you, folks for a job well done! (*Cont. on page 3*)

Grace Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

Sunday Morning Schedule

Come for Worship!

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 7:30 am | Pancake Breakfast |
| 8:30 am | Contemporary Worship |
| 9:45 am | Sunday School/Adult Ed |
| 11:00 am | Traditional Worship |
| 12:15 pm | Fellowship |

Grace Lutheran Church is a congregation of the



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Perfume & Cologne Sensitivity

We respectfully request that people refrain from wearing perfume and cologne while at church. We have one member who is highly sensitive to many smells—to the point that she is unable to breathe—as well as others who are somewhat sensitive. Thank you for helping make Grace a safe place for everyone!

Mid-Week Lenten Worship 2012

*The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.
Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Perhaps the best-loved of all the psalms, Psalm 23 will serve as the focus of our mid-week Lenten worship this year. Each week, members of Grace will consider portions of this psalm in conversation with Pastor Sarah. Please join us for dinner in Hope Hall at 5:30 pm and worship in the sanctuary at 6:45 pm each week beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Weekly Themes

Lent 1: God provides for me.
Lent 2: God heals me.
Lent 3: God leads me through the valley of death.
Lent 4: God shows me how to love the unlovable.
Lent 5: I shall dwell in God's house forever.

Ash Wednesday Worship: Wednesday,
February 22, 6:45 pm

Mid-Week Lenten Worship: Wednesday,
February 29, 6:45 pm

Mid-week Lenten worship will continue throughout the month of March: 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Chancel Choir & Bells of Grace Mission Statements

Both the Chancel Choir and Bells of Grace lead music at the traditional service on Sunday morning. Both of these ensembles welcome new members! The Bells of Grace rehearse on Thursdays at 5:30 pm; Chancel Choir rehearses Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Below are their mission statements recently written by Virginia Harmon, our choir director.

Chancel Choir Mission Statement

The primary purpose for the Chancel Choir is to strengthen congregational singing and, secondly, to provide weekly anthems for the worship service.

Bells of Grace Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the Bells of Grace is to inspire the congregation and enhance the worship service.

2012 Theme For the Ministry of Grace *The Old Is New!*

Scriptural Basis: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! *2 Corinthians 5:17*

As we prepare for our Centennial celebration in 2014, God renews not only our property and ministries but us, the people of God.

Youth Mission Team Building



Youth and chaperones going on the San Diego mission trip will meet for team building on Sunday, February 5 at 12:30 pm in the basement youth room. Other youth are welcome to join us for the fun activities and lunch!

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who shared Christmas wishes with me and with Ben! We so appreciate the love and support you show us. You are such a blessing to us. *Pastor Sarah*





Grace Cinema Club

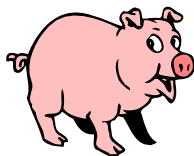
Ole! The Grace Cinema Club will be going Mexican on Saturday, February 11 at 5:00 pm. Come and join the fun at Larry and Margie's home for a festive night of food, fellowship, and film watching.

On March 10, we will be meeting at the Ehlers' home, and on April 16, Phyllis and Rick Schilling will be hosting in their home. Please contact Margie Betz at lbetz2@cox.net or 602-305-8718 for more information.

Youth Cake Raffle Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth by purchasing cake raffle tickets! Our winners were, Willie Smith, the Sigala Family, and the Cecil/Ramirez family. Funds raised are for the youth mission trip to San Diego was We appreciate your support!

Wilbur Emphasis



Wilbur is a very happy pig! During the month of January, we collected over 700 non-perishable food items for the Mount of Olives Food Pantry.

On February 5, Superbowl Sunday, we will participate in the nationwide SouperBowl hunger emphasis and receive a special monetary offering for ELCA World Hunger following each worship service. *Youth, please plan to collect this offering, and speak with Pastor Sarah before worship on February 5 to gather the necessary offering-collecting accessories.*

(Continued Annual Congregational Meeting)

The newly elected council members are Frances Fry, Leiana Schilling, Steven Sigala, Renee Waterstradt. They began their terms immediately following the Annual Congregational Meeting. Debbi Schilling, with the assistance of Ben Stader-Ammon, presented a slide show of the progress of the renovation work on the parsonage. A big "THANK YOU!" to Debbi Schilling for months of hard work spearheading the renovation project for the parsonage. The work is nearing completion. An update of plans for the Centennial Celebration of Grace in 2014 was presented by Solveig Muus and Rick Schilling. The meeting was adjourned with a potluck luncheon to follow. A complete copy of the minutes of the meeting are posted on the bulletin board in

Grace's Sunday School: A Personal Story

When Linda Schwall was 13 years old, two important events occurred. First, Linda was confirmed at Faith Lutheran Church in Bay City, Michigan. Secondly, Linda began teaching Sunday School and loved it---so much so that she has never stopped. Teaching Sunday School has enriched Linda's life in many ways. She is still good friends with the woman she taught with in her teens. Her relationships with the children she has taught as well as her Sunday School co-workers have brought a lot of joy, love, and laughter in her life. Linda says that "helping kids to know God is a feeling like no other." She remembers the faith of a young man who was developmentally disabled but whose faith was strong, and his face reflected God's love each Sunday.

In 2010 Linda became the Director of Christian Education at Grace Lutheran Church. She continues to teach the youngest Sunday School class at Grace while overseeing the whole Sunday School Program of classes for 2 year olds to adults. Sunday school at Grace takes place on Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 am. "We have fantastic teachers at Grace," Linda explained and lots of fun activities throughout the year. These activities include making gift bags and decorating Easter eggs for the homeless, skating parties, Family Advent Night and of course Vacation Bible School. For more information about Grace's Sunday School program, please contact Linda at lschwall@cox.net or better yet, see her at church. You can find her in one of her favorite places, Grace Sunday School!

Sunday School Outing



On Saturday January 21, 2012 our group of 26 children, parents and teachers arrived around noon at North Phoenix Baptist church for a skating party. Parents Andrea Sigala & Chris Clark were out on the floor roller skating along with the children. Everyone at the party enjoyed skating, visiting and watching the skaters. Then Dana and family opened their home to host a lunch of pizza, vegetables, cupcakes and juice. Our thanks to Dana for setting up the skating party and for opening her home to everyone. Remember Sunday school and adult education begins at 9:45 am on Sunday morning. God be with you all.



Giving Voice—& Pen—to Faith

This Lent during our mid-week services (Wednesdays at 6:45 pm), members of Grace and I will share in conversation about how God has worked in their lives. I am always eager to hear how the people of God give voice to faith...for we all have stories to tell about God's mercy, goodness, and love. These stories encourage us who are already part of a community of faith and can teach us how to give voice to our own stories so that we may share them with friends and neighbors who do not know of God's mercy, goodness, and love. Please plan to join us for mid-week Lenten worship for some storytelling!

There is more than one way to “give voice” to faith, however. Not all of us get excited about sharing faith in verbal form, especially in front of a crowd. You see on this page the visual reflections of Xavier Davis on his weekend of Tirosh, January 14-16. Tirosh is a 3-day spiritual retreat for Lutheran youth that hopes to encourage young people in on-going faith formation and church leadership. Often a very powerful weekend for youth, Tirosh is the teen counterpart to Cursillo. As you can see, Xavier's reflections include a rose, soil, and raindrops. When I asked him what his picture meant, Xavier said it shows how we are all “growing” in faith. Inside the raindrops which nurture growth, Xavier drew both serious and humorous symbols of parts of the Tirosh weekend. The thorns on the roses show how we sin, Xavier said to me, but the beauty of the rose shows how we are forgiven by God.

I give thanks to God for Xavier's witness of faith through visual art. Each of us have received gifts from God, and Xavier has used his artistic gifts to share the good news of God's mercy. If you are also artistically gifted, I invite you to share your witness of faith through drawings, paintings, or photographs. We can include these artistic expressions of faith on traditional service bulletin covers, in the newsletter, on bulletin boards, or even the Grace Facebook page. This year, our mid-week Lenten services will be focused on Psalm 23, so ***if you would like to prepare a visual reflection on Psalm 23 to include in one of the mid-week services, I would love that! Drawings, paintings, or photographs from adults, youth, and children would all be most welcome.***

We all have stories to tell about God's mercy, goodness, and love. Please tell your stories in whatever way God has gifted you. Give voice—or pen—to faith here at Grace and in all the other places you connect with people for stories of God's mercy, goodness, and love are good stories to tell.

With Joy,
Pastor Sarah

Reflections on Tirosh Weekend by Xavier Davis



Caretaker's Corner By Judith Rizzo

What is a *caretaker*? Well, Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines it as "a person who cares for and maintains a property" – similar to a custodian. But, here at Grace Lutheran, my job as Caretaker is much more than simply custodial. Yes, I do clean and maintain the grounds and buildings; on average, I clean 75 toilets a week! Hard as it may be for some to understand, I actually do enjoy the cleaning aspect of my work. But, it is not the most fulfilling, nor do I believe it to be the most important part of my day. What I truly love about my job is the opportunity to touch lives and nurture others. By providing clean restrooms, I am showing the hundreds of guests visiting Grace each week that they are *welcomed and valued* in this place. Every week I can expect visits from a wide range of people. Many of our guests are street campers, but many are not. (I prefer to use this term, as I feel that we all share a home on this wonderful earth.)

My day begins by welcoming the staff, volunteers and clients of the TERROS Together Program. Nearly all of the men and women offer a warm "Hello" or "Good morning, how are you?" as they filter in from the cold. Later in the day I can always expect visits from a variety of individuals ranging from other street campers; low-income and working poor residents of our neighborhood; college students; veterans; and often congregation members. There are many requests: a restroom, a drink of water, something to eat, cleans socks or bar of soap. Almost always they seek someone that will talk with them for just a few minutes. Let me I share just a few of the visits I have had recently.

A few weeks ago on a Sunday morning I encountered a man wearing only a t-shirt, jeans, and slippers shivering in the cold while waiting in line for breakfast. As we spoke, he revealed that he had just been released from jail at dawn with no money, only the clothes he was wearing, and no family or friends to call for help. He didn't know where to go or what to do until he recalled that Grace serves breakfast on Sunday morning. He stayed for service and left later with a fully belly and a warm coat and socks. As he left, he shook my hand with both of his, repeating "God Bless You" over and over.

The next day a young man and his pregnant girlfriend, both perhaps 20 years old, stopped and asked to use the bathroom. I offered them a cup of coffee, but they ask for water instead. I discovered that they had not eaten this day. I was able to heat some leftovers from the fridge, pack some sweets for them to take for later, and offered referrals for other community services.

Later that week I was mopping the floor in Hope Hall when an elderly woman from the community came by. She was lonely, feeling abandoned by those closest to her and needed someone to talk with. We sat in the quiet darkness of the hall, drank coffee, talked and prayed.

This is what it means to be the Caretaker at Grace. I try to maintain a welcoming, clean and safe environment, AND I am privileged to help clothe the cold, feed the hungry; and pray with the lost and forgotten.

Walk/Run to Support Survivors of Suicide February 11, 2012 at 8:00 am Kiwanis Park, Tempe, AZ

It is hard to image, but across Arizona eight people a day feel such a great loss of hope that they will attempt to take their lives. More than 1,000 Arizona residents die each year by suicide, more than 34,000 nationally. In the wake of those numbers



that increasing every year, are the loved ones left behind. The tragedy and trauma doesn't end with the life lost. It continues for years as the Survivors of Suicide try to grasp, understand, find a place for or move on from the huge loss they have experienced. The Walk/Run to support survivors of suicide raises awareness and funds for La Frontera Arizona-Suicide Prevention Center.

Please see Pastor Sarah if you are interested in walking/running yourself, or if you are interested in pledging a donation to her.

Caretaker Substitute

From time to time, we may need a caretaker substitute if our caretaker is ill or for whatever reason cannot complete her duties. If you would be interested in serving as a substitute caretaker and would be willing to receive some training in the event a fill-in is needed, please talk with Pastor Sarah. Families with junior high and high school youth could certainly do this together if they liked as well as couples or individuals.



Grace Vine February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 7:30 am Pncake Bkft 8:30 am C'tmp Wrshp 9:45 am SS & Adult Ed 9:45 am New Member Class-Bride Room 11:00 am Trad Wrshp 12:15 pm Fellowship 12:30 pm Youth Mtg</p>	<p>6 6:30 am TERROS 7:00 pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>7 6:30 am TERROS 12:00 pm OA-North Rm 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir—Hope Hall & Basement</p>	<p>1 6:30 am TERROS 10:00 am ChristCare—off site 5:15 pm GLOW</p>	<p>2 6:30 am TERROS 9:30 am WELCA Mtg & Bible Study 5:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm Bells of Grace</p>	<p>3 Grace Office Closed</p>	<p>4 8:00 am Walk for Survivors of Suicide 5:00 pm Cinema Club Margie & Larry Betz 2:00 pm Wedding</p>
<p>13 12:7:30 am Pncake Bkft 8:30 am C'tmp Wrshp 9:45 am SS & Adult Ed 9:45 am New Member Class-Bride Room 11:00 am Trad Wrshp 12:15 pm Fellowship</p>	<p>14 6:30 am TERROS 12:00 pm OA-North Rm 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir—Hope Hall & Basement 6:45 pm Ministry Night</p>	<p>8 6:30 am TERROS 10:00 am Knit Wils-North Room 5:15 pm GLOW</p>	<p>15 6:30 am TERROS 10:00 am ChristCare—off site 5:15 pm GLOW</p>	<p>9 6:30 am TERROS 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm Bells of Grace</p>	<p>10 Grace Office Closed</p>	<p>11 8:00 am Walk for Survivors of Suicide 5:00 pm Cinema Club Margie & Larry Betz 2:00 pm Wedding</p>
<p>19 7:30 am Pncake Bkft 8:30 am C'tmp Wrshp 9:45 am SS & Adult Ed 11:00 am Trad Wrshp New Member Receptn 12:15 pm Fellowship</p>	<p>20 6:30 am TERROS 8:00 am Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>21 6:30 am TERROS 12:00 pm OA-North Rm 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir—Hope Hall & Basement</p>	<p>22 6:30 am TERROS 5:15 pm GLOW 6:45 pm Ash Wed. Worship Service</p>	<p>16 6:30 am TERROS 9:30 Biblical Equipping 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Bells of Grace 6:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 Grace Office Closed</p>	<p>18 9:00 am Phx. Children's Choir rehearsal</p>
<p>27 6:30 am Pncake Bkft 8:30 am C'tmp Wrshp 9:45 am SS & Adult Ed 11:00 am Trad Wrshp 12:15 pm Fellowship</p>	<p>28 6:30 am TERROS 12:00 pm OA-North Rm. 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir—Hope Hall & Basement 6:00 pm Congregational Council Mtg</p>	<p>29 6:30 am TERROS 5:15 pm GLOW 6:45 pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>23 6:30 am TERROS 12:00 pm WELCA-KVB Off Site Fellowship 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Bells of Grace 6:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 Grace Office Closed</p>	<p>25 9:00 am Phx. Children's Choir rehearsal</p>	

Suggested Texts for February Readings

February 5

First Reading Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalm: Psalm 147:1–11, 20

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

February 12

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1–14

Psalm: Psalm 30

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

Gospel: Mark 1:40–45

February 19

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1–12

Psalm: Psalm 50:1–6

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Gospel: Mark 9:2–9

February 26

First Reading: Genesis 9:8–17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1–10

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18–22

Gospel: Mark 1:9–15

February Birthdays

Samuel Schilling	February 1
Esther Robbins	February 2
Jack Bourland	February 5
Melinda Bechtel	February 9
Fran Fry	February 10
Daniel Ramirez	February 15
Dorothy Lagway	February 16
(Coco) Cozette Gordon	February 27
Nancy Tickle	February 27



New Member Reception

We will receive new members in worship on Sunday, February 19.



FEBUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
 If you are interested in being a worship assistant, please see Pastor Sarah.
 We especially need crucifers and acolytes.

DATE	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Service	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolyte	Shane Sigala	Anastasia Clark	Alison Sigala	Maria Ramirez
Crucifer	Val Schilling	Daniel Ramirez	Shane Sigala	Xavier Ramirez
Communion	Taylor Hokanson Leianne Schilling Alice Schilling	Nick Clark	Wanda Banta Frances Fry Clark Olson	Ben Stadler- Ammon
Greeter	Judy Baker Archie Wright	Chris Clark Nick Clark	Wanda & Rob Banta	Terri Fry Adam Wohlbrandt
Reader	Renee Waterstradt	Xavier Ramirez	Sara Schilling	Clark Olson
Usher	Sara Schilling Rick Schilling	Xavier Davis John Erickson	Don Hull Renee Waterstradt	Phyllis Schilling Larry Schilling

Grace Lutheran Church Council Members

President	Ken Ehlen
Vice President	Solveig Muus
Secretary	Leiana Schilling
Treasurer	Renee Waterstradt
Director	Frances Fry
Director	Steven Sigala
Director	Rick Schilling
Director	Adam Wohlbrandt
Director	Bev Zannos

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Grace In the City

Grace Vine is published 12 times a year by

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