

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Wisconsin Synod)
5600 West Palmyra Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301

www.graceglendale.org



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Rev. David R. Clark 623-842-4704 x303 study
623-412-0470 home
Rev. H. Daylo, Jr. 623-842-4704 x321 study
623-937-0588 home
Princ. Matt Herbst 623-937-2010 x302 office
Church/School - 623-937-2010 x301 office
ALA - 602-268-8686 office

2009 - Newsletter



Worship Times

Saturday @ 6:00 pm
Sunday @ 8:00 & 10:30 am

March Events:

- Mar 2** - Morning Chapel with MLC President Zarling - All are welcome to attend.
- Mar 3** - Ladies Aid & Board of Education 7 pm
- Mar 4** - **Lent Worship @ 4 & 7 pm** - Faculty serves dinner
- Mar 5** - Moms & Tots 9-11 am; Boy Pioneers 6:30 pm
- Mar 7** - Thrift Store Clothes Sorting @ Grace 8:30 am
- Mar 9-13** - Spring Break, NO SCHOOL; Washington DC Trip
- Mar 11** - **Lent Worship @ 4 & 7 pm** - Choir serves dinner
- Mar 12** - Newsletter Articles due
- Mar 18** - **Lent Worship @ 4 & 7 pm** - Ladies Aid serves dinner
- Mar 19** - Moms & Tots 9-11 am; Boy & Girl Pioneers 6:30 pm
- Mar 20-22** - Boy Pioneer Spring District Campout
- Mar 21** - **SUPER SATURDAY #3 - 9 am - 2 pm**
- Mar 24** - Newsletter Assembly 9 am
- Mar 25** - **Lent Worship @ 4 & 7 pm** - Golden Oldies serve dinner
- Mar 26** - Boy Pioneers 6:30 pm
- Mar 28-29** - Girl Pioneer Spring campout

Weekly Bible Classes:
Tuesdays - 2 pm
Wednesdays - 7 pm
Fridays - 10 am

Choir/Handbells practice
Every Monday evening



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church ~ 5600 W. Palmyra Ave. ~ Glendale

Grace Ev. Lutheran Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 2

February 2009

Principles of Christian Worship – Part 1: Let the Gospel Predominate

“Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!” (Psalm 66:5)

Not long ago I had the chance to sit and visit with a couple. They wanted to become members of Grace where they could hear God’s Word and receive his holy Supper. Pretty good reasons to join, right! They made a point of mentioning how friendly the members at Grace were and that it really felt like home. This couple had their fair share of experiences in various church settings, but ultimately the deciding factor was, “*Where can we hear the gospel most clearly and consistently proclaimed?*”

Is it really true that people ‘church shop’ because they are looking for the gospel? One person shared his experience: “*There are a number of us that left mega-churches that rocked with professional quality performances, had dynamic pastors, emotion-filled experiences, small groups, gift-of-the-spirit discoveries, a plethora of bible classes, numerous activities, private school-like Sunday schools with professional educators for our children, PowerPoints and video feeds, movie clips, poetry, performance artists, contemporary design, Starbucks and hugs, holding hands, sharing tears, shorts and flip-flops, the beautiful people and celebrities, for what?...For the Lutheran church with Word and Sacrament and a focus on salvation by Christ-alone.*”

I would venture to guess that many ‘seekers’ or other ‘church shoppers’ really are looking for the gospel, but they just don’t realize it at the time. All people, whether they want to admit it or not, want peace. They want to know that “everything will be okay,” especially when life makes that so difficult to imagine. But unless people receive this frequent reminder of God’s true and everlasting love, the cares and concerns of the world around crowd out that truth. Living without that constant assurance of God’s forgiveness is like running a race with a plastic bag over your head (please do not attempt to verify this). You run out of breath and strength to continue on, and you feel suffocated. In this sense, the gospel

is the very source of life. And fellow Christians, you know this for a fact.

At times, however, those of us who have lived for so long with the truth of God’s grace over my sin still fail to appreciate how amazing this faith is. Being made aware of the depth of my guilt and the punishment I deserve, I can cherish and relish all the more the divine promises of sins forgiven and washed away by the blood of God’s own Son. Having known this joy, why settle for less?

That is why when Christians gather for worship, it is always best to let the gospel predominate. As a church we have been determined to rally around the message of all sins forgiven in Christ alone. Various elements of our worship are designed to provide that gospel assurance and strength to those who worship among us.

For example, in almost every service we sing and speak certain texts: *Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, Nicene Creed, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei.* (See if you can identify these next time you worship.) These texts retell God’s plan of salvation week after week. Because we use them *ordinarily* in our worship, they are known as *the Ordinary*.

Other parts of the service change on a week-by-week basis, such as the Scripture lessons, psalms, hymns and prayers. These elements retell the story of the life and ministry of Jesus in coordination with the Church Year. These parts compose what is known as *the Proper*.

And last, but not least, we let the gospel predominate by including the Lord’s Supper, also known as *the Meal*.

Maintaining all these elements of worship can be very beneficial. We believe that the Holy Spirit works through the Word to create and strengthen faith. And rather than focusing on what great things we wish to do for God, we focus on what great things God has done for us. Letting the gospel predominate we offer the clearest, most resounding expression of worship.

Over the course of the next several newsletters, we will consider the principles of Christian-Lutheran worship, why we do what we do. May the Spirit continue to open our minds and hearts as we gather together for worship, rejoicing and growing in the good news of Christ our Savior.

- Pastor Daylo

ATTENDANCE

January CHURCH Attendance

Jan 3	41	Jan 17	42
Jan 4	350	Jan 18	378
Jan 10	47	Jan 24	45
Jan 11	358	Jan 25	369
		Jan 31	66

Communion Attendance for January was 607.

January SUNDAY School Attendance

Date	Adult	Youth	SS
Jan 4	-	5	33
Jan 11	92	8	39
Jan 18	97	9	39
Jan 25	96	5	38

February CHURCH Attendance

Feb 1	358	Feb 15	340
Feb 7	58	Feb 21	
Feb 8	363	Feb 22	
Feb 14	67	Feb 28	

Communion Attendance for February was 559.

February SUNDAY School Attendance

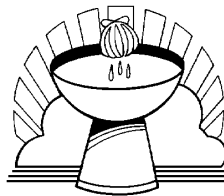
Date	Adult	Youth	SS
Feb 1	113	8	46
Feb 8	74	3	34
Feb 15	82	7	30
Feb 22			

SACRED ACTS



WEDDINGS

Ahren Roy Kruegel and **Jennifer Gale Castaneda** were united in Holy Matrimony on January 30, 2009.



BAPTISMS

Denise Bustos Galindo was brought into the Kingdom of God's Grace through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 25, 2009.

Julissa Bustos Galindo was brought into the Kingdom of God's Grace through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 25, 2009.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- (T) Transfer
- (R) Release
- (RM) Removed
- (BIC) Bible Information Class (previously listed as *Adult Information Class*)
- (P) Profession of Faith
- (YC) Youth Confirmation

Membership Changes (in)

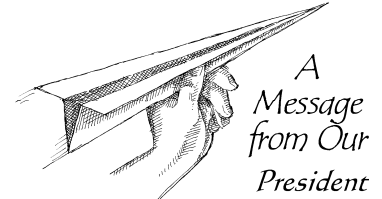
Richard & Yasuko Tollefson (P)

Membership Changes (out)

Chris Bell (R)
Chris Combs (RM)



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CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE:

The main reason for changing the service times was to increase attendance between the children's service and the candlelight service. We are pleased to report that attendance was up about 6.5% for the combined services. Results from the survey also support the new service times – for those who expressed a preference, over 80% preferred the new 2008 schedule.

As a result, the Church Council has approved the continuation of the new Christmas service schedule for 2009 and future years. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in the survey.

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A lesson in patience and trust



When I was around 8 years old my dad taught me a simple lesson in patience and trust by “taming a squirrel”. (I was not the squirrel). For several days, dad would take a walnut or acorn in a shell, tap it on our cement porch, and carry it to the crotch of a tree in the front yard when he noticed a squirrel in the tree. In a short time, the “tapping” brought the squirrel on the run. For the next few days he would place the treats on the ground by the tree after he got its attention by tapping. The squirrel would come. During the next few weeks, after getting the attention of the critter, he would move the prize slowly towards the porch, a few feet each day. Then one day it happened. Our “adopted” pet took the nuts from the hand of my dad. I was thrilled when the squirrel took the treats from my hand as well. Eventually, my dad was able to place a walnut on the top of his head, and the squirrel would climb up his pants and shirt and take the nut from him before he would scamper back to the tree. (Yes, I also experienced the feeling of a squirrel climbing on me).

My dad was very patient in this process. He made sure that I would not make any sudden movement to scare the squirrel. He taught me that to build up a trust with an animal could be a long process.

Our heavenly father is very patient with us. He holds out his

hand with a great reward and yet we at times are reluctant to grab it. Sometimes we like to rely on ourselves and not put our trust in God. As Christians we trust God and his promises. Aren't you glad that God is patient with us?

Note: Do you have any stories from you past that we could use? Please share them with us.

Bob Gruetzmacher, Head Elder

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LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Matt Herbst, Principal

For many middle school students this month, Valentines' Day is quite an awkward time. Many new emotions rise up in them and a feeling of uneasiness sets in. It is a little fun to watch as they try and show off to impress others and are compelled by these new feelings to do something that is out of character. Funny how love compels us to do things isn't it?

Well, how about Christ's love? What is it compelling us to do? You see, Christ's love now lives in us. It is the motivation we have to show Christian love to others. This love can compel us into action. It is the grace-filled love that the world does not know.

“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” II Corinthians 5:24-25

Notice in this passage that we are not to live for ourselves and our own wants. Instead we are to live for Christ, and by doing so, to live to build up our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us just give into this and allow what Christ has done for us to move us into action. Let's make love an action word and show this to all!

DC Trip

On March 9-14, 26 of our 7th-8th grade students and 20 chaperones will be visiting our nation's capital and the surrounding area. We ask for your prayers for all who travel and for a trip filled with much learning and appreciation of the gifts God has given us through our government and throughout our history!

Spring Break

Spring Break will be held **March 9-14** in conjunction with our DC trip. May all the families and students (faculty too!) enjoy their break!

Open Enrollment

Grace's open enrollment has now begun. If you are considering Grace Lutheran Preschool or K-8 Grade School for your child, now is the time to make your inquiry. Spaces are filling up in some classes, so to guarantee your child a spot, please contact the school.

Tuition Assistance

Sponsor our Students is a way to help a child continue their Christian Education at Grace. With educational costs high and tuition a necessity, everyone's assistance is greatly appreciated. You can find one of these forms in this month's newsletter. All the help, big or small, is greatly appreciated!

Upcoming Dates:

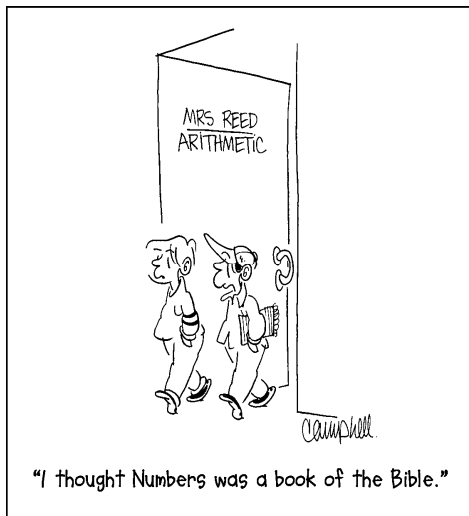
- Mar. 4 – K-2 Sings
- Mar. 9-14 – Spring Break
- Mar. 9-14 – DC Trip
- Mar. 20 – End of Third Quarter
- Mar. 21 – Spelling Bee and Math Competition
- Mar. 22 – Jr. Choir Sings
- Mar. 25 – 3-5 Sings
- Apr. 4 – Track Meet



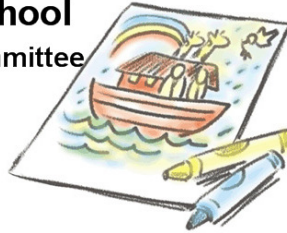
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CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS

Check received in the amount of \$45.30. Keep saving those empty inkjet cartridges, old cell phones, ipods, etc.!



Sunday School Committee



Grace Lutheran Church's Sunday School is being revamped in the hopes that many more children and families are served with the precious truths of God's Word through our program. Starting March 1, there will be a new format that we are excited to begin. Please note the new schedule and please prayerfully consider making use of this opportunity for your children to grow closer to their Savior through our Sunday School.

- 9:25-9:35-Group Devotion
- 9:35-9:40-Family Choir Singing
- 9:45-10:15-Students go to Classrooms for Review and Hands-On Time

During group devotion, parents of children in PK-7th grade are strongly encouraged to join their children to hear the day's lesson taught in a group format. Male leaders of the congregation will lead this devotion which will give these men the opportunity to support this vital arm of our congregation's ministry.

Following devotion, the children and their parents will practice a song which they will have the opportunity to sing in church at the end of the month.

This is why it is called Family Choir. We hope that this is

also a great chance for families to praise their Lord in song for all his love to us!

Students will then head over to their classrooms to review the lesson and parents can join the other adults in Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall or for a Christian Parenting Class led by Mr. Herbst.



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Parenting Bible Class

A new bible study opportunity will be available on Sunday Mornings in Room 7. It will begin March 1 and will be held following our new Sunday School format. Class will begin at 9:45 and last until 10:15. We will begin with a study entitled God's Word - The Foundation for Our Family. We encourage all parents to consider making use of this opportunity to see what our Lord tells us in the role as Christian Parents. This class will be led by Mr. Herbst.

- Lesson One – Trust: The Basis for Family Decisions
- Lesson Two – Trust: Trust and the Decision to Have Children
- Lesson Three – Trust: Trust and the Importance of Spiritual Nurture
- Lesson Four – Trust: As we Schedule our Time
- Lesson Five – Trust: When We Face Challenges

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our preschool is growing again. Ms. Rubin informed the Board of Education that during the next month we will be adding three students. The Sunday School task force is continuing their work to improve our Sunday School; their ideas include adding a family activity each week. The Board of Education also continued our work to develop a comprehensive policy manual that brings all of the school's policies together in one document. The Board also approved the calendar for next school year. This month we welcomed Matt Wall to the Board of Education.

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MUSIC NOTES –
Choir/Handbells/ Men's Octet -
Lyle Koch ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

It's here! With your help a grand piano is now gracing our sanctuary.

After several years of silent auctions, Lenten suppers, generous donations and memorials, the piano committee was able to shop and select a Mason & Hamlin 7-foot grand piano. Those who

have played it and those who have heard it have been moved by the wonderful addition to our worship services. Although the piano is with us for a month on approval, many have expressed their desire to have it stay permanently. The piano is from Piano Gallery, 10821 N. Scottsdale Road. The owner, Thomas Miller, expressed his joy with placing these fine pianos in churches and offered our church a 50% discount over the advertised price. To God be the Glory!

Former instrumental players - it is time to bring your instrument out of hiding and get your lip back in shape. Friday, May 8 at 7:00 PM the music students of Grace will present their annual spring concert. They are anxiously awaiting the addition of mature instrumentalists to play along with them. Let Amy Unkefer or Lyle Koch know if you are able to join in the fun. Music will be given to all who are interested. A group rehearsal will be held before the concert.

As we enter the season of Lent and look forward to Easter, we renew our thankfulness to our gracious God for sending us our Savior. With hearts filled with love we offer our very best with our voices and instruments.

Come to rehearsals and join with the choir as together we glorify God.



**Your taxes,
 their Christian
 education.**



The HELP Foundation tuition tax credit funds have been received and applied to student accounts. The spring distribution amount was a total of \$84,902.01! That amount included \$70,895.20 in Recommended Student funds & \$14,006.81 in Undesignated School money that was disbursed as scholarships. 69 of our students received funds toward their tuition here at Grace. What a blessing for these students and their families! Thank you to all that donated. Forms 301 & 323 are available in the office or online www.helpfoundationonline.org.

If your student received funds through this program and you need to make adjustments to your monthly FACTS payment, please contact Debbie at 623-842-4704 x 322 or send an e-mail to officemanager@graceglendale.org.

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Stewardship / Deficit Update

Jan Reg. Offerings:	\$51,391
YTD Offerings:	\$369,483
Jan budgeted need	\$55,062
Current Deficit	(-110,006)
Special Deficit reduction funds received	\$35,890 from leaders + \$33,668 from congregation
Synod Support - Walking Together Funds collected in January	\$728

PHOTO SAFARI!



The Grace Photo Safari is back by popular demand! Join us for a day of family fun and a chance to exercise your cameras at the **Luke AFB** open house on **Saturday March 21, 10AM – 4PM.**

Headlining Luke's "Thunder in the Desert" are the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds who perform precision aerial maneuvers demonstrating the capabilities of the high performance F-16 fighter jet. Luke is the largest fighter training base in the Air Force and was the original home of the Thunderbirds.

Admission to the air show is FREE. In addition to the Thunderbirds, there will be many other aerial demonstrations throughout the day and ground displays of many military and civilian aircraft. Some aircraft will be open to walk through and sit in the cockpit.

There are no restrictions on camera equipment, but you cannot bring backpacks or coolers onto the base. You can bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. Food and drink is available for purchase on-site.

Sign-up sheet at the Scrip table on Sunday morning and carpooling from Grace is available. See Don Petersen for more details.



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ALA Thrift Store CLOTHES SORTING DAY at Grace Saturday, March 7, 9:00 am



Come to Grace Fellowship Hall Saturday morning, March 7, and the Thrift store will bring the bags of donated clothes to us to sort. The truck will arrive at 8:30 (we need helpers to unload the bags!). Sorting begins as soon as the truck is unloaded. It's not hard work, but is necessary before donations can be put out for sale in the store.

High school students can use this toward their required volunteer hours. Please bring your forms to be signed.

Many hands will make the job go fast! We will visit and have fun while the work is being done. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie at 623-842-4704 x 322.

