

## Come Join Us for Worship!

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



Volume 5 Issue 3

March 2008



March 2008



*Easter Lillies  
Floral Garden  
Order forms  
In Sunday's  
bulletin  
thru March 16th*

## MARCH LENT & HOLY WEEK

By Pastor Roger A. Thompson

**In the month of March, we continue our journey through Lent via Grace's Purpose Statement and our Five Biblical Guiding Principles:**

**March 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – John 9.1-42 – The Story of the Man Born Blind**  
Biblical Guiding Principle #4 – “EMBRACE GOD'S CHALLENGE to LOVE and SERVE OTHERS.”

**March 5 – Midweek Service Witness Talk – Carol Staffieri**

**March 9 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – John 11.1-45 – The Raising of Lazarus**  
Biblical Guiding Principle #5 – “ALL ARE WELCOME!”

**March 12 – Midweek Service Witness Talk – Joe Dani**

**March 16 – Palm/Passion Sunday – Matthew 26.14-27.66, and Matthew 21.1-11**  
*God's purpose for our church is to “LISTEN to GOD!”*

**March 20 – Maundy Thursday – John 13.1-17, 31b-35**  
God's purpose for our church is to “SERVE ALL!”

**Dinner will be cooked and served by Grace's staff at 6:00pm in Hope Hall. The menu will consist of Pastor Thompson's “Chapel of the Upper Room Soup;” Ardie's “Love Commandment Salad;” Virginia's “Discipleship Dessert;” Ray's “Bread of Life;” and Gloria's “Mary Magdalene Fruit Plate.” Worship will follow at 7:00pm.**

**March 21 – Good Friday – John 18.1-19.42 – 12noon and 7:00pm**  
*God's purpose for our church is to “PROCLAIM CHRIST!”*

**March 23 – Easter Sunday – Matthew 28.1-10**  
God's purpose for our church is to “OPEN DOORS!”

**Weather and circumstances permitting, the 8:30am service will be outside. Festival Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00am. This is the great Paschal Feast, the culmination of the Biblical Story of Salvation, and the final destination of our Lenten journey! We are God's resurrection people! We are the Body of Christ in the world!**

See you in Church!



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

# Grace Vine

## Do You Know What Our Grace Youth Are Up To NOW!

Ardie Senft, Diaconal Minister



**Children's Palm  
Procession  
March 16th  
11:00am**

For the past two years, our “Grace Youth” (Confirmation through 12<sup>th</sup>) have been fundraising to earn money for the youth scholarship fund for special activities. They have provided you with an annual Brat Fry dinner, a Valentine luncheon and raffle. They earned money parking cars at the MLK Event at the park, sold calendars, received significant memorial gifts, donations, and other grants. The moneys that they have raised will now provide the funds necessary for twelve of our youth, two parents (Lori Ramirez and Rick Schilling), and myself to participate in a Week of Hope Mission Trip to do community service in the town of Manassas Virginia July 20-27<sup>th</sup>.

The week of Hope Community Service that our youth and adults will do includes a choice of work with inner-city children in a neighborhood Bible camp, work with the elderly, or home repair for elderly or working poor. (See the display on the bulletin board in Hope Hall) Our group will arrive in Manassas on Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>, where we will meet about 90 other youth and chaperones from around the country and have an evening gathering and worship which is led by the college age camp counselors and adult staff.

On Monday morning after breakfast we will take off with our lunch bags in hand for our first day of service (9AM-3PM) – the choice of work will be up to the youth and our adults and they will continue to work through Thursday at the chosen site. After the work day we all return for dinner and an evening of fun, fellowship, singing, worship and sharing! On Wednesday afternoon we will have some time to explore the surrounding area of Manassas – where there were two civil war battles – better known by some of us as the “Battles of Bull Run.”

After this week of work experience our time to say good-bye to all our new friends comes on Friday at breakfast. It is then that our group takes off for a day in Washington, D.C. I told the youth to bring their walking shoes because that is just what we will be doing. Plans to see the Capitol, the Smithsonian, Washington monument (they actually want to walk up the monument), Vietnam Memorial, Reflecting Pool, Lincoln Memorial and more if we have the energy. Plans are to walk the whole mall area. Am I out of my mind?? None of our youth except my grandson, Nick, has ever been to Washington, D.C., so needless to say they are really excited.



**Egg  
Hunt  
for  
Kids**  
**Sunday, March 23rd  
10:00am**

After remaining in the D.C. area for Friday night, we will travel to the town of Gettysburg, PA, where we will continue our Civil War battlefield tour. The day will be spent sightseeing, learning and having fun running around “Devil’s Den”!

That night we return to Baltimore, get a short night’s sleep, and then head to the airport for our flight back to Phoenix on Sunday morning. I don’t know about our youth, but I can tell you that there will probably be three very tired adults. We are all excited about this trip that not only will provide our youth with a time to meet other Christian youth from all over the country, but also provide us with a time to grow closer to God and serve those who are in need. And of course let’s not forget that we will also grow closer to one another and have a good time seeing new areas of our country and living the history of those areas.

With out your strong support of our youth, opportunities like this trip would not be possible for them. Thank you for all the calendars, you bought, for all the food you consumed, and helping our youth grow-up with a love for God and their fellow humans and heart for service and justice.

**Ardie**



I act with  
steadfast  
*love*,  
**justice**, and  
**RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
in the earth,  
for in these  
things I delight,  
says the **LORD**.  
Jeremiah 9:24

## The Street View

By Jeff Jirak MA, C.P.C.

I have been working with the homeless for the past 15+ years and have had a handful of people who have successfully transitioned to permanent placement and become productive members in the community. I will ask them to write something about their experience with homelessness but rarely get a response. As if they would rather avoid any type of recollection of such a difficult time in their lives. I was able to get a man to write about his experience being homeless and give us a picture of what he felt.

### “A Priceless Gift “

I was unknown and wanted to keep it that way. I am one of the nameless, faceless, moneyless, individuals who have found a temporary haven at the CASS homeless shelter in southeast Phoenix. I walked quietly, unnoticed amidst my down and out brothers. We ate, waited in lines, and slept as a group. This was my herd. My safety lay in my ability to become lost within the group.

To remain invisible I could not make eye contact or express either an opinion or emotion. To do so would have drawn unwanted attention, and it's the stray wandering alone who soon become easy prey. Sometimes having a successful day is just surviving until tomorrow.

The staff and volunteers who help us are friendly, polite, and yet distant. Too many faces. Too few successes. Wave upon wave of cast-off flotsam wash in daily to intermingle with the mentally and physically ill, paroled felons, and indigent life travelers who populate the facility. The tide has yet to recede. So, whenever someone is singled out, it's usually for a transgression.

“Mr. Matt, how are you this fine evening?” His booming voice met me as I entered the deserted dayroom. A CASS night manager stood behind his counter, smiling. This man is a firm, unbonding presence in our lives. He brooked no nonsense. He'd seen it all and seen it again. A smile was unusual, but to be singled out was totally unexpected.

“Just going to bed,” was my cautious reply. I paused and waited for him to continue. He simply waved, and I drifted off to my waiting bunk.

I had been at CASS more than 3 month, and this had been the first time anyone had greeted me by my name. I spent much of that night replaying his greet over and over. This simple kindness, this acknowledgement, opened a door that I had slammed closed. I realized that there is a society that accepts, is still cordial and plays by the civilized rules. That it is good and important to be someone and be seen. This man, through his greeting gave me back my identity, my self-worth and even a measure of dignity. He made me his equal.

We are all different, yet we share this space, this earth. When you see someone different, look beyond their appearance, status, or actions. Look to find the person. Don't sympathize, empathize or avert your eyes. YOUR ACCEPTANCE MAY BE THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!

Have a great month.

*Jeff*



March 21st

12:00pm & 7:00pm

## Calling All Children and Youth

*We need your help on  
Palm Sunday, March 16th*

Parents we would like all our children, from the youngest to the oldest, to be part of the palm procession at the 11:00AM Worship service. If you have a baby, you can join us too. You and your little one can process along with all the other children.

Each of our youth will carry palm branch as they lead the palm procession during the opening hymn. After the children have processed to the front of the church they will return to their parents for the rest of the service.

Mom and Dad's please bring your children to the front of the church at 10:45AM on Palm Sunday for final instructions and preparations. The Sunday School teachers will be there to help!



See you all on Palm Sunday!



## Can You Help Us With A Donation Of Candy For the Children's Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter is right around the corner and we are beginning to get ready for the children's Easter egg hunt that has been a favorite tradition here at Grace for many years. We hope you can help us out by purchasing some candy to fill the plastic eggs. Last year we filled about 500 plastic eggs with candy and small prizes. Each year more and more children come and we are expecting at least 75 children! WOW! Isn't that a great problem to have!

Once again this year we are asking for your help. ***During the first two weeks of March*** there will be a basket in both the narthex of the church and in Hope hall for you to place bags candy (wrapped candy only and no chocolate, please). So many of you bought eggs or returned them after Easter last year that we are quite certain we have enough eggs, but we still need candy. Many different candies go on sale the month before Easter and with your help we will have plenty of supplies on hand when our youth pack up the eggs on their "Lock-in" March 14<sup>th</sup>.

We will purchase what ever is needed to be sure we have enough, but we hope that during March you can help us out by filling the baskets with different kinds of candy and if you have some plastic eggs you want to get rid of you can throw them in for good measure! Thanks in advance for your help and generosity!





## We Caught the Spirit!

Thank You for sharing your caring spirit with thousands of others across the world on Souper Bowl Weekend.

Every dollar you dropped in either Wilbur or the soup pots that our youth held goes to help people in need feel the power of God's love. That's something to cheer about!!!

On Souper Bowl Sunday and with Wilbur Emphasis at Grace we collected approximately \$1600 that will be sent to the ELCA World Hunger Fund. As of this writing, over \$8,000,000,000 has been raised by youth groups and organizations across the country for Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Of that amount, Lutheran youth across the country including our own "Grace Youth Alive" donated \$826,191 to the total!

*Thanks for your generosity!*



**Join Us For a Visit To the "POWER LAB"!**

**Another Vacation Bible Adventure is coming to Grace Lutheran**

So 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 16-20<sup>th</sup>*.





## Upcoming Happenings For Children, Youth, and Families In March

Hey Grace Kids get these dates on your calendar! You won't want to miss the fun!

March 14-15 – Annual “Youth Lock-in” : Food – lots-of –it, Movies – “All-your-favorites”, service-“filling the plastic Easter-eggs”, and a GREAT TIME.

March 16<sup>th</sup> – All children are invited to be part of the Palm Procession at the 11:00AM Traditional worship on Palm Sunday.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Egg Decorating Party – 10:00AM – Bring the hardboiled eggs and we'll supply the color dyes – Service project for “Pancake Breakfast”

March – EASTER SUNDAY – Services at 8:30AM and 11:00AM  
Easter Brunch at 9:45AM in Hope Hall – Youth Serve  
Easter Egg Hunt on Grace's Lawn – 10:15AM



## **E-Scrip Funds Are Coming In!**

*Have You Taken Advantage Of This Great Way To Turn Your Safeway Purchases  
Into a Donation To GRACE OUTREACH*

*WHY NOT MAKE IT A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO SIGN –UP  
AND HELP SUPPORT GRACE OUTREACH!*

Grace Lutheran now has an e-scrip number to use when you shop at Safeway, Payless Shoes, Chevron and many more of your favorite stores and restaurants. Over 40 of our members have already signed up and by giving Grace's e-scrip number, which is 9602016 Grace, we have begun receive a check every month that is 2% (more at some stores) of the total purchases from the stores and restaurants you have visited! What could be easier?

Joan Burgess is the coordinator of this project. Please consider taking advantage of this easy way of turning your shopping sprees into a way of supporting our outreach ministry right here at Grace. What could be EASIER! It almost sounds too good to believe.

This will be a GREAT way to help out Wilbur our “Mission Minded Pig to keep the Grace Room well supplied as the winter months approach!

Call Joan Burgess at 602-595-9030 – She will be glad to get you signed up for e-scrip.



## *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!

**Lenten Meal– March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:30-7:30PM** – Join us for a meal and Lenten service or help with children's activities. There is also a meal on Maundy Thursday at 6PM before service.

**Every Thursday–Confirmation Class for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders – 6:30-7:45PM.**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> - There will be 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation - THIS IS A CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULE**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> - Youth Alive Lock-in – Dinner at 6PM – We will do a service project, play games, have fun, learn some things, and watch lots of movies. Pick up by parents at between 8:00 and 8:30AM after breakfast. Ardie needs parent VOLUNTEERS to spend the night.**

**HOLY WEEK confirmation expectations – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday, and EASTER**

**March 27<sup>th</sup> – Parent Session at Confirmation – All parents please plan on attending.**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> - Grace Youth Alive at GRACE – 4:15PM-8:00PM -Food, Movie, Learning, and Fellowship**

### **THIS IS WORTH CLAPPING FOR!!**

**Congratulations to Nick Kontz, who made 1<sup>st</sup> chair clarinet in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band at his Junior high school.**

### *See you in Church*



Each month a group of Grace movie lovers meet to watch and discuss a film from a Christian perspective and to share a delicious meal together. All are welcome to come and join in the fellowship and discussion.

The Grace Cinema Club will be meeting at 5:00p.m.  
at the Betz's home on March 15th.

To RSVP and for information about what to bring for the shared meal, please contact Margie Betz .

# New Member Class Planned

When: March 30 2008 at Grace Lutheran

Time: 12:30PM – about 2:00PM - Lunch is included

A new member orientation is planned March 30<sup>th</sup> after worship at about 12:30PM in the North room of Hope Hall. The orientation will help all who are interested in membership and those who want to learn more about the history, mission and vision of our inner-city congregation. If you decide to join our growing community of faith you will be asked to attend a six-week "Faith Alive-Discipleship Class" that is held during the Sunday School hour (9:45AM-10:45AM). These classes will meet April 6<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>. Reception of new members will be on the Day of Pentecost, May 11<sup>th</sup> at either the Contemporary Service or the traditional worship service.

We are excited about the many opportunities for mission and outreach that our urban neighborhood provides for our family of faith here at Grace. Many new opportunities are planned for the coming year to help us all grow in understanding of our faith, discipleship, outreach, and our mission and ministry in downtown Phoenix.

All Are Welcome!



**GRACE**  
Book Club

## The Grace Book Club

The March meeting of the Grace Book Club

will be meeting on

Thursday, March 27th, at 9:45 a.m.

We will gather in the North Room.

See You There!

*For further information you may contact Dana Day.*

March Birthdays

3rd Pat Fink  
 Trajan Thompson  
 6th Sharon Moser  
 7th Anne Wiley  
 8th Larry Schilling  
 Kathy Spitler  
 10th Fred Steiner  
 11th Dorothy Ziehl  
 12th Mary Dusenberry  
 James Estes  
 13th Ken Ehlen  
 Alison Sigala  
 15th Sam Wagenseller III  
 19th Lisa Wonsey  
 24th Fernando Ramirez  
 26th Faith Morey  
 Lisa Zato

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  
 7:00PM Band Rehearsal  
 WEDNESDAY  
 9:30AM Bible study/Prayer  
 5:30PM G.L.O.W.  
 THURSDAY  
 5:30PM Grace Chimers  
 6:30PM Choir Practice  
 6:30PM Confirmation  
 Yr. 1 & 2  
 SATURDAY  
 8:00AM Men's Bkfst/  
 Bible study

March Dates to Note

Monday, March 3  
 7:00PM-Support Meeting  
 Wednesday, March 5  
 5:30PM Dinner  
 6:30PM-Lenten Worship  
 Thursday, March 6  
 9:30AM WELCA General Meeting  
 Tuesday, March 11  
 6:45PM-Grace Ministry Night  
 Wednesday, March 12  
 5:30PM Dinner  
 6:30PM-Lenten Worship  
 Thursday, March 13  
 9:30AM WELCA Field Trip  
 Friday, March 14  
 5:00PM Youth Lock-In  
 Saturday, March 15  
 5:00PM Cinema Club Meeting  
 Sunday, March 16  
 11:00AM Children's Palm Procession  
 Wednesday, March 19  
 5:30PM Grace Chimers  
 6:30PM Choir Practice  
 Maundy Thursday, March 20  
 9:30AM WELCA Bible Study Circle  
 6:00PM STAFF DINNER—HOPE HALL  
 Good Friday, March 21  
 12:00PM & 7:00PM Worship Service  
 Saturday, March 22  
 10:00AM Easter Egg Decorating  
 Easter Sunday, March 23  
 9:45AM Easter Brunch  
 10:15AM Easter Egg Hunt  
 Wednesday, March 26—GLOW RESUMES  
 5:30PM Dinner  
 6:30PM Worship  
 Thursday, March 27  
 9:30AM Grace Book Club Meeting  
 Friday, March 28  
 11:00AM Phoenix Orpheus Choir Concert  
 Sunday, March 30  
 9:45AM New Member Class  
 5:00PM Grace Youth Alive



# Milestone Event



## Milestones Along Life's Way

### *Congratulations, blessings, and prayers:*

- ❖ Blessings and prayers for Joey Parks and Lisa Wonsey on their wedding day, March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Congratulations Lisa and Joey as you begin your life together! May God be a constant partner in your married life together.
- ❖ Congratulations and blessings to Anne Wiley on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this month!
- ❖ Congratulations and blessings to Ken Ehlen on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this month!
- ❖ Congratulations and blessings to James Estes on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday this month!
- ❖ Congratulations and blessing to Fernando Ramiriez on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday this month! Does that mean you are driving Fernando?

March 2008						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Grace Lutheran Church  
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Sharing the Faith

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**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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