

Walk with *Jesus*

Every day is a walk with Jesus. We Christians believe life is spent in the presence of our Lord. Therefore, we can talk about every day as a day during which we walk with Jesus. Some days we feel Jesus' presence. Some days we feel quite a distance from Jesus. We boldly proclaim that, regardless of how we feel, Jesus is there. Jesus walks with us every day.

As we who are Abounding Grace Lutheran Church consider our financial stewardship over the next few weeks, you will be asked to think about your use of money and possessions as a part of your walk with Jesus. This is most appropriate, because when Jesus walked this earth with his disciples, he often talked about money and possessions. If money was a part of Jesus' first walk on this earth, it should be a part of our walk with Jesus today.

We believe that everything we have is a trust from God, given to us to care for and manage. What we do with our money is very much a part of our relationship with our Lord. This will be our focus in the coming weeks.

For three consecutive Sundays we will read a bulletin insert and hear a talk in worship. For three weeks, we will each receive a letter from the congregation. All of these will focus on our walk with Jesus, and how money plays an important part in this walk.

Then, on Sunday, October 22, each member of Abounding Grace will have the opportunity to complete an estimate of giving card. On this card, each of us will indicate our plan for giving for the coming year. This will not only be a plan for giving to Abounding Grace, it will also be a plan for how we will walk with Jesus in the coming year.

Please join me in this stewardship Walk with Jesus.

Pastor Keith

Treasurer's Report August 2017

Offerings

Total undesignated offerings in August were \$7,803, which was \$3,001 or 27.8% less than budget.

Total undesignated offerings for August year-to-date are \$73,775, which is \$7,253 or 9% lower than budget. Facility use donations are \$1,756 over budget due to Siloam Compassion Church payments.

Expenses

Total August expenses were \$1,358 over budget due primarily to higher repairs & maintenance (\$1,545).

For August year-to-date, total expenses are \$2,707 below budget, due mainly to lower repairs and maintenance (\$711), natural gas (\$442), pension & insurance (\$693), electric (\$237) and office supplies (\$216).

Designated Funds

Designated land sale funds at the end of August remain at \$43,974.

Designated property funds are at \$1,618.

The Sunday Dollars kitchen fund is at \$2,270.

The memorial fund is at \$10,343.

Undesignated Fund Balance

Undesignated fund balance in the month of August decreased by \$5,029 to \$24,713.

For August year-to-date, undesignated fund balance has decreased by \$3,689.

The complete financial report is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Abounding Grace Council Meeting
August 14th, 2017

Attending: Pastor Keith Dick Gruentzel Don Foreman Tim O'Leary Gerri Eberle Jay Froehlich

Guest: Jan Foreman

Council President Gerri Eberle called the meeting to order. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda as written.

Members gave their highs and lows. Pastor Keith led us in bible study and prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the May minutes with spelling corrections.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the May Financial report as written.

Pastor's Report

Synod Assembly was very well run and organized this year.

On October 21 from 9-11am there will be a meeting with Bishop Lowell to discuss replacement qualifications for a replacement for Bishop Steve Talmage.

Regarding the diakonia program- We have three people committed in participating: Brendan Victorson, Carol Leveratt and Artesia Runge. We also had two others who were interested but could not commit due to scheduling. This amount of participation from our small congregation was outstanding. After the New Year Pastor Keith will teach two of the classes being offered, The Creeds and The Confession. Auditing classes may be possible for a \$60 fee and the cost of the books.

Old Business

An air conditioning maintenance contract was signed with Watson Refrigeration and the first repair and bi-yearly maintenance completed.

The curtains in Fellowship Hall have not be adjusted by Siloam Compassion Church to allow for opening and closing as requested. If they are not fixed by the end of this month, they will be removed.

Two benches in the Narthex have been reupholstered and the third will be completed the week of 8/13. A big thank you to Karen Paye, Don Foreman, Ken Luthro, Gerri Eberle, Madge Brewer, and Sandy Boyd for all of their hard work! The benches look great!

The camcorder for recording Sunday Services was purchased and the sermons are being posted on youtube. A link can be found on our website, www.agtucson.com at the top of the page under youtube. Simply click the link and when you are redirected to youtube, click the link for videos.

New Business

Pastor Keith would like to run the Stewardship program in October with the final pledges to be turned in on Reformation Sunday. He and Jay will start working on it this week.

Pastor Keith will be taking October 15th off. Vern Victorson will be covering for him.

Per VA billing practices, Lynn Hardy must maintain her current healthcare.

Steve Natoli has suggested we do a Christmas concert for the congregation and community. He would like to keep it between 60 and 90 minutes with traditional hymns, a few sing alons and some popular and respectful non-secular music. A suggested date was Saturday, December 30 during the day.

Scheduling for the December 2017 Christmas Eve service was discussed. Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year we are faced with various options for our celebration. The Council decided to offer the congregation two possible options via ballot. The first option will be a once service only (no morning service with an afternoon celebration service). The second option will be our normal morning service with some Christmas emphasis added and then our traditional Christmas service at 7pm.

On 10/29, Reformation 500 Sunday, a dinner to benefit Lutheran Campus Ministry will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 5:30. Pastor would like to get enough participation from Abounding Grace to have a couple of tables at this event which would serve as our 10th year birthday. We would need to offer carpooling and it would be nice to be able to provide a birthday cake for dessert.

Fall Sunday School starts on September 10th. The teachers will be following the weekly readings for lessons and will dividing the kids into younger/ older groupings.

There is a roof leak in the upstairs classrooms in Fellowship Hall. The leak directly effects Pastor Hypolite's office. He has asked permission to move to room 8 until repairs are made. Don will contact Roof Savers to see if it can be repaired and is also getting bids to in case we have to replace it. We will check the insurance policy to see if it is covered.

We have been having issues with the office phones. Pastor Keith has received several calls from Central Alarm because they have been unable to get through to the alarm system. Jay contacted Cox who did an update on the phone lines but on 10/14 Central Alarm contacted Pastor Keith again saying the lines were down. When Pastor Keith contacted Cox they said the phone lines across the eastside of Tucson were down. The situation will be monitored.

We have been informed that Campbell's has discontinued its Soup Labels for Schools program. We will still continue to collect the Boxtop's for Education from General Mills product in the jug on the brown table in the Narthex for our Indian School Mission.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. The Lord's Prayer will be recited.



Retreat for All Women of the Grand Canyon Synod
Friday, October 20th, 7 pm, to Saturday, October 21st, 4 pm
Franciscan Renewal Center

5802 E Lincoln Dr, Scottsdale AZ 85253 www.theCasa.org

Theme: "Transformed: A New Katie"

"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind: (Romans 12:2)

Be refreshed and renewed in the serene setting of the Franciscan Renewal Center, where it's said that "even the trees whisper." Join us in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and help us vision the future for our women's ministry movement. Activities include:

- Reformation era music
- German wine and cheese gathering on Friday evening
- Reformation era art
- A visit from Katie Luther
- German strudel with our Saturday morning coffee
- Fellowship time

- Presentations by Streetlight (Human Trafficking) and LSS-SW
- Lutheran Jeopardy
- Visioning the future for Women of the ELCA's ministry
- Quiet time in the Center's Prayer Chapel, Gardens and Labyrinth
- Communion with offering

Registration is open until October 4. All registrations and payment must be received by our registrar on or before October 4. A registration form (with additional retreat information) is available from your church women's ministry contact, or it can be downloaded from this link:

<http://www.grandcanyonwomen.org/events.html>. Save the date now! Bring a friend!

OCTOBER 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 9TH OUR COUNCIL MEETS AT 7PM in the conference room. If you are interested in the running of the church, have a suggestion or concern you are always welcome to attend. Can't attend but would like to add something to the agenda? Please see Gerri Eberle or Pastor Keith.

OCTOBER 13TH THE LUNCH BUNCH is celebrating Halloween! We will be having a potluck at the church at noon with a game of bingo to follow. For more information, please contact Sheryl Felde at 885-5325.

OCTOBER 17TH THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA meet at 12:30. The ladies will have a bible study with Pastor Keith and then a brief meeting. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend!

OCTOBER 20TH THRU OCTOBER 21ST THERE IS A RETREAT FOR ALL WOMEN OF THE GRAND CANYON SYNOD at the Franciscan Renewal Center 5802 E. Lincoln Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85253 (www.thecasa.org) . The theme for this retreat is "Transformed: Anew Katie". Be refreshed and renewed in the seren setting of the Franciscan Renewal Center, where it is said "even the trees whisper." Join us in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the reformation, and help us vision the future of our women's ministry movement. There will be reformation era music, a german wine and cheese gathering on Friday evening, Reformation era art, a visit with Katie Luther, presentations by Streetlight (Human Trafficking) and LSS-SW and communion. Registration forms can be found in the Narthex.

OCTOBER 21, 9- 11 AM – A MEETING WITH INTERIM BISHOP LOWELL ALMEN at Our Saviour's as part of the process of discernment in calling a new bishop. It will be an opportunity to receive information and provide input. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex.

OCTOBER 29, 5:30 PM – 2017 LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY REFORMATION BANQUET, Our Saviour's Activity Building. Let's celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and our 10th anniversary as a congregation! Donations benefit Lutheran Campus Ministry. Individual - \$30, Family - \$60, Congregational Table for 5 - \$150, Congregational Table for 8 - \$240. The guest speaker will be Dr. Courtney Friesen (UofA Religious Studies). There will be Wittenberg Door Prizes, student testimonies and music. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex.

OCTOBER 31st OUR PRIMAVERA TEAM MEETS in Fellowship Hall at 10am to make lunches for the working men at Primavera. Help is not only needed to assemble the lunches but to provide the ingredients. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you can assist us.

VITA RECENTLY CONTACT US WITH A REPORT ON NEIGHBORS WE HELPED!

This year's tax season was the most successful year yet for the Abounding Grace site! VITA (the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program sponsored by the United Way) prepares income tax returns from January thru March and were very pleased to let us know these stats from this past season: 1) Taxpayers served: 446 (a 76% increase from last year!) 2) Total refunds returned: \$635,734 3) Total Earned Income Tax Credit (included in refunds): \$224,404. We may be a small congregation but we sure do make a big impact on those around us!

MODERN SQUARE DANCING LESSONS FOR BRAND NEW DANCERS- Tucson Twirlers Square Dance Club Casual invite Singles, Couples, Families Youth, (8 and up) all Welcome. No experience necessary. This modern version of Square Dancing uses a variety of music including: Rock, Modern Pop, Techno, Country, Jazz, and Traditional. Something for everyone's taste, mixed with fun and interesting choreography. HIGH ENERGY but low impact exercise. If you can walk you can square dance. Light refreshments, Casual dress- wear shoes that slide. Great way to share fun with friends and family and make new friendships. Every Tuesday @ the Sonoran Stables Dance Hall, 4231 S Pauline Lane, (Golf Links & Harrison, drive south to Millmar, turn left on Pauline Lane to Dance Hall, behind the house). \$6 per person – First visit FREE! For more information see the flyer posted in the Narthex or talk to Carol Leveratt 982-4435.

WE NEED USHERS! It is the time of year when we are making up the schedule for next year and if you would be willing to help usher it would be greatly appreciated! Not sure what the job entails? Please speak with Pastor Keith or Shirley Williamson. If you are interested in helping out, please call Shirley at 790-4932

OUR FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS STATEMENT IS IN- thanks to the Fry's Community Rewards program we have added another \$56.08 to our bank account. The Rewards program supports local organizations without any cost to their customers. By logging into the Fry's website you can chose to have them donate to Abounding Grace. They calculate how much you shop at Fry's based on your rewards card points and donate a percentage from their profits. It does not affect any other program you have with Fry's (ie gas points, etc). If you haven't signed up yet, please see Jay in the office.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO COUNT? Counting the Sunday offering is an essential and necessary job for our church. Done once a week, counting takes about an hour to an hour and a half. After prayerful consideration, if you are willing to help out, please call Jay Froehlich at 275-1043.

WE NEED A NEW TREASURER! After many years of faithful service, Dick Gruentzel is resigning as our church treasurer. He has indicated that he will work with a new volunteer to bring them up to speed. If you or someone you know would be willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Pastor Keith, our Office Manger Jay Froehlich, or any member of the Congregation Council.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL WILL MATCH UP TO \$3 MILLION FOR HURRICAN

RELIEF! As the Christian community comes together to pray for and reach out to those who have been affected by the recent disasters, Thrivent Financial is mobilizing its financial resources and members nationwide to help those in need. Thrivent members and others who are interested in ways to help with the recovery effort are encouraged to visit www.Thrivent.com to learn more about the organization's \$3 million match on individual personal donations and other ways in which they can help. We thank you for continuing to keep storm victims in your prayers and support them as you're financially or physically able. Your commitment to living generously is appreciated.

A CHRISTMAS COOKIE CONCERT HERE AT ABOUNDING GRACE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2 PM

– Our Director of Music Steven Natoli is organizing a free concert to which we will invite our friends and neighbors as a way getting to know them better. The concert will be about 75 minutes long, followed by a sharing of Christmas cookies which we will encourage everyone to bring. If you are interested in performing, please contact Steven for more information.

WE ARE ASKING FOR FEEDBACK FROM THE CONGREGATION REGARDING

the Christmas Eve service. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year and we are faced with various options. After careful consideration, the Council has two offers to suggest the congregation. **Option 1- One service only.** This would be no morning service; just an afternoon celebration service. **Option 2- Two services.** The first would be our regular morning service at 9:30 with some Christmas emphasis added and then a second service at 7pm which would be our traditional Christmas celebration. If you have any suggestions or comments, please speak to Pastor Keith or any member of the council.

PLEASE CHANGE YOUR DIRECTORIES to reflect Ken and Vickie Luthro's new address and telephone numbers- 2121 S. Pantano Rd. #110, Tucson, AZ 85710. Their cell numbers have stayed the same but they no longer have a home telephone.

WHEN PAUL WAS IN PRISON IN ROME HE SAID "Don't worry about me. My life is devoted to Christ so if being faithful to him means I have to be in chains, that's fine with me. And if they should kill me, that's fine too, because I will receive eternal life and be with Christ forever." There's spiritual value in applying that perspective to how we deal with the challenges and opportunities of life, and how we help or don't help those who are suffering because of shortages of life's necessities. Paul, in effect, urges us to remember that there's a future accounting for our lives before God, and there are also crucial days of decision in our current existence. The difficulty in choosing between the mocha or Frappuccino is barely a level one problem. Deciding what to do about the needs of a suffering neighbor and the call of Christ are level 10 issues.

ON-GOING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY to

10/2 Jan Mummert
10/17 Maybelle Armier, Alice Yaskanich
10/25 Carolyn Anderson
10/28 Stefan Myslicki
10/30 Betty Hetler
10/31 Beth Smith

HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY to

10/8 Paul and Sharon Surhoff

IF YOU NEED A RIDE FOR ANY SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU!

DO YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE READINGS? The Thursday Bible Study at 11:30 led by Pastor Keith, are a deeper study of the following Sunday's readings and usually last 60- 90 minutes. It an excellent way to learn the history and context of the readings as well gaining a more meaningful look into what it is that our Lord is trying to teach us. For more information, please call the church office.

DO YOU LIKE HAVING COMMUNION? Please consider helping the Altar Guild as we set and clean the table for the Holy Meal. We will train you (it's not hard at all) and only takes about 20 minutes each Sunday. Men are perfectly acceptable in this role! Please see Jay if you can help out!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TABLE – Who doesn't like to have a chance to sit down with a cup of hot coffee (or tea), a sweet treat, and for a little while, just chat? It could be with a friend you've known for a long time or someone you just met. It's a nice feeling, isn't it? Well that's what we try to provide right after each Sunday service. Here's a place to talk about the sermon or the music. Here's a time to discuss an event that just occurred or will be coming up soon. You may think that you're just giving yourself a little refreshment time, but don't forget the person you greet with conversation. Could it be that person needed somebody to share their thoughts with as well? Could it be you're a blessing to someone and you never knew it? By the way, that's alright, God knew, and it's called... loving your neighbor.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CORRECTIONS TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION- please let Jay in the office know as soon as possible.

THE PEACE CANDLE – Our church carries on a tradition that began in Russia, of lighting a candle each week on our altar as a symbol of our prayer for peace in our world. We invite visitors from other congregations to take a Peace Candle along with the literature of its history to your home church to continue the tradition. If you would like to take the Peace Candle to your home church please mention it to the Pastor or an Usher and we will be happy to “pass it on.”

PRAYER CHAIN- Our church has a Prayer Chain. Anyone with a prayer request, please call **Shirley Berner at 885-4892**. Also, anyone that is interested in helping on the Prayer Chain please contact Shirley to lighten the load. **If you have someone on the list that should be taken off or someone to add, please contact Shirley Berner and Jay Froehlich in the office.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Donald Stoelting (husband of Hanna), Michael H. Botti, (son of Mike Botti), Chris Camp, John Stum (son of Paul & Martha Stum), Audrey Neymeyer (granddaughter of Cheryl Emtman), Clay Hardwick (grandson of Jane Dunfee), Jessica & Tom Lauwers, James Simpson (from Aspire), Levi Thompson (grandson of Dave Kitner), Jonathon Batchler (nephew of Bill and Jay Froehlich), Travis Dodge (friend of MaKain Willard), Tyler and Jay Jahn, Chip Boyce (friend of Maybelle Armier).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Bob Williamson, Cheryl Emtman, Sarah Williams (niece of Cheryl Emtman), Maybelle & Mike Armier, Sara Seagrove, Tiffany (granddaughter of Virginia Reymer), Christopher Lawson (grandson of Maggie Cook), the Robnett Family, Jeannie Van Sickle (daughter Mark Westlake), Virginia Reymer, Robert Lloyd, Ron Briggs (friend of Cheryl Emtman), Eric Leland, Peter Leveratt (brother of Carol Leveratt), Ryan Judd, Alice Yaskanich, Kathie Josephs, Betty Hetler, Marion McGrew, Mark Westlake, Susan Martinez, and Gretchen Surhoff (niece of Paul & Sharon Surhoff), Walter Brewer, Helen Hardy (mother of Pastor Keith), Christine Gilbert, David Glarborg (son of Estelle Glarborg).

CHECK THE SIGN UP BOARD PLEASE! You are needed! Sunday mornings are a busy time around here and you are just what we need! Jobs range from Sunday School teachers/ helpers to communion assistants and everything in between. We will be more than happy to show you how easy some of these tasks are! Just ask any member of council or Pastor Keith.

SUNDAY DOLLARS- Yes, we are still doing Sunday dollars. As a way of making our giving “regular and intentional”, we encourage you to place one \$1 bill in the offering plate for each member of your family attending worship. Please use only single dollar bills. Other cash is counted as “loose plate” and goes into the general fund. Sunday dollars are currently being set aside for future kitchen renovations.

Lutheran Campus Ministry - University of Arizona

2017 LCM Reformation Banquet

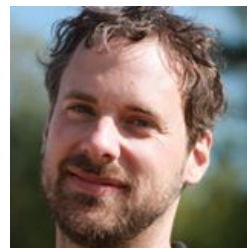
Reformation Sunday, October 29th

5:30 pm

Held at: Our Saviour's Lutheran Activity Bldg,
1200 N Campbell, Tucson

Highlights

- Delicious catered dinner from LeRua's
- Student testimonies & music
- Wittenberg Doors
- 4 Disneyland tickets raffle
- Guest Speaker - Dr. Courtney Friesen (UA Religious Studies)
Topic: "Biblical Scholarship Breakthroughs Since the Reformation"



Your Donation Supports

Lutheran Campus Ministry-UofA

Individual \$30

Family \$60

Congregational Table for 5 \$150

Congregational Table for 8 \$240

RSVP by October 25 at 623-7575, rhrude47@yahoo.com
or mail (*checks payable to Lutheran Campus Ministry- 715 N Park Ave,
Tucson AZ 85719*). *If unable to attend, donations gratefully received!*

Now you can support LCM online too @ www.lcm-ua.org click
Support Us"

OCTOBER 2017 Sign Up Sheet

	OCT 1	OCT 8	OCT 15	OCT 22	OCT 29
Altar					
Greeter	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman
Reader	Ardis Grob	Vickie Luthro	Bill Aurand	Sheryl Felde	Don Foreman
Prayers	Ardis Grob	Vickie Luthro	Bill Aurand	Sheryl Felde	Don Foreman
Communion Assistant	Carol Leveratt	Ken Luthro			
Acolyte					
Sunday School Teacher	Jay Froehlich	Jay Froehlich	Ashley Judd	Jay Froehlich	Ashley Judd

USHERS- Sharon and Jack Garner

COUNTERS- Jack Garner, Gerri Eberle, Ken Luthro

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-Food Share</i> <i>-Home</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-Ask Pastor</i>	9 7pm Council	10	11	12	13 Noon Lunch Bunch	14
15 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-10:30</i> <i>Healing Service</i>	16	17 12:30 Women of the ELCA	18	19	20 Synod Women's Retreat	21 9-11 Bishop's Discernment Meeting@ <u>Our Saviour</u> Synod Women's Retreat
22 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-Celebration</i> <i>-5:30</i> Reformation Dinner@ Our Saviour's	30	31 10:30 Primavera Happy Halloween!				

- Monday**
Office closed
10-12 NAMI
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00
- Tuesday**
Office closed
Cub Scouts 7:00
- Wednesday**
Food Pantry 9-11:30
10-12 NAMI
Boy Scouts 6:45
- Thursday**
Quilters 9-11:30
Bible Study 11:30-12:30
Food Pantry 9-11:30
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00
Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00
- Friday**
Food Pantry 9-11:30
- Saturday**
Tucson Strings 7-12
Siloam Choir Rehearsal 3-6
- Sunday**
Siloam Compassion Church 2-8