

## ***“Don’t Judge a Book by Its Cover!”***

I was raised by parents who not only taught me that saying – they lived it! They considered anyone different from us or from a different part of the world to be an opportunity to learn and grow, including our friend Naseem, a Pakistani woman doctor. So, I offer the following for your consideration.

Leena Suleiman is a hijab-wearing American Muslim who lives in Chicago. One day, she noticed that strangers of all descriptions were treating her differently. They started talking with her more, making casual conversation.

Except for certain taxi drivers. They were behaving strangely: "The Muslim taxi drivers, who would almost always say 'Assalamu alaikum' and ask me where I'm from or if I'm single and refuse to allow me to pay for the fare, became cold and dry. I would simply give the address, and the only dialog thereafter would be at the time of payment. It was puzzling."

She got similar inexplicable reactions from other Muslim women. Suddenly they seemed standoffish: "On my walk to work, I started passing by hijabis who wouldn't acknowledge my existence. Here is the unspoken code between hijabis: One stares until the other notices, and then both exchange *salams*. But it was now as if I were just another passerby, with no significance to the wrap around my head."

What was going on? Ordinary Americans were much more friendly than usual. Suleiman's fellow Muslims seemed to shun her. "Then it hit me: My knit hat and winter scarf covered my hijab entirely, and all that was visible was my eyes behind my wannabe-hipster glasses, and my skinny jeans tucked into my boots. They didn't even know I was Muslim. ...

"I became even more confident walking in my city. My city. All the stares were not racialized anymore. I was addressed as 'lady' and 'little lady,' something I had never heard before. Men would hold doors for me. Women would crack jokes with me. I became respectable, lovable and accepted.

"But did that mean that with my hijab I am not as respectable? Not as lovable? Not to be accepted? I immediately began to despise the inequality, and it dawned on me that I was now acting like someone who had been bullied for years and had finally been accepted by the mean girls. In fact, nothing had changed; I had simply crossed over to another world for one season."  
--Leena Suleiman, Facetruth blog, February 7, 2014. leenamielus.blogspot.com. Retrieved November 28, 2016.

So, whether it’s a hijab, the rumpled clothes of a homeless person, the hat and boots of a “cowboy wanna-be” or simply someone who doesn’t dress the way we think they should, let’s be sure that as Christians we are not “the mean kids.”

Yours in His service,

*Pastor Keith*

## **Treasurer's Report April 2017**

### Offerings

Total undesignated offerings in April were \$13,674, which was \$1,752 or 14.7% greater than budget.

Total undesignated offerings for April year-to-date are \$35,922, which is \$4,925 or 15.9% higher than budget. Facility use donations are \$1,246 over budget due to Siloam Compassion Church payments.

### Expenses

Total April expenses were \$168 under budget due primarily to lower stewardship (\$224) and timing of worship expenses (\$152), partially offset by higher repairs & maintenance (\$186). Stewardship was lower due to not renewing the program we have been using the last few years.

For April year-to-date, total expenses are \$1,566 below budget, due mainly to lower repairs and maintenance (\$772), natural gas (\$462) and stewardship (\$207).

### Designated Funds

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

Designated property funds are at \$1,618.

The Sunday Dollars kitchen fund is at \$2,069.

The memorial fund is at \$9,376.

### Undesignated Fund Balance

Undesignated fund balance in the month of April increased by \$3,166 to \$30,986.

For April year-to-date, undesignated fund balance has increased by \$2,584.

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

## Abounding Grace Council Meeting

April 10, 2017

### Attending:

Pastor Keith Holly Gruentzel Dick Gruentzel Walter Brewer Don Foreman Tim O'Leary Karen Paye  
Gerri Eberle Jay Froehlich Vickie Luthro

Gerri 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 then led us in a bible study and prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and passed with one member abstaining to accept the March minutes as written.

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

### Pastor's Report

The midweek Lenten services were well attended and well received.

Pastor is looking to take some time off at the end of April.

### Old Business

We have only received one bid so far for the air conditioning maintenance.

We received a donation of 4 floor fans from the former line dancing teacher.

Thirty people came for the yard cleanup day. We need to send a thank you note to the Explorers for their time and efforts.

We have options for the Stewardship Program- Holly found on the ELCA website a program for \$10. She will order it. The Ken Williams program has been cancelled as of May.

The termite contract with Arizona Exterminators has been renewed due to termite activity in one of the feeders.

Outside and Sanctuary Light Replacement- We need at least a 3 man crew and a lift.

### New Business

Pastor loaned our old tables to the Kitner family for an estate sale.

Siloam is using the classroom to meet for Holy Week.

Siloam would like to put sign out on the street advertising their church. We will donate some older ELCK sign boards to them.

Siloam would like to put some curtains on the west windows of Fellowship Hall.

Discussion regarding Siloam leaving the coolers on overnight Saturday to Sunday.

A motion was made to adjourn. The Lord's prayer was recited.

# **JUNE AND JULY 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**THE THURSDAY BIBLE STUDAY AT 11:30 WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS.** Led by Pastor Keith, they are a deeper study of the following Sunday's readings and usually last 60- 90 minutes. For more information, please call the church office. Due to Synod Assembly there will be **NO** Bible Study on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**WANT TO MAKE YOURSELF HAPPIER?** Prevention magazine reports in its 2-4-14 issue that "people who volunteer are likelier to be happier than those who don't- regardless of how much money they make. Researchers believe volunteering boosts happiness because it increases empathy." "Come, you that are blessed by my Father," says Jesus at the final judgement. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are member of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:34-35, 40)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TAKING A BREAK FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS!** The kids (and teachers) did a phenomenal job this year and have earned a well-deserved break. The last class was May 28<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will resume on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> IS PENTECOST SUNDAY-** this festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John's gospel the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord's table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world. As faithful disciples we wear red on this day to represent the Spirit in us and our pledge to spread the Good Word.

**JUNE 8-9 WE REQUEST YOUR PRAYERS** for our representatives and guests at the annual ELCA Synod Assembly in Mesa. Our group, consisting of Pastor Keith, Cheryl Emtman, Carol Leveratt, and Vickie Luthro will be traveling to Mesa on Thursday. We pray for safe travel, a deeper appreciation of our church values and a vision of the bigger community around us.

**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> THE LUNCH BUNCH MEETS AT NOON** At the Good Day Café 5683 E. Speedway (in between Wilmot and Craycroft). All are welcome to join in for lunch, lively discussion and overall good time! Please contact Sheryl Felde if you would like to attend s she has an estimate of seats to reserve. Forget to reserve your spot? That's ok, we will make room for you!

**OUR COUNCIL IS ON HIATUS FOR JUNE AND JULY.** If you have an item that needs urgent attention, please see Council President Gerri Eberle or Pastor Keith.

**WHAT CHURCH WOULD JESUS BELONG TO TODAY?** Acts tells us that the members of the church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers". They shared everything-- in fact, "they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Because of this just and generous way of life, rooted in prayer and expressed in compassion, the church had "the goodwill of all the people." It continued to grow, day by day, as "the Lord added to their number those who were being saved". Clearly, this is the kind of religion that resembles its founder. It is precisely the kind of church that Jesus would want to belong to—one defined by a loving way of life.

**JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> IS FATHER'S DAY.** We would like to acknowledge those that have ever been a father, father figure or mentor for the hard work, dedication and devotion it takes to raise a child. It isn't always easy but you are the better person for doing it!

**JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 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 signup sheet in the Narthex if you can assist us.

**JULY 3 THRU JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> PASTOR KEITH WILL BE TAKING VACATION-** If you have any pastoral concerns that need addressing, please contact Jay at 275-1043 and she will make arrangements to get you connected with a member of the clergy.

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> WE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE!** Ahappy Independence Day! May you remember those who had a higher vision for this country; a dream for making the lives of future generations better and the strength and courage to face the repercussions of the decisions they made. Please share a prayer for the generations of Americans to come and that the decisions we make now will affect them in a positive way.

**JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> THE FLUTE CIRCLE RESUMES** at 7pm in the Narthex. For more information on this group, please call the church office.

**JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> THE LUNCH BUNCH CONTINUES TOURING RESTAURANTS AROUND TUCSON** with lunch at noon at the Little Anthony's Diner. This fun eatery is located on Broadway and Kolb in the southwest plaza directly across the street from Kmart. Featuring a 50's diner atmosphere, this is definitely the place to be! For more information and to reserve your place, please contact Sheryl Felde at 885-5325.

**WHEN WE TALK ABOUT OUR FUTURE DESTINATION** we are going to God. We are going to live and dwell and have our eternal being in the presence of God. This is why we should not be troubled. We believe in God. And we believe in Jesus. Jesus is the way. Jesus is all the direction we need. Our journey to our eternal destination is already under way. Jesus is our Guide, our Model, our Template. His is our sense of direction. Jesus says to us "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one come to the Father except through me."

# **ON-GOING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY to**

6/3 Austin Lauwers  
6/6 Vern Victorson  
6/8 Ken Luthro  
6/10 Claudine Williams  
6/18 Steve Natoli  
6/21 Keith Hardy  
6/25 Tom Lauwers  
6/26 Steve Felde

## **HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARY**

6/8/68 Jack and Sharon Garner  
6/11 Tim & Joyce O'Leary  
6/15/65 John and Mait Board  
6/18 Dick and Holly Gruentzel  
6/29 Cipriano & LaDonna Ogas

## **HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY to**

7/4 Sharon Stutts  
7/5 Glenn Helgeson  
7/7 Virginia Reymer  
7/8 Jessica Lauwers  
7/11 Gary Helgeson  
7/17 Eva Smith  
7/20 Stephanie Stockstill  
7/25 John Seagrove  
7/26 Shirley Williamson  
7/27 Ashley Judd, Walter Brewer  
7/29 Bobby Robnett

## **HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARY to**

7/14/55 Walter and Madge Brewer  
7/17 Stephanie and David Stockstill  
7/19/57 Bob and Shirley Williamson  
7/20/02 Scott and Ruthy Kimbrel

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

**BOX TOP LABELS** are still being collected and sent to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission to assist the school financially. Campbell Soup Labels were discontinued in July 2016. So please continue to bring in those Box Top Labels found on General Mills Products and our contact person, Geri Eberle, will pass them onto the mission. Check out the letter posted in the Narthex from Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission!

**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 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.

**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.

**NAME TAGS ARE A BLESSING!** It's such a simple thing to wear. It gives others the idea; that you are part of the community, that you are friendly, and most important of all that you are approachable. Our name tags have a clip to fasten to your clothes. And they're FREE for the asking! If you happen to lose it, we'll gladly make another. Anyone that attends worship is welcome to request and wear a name tag. Membership is not a requirement.



**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. Thank You! We are more than happy to pray for anyone added to the prayer list for as long as they need us to but occasionally we try to update the list just to make sure that we are offering current prayer requests. **If you have someone on the list that should be taken off or someone to add, please contact Shirley Berner or 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), Eva Smith, Maybelle & Mike Armier, Sara Seagrove, Tiffany (granddaughter of Virginia Reymer), Christopher Lawson (grandson of Maggie Cook), Ricky Robnett, 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, Lena May Chambers, Sharon Dukes, George Nelson (cousin of Sharon Dukes), Helen Hardy (mother of Pastor Keith).

**Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

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## June 2017 Sign Up Sheet

	June 4 Pentecost	June 11	June 18	June 25
Altar				
Greeter	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman
Reader	Sheryl Felde	Don Foreman	Vickie Luthro	Don Foreman
Prayers	Sheryl Felde	Don Foreman	Vickie Luthro	Don Foreman
Communion Assistant	Dick Gruentzel		Ken Luthro	Dick Gruentzel
Acolyte	Destiny Vasquez	Destiny Vasquez		

**USHERS-**Ken Luthro

**COUNTERS-** Ken Luthro, Gerri Eberle, Don Mummert

# JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Bible Study 11:30-12:30</b>	2	3
4 <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-Food Share -Home Communion</i>	5	6	7	8	9 <b>Lunch Bunch Noon (Good Day Café)</b>	10
11 <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-Ask Pastor</i>	12 <b>7pm Council</b>	13	14	15 <b>Bible Study 11:30-12:30</b>	16	17
18 <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-10:30 Healing Service</i>	19	20	21	22 <b>Bible Study 11:30-12:30</b>	23	24
26 <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-Celebration</i>	26	27	28	29 <b>Bible Study 11:30-12:30</b>	30 <b>Primavera 10am</b>	

**Monday**  
Office closed  
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00  
NAMI 10-12

**Tuesday**  
Office closed  
Cub Scouts 7:00  
Flute Circle 7:00

**Wednesday**  
**Food Pantry 9-11:30**  
Boy Scouts 6:45

**Thursday**  
**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**  
Siloam Compassion Church 3:00

**Sunday**  
Siloam Compassion Church 2:00

## JULY 2017 Sign Up Sheet

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Altar					
Greeter	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman
Reader	Bill Aurand	Vickie Luthro	Don Foreman	Vickie Luthro	
Prayers	Bill Aurand	Vickie Luthro	Don Foreman	Vickie Luthro	
Communion Assistant		Ken Luthro		Ken Luthro	
Acolyte					

**USHERS- Dick Gruentzel**

**COUNTERS- Don Mummert, Marge Smith**

# July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>-Food Share</i> <i>-Home</i> <i>Communion</i>	3	4  Independence Day	5	6 <b>Bible</b> <b>Study11:30</b> <b>-12:30</b>	7	8
9 <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>-Ask Pastor</i>	10	11 Flute Circle resumes 7pm	12	13 <b>Bible</b> <b>Study11:30</b> <b>-12:30</b>	14 <b>Lunch</b> <b>Bunch</b> <b>Noon</b>	15
16 <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>-10:30 Healing</i> <i>Service</i>	17	18	19	20 <b>Bible</b> <b>Study11:30</b> <b>-12:30</b>	21	22
23 <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30am</b>	24	25	26	27 <b>Bible</b> <b>Study11:30</b> <b>-12:30</b>	28	29
30 <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>-Celebration</i>						

## Monday

Office closed  
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00  
NAMI 10-12

## Tuesday

Office closed  
Cub Scouts 7:00  
Flute Circle 7pm

## Wednesday

Food Pantry 9-11:30  
Boy Scouts 6:45  
NAMI 10-12

## 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

Strings 7-Noon

Siloam Compassion Church 2:30

## Sunday

Siloam Compassion Church 2:00