



ASCENSION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

CONNECTIONS

Connecting all people with Jesus

July 6, 2018 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

Obedience or Independence?

If you love Me, keep My commandments. –John 14:15

Our Lord never insists on obedience. He stresses very definitely what we **ought** to do, but He never **forces** us to do it. We have to obey Him out of a oneness of spirit with Him. That is why whenever our Lord talked about discipleship, He prefaced it with an "If," meaning, "You do not need to do this unless you desire to do so." "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself..." (Luke 9:23). In other words, "To be My disciple, let him give up his right to himself to Me." Our Lord is not talking about our eternal position, but about our being of value to Him in this life here and now. That is why He sounds so stern (see Luke 14:26). Never try to make sense from these words by separating them from the One who spoke them.

The Lord does not give me rules, but He makes His standard very clear. If my relationship to Him is that of love, I will do what He says without hesitation. If I hesitate, it is because I love someone I have placed in competition with Him, namely, myself. Jesus Christ will not force me to obey Him, but I must. And as soon as I obey Him, I fulfill my spiritual destiny. My personal life may be crowded with small, petty happenings, altogether insignificant. But if I obey Jesus Christ in the seemingly random circumstances of life, they become pinholes through which I see the face of God. Then, when I stand face to face with God, I will discover that through my obedience thousands were blessed. When God's redemption brings a human soul to the point of obedience, it always produces. If I obey Jesus Christ, the redemption of God will flow through me to the lives of others, because behind the deed of obedience is the reality of Almighty God.

HOWEVER...Obedience does not mean slavery or the absence of choices. When God created mankind, He gave him something very unique. Man received a free will, so that he could make his own choices according to his own free will. The Fall occurred because man used his free will to listen to Satan. Nevertheless, the way of salvation was made by Jesus Christ with that same free will. God, who has all power and all wisdom, has given each person a free will, which God respects within His laws. Having a free will does not mean that we can do whatever we want without suffering

The Bible often mentions suffering. Though this can refer to outward, physical suffering, in the New Covenant it mostly applies to the suffering that occurs when you deny your own sinful lusts and desires and put them to death. It is an inner suffering that occurs because your lusts are not being satisfied, rather than a physical, outward one. We must suffer the consequences, because even though we have a free will, we are still responsible for the choices that we make. We can choose to sow whatever we want, but we cannot choose what we will reap. *"For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."* Galatians 6:7-8.





HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Candy Appleby; Richard Ashbaugh; Carroll Boettcher; Julie Brainard; Heidi Buchholz; John & Joan Burns; Ray Bustamante; John Cirelli; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Amy Dahl; Larry Dahl; Richard Dahl; Dianne Ewald; Elaine Feller; Rev. Bob Feller; Harriet Feree; Cita Figueroa; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Don Gremel; Bonnie Guiffre; Gizelle Hayes; Jane Heine; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Donna Koelling; Doreen Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Chris Lindau; Nancy Maschhoff; Alice Masherella; Shirley Mattausch; Donna McCullough; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Merrill Nelson; Tanner Nelson; Randi Nelson-Shipley; Ben Petersen; Anne Pingo; John Pingo; Betty Plachy; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Esther Riesen; Darlene Rietz; Brayden Shumaker; LuAnn Sjursen; Julie Stewart; Joyce Sutton; Bud Umphryes; Joe Wells; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; June Zehe; Sue K

MILITARY:

Chris Bartels (contractor); Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace; Steve Stuenkel

THANKSGIVING:

We give thanks with Michelle Ashmore at her recovery progress from cancer surgeries.

CALLED HOME:

We give prayers of sympathy and compassion to family and friends of Eugene Scott who entered the church triumphant on June 11, 2018, and for the family and friends of David Kaap.

TRAVELS:

We pray for safe travels for Roger Evenson as he travels and camps for a few weeks and for all who are traveling now and in the upcoming weeks.



Kent Hunter, a well-known Christian author shares the following:

“What happens when Christians, like you, work so hard but your church does not improve or experience transformation? It drains the hope right out of you!

As a Christian, what is your vision? Are you praying for a move of God? Are you praying for a revival? Are you praying that God will move and change the nation, starting with your community? Are you focused on spiritual transformation? These are kingdom-sized questions, and they lead to kingdom-sized visions.

...*churches can*, by God’s grace, in God’s way, be turned around. Turnaround, in Scripture and in kingdom culture, is translated as repentance. As a turnaround Christian, you recognize it is not about turning your church around. It is all about you and others turning toward God. It is about your church becoming the atmosphere of the kingdom. You can, by God’s power, grow in values, beliefs, attitudes, priorities, and worldviews of the kingdom. God can use you and your church to change this world, one life at a time. It is the air you breathe. Healthy churches thrive!”

I ask that you join me in this prayer for Ascension Kingdom Culture and God’s will.

Noel Robinson,
Servant of God and Congregational President





First Gospel Rescue Mission Room Fully Funded

Thanks for your support of the Slider sales, with special thanks to the LWML Ladies who served in the Brownie Brigade, and to our kitchen help pulling that pork!

Our vision of adopting more than one room is coming closer, as we have now collected \$5,003 for our first room, which will be named: To God be the Glory!

A Taco Bar will be featured July 15 and a Louisiana Bayou will highlight July 22 gatherings. Please contact 742-2882 for more information. We will gladly accept your partnership check, whether you party or not!

The Gospel Rescue Mission provides emergency shelter and case management and job assistance for our community's homeless. Financial partners are needed to adopt one or more rooms at \$5,000 each.

Make checks payable to GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY and delivered to the office will sponsor our rooms! Did you have to pay AZ taxes this year? How about directing that amount to the Gospel Rescue Mission? This qualifies as an Arizona Tax Credit for the Working Poor.

Thanks to Thrivent for Action Team dollars and the LWML for being our Brownie Brigade!

**To be better stewards of our funds, RSVP's are strongly encouraged.



The earliest forms of pyrotechnics (firecrackers) can be traced to around 2,000 years ago in China. During the Han Dynasty in 200 B.C., people are said to have roasted bamboo stalks until they would turn black and sizzle, and the air inside the hollow stalks would explode. "Baozhu" is a Mandarin word for firecracker that translates directly to "exploding bamboo."



GOD SPEAKS TO MATTERS OF THE HEART
by Lynette Auch

Matters of the heart can take many paths. Some can bring great joy, and others great sadness. I recall several encounters I had with a mom who I had cared for in my obstetrics unit.

As the labor-delivery nurse, I had the first real contact to assess this new baby girl. By appearance, there was something significantly different about this child. A fear gripped my mind as there was strong evidence for Down Syndrome. Of course, genetic testing would give the final results, but deep in my heart, I knew my diagnosis was accurate. The baby was physically stable, so I continued with my newborn admission duties and neatly swaddled the baby. Expressing how beautiful her baby was, I joyfully presented this little girl to her mother's anxiously awaiting arms. The parents did not appear to suspect anything out of the ordinary.

After delivery, a day had passed before I had anymore contact with the mother. By this time, the pediatrician had also assessed the child, and, having his own suspicions, ordered genetic testing. He then conveyed his concerns to the parents.

The mom greeted me with gladness as I entered her room. Following some small talk, she said, "You knew something was wrong with her, didn't you?" I acknowledged that I had my suspicions. She continued, "But you treated her as if she was perfect and nothing was wrong?" I reassured her that she is perfect for who she was created to be.

Several years later, I met this same mom in the store. She recognized me and excitedly introduced her daughter, now about 3-4 years old, to me saying, "Do you remember her?" "She is such a joy! If I could be guaranteed another child exactly like her, I would have another child in a heartbeat!"

Our days are filled with matters of the heart to which God's Word speaks. God's Word always accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent and stands as the only certain guide that we have as we journey on the paths of this life.

from LifeDate, Fall 2014 Lutherans For Life, Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

SAVE THE DATE

Faith & Family Night!
Friday, August 24th



Game time 6:40 pm
followed by Fireworks
and concert by Mercy Me



SAVE THE DATE

September 28, 2018



Save Our Kids Golf Scramble

Oro Valley Country Club
Tee-Off at 1 pm

For more information or to register as a player or sponsor go to:

www.mentoringtucsonskids.org/golf

Mentoring Tucson's Kids
520-624-4765
info@mentoringtucsonskids.org

RETURN TO THE LORD

Return to the Lord It's summer! What better time than to model servanthood with your grandchildren? Another duo used their \$30 RTL to purchase gently used children's books for ICS to include in food boxes. They also recruited another \$120 worth of books from friends and family.

As of July 1, over \$4,030 has benefited 202 projects and 1,806 (est.) recipients. \$3,074 was received in matching funds or in-kind gifts.

There are still \$1,970 worth of stories out there. Please drop your stories into the brown boxes near the posters, or email tsnazlib@hotmail.com so that we can totally see what the Lord has done.

MIRACLE MAN

Meet Wade Wilson . . . the miracle man.

To clarify, Wade doesn't perform miracles, he witnesses them. As an ultrasound technician in a pregnancy medical clinic, Wade sees God's miracle of life every single day. "You think it's just pixels and dots on that screen that come together to form that gray image. But it is a window into who we are as human beings and how we are created," he says, "God gave us ultrasound to show parents just how much God loves us. God gave us ultrasound to bear witness to the truth of life."

Just a few generations ago, you wouldn't have imagined the ability to see a baby in the womb. But God is using modern technology to open this window to life! Wade and other ultrasound technicians reveal precious life to frightened and vulnerable moms who are considering abortion. That often creates a different miraclea changed heart. "That is the moment when He reveals the truth. The truth of life. It is no longer a 'clump of cells', at that moment it becomes, their baby." From Family Focus, May 2018 Presented by Beautiful Feet Team - Lutherans for Life

We at Ascension are grateful for the opportunity we have had to fund the purchase of an ultrasound machine which is used at Hands of Hope each day helping women to make a life decision for their baby.



1220 West Magee Road | Tucson, Arizona 85704
520.297.3095

church.office@ascensiontucson.org
www.facebook.com/ALCStucson