



ASCENSION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

CONNECTIONS

Connecting all people with Jesus

December 7, 2018 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

A Candle for Advent Peace (Michelle Ule)

The second Sunday we light a candle for Advent Peace.

Peace is an interesting word with many possibilities: world, personal, shalom, spiritual. I love the Advent peace candle because it reminds me of the first year I understood who Jesus really is.

Who is Jesus?

"Peace on earth, good will toward men," the angels sang that wonderful night outside of Bethlehem. "Great news, a Savior is born." In my childhood, we celebrated Christmas as a time of presents, a tree, and a winter scene of cotton my mother spread across the fireplace mantel. My Sicilian family gathered and ate spaghetti and played "the game," on December 25. We rarely went to church on Christmas day.

But my fifteenth Christmas, I had found a different type of religious fellowship in a neighborhood Lutheran Church. As I've written before, at Trinity Lutheran Church I first heard four-part harmony. I met people who talked about Jesus as a living person—whom they knew. Bible study was part of their lives and they invited me to read and study the Bible, too. Jesus—the baby, the man, the Savior, looked completely different and far more important. And in reading and learning about Jesus from the pages of the Bible, I learned the meaning of peace.

Jesus as the Prince of Peace.

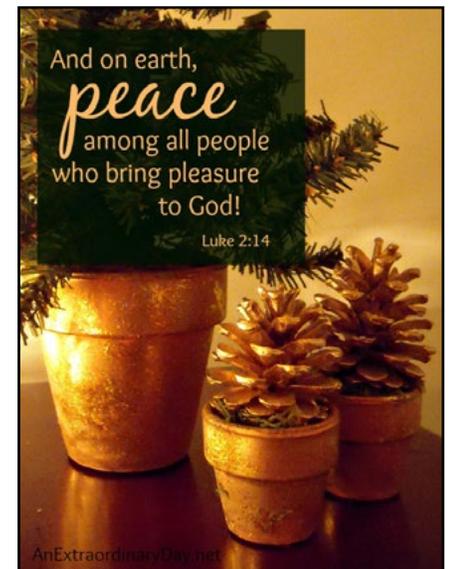
What did that mean, a prince of peace as found in Isaiah 9:6 and sung about in Handel's Messiah? Prince is easy to define: the son of the king, chieftain. Peace comes from the Hebrew word shalom: completeness, soundness, tranquil, calm, friendship, health and prosperity. If Jesus was Lord of my heart and he was the prince of peace—what did that mean to me?

Advent peace came when I finally grasped the purpose of that baby's birth in a manger so long ago. God sent Him to fulfil a plan—to take upon Himself the sins of the world and die on the cross for them. When I recognized my sins were forgiven once and for all, my soul was flooded with a peace I still can't explain. I recognized the truth, however, that Jesus' death meant the guilt I carried with me all the time was taken away. Peace came and continues to surround me, because I'm forgiven—yesterday, today, and forever.

Advent peace candle

So, I light the Advent peace candle with gratitude—this year and every year. Jesus was born to bring peace on earth—goodwill between God and (wo)man, forever.

Rejoice with me!





We Care and Pray for One Another

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Curt Beaman; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Joel Bott; Heidi Buchholz; Arthur Buehler; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Richard Dahl; Elaine Durham; Dianne Ewald; Rev. Bob & Elaine Feller; Harriet Feree; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Bonnie Guiffre; Carol Hahn; Gizelle Hayes; Katie Hayes; Jane Heine; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Christopher Idso; Donna Koelling; Doreen Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Alice Masherella; Donna McCullough; Bobbie Metcalf; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Tanner Nelson; Ben Petersen; Anne Pingo; John Pingo; Betty Plachy; Ruth Plebanek; Megan Postilli; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Esther Riesen; Darlene Rietz; Darleen Sanders; Austin Soliben; Julie Stewart; Joyce Sutton; Bud Umphryes; Annie Walsh; Joe Wells; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta

MILITARY:

Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

GOD'S BLESSINGS:

We give thanks to the Blanket Circle for all the quilts they have made and ask God to bless the recipients at the Gospel Rescue Mission: 10 quilts; Sister Jose: 10 quilts; and 17 baby blankets to Hands of Hope.

TRAVELS:

We ask for safe travels for Kim Rainey and her family as they travel to Denver for Celebration of Life services and then as they fly to Wisconsin for her Mom, Ila Schellpfeffer's burial. We ask for safe travels for Betty Merrigan and her family as they travel to North Dakota for her Nephew, Merrill Nelson's funeral services.



Thank you! Over \$900 was raised through your recent investment in the sales of Christmas wreaths for Habitat for Humanity Tucson and additional donations. We are grateful to Thrivent Financial for their partnership in this project, and are delighted that the 2019 Faith in Action home is underway at Stone and Yavapai. We invite you to join us in construction or financial sponsorship.

If you have not yet directed your Arizona Tax Credit for the Working Poor, please consider Habitat for Humanity Tucson as it is one of the organizations in which your donation may reduce your state taxes. For more info, please contact 742-2882, as we help families build new homes and new lives!



God has blessed Ascension with the opportunity to help support the children at TWIN PEAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL through prayer, food drives, and other opportunities. The school has asked for assistance in providing food baskets for Christmas for 10 families that could use the help during the holidays. The baskets will include: ham, potatoes, bread, fruit, etc. and the cost should be approximately \$30-\$40 per basket.

We have 2 opportunities to be involved with this outreach project. If you would like to help with the cost of the food baskets, please put an envelope marked Twin Peaks Christmas Baskets in the offering plate, or make that designation on your regular offering envelope. If you would like to help assemble the baskets, please join us at 2pm on Sunday, December 16. If you have any questions, call Carol Colton at 520-344-9649.



Join **Lutherans For Life**
at the 2019 **March for Life!**

MARCH for LIFE **Date: Friday, January 18, 2019**

Watch for information to be posted when available.

LOVE IS WINNING

People like Officer Ryan Holets remind us that love saves and transforms lives. When Officer Holets encountered a pregnant woman using drugs, respecting both her humanity and the humanity of her unborn child, he offered to adopt her baby and help her seek treatment for her addiction.

Adoptive parents like Officer Holets, along with the men and women who aid expectant mothers and their unborn children at pregnancy care centers, (such as Hands of Hope and Christian Family Care, here in Tucson), by providing such resources as adoption service, parenting classes, and baby supplies, personify our mission.

Excerpts from a letter written by Jeanne F Mancini, President, March for Life Education and Defense Fund

SAVE THE DATE! Tucson March for Life, Saturday, January 19, 2019... details to follow.

MENTORING TUCSON'S KIDS



Providing a Future and a Hope for Youth at Risk

You decide where you spend your tax dollars! The State of Arizona offers a dollar for dollar tax credit to YOU for donating to charitable organizations that provide assistance to the working poor. Over 75% of the children we serve live in poverty and we are committed to help transform the lives of disadvantaged youth in Pima County. This tax credit is DIFFERENT from the school tax credit. This means you will receive a tax credit under BOTH programs. You will receive a tax credit of \$400 if filing as an individual or \$800 if filing as a couple.

Studies have shown that mentoring positively affects children's school attendance, community service engagement, high school graduation rates, college enrollments, and overall physical and emotional health, including decreasing depressive symptoms. It helps children know they're not alone and someone really does care about them. Mentoring helps children avoid negative influences, including drugs and alcohol, and have more positive attitudes and relationships. Lastly, 90% of those who are mentored want to mentor others in the future so it benefits future generations in more ways than one. Please consider partnering with us to provide at risk youth with the support they need to succeed.

Go to: www.mentoringtucsonskids.org/donate

REJOICE!



With generous members like you and with thanks to the youth for their donation of funds from the roasted nut sales, we have reached the anticipated \$7,500 to dig the borehole (water well) at the school being built in Zambia. Currently, Tim is traveling in South Africa for 3 weeks. We will keep you updated as Tim provides new details on the status of the drilling, the installation, and the completion of the project. The builders are anxious to have the borehole to eliminate the 1/2 mile trek each way to obtain water for them to make the bricks. Thanks to each of you who contributed to this mission... clean drinking water for the school children.



DECEMBER 15, 5PM WORSHIP

Please note:
The program
is the service.
Dinner to follow.
Please join us!

LifeTouch WELCOME Connecting You through Family Photography



UPDATE ASCENSION PHOTO DIRECTORY
There are still slots available!

On the weekends sign up at the Information Desk.

During the week sign up online at www.ascensiontucson.org.

Web link will be available Monday through Friday only!

Volunteer needed to make Coffee and pick-up donuts for Sunday morning Fellowship between services in Grace Hall. Coffee and donuts will need to be ready to serve at 9:45. You will serve three times a year, on the first Sunday in February, June, and October or the second Sunday in April, August, December. There are 16 people you can call to trade days with, if you are unable to serve on your day. Please call Ruthann Stults 219-1527 or email stultsruthann56@gmail.com

Christmas Memories
 A Free Christmas Concert By Ascension
 A nostalgic trip through the ages

Join us as we experience some of our favorite Christmas memories. Clips from our favorite Christmas movies. Our band playing some of the most popular Christmas songs (secular and sacred) throughout history. Tasty holiday treats and drinks provided!

December 14, 7 p.m. | December 16, 3:30 p.m.



ROASTED NUTS

1 pound \$15/half pound \$7.50.

STILL AVAILABLE!

PROCEEDS GO TO THE KELLER BOREHOLE PROJECT

Contact Terrie Ashbaugh 520.297.3095
 or t.ashbaugh@ascensiontucson.org



A new, relaxed ministry

the gathering

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

LOCATION: The ROCK

5pm: FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

5:45pm: WORSHIP

MUSIC
 INTERACTIVE TEACHING
 PRAYER

Childcare will be provided

NO GATHERING THIS WEEK!

Come join in the fun at
 Candy Cane Lane 5-8pm!

Candy Cane Lane
 A Christmas Tradition

Free Event
 Family Fun
 Reindeer Games
 Pictures with Santa
 Crafts
 Sweet Shoppe (Goodies 4 Sale)
 Hot Chocolate/Cider
 December 7, 8, and 9, 2018 (5-8pm)



Volunteers needed to help with setup, staffing activities, and donations of goodies for the Sweet Shoppe, especially on Saturday. Contact the church office at 520.297.3095.

Southern Arizona Women's Chorus Presents

TIBETAN SOUND AND PSALMS



"Tibetan Sound and Psalms" is a combination of singing a variety of Psalms in Hebrew, Latin, and English and 'bathed in sound' with gongs, singing bowls, and other instruments. December 21, 2018 at the Monastery (Benedictine Monastery) 800 N Country Club Rd. and January 13, 2019 at Ascension Lutheran Church. Tickets are selling out for the Monastery if you'd prefer that atmosphere; but we are also doing it in again January so all you who go out of town for Christmas can still make it.

Tickets are \$20 at the door and online at www.southernarizonawomenschorus.org. Call 404-3148 if you need more information.

Ascension Lutheran Preschool

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 Authentic Chicago Pizza
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 PASTA | SANDWICHES | CALZONES | SALADS

(520) 531-1100
2944 W. Ina Rd

ORDER ONLINE! MyRosatisTucson.com

Thursday December 20th from 3pm-8pm

Dine In, Pick Up or Delivery!

Remember to mention this ad or put "Ascension"

in the Special Instructions if ordering online and Rosati's will give back 20% of sales to the school!



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www.facebook.com/ALCStucson