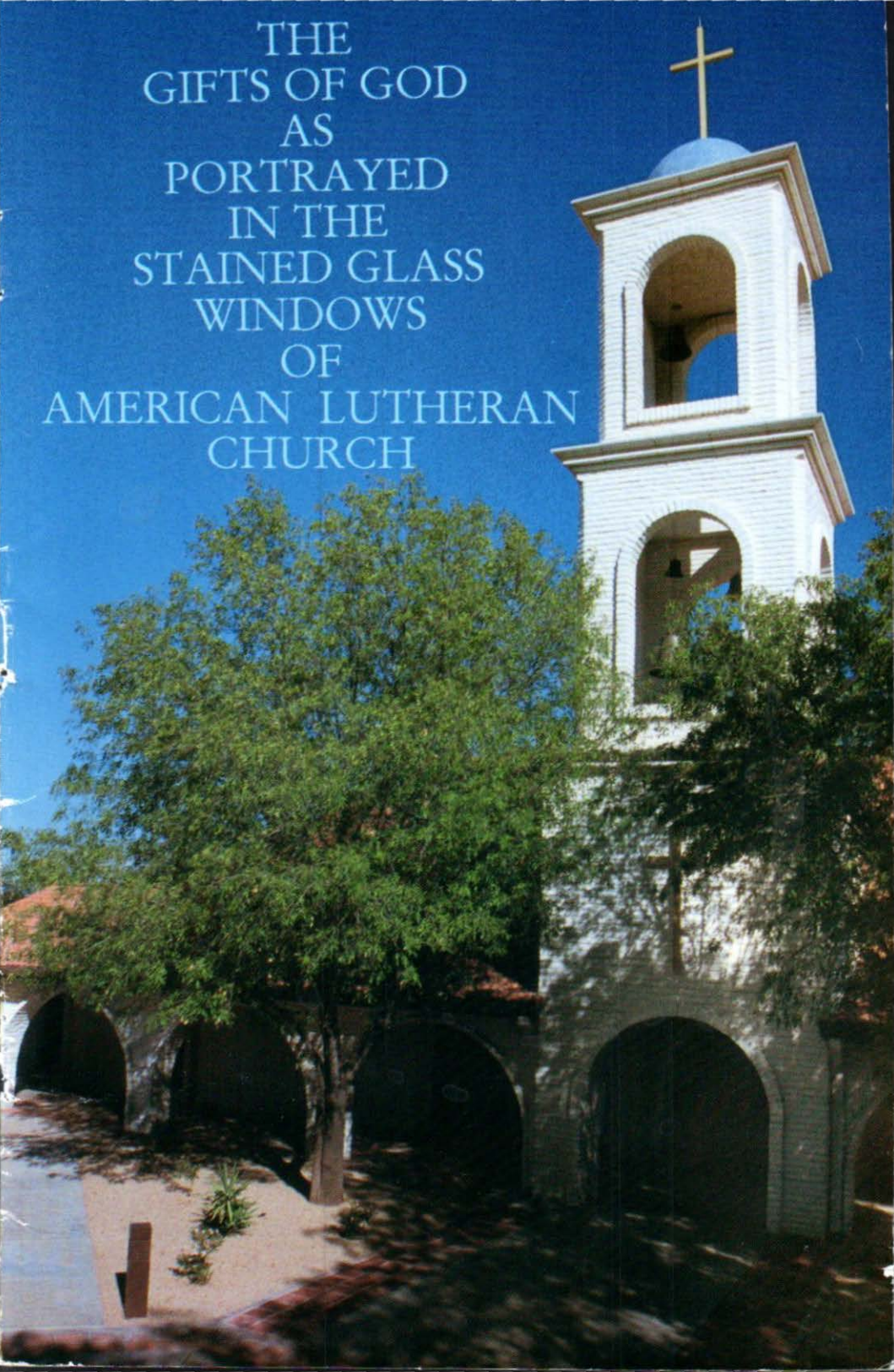


THE
GIFTS OF GOD
AS
PORTRAYED
IN THE
STAINED GLASS
WINDOWS
OF
AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH



SCRIPTURAL TRUTH THROUGH STAINED GLASS BEAUTY

This booklet has been prepared by the Parish Education Committee of American Lutheran Church of Sun City. It is intended to provide a concise, understandable description of the message each of our stained glass windows conveys.

Through the use of this booklet, members and visitors are encouraged to study each window, find the key elements, and develop their own interpretation of the scriptural presentation.

The word of God, his plan for us, and the love and gifts that are bestowed upon us are sent in many ways. These windows are another way in which the Lord touches us.

There is a location guide for the windows on page 19 of this booklet.

HISTORY OF STAINED GLASS IN CHURCHES

Stained glass church windows had their beginnings in the Gothic Christian cathedrals of northern Europe during the 12th century. Gothic builders literally knocked out walls and replaced them with colored glass giving light to the church interior. This also had the impact of creating an emotional experience enabling the worshipper to enter a place considerably different from daily life, a foretaste of the world to come. Another purpose was that stained glass windows, sometimes called the Bible of the poor, told scripture stories. The final function was to fulfill one's ambition to decorate Christian surroundings in a manner that was esthetically pleasing.

The stained glass windows in our sanctuary were made at the Walter Judson studios in Los Angeles. Herbert Meinke, the chief artist, worked with seven others to depict the concepts suggested by Pastor Elmer Hjortland and members of the original building committee. Most of the windows are faceted glass which is one inch thick and embedded in epoxy. Others are traditional flat glass joined by strips of lead.

These windows serve as testimony to the faith and dedication of those who founded this congregation. We are indebted to all those who over the years have contributed to the beauty of our church.

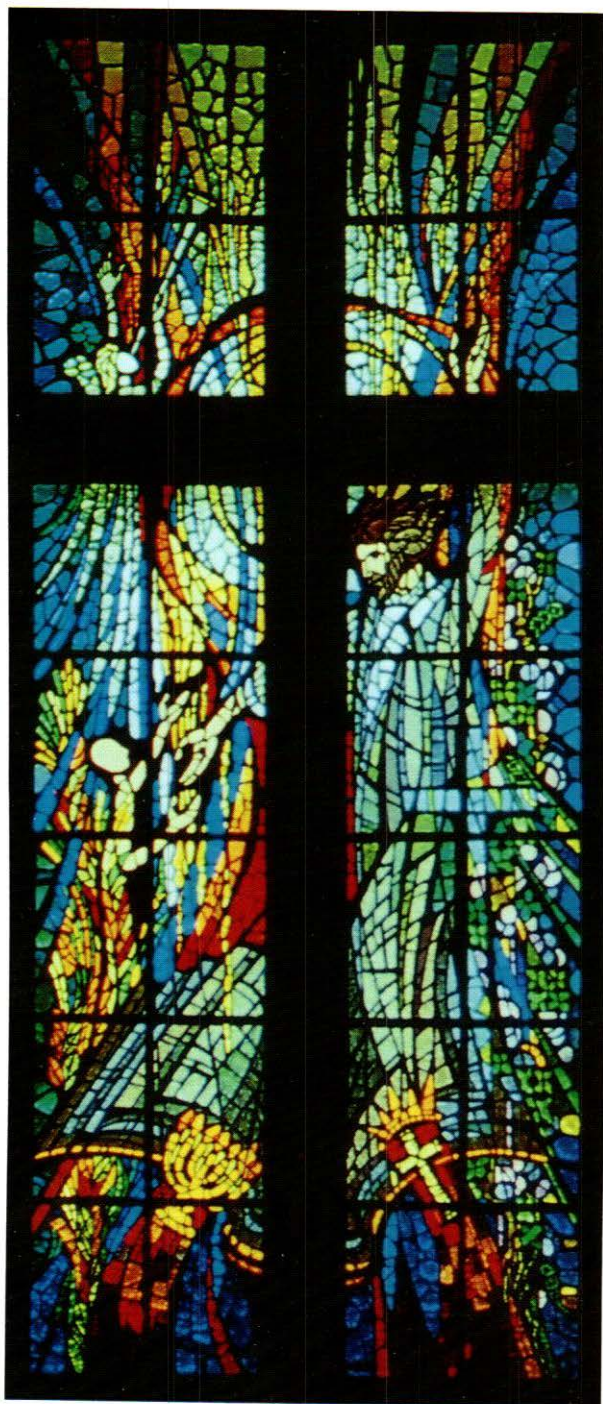
INTRODUCTION

These stained glass windows communicate in a simple fashion the basic teachings of God's word.

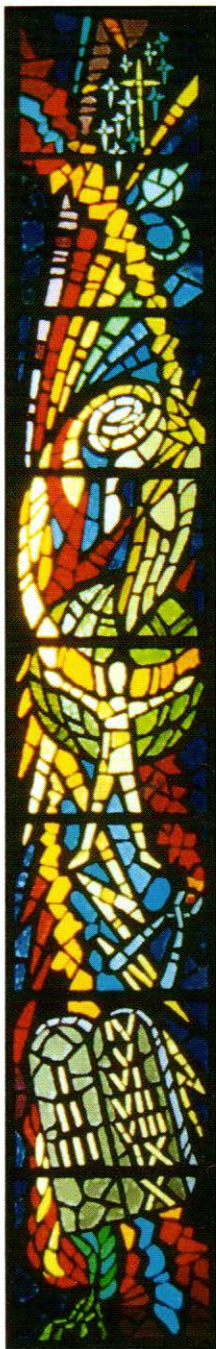
As we worship, the windows remind us of all that God has created and provided to nourish our lives. They encourage us to use our God-given talents and promise us that God will take us to our eternal home. As we leave, they send us out to witness for him and spread the Gospel into all the world.

All this is beautifully portrayed in our windows. We invite you to read on.

SALVATION: Out of Bible pages ruffled by the Holy Spirit we see the Living Christ inviting all heavenward through his cross. "When I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people unto me." The candelabra symbolizes the Old Testament and the cross and crown represent the New Testament. The angel sounding the trumpet reminds us of the time when we shall be called to our eternal home. Incorporated throughout the window are symbols of the Sacrament of the Altar (wheat and grapes), Baptism (blue water), and God's grace (white from above and small cross). This window presents the great message of Jesus Christ who comes to us through his word and Sacraments.



SALVATION

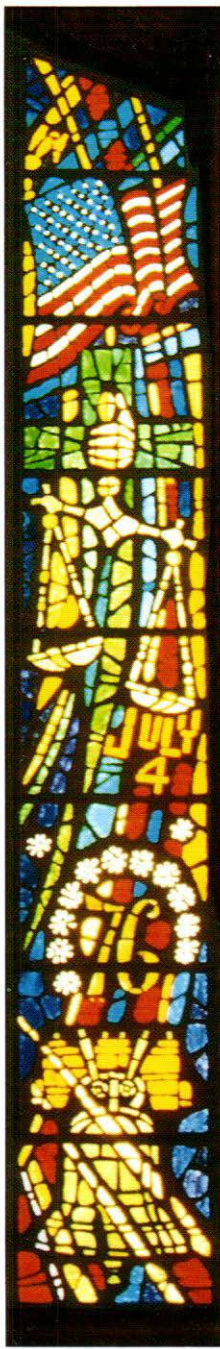


CREATION

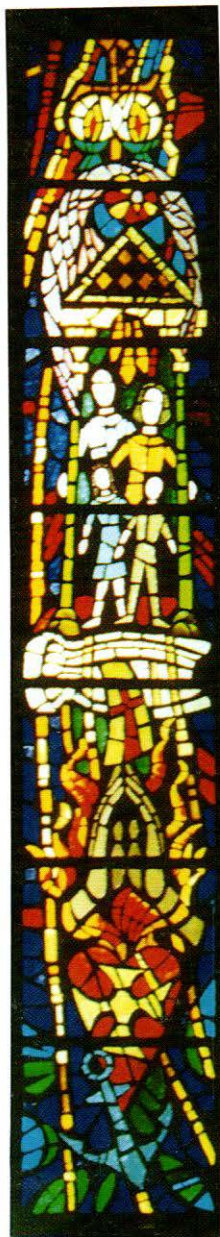
CREATION: The universe (stars, planets, moon, rainbow and earth) comes as a gift from God's creative hand. The artist has pictured the earth as being embraced by one who has responsibility to care for it while praising the creator. God's gifts continue to be shown by the tongs holding a fiery coal (cleansing forgiveness), by the commandments (a guide for living) and by the burning bush (God's presence with us) seen below the stone tablets.

NATION: This window celebrates the fact that the thirteen original colonies (13 stars) became a nation on July 4, 1776.

Liberty (the bell), justice (the scales) and religious freedom (the cross) were considered to be inalienable rights. These continue to be basic convictions of our fifty-state nation. As Christians we are subject to governing authorities. We work for righteousness and justice.



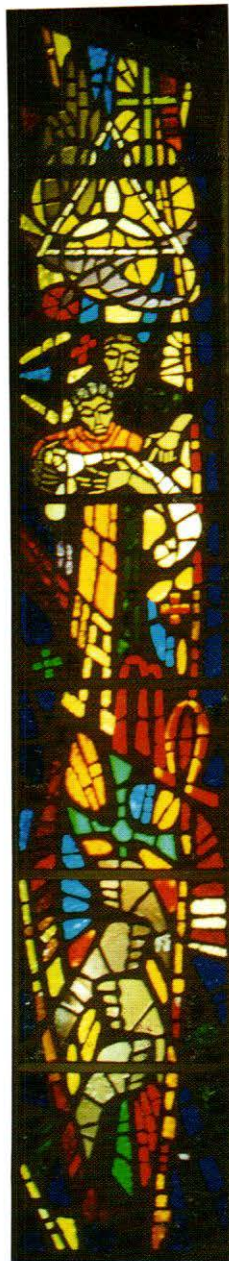
NATION



FAMILY

FAMILY: The creation of a family is shown by two lamps coming together before the cross of Christ as in a true marriage. Protection for such a family is afforded through God as evidenced by the sheltering Holy Spirit (doves). God's people are committed to building families on the solid rock foundation of the Bible. A family grows and is spiritually strengthened by faith (the praying hands), love (the heart and cross) and hope (the anchor).

EDUCATION: The teacher pointing out to the student the meaning of the scriptures is central to Christian Education. Surrounding them are symbols of the faith we are committed to teach. Standing for the unity of the Trinity are the triangle, the three interlocking circles and the white triquetrous. The Trinity is also portrayed in the hand upraised for the Father, the cross for the Redeemer Son and descending dove for the Holy Spirit. The three Greek letters remind us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Below these, holding high the cross of Christ, are the hands of all races who become his disciples and serve him.



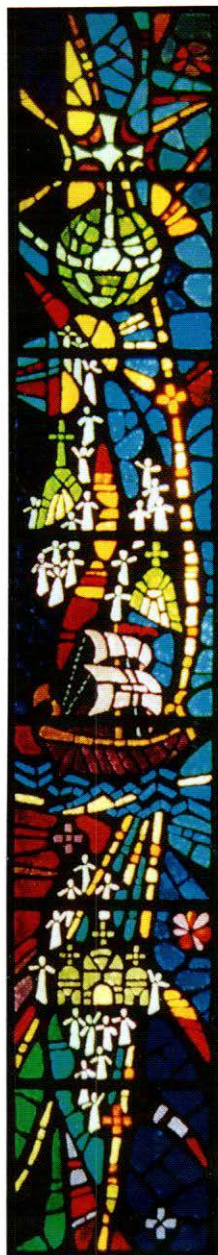
EDUCATION

SPIRIT: The giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church. The coming of God's Holy Spirit into our lives is symbolized by the descending dove and tongues of fire. The Spirit's gifts are represented by the seven flames which are windblown to remind us of the way the Holy Spirit empowers our lives. The man and woman are deep in prayer showing their openness to the coming of the Spirit.

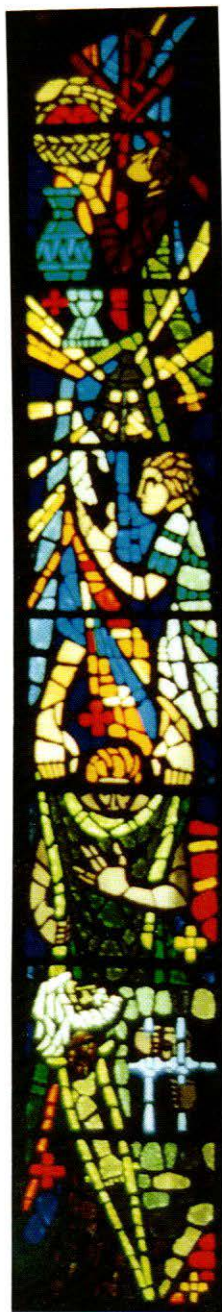
WITNESSING: In this window the cross on the world is a reminder that we are to be witnesses to all people. Notice the stream of light coming down to a ship. This light is God's revelation through Christ entrusted to the church (ship) to be spread to all the earth. The people portrayed represent all races and cultures. Above and below the ship you will see them coming to worship. Crosses throughout the window remind us that Jesus died for all people.



SPIRIT



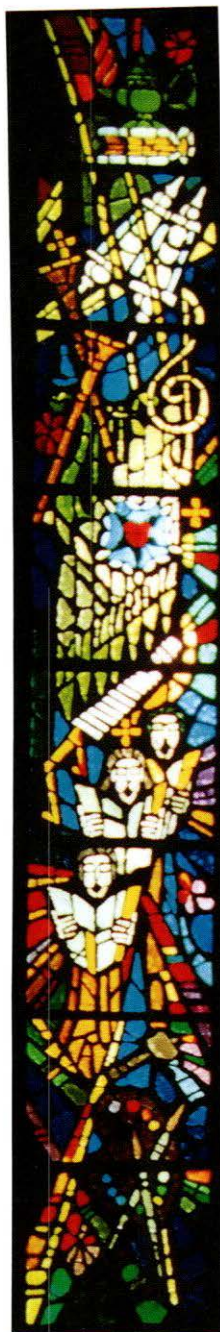
WITNESSING



COMPASSION

COMPASSION: This window with the Chi Rho cross at the top reminds us of the parable in which Jesus calls us to show our concern for those around us through our actions. Feeding the hungry is depicted in the giving of a basket of bread, while the goblet is a reminder to offer the thirsty a drink. A doorframe, lamp and an outstretched hand encourage us to welcome strangers. Christ's call to clothe the naked is represented by the green garment being placed around a person. The white bearded man on a crutch looking up and the man peering from behind the white prison bars remind us to show our loving concern for the sick and imprisoned.

ARTS: The special abilities each of us has are individual gifts from God. Proper use of them is another way we can witness to our faith in him. The lamp of learning above the books, scrolls and stone tablets symbolizes enlightenment through the written word. Music represented by the lyre, pipe organ, horns and choir can raise our spirits in praise and thanksgiving. Luther's seal symbolizes our Lutheran heritage in music. The arts of painting and sculpting offer further opportunities to use talents to glorify God.



ARTS

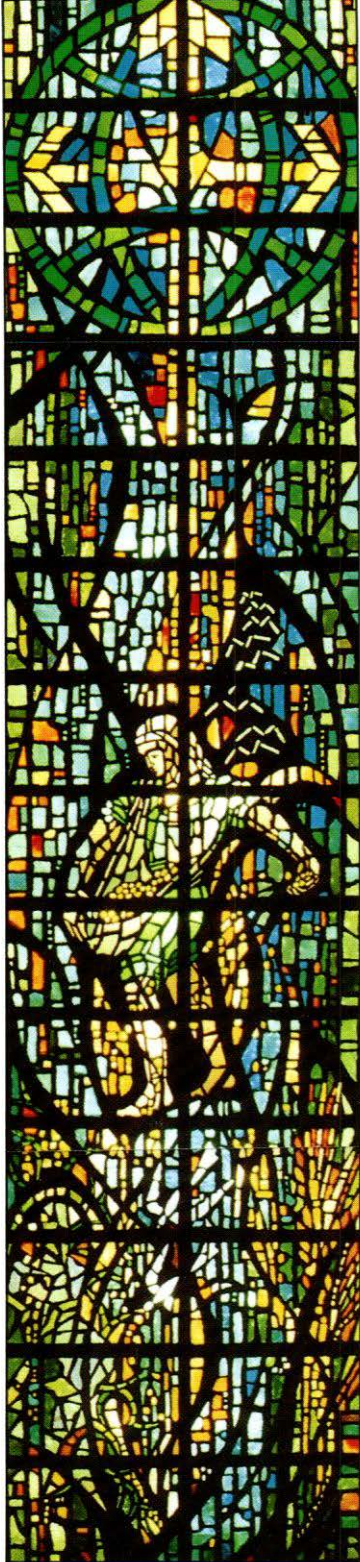


OUR HERITAGE: Two windows not easily seen are on the front wall of the sanctuary. Above the organ is a window celebrating the distant lands of our ancestors. They crossed the ocean in brilliant ships with crosses on their sails with hope for a new world. Many came from quiet villages where the greatest power was wind. Their trek in this new country was often a very lonely way (solitary rider) and a dangerous way (a wagon drawn by oxen). Our ancestors broke the chains of oppression, fear, bondage and superstition. Because of their sacrifice and faith we can worship together in freedom and thanksgiving. In the window in the room back of the chancel we recognize the urban life from which many of us come. A church steeple is blended with air, sea, rail and automobile travel with power lines, bridges and a bobbing sailboat.





GREAT COMMISSIONING: As one leaves the church by the center aisle, above the hand-carved doors is seen God's simple instruction, "Go ye into all the world". The risen Lord beckons to us, his followers, to make disciples of all people. The unfurling circles direct us to spread to the entire world all that we have been taught by our Lord Jesus Christ.



THE WORD: As you enter the narthex, visible on the ceiling is a representation of the parable of the sower. Some seed falls along the path, some on rocks, some among the weeds and some on good soil. God's message is given out like seed. He promises that his word will be fruitful in spite of Satan, and the troubles, worries and distractions of this life. In worship God's seed is planted in our hearts. As we leave, this same stained glass ceiling sends us out as sowers to share God's word. The arrows upon the world remind us of our Lord's Great Commission to spread the message in all directions.



THE DOOR WINDOWS: At the sides of the main entrance as you leave the church are the door windows representing the contrasting climates from which we have come and into which we have been commissioned to carry the word. One shows a cool region, highlighted by an icy lake and stream, bare birches, a splash of evergreen and ice-laden cloud cover. The other is a warm mesa backed by jagged mountains with cactus and pine on higher reaches.



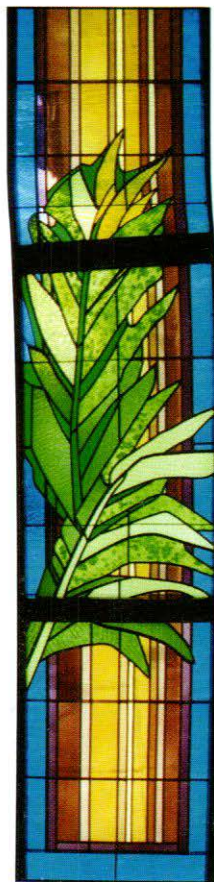
THE CHAPEL WINDOWS

The beautiful stained glass windows in the chapel were designed and constructed by Maureen McGuire Designs studio of Phoenix. The artistic theme shared by these windows is the glory of creation. Each depicts a special emphasis symbolizing life for believers.

In October, 1982 when the administration wing was constructed our new choir room was included. The original choir room was converted into a chapel in 1986. These six chapel windows were given to the glory of God by a couple who have chosen to remain anonymous. Certainly the entire chapel is an offering to our Lord from the people who have given special gifts or memorials. May God be praised through these gifts, as well as through the prayers and worship experiences conducted in the chapel of the American Lutheran Church.



DOVE: Entering the chapel, one is met with the sign of God's peace - the dove with the olive branches superimposed on a cross. The dove that came back to the ark with an olive branch assured Noah that the flood waters had receded and there was now peace with God. The dove is also a symbol for the Holy Spirit who is actively working in our lives to help us accept the message of God's peace through the cross of Jesus Christ.



PALM BRANCH: The windows on each side of the altar contain a palm frond, a symbol of victory in the time of Jesus. They are a reminder of his triumphal procession into Jerusalem to become the victor over sin and death. Their location by the altar reminds us that the victory came through Jesus' sacrificial death.

GRAPEVINE: In the Old Testament, the vine with its grapes depicts God's people flourishing by the protective care they are receiving from God. In the New Testament Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." This window reminds us that by God's loving care we can live a fruitful life through our relationship to Christ.



GRAPEVINE

BUTTERFLY IN WILLOW: The butterfly has become a symbol of the resurrection because of its three stage life — caterpillar, cocoon and butterfly. This parallels Jesus' life — his time on earth, his time in the tomb and his resurrected life. Just as the beauty of the butterfly exceeds that of the caterpillar, so will be our resurrected life compared to the life we have on earth. Willow branches may be cut in great numbers without harming the willow tree. Thus the willow tree has become the symbol for the gospel message of Christ which remains whole as it is taken to people all over the world.



BUTTERFLY



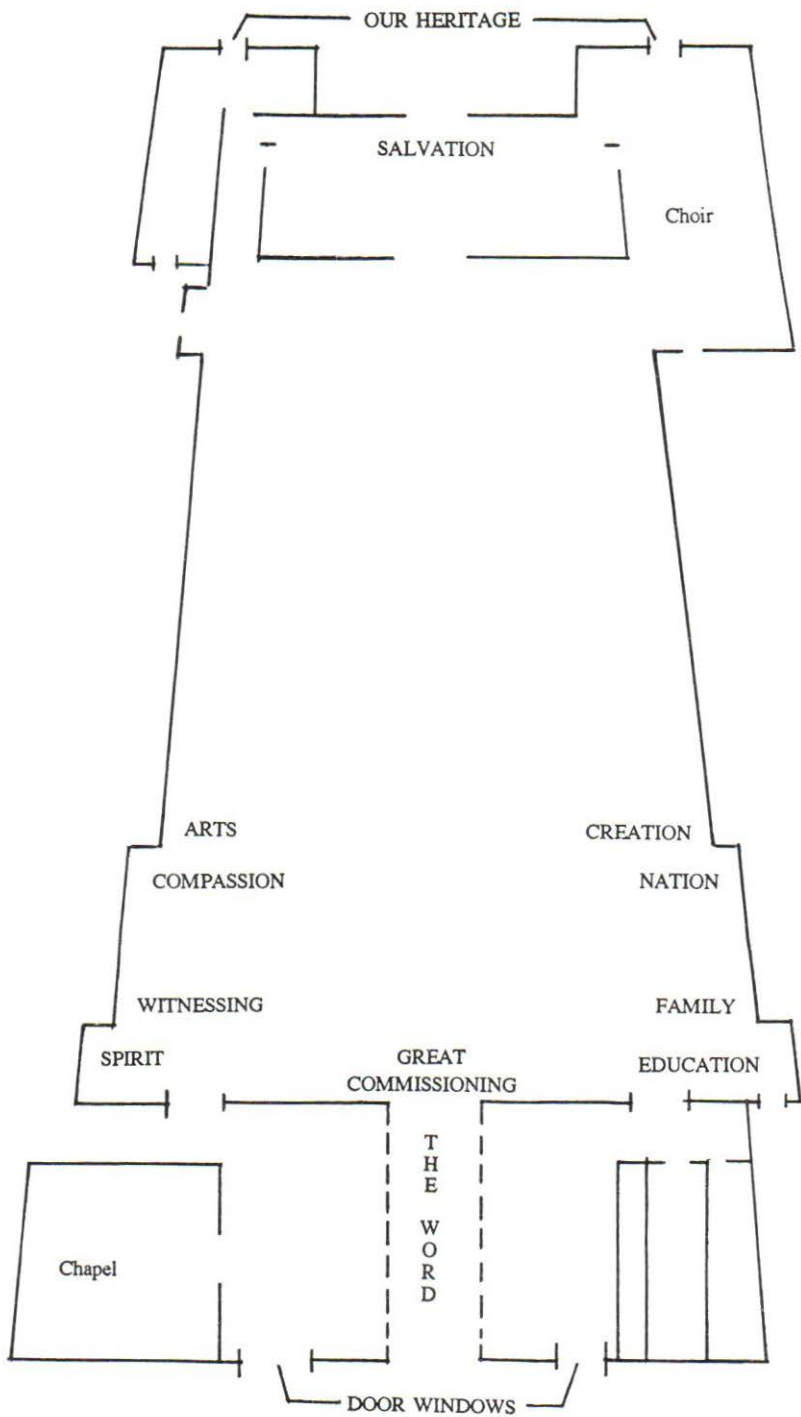
LILIES

LILIES: The trumpet-shaped blossoms of lilies seem to proclaim the good news of Jesus' victory over death. They are associated with the resurrection of Jesus because they bloom in the spring. The life of this plant comes from the bulb in the ground just as Christ came forth from his tomb on the third day.



MUSIC WINDOWS: In the north two rooms of the education wing are windows which were in the original choir room, now the chapel. The windows stress the importance of music to the worship experience. Staff, clef and notes emphasize the music theme. One window features a mandolin and stringed psaltery, the other a flute and horn.







American Lutheran Church of Sun City

17200 Del Webb Blvd. • Sun City, AZ 85373 • Ph. 974-2512

Friday, June 5, 1998

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Daily News-Sun

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Lifestyl

A fond farewell

Pastor will 'leave keys' after Sunday's service

By JEFF OWENS
Staff writer

When Pastor Lloyd Wallace finishes the 10 a.m. service Sunday at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, that's the ball game. Eschewing fanfare, he wants to keep his departure humbly quiet, and keep it part of the service.

"When I leave the church on Sunday, my keys will be on the secretary's desk," he said. And with that, his 16 years of faithful service to the congregation of American Lutheran will officially have come to a close.

He announced his attention to retire two years ago, so it isn't like the flock hasn't had time to prepare or get used to the idea of continuing on without him. Two years ago, he was persuaded to stay a while longer.

"The last two years have been very exciting and rewarding," Wallace said. "I'm glad I stayed."

Even though Wallace readily admits he looks forward to retirement, he also knows it'll be hard to say goodbye.

"It's a grief process," he said. "You can't serve people for 16 years and not go through grief. It's painful and difficult because we (Wallace and his family) love these people very much."

The congregation knows it will be hard, too. They feel the same way.

"He's so fantastic," said church member Gerd Bjorseth. "It's going to be very different."

How different remains to be seen — the church committee charged with naming Wallace's successor offered the post to St. Paul, Minn. pastor Walter Sundberg, who politely and respectfully declined due to family considerations.

"I am disappointed that I must turn



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Rev. Lloyd Wallace is retiring after 16 years as pastor at American Lutheran Church in Sun City.

down this call," Sundberg wrote in a May 26 letter to American Lutheran's Robert Rekedal and Ken Firchow. "I was excited and inspired at the prospect of sharing the proclamation of the Gospel with the people of American Lutheran Church."

Until an interim pastor is named, American Lutheran's two associate pastors will "pick up the slack," Wallace said.

"It's been a great 16 years," he said. "The people of this congregation are some of the most talented and loving I've ever met. It's been a privilege to serve them for these years."

American Lutheran normally has two Sunday services, but this Sunday there will only be the 10 a.m. service at which Wallace will say goodbye.

New kid on the block

Lutheran pastor sees self as bridge between generations

By JEFF OWENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

By official Sun City standards, Pastor Mark Huggenvik of American Lutheran Church isn't quite a senior citizen. Close, but not quite.

After only six weeks at his new church, he is in danger of getting a permanently red cheek — said cheek having been repeatedly pinched by sweet little old ladies in his parish who insist "You're too young to be our pastor!"

He laughed. "I do have a lot to learn about seniors," he said.

Amen to that — prior to Sun City, Huggenvik spent six years preaching to a congregation of "30-somethings" in Apple Valley, Minn.

And after only six weeks, he loves his new job and congregation.

"The welcome here has just been amazing," he said. "These are the most enthusiastic, committed, energetic people I've ever had the opportunity to pastor. They're just great."

It's an opportunity for which Huggenvik feels uniquely qualified — at 52,

he straddles the border between the Great Depression/World War II genera-

tions and their successors, the Baby Boomers.

Spiritually, he's not daunted by the increasingly dual nature those two generations impart on Sun City life. On the contrary — spiritually, he couldn't be more psyched about it.

Reflecting on his decision to come here, Huggenvik said "It was like I was born to do this. I'm at the leading edge of the Baby Boom generation."

At the same time, he said he "understands the World War II generation — what they think; what their values are."

Comfortable relating to both, Huggenvik speaks often and enthusiastically of "bridging" the two generations.

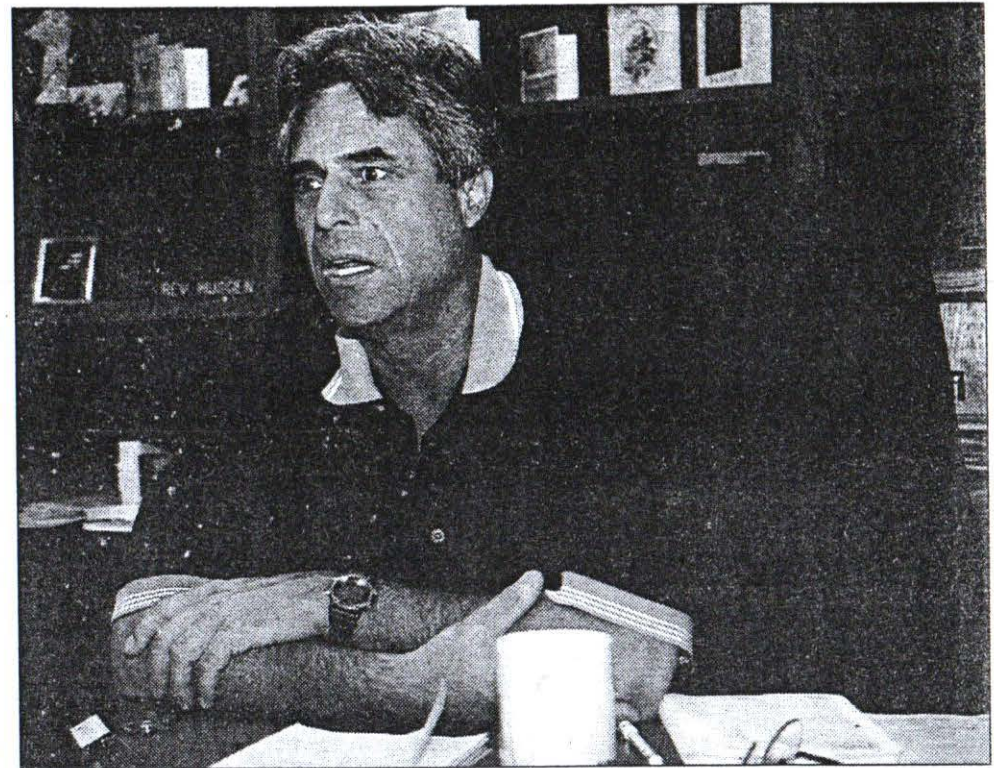
"I can do this," he said. "This is good. This is exciting."

It helps, Huggenvik added, that there are many in his new parish of, like him, Scandinavian descent. And it helps that he's a third-generation Lutheran parish pastor. It also helps that former pastor Lloyd Wallace and his interim successor, Bud Eskritt, left Huggenvik a church in healthy, vital shape.

And there's another comfort too: Huggenvik said there were times when he felt that, for some reason, he would wind up in the Phoenix area. After all, he did pastor in southern California for 20 years, and he had paid a few visits to Phoenix.

So when the call came, "It wasn't surprising at all," he said. "I've always loved the desert — I feel comfortable. I feel healthy. I was very, very ready for a move, so it was not a difficult decision to make."

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Huggenvik grew up in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. He graduated from Luther



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Pastor Mark Huggenvik of American Lutheran Church in Sun City is excited about his congregation and his role as the church's leader.

'The welcome here has just been amazing. These are the most enthusiastic, committed, energetic people I've ever had the opportunity to pastor. They're just great.'

**Mark Huggenvik, pastor
American Lutheran Church,
Sun City**

College in Decorah, Iowa, and then with a master's from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. in 1972.

Married, with three daughters now in college, he's happy to have traded the frigid north of Apple Valley for the sunny south of Sun City.

Easy for him to say — he admits he's never endured an Arizona summer, with

temperatures resembles not so much those of Heaven, but rather that other place ...

That's okay with him though: Huggenvik says his new job has some great perks.

"No Sunday school, no confirmation, and everything is done by 6 p.m.," he said, laughing.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mim Grumstrup of the Sun City Puppeteers holds a sheep she uses for shows. The group put on a show Wednesday for the Church of the Beatitudes Care Center in Phoenix.

Puppeteers prove show must go on

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The stricken angel wasn't in the script Wednesday. Neither were the four Phoenix firefighters who showed up within minutes, hauling defibrillator and portable EKG, to minister to him.

But in the best traditions of public performance, the show must go on, and within 10 minutes it did, as the now seven-member troupe from the American Lutheran Church of Sun City used puppets to talk about God and the Bible.

Under the direction of Mim Grumstrup, a well-known thespian in the Sun Cities, the players, known professionally as The Angel Street Puppet Ministry of the church, completed their three-act play, finishing up with a conversation in the beauty parlor in which two women alternately complained about the bad parts of their church and bragged about the good.

Come to pass, they both went to the same church, and what one enjoyed, the other despised.

The moral of the story: "The only perfect church is the one you don't attend."

The troupe takes its puppet presentations to senior residence centers, nursing homes and to school children and Sunday schools, and has a good time doing it.

The problems faced by Jerry Le Roy were unusual, said Grumstrup.

Partway through the third act, he slumped down, seemingly exhausted.

"We have an emergency back here," Grumstrup said as the show ground to a temporary halt. "Is there a nurse available?"

Since the performance was in the care center area at Beatitudes Campus of Care in Phoenix, there was. There were two or three, who quickly attended to the man, called 911 for help, and chased after a wheelchair for Le Roy to sit in.

He seemed all right in minutes, and others said he probably had a bad time with the heat inside the stuffy curtained area, under lights and after having

taken blood pressure medication on an empty stomach.

Firefighters, whose station was about a mile away, didn't find a problem, though they did urge him to get to a hospital for more checking to be sure his heart was OK.

He declined, and later left with the group to have lunch and head back to Sun City on the church bus.

Also in the performance were Pamela Lenhart, Linda Schmidt, Pattie Le Roy (Jerry's wife), Dan Grumstrup and Max and Eileen Lanzendorf.

Many of the props they use were designed and built by parishioners at the Sun City church, and about half the script was locally produced, said Mim Grumstrup.

Their performances are short skits designed to illustrate Christian ethics and behavior, and include Bible stories such as that of Jonah and the whale.

But, cautioned Dan Grumstrup, "while it's familiar, the puppets give it a different flavor, and the Bible stories don't stick exactly to the original (two thousand year old) script.

That was obvious in a presentation about Noah's ark, which featured a couple of sheep arguing about why they were aboard. The male said he just followed the female, adding, "you'll notice only two elephants are here. The rest went somewhere else."

The dialogue continues:

"They told me it was gonna rain."

"In this desert?"

"Hard."

"We need to get off this looney farm."

Then comes the rain rather effectivity presented with a cloud that appears and drips, then looses a torrent — as Christmas tinsel on a rol gushes out of it.

Finally, the male sheep concedes there's a point to the ark, adding, in a sudden role reversal, "I'm glad you followed me up here, dear."

Another skit that brought several chuckles is "The Scared Pew."

In it, a man complains about another person taking his seat in church.

Again, the dialogue sparkles:

"Somebody was there sitting in my pew. It happened while I was standing in back talking about all the typing errors in the bulletin.

"You know I always sit in the same pew. In the fourth row on the right, in the aisle seat. I've done it for 25 years.

"I've spent a good part of my life molding that pew to my body contours."

To which his wife replies, "The whole problem, Ed, is that you don't like change,

but you'll have to adjust."

"I like change." Ed replies. "I don't mind it, I even welcome it. I just don't like it when things are suddenly all different."

Recognize anybody you know?

That, of course, is the point. You probably do.

Mim started the puppet group five years ago, she said. She mentioned in hopes somebody else would take it up, "but guess who got the job?"

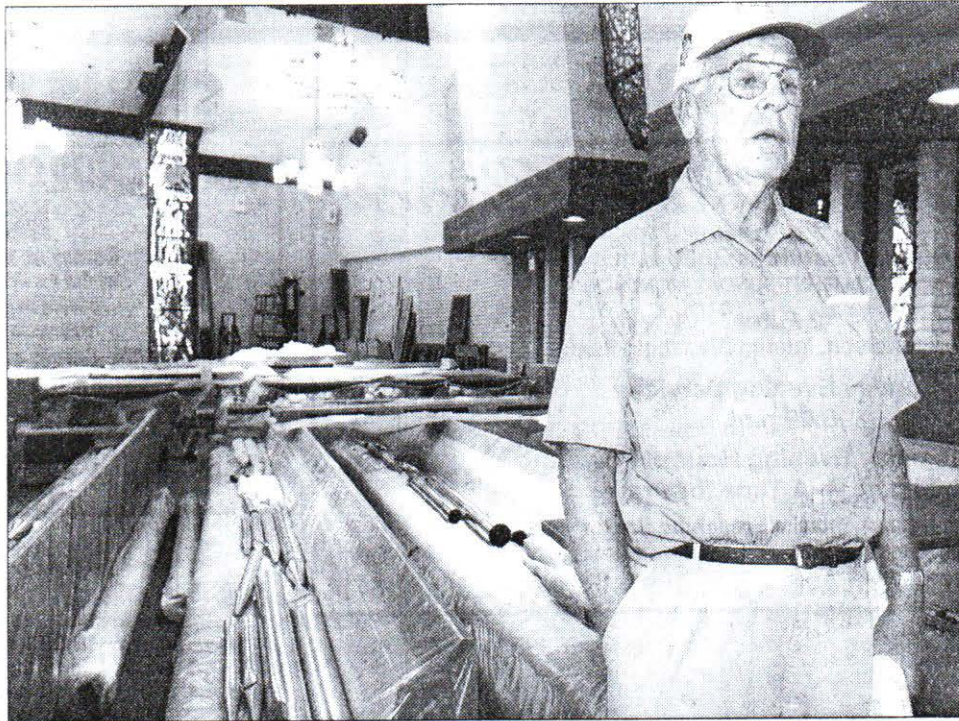
"We really do have fun," she said.

Groups that might want to see a puppet theater presentation may call the American Lutheran Church at 974-2512.

They'll follow the regular script. No more fallen angel, Grumstrup promises.

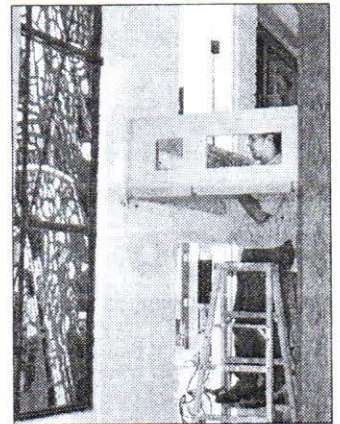
OVER

Musically in tune



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Woody Glad, above, chairman of the organ committee at the American Lutheran Church of Sun City, stands in front of pews loaded with pipes that a Canadian company is assembling for the church's new custom-made organ. Guy LeClerc, top right, assembles cabinets to hold organ pipes at the church.



'It's a worship center, and that's why we wanted it. It's going to be beautiful.'

— Woody Glad

Church makes way for new pipe organ

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the American Lutheran Church of Sun City are seeing their pipe dream become a reality.

Beginning the second week of October, the congregation will enjoy a new musical experience as the church debuts its pipe organ.

Workers at the church at 17200 Del Webb Blvd., are installing a pipe organ that was built specifically for the church at a cost of \$700,000. Most of the funds came from an anonymous donor.

The handmade organ is mostly in pieces at the church where it is being assembled, but in order to install the organ, the church first had to undergo some major changes, said Woody Glad, chairman of the organ committee.

The changes included closing the church so the organ's 3,184 pipes could be installed. The pipes, up to 32 feet long, will be installed at the front of the church and in the ceilings.

But installing the organ pipes in the building is only the first step, Glad said.

"We need to voice it," he said. "All these pipelines will have to be voiced to this type of building."

The end result, he said, will be incredible — perfect for a congregation as musically in tune as American Lutheran Church's.

"It will be useful for worship services and some con-

'They will get a real feeling for it . . . They will come in and it will be like a (bolt) of lightning.'

— Woody Glad

certs," Glad said. "It won't be dinner or background music. It will be a full expression of music that will come out from the front."

The pipe organ will be played with "true" wind, Glad said.

"Wind is a gift of God," he said. "We wouldn't be able to do this without it."

The church ordered the organ three years ago from Quebec-based Casavant Freres, which specializes in building organs.

When the truck from Canada finally arrived with all the equipment, it took a day and a half and 10 men to unload all the pipes.

"We always had a dream for it, a fund for it — and an individual wanted to enhance the musical realm (of the church)," Glad said. "It's a worship center, and that's why we wanted it. It's going to be beautiful."

While the congregation is aware of what is going on — partly because a social hall is being used for services while the organ is installed — they may not understand the magnitude of the project.

"They will get a real feeling for it," Glad said. "It will bring (them) closer. It's built for the size of the church and the acoustics of the church. They will come in and it will be like a (bolt) of lightning."

Glad said he thinks the organ will attract more people to the church, so it is a selling point as well.

"Here you get the real sound — God-given real, true sound," he said. "We did it right."

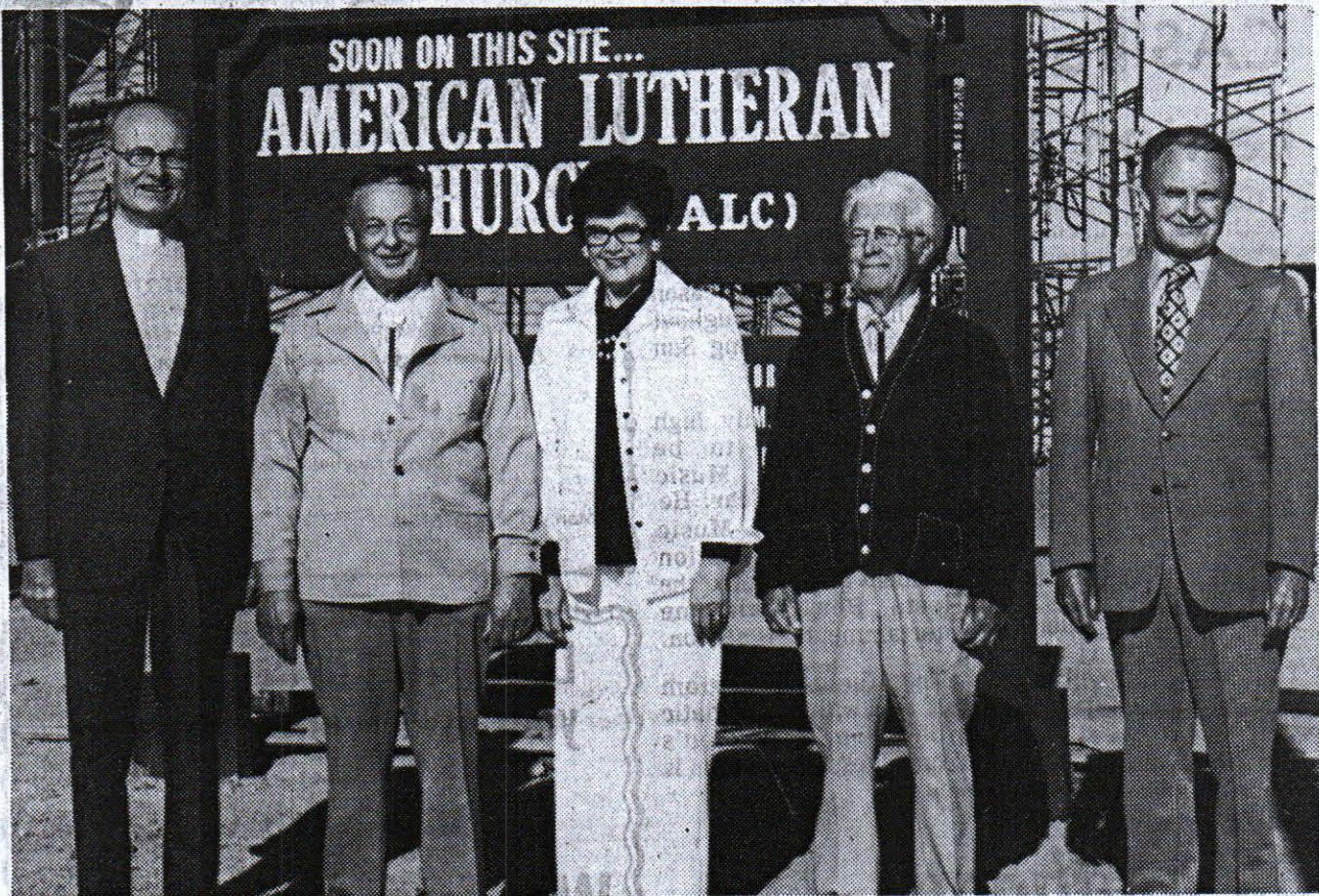
Guy LeClerc, an organ technician for Casavant Freres, said the organ is a large one, but not uncommon for his company.

"For us it's normal," he said.

Casavant Freres officials explored what type of organ would be best for the church about three years ago.

"They told us what type of pipes we should have for the building and age group," Glad said.

Michael Maresh can be reached at mmaresh@aztrib.com or 876-2521.



American Lutheran Church of Sun City pastors and newly-elected officers survey construction site at Del Webb Boulevard and 107th Avenue north of Bell Road, where new church is being built. From left, are Rev. Albert Abrahamson; R.L. Borchardt, president; Mrs. Mabel Enstad, secretary; Rev. Elmer Hjortland, and

Stanley Fagerberg, treasurer. Other officers are Ernest Peterson, vice president; Fred Schaar, second vice president; Kay Beiswanger, assistant secretary; Eimar Strom, assistant treasurer; Richard Weber, financial secretary, and George Rehm, assistant financial secretary.

American Lutheran

... 'Lost, Found Column'

Rev. Elmer Hjortland will explain "The Lost and Found Column" during the American Lutheran Church of Sun City service at 10 a.m. Sunday in Sundial social hall east.

Rev. Albert Abrahamson will assist. Ushers will be Paul Loe, Myron Ellingson, Marshall Hutchinson, Gilbert Moum, Tommy Thompson, and Sidney Inman.

Greeters will be Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graham. Coffee hour hosts will be Thelma Kvale, Alice

Dittrich, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kjos.

Altar Guild women will be Lillian Olsen and Mildred Shelver and Mrs. Margaret Jordahl will furnish the flowers.

Church member Dr. Edmund Flexman, retired medical missionary, will be the guest speaker at a "Special Day" for church members and visitors at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in Good Shepherd Retirement Center.

There will be a tour of the facilities and refreshments.

The mid-week Lenten service will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in Church of the Palms.

Thankful offerings

Joyful noise
trumpets meaning
of Thanksgiving

By BRUCE ELLISON
Staff writer

"Oh, come, let us sing unto the Lord," the psalmist wrote. "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving ... and make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation."

That's just what they did late Wednesday afternoon at the American Lutheran Church of Sun City, as an 80-voice choir was joined by the Fanfare Brass, a timpanist from the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra, a set of bell ringers and about 30 Boy and Cub Scouts bearing flags of all 50 states.

The church annually celebrates Thanksgiving in that fashion, said music director Gene Hersrud, to whom fell the task of arranging all the music and pageantry.

The church's three ministers also participated in the service, which began with the presentation of dozens of baskets of fresh fruit and vegetables, a reminder to the congregation of the bounty of the

► See Scoutmaster, A3



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Patrick DeYoung, 10, carries the Kansas and Maryland flags at a Thanksgiving service at American Lutheran Church Wednesday. Boy Scouts from Troops 105 and 4008 in Phoenix presented the 50 state flags during the singing of "God of Our Fathers" at the end of the service.

Scoutmaster lends a helping hand

■ From A1

Lord.

The food later was taken to Advent Lutheran Church in Phoenix for distribution to the less fortunate.

The service concluded with the Scouts, from Troops 105 and 408 in Phoenix, and Cub Scout Pack 105, marching down the center aisles bearing small flags of all 50 states, as the congregation sang, "God of Our Fathers."

Those marching Scouts brought tears to the eyes of Faye Westphal, who said after the service that she was reminded of her own two sons, Fred and Robert, both of whom were Eagle Scouts. Fred, now 39, used to play the trumpet and often performed Purcell's "Trumpet Voluntary," which was played as postlude to the service.

As the service ended, a giant American flag was hoisted behind the altar, and choir, congregation and soloists all joined to sing Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Outside, after the service, Al Fraser, who helped get the Phoenix-based Scouts into the service, explained that he had been hanging wallpaper in Hersrud's home a few weeks ago as the music director was on the phone trying — unsuccessfully

— to arrange with district Scout officials for the appearance.

"When he hung up, I told him I was a Scoutmaster, and probably could help him out," Fraser said. While Fraser couldn't produce 50 Scouts, one to carry a flag of each of the 50 states, there were enough that each could walk down the aisle with two flags.

Earlier, flags of 14 nations, many of them representing the homelands of church members, were brought in and placed in standards along the sides of the church.

In his sermon, the senior pastor, Lloyd Wallace, noted that Americans have four things to be thankful for: the fruits of the Earth, the means of grace, the universal gospel, and the nation in which we live.

He reminded the congregation that many of its members lived through the great Depression, and found solace then in faith and family, something from which more and more Americans have wandered.

"The faith of the family often is stronger in adversity," he said.

And why this a day of Thanksgiving? The Pilgrims started it, perhaps based on the words of Moses in Deuteronomy, "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee."



Mark Kaplan/Daily News-Sun

Ed Spahn helps Marion Hill with her donated food outside the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts before the 14th annual Thanksgiving service. The donations are for the Westside Food Bank.

New gazebo offers light, airy setting

—From C1

want a tie-in with their religion to be buried near the church," Wallace said.

The columbarium, under the guidance of Ruth Otis — who headed the columbarium committee — was dedicated last October, bringing one of the largest congregations (1,600 members) in Sun City up-to-date with local churches.

"We're one of the largest churches here, but one of the last to put one in," she said.

The columbarium was a two-year project for Otis and the committee to transform the project from just an idea to the edifice it is now. It didn't take that long, though, for the congregation to approve of the gazebo-style columbarium, complete with a flowering garden and benches for reflection and prayer.

"The response has been very positive," Wallace said.

One of the first questions Wallace had to answer when the idea was proposed to the congregation was: Will it take up more parking spaces? They're hard to come by in Sun City, especially at churches on Sundays.

"It didn't take up any parking spaces," Wallace said. "This used to be all trees and shrubbery before."

So far 90 couples have purchased niches in the columbarium and 14 have already been interred. It is fixed with 144 niches (each one holds two urns of cremains), and could double in capacity through the use of adjoining walls.

The architecture of the columbarium blends it in with the white brick walls of the sanctuary, and the dark wooden beams of its roof are consistent with the church's other structures.

"It's light and airy, yet private," Wallace said. "There is light so it is not gloomy. When people come here after a death, they don't want a negative place."

Lutherans add columbarium

Parishioners find comfort in setting

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY
Daily News-Sun staff

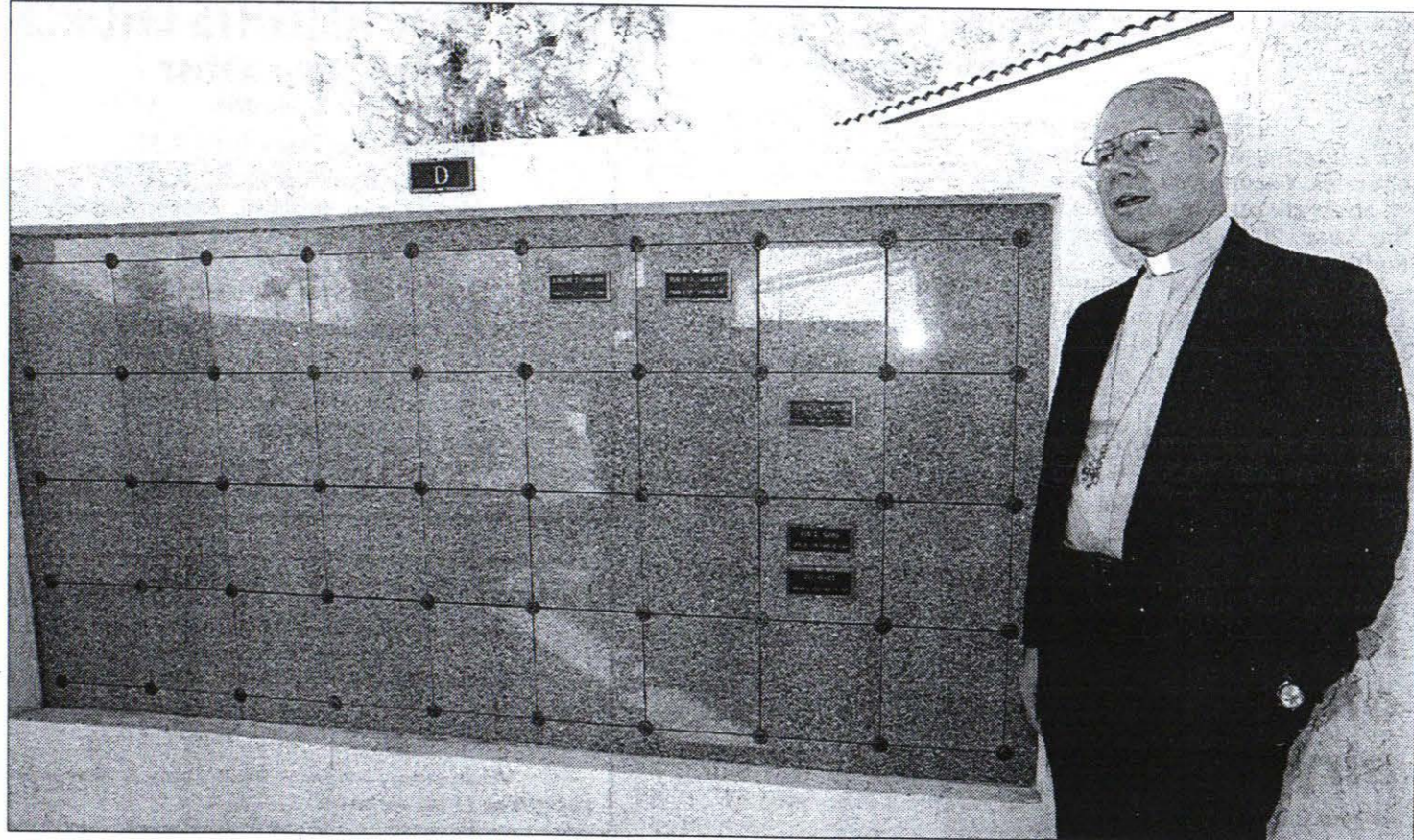
The Rev. Lloyd Wallace, pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Sun City, wanted to create a small-town cemetery on the outskirts of a big city, a place where the church members could be buried close to their sanctuary.

But before he cleared away the parking lot, he listened to his congregation and surveyed his surroundings.

Fifty percent of the population is choosing cremation, eliminating the need for grassy cemeteries. Besides, available landscape is being swallowed up by parking lots and commercial and residential edifices.

So the American Lutheran Church, like so many others around the Sun Cities, created a columbarium where deceased church members could be placed close to the sanctuary.

See New gazebo, C2



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

The Rev. Lloyd Wallace, pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Sun City, was a driving force in the church's creation of a columbarium where deceased church members can be placed close to the sanctuary. So far 90 couples have purchased niches in the columbarium and 14 have already been interred.