

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

January 2012

A Note from our Pastor

Well, I can't believe this year is almost over... And what a year it has been! Between the tumbling economy and the extreme highs and lows at the gas pump, who knows what awaits us for 2012? Will life ever return to "normal"...? Will the future ever feel safe and secure again?



If only we knew what this New Year has in store for us... Obviously, the future is anyone's guess, but we do know that as we walk into this New Year, **WE DO NOT WALK ALONE!** For the God of all creation and the God of all time **GOES WITH US!** The One who is the Great Shepherd is faithful... and will not forsake His sheep! Through the power of God's Holy Spirit, the Lamb of God continues to lead, guide, and empower His people for the journey ahead. It is my prayer that God's richest blessings be upon you as we move forward into this New Year.

And not only for each of you... but especially for our retiring Youth and Parish Worker —our beloved Doris MacGregor — as she begins her new adventure of retirement with her husband Roger, roaming across the country in their RV, and hopefully getting the rest and relaxation that she so richly deserves! We pray God's richest blessings upon Doris and her family. To say that we will miss Doris is an understatement... **Doris, you will be missed!**

And a hearty welcome aboard to Lisa Skelley and Michele Moreno as they share their gifts of ministry within the parish. We are so grateful for their willingness to serve their Lord and we look forward to how the Holy Spirit will use them to help and expand this church's many ministries. Please keep them in your prayers as they work hard in filling some very big shoes!



On behalf of the staff and their families at Grace Church, a Blessed and Joyous New Year to you!

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Spirit Matters . . .

Tuesday Night Bible Study with Pastor Jim at 7pm—The Book of Matthew

Tuesday Night Young Women's Group at 7:30pm— Study and sharing for young women. Please contact Michelle Moreno for more info: (818) 294-0289 or junglecruisebarbie@gmail.com



Wednesday, at 10am, "God Renewing Our Women" (GROW) —Starts up again January 11th.

Wednesday night Worship service 6:45pm. A mid-week, faith-filled, pick-me-up. Join us for pot-luck supper at 6pm.

eScrip Registration Drive this month

We encourage you to register your grocery club cards and credit/debit cards as supporters of Grace Church. A percentage of all purchases made at eScrip merchants will be given back to the church and will help us in our fundraising efforts. It can amount to thousands of dollars of a year and, best of all, it costs you NOTHING.



How does eScrip work?

Participating merchants contribute each time you make a purchase with a registered card. There are no receipts to collect, no vouchers or certificates to buy, no hassles for you — AND every purchase counts!

Advantages of eScrip:

- ♥ Ease of use — simply present your grocery club card and/or debit-credit card at the time of purchase
- ♥ Monthly funds distribution and reports to Grace Church
- ♥ Contributions are based on everyday purchases
- ♥ Hundreds of participating restaurants and merchants in our area



Cards accepted for registration:

Grocery loyalty cards, Debit, ATM, VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover cards, Diner's Club.

Grace Notes Sponsorships are \$25 to defray the cost of materials and postage. Please sign up in the Narthex. The January 2012 issue of Grace Notes is sponsored by:

*Margie Joy "for a good start to the New Year"
and*

*Ginny MacInnis for the Grace Music Ministry:
Mary Lou Basaraba, Jim Snodgrass and Colin Tidwell*

January at Grace



January 1—One service at 10am in celebration of the New Year.

Jan 2—Office closed.
Grace Diner at 4:30pm

Jan 7—CHIEFS at 6:30pm. Card games and potluck. Call Dolores Johnson for more info: (323)292-9998

Jan 8—E-Script registration between services
See facing page for more information.

Starting up again:



Jan 10—Confirmation class at 3:15pm

Jan 11—GROW (Women's Bible study) at 10am
Cherub Choir at 2:30pm

Jan 12—TAG (Youth Performing Arts) at 3:15pm

Jan 11—XYZ at 9:30am. Meet at the church for our surprise field trip and luncheon. Call Lisa Skelley for more information: 310/559-1027.

Jan 15—New Member class 1 at 12:15pm.
We'll serve you lunch as you get to know our church a little better Jan 15, 22 & 29th. New members will be received on Feb 5 at 9am.



Please see Lisa, Michelle, Marina or Pastor Jim to sign up.

Did you know? Joining Grace "officially" gives the Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) a bigger impact in providing aid locally, nationally and internationally.

January 15—Volunteer Recognition Sunday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's "A day on, not a day off." Readers needed for tribute at both services. Contact Marina.



Jan 16—Office closed for MLK Day
Grace Diner at 4:30pm

Jan 22—"A Healthy Start to the New Year"



Between services, church member Katie Timm, R.N. will check blood pressure and glucose for members of our congregation. Take advantage of her thoughtful service to help you get in shape/stay in shape for the New Year.

Jan 22—New Member class 2 at 12:15pm.

Jan 29—New Member class 3 at 12:15pm

COMING UP...

- ♥ *New Members join Feb 5*
- ♥ *Talent Show Feb 12*
- ♥ *Ash Wednesday Feb 22*

January Birthdays

Jonell MacGregor	01/2	Katie Priebe	01/18
Zachary Lyall	01/07	Jane Corey	01/20
Robert Condinus	01/07	Aleksandre Stenshoel	01/22
Brendan O'Brien	01/07	Cherie Parks	01/23
Dolores Johnson	01/09	Charlotte Gilbert	01/24
Diana Kirkpatrick	01/13	Cathy Biggs	01/26
Bram Skelley	01/16	Michael Koppula	01/27
Paul Skelley	01/16	Jesse MacGregor	01/27
Brenda Langdon	01/18	Jerry Gottschalk	01/29

ATTN: Young Adults

- ♥ **Tuesday Night Young Women's Group at 7:30pm.** Bible study for young women.
- ♥ **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** (age 20-30s) Monthly service projects, fellowship, & food.

For more info, please contact
Michelle Moreno at 818/294-0289
junglecruisebarbie@gmail.com



Your New Year's Resolution Willpower!

How strong is your will to carry out your new year's resolutions? It's always easier to name your new year's resolutions than it is to have the will power to follow through and complete your goals.

Perhaps a more important question is this: was one of your resolutions to set up or review your will or trust this year? Probably not, but if you have not completed your will or trust, or reviewed them in the last ten years, it is most likely one of those things that nags at you every once in a while throughout the entire year.

Many people put off completing their will or trust, or reviewing them because it seems too complicated, or they may have a complicated family situation that makes certain decisions difficult. Whatever your reason may be, it may be simpler than you think, and there are people and resources to help you through the process.

Fortunately, the ELCA Foundation provides to our Lutheran members free consultation through our Regional Gift Planner, Greg Shepherd. Greg will provide you with a guide book called the Will and Trust Work Book that helps you prepare for the completion of your will or for meeting with an estate planning attorney to do a trust. For those of you who already have a will or trust, you might want to request the booklet, Important Notes About My Estate, a wonderful guide book for your executor and successor trustee. God wants us to be good stewards of our resources and that would include proper planning for those resources upon our death. To get help, contact: Greg Shepherd, at (909)910-6823 or gregory.shepherd@elca.org.

Youth Ministry

Afterschool home-work help **Wednesdays—Friday.**

(Monday is Grace Diner and Tuesday is Confirmation class, so no aftercare is available on those days).



PLEASE NOTE: Parents must fill out a release form so that we have current contact information and each child and youth is aware of Grace Church policies and consequences. Thank you.

Confirmation class--**TUESDAY 3:15pm**

6th to 8th grade kids explore their faith in this lively class of education, fun and fellowship. Starts up on Jan 10.

Cherub Choir—Wed. at 2:30

Ages 4-7 learn traditional children's songs for praise and worship in this fun class with Colin Tidwell. Starts Jan 11.



Thursdays at Grace, 3:15pm

4th grade through high-school perform contemporary praise music in small groups or solos for church services. We will be working the spring musical "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe", too. Class starts up Jan 12.

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Friday Night Kick Back, Dinner, Bible Study and Awesome Instruments Group

All youth ages Middle School to freshman college are invited. The evening begins at 6:30pm. Contact Michelle Moreno for info: junglecruisebarbie@gmail.com

January Service Assistants

Blessed are those who serve the Lord's house! If you are unable to make your assigned time, please find a replacement and contact the office with the information.

January 1--10AM	
Asst Minister	Ron Engen
Com. Asst	Joan Engen
Lector	Ron Engen
Cantor	TBA
Crucifer	Michelle Moreno
Acolyte	TBA
Kid's Sermon	Ron Engen
Altar Guild	Timm/Moreno
Greeters	Skelley Family

January 8—Baptism of our Lord		
	9:00 a.m. *	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Marina Tidwell	Paul Lindquist
Com. Asst	J Gottschalk	K Andrew
Lector	M Tidwell	K Andrew
Cantor	Jack Skelley	Sherry Hutson
Crucifer	J Gottschalk	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	tbd	April Andrew
Kid's Sermon	Tom Hayes	Pastor Jim
Altar Guild	Zamorano	Guy/Silver
Greeters	The Danners	M Schneider


January 15— 2nd Sunday After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. *
Asst Minister	Tom Hayes	Betty Davis
Com. Asst	Carol Hayes	Jerry Gottschalk
Lector	Paul Lindquist	MJ Petersen
Cantor	Jim Snodgrass	Jana Koppula
Crucifer	Patrick Hayes	Jerry Gottschalk
Acolyte	Megan Hayes	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Tom Hayes	Patti Millett
Altar Guild	Lindquist/ Tidwell	M Zamorano
Greeters	Engens	Erna Guy

January 22—3rd Sunday After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	John Priebe	Katie Parks
Com. Asst	Joan Engen	Leah Wouters
Lector	Cathy Biggs	D Kirkpatrick
Cantor	C.Skelley	David Stamford
Crucifer	TBA	Leah Wouters
Acolyte	Carly Priebe	tba
Kid's Sermon	Pastor Jim	Pastor Jim
Altar Guild	MacInnis	Tidwell
Greeters	R Tidwell	Elliott & Biggs

January 29—4th Sunday After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Marty Hente	M Zamorano
Com. Asst	Elaine Hente	Betty Davis
Lector	Marty Hente	Marina Tidwell
Cantor	Clare Snodgrass	Clare Snodgrass
Crucifer	Leah Wouters	Elizabeth Moss
Acolyte	TBA	Sarah Moss
Kid's Sermon	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
Altar Guild	Tidwell	M Zamorano
Greeters	The Engens	Robert Tidwell

As you can see, we have a number of blank spots— if you can fill 'em, let us know. Blessings on those who serve in God's house!

January Calendar

1 Happy New Year! One service at 10am	2 Office closed 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	4 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service	5 1pm-Office Angels 7:30pm-Chancel	6 6:30-Youth Meeting	7 CHIEFS at 6:30pm
8 Services 9 & 11am E-Scrip registration	9 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	10 3:15 Confirmation 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	11 10AM GROW 11am —XYZ 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service	12 1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	13 6:30-Youth Meeting	14 <i>Memorial Service for Jack Harrier 11am</i>
15 Services 9 & 11am MLK Sunday — Volunteer Appreciation Day New Member Class 12:15pm	16 Office closed 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	17 3:15 Confirmation 4:15-Stewardship 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	18 10am—GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service 7:30—COUNCIL	19 1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	20 6:30-Youth Meeting	21
22 Services 9 & 11am New Member Class 12:15pm A Healthy Start to 2012 With Katie Timm	23 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	24 3:15 Confirmation 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	25 10am—GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service	26 1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	27 6:30-Youth Meeting	28
29 Services 9 & 11am New Member Class 12:15pm	30 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	31 3:15 Confirmation 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study				

The Power of Giving

Romans 12:13 — “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Special Collection for Winter

◆ Please remember the Homeless . . .

Donate clean blankets, jackets, beanies, scarves, shoes, and new socks in the wheelbarrow the Narthex.

Thank you and God bless you!

Prayers

Please keep these members and their families in your prayers for health and the loving care of our Lord.

Patti & Sean Baker
Paula Boelsems
Fran Codd

Sarah & Isaac Danner
Betty Davis
Lynn Erickson
Marion Firnhaber
Goller family
Elaine Goodyear
The Gottschalks
Bette Gregory
Lorene Jones
Marjorie Joy

Patti LaBarbera
Brenda Langdon
LLeung
Trudi Moore
Shirley Nowlin
Brian & Cherie Parks
Albert Prabhu
Maxine Stenstrom
Claudia Van de Ven

Military

Freddie Wilson
Natalie Meyers
John Meyers
Sean Sloan

Your Prayer Partner

God bless you in your prayer ministry!

Meet our new staff and Council members!

Lisa Skelley is our new Youth & Family Director, taking over from Doris MacGregor, who retired as of January 1. Lisa will work closely with committees and church members to develop events and activities to support, engage and educate our church community.

Michelle Moreno is our part-time Youth Aide. Please contact her with inquiries about youth and young adult events and activities.

Council Members 2012:

Marty Hente, MJ Petersen, Ken Leung, Marsha Heath, Dolores Johnson, Johna Miller, Robert Tidwell, Margaret Lowe, Patrick Hayes, Nancy Watson, Leah Wouters, and Katie Parks..

Welcome a talented and dedicated new council team for 2012. Please get to know them and feel free to contact them with questions, concerns, suggestions and ideas. This is YOUR church and we welcome your input!

GRACE COUNCIL & STAFF

The Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor

Marina Tidwell, Church Administrator

Lisa Skelley, Youth & Family Director

Michelle Moreno, Youth Aide

Mary Lou Basaraba, Director of Music Ministries

Jim Snodgrass, Handbell Choir Director

Colin Tidwell, Children’s Music Leader

Laura Chapman, Bookkeeper

Don Martin, Custodian

Jim Harrold, Facilities Manager

Wanda Hunter, Nursery Attendant

Marty Hente	President
MJ Petersen	Vice President
Ken Leung	Recording Secretary
Marsha Heath	Treasurer, Stewardship
Dolores Johnson	Christian Service
	Education
	Fellowship & Outreach
	Property & Support
	Worship & Music
Patrick Hayes	Youth
Nancy Watson	TBD at Jan. Council Meeting
Leah Wouters	TBD
Katie Parks	TBD
Margaret Lowe	TBD
Johna Miller	TBD
Robert Tidwell	TBD
Beverly O’Brien	Sunday School Superintendent

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JANUARY 2012
Vol. 42, No. 1

Grace Lutheran Church
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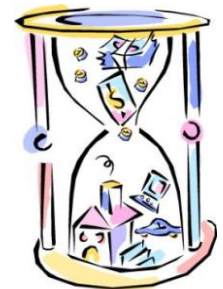
Worship Services
Sundays at 9 & 11 a.m.
Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.

OUR MISSION

We are a Lutheran family in Christ—open, loving and caring.

- We seek to share God's love through our ministries of service and proclamation.
- We strive to nurture spiritual growth by understanding and teaching God's Word, and by listening and responding to the needs of others.
- We represent Christian witness to the community.
- We desire growth as an inclusive intergenerational family;
- We resolve to support a strong youth ministry.

eScrip Registration Drive this month
Helping the church raise money for Ministries and Mission!



**Jan 22 "A Healthy Start
to the New Year"**



Between services, church member Katie Timm, R.N. will check blood pressure and glucose for members of our congregation. Take advantage of her thoughtful service to help you get in shape/stay in shape for the New Year.

**January 15—Volunteer Recognition
Sunday** In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King and "A day on, not a day off." Volunteers are the HEART and SOUL of Grace and we are grateful for your dedication!

