

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church
February 2010

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 17, 2010 at 7PM

**“Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.”
Psalm 51:1-2**

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Pastor's Page



For many people, the month of February conjures up thoughts of love and relationships because of that "sacred" day known as St. Valentine's Day. Many of you know that I use the word "sacred" somewhat in jest, but also with some truthfulness, for it has become a family tradition for Joanie and me to intentionally set time aside on that day (which we call "*Love You Day*") to enjoy and express our love for one another. For us, it is that opportunity for celebration and renewal.

I say this because I am also painfully aware of how easily I can take those special gifts of relationships for granted. That is why I find it so ironic—knowing that my wife Joanie is one of the most special gifts that God has blessed my life with, yet I can get so busy with the details of life that I seem unable to find sufficient quality time to spend with the one I care about the most. Thus, "*Love You Day*" helps structure for me the opportunity to grow with the one I love... I need that!

I also need the additional structure that February brings—this time for renewal of that most important relationship of all—our relationship with God. For on Wednesday, February 17, we begin the season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday service. If you, too, struggle in finding time for that which is the most important of all relationships, then let us together allow this Lenten Season to be that opportunity for growth, renewal, and re-creation of that which God began in each of us long ago. Let us allow that "first love" to again return as we invite God's Holy Spirit to renew our lives in Him.

I pray that we not let happen what so easily occurs among our earthly relationships! It is my prayer that this Lenten Season be your "*Love You*" time, not only in your relationships with your loved ones, but also in the greatest of relationships...your relationship with God! May we experience afresh and anew God's very presence in and through us—as the people of God at Grace Church! I pray that it be so. **AMEN!**

A Blessed Lenten Season to you.

Pastor Jim

Upcoming events

Upcoming Committees Meetings at Grace

The many committees at Grace do a lot of work and organization. If you have the time and interest, you are invited to participate with committee work. Most meetings are at church. Please call the office for more information. All are welcome!



- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| February 3, 7:30 p.m. | Christian Service meeting (Nancy Watson's house). |
| February 9, 4:15 p.m. | Fellowship meeting |
| February 10, 3:30 p.m. | Worship & Music meeting |
| February 14, 11:00 a.m. | Education Meeting |
| February 16, 4:15 p.m. | Stewardship Meeting |



QUILTERS & NEEDLECRAFTERS! EVERY THURSDAY at 10:30am

It is not too late to join our quilting/needlecraft group. We are currently working on a banner for Easter. Join us on Thursdays at 10:30 in the choir room.

2/06 6:30pm CHIEFS—potluck dinner followed by Crazy Eights card game. Contact Dolores Johnson.

2/7 9&11am Boy Scout Sunday — All Boy Scouts should come in uniform!

2/10 9:30am eXtra Years of Zest
We will go to the Getty Museum and view the exhibits of Rembrandt and his Pupils, Medieval Scriptorium and Dutch Drawings. Lunch will be at the museum.



Upcoming Events. . . .

February 13 7pm "MUSIC TO LOVE BY"

Just in time for Valentine's Day! A delicious and delightful program of vocal and instrumental romantic classical music. There are songs to enchant and soothe your soul, with sopranos Elizabeth Harmetz and Bets Danko, baritone Richard Cray, and violinist Mika Kristic. The candlelit evening will include Cody Gillette on piano, harpsichord and Grace Church's own beautiful acoustic pipe organ.

A romantic dessert reception will follow the program. Tickets are free; donations benefit Grace Church summer camps open to all children of the community. For more information, contact Marina Tidwell at 310-559-1027 or marina@graceculver.org.



February 13-15 Winter Camping at El Camino Pines:

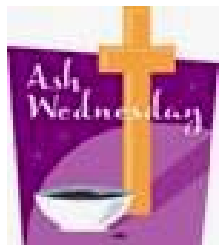
Family Winterfest cost is \$79 for ages 14-adult and \$69 for ages 4-13. Children 3 and under are free. Sign up in the office.



Upcoming Events

“Oil and perfume rejoice the heart; so does the sweetness of a friend's counsel that comes from the heart.” Proverbs 27: 9

Ash Wednesday, February 17, begins forty days of Lent. By definition, the season of Lent is the time of preparation for Holy Week, leading up to Easter.



Some believe Lent owes much of its spirit to the forty days Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry. We say he was tempted there, but a more accurate translation may be “tested.” The Jewish view of the desert was an abode of demons, especially the part of the desert where winds would howl around tall, rough stone. It must have been terrifying at night: dark, looming shapes, unearthly wailing of wind, and nothing else. In this place, Jesus was offered the opportunity to

be the wrong kind of messiah. He rejected each possibility.

Take time during Lent this year to abstain from eating or doing something or perhaps be like an angel and attend to someone else just as Jesus was attended to by angels at the end of his desert experience. Lent requires your patience and your spirituality to be renewed and reconnected with God.

Soup and Bread Volunteers Needed

Join us for Soup Suppers on Wednesdays during Lent. We need volunteers to make soup and/or bread for each Wednesday in Lent. Let us know if you are able to make some soup or bread. Our fellowship dinners begin at 6:00 on Wednesday evenings. Join us for our mid-week Lenten worship following the dinner at 6:45 p.m. Once again we will worship using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer.



COMING IN MARCH:

Actor Davis Stenstrom performs Lenten monologues, Lenten retreat with Dr Georgie Rodiger, Middle School Retreat, Palm Sunday Bake Sale, and Church Work Day to prepare our church for Easter!

Blessings. . . .



Dear friends at Grace,
We would like to thank you for your kindness, loving thoughts, prayers and hugs on the passing of our mother and grandmother, Marty Holz. Marty celebrated her 91st birthday in November. She lived a healthy and happy life, believed in living life to its fullest and always saw the beauty in the things around her. Marty's welcoming smile will live on in the hearts and minds of her family and friends.

Margie, Carl, T.C. and Lindsay Joy

Dear friends,
Thank you so much for the little Christmas tree I received from you. It is very much appreciated. I also enjoyed visiting with the ladies who delivered it. Wish so much that I could join all of you at the church. A happy and healthy 2010 to all of you.

Trudi Moore



The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary, part-time census takers for the 2010 Census. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage incurred while conducting census work. Best of all, census takers work right in their own communities.

Census taker jobs are excellent for people who want to work part-time, those who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community.

Tests are being given every Tuesday afternoon in February from 1:00 to 3:30, in the Grace Parish Hall. Practice tests are available here in the church office. For more information, contact Katie Malich, Recruiting Assistant at the Culver City Census office:

E-Mail: Katie3214.2010census@gmail.com. Phone: 323-924-1700 (office), 310-482-9542

Youth Calendar



♥ February 5—Parents' Nite Out from 6:00-10:00: baby-sitting offered at the church.

♥ February 7—Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday: the youth will be banging pots outside church after the service. Please throw any change you have (bills, too!) into the pots—the money raised will be given to ELCA Disaster Response for help with relief from the earthquake in Haiti.

♥ February 21—Youth meeting and lunch at noon.

♥ February 26-28: High School retreat at El Camino Pines

♥ March 12-14: Middle School Retreat at El Camino Pines



GABE DANKO'S EAGLE LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT

Leadership and service to the community are the key elements in an Eagle Scout project — an opportunity for a teenage boy to practice leadership by planning and leading a project of his choosing.

Gabe has elected our church to be the recipient of his project. The Parish Hall basement is the meeting place of over 20 Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops or dens, not to mention dozens of twelve-step meetings, our own Sunday School program and the Sunday School programs of the three other churches that use our facilities. The project includes spraying the ceilings (which has not been done in over 30 years) and painting walls.

Gabe needs a lot of volunteers to assist in this enormous project. Please see Gabe to sign up for the times that you may be able to assist in this project. The dates are February 20 & 21.

We as a community of faith will be here to assist him with this fabulous project and to honor his leadership. If you have been a Boy Scout or Girl Scout or your children are involved with scouting or if you know any kind of scout, think about helping this young man with his project!

Stewardship

KEEPING THE SHIP AFLOAT

If the Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower, how did the Lutherans get here?* (answer below)

February includes Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. We remember our loved ones on Valentine's Day with cards, candy and flowers. Presidents' Day sales has become the most significant form of celebration of the accomplishments of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In these times of economic crisis, these occasions of financial stimulus could even be seen as patriotic acts.

In our own church, we can look inside and outside our buildings and see needs that call out for repair and renewal. We can also seek human needs in our neighborhood and in our "community" abroad, such as in Haiti, where our efforts and contributions can lead to reconstruction and an improvement of basic human existence for people who have virtually lost everything.

Giving and helping out of a sense of being each other's keeper is a splendid motivation! As parents share the reasons for these actions with their children, the example is made that can plant the seeds of sharing as these young people enter adulthood.

A sign on a building in South Central said it well: "Gratitude is a great attitude." When our lives have been filled with many blessings, we remember the source of these gifts in sharing them in their several forms: using our talents and time where and when needed, and returning a portion of our financial resources on a continuing basis. We demonstrate our Christian teachings best when we share what we have with others.

To paraphrase Descartes, "I give, therefore I am!"



*On the Stewardship, of course!

More Kinds of Stewardship . . .

“May you abound in and be filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the honor and praise of God.” Philippians 1: 11

Grace Sunday School



Sunday School meets on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. for children 4 years old to high school. We try to meet in the Fireside Room for a song. Snacks are provided in the classroom.

In the classroom the children learn the precious stories about Jesus and his love for us. They learn how to share their faith and live as God’s stewards.

Children’s offering envelopes are available on the children’s table in the narthex. Their offerings will be received during Sunday School. Encourage your child to get an envelope, put in some money, and write their name on it.

As a church we should continue to teach that giving to church is an important part of life. In the day of automatic giving to church, children may not see parents put money in the offering plate, but we must make an effort to teach them that giving to others is a privilege in life and an important value of Christian life.

“Jesus said bring the children unto me.”

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Weeks have passed since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The outpouring of gifts to ELCA Disaster Response has enabled a swift response on behalf of this church. Our community-based partners are already providing water purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000 people and emergency food and medical supplies to thousands.



Please give today and support the long-term recovery effort in Haiti. Make your check payable to Grace Lutheran and indicate “Haiti Earthquake Relief” on the memo line. Then place your offering in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to the church. Grace Lutheran members and friends have donated approximately \$1,000 to the ELCA for Haiti. Thank you!

Recycling . . .

“For His divine power has bestowed all things to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence.” 2 Peter 1: 3

These simple items are transformed into blessings for the church and others. We are truly grateful for your support. What a wonderful way to recycle and help others!



- † **Computers** —As you know we have a computer lab with internet access available during the day and some evenings. If you upgrade your computer system, please consider donating your old computer or screen to our lab. Pastor Jim is a master repairman and can fix most electronic equipment that you might think hopeless!
- † **Specialty creamers** for coffee on Sundays.
- † **A new push broom** for sweeping leaves or tree berries.
- † **Dish soap** for kitchen.

There are nooks in the narthex for special collections:

- † **Eyeglasses** are given to the Lions Club for underdeveloped countries.
- † **Ink jet cartridges** are turned into for cash for the church.
- † **Recycle** soda cans, water bottles and glass support the youth fund.
- † **Campbell’s soup labels** are collected for Rock Point Navajo Reservation.
- † **Cereal labels** for Culver City schools.
- † **Items for Prison Ministry:** magazines, unused postage stamps and greeting cards, small toiletries.

Spiritual Growth

“I, the Lord, will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” Psalm 32: 8

Pastor’s Bible Study, Tuesdays at 7:00PM in the Fireside Rm.

G.R.O.W. Attention all women! 10am Wednesday mornings. The group helps women “grow” their faith through interesting books and Bible study. Call Pastor Ellen Jennrich or the church office for more information.



Wednesday Night service. Praise music, prayers, homily and communion. This casual service will give you a mid-week faith boost! Service is preceded by a pot-luck dinner at 6pm.

Scripture of the Day discussion. 10:30am on Sunday mornings with various facilitators. Join this lively group to discuss Sunday scriptures and how they apply to our lives. Meet in Sunday School Room 7.



Tree of Life Challenge

The tree is laden with leaves —but it can hold more! Write the name of the book of the Bible that you read and add it to the tree in the narthex. Please join in the joy of daily reading scriptures this year.

Happy Birthday!

2/1	Jim Gilbert	2/15	Bev O’Brien	2/18	Gail LaCroix
2/3	Hang Ly	2/16	Arthur Cruz	2/18	John Swenson
2/4	Haydee Chavis	2/16	Kelsey Harrold	2/20	Patti Baker
2/6	Lorene Jones	2/16	Janice Szujewski	2/21	Larry Green
2/7	Kim Garner	2/17	Bets Danko	2/22	Ray Lanthier
2/8	Ben Lowe	2/17	John Priebe	2/22	Pam Rezin
2/10	Annie Danko	2/18	Mary Lou Basaraba	2/23	Brad Sick

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Prayer Concerns

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

Everett Aspenson
Patti & Sean Baker
Debbie Berger
Paula Boelsems
Oscar Carter
Fran Codd
Betty Davis
Lynn Erickson
Marion Firnhaber
Jerry Frascella
Bette & George Gregory
Goller family
Elaine Goodyear
Jack Harrier
Maggie Johnson
Lorene Jones
Babak Kamjou
Patti LaBarbera
Pauline Lee
Trudi Moore
Shirley Nowlin
Lois Ostlund
Imogene Robbins
Maxine Stenstrom

Members in the Military

**Derrick Hente,
Natalie Meyers,
John Meyers,**

**Grace Lutheran Church
The Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor**

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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.

Suffering Servant

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