

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

February 2012

A Note from our Pastor

You may notice that the approaching days will be bringing us a special set of “observances”. It starts with the ‘almighty’ Superbowl on Sunday February 5th, followed by that all important Valentines Day, February 14th ... and then we begin our season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd.



As different and as contrasted as these three events are... I actually see them as being quite similar... bound together with a common thread: commitment, discipline, focus, perseverance, and love.

A superstar football player, achieving the honored position of being on one of the Superbowl teams, certainly requires a number of quality characteristics... a commitment to the sport, focus on the subject, the discipline of workouts, the perseverance of practice, and love of the game.

And yes, I believe one could apply the same attributes to those celebrating St. Valentine’s Day. To be someone’s valentine, whether as a true friend or true love, you need the same set of virtues... commitment, clear focus, discipline, lots of perseverance, and of course... love.

And last, but definitely not least, we can’t forget our approaching Lenten season. For as we follow our Lord in his journey to the cross, it is important that we, too, possess the determination and discipline of a Superbowl athlete, and of course the love, focus and commitment of the best valentine! For it is in truly loving and serving our Lord... that we prepare our lives for the greatest event of all... **LIVING LIFE**... and living it to the fullest... thru the power of God’s Holy Spirit!

May this month of February be a blessed one for you... as we continue to live our lives

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under the Lordship of
the One who calls us
forth to follow Him!

Handwritten signature of the pastor.

Christian Education

Tuesday Night Bible Study with Pastor Jim at 7pm

Tuesday Night Young Women's Group at 7:30pm— Study and sharing for young women (20ish to 40ish). Please contact Michelle Moreno for more info: (818) 294-0289 or junglecruisebarbie@gmail.com

Wednesday, at 10am "God Renewing Our Women" (GROW) Bible Study with Pastor Ellen.
All women welcome!

Wednesday night Worship service 6:45pm. A mid-week, faith-filled, pick-me-up.
We need volunteers to make or bring soup for 6pm supper during Lent (starting Feb 22).
Call 310-559-1027. Thanks!



A Message from Your Council President



I would like to take this opportunity to greet all of you and wish each one a healthy and Happy New Year. By the time you read this, your Church Council will have met for the first time in 2012. Allow me to introduce your new Council and their responsibilities.

I will serve you as President this year and I would like to ask everyone to keep me (and all the Council) in your prayers. Serving as Vice President is M.J. Petersen. Our very efficient Treasurer is Marsha Heath, and Ken Leung will be keeping our minutes and serving as the official officer of the Congregation.

Each of the Standing Committees will have a council representative on them as well. Please see page 4 for the list. In addition, our **Personnel Committee** is headed by Nancy Watson, and the wonderful **Grace Diner** will be aptly directed by their committee, with Johna Miller and our new Parish Director, Lisa Skelley. I am also pleased to announce that Margaret Lowe will serve as **Council Liaison** to keep up connected to the many projects and activities that come to us through both our Synod and the National Church body. Lastly, our **Endowment Committee** will continue with it's current leaders, Lu Petersen and Ken Smith.

I also would like to let each one of you know that if there are issues that you might have with the daily running of the congregation, or any other issues that you might have, to take a moment to call one of us and let us know how we are doing in our service to you and the church. You may rest assured that we will accept and address them. Along those lines, and in a lighthearted vein, we could also use some "positive" strokes as well to let us know we are doing our job serving you, the members of Grace Lutheran Church.

Marty Hente

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

*Frank and Martha Keister in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary
and*

Marilyn Lee and Harvey Schneider in memory of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's birthday

February at Grace

Feb 2—Grace Young Adults—

Swing Dance at Lindy Groove! (www.lindygroove.com/) We'll carpool from Grace at 6:15 pm, or meet in Pasadena at 7:30pm. The price is \$7 at the door. See Michelle for info.



Feb 4—CHIEFS potluck, Crazy 8's and fellowship. Contact Dolores Johnson for info: (323)292-9998

Feb 5—Souper Bowl of Caring—Bring change to contribute to the kids banging pots—they're collecting for a TBD mission.

Feb 5—9am New Members Received

Feb 8—XYZ field trip to Craft & Folk Art Museum

Meet at church at 10:15am to carpool. Cost is \$5/ person. Bring money for lunch too.

Feb 12—Talent Show: Potluck at 4pm, Show at 5pm.



Got a talent you'd like to share? Dust off those ol' tap shoes and get ready for a lot of laughs at the umpteenth annual Talent Show — an afternoon of crazy acts and great potluck that celebrates "Shrove Tuesday"

before the soon-to-come Lenten season. See Marina, Lisa or Michelle to sign up for show or potluck.

Feb 15—Council Meeting

Feb 19—Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday

Feb 20—Office closed for President's Day

Feb 22—Ash Wednesday service at 12pm and at 7pm Soup supper at 12:45 and at 6pm.

Feb 29—Lenten soup supper at 6pm and Worship service at 6:45pm. Volunteers needed to bring hearty soup (rolls and desserts are welcome too! :-)

An Opportunity for Renewal

A fine day of study and reflection. The workshop is especially for older persons: "Loving God When We're Well" and "Loving God When We Or Someone We Love Are Ill". Dynamic Dr. Marva Dawn is the keynote speaker!



February 28th—Cal Lutheran College/Thousand Oaks

February 29th—Concordia College in Irvine

Cost is \$25.00 before February 21st, or \$30.00 at the door. Time is 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

For registration, see Marina in the church office.

Calling All Yard Sale Aficionados!

Lisa Skelley is forming a new Yard Sale Committee in an effort to bring new ideas (and energy!) to the colossal task of running our church yard sales.

Thinking outside the (cardboard) box is most welcome. Please contact Lisa for further information: 310/559-1027.



February Birthdays

Erin Asheghian 02/01	Kelsey Harrold 02/16
James Gilbert 02/01	Janice Szujewski 02/16
Lorene Jones 02/06	John Priebe 02/17
Kimberly Garner 02/07	Mary Lou Basaraba 02/18
William Lowe 02/08	Gail LaCroix 02/18
Lisa McDaniel 02/08	Patricia Baker 02/20
Sean Baker 02/13	Lawrence Green 02/21
Beverly O'Brien 02/15	Maribel Cortes 02/22
Arthur Cruz 02/16	Brad Sick 02/23

WHAT'S COMING UP . . .

In March . . . Lenten Soup Suppers and Wedn. Night Holden Evening Prayer Services



March 16 & 17 — A concert featuring inspirational songs from Broadway.

Invite your neighbors to this wonderful community event, with FANTASTIC singers, sponsored by our Grace Performing Arts Ministry!

In April . . . All Church Clean up, Palm Sunday and Easter services

In May . . .

♥ **Celebrate Pastor Jim's 15th year at Grace and 35th year of Ministry** (plotters, I mean, PLAN-NEERS welcome! See Marina)

♥ **El Camino Pines Memorial Day Camp Out**
www.lrcchome.com/programs/memorial_day_family_camp.php



Re-gifting

Did you receive a gift for Christmas that you did not need? Did you re-gift it to someone else? Re-gifting, once frowned upon, has become an acceptable practice in recent years.

Re-gifting has always been acceptable to God. When blessed by God with more gifts than we need, He asks us to share those gifts with others and especially those in need. When we approach the end of our lives here on earth, God wants us to re-gift not only to our loved ones, but also to the work of His church as well.

We call this type of re-gifting, planned giving. With the help our congregation's gift planner, Greg Shepherd, you will be shown ways that you can re-gift to the church without reducing your gifts to your loved ones. To learn more, you may contact Greg at: (909)910-6823 or gregory.shepherd@elca.org.

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.

Feb 2—Grace Young Adults Swing Dance at Lindy Groove! (<http://www.lindygroove.com/>)

For more info, see page 2 and contact **Michelle Moreno** at 818/294-0289
junglecruisebarbie@gmail.com

Youth Ministry



NOTE CHANGE:

Afterschool home-work help
Monday, Wednesday and
Thursday.

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.

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.

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

February Service Assistants

If you are unable to make your assigned time, please find a replacement and contact the office with the information. Thanks!

February 5— 5th after Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. *
Asst Minister	Tom Hayes	Patti Baker
Com. Asst	Carol Hayes	Betty Davis
Lector	Barbara Knipple	David Stamford
Cantor	Tara Alexander	C & B Skelley
Crucifer	TBD	David Stamford
Acolyte	Megan Hayes	Babak Kamjou
Kid's Sermon	Tom Hayes	Patti Millett
Altar Guild	Timm/Moreno	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	Skelley Family	Joy & Rooney

As you can see, we have a number of "TBD" (to be determined) blank spots— if you can fill 'em, let us know!

Marina can show you the ropes quickly and easily!

* Choir

Feb 12—6th after Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Betty Davis	Paul Lindquist
Com. Asst	Joan Engen	K Andrew
Lector	Betty Davis	K Andrew
Cantor	Paul Skelley	Pastor Ellen
Crucifer	Jerry Gottschalk	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	Claire Skelley	April Andrew
Kid's Sermon	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
Altar Guild	M Tidwell	Guy & Silver
Greeters	The Engens	Robert Tidwell

Feb 19—Tranfiguration of our Lord		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	Ron Engen	Jason Silver
Com. Asst	Joan Engen	Patti Baker
Lector	Ron Engen	Jerry Gottschalk
Cantor	Clare Snodgrass	Jerry Gottschalk
Crucifer	Carol Hayes	Jeannie Meyers
Acolyte	TBD	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Ron Engen	Ron Engen
Altar Guild	B Jefferson	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	The Danners	Erna Guy

Feb 26—1st Lent		
	9:00 a.m. *	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Marina Tidwell	Katie Parks
Com. Asst	Michelle Moreno	Leah Wouters
Lector	Cathy Biggs	Marina Tidwell
Cantor	Claire Skelley	David Stamford
Crucifer	TBD	Leah Wouters
Acolyte	TBD	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Michelle Moreno	Michelle Moreno
Altar Guild	M Zamorano	Snodgrass & Silver
Greeters	Hayes Family	Robert Tidwell



Blessings on those who serve in God's house!

February Calendar



			1	2	3	4
			10AM GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel 6:15 Young Adults Lindy Swing	6:30-Youth Meeting	CHIEFS at 6:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Services 9 & 11am New Members Received Superbowl and Souper Bowl of Caring	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3:15pm-Confirmation 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am —XYZ 10AM GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	
12	13	14-Valentines Day	15	16	17	18
Services 9 & 11am Talent Show Pot luck at 4pm Show at 5pm	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3:15 Confirmation 4:15-Stewardship 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am—GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship Service 7:30—COUNCIL	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Services 9 & 11am Transfiguration of our Lord	Office closed for Presidents Day 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3:15 Confirmation 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am—GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Soup Supper Noon & 7pm ASH WEDNESDAY Service	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	
26	27	28	29			
Services 9 & 11am	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3:15 Confirmation 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am—GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Soup Supper 6:45 Worship Service			

The Power of Giving

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

◆ Please remember the Homeless . . .

Donate clean blankets, jackets, beanies, scarves, shoes, and new socks in the wheelbarrow in 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
Stephen Jahn
Lorene Jones

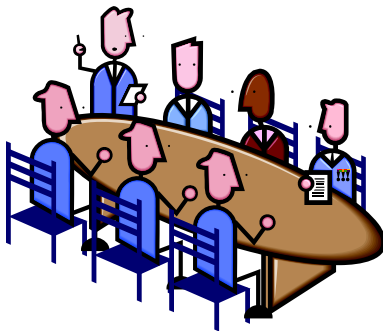
Marjorie Joy
Patti LaBarbera
Brenda Langdon
I Leung
Trudi Moore
Shirley Nowlin
Brian & Cherie Parks
Albert Prabhu
Cathie Seeman
Maxine Stenstrom

Military

Freddie Wilson
Natalie Meyers
John Meyers
Sean Sloan

Your Prayer Partner

God bless you in your prayer ministry!



All people of Grace are invited to join the committees of the church:

Christian Service
Education
Fellowship & Outreach
Property & Support
Stewardship & Finance
Worship & Music
Youth

If you have any questions or concerns about the church, please contact any of the council representatives listed on the right, or the church office. We're here to help!

GRACE COUNCIL & STAFF

The Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor
Marina Tidwell, Church Administrator
Lisa Skelley, Youth & Family Director
Michelle Moreno, Youth Leader
Mary Lou Basaraba, Director of Music Ministries
Jim Snodgrass, Handbell Choir Director
Colin Tidwell, Children's Music Leader

Beverly O'Brien, Sunday School Superintendent
Jim Harrold, Facilities Manager
Wanda Hunter, Nursery Attendant
Don Martin, Custodian
Laura Chapman, Bookkeeper

Marty Hente, Council President
MJ Petersen, Vice President
Ken Leung, Recording Secretary
Marsha Heath, Treasurer

Dolores Johnson, Nancy Watson—**Christian Service**
Johna Miller—**Education**
Robert Tidwell, Katie Parks—**Fellowship & Outreach**
MJ Petersen, Marty Hente—**Property & Support**
Marsha Heath, Leah Wouters—**Stewardship & Finance**
MJ Petersen—**Worship & Music**
Patrick Hayes—**Youth**
Margaret Lowe—**Council Liaison, Synod and ELCA**

GRACE NOTES
FEBRUARY 2012
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Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor

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Fax: 310-559-9269
Youth: 310-841-5066

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.



February 22
At noon and at 7pm

Join us for the start of Lent—
a commemoration of Jesus' 40 days in
the wilderness at the start of his
ministry.

There will be a light soup supper after the noon service and at 6pm.

Did you know?

Ashes were used in ancient times to express mourning. Dusting oneself with ashes was a way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. We join in this tradition as a meaningful way of setting aside a portion of the year to especially reflect on our lives and challenge ourselves to grow closer to Jesus.