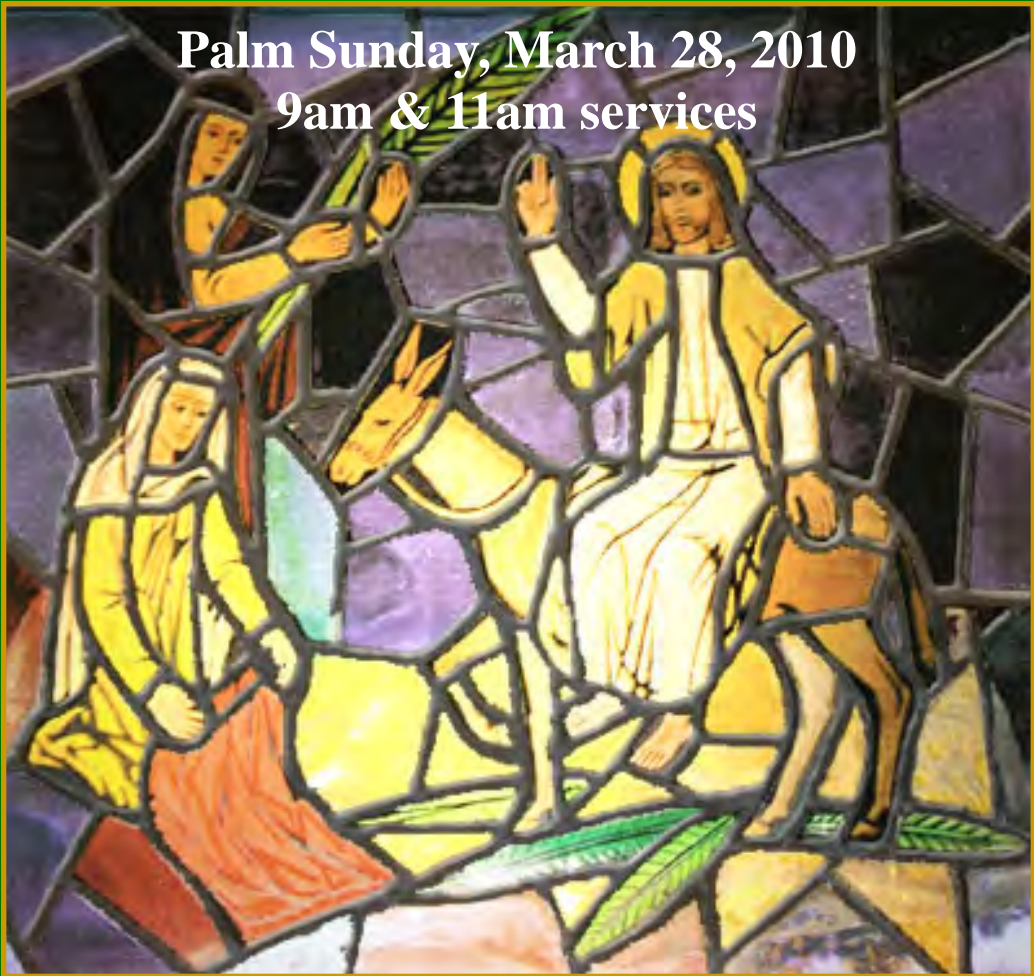


Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church
March 2010

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010
9am & 11am services



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Pastor's Page

It is hard to believe that our Lenten Journey has begun! It is that time of the church year for contemplation and introspection—a time to pause and take stock of our individual and corporate lives. It's that time of reflection as we focus on the life of our Lord... his mission and ministry... his suffering and his death.

This opportunity to slow down and take stock of our lives can truly be a blessing. We know that there is much that pulls and tugs on our heartstrings SO much that often what is MOST important receives the least amount of our time and attention. Unfortunately, like many of God's blessings, Lent can be easily ignored. PLEASE don't let this profound opportunity slip through your "spiritual fingers." Take full advantage of the blessings that are offered to you!

I encourage you to make full use of the many worship and study opportunities available to you this holy season at Grace Lutheran Church. In addition to our Sunday morning worship schedule at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m., we will be offering special Wednesday night Lenten Services using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer beginning at 6:45 p.m., preceded by a special Lenten "Soup Supper" which is open to all. (If you interested in providing one of the soups, give us a call.)

Also, each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, we will be continuing our study through the New Testament book of St. Luke's gospel, and we would be delighted to have you join us (coffee, popcorn and See's candy provided!).

Don't forget that on Saturday, March 13, our dear friend Dr. Georgie Rodiger will again return for our annual Lenten Retreat from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, with a closing service which will include prayer with the laying on of hands for all those so desiring. Morning snacks and lunch will be provided (free-will offering basket will be available).

How ever you are able, I pray that you will use this Lenten season to explore those ways that can strengthen and deepen your spirituality! I believe the more we become involved in Lent and its many blessings, the greater will be our joy this coming Easter. To quote Martin Luther, "This is most certainly true!"

Traveling that Lenten Journey with you,

Pastor Jim

Upcoming events

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!



- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. | Christian Service meeting at Nancy Watson's house |
| Tuesday, March 9, 4:15 p.m. | Fellowship meeting |
| Wednesday, March 10, 3:30 p.m. | Worship & Music meeting |
| Sunday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. | Education Meeting |
| Tuesday, March 16, 4:15 p.m. | Stewardship Meeting |



Saturday, March 6 at 6:30pm CHIEFS—potluck dinner followed by Crazy Eights card game. Contact Dolores Johnson.

March 7, Girl Scout Sunday — all Girl Scouts should come in uniform!

March 13, 8:30am to 2:00pm Lenten Retreat

We are blessed each year to have The Rev. Dr. Georgie Rodiger, a psychologist and Episcopalian priest lead our annual Lenten Retreat. Many of you are familiar with the open dialog retreat that Dr. Rodiger leads and how inspiring this time can be during Lent. Mark your calendar for this date.



Upcoming Events. . . .

March 14—SPRING FORWARD!!!



Before you go to sleep Saturday March 13, change your clocks FORWARD one hour for Daylight Savings Time. (That way you won't be late for church the next morning! :-)

Don't forget to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, too, as recommended by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

March 20—7pm SPRING CONCERT “Awakening”

Awaken your spirit with a celebration of songs, arias and sacred favorites that'll lift your soul as you prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Tickets are free; donations benefit Grace Diner — a free weekly dinner for our neighbors in need. For more information, contact Marina at 310-559-1027 or marina@graceculver.org

Upcoming Events

March 27 Church Work Day 8am-1pm

An opportunity for all to serve, young and old. Twice a year we hold a work day to spruce up our church buildings and grounds. The next scheduled work day is Saturday, March 27, from 8:00



a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come one, come all! Bring a friend, bring your Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop. Come for an hour or come for the whole time. There is always work to do. Remember—many hands make light work! Opportunities: gardening, removing spider webs, waxing pews, cleaning windows, cleaning the kitchen, etc., etc.



March 28 Palm Sunday & Annual Bake Sale

Bring your donations of baked goods and packaging supplies to the Fireside Room on Saturday, March 27, before noon, or on Sunday, March 28, at 8:00 a.m. Please put a label on your treat letting us know what it is and whether or not there are nuts.



March 30, XYZ meeting at 10:30 a.m —a visit to the Hammer Museum in Westwood. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 per person (65 & up).

April 1 and 2 Holy Week

Please join us for **Maundy Thursday** celebration of the Last Supper (April 1) and **Good Friday**, commemorating Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross (April 2).

CALLA LILIES NEEDED FOR EASTER

A team by Linda Lovgren, get together the day before Easter to attach calla lilies to the cross above the altar. Many lilies are needed—as well as greens! If you have any in your garden, please bring them to the church before 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 3. Don't have any? Maybe your neighbor does. Kindly ask if they would be willing to cut a few for us. THANKS!



ETC. . . .

Remember our Shut-Ins

The following Grace member are either shut in at home or in a nursing facility. They would love to have visits, cards, etc.

**Jack Harrier, Pauline Lee, Trudi Moore,
Lorene Jones, Fran Codd, and Lois Ostlund**

Please call the office if you need any addresses. Thank you.



Easter Lilies

Please look for the Easter Lilies envelope in the Sunday bulletins and in this month's newsletter. Help us to beautify the church this Easter and purchase a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. Each Easter Lily plant is \$8.00. If you wish to take yours home, you may do so following the second service on Easter.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Celebrating 65 Years in the Ministry!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first worship service on February 18, 1945, in a scout hut in Veterans Memorial Park. The Rev. Frederick Wentz arrived that spring to serve as the first pastor and led the incorporation service in October of 1945. Within months, adult and youth choirs were formed, and property was purchased on Overland Avenue between Franklin and Farragut. A chapel, church offices, and the present choir room were built in 1946. Members worked very hard to pay for the land and buildings! Praise the Lord that we are here to celebrate 65 years of faith-filled worship at Grace!



Youth Calendar



- ♥ March 12-14: Middle School Retreat at El Camino Pines—March 4: Parents' Nite Out, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- ♥ March 12-14: Middle School Retreat at El Camino Pines
- ♥ March 21: Youth lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room
- ♥ March 28: Go-cart trip—meet at 11:30 a.m.
- ♥ March 30: Desert Hot Springs Spa trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m., bring a bag lunch
- ♥ April 4: Easter Breakfast—youth needed to help cook & serve
- ♥ April 9-11: Rubies and Pearls Retreat at El Camino Pines (for women from Middle School age and older)
- ♥ April 22-24: Mission trip to Ensenada, Mexico

GABE DANKO'S EAGLE LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT



Thank you to Gabe Danko and his 30 volunteers! Gabe chose the Grace Lutheran Church for his Eagle Scout project. On Friday, February 19, and Saturday, February 20, Gabe and his volunteers (church members, friends, Scouts, etc.) painted the ceilings in the downstairs Parish Hall. It is SO much brighter now. Thank you, also, to all the people who donated supplies for this project! Job well done, Gabe! We're proud of you.

Family Memorial Day Camp May 29-31

A great weekend for all ages! There will be lots of activities with traditional camp favorites and some surprises. Come with your whole family, or come alone and meet some new friends! Children will have their own activities led by the friendly El Camino Pines staff. The retreat begins Saturday, May 29, with registration at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. The retreat ends on Monday, May 31, after worship and an early lunch. There are two different housing options: **Cabin** or **Tent/Trailer/RV**. Registration will be up online soon at <http://www.lrcchome.com/familycamp>.

Stewardship

Imagine a summer when children develop the poise to express themselves creatively, explore museums and wetlands, grow deep friendships, and develop teamwork skills. These are just a few of the opportunities we offer the children of Culver City through our summer enrichment programs. Held from June 28 through the end of August, each week offers something new and challenging as we strive for excellence in caring for children. . .



With the downturn in the economy, Grace Church has been dedicated to offering relief for our local families – some of whom are truly desperate for daycare during the summer months. This year we would like to raise money for scholarships to serve more needy families.



On May 2, we will be holding a community-wide fundraiser Concert, Quilt Raffle and Silent Auction. We're looking for all sorts of new items and personal services for the Silent Auction:

- ♦ New appliances (large or small)
- ♦ Gift cards to local restaurants
- ♦ Gift baskets or gift cards from your favorite places to shop
- ♦ Timeshares, hotel rooms, or trips
- ♦ Artwork and Handcrafted jewelry and items
- ♦ Spa day, luxury massage, or “the works” at a special salon
- ♦ Host an elegant dinner, provide entertainment for party, or write a song for a special event

Where do YOU come in? Do you have a hidden talent that you would like to share? Can you approach your favorite shop with a donation request? Can you help with the organization of the event? We need your help to make this a success!

Please see Marina Tidwell for the Donation Request letter to present to potential donors, and to donate items. Thank for your involvement in this event!



Summer Camps

Cost: Each camp is 9am-1pm — \$60/week
Aftercare: 1pm-5pm — \$60/week
Sibling discount \$5/child — \$10 off “Early Bird”
registration (before April 11)
Space is LIMITED!

1. Musical Theatre: June 28-July 16

PLUS Performances July 16, 17 & 18. Ages 6-16 years old.

Please note: Participants must attend ALL THREE WEEKS.

•Dancing, Singing, Improv and Acting, Set and Costume Design, Team-building
This is a fun — but *demanding* — camp that culminates in three public performances on the weekend of July 16. Please anticipate TOTAL commitment to being a member of the team. No experience necessary — just a willingness to learn poise and teamwork! Limited to 25 students.

Some scholarships are available. Email marina@graceculver.org.

2. Art Camp: July 19-23 (*Subject to change*) Drawing and painting lessons.

3. Science Camp: July 26-30

Field trips include wetlands, beach clean up, museum visits and talks by nature experts. Age 9 and up. Discount for Parent Volunteers.

4. Vacation Bible School: Aug 2-6 BOABAB BLAST Ages 4-and up.

Baobab Blast is an open invitation to be a part of God’s Great Get-Together. Set under the impressive baobab tree, kids will have the opportunity to hear the Word, be amazed at God’s wildlife creations, and be a part of a supportive community. Students entering Middle School may volunteer as Camp helpers at no cost. High-School age volunteers can earn community service hours. Discount for Parent Volunteers.

5. Beach days: Aug 16-20 & Aug 23-27

Lazy hazy days hanging out at the beach in the morning and then back to Grace church to play the Wii, read, and kick back until 1pm. Bring a swimsuit, towel, sunblock, snack and water. Age 9 and up. Discount for Parent Volunteers.

Students age 15 and up may volunteer as Camp helpers at no cost, and earn Service Hours, if accepted by church staff.

El Salvador Update

1. **Thank you!** Our donations to the Lutheran communities in El Salvador have been received - clothing and blankets for flood relief and the Christmas gifts and money for the Olmedo family. Here are translations of recent e-mails from Pastor Matias: "Special greetings to everyone at Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you for your solidarity with our brothers and sisters. Thank you for your friendship with us and the fellowship that binds us through our Lord Jesus Christ. We wish you abundant blessings."



2. **Visit from Pastora Martina on Tuesday, Feb. 16** What a joy to welcome Pastora Martina and Pastor Ellen's friend Julie Jacks! We had a lovely evening of sharing photos and stories from El Salvador. Pastora Martina enjoyed meeting the group and seeing our church - we were even privileged to sit in on part of the bell choir rehearsal! Their comments to Pastor Ellen afterwards - "Your congregation is so welcoming and friendly - no wonder you like being part of it."
3. **Opportunities to support students** Education is so important for the children of El Salvador, but it is also expensive for those who have so little. A full year in college is \$1,500, and a year in elementary/junior high is \$150. Two students in particular need our help: Rudy Perez (college) and Rocia Hernandez (6th grade). Pastor Ellen has info for each. Please consider being part of the team supporting these young people. Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran, note "El Salvador scholarships" in the "memo" line. Any amount is appreciated!

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 Room.

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 Lenten dramas

March 3—Bets Danko

March 10—Marina Tidwell as the mother of the “Thief on the Cross”

March 17, 6:00p.m.—St. Patrick’s Celebration . Dinner is corned beef & cabbage, Irish soda bread, and whiskey cake for dessert. The cost is \$5.00 per person and \$1.00 for youth under 12. Celebration of St. Patrick’s life with Bets Danko at 6:45pm.

March 24—David Stenstrom as Simon of Cyrene. Don’t miss gifted professional actor and long-time friend of Grace.

Happy Birthday!

3/1	<i>Evan Miller</i>	3/13	<i>Ginny MacInnis</i>	3/20	<i>Joyce Raichel</i>
3/2	<i>Joanie Maines</i>	3/14	<i>Jennifer Blackwell</i>	3/23	<i>Camille LaCroix</i>
3/4	<i>Carol Hayes</i>	3/14	<i>Bruce Rezin</i>	3/23	<i>Leah Wouters</i>
3/5	<i>Maggie Johnson</i>	3/16	<i>Gabe Danko</i>	3/24	<i>Roger MacGregor</i>
3/13	<i>Debbie Berger</i>	3/16	<i>Gus Danko</i>	3/27	<i>Clare Snodgrass</i>
3/13	<i>Kyle Ruebsamen</i>	3/19	<i>Eva Westholm</i>		

MARCH 2010

Vol. 40, No. 3

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

Lu Petersen

Imogene Robbins

Maxine Stenstrom

Ted Tidwell

Members in the Military

Derrick Hente,

Natalie Meyers,

John Meyers,

& your Prayer Partner

Grace Lutheran Church
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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.

Suffering Servant

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