

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

March 2012

## A Note from our Pastor . . .

*"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on the cross."*

(Philippians 2:5-7)

The season of Lent is upon us! On Ash Wednesday we began our 40 days of Lent (excluding Sundays) as that time of repentance and renewal . . . a time to turn away from all that distracts and takes away from our relationship with God.

So... do you have anything that's dragging you down? Any "baggage" that's holding you back in your journey of faith? This Lenten season is that time to empty ourselves... to let go of all that is not of God.

The scripture above (Philippians 2) makes it quite clear that for Jesus to be the Christ, he had to empty himself. He had to let go of all the "baggage" that we so often carry . . . the weights of ego, of self-importance, of insecurity, of doubt and distrust . . . It all had to go!



As we journey with our Lord this Lenten season, may we too let go of our "baggage" and turn it over to our Lord . . .to the Cross of Good Friday. May our own fears, failures, and insecurities—even our striving for self rather than serving our Lord & others—be placed at the foot of the Cross.

It is my hope and prayer that the people of God at Grace would empty ourselves of all that hinders, so that we, too, would die with our Lord in his journey to the cross . . . And together we would also be raised up in the newness and power of the Risen Christ. May it be so for the People of God!

On that Lenten Journey with you...

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## 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](mailto: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.** The beautiful Holden Evening Prayer is our worship service during Lent. Please join us for a soup supper at 6pm.



This Lenten season, we are joining congregations across the country in a "Buck-a-Chick" Sale!

For only one dollar you can purchase and decorate a paper chick. For each \$1 donation, the ELCA will provide a chick to a family experiencing hunger. The chicks become a source of eggs, food and income for families living in poverty.

To date, congregations have raised more than \$85,000 to support this effort, allowing the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger program to connect families to the resources they need to escape hunger and poverty for good.

### What do you do?

Over the next few weeks, buy coloring page/s between services on Sunday, color them and return them the following Sunday. That's it! We will hang your colorful chicks in a prominent spot and announce the fundraising total on Easter Sunday. Bless you for caring and sharing!

## Volunteers needed for Holy Week and Easter:

**March 31 All Church Clean Up & Decorate for Palm Sunday**

**April 1 Palm Sunday services at 9 & 11am**  
Palm Sunday Bake Sale (bakers & buyers both!)

**April 4 Maundy Thursday service at 7pm**

**April 5 Good Friday Service at 7pm**

**April 7 Set up and decorate for Easter**  
Pew decorations  
Easter lily display  
Calla Lily cross  
Easter brunch set up

**April 8 Easter Sunday, services at 9 & 11am.**  
Brunch between services  
Easter egg hunt  
Pictures with "the Bunny"

*If you can help, please contact  
Marina or Lisa in the church office!*



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

*Margaret & Jerry Gottschalk*

*and*

*Elaine Hente in memory of Lester Brinkmann*

## March at Grace

**Every Wednesday—Lenten soup supper at 6pm and Worship service at 6:45pm.** Volunteers needed to bring hearty soup (rolls and desserts are welcome too! :-) Call Marina or Lisa 310/559-1027.

**March 3 at 6:30pm—CHIEFS** potluck, Crazy 8's and fellowship. Contact Dolores Johnson for info: (323)292-9998

### March 4—"HEALTHY" SUNDAY—10:15am

Katie Parks, RN, will be back to take your blood pressure and glucose levels. In addition, we have a speaker from Express Rx Pharmacy who will be talking about

- ♥ An eco-conscious prescription drug take-back program
- ♥ How to minimize medication errors
- ♥ Ways to keep your family healthy and vital

**Don't miss it!**



**March 14 at 10am—XYZ field trip — Call Lisa for details. 310/559-1027**

### March 17th at 7pm & 18th at 2pm

ALL CHURCH FUNDRAISER

### Singsational Concert

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! Free-will offering gratefully accepted!

**March 26—Spring Break for Culver City Students. Please contact Lisa to sign your youth or child up for Spring Break Camp —9am to 1pm M-Th.**

**March 28 at 7:30pm—Council.** Meetings will now be held on the 4th Wedn of every month for accounting reasons.

**March 31—All Church Clean up and decorate for Palm Sunday.** Many hands make light work! Please call Marina or Lisa to volunteer! (A yummy breakfast on Saturday morning is our bribe :-)

### Calling All Yard Sale Aficionados!

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



## March Birthdays

Evan Miller	03/01	Joyce Raichel	03/20
Joanie Maines	03/02	Leah Wouters	03/23
Carol Hayes	03/04	Camille LaCroix	03/23
Maggie Johnson	03/05	Roger MacGregor	03/24
Ian Carter	03/11	Clare Snodgrass	03/27
Virginia MacInnis	03/13	Katherine Timm	03/27
Eva Westholm	03/19		

### WHAT'S COMING UP . . .

In April . . .



**Palm Sunday (April 1)**  
**Holy Week and Easter services**  
 Please see page 1 for volunteer opportunities.

**Blood Drive on April 22nd.** The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be here. If you can donate please drink plenty of fluids beforehand, and roll up your sleeve! Thanks so much!

In May . . .

- ♥ **May 20th Celebrate Pastor Jim's 15th year at Grace and 35th year of Ministry** (Plotters, ahem, I mean, PLANNERS welcome! See Marina)

- ♥ **El Camino Pines Memorial Day Camp Out**  
[www.lrcchome.com/programs/memorial\\_day\\_family\\_camp.php](http://www.lrcchome.com/programs/memorial_day_family_camp.php)

This year we welcome Pastor Stephanie Jaeger of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica as our speaker.

The theme is "Time Out: Centering in God". We will take a "time out" of our regular busy lives as laborers, volunteers, parents, grandparents and practice centering our selves and our lives in God.

Sessions will include "Centering in God in Prayer," "Centering in God in Creation," "Centering in God in Scripture," and "Centering in God in Service."

Please get your reservation in soon. Space fills up quickly.

## Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

We want to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering.

Electronic giving offers convenience for YOU . . . and provides the church much-needed financial consistency.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

**Credit & Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available in the office. See Marina.



### Alternative to the IRA Charitable Contribution

At the time of this writing, congress has still not passed the extension of the IRA Charitable Contribution. This contribution allowed those at age 70 1/2 or older to transfer IRA assets to a charity without having to pay taxes on the IRA. You could contribute up to \$100,000 in a year. However, you could not take a tax deduction in addition to the tax-free transfer. Many chose to transfer their RMD (required minimum distribution) to avoid the additional taxes.

In lieu of the IRA Charitable Contribution rules, there is another alternative that minimizes taxes caused by RMDs. After taking your RMD, simply gift to charity the amount of the RMD and you will get a tax deduction for the charitable gift that will help offset the taxes. Please consult your tax advisor in using this strategy, and please remember your church first when thinking of charitable contributions!

For further information and additional gift planning strategies, please contact our congregation's gift planner, Greg Shepherd, at:

(909)910-6823 or [gregory.shepherd@elca.org](mailto: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.

## Youth Ministry

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

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



**March 26—Spring Break for Culver City students. Please contact Lisa to sign your youth or child up for Spring Break Camp — Mon-Th 9am to 1pm.**

### 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.

### 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](mailto:junglecruisebarbie@gmail.com)

# March Service Assistants

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

## March 4-2nd Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. *
Asst Minister	Lila Swenson	Patti Baker
Com. Asst	Leah Wouters	Betty Davis
Lector	Lila Swenson	Diana Kirkpatrick
Cantor	Emily Reppun	Jim Snodgrass
Crucifer	Leah Wouters	Jeannie Meyers
Acolyte	Megan Hayes	Babak Kamjou
Kid's Sermon	Ron Engen	Ron Engen
Altar Guild	Timm/Moreno	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	The Engens	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*

## March 11—3rd Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Ron Engen	Paul Lindquist
Com. Asst	Joan Engen	K. Andrew
Lector	Betty Davis	Marina Tidwell
Cantor	Jack Skelley	Clare Snodgrass
Crucifer	Jerry Gottschalk	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	TBD	April Andrew
Kid's Sermon	Ron Engen	Ron Engen
Altar Guild	Marina Tidwell	Guy & Silver
Greeters	The Skelleys	Marilyn Schneider

## March 18—4th Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	Tom Hayes	Elizabeth Moss
Com. Asst	Carol Hayes	Patti Baker
Lector	Ron Engen	Jerry Gottschalk
Cantor	Tara Alexander	David Stamford
Crucifer	Patrick Hayes	Patty Baker
Acolyte	Megan Hayes	Sarah Moss
Kid's Sermon	Tom Hayes	Patty Millett
Altar Guild	B Jefferson	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	The Danners	Erna Guy

## March 25—5th Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m. *	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Katie Parks	Jason Silver
Com. Asst	Joan Engen	TBD
Lector	Cathy Biggs	Robert Tidwell
Cantor	Claire .Skelley	David Stamford
Crucifer	Leah Wouters	TBD
Acolyte	Katie Garner	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Michelle Moreno	Michelle Moreno
Altar Guild	M. Zamorano	Snodgrass & Silver
Greeters	Tidwell	Marilyn Schneider



*Blessings on those  
who serve in God's house!*

# March Calendar



				1	2	3
				1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	<b>CHIEFS at 6:30pm</b>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Services 9 &amp; 11am</b> <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>Healthy Sunday!</b> Speak with Nurse Katie Timm between services 	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3:15pm-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 Holden Evening Service	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	 Turn your clocks forward before you go to bed
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Services 9 &amp; 11am</b> <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b>  We're on <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!</b>	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	3:15 Confirmation 4:15-Stewardship 5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	<b>10am —XYZ</b> 10am—GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 6pm-Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Evening Service	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	Happy St. Paddy's day!  <b>Singsational CONCERT of Broadway Songs! 7pm</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Services 9 &amp; 11am</b> <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>Singsational CONCERT of Broadway Songs! 2pm</b>	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 Holden Evening Service	1pm-Office Angels 3:15-5pm TAG 7:30pm-Chancel	6:30-Youth Meeting	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>Services 9 &amp; 11am</b> <b>5th Sunday in Lent</b>	4:30-6pm Grace Diner  Spring Break Camp 9am to 1pm	5:30pm—Bells 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study Spring Break Camp 9am to 1pm	10am—GROW 6pm-Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Evening Service <b>7:30—COUNCIL</b> Spring Break Camp 9am to 1pm	1pm-Office Angels 7:30pm-Chancel  Spring Break Camp 9am to 1pm	6:30-Youth Meeting	<b>ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP And DECORATE for PALM SUNDAY</b>
Spring Break for CC schools until April 6						

## Honey-Do List from Property & Support Committee

“Honey . . . do you have time to help?”



- Clean a bathroom      Scrub a floor      Clean carpets
- Organize and clean kitchen cupboards
- Remove wall paper in women's bathroom
- Paint women's bathroom
- Clean and straighten area by the popcorn machine

We have the supplies — if you have the time, please let us know.

*Thank you and God bless you!*



### Council Notes

Council meetings will be on the 4th Wednesday of every month from now on to accommodate financial reports. They meet next on March 28 at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Look for informative skits and booths from church committees in the coming months.

Stewardship & Finance meet on 3rd Tuesdays at 5pm.

8 new members joined Grace Church on Feb 5.

*If you have any questions or concerns about the running of the church, please feel free to contact the office or any council member. >>>>>*

### 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—Stewardship & Finance**

**MJ Petersen—Worship & Music**

**Patrick Hayes—Youth**

**Margaret Lowe—Council Liaison, Synod and ELCA**

### 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!*

**GRACE NOTES**  
**MARCH 2012**  
**Vol. 42, No. 3**

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

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**www.GraceCulver.org**

**Phone: 310-559-1027**  
**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.



## “Buck-a-Chick” Sale

*Every Sunday through Lent!*

For only one dollar you can purchase and decorate a paper **chick** — and for each \$1 donation, the ELCA will provide a **chick** to a family experiencing hunger. The **chicks** become a source of eggs, food and income for families living in poverty.

Over the next few weeks, buy coloring page/s between services on Sunday, color them and return them the following Sunday.

We will hang your **colorful chicks** in a prominent spot and announce the fundraising total on Easter Sunday. Bless you for caring and sharing!