

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City

August 2010

So many celebrations — so little time!



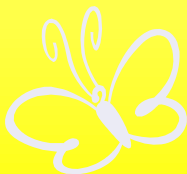
Our Mission

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.



The month starts with our annual Country Supper party and ends with Culver City's Fiesta La Ballona

Bible crafts and inspirational movies fill our Sundays

And Vacation Bible School kids show us how they celebrate Jesus!

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Pastor's Page

It sure is hard to believe that the summer is 2/3 over... time does fly when we're having fun. And I hope that your summer has not only been fun, but has been a time of renewal and relaxation; and that the words from Isaiah 40:31 truly come alive for you... "but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

And speaking of strength, I hope you will have lots of it... for we have plenty of opportunities in the coming weeks for everyone to join in with the many activities and ministries being planned at Grace Church.

We just finished 3 weeks of **Drama Camp**, with our own youth performing **The Wind in the Willows**, and the kids were fabulous, (my son included...)! Thank you to Marina and "crew" for a job well done! And on July 19th **Art Camp** began, followed by **Science Camp** on July 26th, both of which are totally filled.

And then beginning Sunday, August 1st we are excited to again hold our **Annual Country Supper**, with lots of food, fun, and activities for our youth and adults. And a special thanks to Ken Smith for his fabulous BBQ chicken and our own Grace Praise Band as they share their country song-fest with us...

And of course we cannot forget our summer Vacation Bible School program which kicks off on Monday August 2nd. This year it is called, "**Under the Baobab Tree**" and will be swarming with lots of children, youth and adults. Extra hands are always needed... and if you can help, don't hesitate to call the church office. We are also taking our VBS program "on the road", so to speak, and giving a helping hand to St. Andrews Lutheran Church on National Blvd for the week of August 9th, and again, if you can help at any time during that week, please let the church office or Doris know.

Culver City's own **Fiesta La Ballona** will be the weekend of August 28-29th and we will have our own booth and are in need of youth and adults to help. Even if you can help with a couple of hours, it would be wonderfully appreciated!

And finally we kick off the fall season with our **Annual Rally Day Picnic** on Sunday afternoon September 12th at Carlson Park...

It is exciting to see soooo much happening within Grace Church!! I hope you can join in on some of these "festivities" as we continue being the people of God here in Culver City!

God's richest blessings to you as you enjoy the remainder of this summer!

Pastor Jim

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*

Wednesday Night Worship service—praise music, homily with Pastor Jim, fellowship and communion. A much needed mid-week FAITH LIFT! Come to the supper at 6pm, too.

Tuesday Night Bible Study: The Acts of the Apostles on Tuesday evenings at 7:00. Refreshments are always available — See’s Candy and popcorn!

Between services—Adult Summer Sunday school series

Seven Ways of Christian Formation, Inspired by the Jewishness of Jesus.



Come explore the Jewish context that nurtured Jesus, find out about spiritual practices of hospitality, mindful eating, prayer, fasting and mourning. The weekly video will be about 8 minutes followed by discussion in the fireside room.

- Aug 1 Jewish and Christian Prayer
- Aug 8 Fasting
- Aug 15 Mourning Well
- Aug 22 Doorposts

We hope you come discover something new in your faith!

Movies at Grace

The movie for Sunday August 15 will be **The Last Sin Eater**

“A people of dark secrets.” That’s how the narrator of The Last Sin Eater describes the Welsh immigrants who settled in an Appalachian cove in the early 1800s—so dark, apparently, that they re-instituted the old world practice of the Sin Eater. Sound creepy? Think Little House on the Prairie meets M. Night Shyamalan’s The Village.

It may sound a bit creepy but in the end this penetrating drama delivers an emotional wallop even as it spreads its profound message about faith.





In Memoriam — Debbie Berger

We mourn the passing of long-time member of Grace, Debbie Berger. This gracious lady was deeply involved in the life of the church and the community and we mourn her passing even as we rejoice that she is with her Lord. A memorial service was held on July 23.

Please keep her husband August and their family in your prayers.

The family requests that donations be made in Debbie's name to the Grace Lutheran Church Good Samaritan fund.

Please remember our Shut-Ins

Some Grace members would love to have visits, cards, phone calls. . . **Jack Harrier, Pauline Lee, Trudi Moore, Elaine Goodyear, Lorene Jones, Fran Codd, and Lois Ostlund.** Call the office if you need addresses or phone numbers. God bless you!



Fellowship Opportunities

- Every Sunday worship at 9am & 11am
- Coffee & refreshments served at 10:15am
- Every Wednesday evening dinner at 6pm
- Wednesday worship at 6:45pm
- Every Thursday CC Music Fest
- Must meet at City Hall by 5:45pm/check with Grace Elliott.
- Sunday, August 1st Praise band w/ chicken & corn roast at 1pm cost \$6.00//person

Committee Meetings

You are invited to participate with the committees supporting the mission and organization of Grace. Most meetings are at church. Please call the office for more information. All are welcome!



Upcoming . . .



August 1

12:15 pm—Class for New Members . . . a “Must!”

Being part of the congregation of Grace is part of the entire focus of faith life. Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is part of a faith organization that expands over 10,500 churches in the USA. As a large body of Christ we are able to help a great many in need. We are appreciative of the many frequent visitors and pray that your faith life is blessed by worshipping at Grace. You will always be welcomed whether you join or not, but by joining you help us help others. God bless you.

Also Aug 1— at 1:00 p.m. Country Supper Time!!

Come one, come all to our annual Praise Band and Country Supper! Good music begins this wonderful event. The grill will be sizzling with some darn good old fashioned BBQ chicken!

Cost: \$6.00 Children under 10: \$3.00



August 2—6 9am-1pm — Vacation Bible School

Special music and dance from the VBS kids at both services on Sunday, Aug. 8.

August 8

12:15 pm—Class for New Members

Part 3 . . . For more info contact Pastor Jim or Doris.

August 9—13

9-1pm

Art-a-Texture Camp

August 15

10:15 am

Art display from Art-a-Texture

12:15pm

Movie: The Last Sin Eater

A film about the Welsh immigrants

who settled in an Appalachian cove in the early 1800s and re-instituted the old world practice of the Sin Eater. This penetrating drama delivers an emotional wallop even as it spreads its profound message about faith.

Upcoming . . .

August 16—20 9-1pm Beach Daze Camp 1
Laze in the sun . . . Adult helpers welcome!
Call Doris to volunteer: (310)559-1027



August 23—27 9am -1pm Beach Daze Camp 2

August 27-29 Fiesta La Ballona



This is one of our most important OUTREACH events of the year — and the only one “off campus.”

Vets Park at Culver & Overland
Food booths, carnival rides, arts & crafts, great music, and more!

Please join us in this small town celebration as we let our neighbors know about all the GREAT PROGRAMS and FRIENDLY, LOVING people of GRACE!

Here’s how you can help:

- Set up Friday night.
- Work the booth for an hour or two
 - Saturday Sunday
- Take down Sunday afternoon

Please RSVP to Doris or Marina at 310-559-1027 or Graceculver@sbcglobal.net

August 28 6-10pm Mystery Party, Parish Hall
Ages 9 to 19 years old! You MUST RSVP to Sherri Moss:
(310)215-3624 Email: americangirl9@sbcglobal.net



From Lisa Skelley on the real “wealth” of Grace Diner



I (along with my 12 year old daughter, Claire ,and 6 year old twin boys, Bram and Paul) began waiting tables at Grace Diner in September 2009.

On my first day working tables, I noticed an older couple offering greetings and a few “hey, sit with us” type salutations to other diners. The following week, this specific table began to attract more attention. Chairs were rearranged to accommodate a few extra folks and a core group of “regulars” started showing up. On more than one occasion, two long tables were pushed

together to fit more friends around it.

This particular couple continue to be “regulars” at the diner. The woman bakes a dessert to share with the whole dining room, the man is fastidious about putting chairs away and doing clean-up. They greet the staff warmly, offer thanks, let us know who might be ill that week, who might have had surgery, who is grieving over the loss of someone dear. People flock to them, the “center” table as we call it. Folks at the center table don’t like to leave--in fact, they are usually the first ones to arrive, the last to depart. There is almost a visible aura surrounding this group, a glow of fellowship and a feeling of being connected to others, if only for a few hours.

One woman, with her husband and young son, knows several people at the Diner and warmly calls them by name. Just last week, she let me know about an older man, a regular and one of my favorites, who hadn’t shown up in weeks. She explained to me that he was thinking of moving to Costa Rica where health care is free and it is so much cheaper to live. We shared a laugh, imagining this dear little man on a zip line through the jungle!

Even though I’m at the Diner almost every week, I’m continually amazed at how our diner guests linger. It used to be the center table to shut the place down--now, I witness other folks who don’t want to leave! Last Monday evening, people enjoyed their dinner, talked up a storm, and then stayed. And stayed. We poured cup after cup of coffee, offered more fruit, the last bites of cake, and, finally, just pulled up chairs and listened to stories, ourselves. It is this kind of comfort that inspires leaders to emerge. In the past few weeks, two more guests have invited a guest of their own. I thanked one diner for doing so, and he replied, “Share the wealth!”

In contemplating this piece on indigenous leader at our sweet little diner, my thoughts stayed with the center table gang. Now, the wealth is indeed spreading, with a few more leaders taking on the roles of bringing others to join us--those in need of a delicious meal, compelling conversation, and a place to sit and rest for awhile.



God is so good!

Great News!! After several years of planning, I am happy to announce that Grace Lutheran Church has established an Endowment Fund Sub-committee, and has received several initial gifts with which to start it! The endowment fund will help us to continue existing ministries as well as to establish new ministries far into the future.



There will be more information coming soon, including a brochure which will help all members of Grace Lutheran Church determine how they can be a part of this most important function of our church.

Ken Smith, Chairman
Endowment Fund Sub-committee

The Three Legged Stool — a different view

We are by now familiar with the Stewardship logo of the three legged stool with TIME, TALENT and RESOURCES supporting strong stewardship. . . Now here's another way of looking at it. Financially healthy congregations encourage members to participate in the following three legs of stewardship: annual giving, special giving, and planned giving.

- **Annual giving** constitutes our regular offerings.
- **Special giving** represents our gifts for specific ministries or a capital campaign.
- **Planned giving** is remembering the church we love by including the church in our will, trust, or as a beneficiary of a financial asset.

It is this third leg that we as Lutherans have been remiss about fulfilling. Only about 8% of Lutherans remember the church at death and fulfill their legacy. Yet, it is a very important part of our testimony and witness to our loved ones – our families and our congregation.

In death, the Lord did not forget us, but gave us eternal life through His Son. Let us not forget Him and His work when we plan for the long-term future of the church!



Kids News!

Children's Summer Sunday school series.

Each Sunday on the lawn we will have tables set up for Children's fun crafts with a special Bible theme.

- Aug 1 Treasure Hunt
- Aug 8 Who built the Ark
- Aug 15 Do you have faith like sand?
- Aug 22 Jesus love ME!
- Aug 29 Come little birdie?




Youth Stuff

- Aug 1 **Final set up for VBS** at noon
- Aug 8 **VBS children** to share songs with congregation during worship
- Aug 8 Youth go to **Rockreation** — leave church at 2:30pm, back at 5pm. If you did not help with the yard sale the cost is \$15, otherwise it is free. Only 15 spots available



- Aug 28 **Mystery Party & Sleepover** — You MUST RSVP by August 21 to Sherri Moss ((310)215-3624
Email: americangirl9@sbcglobal.net) so you can receive your character! Meet at 6pm in the Parish Hall to register. Don't be late!


“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children.” (Deuteronomy 4:9 ESV)

ETC . . .

Rally Day is September 12 at Carlson Park

Confirmation, TAG and Bells start up the following week.
Chancel Choir starts Sept 9.



Upcoming Fall Concerts at Grace

Psallo — Gospel Choir
John Cannon — Pipe Organ Concert
Oceanares — Men's a capella group
More details in the next Grace Notes

PHOTOS for new picture Directory. Olin Mills will be here Sept 23, 24, 25 and Sept 30, Oct 1, 2. What a GREAT opportunity to get some fresh family photos! Be sure to mark your calendar.

Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving!

Grace Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for our members and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.



There are two ways to set up electronic donations. You can visit the church website

at www.GraceCulver.org locate the donation link and follow the instructions or, if you wish, you can simply complete a paper authorization form in the church office. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Thanks for your faithfulness!

WOMEN of the E.L.C.A.

“Carried by Him” 16th Convention on October 8-Oct 10, 1020

Nominations for the Synodical Board, workshops, songs, study, and time to walk on the beach as well as a chance to dress up for the banquet on Saturday evening. Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in Ventura. Registration by Sept 1 \$120. Saturday ONLY \$100. Please contact the office for the registration form.

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
Paula Boelsems
Oscar Carter
Fran Codd
Betty Davis
Lynn Erickson
Marion Firnhaber
Jerry Frascella
Elaine Goodyear
Bette & George Gregory
Goller family
Jack Harrier
Lorene Jones
Babak Kamjou
Patti LaBarbera

Trudi Moore
Shirley Nowlin
Lois Ostlund
Pastor Ed Petersen
Albert Prabhu
Maxine Stenstrom
Margaret Zamorano

Members in the Military

Natalie Meyers
John Meyers
& your
Prayer Partner or Compadre

Church Staff & Council

The Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor

Doris MacGregor, Youth & Family Parish Worker
Marina Tidwell, Church Administrator
Mary Lou Basaraba, Director of Music Ministries
Jim Snodgrass, Handbell Choir Director
Bets Danko, Children's Music Director
Laura Chapman, Bookkeeper
Don Martin, Custodian
Jim Harrold, Facilities Manager
Wanda Hunter, Nursery Attendant

Jim Snodgrass	President & Property/Support
Marty Hente	Secretary & Property/Support
Marsha Heath	Treasurer
Norman Auslander	Fellowship & Outreach
Cathy Biggs	Fellowship & Outreach
Margaret Lowe	Stewardship & Finance
Grace Elliott	Fellowship, Education
Dolores Johnson	Christian Service
Lu Petersen	Property & Support
Ken Smith	Stewardship
Len Lovgren	Worship & Music
Margaret Lowe	Stewardship
Colin Tidwell	Youth
Beverly O'Brien	Sunday School Superintendent

Happy Birthday



08/02	Weaver, Timothy	08/16	Danko, Nick
08/02	Miller, Johna	08/17	Harrold, Lynda
08/02	Elder, Kimberley	08/19	Evans-Simon, Helen
08/04	Cruz, Emily	08/19	Guy, Erna
08/04	Tidwell, Thomas	08/19	Johnson, Mayme
08/09	Joy, Lindsay	08/20	Smith, Stephen
08/10	Johnson, Lance	08/26	Krueger, Max
08/12	Hayes, Megan	08/27	Smith, Ken
08/14	Johnson, Mark		

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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.

FIESTA LA BALLONA!

August 27-29

The most important OUTREACH events of the year — and the only one “off campus.”

Vets Park at Culver & Overland
Food booths, carnival rides, arts & crafts,
great music, and more!

See page 5 for how YOU can be a part of the fun!

