

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California
September 2012



A Note from our Pastor . . .

It sure is hard to believe that the summer is almost over... time does fly when we're having fun. I do hope that your summer has not only been fun, but has also been a time of renewal and relaxation; 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."

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 at Grace Church.

And speaking of activities, I must say this has been a busy summer for this congregation with eight weeks of Summer Camps. I am proud to see so many new faces of children and parents as this congregation has worked hard in their outreach into the community this summer. It truly is a blessing to see and hear the pitter-patter of so many feet thru these hallowed halls of Grace Church. I am especially grateful to Marina, Lisa and the many gifted helpers who have put in long hours and lots of hard work to make this past summer a great success!

And finally we kick off the fall season with our **Annual Rally Day Picnic** on Sunday afternoon September 9th at Carlson Park... followed by our own **GRACE DINER'S 3rd Anniversary** dinner and celebration as we continue to reach out to those "down in their luck" each Monday night.

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!



Rally Day

Sept 9 at 1pm

R
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Sept. 9
1pm
Carlson
Park
An old-
fashioned
Ice-
Cream
Social
with
games
and
activities
for ALL
ages!

Grace Notes Sponsorships are \$25 to help the church defray the cost of materials and postage. Please sign up in the Narthex. The September issue of Grace Notes is sponsored by:
Bernice Mathison in honor of her husband Roy and their 60th wedding anniversary
The Keisters in honor of Robin's birthday
And Joyce Raichel in honor of Coleen & Aaron Keyser's birthdays

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) Summer recess is over and regular G.R.O.W. sessions with Pastor Ellen are starting! Wednesdays at 10am in the Fireside Room, first session September 12. We'll look at scriptures for the upcoming Sunday, plus sing share and pray together. For September: 9/12 – James 3:1-12; 9/19 – James 3:13-4:3,7-8a; 9/26 – James 5:13-20. All women are invited. See you there!



Bulletin board

ALL DAY WORK DAY

Sept 29 9am-4pm

We need help putting in a sprinkler system. Free lunch provided! See MJ Petersen to volunteer: (310)837-6540
 Email: ldpandmjp@earthlink.net

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, Part 1 OCTOBER 7, at 10:15am.

All members of the congregation should be present to vote for 2013 Council Members and to provide input regarding the 2013 budget.



COLLECTING NOW for November YARD SALE

Good quality clothes
 Household items
 Electronics
 Jewelry
 Bring to the back patio or Fireside Room
 Thanks!

Please donate to the Seminary Fund to support Stephen Jahn's studies for the ministry. Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran, and designate "Seminary" in the memo line.

Women of the ELCA
 Oct 12-14 in Simi Valley
 805-486-5762

2012 Men's Advance
 San Luis Obispo
 Sept 27-30
www.mens-advance.org

Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers surrounding my knee replacement surgery. Praise God for healing and for a new knee!—*Blessings,*
 Pastor Ellen

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept 2, 10am—One Service in honor of Labor Day. Please welcome Pastor Egertson to the pulpit.

Sept 3—Labor Day. Office closed. Giving thanks for our awesome American workforce—and getting some relaxation and rest! Grace Diner at 4pm.

Wednesdays at Grace—Potluck & Fellowship at 6pm, followed at 6:45pm with a casual Worship Service—**Food for the body and the soul!**

Sept 6—DAYS FOR GIRLS—sew & assemble sanitary supplies for women around the world. 7pm in the Fireside Room—no sewing skills necessary.



Sept 9—RALLY DAY! Welcome back to the Fall schedule at Grace! Men's Ensemble sings this Sunday at both services. After church we'll meet you in Carlson Park (Braddock & Le Bourget) for an ice-cream social and fun and fellowship for all ages.

And **Parish Nurse Katie Timm** will talk about your health and take blood pressures between services.



Sept 11—Bell Choir at 5:30pm. If you can count to four and shake your fist, you could be a ringer! Contact Jim Snodgrass: jpcjsnodgrass@att.net

Sept 13—Chancel Choir with Mary Lou Basaraba. Fabulous teacher/coach/director and awesome music! Please feel free to give it a try! 7:30pm.

Become a piece



of our church family

Sept 16—New Member class starts after the 2nd service (12:30pm). Three wk class to learn all about Grace Church and decide if you'd like to become a member. Class themes: 16th—Faith & Fellowship, 23rd—Gifts & Giving, and 30th Organization & Opportunity. New members will be received Oct. 7.

Sept 22—Concert and Chili Cook off. Listen to an inspirational concert of praise music by our very own

Grace Praise Band performers and then head over to the Parish Hall for a delicious dinner. Free-will donations gratefully accepted. Bring your best dish for the Chili, Cornbread, Mac& Cheese, or dessert **CONTEST.** Please invite your friends and neighbors!



Sept 26—7:30pm Council meeting.

Sept 29—All Day Work Day—Helpers needed to dig trenches for a new sprinkler system. Sound like fun? How about if we bribe you with a yummy free lunch? :-) Your help means that a \$1000 work project will cost us less than \$300!!! Contact MJ Petersen to volunteer: (310)837-6540
Email: ldpandmjp@earthlink.net

WHAT'S COMING UP?

yard sale

Yep, it's THAT time of year again!

- ♥ We're collecting good quality clothes (especially office wear, jeans, jackets), as well as household items, electronics, jewelry, and finer second hand things.
- ♥ We need volunteers to organize and price items too. Please contact Lisa Skelley: 310-559-1027. Thanks so much for your help in this ministry. The Yard Sales support Grace youth programs and help outreach to the poorer and needier in our community.

September Birthdays

Elijah Asheghian 09/01
Isaac Danner 09/01
Patricia LaBarbera 09/01
Michelle Moreno 09/02
Jin Jin Mayberry 09/03
James Maines 09/05
Cherie Riban 09/09
Karen Ellingson 09/10
Andrew Lowe 09/12
Thomas Szujewski 09/12
James Snodgrass 09/13

Lindsay Thompson 09/17
Leon Marr 09/18
Isabel Cortes 09/19
Heather Gripp 09/20
Doris Green 09/21
Kayla Walden 09/21
Jack Harrier 09/25
Kathleen Tepley 09/28
William Walden 09/29
Elaine Hente 09/30

Words of Wisdom . . .

Friends at Grace,

I wonder if you realize that it costs over \$32,000/month to maintain the services and properties at Grace Lutheran —that's according to the Nov 2011 Annual Report. Members of the Stewardship Committee have told us we are over \$10,000 behind with 2 months left of our fiscal year.

My concern is that everyone should contribute even a small amount. Even if you can only pay \$5/month, please put your contribution in an envelope with your name on it. (If you are a teenager your parents will receive tax credit for your donation.) That's the best way we can keep the Lord's programs going at Grace.



*Sincerely,
Ginny MacInnis*

*For more on benevolence and giving
please see the Stewardship insert.
God bless you!*



Life Income Agreements

The ELCA Foundations provides "life income agreements" to those of you who make an irrevocable gift that benefits your congregation or other Lutheran ministries after your death. During your lifetime you will be able to retain an income interest for life or for a certain term of years. There are four basic types of "life income agreements". The four types are:

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Deferred Payment Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Unitrusts
- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts

To learn more about the tax favorable income and tax deductions associated with these kind of "life income agreements", contact our gift planner: Greg Shepherd at: (909) 910-6823 or by email at: gregory.shepherd@elca.org.

Young Adults

♥ **Tuesday Night Young Women's Group at 7:30pm.** Bible study for young women.

♥ YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Age 20-30s. September service project: collecting business attire and canned goods for Good Shepherd Shelter. Contact Michelle Moreno for info.

Youth & Children Ministry

Sept 12—Wednesdays

- ♥ **Cherub Choir** tunes up. A lively group of 4-8 yr olds led by Colin Tidwell. The class is from 2:45 to 3:30pm. The group performs simple songs once a month during church services.
- ♥ **Confirmation class** 5th-8th graders learn about Christianity, explore their spirituality, and prepare to confirm their faith at the end of 3 yrs of weekly classes. (Please note day change).

Sept 13—Thursdays at Grace, 3:30pm. Performing Arts club for ages 10-16. Uplifting songs and dances! Led by Colin Tidwell.

FRIDAY NIGHT Youth starting 09/07 (see below)

BIBLE STUDY

WHEN?
Friday nights
at 6:30-9:30

WHERE?
Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Culver City, CA
90230

*Thou shalt
enjoy the
free dinner.*

Need more info?
Call us at:
(310) 559-1027
or email us at:
graceculver@sbcglobal.net

Grace Lutheran
Youth Group

FOR YOUTH AGES 13-20

September Service Assistants

Sept 2—Labor Day Sunday	
10am.	
Asst Minister	Marty Hente
Com. Asst	Elaine Hente
Lector	Marty Hente
Cantor	Michelle Moreno
Crucifer	Jason Silver
Acolyte	Finn Swenson
Kid's Sermon	Michelle Moreno
Altar Guild	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	Michelle Moreno

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



What are you doing with your Autumn Sundays?
We sure could use some new
Crucifers and Acolytes!!

The jobs are simple and rewarding
and you can learn them in 15 minutes!!
Call Marina in the office: 310/559-1027

Sept 9—Rally Day Sunday		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Kim Jacobi	Katie Parks
Com. Asst	Jerry Gottschalk	M Zamorano
Lector	Kim Jacobi	K. Andrew
Cantor	Jim Snodgrass	Sherry Hutson
Crucifer	Hayden O'Brien	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	Brendon O'Brien	April Andrew
Kid's Sermon	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
Altar Guild	Marina Tidwell	Guy & Silver
Greeters	O'Brien Family	Marilyn Schneider

Sept 16—16th Sunday after Pentecost		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	John Priebe	Betty Davis
Com. Asst	Patty Baker	Jerry Gottschalk
Lector	John Priebe	Jerry Gottschalk
Cantor	Skelleys	Davis Stamford
Crucifer	Leah Wouters	Jerry Gottschalk
Acolyte	Isabel Cortes	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Patti Millett	Patti Millett
Altar Guild	B Jefferson	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	Engens	Erna Guy

Sept 23—17th Sunday after Pentecost		
	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Ron Engen	Michelle Moreno
Com. Asst	Elaine Hente	Jessica Salazar
Lector	Leah Wouters	Jessica Salazar
Cantor	J Gottschalk	Emily Reppun
Crucifer	Leah Wouters	Katie Garner
Acolyte	TBD	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Ron Engen	Ron Engen
Altar Guild	M Zamorano	Pam Snodgrass
Greeters	Tidwell	Josh Rayner

Sept 30—18th Sunday after Pentecost		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Lila Swenson	Paul Lindquist
Com. Asst	Patty Baker	K. Andrew
Lector	B. Knipple	Paul Lindquist
Cantor	Tara Alexander	Tara Alexander
Crucifer	Claire Skelley	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	Finn Swenson	TBD
Kid's Sermon	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
Altar Guild	M Zamorano	M Tidwell
Greeters	Skelley Family	Tidwell

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

September Calendar



**DON'T MISS THE "FUN-RAISER"
PRAISE BAND CONCERT
Followed by the
CHILI COOK-OFF**



Saturday, Sept 22

1

CHIEFS . . .
No meeting this
month—Next
meeting is
October 6

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ONE Service In honor of Labor Day 10am Welcome Pastor Egertson	Office closed LABOR DAY 4:30-6pm Grace Diner	7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service	1pm-Office Angels "Days for Girls" Sewing Group 7pm Fireside Room	6:30-Youth Meeting	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Services 9 & 11am Parish Nurse Katie Timm between services RALLY DAY!!	4:30-6pm Grace Diner 3rd ANNIVERSARY Party	7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am-GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 3pm CONFIRMATION 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service	1pm-Office Angels 3:30pm TAG 7:30-Chancel Choir	6:30-Youth Meeting	Labor of Love Synod Meeting 9-4pm 1st Lutheran Glendale <i>Please contact Marty Hente asap if you would like to attend.</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Services 9 & 11am Sunday School during 9am service New Member Class 12:30pm	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	4:15-Stewardship 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am-GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 3pm CONFIRMATION 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service	1pm-Office Angels 3:30pm TAG 7:30-Chancel Choir	6:30-Youth Meeting	Grace Church PRAISE BAND CONCERT 5PM CHILI COOKOFF 6PM
23 / 30	24	25	26	27	28	29
Services 9 & 11am Sunday School during 9am service New Member Class 12:30pm (both Sundays)	4:30-6pm Grace Diner	7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	10am-GROW 2:30 Cherub Choir 3pm CONFIRMATION 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service 7:30- COUNCIL mtg	1pm-Office Angels 3:30pm TAG 7:30-Chancel Choir	6:30-Youth Meeting	ALL DAY WORK DAY at Franklin Street house. Please contact MJ Petersen to volunteer.

Fall Stewardship Drive

September traditionally launches the annual Stewardship Drive — and what better inspiration than stories of faith in action? God bless you for prayerfully thinking about how to support the ministries of Grace through your time, talent & resources.



Why I Give . . .

Giving is in response to all that God has given to us. Everything we have is a gift from God—our lives, our family, our jobs, our health—everything we have is by His grace. So we are called to give a portion back to the One who gives us all things. And we should give of the First Fruits of our work. Set aside what you plan to give to your church Grace Lutheran, a wonderful, beautiful church. And do so as the first payment from your paycheck, before paying your other bills. In that way, you are putting God first in your life, and in your financial planning.

I am sending you a contribution in response to your article “The Bottom Line” in the Summer newsletter. My prayer is for all members and friends of Grace to pull together and give the extra amount needed and close the budget gap this fall. Grace must continue to tell the Good News of Jesus’ love in the Los Angeles area!

Submitted by Paul Henke, Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro, Pennsylvania

Why We Give . . .

I have always felt that participative membership is the way to get the most out of any organization. This is especially true at church. Where would we be if the first members (the ones to whom Paul wrote all those letters) didn’t actively practice their Christianity?

Therefore, whenever appeals for help have been voiced, I have taught Sunday School, sung in the Choir, joined a Committee, sat on Church Council, acted as Lay Assistant and token part in dramatic activities. Margaret cared for our house and children, and played in the Bell Choir.

I’ve also felt that we should be as generous in our monetary contributions as the gifts we have received from God in our lives, in such a variety of ways. I admit that it was difficult to part with as much as the tithe stands for, but as we have shed the financial obligations that beset people in their working years (mortgage, car payments, college) our reduced income is so much more than adequate for our requirements that we can actually increase the amount to where it rightfully should be.

This extends to other appeals that we see, outside the church. Our ability to support a variety of causes makes it our responsibility to provide means to feed the hungry wherever they are, to provide for medical assistance to those who need it, assist in assuring that our environment can resist the ravages of unchecked commercial exploitation and other causes. These are all part of God’s creation, and since we are creatures capable of playing a part in preserving and improving the status as we find it, we should.

In short, we give because we are able, financially and physically. The big surprise is that the more we give, the greater is our return (at Income Tax time as well as in personal benefit.)

Jerry & Margaret Gottschalk

Stewardship Updates & Opportunities



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles builds and renovates homes in partnership with God and people everywhere with a goal of eliminating substandard housing by making decent, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in our communities. As a congregation concerned about the welfare of our brothers and sisters in our community, we can become involved in helping build new housing units in Culver City next summer!

During the coming year you are encouraged to contribute financially to this worthy cause (and include Thrivent, if you are a Thrivent member! As spring approaches we will look forward to planning for our membership to actively participate in the on-site fun of helping to build new houses right here in Culver City. Keep this worthy cause in your thoughts and prayers as we look forward to another opportunity to serve!

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- **Grace Diner**—A free weekly meal for our neighbors in need, every Monday night. Volunteers needed from set up to clean up (and everything in-between). Contact Johnaamiller@gmail.com.
 - **Recycle**—Bins in the back patio. Proceeds help support youth programs. Magazines are donated to the L.A. women's prison.
 - **Snack fund**—Healthy snacks or monetary contributions are needed for the hungry kids in our after-school programs.
 - **Worship Assistants**—New members of the Altar Guild (setting the Lord's Table, washing linens), Acolytes, Crucifers, Assistant Ministers, and Communion Assistants are ALWAYS welcome!
 - **Event Volunteers**—Yard Sale helpers, Concert aides, Christmas Pageant coordinators . . . Your time and talent is appreciated!
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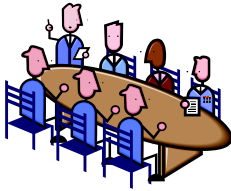
EL SALVADOR UPDATE

Thank you so much for all the donations for El Salvador. Grace Church sent 100 "Days for Girls" kits; a 70 lb. suitcase of clothes, medicines and school supplies; and \$700 cash. Praise God! Muchisimas gracias por todo!! Many thanks for everything! (Incidentally, they LOVED the Days for Girls kits. A 16 year old girl on the trip was so touched by the response, she is going to have the youth at her church in Orange County make them, too!!)

Special projects this year included a VBS (Vacation Bible School) for the students at the Lutheran School in San Salvador; serving meals at the Hope House homeless ministry; staffing a medical clinic at the Hope House; helping dig a septic tank at Milagro de Dios church ("Miracle of God" in the mountain village of Guaycume – the church will have the FIRST flush toilets in the community!); a dental clinic for children at the same church. In addition, there were celebrations for the 11th anniversary of the building of the church, the ordination of Pastor Matias Bonilla (pastor of the 5 rural churches we visit) as a Presbyterian in the Salvadoran Lutheran church, a Quicenera for Ingrid Olmedo (daughter of Jorge who was killed two years ago), and the annual procession on the Day of our Savior, Aug. 6.

P.S. Pastor Ellen has many photos to share!





Council Notes

You're invited to come to the
COUNCIL MEETING
Sept 26 at 7:30pm.
We value your input!

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



Can You Help?

Romans 12:13 — "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

- ♥ **1st Aid supplies:** antibiotic cream, OTC meds — see the complete list in the Narthex.
- ♥ **Canned goods and gently-used business attire for
Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children**

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
Larry & Doris Green
Craig Heath
Sem. Stephen Jahn
Lorene Jones
Marjorie Joy
Patti LaBarbera

Brenda Langdon
I Leung
Jonell MacGregor
Lisa McDaniel
Trudi Moore
Ruth Moreno
Shirley Nowlin
Brian & Cherie Parks
Albert Prabhu
Crystie Rooney
Cathie Seeman
Maxine Stenstrom
Bryna Walden

In the **Military:**
Freddie Wilson
Natalie Meyers
John Meyers
Sean Sloan

And . . .

Your Prayer Partner

*God bless you in your
prayer ministry!*

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**

Ken Smith—**Stewardship & Finance**

MJ Petersen—**Worship & Music**

Leah Wouters—**Financial Secretary**

Patrick Hayes—**Youth**

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

GRACE NOTES
SEPTEMBER 2012
Vol. 42, No. 9

Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor

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Culver City, CA 90230-4118

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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.

RALLY DAY

Sept. 9 at 1pm
Carlson Park

An old-fashion
Ice-Cream Social
with fun games
for ALL ages!

- September Start Up
- ♥ Children and Youth programs
 - ♥ Choirs
 - ♥ Women's Bible Study
 - ♥ And MORE!



Rally Day

In God We Rock!



Praise Band Concert
September 22, 2012
With Chili Cook-off contest!
See page 3 for more info.