

# Grace Notes

JULY 2010

Vol. 40, No. 7

**GRACE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4427 Overland Avenue

Culver City, CA 90230-4118

The Rev. James S. Maines,  
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## **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.

## July 2010



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

*Worship with us on  
Sunday, July 4  
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.*

*Join us between services for  
Roast Corn Dogs and Hot Dogs!  
4th of July craft for kids.*

*Wear Red, White & Blue!*



# Church Staff & Council

*The Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor*

*Doris MacGregor, Youth & Family Parish Worker*

*Elaine Hente, Church Administrator*

*Mary Lou Basaraba, Director of Music Ministries*

*Marina Tidwell, Volunteer Coordinator*

*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*

<i>Jim Snodgrass</i>	<i>President &amp; Property/Support</i>
<i>Lu Petersen</i>	<i>Vice President &amp; Property/Support</i>
<i>Marty Hente</i>	<i>Secretary &amp; Property/Support</i>
<i>Marsha Heath</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Norman Auslander</i>	<i>Evangelism</i>
<i>Cathy Biggs</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>
<i>Grace Elliott</i>	<i>Fellowship &amp; Education</i>
<i>Dolores Johnson</i>	<i>Christian Service</i>
<i>Len Lovgren</i>	<i>Worship &amp; Music</i>
<i>Margaret Lowe</i>	<i>Stewardship &amp; Finance</i>
<i>Ken Smith</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>
<i>Colin Tidwell</i>	<i>Youth</i>



*Beverly O'Brien*                      *Sunday School Superintendent*

## 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 & August Berger  
Paula Boelsems  
Oscar Carter  
Fran Codd  
Betty Davis  
Lynn Erickson  
Marion Firmhaber  
Jerry Frascella  
Bette & George Gregory  
Goller family  
Jack Harrier  
Lorene Jones  
Babak Kamjou  
Patti LaBarbera  
Trudi Moore  
Shirley Nowlin  
Lois Ostlund  
Cherie Parks  
Lu Petersen  
Maxine Stenstrom

## Members in the Military

Natalie Meyers  
John Meyers  
*and your*  
*Prayer Partner or Compadre*  
*(remember them in prayer and a card or small gift now and then)*



Dear Friends:

I am loving this wonderful warm and sunny weather! And I still can't believe that summer is upon us. Where does the time go??? And yes, I've got some summer projects lined up which includes some exercise, some reading, some sprinkler repair, landscaping, and the ole dreaded... cleaning the garage.

So... HOW ABOUT YOU? What's on your docket for the summer months?

Some folks believe that this is the time for those lazy, hazy days of summer... where one just sits back, sips lemonade and iced tea, and watch the weeds grow. I wish I could say that is true, but not for this pastor and daddy, especially with a eight-year-old. My life continues... I hope a bit slower this summer... but it continues.

And I know that our walk of faith continues as well! We are the people of God, no matter what season it is. And thank God, our Lord does not take the summer off, for I know that even during these sometimes slower days of summer God continues to do what God continues to do... working each day quietly, calmly... molding the human clay of which we are made of, giving depth and dimension to the masterpiece God is fashioning within us.

Is this an easy process? Not on your life! But a necessary one as the Great Potter continues to shape and mold us into the grace-centered people we are called to be. Sometimes this process involves being pulled and stretched beyond our comfort levels; and speaking from experience, I know the process can be a bit on the painful side. Try as we may to avoid it, I believe there will always be hurt and pain in life. We cannot grow without it. Yet I believe we are made strong and refined through the many hardships and struggles of life. They are necessary ingredients if we are to grow and mature in God's image.

So, even during these summer months, do not be discouraged! We are still a people who are under construction... and God is definitely not finished with us yet! And if these summer days don't feel so lazy and hazy, that's OK... we are continually being made into the likeness of our Creator... and I am forever thankful to God for that!

**Pastor Jim**



It's Vacation time. Someone has said, "Vacation is what you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer."

## GOING ON VACATION?

There are good reasons to take a vacation every year: spending time with friends and loved ones, experiencing physical and mental refreshment, enjoying changes in scenery and routine, and preparing for another year of productivity.

Please enjoy your vacation! Try to be faithful to the Lord by attending church while you're away, if you have the opportunity.

Just remember that during vacations and weekend getaways, you're especially missed by your friends at church. The work of the church suffers because no one can fill your place of responsibility quite like you.

God's work goes on all summer long. Your presence and gifts are needed to enable the church to be strong and vigorous throughout the entire year. When you're away, please bring or send your offering before you go.



**Keep Up  
Your Offerings**

Have a wonderful summer!



Going away this summer? We'd love to know where you're going or where you've been. Send us a picture postcard and we will put it on the office door. Just in case you have forgotten our address: Grace Lutheran Church, 4427 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230.



*Remember our Shut-ins*

### 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.



## BIBLE STUDIES

**Tuesday Night Bible Study:** We are currently studying the book of the Acts of the Apostles on Tuesday evenings at 7:00. Refreshments are always available.

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### REPORT FROM OUR DELEGATES AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY

#### **LISTEN! GOD IS CALLING!**

This was the theme of our recent Synod Assembly, June 3-5. It was a wonderful event held at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Burbank. Throughout the ELCA each synod holds an assembly each year, usually in the spring. We were thankful to be a part of the assembly and to go as “voting members.” Thank you for this opportunity. There were 330 voting members there, and about one-third of them were pastors. There were also visitors and observers each day.

There was a wonderful worship service at the opening of the assembly and a closing worship service on Saturday at noon. At this closing worship service, we were happy to be a part of the ordination of two new pastors for our Synod.

We especially enjoyed a great panel on “evangelism.” The presenters were leaders in the denominations with whom we share a call: Moravian, Presbyterian, Methodist and United Church of Christ. We learned that there are many ways to evangelize at this time in history, and all denominations seem engaged in community outreach, being Jesus’ hands and feet.

It was a pleasure to be included in the group of congregations that received Synod financial grants: we happily accepted the check for \$1,000 for our Grace Diner!

We had fine Bible Study sessions and topical sessions. We completed the business of the Synod, approving the budget for the coming year, and acting on some resolutions.

It was a very uplifting event and one that strengthened our Synod and each congregation.

Thank you.

Margaret Lowe & Nancy Watson



Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

This issue of the Grace Notes newsletter will be the last that I will be publishing. As you may know, I will be “retiring” on July 15. I have worked as the Church Administrator/Secretary at Grace Lutheran since September of 2004. Thank you to all of the people (way too numerous to mention!) who have helped me in any way especially my “Office Angels” who come faithfully every week to fold bulletins and newsletters. I am so fortunate to have been able to work with such a fun, dedicated and supportive staff. It will be a bit strange for me to get up in the morning and not have to get ready for work at Grace. “But I’ve always worked!” CHANGE? Yup! It’s time! Marty retired 2 1/2 years ago and has been patiently waiting for me to “retire” so we can do what we love to do: travel in our camper! Please know that I am NOT leaving the church—just my day-to-day duties here. I will continue to serve Our Lord by volunteering my time and talents. I’ll even be an Office Angel! And for good ole memories’ sake, I’ll even “nag” Pastor Jim for Marina when it is newsletter time for his Pastor’s article or on Council day for his Pastor’s report! Thank you for your love, prayers and support! See you around church, ‘cause “Grace is the Place!”

**Elaine Hente**



### **EL SALVADOR TRIP COMING UP!**

I'll be leaving for El Salvador on July 31. This year the team of about 30 persons will include our Bishop Dean Nelson, his wife Marianne, and Bishop Mark Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod, along with pastors and laypersons from California, Washington State, Minnesota and New York. Again, we'll visit the exciting Lutheran ministries around San Salvador (the capital city) and spend time at the Lutheran Elementary School, Seminary, homeless shelter and several congregations. I'm looking forward to seeing the completed church for the Buena Vista congregation that we visited last summer. AND, it's time to think about what you'd like to send along with me!

I hope you will consider partnering with the Lutheran El Salvadoran ministry through gifts of money (checks made to Grace marked El Salvador) or goods. Especially needed are toys, books in Spanish, medical and dental supplies, (like adult and children's acetaminophen (aka Tylenol), ibuprofen (aka Advil), toothpaste and toothbrushes). We already have lots of clothing, but we still need cotton shirts for men, women and children as well as new underwear - all in small or medium sizes. Please bring in your donations by July 25th. We also have the beautiful crosses for sale that support the artist, Christian Chavarria, the Hope House Homeless Shelter, and the building project for Bishop Gomez's "home church" in central San Salvador. Linda Schumitzky will have them between services on July 18 and 25. Purchase them then or give me an order to take along (think Christmas gifts!).

# Happy Birthday

7/3 Kathryn Mann	7/11 Mary Jane Petersen	Rummelsburg
7/4 Hayden O'Brien	7/13 Jennifer Gripp	7/21 Dana Goller
7/4 William Sick	7/15 Patricia Stephan	7/27 Norman Auslander
7/7 David Olson	7/15 Bruce Tepley	7/27 Addison Myers
7/8 Colin Tidwell	7/17 Gordon Chavis	7/28 Stephanie Tepley
7/10 Doris MacGregor	7/17 Joyce Elder	7/28 Grace Elliott
7/11 Dariya Stenshoel	7/19 Michael	7/31 Marsha Heath



## OPPORTUNITIES TO REALLY SERVE (OTRS)

- ♥ Monday mornings early join the Ladies at California Hospital making flower arrangements for the gift shop.
- ♥ Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to help make Sunday arrangements into coffee cup arrangements for shut-ins.
- ♥ Monday evenings come help at Grace Diner—please schedule times with Marina
- ♥ Worship assisting, acolyte, crucifer, usher and altar guild—need volunteers to assist with worship on Sunday mornings. Please speak with Marina about serving
- ♥ Come be part of the library committee. Again check with Marina
- ♥ Volunteer to be on the snack force for summer camps. Check with Marina
- ♥ Come be an adult volunteer with VBS or the other summer camps

We need crucifers and acolytes for the 11:00 services. The Worship & Music committee agreed to use the choir for those positions on the first and third Sundays until the summer, but we'll need volunteers for July and August.

## IT'S UP TO YOU!



Have you made someone happy, or made someone sad,  
What have you done with the day that you had?

God gave it to you to do just as you would,  
Did you do what was wicked, or do what was good?

Did you hand out a smile, or just give’em a frown,  
Did you lift someone up—or push someone down?

Did you lighten some load, or some progress impede,  
Did you look for a rose, or just gather a weed?

What did you do with your Beautiful day,  
God gave it to you, did you throw it away?

### The Origin of “America the Beautiful”



Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write her most famous poem-hymn, “America the

Beautiful.”

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes “who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life.” She wanted all Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and had crowned what was good “with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.”

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.



**MOVIES AT GRACE**  
Sunday, July 11, 12:15 p.m.

One Sunday a month we will show a Christian film with lunch. Our first showing will be on July 11 with “Faith Like Potatoes,” a fiery story of faith in South Africa. Please let Doris MacGregor know of your interest so we may plan lunch.



# Fiesta La Ballona

**When: August 27, 28 & 29**

**Where: Veterans Park (corner of Overland & Culver)  
(Grace Booth: August 28 & 29)**

Come out and celebrate Fiesta La Ballona! Browse through the booths, taste the food, listen to the bands, watch the presentations, go on the carnival rides, and have some fun! Admission is free. Grace Lutheran will have a booth at the Fiesta on **August 28 & 29 only**. We will sell popcorn and lemonade. Can you help? We need volunteers to help in the booth for two-hour shifts. Look for a sign-up sheet in August to volunteer.



**Southwest California Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's Work. Our hands.

June 11, 2010

Dear Pastor Maines and Members of Grace,

Congratulations! Your grant proposal for *Grace Diner* has received funding in the amount of \$1,000. Enclosed please find a check in that amount.

The Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund is pleased to partner with you in your efforts to make Christ known throughout your community.

May God bless you as you strive to further His Kingdom.

In Christ,

AIM Nancy J. Ackerman  
Assistant to the Bishop  
for Mission Support

P.S. - it's a joy to partner with you in ministry!



## New Member Classes

*will be held*  
*July 18, July 25 & August 1*  
*12:15 p.m.*

We will be holding a series of new member classes on Sundays, July 18, July 25, and August 1 at 12:15 p.m. Being part of the congregation of Grace Lutheran is part of the entire focus of faith life. Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of a faith organization that expands over 10,500 churches in the United States. As a large body of Christ, we are able to help a great many in need. Right now the focus is helping flood victims in Tennessee and being part of the Malaria Initiative to eradicate malaria worldwide. We are appreciative of the many frequent visitors and pray that your faith life is blessed by worshiping at Grace. You will always be welcomed here whether or not you join; but by joining, you help us help others. God bless you.

## Summer Schedule



- ♥ Worship every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- ♥ Coffee and refreshments served at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays
- ♥ Fellowship dinner every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- ♥ Worship service every Wednesday at 6:45 p.m.
- ♥ Fourth of July Fireworks at Culver City High School. The entrance fee is \$2.00. Parking is available for \$5.00. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. If you wish to join the Grace group, look for the MacGregors who will be up at the front with chairs, blankets, etc. Bring a potluck dish to share, or purchase refreshments at the high school. Make sure to bring a blanket or chair to sit on—and a light jacket as it can get cool on the field.
- ♥ Every Thursday beginning July 8: Culver City Music Festival. Meet at City Hall by 5:45 p.m. (check with Grace Elliott). The Culver City Music Festival is an annual summer concert series presented by the Culver City Redevelopment Agency and the City of Culver City. There is no cost.
- ♥ Wind in the Willows performances: July 16 (7:00), July 17 (2:00) & July 18 (2:00)
- ♥ Sunday, August 1—Praise Band and Country Supper



**For Children:** Each Sunday on the lawn this summer we will have tables set up for children’s fun crafts with a special Bible theme.

July 4	God Bless America
July 11	Sail With Jesus
July 18	Shell Prayers
July 25	Keep Cool with God
August 1	Treasure Hunt
August 8	Who Built the Ark?
August 15	Do You Have Faith Like Sand?
August 22	Jesus Loves ME!
August 29	Come, Little Birdie!

**For Adults:** Beginning July 11 we will begin a DVD series called **Mudhouse Sabbath: Seven Ways of Christian Formation**, inspired by the Jewishness of Jesus, by Lauren F. Winner. 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.

July 11	“Judaism and Christianity”
July 18	“Sabbath Keeping”
July 25	“Hospitality/Eating Food”
August 1	“Jewish and Christian Prayer”
August 8	“Fasting”
August 15	“Mourning Well”
August 22	“Doorposts”

**Come discover something new in your faith!**

# Grace Lutheran Church

4427 Overland Avenue  
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## ***FIRST CLASS MAIL***

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### **Worship Services:**

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: 6:45 p.m.

*Holy Communion celebrated at all services*



Praise Band  
and  
Country Supper

**\$6.00 per person**

Sunday, August 1  
1:00 p.m.

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.



**Chicken BBQ**

