

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City

## G.R.A.T.I.T.U.D.E

*Give it*

*Receive it*

*Affirm it*

*Treasure it*

*Inspire it*

*Think it*

*Unlimit it*

*Deliver it*

*Experience it!*



**November 2010**

*Give thanks!*



**Pastor's Page: 1**  
**Spiritual Growth: 2**  
**Your Faith in Action: 3**  
**Upcoming Events: 4-7**  
**Stewardship: 8**

**Kids' News: 9**  
**Prayer needs: 10**  
**Birthdays: 10**  
**The Back Page: 11**

# Pastor's Page

You may have seen the following e-mail that has been making the rounds entitled...

## Actual Label Instructions:

- On a box of Dial Soap:** *Directions: Use like regular soap.*
- On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding:** *Product will be hot after heating.*
- On packaging for a Rowenta Iron:** *Do not iron clothes on body.*
- On Nytol (a sleep aid):** *Warning: May cause drowsiness*
- On a string of Chinese-made Christmas lights:** *For indoor or outdoor use only.*
- On Sainbury's peanuts:** *Warning: Contains Nuts*
- On an American Airlines packet of nuts:** *Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts*
- On a Swedish chainsaw:** *Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands.*

As I read thru the above items and chuckled, I wondered... how can people so easily miss the obvious... But before we start with the finger-pointing, I suspect that even the people of God can easily take the obvious for granted...

We are a blessed people! God has mightily gifted and blessed us... -and yet we, too can lose sight of the obvious. All that we have, and all that we are, truly are blessings from above! We are stewards of all that we have and are... and have been given temporary custody of these blessings... Have we not?

So let me ask... how do we live with all these blessings bestowed upon us? Do we say thank you by the way we live our lives? Do we say it with our words, our actions, our deeds? I know Joanie and I have been trying to teach our 8 year-old son John to say thank you... and there are days when he just forgets.

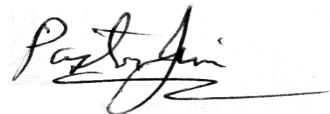
SOOOOO....How forgetful are we?

Do we take our many blessings so for granted, that we have become oblivious to all that surrounds us?

May this approaching Thanksgiving season be again that wonderful reminder for each of us to NOT forget the obvious... to continue to live out our lives as that living response to the many blessings that have so blessed us!

And I pray that we would again discover the joy of giving back... of expressing, of living out our THANK YOU to the One who has so blessed us! I pray it be so!!!

Thanking our God with you...



## 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 Tuesday Night Bible Study.** Studying the book of Ephesians. All are welcome!

**Wednesdays at 10am God Renewing Our Women (GROW)**

For the Fall season, we will be exploring *Captivating* by John and Staci Eldredge (\$10.50, study guide optional \$8.00). Just one chapter a week! Come and be captivated by the living God who loves you.

**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. *Prayers for all healing (physical, emotional or financial) on the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of the month.*

**NOV 21 Christ the King Sunday**

Christ the King Sunday is the culmination of our church year and celebrates the all-embracing authority of Christ.



**1st Sunday in Advent — Nov 28** Would you and your family like to do special readings during Advent as the Advent candles are lit? Please call the church office to volunteer. We need two families each Sunday.

**Holden Evening Prayer worship service** on Wednesday evenings with special music from Mary Lou Basaraba, Bets Danko and others, including a Christmas concert featuring the Choraliers on December 8th at 8pm.

## Ways to help . . .

### Please remember our elderly friends!

Some Grace members don't get out a whole lot and would love to have visits, cards, phone calls. . . **Oscar Carter, 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 for your ministry to these blessed saints!



### Monday afternoon Grace Diner

Help is needed in setting up, serving food, and cleaning up. We could also use an additional person to volunteer to do the laundry periodically.



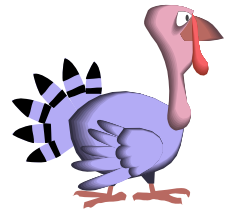
### Grace Diner Thanksgiving Buffet

Donations of turkey and Thanksgiving side-dishes needed. Set-up starts at 12pm; dinner is at 1pm. ALL are welcome!



**MEALS ON WHEELS Thanksgiving Day**—volunteers need to help with meal deliveries to Meals on Wheels customers.

**Donations** of turkeys for our sister church **Angelica Lutheran** downtown. They feed hundreds of people and need our help with fresh or frozen turkeys. Please bring to church by Nov 23. Thanks!



**TOY DRIVE Angelica Lutheran**—Please bring new unwrapped toys for the children of Angelica to the wheelbarrow in the narthex. Angelica serves a large, poor downtown LA population. Gifts are needed for children and youth ages 0-18 years old.



**Wednesday morning Crafters Club.** Meets at 11am, just after the GROW Bible study. The group is making new decorations for the church Christmas tree. Your help is needed with this fun craft!

## Upcoming . . .

**NOV 5 & 6** **Yard Sale**  
**Friday 9-5**  
**&**  
**Saturday 9-1**



**Yard Sale volunteers** needed — sign up in the narthex. Please, if you bring stuff during this week, have it organized, clean and priced. Lots of hands are needed to set up on Thursday.

**NOV 6** **CHIEFS at 6:30pm**

All are welcome to join this potluck and card games fellowship. Call Dolores Johnson for more info: (323)292-9998.

**NOV 7** **TIME CHANGE at 1a.m.**

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday morning at 1am . Set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night so you'll be on time for church.



**NOV 7** **All Saints Sunday, both services.** Remembering the saints (past and present) in our lives and those who entered the life triumphant in 2010.

**NOV 10** **eXtra years of Zest (XYZ) Meet at church at 10am.**

Trip to PCH Getty Museum...items must be 2000 years old to be in the museum, but that doesn't apply to the age of the visitors! I understand the museum restaurant is very nice, too. Please call to confirm. Hope to see you there.



**NOV 12-14** **El Camino Pines Family Camp**

(Beginning Friday at 7:00 PM & concluding at 1:00 PM on Sunday)

Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to retreat together and reflect on rhythms of work, study, rest, play, and prayer. Pastors Tim & Chamie Delkeskamp and children will lead daily rhythms of prayer and study as well as exploring what it means to live deeply in the rhythms of the Christian year. The new Christian year actually begins November 29th, 2010, the first day of Advent, so this is a wonderful time to dream and pray and plan as a family for a new year. Also, each family will receive the "[Story-Formed Calendar](#)" that is based on the seasons of the church year.



## Upcoming . . .



**NOV 20**      **Grace Praise Band** under the name “Spirit Light” performs at Angel City Café — a Christian venue for music in Bellflower. Saturday at 8pm. Let’s turn out and support our Band! <http://www.myspace.com/angelcitycafe> 16507 Bellflower Blvd. Bellflower, CA. Phone: 562/818-4065.

### **NOV 21**      **Christ the King Sunday**

Christ the King Sunday is the culmination of our church year and celebrates the all-embracing authority of Christ. Today distrust of authority exists. Many see Christianity as a religion of bondage, and they imagine they have a greater sense of liberation by leaving the Church. These individuals miss the point: Christ’s kingship is one of *humility and service*. To be subject to this King is to experience an extraordinary liberation and an exciting new outlook on life!



Jesus said: “. . . *For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” Mark 10:42-45

We are all called to submit ourselves to the Truth, the Reality which governs all things. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End of all things. Through him as the Word of God, we are led to the throne of the one who is all Truth and all Love. "Our hearts will find no rest until they rest in Him."

### **NOV 21**      **Annual Meeting (Part 2)** Between services.

Corrected draft budgets are available in the Narthex. Please pick one up before the meeting or contact the office for your copy.



## Upcoming . . .

**NOV 26      10am      Thanksgiving Day Worship Service**  
at Grace Church, hosting our friends from St Mary's in Palms.

### Looking for a welcoming place to spend Thanksgiving?



**GRACE is the PLACE!**

Can you deliver Meals on Wheels dinners on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25? Please contact the church office to volunteer!

After the worship service and MOW deliveries, the church is hosting a Thanksgiving Day buffet. We need pies, stuffing, side dishes and any other goodies you care to contribute. We'll be sharing the meal with friends from Grace Diner.

Set-up starts at 12pm, dinner is at 1pm.

All are welcome to join us!

Please indicate the way/s you'd like to participate by contacting Marina in the church office: 310/559-1027 or [graceculver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceculver@sbcglobal.net)

### **NOV 28      First Sunday in Advent**

Would you and your family like to be scheduled to do special readings for Advent? Please call the church office to volunteer. We need two families each Sunday.



**Look** for a re-designed Sunday bulletin starting Nov 28. The new bulletin will save about \$1000 in paper and copying costs per year.

The entire church service is projected on the front wall, but a booklet of the liturgy will be in the pews. You may call the office if you prefer to have your own printed copy of the liturgy.

# UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

## UPCOMING Concerts at Grace



**Choraliers  
Concert**  
8 pm  
December 8th

Thirty-voice choir  
of Classics & Carols

With  
Kathrine Bates,  
Joanne Kurman  
Alan Wilson  
& Dave Black on piano

Dessert Reception  
following

**FREE ADMISSION**  
Your donations  
are welcome

Grace Church  
4427 Overland Ave.  
Culver City  
310/559-1027

### Choraliers Christmas Wedn., Dec 8 at 8pm

T.A.G. Performance coming in December

Future concerts will be held by Opera Plus! and the Oceanaires.

We also hope to present an original musical composed by Cody Gillette based on the children's classic **"The Princess and the Goblins"** in May 2011.

**Heifer project Christmas Giving:** Gives you the power to change a life forever. Choose gifts that help struggling families around the world lift themselves out of poverty — cows, goats, chicks, bees, or trees through the Heifer Project gift catalog. Copies are available in the Narthex.



### 2010-2011 Entertainment Books Available

\$30/book. If you travel, there are car rental and hotel coupons. If you purchase groceries from Ralph's there are \$30 worth of coupons. Coupons are available for fast food, fine dining and special attractions throughout California. Buy the book, use the book and you will definitely save money.



## Leftovers



Soon, thanksgiving will be here! We will begin the thanksgiving meal with prayer. When we begin serving the thanksgiving meal, we will have passed the food in a manner that tried to make certain our guests were served first. When the meal has ended and cleanup has begun, we will begin packaging up the leftovers. We divide up the packages so that we can give some to each of our guests to take home with them.

Our lifelong stewardship is much like the thanksgiving meal. We make certain that the first fruits are given to God before satisfying our own needs. At the end of our life, there will be leftover gifts from God which we no longer need as we enter into His kingdom. Before our departure, we package those gifts into a will or trust. We put names on the packages in the way of beneficiaries of financial assets. Was God present at your table during your lifetime? Is God's name on one of the leftover packages?

To help plan your leftover gifts through a will, trust or financial asset, contact our congregation's gift planner, Greg Shepherd at (909)910-6823.

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***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14***

As we consider our stewardship as a part of our faith life, it is important that we involve and teach the children. We know that little children love to place money in the offering plate at Sunday service; they watch for the usher and wait for their turn, and enjoy the giving. At home they need to learn why we give money to the church, and a little about what the money is needed for. Then they can learn about sharing some of their money so that the church can provide for God's people.

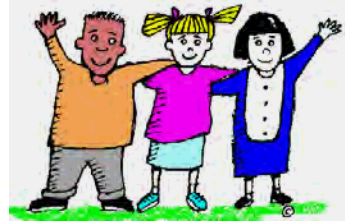
Children also need to learn about sharing their talents and their time. They learn that singing in the choir, or doing liturgical dance is a way that they are giving to the worship service. and that they attend Sunday classes to learn more about God, about prayer and about leading a Christian life. They learn of God's love and all of the blessings we all receive.

Children enjoy having Sunday School envelopes and putting their money in the envelope to give at Sunday School. Envelopes are available for the children here at Grace. As the children are growing and learning, an important part of their awareness can be to share their time and talent and money with the church so that others may receive blessings through them.

—Stewardship Committee



# Kid News!



## **Nov 5 & 6 Yard Sale**

Lots of youth needed!

We will have a sleepover Friday night with a movie. Please RSVP to Doris (310)559-1027.

**Nov 11 Mystery trip for high school youth.** Meet at 10am and bring a change of clothes and swim suit and towel. Lunch provided.

**Nov 19-20 Middle School event in Anaheim** includes stay at hotel, program and Disneyland. Cost for youth will be \$50 for church youth only. Please RSVP asap!

**Culver schools are closed Nov 22-26.** The Fireside Room will be open Monday- Wednesday during school hours for youth to hang out. Bring a lunch and money to go bowling or to a movie.

**High school** weekly meeting Wednesdays at 3:00pm. Come see what adventure we will be doing for the week.

**High school** meeting on Sundays at 10:15am in the Fireside Room come share your week.

**Middle school** meeting on Tuesdays at the end of confirmation at 4pm come discuss what adventures we will be attempting next.

## **Winter retreats coming up**

High school at El Camino Pines Jan 28-30 cost \$129, those who help with yard sale get a discount.

Middle school at El Camino Pines Feb 11-13 cost \$129, those who help with yard sale get a discount.



## Prayer Concerns



*Keep these members and their families in your prayers for health and in the loving care of our Lord.*

Patti & Sean Baker  
 Paula Boelsems  
 Fran Codd  
 Betty Davis  
 Lynn Erickson  
 Marion Firnhaber  
 Jerry Frascella  
 The Goller family  
 Elaine Goodyear  
 George & Bette Gregory  
 Jack Harrier  
 Derrick Hente  
 Pastor Bob Johnson  
 Lorene Jones  
 Babak Kamjou  
 Patti LaBarbera  
 Brenda Langdon  
 Peggy Ledlie  
 Pauline Lee  
 Len & Linda Lovgren  
 Wayne Maass  
 Joanie Maines  
 Pastor Gary Marshall  
 Trudi Moore  
 Shirley Nowlin  
 Lois Ostlund  
 Brian & Cherie Parks  
 Pastor Ed Petersen  
 Albert Prabhu  
 Maxine Stenstrom  
 Thomas Tidwell  
 Margaret Zamorano

### Members in the Military

Freddie Wilson  
 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, Christian Service
Margaret Lowe	Stewardship & Finance
Grace Elliott	Fellowship, Education
Dolores Johnson	Christian Service
Lu Petersen	Property & Support
Ken Smith	Stewardship & Finance
Len Lovgren	Worship & Music
Margaret Lowe	Stewardship
Colin Tidwell	Youth
Beverly O'Brien	Sunday School Superintendent

# Happy Birthday



<i>Megan Henke 11/01</i>	<i>Scott Johnson 11/15</i>
<i>Tom Hayes 11/04</i>	<i>Paula Boelsems 11/15</i>
<i>Madeleine Krueger 11/06</i>	<i>Stephen Jahn 11/17</i>
<i>Pete Hyatt 11/08</i>	<i>John Swenson 11/20</i>
<i>Betty Davis 11/09</i>	<i>Kyle Johnson 11/23</i>
<i>Roy Mathison 11/10</i>	<i>Krystyna Riban 11/25</i>
<i>Don Gripp 11/12</i>	<i>Paul Wilson 11/26</i>
<i>Timothy Lowe 11/13</i>	<i>Vincent Palazzola 11/29</i>
<i>Don Thorne 11/13</i>	<i>Peter Stenshoel 11/30</i>

GRACE NOTES  
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Grace Lutheran Church  
Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor

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graceculver@sbcglobal.net  
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.

"Fall Back" — November 7  
Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday  
morning at 1am . Set your clocks back  
1 hour before going to bed  
Saturday night so you'll be on time for  
church!



# Yard Sale

**NOV 5 & 6**  
Friday 9-5  
and  
Saturday 9-1

