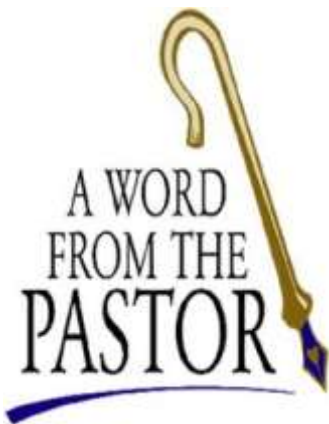


# Grace Notes

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California*  
**December 2012**



*I always remember with great fondness my early days as a young boy, excitedly awaiting the arrival of St Nick. . . . How on Christmas Eve my brother and I would put out a sandwich with milk and cookies, so that Santa wouldn't go hungry.*



*We were so filled with anticipation it was almost impossible to sleep on those Christmas Eve's...*

The years have passed and we have entered adulthood, but I would like to invite the “child” in all of us to be re-awakened this Advent season... to take the excitement that filled us on those Christmases long ago and redirect it toward the Holy One for whom all of creation has been waiting with great anticipation.

The season of Advent is **THE** time of anticipation, of preparation, of waiting with eager hearts the coming of the Promised One, the birth of the Christ Child... born *anew* into the hearts and minds of all of God's children.

Knowing how hectic the days ahead can be, may we redouble our efforts to take the time to set aside all that distracts and deters us from knowing this Child in all His fullness... and may the gifts of His love, light and peace be ours in full measure!

On behalf of all the staff and their families, we pray for you a most blessed “rebirth” of the Christ Child into our hearts, our lives, and our families this Holy Season...



## *Spirit Matters . . .*

**Tuesday Night Bible Study with Pastor Jim at 7pm**

**Tuesday Night Young Women's Group at 7:30pm** Study and sharing for young women. Please contact Michelle Moreno for more info: (818) 294-0289 or [gracelutheran.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheran.michelle@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, at 10am, "God Renewing Our Women" (GROW) with Pastor Ellen**

**Wednesday night Worship service 6:45pm—with the Holden Evening Prayer.** A mid-week, faith-filled, pick-me-up, featuring the Holden service. You do not want to miss these beautiful sung services for Advent! Join us for potluck supper at 6pm.



# Bulletin board

### **Our Youth Group Gives Back!**

Professionally cleaned carpets in the Nursery, Choir and Fireside rooms, and canopies for the lawn are this year's "tithe" that the youth made to the church from the proceeds of the Yard Sale.

Next year look for a new sofa in Pastor Jim's office!

God bless the young people of our Youth Ministry.



### **TOY DRIVE**

*Bring a new unwrapped toy to the office or Narthex. Items needed for ages 6 months to 18 years old. You will make a Grace Diner child or Angelica Lutheran child very happy on Christmas!*

### **God's Global Barnyard**

Is your loose change building up in the little barn we passed out a few weeks ago? Have you chosen an animal you'd like to purchase for a family in Africa or Asia? Bring in the barn on Dec 16 or write a check to Grace, "memo Global Barnyard" and tell us which animal you'd like to buy.

### **Good Samaritan Fund and "Gifts of Love"**

You helped us supply the fixin's for 1000 Thanksgiving dinners to our inner-city sister church, Angelica Lutheran!

We hope to provide small thank-you-gifts to some of the hard-working volunteers at Grace who are in need of a helping hand themselves this Christmas.

We can't do it without the generous donors to the Good Sam fund. *To be one of them, you may write a check to "Good Samaritan Fund, Grace Church." Bless you!*

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

*Viola Chafin (daughter of Patricia Chafin, original member of Grace)  
In honor of the 50 original charter members of Grace,*

*Marilyn Lee & Harvey Schneider in memory of Pauline Alma Olson Lee,*

*The Meyers family in honor of Bobby's promotion to Master Sergeant,*

*And the Hatfield family to the glory of God*

# December

2

## Dec 1 & 2 — “Les Miz” Songbook Concert

Familiarize yourself with the most fantastic musical of all time (even sing along with some of the songs) before the blockbusting movie “Les Miserables” opens Dec 24. Jana Koppula and Cody Gillette, accompanists, with soloists from Grace and the community!  
**Saturday at 7pm. Sunday at 1:30pm.**

## Dec 2—1st Sunday in Advent

Readers needed for 4 Advent Sundays — families with children, singles, seniors . . . Open to all! Contact Marina in the office.

**And Parish Nurse Katie Timm, RN,** will be on hand to check your BP and discuss your personal health issues between services.



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

**Dec 7—Deck the Halls!** Join the youth at 3pm for a fun and festive afternoon putting up boughs & lights.



## Dec 8—Choraliers Concert at 7pm.

Your favorite chorus is back with Christmas carols and classic songs. This is their 12th year at Grace!

**Dec 9—Christmas Pageant rehearsal** during Sunday School (ALSO rehearsal on Dec 15, 10-12pm).



**Dec 11— Spruce the Church**—Dust, polish, arrange, decorate the Fireside Room. 10am-2pm. Lunch will be served.

**Dec 12—Council meeting** with 2012 and 2013 elected council members and Synod reps.

**Dec 13—XYZ to Grove & Farmers Market** for lunch. Meet at the church at 10am. Be sure to RSVP to Lisa.

**Dec 15—Christmas Pageant rehearsal** 10am to 12pm. ALL KIDS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

## Dec 15—Cody Gillette presents

**Glad Tidings & Sacred Spirits** An evening of Baroque, Classical and Romantic vocal and instrumental music to benefit the music programs at Grace. 7pm.



**Dec 16—CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** during the services at 9 & 11am.

**Dec 16— HOLIDAY BAKE SALE BETWEEN SERVICES** Need holiday cookies, pies, cakes, and other home-made baked goodies! Please help us raise money to refurbish the Young Children’s Book Nook in the Fireside Room.

Collecting for God’s Global Barnyard too. Don’t forget to bring your “barn”!

**Dec 20—1pm—Decorate the church with Poinsettias. Please let us know if you can help!**



**Dec 20—Live Nativity, 4pm to 7pm.** Petting zoo of goats and sheep, costumes for Xmas tableaux, carols, hot chocolate and soup —outreach to the community with glad tidings and the reason for the Season!



**Dec 24th—Christmas Eve 5:30pm & 8:30pm. Carols, candlelight & communion. And the MUSIC . . . ! Invite your friends to this glorious celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.**



**Dec 25-28 Office closed. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

**Dec 30—ONE (1) service at 10am.**

**Dec 31—New Year’s Eve. Office closed.**

## December Birthdays

Karen McClain 12/02  
 Evelyn Quinn 12/04  
 Daniel O'Brien 12/07  
 Cavyn Simon 12/07  
 Robyn Johnson 12/08  
 Rebecca Engel 12/09  
 Linda Gripp 12/09  
 Terry Grimm 12/10  
 Carl Lundquist 12/10

Lee Collins 12/12  
 Andrew Sick 12/12  
 Ellen Jennrich 12/16  
 Sarah Danner 12/20  
 Patricia Millett 12/20  
 Jessica Ruacho 12/23  
 Christine Hernandez 12/25  
 Linda Schumitzky 12/29



## "MAKE IT SIMPLE"

Simplifying our lives to place Jesus as the center of our Time, Talent & Resources decisions.

### Tip of the Month: FIGHT TEMPTATION

This holiday season it's impossible to avoid malls, shopping sites, and other sources of temptation, but make a list beforehand and buy only what's on the list. It'll save you time AND money.

For friends & family who have everything consider a "gift in their name" to God's Global Barnyard, Toy Drive, Gifts of Love, Good Samaritan Fund or other worthy causes (see page 2).

### Inspiration:

*Psalm 51:10-12 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."*



Make It Simple is a message of HOPE for a richer, more abundant life. Richer in things that truly matter. It's our choice—let's choose wisely!

God's Gift of Love

## Calling all VOLUNTEERS We can sure use your help this BUSY holiday season!

**Dec 1 & 2** Cookies and other refreshments needed for reception following the Les Miserables concert.

**Dec 7—3pm** Decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and put up Christmas lights in the front garden.

**Dec 11—10am-2pm** Decorate the Fireside Room for Christmas. Spruce up the pew decorations.

**Dec 16—**Bakers needed for Holiday Bake Sale: cookies, cakes, brownies, Christmas breads . . .all home-baked goodies welcome!

**Dec 20—1pm** Decorate church with poinsettias.

**Dec 20—4-7pm** Live Nativity. Help kids dress up as angels, wise men, and shepherds, sing carols and serve hot chocolate and hearty soup.

**ANYTIME:** Hang boughs and lights in the church. Let PJ or Lisa know when you have time to help.

**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

Facebook icon: Grace Lutheran Youth Group

**FOR YOUTH AGES 13-20**

# December Service Assistants

December 2—1st Sunday in Advent		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	Tom Hayes	Patti Baker
Com. Asst	Carol Hayes	Margaret Zamorano
Lector	Larry Green	Diana Kirkpatrick
Cantor	Clare Snodgrass	Jerry Gottschalk
Crucifer	<b>Hayden O'Brien</b>	Margaret Zamorano
Acolyte	<b>Brendon O'Brien</b>	Jessica Salazar
Kid's Sermon	Tom Hayes	Tom Hayes
Altar Guild	Katie Timm	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	<b>The O'Brien Family</b>	M Joy and C Rooney

December 9—2nd Sunday in Advent		
	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Betty Davis	Katie Parks
Com. Asst	Jerry Gottschalk	Leah Wouters
Lector	Betty Davis	Katie Parks
Cantor	Claire Skelley	Claire Skelley
Crucifer	Jerry Gottschalk	Leah Wouters
Acolyte	Isabelle Cortes	Need helper!
Kid's Sermon	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
Altar Guild	Marina Tidwell	E Guy & J Silver
Greeters	Ron Engen	Marilyn Schneider

December 16—3rd Sunday in Advent		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	John Priebe	Marina Tidwell
Com. Asst	Elaine Hente	Leah Wouters
Lector	John Priebe	Leah Wouters
Cantor	Tara Alexander	Sherry Hutson
Crucifer	Elaine Hente	M Zamorano
Acolyte	M Zamorano	Need helper!
Kid's Sermon	Michelle Moreno	Michelle Moreno
Altar Guild	M Zamorano	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	Sarah and Isaac Danner	Erna Guy

December 23—4th Sunday in Advent		
	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Lila Swenson	Marina Tidwell
Com. Asst	Patty Baker	Keeshawn Andrew
Lector	Leah Wouters	Marina Tidwell
Cantor	Jack Skelley	Jim Snodgrass
Crucifer	Patty Baker	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	Finn Swenson	April Andrew
Kid's Sermon	Patty Millett	Patty Millett
Altar Guild	Marina Tidwell	Pam Snodgrass
Greeters	Josh Rayner	Marilyn Schneider

December 24—Christmas Eve		
	6:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.*
Asst Minister	John Priebe	Marty Hente
Com. Asst	M Zamorano	Elaine Hente
Lector	Marina Tidwell	Marty Hente
Cantor	Claire Skelley	Clare Snodgrass
Crucifer	Patrick Hayes	Patti Baker
Acolyte	Megan Hayes	Jessica Salazar
Kid's Sermon	Pastor Jim	Pastor Jim
Altar Guild	Tidwell/Zamorano	Tidwell/Zamorano
Greeters	The Hayes family	Tidwells

Dec 30—10am service	
	10:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Marty Hente
Com. Asst	Elaine Hente
Lector	Marty Hente
Cantor	Michelle Moreno
Crucifer	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	April Andrew
Kid's Sermon	Ron Engen
Altar Guild	Barbara Jefferson
Greeters	Ron Engen



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

\*choir

# Calendar



1  
*Les Miserables  
Songbook  
Concert  
at 7pm*

2 Services 9 & 11am Sunday School during 9am service  <i>Les Miserables Songbook Concert at 1:30pm</i>	3 4:30-6:30pm Grace Diner	4 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	5 10am-GROW 2:45 Cherub Choir & CONFIRMATION  6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service	6 1pm-Office Angels 3:30pm TAG 7:30-Chancel Choir  DAYS FOR GIRLS at 7pm	7 3pm DECK the HALLS décor party.  6:30-Youth Meeting	8  <i>CHORALIERS CONCERT 7pm</i>
9 Services 9 & 11am Sunday School during 9am service  Xmas Pageant rehearsal during 9am service	10 4:30-6:30pm Grace Diner	11 Spruce the Church 10am  7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	12 10am-GROW 2:45 Cherub Choir & CONFIRMATION  6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service	13 10am-XYZ  1pm-Office Angels 3:30pm TAG 7:30-Chancel Choir	14 6:30-Youth Meeting	15 Pageant rehearsal 10am-12pm  <i>"Glad Tidings &amp; Sacred Spirits" Concert at 7pm</i>
16 Services 9 & 11am Christmas Pageant both services  HOLIDAY BAKE SALE between Services  God's Global Barnyard collection	17 4:30-6:30pm Grace Diner	18 7pm— Bible Study 7:30-Young Women's Bible Study	19 6pm-Potluck 6:45 Worship service	20 1pm-Office Angels  Decorate Church with poinsettias 1pm  <i>Live Nativity 4-7pm</i>	21 6:30-Youth Meeting	22
23 Services 9 & 11am	<i>24 Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 &amp; 8:30pm</i>	25 <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>  	26 Office closed	27 Office closed	28	29
30 ONE SERVICE AT 10AM	31 New Year's Eve. Office closed.  NOTE: Grace Diner 3:30-5pm today & 12/24					

## 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**

Ken Smith, (Acting) **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**

### Prayers

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

Patti & Sean Baker

Robert Biggs

Paula Boelsems

Fran Codd

Sarah & Isaac Danner

Betty Davis

Lynn Erickson

Marion Firnhaber

Goller family

Elaine Goodyear

The Gottschalks

Bette Gregory

Craig Heath

Sem. Stephen Jahn

Lorene Jones

Patti LaBarbera

Brenda Langdon

ILeung

Lisa McDaniel

Pr Fred McElderry

Trudi Moore

Ruth Moreno

Shirley Nowlin

Brian & Cherie Parks

Albert Prabhu

Crystie Rooney

Jackie Skelley

Maxine Stenstrom

Leota Thorne

Bryna Walden

### In the Military:

Freddie Wilson

Natalie Meyers

John Meyers

Sean Sloan

Colette Sprenger

And . . .

### Your Prayer Partner

God bless you in your prayer ministry!

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



- **Can you donate to the Toy Drive?** Collecting for Grace Diner kids and Angelica Lutheran. Please drop off in the Narthex or church office.

- **Grace Diner—Dessert ministry!** We need bakers to supply desserts as a treat for our Diners. Contact [JohnaMiller@gmail.com](mailto:JohnaMiller@gmail.com).

- **Event Volunteers—Concert aides, Christmas Pageant coordinators, Decorators, Holiday Bakers** Your time and talent is appreciated! Contact Marina or Lisa: 310-559-1028.

- **Christmas Card Exchange**

Each year we put a box in the Narthex to exchange Christmas Cards with fellow Grace members and friends. Please especially remember our homebound, elderly and those on the prayer list above.



God bless you!

**GRACE NOTES**  
**DECEMBER 2012**  
**Vol. 42, No. 12**

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

**4427 Overland Avenue**  
**Culver City, CA 90230-4118**

**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.**

**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.



**Also in December**

**Les Miserables Concert**

**7pm on Dec 1**

**1:30pm on Dec 2**

**Choraliers Concert**

**7pm on Dec 8**

**“Glad Tidings” Concert**

**7pm on Dec 15**

**Live Nativity**

**4-7pm on Dec 20th**