

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

February 2011



## *A Word from Our Pastor*

### 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 inter-generational family;
- We resolve to support a strong youth ministry.

With the month of February fast approaching, I am again reminded of that “high, holy day” known as Valentines Day. My wife calls it “Love You Day” and we always set aside some personal time to again remind ourselves of our love for one another.

Some time back, I was intrigued by the reaction of some of our confirmation students when asked to define or describe love. Their answers covered quite a wide range of categories, which included boyfriends, girlfriends, classmates, neighbors and friends. As I listened, I quickly became aware of how painfully absent from their answers was the mention of God. Somehow, God no longer seemed a part of the equation... and I was saddened.

Obviously they are not alone... for we live in the midst of a world in which God's presence and love seems so distant... so far away. And yet when it comes to love, we are reminded that “*No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*” (John 15:13)

A truth so simple, yet so profound! We have a God that loves us so very much, and yet I think it is sometimes the world's best kept secret!

Yes, the month of February is a great time for the renewal of our relationships with those we love. And I hope that we all take the time to do just that!

But I also hope that we NOT forget the ONE whose love is the greatest love of all!

May this be that month in which we boldly share our love with one another,

knowing that we are able to love, because God first loved us!

Celebrating this month of love with you...

<b>Weekly Events:</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Stewardship:</b>	<b>4</b>
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*Pastor Jim*

“For God so loVed the world,

That He gAve

His onLy

BegottEn

SoN

That Whosoever

Believeth In Him

Should N ot perish

But have E verlasting life.”

-- John 3:16

## COOK BOOK ALERT!

Watcha think about a Grace Church cookbook stuffed with YUMMY recipes? Got any you would like to share? Please email them to [graceculver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceculver@sbcglobal.net).

Our brand new Cookbook will be coming out in April, so be sure to get your recipe in ASAP!



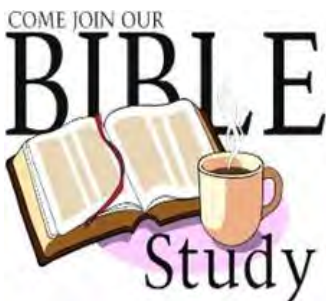
**Ideas:** Appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, main dishes, desserts, gluten free, cooking for two, cooking for a crowd, special family recipes, pot luck specials, cooking on a shoe string, healthy cooking and recipes for life.

## SPIRITUAL FOOD

### Tues. 7pm Pastor's Bible Study, Romans

Paul's purpose in writing was to proclaim the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ by teaching doctrine to edify and encourage believers.

Because he himself was a Roman citizen, Paul had a unique passion for the believers in Rome. This book was life-changing for Martin Luther and may be for you, too! All are welcome to attend.



### Wednesdays 10am G.R.O.W.

(God Renewing Our Women)

We'll be finishing the study of Revelation on Feb. 9, then continue with 3 weeks in the Psalms before beginning our Lenten series on Mar. 16 after Ash Wednesday. All women are welcome on Wednesdays at 10am in the Fireside Room. Come study, learn, share and pray together!



### Wednesdays 6pm Fellowship Potluck Dinner and 6:45 Worship Service

Take years off — Come in for a faith-lift!

*The first Wednesday of the month includes extended time for meditation and prayers.*

## Upcoming Events

### February 1-13



#### Feb 2 eXtra Years of Zest

A senior's outing field trip to explore the greater Los Angeles area. This month we will go to the Petersen Automotive Museum. We

will meet at 10am and venture to the museum for an hour or so and then head to the ever-popular Farmers Market for lunch. The cost for senior is \$5/ person. Please RSVP to Doris MacGregor: 310-559-1027

Feb 2

Prayer Service 6:45 pm

Christian Service Mtg 7:30pm

Feb 5

CHIEFS

Potluck, cards and fellowship! 6:30pm. Please call Dolores Johnson to RSVP: 323-292-9998



Feb 6 New Members received!

#### Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> you will hear pots banging at Grace and youth asking for money donations for ELCA World Hunger programs and canned food donations for our sister church Angelica Lutheran. There'll be donuts for coffee time at \$1.00 per donut. We hope to see you before the big game!

11am Education Meeting

12 pm Youth Meeting

Feb 8

Stewardship Mtg. 4:15pm

Property Committee 5:15pm

Feb 9

Worship & Music Mtg 3:30pm

Feb 12

Middle School retreat

Feb 13

"Love" Sunday!



# Upcoming Events

## February 14-28

**Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day!**  
*Jesus doesn't bring you candy hearts  
 In boxes of delight  
 Instead He always lets you know  
 You're precious in His sight!*



**Feb 16 Council Meeting**

**Feb 19 Father-Daughter Dance 6:30pm**  
 Please call Lisa Skelley for more information.

**Feb 21 Presidents' Day** Office closed  
 (Except for Grace Diner)

### Save the Date(s)

**March 8**

#### Fun(d)-raising Event!

Attend a live taping of the television comedy  
 "Rules of Engagement"

Sony Studios on Overland, 5-10pm.

They'll pay the church \$20/person.

A standup comic and cute show make the evening a lot of fun. But a word of warning: *Dress like a Sherpa, cuz it gets really cold in the studio!*

RSVP (310) 559-1027

**March 19 & 26**

**Auditions for**

#### "The Princess & the Goblins"

An original musical fairytale based on the book by George MacDonald (a favorite of CS Lewis).

In 1870s Scotland, a young girl has to follow her faith to escape from goblins.



Open parts include Goblins (child-aged or sized), Goblin King & Queen (adult), Goblin Prince (youth), Guards (youth or adult), The Queen of Light (adult, soprano), and Sir Walter (adult).

**Please call Marina for more information.**

## RAILS TO THE RIM ALL ABOARD!!!!!!

Date: Aiming for second week of May, before school lets out, and after Easter. Cost: appr \$350/person for 3 days, 2 nights, two breakfasts and two dinners at the Depot Café. Includes round trip train ride from the hotel in Williams to the Grand Canyon PLUS a motorcoach rim tour of the South Rim with lunch at the Lodge AND a \$20.00 gift shop certificate!!



Questions?? Please contact Joan Engen ASAP  
 (310)398-1063 Email: [joaneth1@aol.com](mailto:joaneth1@aol.com)

### Highlights from Church Council January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

- A grant of \$3,000 was awarded to Grace Diner by the ELCA Domestic Hunger Fund. Discussion on how to utilize the funds will be held later this month.
- A 'Young Adult' group is being formed at Grace, and first meetings will be conducted this month.
- Both sanctuary pianos are delicate and in need of evaluation: the possibility of acquiring a newer, stronger piano is being investigated.
- Discussion on the Farragut parking situation was postponed. Culver City is conducting a city-wide parking evaluation, and it was advised not to bring up the issue at City Council. The issue will be discussed again at the next church council meeting.
- A Sabbatical Policy for Grace is under review, with the possibility of granting Pastor Jim a sabbatical this coming summer. The Council plans to design a clear policy for future use.
- An archive of Grace Lutheran Church is being assembled, with support from members and ministers. Once completed, it will be accessible to all members for research and enjoyment.





## Level your Giving

Gas and electric utility companies offer the chance to even out the cost of energy throughout the year, to offset the effect of greater usage in the Winter by lesser usage in the Summer. This helps fit the family's month-to-month budget better. Church members

who give a consistent amount throughout the year are already practicing this scheme, and help the Church to continue to meet its financial obligations, which fall due whether or not members are generous at certain times and less so at others.

The Church has its seasons which bring periods of rise and fall in giving patterns by the members of the congregation. From our vantage point in late January, we look back on the generosity of members who did their year-end giving to help us off to a good start in our Fiscal Year (which begins in November.) We know that the other time of increased giving falls at Easter—so we are now in a kind of lull period between the “fat” times. (Then comes the long dry spell between Easter and Christmas!)

However you approach your giving pattern, there are times, as with all habits, when self-examination can bring change in deep-set ways.

Signing up for an automatic weekly or monthly amount to be deducted from your checking account will assure that your portion of the Church's total support will always be there—and you don't even need to think about it!

Now—wouldn't that make you feel good about doing your part?

*Simply contact the office about the “Simply Giving” automatic deduction program. God bless you!*

## Charitable IRA Rollover Extended

The compromise tax bill just passed by Congress and signed into law by the President, extends until December 31, 2011, a provision known as the “Charitable IRA Rollover” which allows taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to make tax-free transfers of up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRA to charities. These gifts can be made without increasing your taxable income or withholding. Funds transferred from your IRA to a charity will not be subject to Social Security income to higher tax levels, and will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

For further questions on how this can benefit you and your church, contact our gift planner, Greg Shepherd, at (909)910-6823.

## Youth Ministry

### Feb 6 Youth lunch & meeting at noon

We will go out for a quick lunch and discuss upcoming events. Please let Doris MacGregor know if you are able to make it. You will be home before the Super Bowl!



### Feb 6 Souper Bowl of Caring. This event was begun 22 years ago by a youth group who hoped to “Transform the time around



the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving,” and collected \$5,700 for hunger issues. This movement has spread across the

United States with church youth groups, school groups, and Scout troops making the vision statement a fact of life. Last year \$10,000,000 in cash was raised and donated to hunger organizations. Please help the youth of Grace raise money for ELCA World Hunger on 02/6. More info on p. 2.

### Equipping youth & children

Everyday we hear of terrible events happening around young people. but each of us can make a difference in our communities. The ELCA says that the church is well equipped to help because each of us is called to encourage and affirm and support our youth and children, right from the start.

Ephesians 4:15-16 says, “Love should always make us tell the truth. Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ...”

Do you love it when the children get up and sing or dance? Please tell them, encourage and compliment their offering in the church.

And pray for those we do not know, that they might find a faith community that cares and love the youth & children like we do at Grace.





*“Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. . . ”*  
 (from The Living Translation, Luke 6:38)

**Feeding . . .**



**Monday evenings**  
 A weekly free hot supper to our neighbors in need. We serve about 35 clients and give out an additional 10-15 take-home meals each week.

Our “diners” are people like us who just need a helping hand — and it is an honor and pleasure to spend time in this ministry.

We always need and welcome new volunteers. Set-up starts at 3pm, the Dining room is open 4:30-6pm, and clean up is finished by 6:30pm.

Please speak with Ken Smith, Grace Elliott, Lisa Skelley or Johna Miller to learn more, or contact the church office.

**Praying . . .**

*Please 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  
 Jack Harrier  
 Pastor Bob Johnson  
 Lorene Jones  
 Patti LaBarbera  
 Brenda Langdon

Peggy Ledlie  
 Pauline Lee  
 Len & Linda Lovgren  
 Wayne Maass  
 Pastor Gary Marshall  
 Trudi Moore  
 Shirley Nowlin  
 Lois Ostlund  
 Brian & Cherie Parks  
 Albert Prabhu  
 Maxine Stenstrom  
 Thomas Tidwell  
 Margaret Zamorano

**Members in the Military**

Freddie Wilson  
 Natalie Meyers  
 John Meyers  
 & your  
*Prayer Partner or Compadre*

**Doing . . .**  
**“HONEY DO” LIST**  
**NOW AVAILABLE!**

We could sure use your help with little things:

- ◆ Repaint the Sacristy
- ◆ Clean pew cushions
- ◆ Scrub the kitchen

Any time’s a good time if it works for you!  
 Call the church office if you can help.



**Visiting . . .**

Some Grace members are not able to get around much and would love to have visits, cards, or 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 contact info.



**Serving . . .**

**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*  
*Kelsey Harold & Colin Tidwell, TAG Club*  
*Laura Chapman, Bookkeeper*  
*Don Martin, Custodian*  
*Jim Harrold, Facilities Manager*  
*Wanda Hunter, Nursery Attendant*

Jim Snodgrass	President, Property & Support
Stephen Jahn	Secretary, Fellowship/Education
Marsha Heath	Treasurer, Stewardship
Grace Elliott	Fellowship & Outreach
Dolores Johnson	Christian Service
Len Lovgren	Worship & Music
Margaret Lowe	Stewardship & Finance
Marty Hente	Property & Support
Lu Petersen	Property & Support
Mary Jane Petersen	Property & Support
Ken Smith	Stewardship & Finance
Colin Tidwell	Youth/Education/W&M
Beverly O’Brien	Sunday School Superintendent

# February Service Assistants

Sunday, February 6 – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Asst Minister</b>	Tom Hayes	Stephen Jahn
<b>Com. Asst</b>	Carol Hayes	Betty Davis
<b>Lector</b>	C. Biggs	Diana Kirkpatrick
<b>Cantor</b>	Delicia Smith	Jerry Gottschalk
<b>Crucifer</b>	Carol Hayes	Patti Baker
<b>Acolyte</b>	Megan Hayes	Robert Condinus
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Tom Hayes	Tom Hayes
<b>Altar Guild</b>	B Jefferson	Barbara Jefferson
<b>Greeters</b>	Skelley Family	M Joy & C Rooney

Sunday, February 27– 8 <sup>th</sup> Sun. After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Asst Min.	Ron Engen	Lila Swenson
Com. Asst	Joan Engen	Leah Wouters
Lector	Barbara Knipple	Lila Swenson
Cantor	Clare Snodgrass	Clare Snodgrass
Crucifer	Bruce Welmers	Leah Wouters
Acolyte	Ian Carter	Babak Kamjou
Children's Sermon	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
Altar Guild	Hayes/ Jefferso	Snodgrass/ Jefferson
Greeters	Elliott/Langdon	C Biggs/ C Seeman

Sunday, February 20 – 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Asst Minister</b>	John Priebe	Betty Davis
<b>Com. Asst</b>	Joan Engen	Jerry Gottschalk
<b>Lector</b>	John Priebe	Jerry Gottschalk
<b>Cantor</b>	Pastor Ellen	Claire Skelley
<b>Crucifer</b>	John Priebe	Leah Wouters
<b>Acolyte</b>	Katie Priebe	Robert Condinus
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Pastor Jim	Pastor Jim
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Seeman/Jefferson	Jefferson /Ledlie
<b>Greeters</b>	O'Brien Family	Erna Guy

Sunday, February 13 – 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Asst Minister</b>	Betty Davis	Katie Parks
<b>Com. Asst</b>	Jerry Gottschalk	K Andrews
<b>Lector</b>	Betty Davis	K Andrews
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Skelley	Sherry Hutson
<b>Crucifer</b>	Jerry Gottschalk	Krista Soderlund
<b>Acolyte</b>	Claire Skelley	Alexis Andrews
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
<b>Altar Guild</b>	The Meyers	Guy& Jefferson
<b>Greeters</b>	The Danners	Ron & Joan Engen

Dear Service Assistants,  
Please keep this where you can check it each week. If you are unable to make your assigned time, please remember that you are responsible for finding a replacement and contacting the office with that information.

We are so grateful for your help . . .

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


*Grace Notes Sponsors Sponsorships are \$25 and your dedication of "in honor of" or "in memory of" is noted in the newsletter. Money raised goes to defray the cost of materials and postage. You may sign up in the Narthex.*

## The February issue of Grace Notes

is sponsored by:

*Todd & Johna Miller,  
Barbra Jefferson in memory of Jeff,  
and  
"I love you, Jesus"— Cathy Biggs*

## February 2011 Grace Notes

 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Flower of the month: Violet</i></p>		1	2	3	4	5																		
		<p>3-4pm—Confirmation 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study, Romans</p>	<p><b>10am XYZ outing</b> 10am-GROW Bible Study, Revelations 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Fellowship Dinner</p> <p><b>6:45 Worship Service With Prayer Ministry</b></p>			<p><b>CHIEFs</b> <b>6:30pm</b></p>																		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																		
<p>Services 9 &amp; 11am <b>New Members Received</b></p> <p>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING</p> <p>11am-Education Mtg 12pm-Youth Mtg</p>	<p>3-6:30pm Grace Diner</p>	<p>3-4pm—Confirmation 4:15 — Stewardship 5:15-Property Mtg 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study, Romans</p>	<p>10am-GROW Bible Study, Revelations 2:30-Cherub Choir 3:30-W&amp;M mtg 6pm-Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Worship Service</p>	<p>1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G. 7:30pm-Chancel Choir</p>		<p><b>Middle School Retreat</b></p>																		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																		
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26																		
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27	28	<h2 style="color: red;">Celebrating birthdays</h2> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Erin Asheghian 02/01</td> <td>Janice Szujewski 02/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James Gilbert 02/01</td> <td>Elizabeth Danko 02/17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bernice Jones 02/06</td> <td>John Priebe 02/17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kimberly Garner 02/07</td> <td>Mary Lou Basaraba 02/18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ben Lowe 02/08</td> <td>Patricia Baker 02/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annabella Danko 02/10</td> <td>Lawrence Green 02/21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beverly O'Brien 02/15</td> <td>Ray Lanthier 02/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arthur Cruz 02/16</td> <td>Brad Sick 02/23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kelsey Harrold 02/16</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					Erin Asheghian 02/01	Janice Szujewski 02/16	James Gilbert 02/01	Elizabeth Danko 02/17	Bernice Jones 02/06	John Priebe 02/17	Kimberly Garner 02/07	Mary Lou Basaraba 02/18	Ben Lowe 02/08	Patricia Baker 02/20	Annabella Danko 02/10	Lawrence Green 02/21	Beverly O'Brien 02/15	Ray Lanthier 02/22	Arthur Cruz 02/16	Brad Sick 02/23	Kelsey Harrold 02/16	
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**FEBRUARY 2011**  
**Vol. 41, No. 02**

**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.**

***GRACE SUMMER CAMPS: Register NOW for discount!***

*Here's the schedule for those of you who like to plan ahead:*

**Week 1. June 20-24. 9am to 1pm**

Beach Camp and Youth Helper training (Middle School & up)

**Week 2. June 27 to July 1. 9am to 1pm**

Vacation Bible School (All ages)

**Week 3. July 5-8. 9am to 11am**

Fairytale Theatre (Ages 4 to 7)

**Week 4. July 11-15. 9am to 1pm**

Art Camp/TBA

**Week 5. July 18-22. 9am to 1pm**

Art Camp with Lisa Skelley

**Week 6. July 25-29. 9am to 1pm**

Science Camp (Ages 8 & up)

**Weeks 7 and 8.**

**August 1– August 12. 9am to 1pm**

Performing Arts Camp Musical "The Velveteen Rabbit"  
(Ages 8 & up)



***Early Bird Special***

*Feb 15—May 1*  
*\$50/wk*

*Registration begins*  
*February 15*

*Parent volunteers will*  
*receive add'l discount.*

*Please contact the*  
*office for information.*