

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

March 2011

The Season of Lent

On March 9, we begin the Lenten season with the anointing of ashes during our Ash Wednesday service. We will again take the awesome and solemn journey with our Lord to the foot of the cross.

It wasn't an easy road for our Lord, and it isn't for us, either. All that surrounds us cries out for us to follow it... not Him. Yet Lent is a time of stripping away of all that is not of God . . . a time to turn away from all that distracts us from our relationship with God.

So... how are you doing in the distraction department? Do you have "baggage" that's weighing you down in your journey of faith? It is exhausting work to carry all those old sins of anger, hurt, unforgiveness... the list is endless and the load is heavy!

I can't think of a better time than NOW to let go of all that darkens or diminishes our love for God and for one another. Don't hang onto anything that hampers your ability to be the best and brightest you can possibly be... Allow the time of Lent to bring you back to the loving arms of our Heavenly Father.

I will forever remain in awe of His love, knowing that our heavenly Father has given the greatest love gift of all creation... His only Son.

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May we together as the people of God take the Lenten journey with our Lord this season. Our heavenly Father awaits our return with constant and steadfast love.

On the road with you . . .



Pastor Jim



SPIRIT MATTERS

Wednesdays 6pm Potluck Dinner and 6:45 Worship.

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

Tues. 7pm Pastor's Bible Study — Romans

Wed. 10am G.R.O.W. (God Renewing Our Women) — Lenten gospel readings.

LOVE LIFE
LIVE  LENT
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

What's "Lent" About?

The season of Lent is not a "law" that we must follow. The word originally referred to the longer days of spring. So, Lent's a period of 40 days when we can turn over the soil, both in our backyards and in our hearts and spend some time pondering Jesus' love, wisdom and sacrifice.

In preparation for the newness of spring, let's use Lent to rededicate ourselves to following Jesus. Rather than give something up, add something new to your life, like acts of kindness, special volunteering, notes or calls to those in need during the 40 days before the grandest day in Christianity, Easter Sunday.

To support your Lenten journey, we have all kinds of devotionals that you can pick up in the Narthex.

How is the date of Easter Sunday decided?

The controversy over how the date of Easter was determined, was resolved based on the full moon! It cannot occur before March 22 or later than April 25, always falling between those dates. Because the date changes, it is sometime called a *movable feast*. This year Easter falls very late in the year, relatively speaking: April 24, 2011.



Upcoming Events



March 1 Fellowship & Outreach Mtg — 4pm

**March 2 Prayer Service 6:45 pm
Christian Service Mtg 7:30pm
Prayer Vigil for Tom Tidwell's lung surgery.**

March 5 CHIEFS—Potluck, cards and fellowship! 6:30pm. Please call Dolores Johnson to RSVP: 323-292-9998

March 5 "Sole to Soul" Kick off Concert
Celebrating Interfaith Alliance member and ecumenical minister Doris Davis's walk across America. This 70-something activist and friend to Grace Church is raising awareness for women's issues. 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

March 6

If you can whistle, play a kazoo or pull a rabbit out of a



hat we want YOU for this annual all-church talent show! At 12:30pm — lunch is served, too!

March 8 Stewardship Mtg. 4:15pm

March 9 Worship & Music Mtg 3:30pm

**March 9 Ash Wednesday Service
Noon and 7pm**

**March 13 11am Education Meeting
12:30 pm Youth Meeting**

March 15 Property Committee 5:15pm

March 16 9am eXtra Years of Zest
Seniors' monthly outing to explore the greater L.A. area. This month we'll meet on the 16th (due to Ash Wedn on March 9). We will meet at 9am and go to the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda. We will find a restaurant afterwards and have lunch. The admission is \$6.95/ seniors. Please RSVP to Doris MacGregor: 310-559-1027



Upcoming Events

March 25 A VISIT FROM EL SALVADOR!

Angelica Lutheran Church,
1345 So. Burlington Ave, L.A.
213/ 382-6378. Speaker Bishop
Medardo Gomez of El Salvador is a
Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, worker
for peace and justice, and has
received numerous awards and hon-
ors for his commitment to human
rights. Under the theme "Yes to Life", we will be
celebrating our new status as a Companion
Synod with the Lutheran Church in El Salvador.
Don't miss this
exciting event!



"The Princess & the Goblins" UPDATE

The production has been postponed until August.
Please call Marina for more information

Palm Sunday Bake Sale April 17

Contact Marjorie Joy to volunteer as
baker and/or seller.



Rails to the Rim

Cost Adjustment: \$550 per
person, \$780 for 2 people.
LOTS of amenities and
extras! (Round trip train from

L.A. to Flagstaff extra).

Contact Joan Engen for more info:
(310)398-1063 or joaneth1@aol.com



RELAY FOR LIFE: May 14 at Culver High

Relay For Life celebrates the
lives of those who have bat-
tled cancer; remembers loved
ones lost to the disease;

and fights back against a disease that takes too
much. Contact Elaine Hente for information or
cut and paste the link::

[http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/
RFLFY11CA?fr_id=31367&pg=entry](http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11CA?fr_id=31367&pg=entry)

*"We love, because He first loved us."
(1 John 4:19)*

Highlights from Church Council February 16, 2011

- A 6-week summer Sabbatical plan for Pastor Jim will be presented to him this month.
- Parking on Farragut is still an issue, and a coordinated proposal to the City Council will take place within the next couple months.
- MJ Peterson created a prayer vigil calendar for Tom Tidwell on March 2nd, the date of his operation. It will hang in the narthex for participation by the congregation.
- A legacy survey regarding a possible endowment for Grace will soon be conducted.
- The SOUPER Bowl event, the youth El Camino Pines retreat, the BBQ in San Marino, Cody's music recital, and the Grace Diner Valentine's Dinner all were very successful this month.
- The 'Honey Do' list has worked well, with important fixes made to the Franklin St. door and the alley hatch door. Many old files have also been shredded.
- The Franklin St. property is continuing to undergo evaluation for possible sale: no conclusion is ready as of yet.
- The Property Committee will work with the Youth Committee to refurbish the youth room in the Parish Hall.
- A Young Adults group convened for the first time over dinner, and plans to continue meeting on a bi-monthly basis.
- The Tidwell Medical Fund has been generously supported, and the Tidwell family is very grateful for all contributions.
- Accounting changes were proposed for a separate property tax designated fund; a new fund was discouraged, though continuously clarified accounting was encouraged.





Did you know . . . ? Grace Church is a community center!

We host dozens of outside groups that do good in Culver City, such as: Meals on Wheels, 12-step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous (including Ala-non and Ala-teen), scouting troops for children and youth, and Moms' groups, to name a few. We also have several churches: the Eritreans, Chenzhou Mission, and House Upon the Rock.

In addition to our own extensive in-church programs, there are nearly 60 "outside group" events and meetings to help 100s of people at Grace EACH WEEK. *Now that's stewardship!*

For a complete schedule, check out the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall.



Top 4 Reasons Why Most Christians Don't Plan a Gift to the Church at Death

There are many reasons Christians do not leave a gift to the church at death, but the top 4 reasons are:

1. They didn't think about it.
2. Just didn't get around to it.
3. They don't know how.
4. No one asked.

Whatever your reason may be, our congregation's gift planner, Greg Shepherd, can help you plan a gift through your will, trust, or through a beneficiary arrangement of a financial asset. His services are free to members of our congregation. Contact Greg (909)910-6823 or gregory.shepherd@elca.org

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

Youth Ministry

GET INVOLVED!

**March 6 Shrovetide Talent Show
12:30pm**

The day before the beginning of Lent is known as Shrovetide. To shrieve someone, in old-fashioned English, is to hear an acknowledgement of sins, to receive assurance of God's forgiveness, and to get appropriate spiritual advice. Some thrifty women would use the entire collected fat in their home during this time to prepare for Lent. The day is also called *Carnival*, which means "farewell to meat. ("carni" as in carnivorous, and "vale" as in valedictory).



So join us for a Shrovetide hamburger with a potluck lunch on Sunday, March 6 at 12:30pm. We will make ready for a bit of frolic and folly at the Annual Grace Church Talent (and NonTalent!) Show to follow lunch.

All acts are welcome as long as they are under 5 minutes. Please register in the office or on the poster in the narthex.

March 13 12:30pm Lunch & movie

March 20 12:30pm Afternoon hiking
(if weather permits)

And MORE:

- Confirmation on Tuesdays at 3pm
- TAG on Thursdays 3:30-5pm
- Middle school and teen volunteers needed for summer camps! Check out the back page for times/dates.





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

Helping . . .

“HONEY DO” LIST

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!

And THANK YOU to all the saints who helped in February, including:

*Tom & Janice Szujewski, Cathy Biggs, MJ Petersen
and Jim Snodgrass*

Feeding . . .

Monday evening—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.



It's 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.

God is good and so are His people!

Visiting . . .

Some Grace members 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 for contact info.



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
Oscar Carter
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
Cathie Seeman
Maxine Stenstrom
Thomas Tidwell
Margaret Zamorano

Members in the Military

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

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
Lu Petersen	VP, 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

March Service Assistants

We are so grateful for your help. If you are unable to make your assigned time, please find a replacement and contact the office with the information. Blessings on those who serve in God's house!

Sunday, March 6—Transfiguration of Our Lord		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Tom Hayes	Betty Davis
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Carol Hayes	Patti Baker
<i>Lector</i>	B Knipple	MJ Petersen
<i>Cantor</i>	Rebecca Tuttle	Rebecca Tuttle
<i>Crucifer</i>	Carol Hayes	Babak Kamjou
<i>Acolyte</i>	Megan Hayes	Robert Condinus
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Tom Hayes	Tom Hayes
<i>Altar Guild</i>	B Jefferson	B Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	The Skelleys	Joy & Rooney

Sunday, March 20 – 2nd Sunday in Lent		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. *
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Marty Hente	Patti Baker
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Elaine Hente	Betty Davis
<i>Lector</i>	Marty Hente	MJ Petersen
<i>Cantor</i>	Sherry Hutson	Cherie Parks
<i>Crucifer</i>	Patti Baker	Babak Kamjou
<i>Acolyte</i>	Ian Carter	Robert Condinus
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Pastor Jim	Pastor Jim
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jefferson	Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	The Engens	Erna Guy

Wednesday, March 9—Ash Wednesday		
	12pm	7pm*
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Doris MacGregor	Marty Hente
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Betty Davis	Elaine Hente
<i>Lector</i>	Doris MacGregor	Marty Hente
<i>Cantor</i>	n/a	TBA
<i>Crucifer</i>	n/a	Babak Kamjou
<i>Acolyte</i>	n/a	R Condinus
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Betty Davis	B Jefferson

Sunday, March 27 – 3rd Sunday in Lent		
	9:00 a.m. *	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	John Priebe	Katie Parks
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Joan Engen	Leah Wouters
<i>Lector</i>	John Priebe	Ray Lanthier
<i>Cantor</i>	Claire Skelley	Jim Snodgrass
<i>Crucifer</i>	Jeanie Meyers	Leah Wouters
<i>Acolyte</i>	Katie & Carly Priebe	Savannah Ridgely
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
<i>Altar Guild</i>	B Jefferson	Snodgrass/ Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	Tbd tbd	

Sunday March 13– 1st Sunday in Lent		
	9:00 a.m. *	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Katie Parks	Lila Swenson
<i>Com. Asst</i>	J Gottschalk	
<i>Lector</i>	J Gottschalk	K. Andrew
<i>Cantor</i>	Jack Skelley	Stephen Jahn
<i>Crucifer</i>	Patti Baker	TBD
<i>Acolyte</i>	Claire Skelley	Alexis Andrew
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
<i>Altar Guild</i>	The Meyers	Guy & Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	The Danners	TBD

Grace Notes Sponsors

Sponsorships are \$25 to defray the cost of materials and postage. Your dedication "in honor of" or "in memory of" is noted in the newsletter. Please sign up in the Narthex.

The March issue of Grace Notes is sponsored by:

*Cathy Biggs & Cathie Seeman
in memory of Debbie Berger,*

Barbara Jefferson in memory of Jeff,

and Dolores Johnson in memory of Arthur

March 2011 Grace Notes

 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Flower of the month:</i> Daffodil</p>		1	2	3	4	5
		<p>3-4pm—Confirmation 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study, Romans</p>	<p>10am-GROW Bible Study, Revelations 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:45 Worship Service With Prayer Ministry</p>			<p>CHIEFs 6:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>7:30pm "Sole to Soul" Concert Sanctuary</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>Services 9 & 11am</p> <p>TALENT SHOW and lunch 12:30</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</p>	<p>10am-GROW Bible Study, Revelations 2:30-Cherub Choir 3:30-W&M mtg 6pm-Fellowship Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7pm ASH WEDNESDAY</p>	<p>1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G. 7:30pm-Chancel Choir</p>		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>Services 9 & 11am Sunday School 10:15</p> <p>11am-Educ. Mtg</p> <p>12:30—Youth lunch/movie</p>	<p>3-6:30pm Grace Diner</p>	<p>3-4pm—Confirmation 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>9am XYZ outing 10am-GROW Bible Study 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Service 7:30—COUNCIL</p>	<p>1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G. 7:30pm-Chancel Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy St Patrick's Day</p>		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>Services 9 & 11am Sunday School 10:15</p> <p>12:30—Youth Hike (Weather permitting!)</p>	<p>3-6:30pm Grace Diner</p>	<p>3-4pm—Confirmation 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>10am-GROW Bible Study 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Service</p>	<p>1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G. 7:30pm-Chancel Choir</p>	<p>March birthdays</p> <p>Evan Miller 03/01 Joanie Maines 03/02 Carol Hayes 03/04 Maggie Johnson 03/05 Ian Carter 03/11 Virginia MacInnis 03/13 Kyle Ruebsamen 03/13 Augustus Danko 03/16 Gabriel Danko 03/16 Eva Westholm 03/19 Joyce Raichel 03/20 Camille LaCroix 03/23 Leah Wouters 03/23 Roger MacGregor 03/24 Clare Snodgrass 03/27</p>	
27	28	29	30	31		
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Grace Lutheran Church
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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.

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.

Camps!

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 (\$30. Sorry, no discount)

Fairytale Theatre (Age 4 to 7)

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

Art Camp with Lisa Skelley (Age 6 and up)

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

Art Camp (Age 9 and up)

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
(Ages 8 & up)



Early Bird Special
Until May 1 \$50/wk

After May 1 \$60/wk

Parent volunteers will receive add'l discount. Please contact the office for information.