

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

May 2011

From our Pastor

“Just like You promised, You've come. Just like You told us, You're here...”

*“Just Like You Promised”
by Patti Kennedy*



The words from the above song have remained a profound reminder for me of God's continued faithfulness. With our celebration of Easter Sunday, we are profoundly reminded that ours is a God who definitely keeps his promises. He has gone beyond mere words to fulfilling what He had promised long ago . . . that He would blast out of the tomb and rise again!

We can literally bet our lives on the fact that God DOES carry through with His promises. His “grand exit” from death and the grave is God's mighty proclamation that we do not have a Lord who is among the dead, but is among the LIVING!

I pray that we would NEVER FORGET . . . that we are A PEOPLE OF PROMISE!
As God has fulfilled His promise of raising up for us His only begotten Son, so God continues to work His many promises in and through our own lives today.

We can take to heart our Lord's promises such as:

- ◆ *“Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age”*
- ◆ *“I will never leave you or forsake you”*

If we would live by these 2 promises alone, I believe we would see a transformed church.

Why not try a bold new step this season of Easter, and wake up each morning believing in God for some of His many promises? And better yet, if we would take a few minutes each day in reading our Bibles, I believe that we would be amazed at the many promises that still await our discovery.

Inside this issue

Spirit Matters:	1
Upcoming Events:	1-2
Stewardship:	3
Youth:	3
Volunteering:	4
Service Roster:	5
Calendar:	6
The Back Page	

I know that we have an awesome God who desires to give... I only hope that we remain people who desire to receive! **Then we too would discover for ourselves that it truly is...**

“Just Like You Promised”!

Celebrating that Easter faith with you...

SPIRIT MATTERS



Tues. 7pm Pastor's Bible Study—Your favorite psalms. All are welcome.

Wed. 10am G.R.O.W. (God Renewing Our Women) —all women are invited!

Wed. 6:45pm Mid-week worship service. A casual service of praise and communion. Come as you are for a quick faith-lift! Potluck at 6pm

The first Wednesday of the month includes extended time for meditation and prayers at 6:45pm.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” — Phil 2:1-2

New member class—Coming Soon!



New members are very important at Grace Church. Being a part of a Faith Family can enhance your life and inspire your faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. Life is not easy, but an on-going community can offer support and recognition that will give you strength.

We offer new member classes 3 times a year. The next series will be held **Sunday, May 1st and 15th at 12:15pm**, immediately after the late service, and will begin with a simple lunch.

If you have any questions or need more information call Doris MacGregor in the church office. The class will go over our mission, our values, and part of church history and include a tour of the church. We are looking forward to meeting with folks interested in membership.

Upcoming Events

MAY 1 NEW MEMBER CLASS 12:15pm
A light lunch will be served

MAY 1 Lutheran Campus Ministry EVENT 5pm — Annual Alumni/Friends of the Ministry Worship Service at USC. The only ELCA-sponsored campus ministry in L. A.! In the sanctuary of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3651 S. Vermont Ave, L.A. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Note: *Our church gives to USC-LCM. This worship service will give us a good way to see what we're supporting!*

MAY 4 Worship and Prayer service at 6:45, following a fellowship potluck at 6pm.

MAY 7 6:30pm CHIEFS (Christ Here In Everlasting FriendShip) potluck dinner and cards. Please RSVP to Dolores Johnson: 323-292-9998

MAY 11 10am eXtra Years of Zest
A 45minute walking tour of the different aspects of Disney Hall. Due to rehearsals we will not be in the actual hall, but the tour is free (lucky) and then we will find a lovely place for lunch. Hope you can join us. PS. Robinson's gardens are closed for May; perhaps another month. RSVP to Doris: 310-550-1027.



May 11 Culver Palms Meals-on-Wheels Annual Spring Fundraiser —

Culver City Hotel from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$20.00 for a drink and hors d'oeuvres. There's also a door prize & silent auction. Meals-on-Wheels delivers affordable meals to local elderly & homebound individuals. Come out & support this worthy cause!

Tickets are available from Doris & Larry Green, Doris MacGregor or at the door the day of the event.



Upcoming Events, continued



RELAY FOR LIFE—May 14 at Culver High

Relay For Life celebrates the lives of those who have battled cancer; remembers loved ones lost to the disease; and fights back against a disease that takes too much.

Come to Grace Church's booth to sign in and hang out before walking the wonderful rubberized track. Come walk, come donate, come be part of the solution for cancer. Team Captain Elaine Hente has pledged to walk 10 miles! It takes 4 times around the track to walk a mile. Come put your feet to the ground — be part of our team! Contact Elaine Hente for more info.

MAY 15 NEW MEMBER CLASS 12:15pm
A light lunch will be served

MAY 28-29 ALL CHURCH CAMP OUT
El Camino Pines. Register now before all the spaces fill up!
<http://www.lrcchome.com/programs/>

MAY 29 ONE SERVICE SUNDAY 10am only

MAY 30 Office closed for Memorial Day

And in June. . .

June 3-4 YARD SALE Accepting items now.
See page 3 for more info.

June 5—Women's Sunday and Spring Tea

June 12—Pentecost, Children's Sunday, and Confirmation all rolled into one — with special fun stuff for all! Also a special sending for Pastor Jim as he begins a six-week Sabbatical.

June 19—Father's Day and Men's Sunday brunch between services

Pastor Jim to take a short sabbatical this summer

Grace Church is happy to announce that Pastor Jim will take a 6-week sabbatical for physical, emotional, and spiritual renewal this summer.

Sabbaticals are periods of study, meditation, retreat, and holistic refreshment for leaders in ministry — a time set aside to reflect and to deeply connect with our Lord. Congregations an increase in energy, direction, and spirit upon return of their revitalized pastor.

Lutheran churches generally grant sabbaticals to their pastors every 4-6 years, and this summer is an opportune time for PJ to pursue personal academic and spiritual interests.

Pastor Jim will begin his sabbatical after service on Sunday, June 12th, and will return to Grace on July 26th. Grace will continue operations per usual, with worship, activities, and pastoral care as normal. A special council committee will oversee worship, program coordination, and pastoral care while PJ is away.

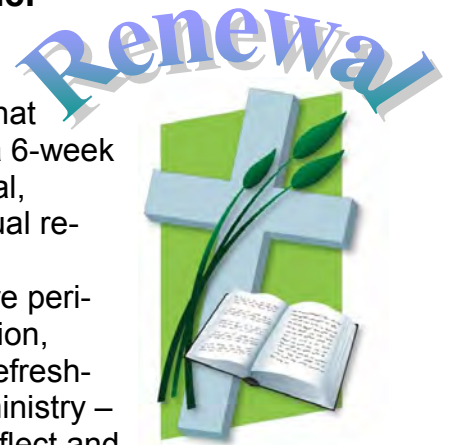
Many volunteers have graciously offered their time and energy, ensuring smooth continuation of church operations. We encourage congregants to continue attending weekly worship and to seek pastoral care from the experienced substitutes provided.

Suggestions for worship and offers of time are certainly welcome — please direct any questions or ideas to Stephen Jahn at StephenAJahn@gmail.com or 952-797-4084.

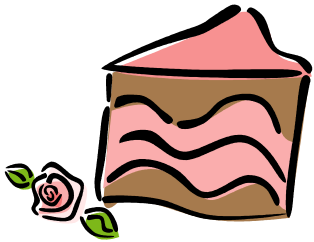
The Sabbatical Committee is presently completing arrangements, and a detailed plan will be presented in next month's Newsletter.

Many blessings to Pastor Jim during his time of refreshment, renewal and reinvigoration! We look forward to his return, but in his temporary absence we're assured of a happy continuation of life at Grace.

God's Blessings,
The Sabbatical Committee



Bake Sale Thank You



Our Palm Sunday bake sale was a HUGE success. We received donations of \$725!! We all had such fun enjoying our coffee with great baked goods. A BIG thank you to all bakers, buyers and workers who helped with this event. The money raised will go towards replacing the Narthex carpet.

—from Marjorie Joy, bake sale coordinator



Who Needs A Will?

We've all heard people say they don't need a will because they don't have much money or because the law will take care of the distribution of their property after they die. Others put off writing a will because they think the process is complicated and expensive or they are just too busy and will get around to it later.

Unfortunately, putting off the writing of your will can mean unnecessary hardship, financially and emotionally, for your surviving family members. In addition, the state will distribute your assets, but probably not in a manner that would satisfy you. If you have minor children and have not named a guardian of your choice in a will, the state will also decide who gets custody of your children.

A will is a means of planning for the protection of your family and the distribution of your assets according to your wishes. In addition, through your will you can express the important values of your life by distributing your assets in ways that provide ongoing support to those people and ministries most important to you.

To learn how to receive a Will and Trust Workbook at no cost, contact our congregation's endowment committee consultant, Greg Shepherd, at: (909)910-6823 or gregory.shepherd@elca.org

Help support the Youth Ministry

GET INVOLVED!

Yard Sale to be held June 3-4

Now is the time to bring in your donation items!



We take almost anything; clothing, furniture, tools, toys, books, DVD's, computers, electronics. Just no appliances since they are heavy.

Please clean your items and make sure they are in good repair, 'cause no one wants dirty items.

Remember the saying: if you have not used it in a year, you don't need it. (I hope my husband is reading this). The community loves our sale and comes to support our efforts.

The proceeds support the youth ministry in this church and we applaud all your help. Thank you so much for your support!

Call Doris MacGregor if you need help with transportation of large items.

And MORE:

- Confirmation on Tuesdays at 3pm
- Cherub Choir on Wednesdays at 2:30pm (4-7 yrs old)
- TAG on Thursdays 3:30-5pm (8 & up)
- Middle school and teen volunteers needed for summer camps! Check with Marina or Doris.



Volunteers needed

We are always looking for “angels”!

If you are able to give time for the following activities please contact the office.

- Pricing yard sale items in May: Mon-Wed 10am-noon (except May 11th)
- Sign up to bring treats for between Sunday services (need 4 dozen each week)
 - Help with gardening Thursdays at 11am
 - Painting red trim on church

Donation collections

- ◆ Unused soaps and shampoos from hotels - used for AIDS ministry—bring to office
 - ◆ Magazines - used for Prison Ministry—bring to fireside room
 - ◆ Old glasses - used for LIONS works in other countries—put in bin in narthex
- ◆ Campbell’s soup labels - used for American Indian ministry— put in basket in narthex
 - ◆ Empty Ink jet cartridges - used for Youth ministry—put in bin in narthex
- ◆ Empty Soda cans and water bottles - used for Youth ministry— put in back patio bin

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU, to my Grace Family for all your prayers, thoughts, cards and presents during my recent surgery and recovery. It really meant a lot to me and my family. I know that the reason I have recuperated so quickly is all your good thoughts and prayers. Once again, thank you so much. Love, Cathie Seeman

Feeding. . . Monday evening—free hot supper for our neighbors in need.

We serve about 35 clients and give out an additional 10-15 take-home meals each week. We welcome new volunteers. Set-up starts at 3pm, the Dining room is open 4:30-6pm, and clean up is finished by 6:30pm. Contact the office to sign up!



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
The Gregory family
Jack Harrier
Pastor Bob Johnson
Lorene Jones
Patti LaBarbera
Brenda Langdon
Peggy Ledlie
Pauline Lee
Ileung

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

Members in the Military

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

Many of these dear people would really appreciate calls or visits. Please check the church directory or contact the office for information. Thank you SO MUCH for your caring ministry!

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

May 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, May 1—2nd Sunday of Easter		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Tom Hayes	Patty Baker
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Carol Hayes	Betty Davis
<i>Lector</i>	Marina Tidwell	Diana Kirkpatrick
<i>Cantor</i>	Rebecca Tuttle	Rebecca Tuttle
<i>Crucifer</i>	Patrick Hayes	Babak Kamjou
<i>Acolyte</i>	Megan Hayes	Robert Condinus
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Tom Hayes	Tom Hayes
<i>Altar Guild</i>	TBD	TBD
<i>Greeters</i>	The Engens	Elliott & Langdon

Sunday, May 8—3rd Sunday of Easter		
	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Marty Hente	Marina Tidwell
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Elaine Hente	Keeshawn Andrew
<i>Lector</i>	Marty Hente	Keeshawn Andrew
<i>Cantor</i>	Jack Skelley	Jim Snodgrass
<i>Crucifer</i>	Choir	Alexis Andrew
<i>Acolyte</i>	B. O'Brien	April Andrew
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
<i>Altar Guild</i>	TBD	TBD
<i>Greeters</i>	The Danners	Marilyn Schneider

Sunday, May 15—4th Sunday of Easter		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Stephen Jahn	Patti Baker
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Joan Engen	Jerry Gottschalk
<i>Lector</i>	Mary Lou Basaraba	Betty Davis
<i>Cantor</i>	Pastor Ellen	Sean Baker
<i>Crucifer</i>	Leah Wouters	Jerry Gottschalk
<i>Acolyte</i>	Brendon O'Brien	
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
<i>Altar Guild</i>	TBD	TBD
<i>Greeters</i>	O'Brien family	Erna Guy

Sunday, May 22—5th Sunday of Easter		
	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Patti Baker	Katie Parks
<i>Com. Asst</i>	J. Gottschalk	Elizabeth Moss
<i>Lector</i>	Larry Green	Ray Lanthier
<i>Cantor</i>	Claire Skelley	Sherry Hutson
<i>Crucifer</i>	Jennie Meyers	Elizabeth Moss
<i>Acolyte</i>	The Priebses	Sarah Moss
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	PJ	PJ
<i>Altar Guild</i>	TBD	TBD
<i>Greeters</i>	Skelley Family	Joy & Rooney

Sunday, May 29—6th Sunday of Easter	
One Service at 10am only	
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Ron Engen
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Joan Engen
<i>Lector</i>	MJ Petersen
<i>Cantor</i>	TBA
<i>Crucifer</i>	Robert Condinus
<i>Acolyte</i>	Babak Kamjou
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Ron Engen
<i>Altar Guild</i>	TBD
<i>Greeters</i>	Marilyn Schneider & Grace

Altar Guild "angels" needed . . . And you don't have to be a female to volunteer for this ministry! Please contact Barbara Jefferson or the church office.

*Grace Notes Sponsors
Sponsorships are \$25 to defray the cost of materials and postage. Please sign up in the Narthex.*

**The May issue of Grace Notes
is sponsored by:
Carl & Margie Joy for all May weddings
Ginny MacInnis in memory of her mother Adelaide
and Loren & MJ Petersen in honor of
Carol & Melinda's graduations**



May Calendar



1 Services 9 & 11am Sunday School 10:15 NEW MEMBER CLASS 12:15	2	3	4 10am-GROW Bible Study 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service Meditation & prayer	5	6	7 CHIEFS 6:30pm
8 Services 9 & 11am	9 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	10 5:15-Property Mtg 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study	11 10am—XYZ 10am-GROW Bible Study 2:30-Cherub Choir 3:30-W&M mtg 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service	12 1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G. 7:30pm-Chancel Choir	13	14
15 Services 9 & 11am Sunday School 10:15 11am-Educ. Mtg NEW MEMBER CLASS 12:15	16 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	17 3-4pm—Confirmation 4:15—Stewardship 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study	18 10am-GROW Bible Study 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service 7:30—COUNCIL	19 1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G. 7:30pm-Chancel Choir	20	21
22 Services 9 & 11am Sunday School 10:15	23 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	24 3-4pm—Confirmation 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study	25 10am-GROW Bible Study 2:30-Cherub Choir 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service	26 1pm-Office Angels 3:30-5pm--T.A.G.	27	28 El Camino Pines Campout

29 ONE SERVICE SUNDAY 10am <i>Memorial Day</i>	30 Office closed. 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	31 3-4pm—Confirmation 4:15—Stewardship 6-7pm—Bell Choir 7pm—Pastor's Bible Study
---	--	--

May birthdays

Christine Lyall	05/01	Margaret Zamorano	05/14	Patricia Lowe	05/18
Wayne Maass	05/03	August Berger	05/15	Jessica Parr	05/21
John Meyers	05/04	Barbara Knipple	05/15	Patrick Case	05/22
Shawn Lasley	05/05	Marilyn Schneider	05/15	Kelly Lyall	05/22
Peggy Ledlie	05/06	Lisa Skelley	05/15	Jerry Frascella	05/24
Leota Thorne	05/06	Patrick Hayes	05/16	Marion Firnhaber	05/26
Derrick Hente	05/08	Betty Karlberg	05/16	Grace West	05/26
Loren Petersen	05/08	Rodney LaCroix	05/16	John Maines	05/27
Jennifer Roberts	05/11	Todd Miller	05/16	Ron Engen	05/28
Miriam Stenshoel	05/12	Crystie Rooney	05/16	Linda Lovgren	05/28

GRACE NOTES
MAY 2011
Vol. 41, No. 05

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

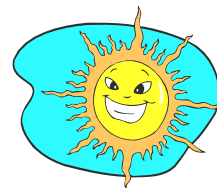
We are a Lutheran family in Christ—open, loving and caring.

- 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.

2011 Grace Summer Camps

Grace Church supports our local families with low-cost summer camps: \$60/wk. 9am-1pm. Registration forms are in the Narthex or contact the church office.

6/20-24	Beach Camp and Youth Helper Training	Middle School & up
6/27-7/1	Vacation Bible School	All ages
July 5-8	Fairytale Theater 9—11am. \$30 <i>"King Midas & the Golden Touch"</i>	Ages 4-8
July 11-15	Art Camp Art around the world	Age 6 & up
July 18-22	Art Camp	Age 9 & up
July 25-29	Science Camp	Age 8 & up
Aug 1—14	Musical Theatre Camp <i>"The Big Bad Musical"</i> —includes making a short film, and, of course, public performances!	Age 8 & up



GIGANTIC Yard Sale
to be held June 3-4
The proceeds from your donations
support the Grace Youth Ministry
Contact Doris for more info:
310-559-1027

