

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Culver City, California

August 2011

Pastor's Page



It is great to be back!! It truly is great to be back!! On behalf of my family and myself, I can not thank you enough for granting this pastor that much needed time off for the refreshment and renewal of my professional, spiritual, and personal life.

As many of you have already heard, we did some traveling, attended 2 pastoral leadership conferences, one in Colorado for 2 weeks, the other in Santa Barbara for 3 days, went to a week-end prayer retreat led by a priest at a Catholic Retreat Center in Temecula, visited with some old friends... and developed a deeper walk with my Lord, a healthier relationship with my body via exercise and better foods (but lost only 5 pounds so far...), and enjoyed some much needed time with my wife Joanie and my son John.

And of course, I cannot thank enough the numerous pastors and lay leaders for all their hard work during my absence. I have heard so many positive comments and I am so grateful for each and every one who helped jump in and made things happen while I was gone.

And speaking of jumping, please note that as a congregation, we're jumping in with both feet as we get ready for our many fall activities and ministries. Please read this month's newsletter carefully, for there is much happening these next few months.

Inside this issue

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

And finally, after visiting other churches this past summer, my family and I have to say that there is NO PLACE LIKE HOME... We are glad to be back at our church home!

Gratefully Yours,

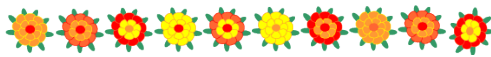
Spirit Matters



Tuesday Night Bible Study with Pastor Jim—7pm

Wedn. Night Worship 6:45pm
Potluck Supper 6pm

Wednesday Morning Women's group — God Renewing Our Women (GROW)—on hiatus until September. *Please keep Pastor Ellen and the mission trip to El Salvador in your prayers!*



Sunday School Renewal in Sept.

Adults enjoy fellowship between services, and children do, too. For this reason, we are changing the time of Sunday school to run concurrently with our 9am worship service (rather than between services).

Children will attend church with their families but after the Children's Message time, they will go to the Fireside Room for Sunday school. They will return in time to take communion with their families.

This new approach means that our story-time module will, in effect, become Sunday school time, and the children and teachers of Sunday school will be able to participate in fellowship between services at 10:15.

Our curriculum is based on a wonderful series for ages 4 through 14. If you are interested in being part of the rotating teaching team please contact Bev

O'Brien, Miriam Stenshoel, or Doris MacGregor.

Our new schedule of begins September 18th.

We are looking forward to great fun in Sunday school!



August at Grace

Aug 1-12 9am to 1pm—Musical Theater Camp

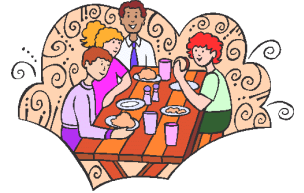
Aug 6—CHIEFS at 6:30pm. Dinner, cards & fellowship. Call Dolores for more info: 323-292-9998

Aug 12, 13, 14
Performances of the howling courtroom musical comedy "The Big Bad Musical" presented by the Grace Player Kids. (see back page for times and details)



Aug 21 Fellowship at the Hollywood Bowl!

A summer evening with a picnic under the stars and music from Disney's *Fantasia*. Tickets are \$25/person. We will carpool from the church. Please see Marina for tickets asap. Concert starts at 7:30pm



AUG 26-28 GRACE AT FIESTA LA BALLONA



The Fiesta is a home town fair that celebrates Culver City, the arts, organizations and businesses. It's held at Vets Park/ Culver & Overland.

We host a food booth to sell popcorn & lemonade — and to outreach to the community.

The key to success is having lots of volunteers, so we're looking for people for 2 hours shifts on Saturday & Sunday. Please sign up to help!

Aug 27—Shop at Macy's—Fundraiser

Grace will be participating in a fundraiser at Macy's at Fox Hills Mall on Sat., Aug 27th. If you buy tickets from the church for \$5/ea, all the proceeds will go to the church AND you'll receive special coupons to shop for less during a great MACY'S sale on the 27th. The funds raised will help Grace member Stephen Jahn during his studies at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS). More info: Cindy Lundquist or Doris.



Aug 28—Worship Services at 9 & 11am—Includes special sending for Stephen Jahn before he leaves for PLTS.

Doris MacGregor is retiring January 2012

The Personnel Committee is accepting applications for **Youth & Family Director** between now and **September 30**.

Some of Doris's ministries are: Youth Ministry, XYZ, Education, New Members, organizing, planning and running yearly (and sometimes WEEKLY!) Events and Activities

The church has been truly blessed by her gifts of evangelism, prayer, worship, organization and leadership.

We encourage Grace Church members to prayerfully consider this position. Please contact the office for an application and more information. (310) 559-1027

And coming in September . . .

- ◆ **Sept 4**—ONE SERVICE on Labor Day, at 10am
- ◆ **Sept 11**—Patriot Day. Please join us for worship on the day of prayer and remembrance to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11.



- ◆ **Sept 18**
Rally Day Picnic at 1pm
Carlson Park



- ◆ **Sept 19**—Grace Diner
2nd Anniversary

- ◆ **Sept 24**—“**Fitness for the Future**” all-church planning session at Burton Chace Park.

Council Meeting July 20th, 2011



- ◆ The church finances have hit the usual summer slump —continued offerings are encouraged. Please see Marina about our automated system “Simply Giving.”
- ◆ Attendance took a small decline in PJ's absence, as was expected, but there was a good turn out on July 3 (170 - VBS Sunday) and July 10 (220- Fairytale Theater Sunday).
- ◆ The Christian Service Committee will invite a speaker to talk about disaster preparedness sometime in August; details will soon be set.
- ◆ Culver City is proposing to reorganize traffic around the schools in Grace's neighborhood. The plan will not affect parking or traffic around Grace, and the city has asked for Grace's support. After careful study, the plan, the church is happy to support the city. Construction would begin, if passed, in September 2014 at the earliest.
- ◆ Many thanks to **Barbara Jefferson** and **Jeannie Meyer** for their amazing service and dedication to the Altar Guild at Grace. Both have retired from the Guild and are passing the baton to others. The council encourages members to volunteer for this WONDERFUL ministry. Blessings on those who serve in the Lord's house!
- ◆ Grace has opened up the position for **Youth and Family Director**, following Doris's departure in January. All applicants are being considered. Many thanks to Doris for sharing her talents so generously for so long.
- ◆ A September 24th congregational retreat is in the works — “**Fitness for the Future**” — to inspire, inform and plan. It is a significant event, and everyone is encouraged to attend!



The logo for stewardship at Grace Lutheran Church is a three legged stool. This reminds us of the three parts of stewardship: time, talent and monetary resources. All three parts are important.

1. All of the outreach within and outside of our congregation requires **time** and we are privileged to use an amount of our time on projects and activities that are important to the church. 2. Each one of us has special God-given **talents** that are meant to be shared with others. 3. We are aware of the need for financial **resources** as we look around and know that the church cannot exist without money to pay for services of all kinds.

Each day we benefit from reviewing our personal stewardship as we pause to thank God for our many blessings!

Do You Need A Will?

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"I'm making out my will. Is there anything you want me to leave to you, other than debt?"

search ID: mbon1522

We've all heard people say they don't need a will because they don't have much money. 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. For further information and guidance, contact our congregation's gift planner, Greg Shepherd at: (909)910-6823 or gregory.shepherd@elca.org.

Youth Ministry

Summer Sunday School (ISSS)

Nearly every Sunday during the summer we will have a session of ISSS between services in order to discover a new country each week that has a great Lutheran tradition.

1. We will find out where they are located
2. How many Lutherans are there
3. What they like to eat
4. How are they similar or different that us

Sundays of discovery

Aug 7	Indonesia
Aug 14	Tanzania
Aug 28	Madagascar



Youth Houseboat Trip

August 16-18 on Lake Don Pedro

Fiesta La Ballona Aug. 27-28. Volunteers needed!

COMING UP:

Sunday School will meet during the first service in the Story Time slot (after the Children's Message), instead of between services. More details on p. 2.

Confirmation class—every Tuesday at 3pm. 6th to 8th grade. Kids explore their faith in this lively class of education, fun and fellowship. Starts Sept. 13th.



Cherub Choir— ages 5-8 yrs old. Learn traditional children's songs of praise and worship in this fun class. Call Colin Tidwell for more information: 310-384-1402 or 310-204-5196. Starts Sept 14th.

Thursdays at Grace, performing arts ministry for ages 9 and up — starts September 15 at 3:30pm. The club will be working on a musical for December as well as individual and small group songs. ALL ARE WELCOME! Please call Colin Tidwell for more information: 310-384-1402 or 310-204-5196. Starts Sept 15th.

You can help support many ministries!



- ◆ Soda cans & bottles for recycling in the back patio — \$\$ for the Youth fund
- ◆ Magazines and stationery in the Fireside Room— for the Prison ministry
- ◆ Campbell labels in the basket in the narthex—American Indian ministry
- ◆ Hotel soaps and lotions in Doris's office—for the Homeless ministry
- ◆ Gently used flat shoes in wheelbarrow in a bag—for the Homeless ministry
- ◆ Mayonnaise, peanut butter, jam, tuna, in wheelbarrow — AIDS ministry
- ◆ Coupons for food in a basket in the Fireside room — anyone is welcome to take and use what they need.

**FIND A NEED
AND FILL IT.**

And . . . if you have a fruit tree or grow vegetables and have more than you can use, why not bring them on Sunday to put out for people to take? Share your blessings!

God bless you!

Barbara Jefferson will step down as head of the Altar Guild, September 1.

She has done an AMAZING job for many years, but now it's time for someone else to lead the Guild.

Are YOU being called to help in this ministry?

We could use more than one leader.

Components include:

Monthly scheduling Training new members
Overseeing cleaning and repairs

Please contact the office to learn more.

Prayers

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
The Goller family
Elaine Goodyear
The Gregory family
Jack Harrier
Lorene Jones
Patti LaBarbera
Brenda Langdon
Peggy Ledlie
Pauline Lee
I Leung
Wayne Maass
Trudi Moore
Shirley Nowlin

Brian & Cherie Parks
Albert Prabhu
Cathie Seeman
Maxine Stenstrom
Pat Trelinski
Claudia Van de Ven

Members in the Military

Freddie Wilson
Natalie Meyers
John Meyers
& your Prayer Partner

Expectant mothers

*Erin Asheghian
Wendy Elgin
Kimberly Elder
Lindsay Thompson
Ingrid Trygstad*

These folks would appreciate calls or visits. Please check the church directory or contact the office for information.

Thank you SO MUCH for your caring ministry!

GRACE COUNCIL & STAFF

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
Colin Tidwell, TAG Club, Cherub Choir
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

August 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, August 7		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Katie Parks	Betty Davis
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Ikumi Leung	Patti Baker
<i>Lector</i>	MJ Petersen	Jerry Gottschalk
<i>Cantor</i>	Michelle Moreno	Michelle Moreno
<i>Crucifer</i>	Elizabeth Moss	Patti Baker
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sarah Moss	Robert Condinus
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Pastor Jim	Pastor Jim
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Timm/Moreno	MacInnis/Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	Skelleys	Joy & Rooney

Sunday, August 14		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Marina Tidwell	Katy Parks
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Jerry Gottschalk	M Zamorano
<i>Lector</i>	Cathleene Biggs	K Andrews
<i>Cantor</i>	Rebecca Tuttle	Rebecca Tuttle
<i>Crucifer</i>	Babak Kamjou	Alexis Andrews
<i>Acolyte</i>	R Condinus	April Andrews
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Moreno/Tidwell	Guy/Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	Danners	Engens

Sunday, August 21		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Ron Engen	Betty Davis
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Joan Engen	J Gottschalk
<i>Lector</i>	Larry Green	ML Basaraba
<i>Cantor</i>	C Snodgrass	C Snodgrass
<i>Crucifer</i>	Katie Parks	Leah Wouters
<i>Acolyte</i>	Priebe girls	TBA
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Ron Engen	Ron Engen
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jefferson	Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	O'Briens	Erna Guy

Sunday, August 28		
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<i>Asst Minister</i>	Steven Jahn	Steven Jahn
<i>Com. Asst</i>	Joan Engen	Leah Wouters
<i>Lector</i>	Barbara Knipple	Ray Lanthier
<i>Cantor</i>	Jim Snodgrass	Jim Snodgrass
<i>Crucifer</i>	Babak Kamjou	Leah Wouters
<i>Acolyte</i>	Ian Carter	Priebe girls
<i>Kids' Sermon</i>	Brad Sick	Brad Sick
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Tidwell	Snodgrass/ Jefferson
<i>Greeters</i>	Cindy Lundquist	Schneiders

Grace Notes Sponsors

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

The August issue of Grace Notes is sponsored by:

***Bernice & Roy Mathison in honor of
their 59th wedding anniversary***

and

Dolores Johnson in memory of her mother

August Calendar

	1	2	3	4 1pm-Office Angels	5	6 CHIEFs 6:30pm
Musical Theater Camp						
7 Services 9 & 11am	8 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	9 5:15-Property Mtg 7pm— Bible Study	10 3:30pm Worship& Music mtg 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service	11 1pm-Office Angels	12 7:30pm “The Big Bad Musical”	13 7:30pm “The Big Bad Musical”
Musical Theater Camp						
14 Services 9 & 11am 2:00pm “The Big Bad Musical”	15 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	16 7pm— Bible Study	17 3:30-W&M mtg 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service 7:30—COUNCIL	18 1pm-Office Angels	19	20
21 Services 9 & 11am Fellowship at Hollywood Bowl featuring the music of “Fantasia” Bring a picnic! Concert starts at 7:30 \$25/ticket	22 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	23 4:15—Stewardship 7pm—Bible Study	24 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service	25 1pm-Office Angels	26	27 FIESTA LA BALLONA and MACY’S FUNDRAISER
28 Services 9 & 11am FIESTA LA BALLONA	29 3-6:30pm Grace Diner	30 7pm— Bible Study	31 6pm-Supper 6:45 Worship Service	<i>Birthdays</i>		
				Kimberley Elder 08/02 Johna Miller 08/02 Emily Cruz 08/04 Thomas Tidwell 08/04 Lindsay Joy 08/09 Lance Johnson 08/10 Megan Hayes 08/12 Margaret Gottschalk 08/14	Mark Johnson 08/14 Lynda Harrold 08/17 Keeshawn Andrew 08/18 Helen Evans-Simon 08/19 Erna Guy 08/19 Max Krueger 08/26 Ken Smith 08/27 Patricia Trelinski 08/28	

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Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. James S. Maines, Pastor

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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.

Grace Player Kids present the rollicking courtroom comedy

The Big Bad Musical!

Will the Big Bad Wolf repent of his evil ways?

Will the jury believe him? Fun for all ages!

Friday & Saturday night—August 12, 13 at 7:30pm

Sunday Matinee—August 14 at 2pm

Donations support the children's music programs

August 21 at the Hollywood Bowl—
"Fantasia" only \$25. Bring a picnic supper!
See Marina to buy tickets.

AUGUST 27 & 28—FIESTA LA BALLONA
Volunteers needed to man the booth, greet the community and spread the word about the great place that is "Grace"!

