

Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool



Ash Wednesday, February 14th 2018



Service times:

11:30am Worship
7pm Worship

Pr. Steve will be in the office all day to give out ashes. Make sure to call before coming in. Thanks!

17880 E. Covina Blvd.
Covina, Ca 91722

Church Office

(626) 332-4536

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 9am-1pm

Preschool Office

(626) 967-5855

Church/Preschool Fax

(626) 967-4027

Email:

office@gracecovina.org

Website:

www.gracecovina.org

You can check your email for the PDF version of this Newsletter! Don't have a newsletter in your email? Be sure to fill out the contact information with an updated email address on page 4. You can also check out our website for upcoming news. We want to keep Grace Lutheran Church as a community where everyone can keep in contact. Stay connected with us!



Did You Know?



If you have an article, advertisement, announcement or special note you would like to include in the newsletter, please contact Vanessa, our church secretary by the 25th of each month. You can contact her by telephone at: 626-332-4536 or by email at: office@gracecovina.org

Inside this Issue

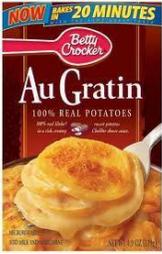
Front Page	1
Food Pantry/Preschool	2
Pastor's Column	3
Presidents Column	4
Announcements	5
Prayers & Scripture	6
Calendar	7
Who We Are	8

You Are Welcome Here





We are collecting a new food item for the ACTION Food Pantry. The month of **February's** featured food item is **scalloped potatoes** in a box . So when you're grocery shopping, please remember our brothers and sisters in need and pick up one or two boxes of scalloped potatoes. Any donations are most appreciated. Let's continue to respond to God's blessings by caring for the most in need. Just a friendly reminder that on the first Sunday of each and every month is the food pantry's special collection Sunday. This is another opportunity to give thanks to God for our many blessings by helping those most in need Thank you for all the continued support!



Don't forget to follow us and like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/ActionFoodPantry91722 Like

Preschool Report

School Closed

We will be closed Monday February 19, 2018 in observance of President's Day.

Parents Play Date

Mark your calendars for March 10, 2018 10am-11am, for a play date with your child. A special day set aside to spend some fun time with your child, here at school.



Themes

2/5-2/9 Valentines / Letter Vv
 2/12-2/16 Hibernation Animals / Letter Xx
 2/19-2/23 Colors / Letter Qq
 2/26-3/2 Rain / Letter Uu



Valentine's Day Parties

Wednesday February 14th will be our party day at 9:00-9:45. We will exchange valentines during this time. Ms. Cerise has a total of 13 children and Ms. Kristy has a total of 11 children. Please leave the envelopes blank and sign the valentines. This will make it easier for the children to pass out. If your child knows how to write their name, please take time and encourage them to sign their own valentines.

** There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the front gate, for those of you who would like to donate goodies for our parties. **

Parent Reminders

*** The speed limit in the parking lot is 10 mph. Please enter our parking lot on Covina Blvd only and exit on Larkin only. It is crucial to keep all of our school grounds safe.**

*** Tuition is due by the 10th of each month. Accounts not paid by the 10th will accrue a \$20.00 late fee.**

*** I will be happy to provide a year-end statement for tax purposes at your request.**

*** As we are in the midst of the flu/cold season, please do not send your child to school sick. What is too sick for school? Excessive cough, runny nose etc. Please be considerate of all the children and their families.**

Thank you,
Ms. Christy

Pastor's Column

Dear Grace Family,

February is probably best known as the month we celebrate the most romantic of holidays. Of course I'm speaking of Valentine's Day! It's a day we share with our romantic partners just how much we love them by giving them beautifully decorated greeting cards filled with beautiful poetry, flowers or candy and occasionally some jewelry. Nothing says love like roses and chocolate, right? As I pondered this month's article and Valentine's Day I decided to do some investigation on the history and origin of this blessed day, and here's a brief and general synopsis of what I found.

Valentine's Day is named after a man who was posthumously sainted by the Catholic Church. Historians are not sure exactly which particular Valentine is celebrated on Feb. 14th as there are several men named Valentine who were sainted. The most likely Valentine our holiday is named after lived in the 3rd century and was a Christian who was persecuted and jailed for his beliefs by Emperor Claudius of Rome. Legend has it he was given an audience with the Emperor and tried to convince him to convert to Christianity, but to no avail. And while he was waiting to be executed as a martyr he healed his jailer's daughter of blindness. Sounds very romantic, right? Well I left out the more romantic parts of the legend, such as he was also believed to have performed clandestine weddings for Roman soldiers who were forbidden to marry at that time. Legend also has it that he wrote a letter to the young girl he healed just before his execution and signed it, "Your Valentine."

For about 1000 years Feb 14th was celebrated as a religious feast day in honor of this man who died for his faith. The day began to have a more romantic feel to it around the 15th century and credit for that is given to poetry written by Chaucer. And sometime in the late 19th century the holiday began to be associated with the exchange of cards, handwritten of course, and candy and other gifts.

Ok Pastor, now that you've given us a brief history of the holiday and used up most of this column, what does this have to do with me or the church? You may be asking yourself that question about now. So, let me see if I can get us an answer to that question.

Valentine's Day is all about love, as it should be. But, not simply about romantic love. You see Valentine was motivated to action by love; his love for God. He loved God so much he was willing to die for his faith rather than renounce his faith in God. And his love for God moved him to action in healing his jailer's young daughter. You see, I believe love is more than an emotion. It is an emotion that leads to action. The emotion is given expression through our actions.

God's love has always been revealed to us through His actions. From placing Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to Jesus' ministry it's always been about what God does more so than what He says. In fact, and I may be wrong here, I don't recall a single instance where a person has heard from God that He loves us. Isn't that odd? After all, we speak of how infinite God's love for us is, don't we? You'd think He would have said it at some point, right?

We know God through His actions, none more profound than when He willingly went to the cross for our sake. We are all called to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. We say we do, but how often do our actions reflect what we say? I would encourage you this month to shower your loved one with a beautiful card, maybe some flowers and a box of candy. Hey, why not throw in something sparkly while you're at it? And I would also encourage you to ask yourself how often do my actions reflect the love I have for God and say I have for others.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

Presidents Report

A few highlights from the January 8, 2018 council meeting

- We welcomed Judy McGee to council as Minister of Witness.
- All churches involved with Living The Resurrection will meet here at Grace on February 10th for an all-day gathering. There are expected to be 30-40 people.
- We have had a request for facility use from *Everlasting Gospel Ministry* which we are discussing.
- The new membership directory and registration cards are ready to print.
- Council installation is January 28 at both services.
- We will look into replacing the office chairs.
- The fans in the Fellowship Hall were repaired by Ken Linden. One fan is beyond repair and will need to be replaced.
- SOUPer Bowl February 4
- 2018 Council Retreat March 24. This is a working retreat to plan for the coming year.
- Bernie Nord has retired as Food Pantry Director. Cheryl Miller will take over until a new director is found.

I have posted the December financial report in the Narthex. I will replace it each month with a current report. Remember the budget we all passed at our annual meeting? How well are we meeting that budget?

The church requires lots of people to run it, volunteers and staff all working together with cooperation and communication.

Peace of Christ,

Pat Linden

Congregational Council President



Congregation Records Update 2018

If you ever have any change in your contact information, be sure to complete the information below and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Remember to include all family members.

Thank you.

Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number (Include Area Code): _____

Cell Number (Include Area Code): _____

Email Address: _____

Birthdays: _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____



Ash Wednesday will be on February 14th. We will have two services. One at 11:30 am and the other at 7pm.

Meaning that 11:30am Bible Study is cancelled for that day. Pastor Steve will be in the office all day to give out ashes just in case you are not able to make it to either service. Please call ahead of time before coming into the office to make sure Pastor is in and did not happen to step out for lunch.

Everyone is welcome!

Birthday Blessings to...

Anna Loyd	February 4
Mary Ann Koval	February 5
Marion Patrick	February 5
Heather Adzovich	February 10
Tyler Skolaski	February 19
Carol Orrell	February 21
Aaron Marshall	February 24
April Wood	February 25
Laura Wood	February 26
Melinda Fisher	February 28



Happy Anniversary to...

Marty & Mary Spradley  February 7

Dear Members of Grace,

One of your fellow members is in need of a new residence and we are asking for your help. If you know of a 2-3 bedroom house in our general area that is available to rent in the \$1500-\$1750 price range please contact Pastor Steve.

Thanks!



On Sunday, **February 4th** there will be two soup pots out in Narthex, one for each NFL team who will be playing in this year's super bowl (New England Patriots & Philadelphia Eagles). Whoever would like to participate in our SOUPERbowl will place a donation of their choice in the bowl marked with the team that they believe is going to win. All proceeds go to the Food Pantry. The Food Bank will be the big winner! Thank you in advanced for your donations!



All churches involved with Living The Resurrection will meet here at Grace on February 10th for an all-day gathering. There are expected to be 30-40 people.

We are pleased to announce that Grace now has an online option for your tithes and offerings!



Here's how to help:

To give online go to our website (gracecovina.org) click on the 'connect' drop down option, then click on 'offerings', scroll down and select 'click to donate through PayPal. It's pretty self-explanatory after that! You can use your PayPal account or major credit card to make your offering.



You can check your email for the PDF version of this Newsletter! Don't have a newsletter in your email? Be sure to fill out the contact information with an updated email address on page 4. You can also check our website for upcoming news. Stay connected with us!

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry... -Psalm 34:15

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please pray for those with cancer needs, including: Alice Martinez, Annalisa Morgan, Marion Patrick, Jorge Chavez, Walter Hoke, Trina Clay, Paulette Bentz, Shawna, Keyling Toro, Dorie, Gabby Mullins, Linda Dow, Melanie Reef, Gwen Jenkins, and Lorraine Thorne.

Please pray for those with medical needs, including: Carol Orrell, Margarite Heyne, Myrna Ott, Brian Akey, Delva Helm, Cora, Peggy Muncie, Tim Olszewski, Dave Brown, Charlene Bergerson, Olivia Gallina, Christy, Hector Larini, Susie Galleta, Kameron Putnam, Jen McCarthy, Sarah Encabo, Davidson Family, Gail Hawes, Jaxon Turner, Phyllis Welch, and Eddie Alvarez.

Please pray for the men and women who are currently serving in the military, including: Nick Strasser (Marine), Talon Featherstone (Navy) and Justin Wimer (Air Force), who are bravely protecting us and our country.

Please pray for the people in: Families in Montecito, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Virgin Islands and those affected by the California fires.

Please pray for those who are being faced with grief including: the Piper-Wilson family.

Please pray for the Miller family (Missionaries).

Please pray for our pre-school and infant care program.

Please pray for the firefighters, police force and leaders of our country.

Please pray for the ACTION Food Pantry and the homeless that they serve.

Please pray for all those in need.

“The Prayer of the Righteous is Powerful and Effective.” – James 5:16

Please let us know...

- If we don't have a birthday or anniversary date listed.
- If you have a special announcement.
- If someone in your family is ill or in the hospital.
- If you move or change your telephone number.
- If you will be away for a period of time.
- If you feel the church can assist you in any way.

Our Prayer Book is...

Also located in the back of the sanctuary. You can write your prayer request in this book each Wednesday or Sunday. Remember, you can also contact the church office with your prayer request and updates for the prayer list.

February scripture readings to share with your family & to deepen your worship experience.

(5 Epiphany)

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Cor 9:16-23
Matt 1:29-39

(Transfiguration of Our Lord)

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Cor 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

(Ash Wednesday)

February 14

Joel 2:1-2,12-17
2 Cor 2:20b-6:10
Matt 6:1-6,16-21

(1 Lent)

February 18

Gen 9:8-17
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

(2 Lent)

February 25

Gen 17:1-7,15-16
Rom 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30am Lydia Lois Circle 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry	2 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	3 10am Al-Anon
4 *Regular Sunday Worship 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	5 12:30pm Deborah's Circle 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	6 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	7 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Staff Meeting 7pm Worship 7pm AA	8 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry	9 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	10 9:30am-3:30pm Living the Resurrection 10am Al-Anon
11 *Regular Sunday Worship 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	12 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry 6:30pm Council Meeting Room 6	13 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Worship 7pm Worship 7pm AA	15 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry 5:45pm-9pm Heathdale HOA	16 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	17 10am Al-Anon 12pm-3pm Crafting
18 *Regular Sunday Worship 12:15pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	19 Preschool Closed Presidents Day 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	20 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	21 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Bible Study 7pm Worship 7pm AA	22 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry	23 1pm Grace Ladies Luncheon 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	24 10am Al-Anon
25 *Regular Sunday Worship 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	26 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	27 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	28 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Bible Study 7pm Worship 7pm AA			

*** Sunday Service Times**

- *9:00am Traditional Worship
- *11:00am Contemporary Worship
- *1:00pm Apostolic Fellowship

What's happening at GLC?

Exciting things are always happening here at Grace. So, please take a moment to look on the bulletin board and table in the narthex and see what exciting things are happening. You can check us on Facebook, too!

www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranCovina

WHO WE ARE

Church Staff

Pastor

Steve Otte
(714)717-6174

Preschool Director

Christy Arreguin
(626) 967-5855

preschool@gracecovina.org

Children's Ministries

Amber Brown
(626)203-6928

GraceSundaySchool@yahoo.com

Music Ministries

Jeff Saltonstall
(626) 375-4311
Pedro Toro
(626) 731 4431

Office Coordinator

Vanessa Chavez
(626) 332-4536

office@gracecovina.org

Church Council

President

Pat Linden
(626) 339-0729

Vice President

Tim Said
(626) 966-5360

Secretary

Vicki Jacobs
(909) 599-6310

Treasurer

Robert Ordenez
(626) 388-6930

Minister of Witness

Judy McGee
(323)376-1226

Minister of Worship

Brenda Noriega
(626) 914-1664

Minister of Education

Dave Brown
(909) 772-3500

Minister of Member Care

Diana Alley
(626) 475-7583

*Something to hold on to...
A friend. A neighbor. Hope. Faith.
We are all looking for something...*

Welcome to Grace

*This is who we are.
This is what we do.
You are welcome here.*

This is who we are...

Grace is a family of believers who gather in the name of Jesus Christ to experience God's love and acceptance through each other. Our intimate community is one where all are welcome, all are accepted, all are filled and all are sent out to give as they have received.

Though we are a community of faith, Grace is not a place for those who feel they have found everything they need regarding their faith journey. The people of grace feel that we are on a journey that is just beginning for some of us, while for others, that journey is much further along. Wherever we might be in that individual journey, we feel we are called to walk together, as no one should ever have to journey alone. No matter where you are in your beliefs, no matter where you feel your place in life is, you are welcome here.

"One person can have a profound effect on another. And two people...well, two people can work miracles. They can change a whole town. They can change the world." – Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider, Northern Exposure, Cicely (1992)

This is what we do...

Our community prays for one another. It is part of our duty, as people of faith, to lift up each other's joys and sorrows.

Our community chooses to offer back to God what God has so greatly blessed us with---ourselves, our time, our possessions---all signs of God's gracious love. Our community gathers together for many different reasons and in many different places. Below are just a few:

Some Main Campus Gatherings:

Traditional Worship & Holy Communion (every Sunday at 9am)
Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion (every Sunday at 11am)
Midweek Worship (every Wednesday at 7pm)

Some Off-Campus Gatherings:

Deborah Circle (every FIRST Monday of every month at 12:30pm in homes)
Lydia Lois Circle (every FIRST Thursday of every month at 9:30am in Room 6)
Heathdale Homeowners Association (every THIRD Thursday of every month at 5:45pm in the Fellowship Hall)
Grace Ladies Luncheon (every Fourth Friday of every month 1:00pm)