

Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool



Grace Lutheran Church would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope your year is filled with love, joy, success and God. We look forward to worshipping our Lord with you in the months to come!



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

Thank you to those who gave generous donations towards ELCA's Good Gifts. With your help, we were able to purchase the following:

Thirty (30) chicks [Three (3) orders of 10] - \$30.00

Three (3) roosters - \$45.00

Two (2) pairs of goats - \$200.00

Two (2) honeybees - \$40.00

One (1) portion of an irrigation canal - \$100.00

Three (3) water filters - \$90.00

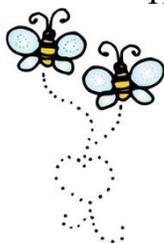
One (1) latrine - \$150.00

One (1) community vegetable garden - \$200.00

Three (3) farming tools - \$75.00

One (1) stock a health clinic - \$75.00

Total: \$1,005.00



Thank You

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



You Are Welcome Here

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We are collecting a new food item for the ACTION Food Pantry. The month of January's featured food item is canned soup. So when you're grocery shopping, please remember our brothers and sisters in need and pick up one or two cans of soup. 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



A visiting Pastor was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio Farm Country. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the old farmer began----

“Lord, I hate buttermilk.”

The pastor opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going. Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.”

Now the Pastor was overly worried. However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, “And Lord you know I don't care much for raw white flour.”

Just as the Pastor was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued, “But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done mixin', and probably it will be somthin' even better than biscuits. Amen.”



Pastor's Column

Dear People of Grace,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! (Yes, we are still in the season of Christmas, you know, the whole 12 days of Christmas). As close out 2017 and turn the page in the calendar, we begin fresh with all the hope and possibilities of a new year. Whether your 2017 was generally a good year, a tough year or a mix of both, with each new year we all have hope for good things and a fresh start. None of knows what 2018 will hold for us, but we can be sure that whatever takes place God will be in the center of it all.

It has been almost 2 months since our annual Congregation meeting, so I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the commitment we made to God by passing a budget that includes a 10% increase in our giving. Passing a budget doesn't mean that we will automatically see an increase in income any more than wishing upon a star will make our dreams come true. What I believe we said in passing that budget is that we believe that the Spirit is moving in our midst and we have faith that God will honor our sacrifices by blessing others through our gifts. But, we have to be the ones to provide the resources that God can use to bless others. That's not because God can't do it without us, it because God is gracious and includes us in the blessing of others when we actively participate in the work He is doing in building His Kingdom.

In this time of hope for the new year, besides those things hoped for in your personal life, what are your hopes for Grace in 2018? As you answer that question in your mind, here's a follow up question; how are you able to contribute to that hope to make it a reality? How can you use your time, talents and treasures to help bring new life to Grace? I believe that have all the resources available to us to do what God has called us to do and with a collective effort we can see miracles happen!

What is it that gives me such hope and confidence? Well, first it is the faith of the people of this congregation. Over the last 2 years of my time here I have seen repeatedly an overwhelmingly positive response to every appeal we have made to the congregation when there was a need. Second, but most importantly I trust wholeheartedly in the faithfulness of God. We have spent the better part of a year studying Genesis in our weekly Bible studies and one of the messages that is repeated over and over again is God's willingness and desire to use those whom He has called to bless others despite our imperfections and faults. In fact He often uses our brokenness for His purposes. He simply seeks those who have a heart for His glory. We are not the perfect people for the job. We are believers in a perfect God who loves us and blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others!

As we begin this new year turn your hearts and lives ever more towards God and you will be amazed at what He can and will do in our midst! I hope and pray you all share the same excitement I have for 2018. Without God nothing is possible, but with Him there are no limits to what he can do!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who prayed for Robert Jacobs (brother of Don Jacobs) during his Cancer treatments and recently when he entered Hospice. We also appreciate your cards and words of encouragement after his passing.

Sincerely,
Don & Vicki Jacobs and Family

Happy Anniversary to...

Steve and Lindi Otte January 17
Jerry & Maureen Colwell January 17



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!



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.

Birthday Blessings to...

Chris Turner January 6
Robert Golden January 7
David Brown January 14
Brian Akey January 20
Timothy Kost January 20
Martha Olson January 23
Maureen Colwell January 27
Autumn Wood January 28
Suzanne Kamler January 30



Do you love documentaries? There will be a movie, dinner and discussion on for

"13th: From Slave to Criminal with one Amendment"



Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 28th 2018 at 4:00pm
997 E. Walnut Street, Pasadena



Grace Ladies Luncheon is resuming this month! We will be having lunch on January 26th, per usual, at the Marie Calendar's Restaurant near the Eastland Center in West Covina at 1:00pm. Please call Cheryl Miller if you plan to attend at (626) 484-0660. If you forget to call, come and enjoy the luncheon anyway!

You are invited to attend the women's retreat sponsored by our Cluster/Conference WELCA.



"Blessed to be a Blessing"



Feb. 23-25, 2018 at miracle Sprint Resort & Spa in Desert Hot Springs.

Guest Speaker: Pastor Megan Fryling.

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: Marion Patrick, Jorge Chavez, Walter Hoke, Trina Clay, Paulette Bentz, Jaxon Turner, Shawna, Keyling Toro, Dorie, Gabby Mullins, Linda Dow, Janet Wilkins, and Melanie Reef.

Please pray for those with medical needs, including: Charlene Bergerson, Olivia Gallina, Tony Espericueta, Christy, Hector Larini, Susie Galleta, Kameron Putnam, Jen McCarthy, Sarah Encabo, Davidson Family, Gail Hawes, Phyllis Welch, and Eddie Alvarez.

Please pray for those who are being faced with grief, including: the family of Janet Wilkins, The Chavez family and the family of Vic Ramos.

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 and World Leaders.

Please pray for the people in: Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the Virgin Islands Sutherland Springs, TX.

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.

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

(Epiphany of our Lord)

January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6
Eph 3:1-12
Matt 2:1-12

(Baptism of Our Lord)

January 7

Gen 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

(2 Epiphany)

January 14

1 Sam 3:1-10[11-20]
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

(3 Epiphany)

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5,10
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

(4 Epiphany)

January 28

Deut 18:15-20
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	2 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	3 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Bible Study 7pm Worship 7pm AA	4 Lydia Lois Circle 9:30am 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry	5 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	6 10am Al-Anon
7 *Regular Sunday Worship 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	8 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry 6:30pm Council Meeting Room 6	9 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	10 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Staff Meeting 7pm Worship 7pm AA	11 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry	12 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	13 10am Al-Anon
14 *Regular Sunday Worship 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	15 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	16 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	17 11am Preschool Chapel 7pm Worship 7pm AA	18 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry 5:45pm-9pm Heathdale HOA	19 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	20 10am Al-Anon Crafting 12pm-3pm
21 *Regular Sunday Worship Worship & Music Committee Meeting 12:15pm 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	22 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	23 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	24 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30am Bible Study 7pm Worship 7pm AA	25 10am-1pm ACTION Food Pantry	26 Grace Ladies Luncheon 1pm 7:00pm Friday Night relax & Recover	27 10am Al-Anon
28 *Regular Sunday Worship 1pm Apostolic Fellowship	29 4:00pm-7pm ACTION Food Pantry	30 7:00pm Apostolic Fellowship	31 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

Dierk Biggs
(626) 827-7242

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)