

Grace Lutheran Church

I7880 E. Covina Blvd. Covina, CA 91722 www.gracecovina.org

Church Office (626) 332-4536 office@gracecovina.org

Preschool (626) 967-5855 preschool@gracecovina.org

ACTION Food Pantry (626) 319-0554 actionfoodpantry@gmail.com



Newsletter for September, 2021

Sign up for emails at www.gracecovina.org

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranCovina

We continue to meet in-person for Sanctuary Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Please note that in response to the LA County Department of Health reinstating indoor masking for vaccinated as well as non-vaccinated people, masks will be required during in-person worship at Grace-Covina until further notice.

The Office of the Bishop has called upon the people and congregations of the SWCA Synod to comply with the county mandates and protect one another, whether vaccinated or not, by wearing masks during indoor worship, as well to continue to observe distancing and sanitation protocols, and to continue to model Martin Luther's advice in the face of a 16th Century pandemic: *therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence...See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.*

We are streaming Sunday Worship on our Facebook page. If you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or have had contact recently with anyone with COVID-19, we ask that you worship safely with us online. Livestreamed services are available on our YouTube page.

Your Church Council



President | Judy McGee | (323) 376-1226
Secretary | Brenda Noriega | (626) 914-1664
Treasurer | Robert Ordonez | (626) 388-6930



Members-at-Large

Diana Alley | (626) 475-7583 **Cindy Skolaski | (626) 332-0209**
Dave Brown | (909) 772-3500 **Johna Stienstra | (626) 840-3167**

From Pastor Steve

Dear Grace Family,

Is it just me, or does it feel like we, as a society, are getting more and more short-tempered or divisive? That is a bit of a rhetorical question because we have been trending that way for decades. I do not have a reason for why I am thinking about this topic today, but I am. We have always had an innate drive to 'be right,' mainly, I believe, due to our sinful nature. But it just feels like things are worse than they have ever been. What happened to kindness?

You do not have to search very hard to find examples of our ever-increasing divisiveness. Turn on one of our 24-hour news networks and most of the talking heads are slamming people they disagree with and not always intelligently, but simply because it gets eyeballs, or ratings. Turn on talk radio, same thing. Read a newspaper (do people still do this?) and I am guessing it is the same. Advertisers use the same paradigm. Instead of touting or promoting their own product, simply telling you how bad their competitors are has become all too common. And, as a sports fan, it saddens me that this divisiveness has crept into sports on many levels. I recently heard on the radio that fights break out at almost every live sporting event in the stands between fans of competing teams. What has happened to civility?

I have also noticed that the always 'getting my way' expectation out and about in public places like retail, restaurants, coffee shops and just about every other retail outlet. Something that happens to me regularly when something has gone wrong with something I purchased and I am trying to get it corrected or a customer service representative puts me on hold, the customer service rep apologizes to me profusely! I do not mind a polite, "I am sorry for..." - I actually appreciate that - but the repeating it over and over again, to me, is an indication that they are regularly being treated

rudely by so many people that they expect me to curse them out unless they shower me with apologies. Things do not always go perfectly. When did we lose that perspective?

I do not mean to sound like the grumpy old 'get off my lawn' guy, or the 'things were much back in my day' guy. I do have a point, I think...I think it is becoming increasingly more difficult to treat people with respect and extend grace to folks because we are bombarded with 'I am right, you are wrong!' all the time. I simply want to remind you all, and remind myself!, that we are called to a higher standard. It is a reminder of the Great Commandment to love God and others.

Jesus said they are the only two commandments that really matter. He basically summed up the 10 Commandments and the entirety of the Law with those two things. And the two are inseparable. If one love God, one must love one's neighbor. We are called to be salt and light. It is pretty simple but getting harder and harder these days. We all need to promote kindness and civility and not lose perspective on how blessed we are. It really is the right thing to do!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

**In-person Bible study back! We are meeting
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 6.**

**Join us online Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. for Grace
Lutheran Online Bible Study - our current topic is
the 1st Book of Samuel.**

Standing Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83285787322?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83285787322?pwd=)

[pwd=](#)

[WFdRVUNQekNNQ3NoRkJDMXJkOW8zUT](#)

[09](#)

Meeting ID: 832 8578 7322

Passcode: 163333



Hello Grace Lutheran Church!

I wanted to thank you so much for adopting Ben Lomond Elementary School as one of your benevolence outreach gifts. We are blessed to have your support and it is so appreciated. We have used your financial support towards assemblies and for school supplies during the pandemic shutdown.



Teachers and students are anxious to return to school in person. We are hopeful that everyone will follow the guidelines and that all of our students and staff will remain healthy. We truly don't want to have to return to distance learning, so please keep all students and teachers everywhere in your prayers.

Ben Lomond will have a new principal this year. We are happy to welcome Mrs. Alayna Effinger. We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning, growing, and reconnecting with one another!

I thank you for supporting not only my school and our community, but me personally as well. This year I am adding a new hat to my duties. I stepped in to be the PTA president in an effort to rebuild our unit of parent volunteers. If you are looking for an easy way to support our school, you can join PTA. I promise that I will not ask you to attend meetings! ☐ It is a membership that supports our PTA unit and helps us to provide exciting events for our students all year.

If you feel moved to join our PTA, there are a couple of ways to make that happen. We would welcome your support so much!

For my tech savvy friends, here is a QR code below (just snap a photo with your mobile and follow the cues) that will lead you to the Totem registration page. The cost for joining PTA with this code is \$8 (\$7 for PTA, and Totem charges \$1 for processing a credit card.) You will register as a "supporter."

For people who prefer working with cash, you can place \$7 in an envelope and place it in the offering plate. Please make sure to put the following information on your envelope:

Your Name
Grace Lutheran Church
Ben Lomond PTA Supporter
ATTN: Wendy Snyder

School started August 16 ~ please keep all educators and students in Covina-Valley Unified close in your hearts as we all head back to school!

Fondly,
Wendy Snyder

Grace-Covina's ministry with Ben Lomond Elementary School emerged from the congregation's Living the Resurrection workshops. Living the Resurrection is a process that was developed in the SWCA Synod to listen to discern where God is working to build connections.



ACTION Food Pantry

On the first Sunday of the month, we take a special offering for the ACTION (Area Congregations Together in One Name) Food Pantry. Grace-Covina is proud to host and support ACTION, a ministry of a coalition of interfaith communities which has continued to serve unprecedented numbers of those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The month of September's featured food item is meal in a can, such as Spam or beef stew. When you're grocery shopping, please remember our brothers and sisters in need; any and all donations are most appreciated. Let's continue to respond to God's blessings by caring for the most in need!

See more about ACTION Food Pantry at www.actiontogether.info



**ACTION Food Pantry
Distribution**

Mondays at 4:00 p.m.
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.



Bernie Nord | September 3

Cecilia Hamblet | September 9

Zachary Jacobs | September 9

Gen Alley | September 11

Bill Wengel | September 13

Lorie Turner | September 14

Jacob Banks | September 14

Jeremy Brown | September 14

Pedro Toro | September 20

Brenda Noriega | September 23

Nelly Brown | September 28

*Do we have your
birthday/anniversary, or your
current address and email? To make
sure, please contact
office@gracecovina.org*

Prayer Requests

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

Please pray for those with medical needs, including: Fern Hastings, Art James, Rose Marie Quesada, Vicki Jacobs, Sergio and Sally, Marty and Mary Spradley, Paula Varela, Gary Schantz and family, Jason, Robert Boomsma, Christopher Turner, Karen Putnam, Annalisa Morgan, Hailey, Trina Clay, Walter Hoke, the Davidson Family, Jaxon Turner, Sarah Encabo, Shiloh Truman Charles, Mickie Spangler, Harper, Ed McGee, Suzanna Auckland, Dakota Garske, Aria Labrum, Kari Watson, Peggy Salcido, John Carlin, Jason Foutch, Addie, Susan Atkison, Jan Sieber, Ofelia Rodriguez, Dave Diaz, Lee and Joan Juneau, Meade Stemple, Rhonda Kloster, Marie Cole, John Brown and Casey Broccini, Marie and Tom McCarthy, Penelope Ross, Russ Mohrmann, Amrie and Denis, Robin Kreitzer, Nikki Intravia, Connie Brown, Jeremiah Reese, Ken Gillingham, Tony Key and family, Cody, Adrian Burden, Jennie Walters, Emma, Pat Bergeson, Esperanza Avalos, Pam Elparia, Myrna Ott, Ron Ott, Marilyn Heyne, Cindy Skolaski, Mamasan Ajito, Robert Larsen, Deneice Hadley, Cheryl Miller, Janis Lovullo, Sam Kamler, Christine Tury, Valerie Beasley, Jaime Wilcots, Beverly Smith, and victims of COVID-19.

Please pray for others in need of prayer, including: Cheryl Van Arsdel, the family of Kevin Ardery, the the family of Helen Turner, the family of Joan Evinger, the family of Ed Fay, Deborah and Mark Roberts, Bernie Allman with Linda Ann and David, the Quezada Family, and our Grace neighbors.

Please pray for the men and women currently serving in the military, who are bravely protecting us and our country, including: Andrew Ranabarger, Cole Elliot (Marine Corps), Nathaniel Morgan (Army), and Christian Van Allen.

Please pray for all victims of natural disasters.

Please pray for those who are being faced with grief, and all who know violence and hate. Please pray for our Grace Lutheran Church Congregation and partners in ministry.

Please pray for the teachers and children of our preschool and infant care program, and for the teachers and students of Ben Lomond Elementary School, our school districts, and all schools, that they and their families will be safe.

Please pray for hospital staff, all medical personnel and first responders, those in essential services, and the leaders of our world, state, country, and local governments.

Please pray for the ACTION Food Pantry, the clients that they serve, and all those in need.

September Scripture Readings

September 5, 2021
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost



Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 19, 2021
17th Sunday after Pentecost



Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 26, 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost



Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



September



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9:30 am: Grace Lutheran In- Person Worship 12:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly Sunday Worship	29 4:00 pm: Action Food Pantry Monday Distribution	30 5:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly	31 11:00 am: Wednesday In- Person Bible Study 7:00 pm: Wednesday Online Bible Study	1 10:00 am: Action Food Pantry Thursday Distribution	2 6:00 pm: Evangeli o Eterno Friday Worship 7:00 pm: Narcotics Anonymous	3 9:00 am: Evangeli o Eterno Saturday Worship
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TO REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION: Send an email to Julie Jensen at juliejnsn1@roadrunner.com or by mail to Julie Jensen, 921 Gill Ave., Port Huene, CA 93041. Include your name, contact info (address, email, phone #), your church and city and whether you are a guest or delegate. Julie will send you the information for the convention along with the Zoom link.

- Castanada.
- (1) Connections with women in congregations
 - (2) Connecting with diverse women through stories
 - (3) Loving Connections through anti-racism dialogue with Pastor Joseph

There will be three workshops presented:

WELCA's "Loving Connections" will be held from Friday evening, October 15 through Saturday, October 16, 2021. The Bible Study leader is Pastor Julie Morris, and the Worship and Prayer leader is Pastor Tracy Williams.

Southwest California Synodical Women's Organization CONVENTION 2021
Friday & Saturday, October 15-16 • Via Zoom

Loving Connections



Grace Lutheran Church, Covina

You are welcome here

17880 E. Covina Blvd.

Covina, CA 91722

www.gracecovina.org



NEWS FROM GRACE-COVINA SEPTEMBER 2021