

Grace Lutheran Church

17880 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 March, 2023

Sign up for emails at www.gracecovina.org

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranCovina

Tree Dedication Honors "Mr. Dave"

On February 22, 2023 the preschool dedicated a tree in the preschool yard in honor of Dave Brown in recognition of more than 30 years of service on the Preschool Board.

Thank you to "Mr. Dave" for your work, dedication, presence and prayers for our preschool! The children now and forever refer to the tree as "Mr. Dave's Tree."



Spring Forward
Set your clock forward one hour
March 11, 2023

GRACE-COVINA
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
11:00 a.m. in person
7:00 p.m. via Zoom

SECOND KINGS



From Pastor Steve

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Having just begun the season of Lent it's probably a good time for a newsletter article about that very season. It has been my tradition, after all. Where I to ask, "What is Lent all about?" I am guessing I would get a variety of answers, but the most common would probably be, "It's the time when we give something up for the duration of Lent" or "The time when we are supposed to repent, or return, to God." Neither answer would be incorrect, but it is much more layered than that.



The 40 days coincided with the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert after His baptism which ended with His temptation by Satan. Historically, starting in the 4th century Lent was a season of preparation for those who were to be baptized on Easter Sunday, the day when most were baptized centuries ago. Those preparing for baptism were called Catechumens and they wore sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penitence. Our nature as sinners would have been deeply imprinted on the Catechumens during the 40 days until the morning of Easter when our sin is washed away in the waters of baptism. Theoretically this would have been a euphoric event that would lead to a life of piety, or Christ centered living, in thanks for the gift of Grace.

Over the centuries it lost the connection with baptism and evolved in various religious traditions that resulted in many different Lenten practices. The most common practice now is to deny oneself of something we enjoy. Whatever the tradition, Lent has always been about recognizing our inclination toward self and independence, otherwise known as sin, in order to lead us back to greater awareness of God and our need of His grace so that we may become better witnesses to that grace. In some traditions, like the Catholic Church, it is almost a mandate to participate in some Lenten practice. As Lutherans we always have the freedom to participate or not. Either way won't change God's love for us. So, why bother?

Why not? Are we not afflicted by sin? Does sin have a negative affect on us and our relationship with God? How much time throughout the year do we spend building or maintaining our relationship with God? The answers? Yes. Yes. Probably not as much as we could. The first two answers are obvious. The third is not as black and white. The reality is we need to spend a great deal of our time functioning in the earthly kingdom just to survive. Work, paying bills, running errands, and socializing and our daily routines consume most of our waking hours. Then there is the down time recharging our mental and emotional batteries after the all of those things. When we are overwhelmed by busyness the things that we give up are typically the spiritual practices that are ironically the most life giving. As an example, after a busy week Sunday comes and going to worship seems like the easiest thing to skip in order to get some down time. Has that ever happened to you?

From Pastor Steve (cont.)

Sleeping in on a Sunday or skipping worship to relax are not necessarily a bad thing. That is not what I'm saying. I am just trying to make the point that because we are people of the earthly kingdom way more than we are people of the Kingdom of God we make choices that are more powerfully influenced by the worldly stuff. A Lenten discipline is the 'break' we need from the worldly life for an extended period of time that returns us to the life giving grace of God. Too often Lent is perceived as a time of absence when it really is a return to the abundance of grace. Perspective matters.

If you have never taken on a Lenten practice perhaps now is the time. Do you find yourself overwhelmed by the hamster wheel of life? How about some quiet time with our Heavenly Father? Intentional daily prayer may just be what you need. Do you feel distant or detached from God? Try daily devotional time or a service project like volunteering for a non-profit. Spend 30 minutes listening to Christian music. Here's a radical idea, spend 30 minutes in silence meditating. God speaks to us when we are listening far more powerfully than when we are talking or busy with life. Are you feeling shortchanged by the scarcity of life? Spend ten minutes a day writing down the things you are thankful for. You might find that you are far more blessed than you realize.

These are just a few suggestions. There are endless possibilities beyond giving up sweets or soda for 40 days. A good Lenten practice simply needs to be something that focuses your mind, body, and soul on God daily as opposed to whenever you have time or when it's convenient to your busy schedule. You don't have to, but why wouldn't you want to? Lent is an invitation to spend a little less time in the earthly kingdom and a little more time in God's Kingdom. For me that is something we can all benefit from.

Thrivent Members – Don't Forget Your Choice Dollar Allocation and Community Action Funds!

Thrivent Members can participate in two separate Thrivent-funded programs - **Choice Dollar Allocation** and **Community Action Team Funds**.

Thrivent Choice charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities. Eligible Thrivent Members can direct between from \$25 to \$5000 Choice Dollars each year to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. You have until March 31, 2023 to direct your 2022 Choice Dollars. **Thrivent Community Action Teams** - each Thrivent member can apply each year for two \$250.00 cards to fund an Action Team. That's \$500.00 per member per year! Contact your Thrivent Agent or go to <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice> for more information, to direct Choice Dollars, or to start an Action Team!

Report of the Grace-Covina Church Council

February 2023

- There was a discussion of worship services for Holy Week. There will be no worship service on Maundy Thursday, but two services on Good Friday. There will be a single service on Easter at 9:30 am.
- There will be a brunch held after worship on Easter. There will be more information later regarding sign-ups for food, set-up and clean-up.
- Information was shared regarding the repair of the gas leaks outside the choir room and the bathroom hallway door. The cost of the testing and repair was \$8364.00. It was paid out of the Facilities Renewal Fund.
- The Audit Committee will meet in Room 6 on Sunday, February 26 at 10:45 am to audit 2022 financials.
- Church Council and Pre-School Board will be installed during the worship service on February 26.
- The cypress trees on the west side of the parking lot have been trimmed by Jesse's Tree Service for \$1200.
- New plants have been donated for the sanctuary by Wendy Snyder.
- The sprinklers between the Youth Room and the Fellowship Hall have been repaired by Tony Lopez, the Pre-School gardener, for \$60.

In His Service

Brenda Noriega, Council President



GRACE-COVINA PRESCHOOL

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 8, 2023
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH AT 11:30 AM
EGG HUNT AT 12:30 PM
CRAFTS, BOUNCER, AND MORE!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

17880 E. COVINA BLVD, COVINA
BETWEEN AZUSA AND HOLLENBECK



11th Annual
BONHOEFFER FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 13,
2023, 12:30PM

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

SPONSORED BY THRIVENT FINANCIAL, SOUTHWEST
CALIF. SYNOD (ELCA) PACIFICA SYNOD (ELCA) &
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH,
CLAREMONT

**THEME: "INTERFAITH PEACEBUILDING IN A
CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST WORD: LEVERAGING
BONHOEFFER'S THEOLOGY AND ETHICS FOR A
BETTER FUTURE"**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. LORI BRANDT HALE

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION/DEPT. CHAIR,
AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY, MPLS.
EDITOR/CONTRIBUTOR: BONHOEFFER, THEOLOGY
AND POLITICAL RESISTANCE BONHOEFFER FOR
ARMCHAIR THEOLOGIANS, 2009

1700 N. TOWNE AVE., CLAREMONT, CA.
PLEASE RSVP AT TJOHNSON@CST.EDU/909-802-9549

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: Keith McHugh, Jeffrey Morgan, Tina Pike, Nancy Klotzche, Larry Weidner, Linda Schober, Barry Gustafarro, Deneice Hadley, Richard Howard, Roger Melendrez, Debbie Gonzales, Yolanda Weidner, Candy Turner, Cheryl Miller, Joan Pelleren, Shelly Ruiz, Elizabeth Ordonez, Patty VanRaalte, Elva Maldonado, Cathy Plante, Felix Noriega, Holly Masters, Gen Alley, Ray, Audrey Fuller, Don Lockman, Karen Putnam, Arlen Heyne, Gil and Yolanda Erro, Linda Dalton, Charlene Lisberg and Debbie, Rick Turner, Nolan, Herb Westerfield, Noa Buhler, Rose Marie Quesada, Deanna Kellogg, Jaxon Turner, Art James, Robert Boomsma, Robert Larsen, Trina Clay, Walter Hoke, Connie Brown, the Davidson Family, Jamie Wilcots, Joan and Lee Juneau, Kari Watson, Mike Spangler, Pam Elparin, Ed McGee, Sarah Encabo, and victims of COVID-19.

Please pray for others in need of prayer, including: Kenny Rogers and family, Lorrie Turner and family, Timothy Morgan, the family and friends of Marie Dabbs, Rocio Orozco, 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 (Marine Corps), and Christian Van Allen (Navy), and Phillip Beserra (Air Force).

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.

Prayer requests can be sent to us through the link on the Grace-Covina website at www.gracecovina.org. You can also include your prayer request on your attendance card at Sunday Worship, or email blarini@hotmail.com.

March Scripture Readings

March 5, 2023
2nd Sunday in Lent



Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 12, 2023
3rd Sunday in Lent



Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 19, 2023
4th Sunday in Lent



1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 26, 2023
5th Sunday in Lent



Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March Birthdays



Chase Entrikin | March 1
Steven Turner | March 1
Randy Noriega | March 3
Lisa Entrikin | March 6
Sandra Streeter | March 6
Charlene Bergerson | March 7
Denise Thomas | March 8
Blake Yarber | March 9

The ACTION Food Pantry buys their eggs in bulk - this costs less, but to distribute this important protein source to their clients they need egg cartons. Please leave your paper or plastic cartons in the Narthex for collection.



March Anniversaries



Shannon Yarber | March 9
Heather Bergerson | March 9
Pastor Ed McGee | March 11
Tony Encabo | March 24
Ken Linden | March 26
Carol Davisson | March 28
Ashley Hernandez | March 28
Donald Jacobs | March 29
Steve Adzovich | March 31

Michael & Patty
Van Raalte
March 18



It's not just about giving up certain foods during Lent - let's use this season to make a real difference and lend a helping hand to those in need.

Your Church Council

President | Brenda Noriega
Vice President | Johna Stienstra
Secretary | Diana Alley
Treasurer | Robert Ordonez

Members-at-Large

Cindy Skolaski | Nancy Adzovich | Judy McGee | Sarah Encabo

March 2023

We continue to meet in-person for Sanctuary Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. 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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 9:30 am: Sunday Worship 12:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y.Sunday Worship	27	28 5:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y	1 9:00 am: Preschool Chapel 11:00 am: In-person Bible Study 7:00 pm: Online Bible Study	2 12:00 pm: Action Food Pantry y.Thursday Distribution	3 6:00 pm: Evangelio Eterno F riday Worship	4 9:00 am: Evangelio Eterno S aturday Worship
5 9:30 am: Sunday Worship 12:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y.Sunday Worship	6	7 10:00 am: Prayer Team (1st Tuesday) 5:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y	8 9:00 am: Preschool Chapel 11:00 am: In-person Bible Study 7:00 pm: Online Bible Study	9 9:30 am: Gather - Women's Bible Study 12:00 pm: Action Food Pantry y.Thursday Distribution 5:30 pm: TLC Quilt Guild	10 6:00 pm: Evangelio Eterno F riday Worship	11 9:00 am: Evangelio Eterno S aturday Worship 10:00 am: Parents' Play Day
12 Daylight Savings - Spring Forward 9:30 am: Sunday Worship 12:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y.Sunday Worship	13	14 5:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y 7:00 pm: Church Council	15 9:00 am: Preschool Chapel 11:00 am: In-person Bible Study 7:00 pm: Online Bible Study	16 12:00 pm: Action Food Pantry y.Thursday Distribution	17 6:00 pm: Evangelio Eterno F riday Worship	18 9:00 am: Evangelio Eterno S aturday Worship
19 9:30 am: Sunday Worship 10:30 am: Worship Committee 12:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y.Sunday Worship	20	21 5:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y	22 9:00 am: Preschool Chapel 11:00 am: In-person Bible Study 7:00 pm: Online Bible Study	23 12:00 pm: Action Food Pantry y.Thursday Distribution	24 6:00 pm: Evangelio Eterno F riday Worship	25 9:00 am: Evangelio Eterno S aturday Worship
26 9:30 am: Sunday Worship 12:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y.Sunday Worship	27	28 5:00 pm: Apostolic Assembly y	29 9:00 am: Preschool Chapel 11:00 am: In-person Bible Study 7:00 pm: Online Bible Study	30 12:00 pm: Action Food Pantry y.Thursday Distribution	31 6:00 pm: Evangelio Eterno F riday Worship	1 9:00 am: Evangelio Eterno S aturday Worship

- ACTION Food Pantry
- Bible Study
- Committee
- Grace Preschool
- Grace-Covina Worship
- Holiday
- Meeting
- Off-Campus
- Outside Worship
- Special
- Wedding
- All Categories



Grace Lutheran Church, Covina
You are welcome here
17880 E. Covina Blvd.
Covina, CA 91722
www.gracecovina.org



NEWS FROM GRACE-COVINA MARCH 2023