



LIVING GRACE NOTES

APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

THE REVEREND DAVID E. HARDY, D.D., PASTOR

Web Page: www.livinggracelutheran.org

Gathered to Celebrate, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve!

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Passion/Palm Sunday, 9 April

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Procession of the Palms at 10:30 (weather permitting – assemble outside by the cross)

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Maundy Thursday, 13 April

Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, 14 April

Good Friday Liturgy at 7:30 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter, 15 April

*7:00 p.m. – celebrating with St. James Lutheran Church, Norcross and St. Bede's Episcopal Church
at the new church site, 1820 Coolidge Road*

The Resurrection of Our Lord, 16 April

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30
Congregational Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Schedule for Remaining Sundays in April

Sunday, 5 Lent, 2 April

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30
Children's Sunday School at 9:15
Adult Sunday School at 9:30
Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Sunday, 2 Easter, 23 April

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30
Children's Sunday School at 9:15
Adult Sunday School at 9:30
Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00
Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Sunday, 4 Easter, 30 April

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30
Children's Sunday School at 9:15
Adult Sunday School at 9:30
Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00
Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Penelope Pew

Penelope was talking with her friend Harriet who is taking this course that uses *The Lutheran Handbook* as a study guide. Penelope was quite amused at the pictures and how it was written giving so much information on Lutherans. She came across a really interesting page and thought she would share this page with everyone in the church. This page is entitled, "How to Use a Worship Bulletin."

"Many Lutheran congregations offer a printed resource called a bulletin to assist worshipers. The bulletin may contain the order of the service, liturgical information, music listings, the day's Bible readings, and important community announcements.

- **Arrive early** – A few extra minutes before worship will allow you to scan the bulletin and prepare for the service.
- **Receive the bulletin from usher** – Upon entering the worship space, an usher will give you a bulletin. Some congregations stack bulletins near the entrance for self-service.

- **Review the order of worship** – When seated, open the bulletin and find the order of the service, usually printed on the first or second page. Some churches print the entire service in the bulletin so worshippers don't have to switch back and forth between worship aids.
- **Determine if other worship resources are required** – The order of worship may specify additional hymnals, song sheets, candles, or other external supplies required during the service.
- **Fill out the attendance card** – A card may be located inside the bulletin or somewhere in your row. Fill it out completely. You may be asked to pass this card to an usher or to place it in the offering plate. Some congregations have visitors/communion attendance books for people to sign.
- **Reflect on bulletin artwork** – Covers often feature a drawing or design that corresponds to the season of the church year or the day's bible verses. Examine the artwork and make a note of its connection to the lessons or sermon.
- **Track your worship progress** – The bulletin will guide you through the liturgy, hymns, and lessons as you worship and let you know where you are at all times.
- **Watch for liturgical dialogues** – The bulletin may contain spoken parts of the liturgy not found in the hymnal. The worship leader's parts may be marked with a "P:" or "L:". The congregation's responses may be marked with a "C:" and are often printed in boldface type.
- **Identify the worship leaders and assistants** – The names of ushers, musicians, greeters, readers, acolytes, and pastors usually can be found in the bulletin. Greet these people by name following the service. Make good eye contact.
- **Review the printed announcements** – Community activities, calendars, and updates are often listed in the back of the bulletin. Scan listings during the prelude music, the offering, or the spoken announcements.
- **Make good use of the bulletin after the service** – Some congregations re-use bulletins for later services. Return the bulletin if possible. Recycling bins may also be provided. If you wish, or unless otherwise instructed, you may take the bulletin home with you.
- **Be aware**
 - Bulletins often use letter or color codes to signify which hymnals should be used. Look for a key or legend that details this information.
 - Many church secretaries and worship committees need help preparing the bulletin each week. You may want to volunteer to copy, fold, or assemble the bulletin for an upcoming service.
 - Most congregations stand at certain times during worship such as to honor Jesus' presence when the Gospel is read. Standing and sitting—even occasional kneeling—are not for exercise. Rather, they're an important physical participation in worship that helps you focus on the meaning behind the action."

Penelope found this very interesting because Living Grace's bulletins for worship services follow the most of these points. As we await the Resurrection of Our Lord, we enter into Holy Week which has different liturgies and the worship services are different from the Sunday services. The bulletins will be very helpful in these services to guide you through them. The bulletin and other supplemental worship materials are there to help you with the worship service and coming early to the service will enable you to be prepared and ready to worship with the community of saints.

GENERAL NEWS

April Birthdays

1	Pat Searing	Jeff Cox
3	Mary Boyd	
4	Stephanie Cunefare	
5	Chip Combee	
10	Stanley Gere	
16	Clyde Carlson	
19	Lin Parker	
23	Ruth Cressman	
24	Marlene Hardy	
27	Jason Axel	
28	Patti Axel	
29	Jo Ann Durrence	Sarah Lyons

Births

Twin boys were born to Matthew Parker and his wife in March. *Owen Maddox and Henry Hayden Parker*, are the grandsons of David and Lin Parker.

Baptism

Jacob Mason Bierlein, son of Matthew and Jennifer Bierlein was baptized on Sunday, 12 March, at Living Grace.

Change of Address

2Lt. Matthew D. Hardy, 10612 Arborcorn Street, Apt. H16, Savannah, GA 31419.

Aaron and Kim Whitmoyer, 4335 Tucker North Court, Tucker, GA 30084.

Elizabeth Laughlin, mail should now be going to Elizabeth Laughlin, C/O 3221 Embury Hills Drive, Chamblee, GA 30341.

Facilities Calendar

As many activities are being planned using Living Grace's facilities, please make sure you check the Facilities Calendar on the wall by the office before scheduling an event. If you have any questions, please call the church office. Thank you!

April 2006

Announcements for Bulletins

If you have an announcement to be placed in the Sunday bulletins, please let Leanne Beutler know no later than 12 noon Thursday before the Sunday it is to be printed. You may send the announcement via email to the following address: Lbeutler@aol.com.

Newsletter Articles

To submit a newsletter article, you can either have a hard copy into the church office by the deadline date listed or send an electronic format to Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com.

Treasurer's Report

The total offering received through 28 February 2006, was \$39,779.19. For the same period in 2005 we had received \$42,713.77. The not so good news is that we are trailing 2005 by 7.4%. Our 2006 budgeted income should be \$57,876.50.

A complete outline of income and expenses for January and February 2006 is on the bulletin board for your review.

Thank You!

To Our Living Grace Family:

Many thanks for your prayers and your many expressions of love and concern during my father's illness and at his death. Your sympathy has been a great comfort to my mother as well. My family relied heavily on your kindness since my parents were away from their lifelong home during this most difficult time. We are grateful for all of you, and are blessed that God has provided such good friends to comfort and sustain us. Thank you all.

Shirley Arroyo

Thanks to everyone that helped make the General Meeting last month such a success. I really did appreciate every ones help and especially a big thanks to the people that

cleaned up after. It was the first time in a long time that it was done for me.

I would also like to take this time to "THANK" everyone that contributed to my Hunger Walk Fund. I was able to raise \$290.00. all together our church raised almost \$900.00.

Phyllis Prunty

Coffee Hosts/Hostesses

Please sign up to help with the Sunday Coffees. Remember to keep it simple and just serve a couple of items like cheese and crackers and a sweet or maybe fruit. That is all that we really need and there are plenty of cookies for the children's table.

Bread for the World

Along with congregations throughout the U.S., the Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Bread for the World "Offering of Letters" on Sunday 7 May. Between services and after the 10:30 service, you will receive assistance in sending letters to your congressional representatives in both the House and the Senate. In 2000, the United States and 188 other countries adopted the U.N. Millenium Development Goal to cut hunger and extreme poverty in half by 2015. President Bush took a positive step this July, when he made a commitment to double U.S. assistance to Africa by 2010. Next, Congress must allocate this funding. The purpose of the "Offering of Letters" is to encourage them to do so. You will be receiving additional information during the month of April in preparation for this event.

Guidelines for Prayer Requests

The April Newsletter marks the first of the three newsletters' cycle. Those names that have appeared in the past three newsletters have been taken off unless you notified Leanne Beutler, Newsletter Editor via email at Lbeutler@aol.com or written note by the April Newsletter deadline that was **Sunday, 26 March**.

Praying for Members, Family, and Friends

Members

Charlie Althafer; Walter "Wally" Bartling; Bill Crawford; Tom Droege; Stan Gere; Martin Gruber; Verna Jensen; Hilton Johnson; Julien Lange; Elizabeth Laughlin; Cynthia Outman; Joan "Jo" Richards; Evelyn Woosley

Family and Friends

Carol Balshan

Jane Simmons's sister

Marian Seckinger

JoAnn Durrence's sister

Hulda Stock

Grandmother of Allison Bordnick-Stock

Lorraine Dorough

Friend of Living Grace

Brent Anderson

Friend of Connie Holley

The Reverend Harold Reitz

Father of John and Diane Reitz

Marilyn Voorhees

Sister of Jerry Prunty

Lee Voorhees

Brother-in-law of Jerry Prunty

Jim Axel

Father of Jeff Axel

Barbara Tate

Sister of Norma Mackenzie

Cindy Hill and her sister Denise Bond

Friends of Philip Newton

Helen Cunningham

Mother of Margery Kellar

Joy Balsler

Sister of Margery Kellar

Elda Patrick

Godmother of Margery Kellar

Anna Newman and Sherry Buchanan

Friends of Margery Kellar

Dave Cunefare

Brother of Ken and Uncle of Taylor and Erin

Decatur Williams

Friend of Connie Holley

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

PARISH NURSE

Each Tuesday and Friday, 10-2

CARE AND PRAYER GROUP

will not meet this month

S.M.I.L.E. GROUP

Saturday, 1 April, at 12 noon

SEW 'N SEWS

Monday, 10 April, at 10:00 a.m., at the church

QUILTING GROUP

Second Saturdays and Fourth Thursdays, at 9:00 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church

BARNABAS BREAKFAST

Wednesdays, 7 a.m.

THE LUTHERAN HANDBOOK STUDY

Wednesdays, 12 noon

WELCA

Dorcas Circle

Tuesday, 4 April, at 10:00 a.m.

Miriam Circle

Saturday, 22 April, at 10:00 a.m.

Anna Circle

Monday, 18 April, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Shirley Arroyo to work on health kits

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every Wednesday, at 7-8:30 p.m

No choir rehearsal on Wednesday, 19 April

JUNIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every Sunday, at 12 noon – 12:30 p.m.

No choir rehearsal on 2 and 16 April

**DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER,
23 APRIL 2006**

Health Ministry of Living Grace

April is recognized as National Sexually Transmitted Disease Education and Awareness month. I would like to take this opportunity to explore Sexuality from the Perspective of our Faith.

Sexuality and our Faith

God, the creator and sustainer of all that is good, created man and woman and the gift of sexuality (Gen. 1:27-28). He instituted marriage for the good of man, woman and the human culture (Gen. 2:24). Before sin entered the world, man and woman enjoyed relationships which were intimate and supportive with one another and with God. After the fall, relationships became self-serving, destructive and riddled with pain and separation (Gen. 3:14-24). The many difficulties we experience in the use of ourselves and in our relationships can be traced back to Genesis, and indeed the problems we face are very similar: separation from God, relationship conflict and broken hearts, minds, and bodies. We are thankful to God that in our

relationship with Christ, we can control the impact of sexual and other sins (1 Thes. 4:1-8).

The State of the Problem

Much has been written about teen pregnancy and the sexually transmitted disease epidemic. There are over 3 million unintended pregnancies each year and 1.1 million to teen mothers. More than 40% of these babies are conceived even though some form of birth control is used! Condoms have been supported as a form of protection, but there is a 20-25% pregnancy rate when they are used. In addition, their failure rate with HIV infections would be much higher, since the HIV virus is 400 times smaller than a sperm! Currently there are over 30 identified sexually transmitted diseases, many with serious and/or deadly consequences. All of these discouraging statistics support the claim that the only form of safe sex is abstinence and living a lifestyle consistent with Biblical standards.

Sexuality and the Church

The church needs to take an active role in reclaiming our young people and providing them with values and tools for living as God's redeemed children. Sexuality is a gift from God that He provides with directions! If we want our children to live with faith inspired values, then we need to embrace them and this difficult topic with all our energy and love.

We can teach and live these values at home, form partnerships with teens, parents and the community of faith, and you can visit with your Parish Nurse if you have any questions or concerns. May our words, lives and families reflect faith inspired values, . . . "you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (1 Cor. 6:20).

Yours in Christ

Jan Levensgood
Parish Nurse/Health Minister

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) News

Piece Maker's The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Saturday April 8th - 9:00 AM to 12:00 N and Thursday April 27th - 9:00 AM to 12:00 N. You may call Agnes Nelson if you would like to participate.

The quilts are made and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need.

Sew-N-Sews This group that sews layettes for indigent families at DeKalb Medical Center will meet at the church on Monday April 10th - 10:00 AM to 12:00 N.

If you would like to help you may call Joann Durrence.

Coming Events

Heifer Sunday Heifer International Sunday is Easter Sunday April 16th. We hope to be able to increase our offerings for this program that sustains and develops food resources to the people of developing countries. Please give generously!

Coffee Host/Hostess Coffee Hosts and Hostesses are always needed to prepare for the Coffee Hour after the 10:30 Service. You may sign up on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall. Your help is needed. If you are not sure of how to prepare, get in touch with either Phyllis Prunty @770.237.9807 or Sue Benner @770.493.4044 to get the details!

Circles and Meeting Times

Anna Circle

The next meeting will be Tuesday April 18th, sixish at the home of Shirley Arroyo. Please remember to bring items for health kits.

Dorcas Circle

The next meeting will be Tuesday April 4th, 10:00 AM at the church.

Miriam Circle

The next meeting will be Saturday April 22nd, 10:00 AM at the church

Spring Cluster Meeting

Spring Cluster Meeting was held on Saturday, March 25th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lilburn. Meeting was conducted by cluster co-coordinators Sharan Kilpatrick (Redeemer) and Sue Benner (Living Grace). The Reverend Mary Peters one of the pastors of Redeemer Church gave the Bible study, "Angels Among Us" and celebrated the communion service.

Board member Patty Austin (All Saints) conducted the installation service for Patrice Snow and Kathy Martin (Rock of Ages) who were elected cluster co-recorders for a three-year term. The program was presented by Eileen Smith (Messiah) and Tom Cioffi Board President of Family Promise of Gwinnett County.

43 persons attended and donated a generous number of towels and washcloths for the Katrina Relief effort.

Future Cluster Meetings

Fall Meeting: Will be at Messiah Church on Saturday October 14th, 2006. Refreshments provided by Rock of Ages, decorations and favors by Living Grace.

Spring Meeting: Will be at Living Grace Church on Saturday March 24th, 2007. Refreshments provided by Redeemer Church, decorations and favors by Trinity.

WELCA Convention

The WELCA Convention for 2006 will be held at the Baptist Retreat Center at Norman Park near Tifton Georgia on September 22nd-24th. Details and registration information will soon be available.

Living Grace WELCA General Meeting

The Living Grace General Meeting will be held at the church on Saturday, May 6th at 12:00 N, Dorcas Circle Serving as hostess.

Outreach Committee

Toco Hill Community Alliance

The Alliance continues to be in need of food for their food pantry. Please remember those in need and bring your donations and put them in the box in the Narthex. Items needed are: tuna, pasta, sauce, any canned foods and fruits, peanut butter, dry milk and other non-perishable foods.

Your help is always greatly appreciated!

Hunger Walk

The Hunger Walk took place on Sunday March 12th. 6 members of Living Grace participated in the walk and donations from the congregation exceeded \$700. Lutheran Services of Georgia realized a total of \$50,000 from the event!

A big THANK YOU to our dedicated walkers and all who donated funds to this very worthy cause!!

MedShare Program

THANK YOU also to the 11 members of Living Grace who participated in the program on Saturday, March 4th!

Special thanks go out to Dennis Ford for again coordinating this effort and to Matthew Shull for driving the church bus on this occasion!!

Tucker Celebration Day

We are preparing to participate in the annual Tucker Day Celebration for 2006. Our

registration has been submitted, Jim Brinkley has provided a tent for our display booth.

Volunteers will be needed to help out. More details on our plans and sign-up sheets will be available in the near future. The date is Saturday, May 13th 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Annual Flea Market and Blood Drive

The date for this year's festival is Saturday, May 20th 2006 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Sign up early for the blood drive to be sure that you get a time that is most convenient for you!

Please remember to save ALL the “stuff” from your spring cleaning and donate it to the church for the Flea Market. All proceeds are used to help fund our Outreach programs.

Call Jan Levensgood if you have questions about the Blood Drive. Call Sue Benner or any member of the Outreach Committee for further details on the Flea Market.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC AT LIVING GRACE

Living Out Our Baptism

The Great Vigil of Easter

This liturgy's Easter proclamation announces, “This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.” It is the very foundation of our Christian faith, and it is what makes this the crowning moment of the church's year. This night the church celebrates the presence of the risen Lord as he brings us to new life in baptism, gives us his body and blood, speaks his word of promise, and comes to us in the Christian community.

This year Living Grace will be offering the Easter Vigil at the new site. We will be joined for the fifth year by our sister congregation in the Called to Common Mission, St. Bede's Episcopal Church. We also will be joined by St. James Lutheran Church in Norcross. This worship service is very meaningful as we go from creation all the way through to the Resurrection of Our Lord. We encourage everyone to come to this worship service.

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir invites anyone who wishes to sing for worship services to come to

rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, you may contact any choir member or Dr. Sass, Director of Music/Organist.

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir rehearses every Sunday from 12 noon-12:30 p.m. Last newsletter we explained that we would be honoring a choir member who's earned extra points and has good attendance. In order to earn extra points, the choir member must sit in the correct position to sing, answer musical questions, and be on time for rehearsals and warm-ups. The choir member who earned this honorable mention for this month is *Abby Campbell*.

God's Children Sing

This music program has been put on hold until we move into our new church site. After we move and get settled into our building, a schedule will be published when this program will be started again.

A New Musical Ensemble

We are in the planning stages of developing a new musical ensemble. This ensemble would play in the worship services and possibly help

create and lead an alternative worship service. We are looking for anyone who plays an instrument and would like to be a part of this new ensemble. If you would like more information and interested in joining, please see Leanne Beutler, Chair of Worship and Music.

Concert Opportunity

The Atlanta Sacred Chorale will be performing the Duruflé Requiem with Chamber Orchestra and Bruce Neswick, Organ, at Spivey Hall, Sunday, 30 April, at 4:00 p.m. All tickets are \$15.00. Call 770/399-7678 or 770/960-4200.

Special Days in April

9 April

Passion/Palm Sunday

13 April

Maundy Thursday

14 April

Good Friday

15 April

The Great Vigil of Easter

16 April

The Resurrection of Our Lord

25 April

St. Mark, Evangelist

LIVING GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2566 Briarcliff Road, NE

Atlanta, GA 30329-3111

Phone: 404/634-7505; Fax: 404/633-4339

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April 2006