

Living Grace *Notes*

December 2010 Newsletter

The Reverend David E. Hardy, D. D., Pastor
Web Page: www.livinggracelutheran.org

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

Advent/Christmas

The Advent Wreath

One of the best known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The four candles of the wreath are known as:

- Candle of ***Hope***
- Candle of ***Faith***
- Candle of ***Joy***
- Candle of ***Love***

These candles will mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent as we journey through the darkness into light.

Christmas Eve Services ***24 December 2010***

7:30 p.m., Lessons and Carols Service with Holy Communion
11:00 p.m., Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Lay Assistants

Sunday, 5 December

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Chip Combee/Jason Dick
Lectors	8:30 – Merritt Shealy 10:30 – Jan Levensgood
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 4
Acolyte	10:30 – Melody Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – TBD
Counters	John and Margaret Holden

Sunday, 12 December

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – James Reynolds
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Team 1
Acolyte	10:30 – Samantha Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – TBD
Counters	Steve and Cindy Nelson

Sunday, 19 December

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – David and Lin Parker
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Marlene Hardy
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – James Cressman
Greeters	10:30 – TBD
Counters	Pat Stowers/Dot Beaver

Christmas Eve Services, Thursday, 24 December

7:30 p.m.

Ushers	Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Lectors	TBD
Communion Assistants	Team 5

11:00 p.m.

Ushers	Michael Hardy/David Benner
Lector	TBD
Communion Assistants	Team 2
Counter	Leanne Beutler

Sunday, 26 December

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – Will Arroyo/Terry Blanton
Lectors	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Mary Ann Blessing
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jane Levensgood 10:30 – Team 6
Acolyte	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Greeters	10:30 – TBD
Counters	Chip and Allison Combee

- Team 1 = Will Arroyo – Captain
Jan Levensgood
Stephanie Cunefare
- Team 2 = Margery Kellar
Lesley Campbell
Carol Ireton
- Team 3 = Jim Outman – Captain
Mary Jane Outman
Cynthia Outman
- Team 4 = Marlene Hardy – Captain
Jo Kroger
Paul Lefebvre
- Team 5 = Lynn Lefebvre – Captain
Stephanie Rhodes
Carolyn Davis
- Team 6 = Jason Eklund – Captain
David Guptill
Leanne Beutler

Floaters/Substitutes –Taylor Cunefare; Leanne Beutler

If you wish to serve as a Lector or Communion Assistant, please contact Margery Kellar at margerykellar@comcast.net and she will be happy to place you on the rotation and prior to your first reading or assisting, you will be trained.

If you wish to be an usher and or counter, please contact Leanne Beutler at LBeutler@aol.com and she will be happy to put you on the schedule.

Have you ever wondered what the members of the Altar Guild do for the church? They are a very important part of the worship service. They prepare the elements for Holy Communion and do the proper clean-up of the elements after the services. They also prepare the altar with the proper liturgical paraments and make sure the candles are ready with oil and the eternal light never dies. This is a special service for the church. For those who want to serve the Lord in a very special way, please consider the Altar Guild. You will be trained! Please contact Missy Streubel at her email address streub@bellsouth.net.

General News and Notes

December Birthdays

1	Stephen Arroyo	
6	Jason Dick	
8	Margaret Holden	
9	Katie Lyons	
13	Nicole Hoppen	
15	Michael Ely	Hui Zhang
18	Connie Holley	
19	Robert Solheim	Kathie Kennedy
20	John Nelson	
24	Sheree Benner	Marian McCollum
27	Louise Iconis	
29	Gene Durrence, Jr.	

Baptism

Samuella Deborah Djondo, infant daughter of *Jacob and Ayi Djondo*, was baptized on Sunday, 21 November, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

New Address

Nevada Seawell has moved. Her new address is:
Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks
820 Klumac Rd.
Salisbury, N.C. 28144

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.

Newsletter Distribution

The newsletter is being received electronically via email to members of those who requested it. At any time, if you wish to receive this newsletter via electronically please inform Stephanie Cunefare, sacunefare@hotmail.com or Leanne Beutler, Lbeutler@aol.com. Receiving the newsletter electronically reduces the cost of paper and printing.

Announcements for Bulletins

Reminder to all that announcements for weekly Sunday bulletins need to be electronically sent to Leanne Beutler no later than Thursday evening prior to the Sunday insertion. The email address is Lbeutler@aol.com.

Church Calendar

There is a wall calendar near the church offices in which you can check to see what is happening at the church not only for the month, but several months ahead. Please inform the church office if you wish to use the church facilities and we will check the calendar and place your event on the calendar. We hope this will eliminate “double-bookings” of the facilities.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will go on sale starting Sunday, 5 December through Sunday, 19 December, to beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas. The cost will be \$10. per plant. You can purchase them in the honor or in memory of loved ones.

Altar Flower Calendar 2011

The 2011 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the reception area by the church office. The cost of the altar flowers is \$50. You can purchase flowers for a Sunday in honor or in memory of loved ones or a special event. You can also split the cost of the flowers with others if you wish.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and concern that I received upon the death of my son. Your prayers and kindness is very much appreciated and a great comfort to my family and me.

With Love,
Ruth Scott

Graceful Group

The Graceful Group will hold it's next meeting on Thursday, December 9. Come join us for a potluck lunch (main dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert) at 11:30 a.m. Invite your friends to join our group.

Three members of the DeKalb Civic Chorus will present a program of Christmas music. So, bring your memories of snow, the fireplace, hot cider and good friends. We will start the Christmas Season together and you do not need to dress warm, because there will be no outside caroling.

No reservation required. For information call or email JoAnne Durrence (404-633-1833 or email gmdurrence@bellsouth.net).

We will again have a table for books and magazines that you are willing to donate for someone else's enjoyment. You may read a book or magazine and bring it back for someone else to enjoy next month. Unclaimed magazines will always be given to the DeKalb recycling program.

Mark December 9 on your calendar and join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

SIGN-UP NOW

MISSION TRIP 2011(MT11)

It feels like we just finished our Mission Trip to Franklin, West Virginia a few weeks ago. Now it is time to sign up for the 2011 trip on 5 June-11 June. We will again be partnering with Amazing Grace, Martin Luther, St James, St John's, and Nativity.

This is typically a youth trip, but it is open and encouraged to have adults attend as well. Youth, don't forget to ask a friend if they want to come along too! Do you need Community Service hours for school?? We have had participants from ages 11-71. There is a job for everyone to help the people in Franklin and the outlying areas. Habitat for Humanity has been doing work in this area for sometime now and we have been a part of it for many years. We have done the smallest of tasks from picking up nails at worksites, to finishing a whole house. No task is unimportant. We are there to better the lives of the people of Franklin.

MT11 will be a task assigned work camp this year, as it was in 2010. Again, due to the cost of a whole house build we have found it impossible to apply for this type of work. If you would like to attend, please pick up an INTENT TO GO form from the Narthex.

Important Facts:

- Only 60 spaces are available between all the churches.
- Cost is only \$150.00 (yes...something has actually gone down in price)
- A deposit of \$50.00 will hold a space for you (non-refundable).
- Trip Dates: Sunday 5 June-Saturday 11 June

If you have questions, please see Steph C or Pastor. Do you have questions about the trip itself?? Ask any of the youth or adults that have attended. They will tell you about friendship, service to others, their own blood, sweat and tears that have been shed for others. Ask about Ultimate Frisbee, campfires, swimming holes and hiking, Pastor Hardy playing football! MT11 needs YOU! Please sign up today.

In friendship,
Steph C

Electronic Prayer Requests

If you would like to receive Living Grace's electronic prayer list, please send your email address to: livinggraceprayers@gmail.com.

Guidelines for Prayer Requests

Please notify Leanne Beutler, Newsletter Editor via email at Lbeutler@aol.com or written note to add or remove a name from the prayer list. If the name has appeared in three consecutive newsletters, it will be removed in the fourth newsletter unless you notify Leanne by the newsletter deadline.

**Praying for Members,
Family, and Friends**

Members

Vern Arneson; Mary Boyd; Bill Conley; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Debra Melchionda; and Nevada Seawell.

Helen Cunningham

Mother of Margery Kellar

Alex Markert

Nephew of Jim Tuminella

Marietta Sandidge

Mother of Jo Kroger

Lib and Joe Hale

Friends of Connie Holley

Mary Mildred McArthur

Mother of Mary Jane Outman

Wynne Franke

Cousin of Margery Kellar

Arlene Lacy

Friend of Don Larson

Linda Linke

Friend of Living Grace

Rosemary Stewart

Friend of Tom Bellamy

Dale Garner

Friend of David and Sue

Benner

Jimmy and Caroline

Gammell

Parents of Louise Iconis

Joyce Briggs

Friend of Connie Holley

Allison Chapman

Friend of Leyla Kellar

Tom Grissmon

Friend of Don Larson

Members in Armed Forces

Capt. Matthew Hardy, SC 1-41FA, 3ID - Iraq

Son of Pastor and Marlene Hardy

Capt. Curtis Nelson, ACO2-3-AVN

has come home from Afghanistan

Son of Steve and Cindy Nelson

Health Ministry

I pray that you and your loved ones enjoy all the peace, joy and wholeness that is Christmas! As we reflect on God's great gift to us, I am aware of many gifts we can give ourselves. We can give ourselves the gift of time to worship and meditate on the Incarnation, forgiveness, and healthy lifestyles. This month I would like to share some thoughts on another gift; giving ourselves the Gift of Humor.

"A Cheerful Heart is Good Medicine..." (Prov. 17:22)

Since the beginning of time, man has enjoyed God's gift of humor, but it is only recently that much has been written on the healing effects of laughter. It seems we have enjoyed laughing much longer than we have understood its value!

What is the relationship between humor and healing?

Humor is indeed a very powerful medicine for all from which we suffer! Norman Cousins in his book, *Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient* described how his recovery from a serious degenerative disease was made possible by self-prescribed laughter. Among the positive, healing effects of laughter are:

- * It activates healing chemicals (endorphins) within the body.
- * It has an anesthetic effect.
- * It is a stress reducer.
- * It serves as a release of built up tension.
- * It enhances our will to live and fight (we are not victimized by situations at which we can laugh)
- * It is an internal aerobic workout.

What can we do to enjoy more humor in our life?

First, we can thank God for the gift of humor. All good things (including a hearty laugh) come from Him.

Second, we cannot take ourselves or others too seriously.

Sometimes our lack of "good humor" is based on not being able to relax and appreciate our own gifts as well as our limitations. In reality, everything is not balanced on our backs, even though that is how we often feel.

Third, we can take time every day to enjoy humor and laughter

Once we begin to look for situations in life that are humorous, we can suddenly acquire a new more balanced perspective. We may need to practice thinking about funny thoughts (others of us need no such experience).

May the Lord bless all of us with a glad heart!

Yours in Christ,

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Jan Levenson
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Jan Levenson, Parish Nurse/Health Minister

Don't forget, the first Sunday we have anointing and blessing during Communion.

If we have enough people to go to Callaway on the bus on Dec. 5th we will go see the lights. We will leave here at 3PM.

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

**Living Grace Women of the ELCA
General Meeting**

All women are invited to attend the Women of the Church General Meeting on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 12:00 Noon at the church. The Executive Board will be our hostesses providing drinks, desserts and the program. Please bring the covered dish of your choice and join us!

Sew-N-Sews-Book Bag Ladies

The Sew-N-Sews and the Book Bag Ladies will meet on Monday, December 13th 9:30 – 12:00 Noon. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, January 10, 2010 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the church.

The layettes made are not only used for indigent families, but are also used for children going into the Foster Care Program. Book bags are sewn, filled with supplies and donated to Lutheran World Relief.

You may call Jo Ann Durrence @404.633.1833 or Sue Benner @ 770.493.4044 to find out additional information on how you can help.

Piece Maker's

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday December 2nd and on Saturday December 11th - 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon. The first meeting for the New Year will be on Thursday, January 6, 2011 – 9:00 AM followed by a luncheon at a local restaurant. Spouses are invited to join the group for lunch.

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

You may call Agnes Nelson @770.458.3473 if you would like to participate.

**Prison Ministries
Books ...Greeting Cards!**

We continue to collect both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries. We are also collecting Birthday Cards, Valentine Cards, Easter Cards, note cards and greeting cards for all occasions so that the women can send their personal greetings to family members and friends.

We also have needs for reading (not prescription) glasses.

Your donations for all programs can be placed in the designated box in the Narthex.

Judy Knapp of Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Stone Mountain, is the Clinical Chaplain at Pulaski State Women's Prison in Hawkinsville, GA

**Samaritan's Purse
Operation
Christmas Child**



Once again this year, Miriam Circle Members prepared shoe boxes for this international outreach program which provides Christmas presents to children around the world, many of whom have never received a gift of any kind.

Thanks to the Children and Youth Sunday School Classes and their Teachers for their help in assembling boxes.

We are asking for donations, in the amount of \$7.50 or more to provide for the shipping costs of the boxes. You may make your check out to Living Grace Lutheran Church with a notation for Samaritan's Purse Project.

Fifty one completed shoe boxes will be delivered to the warehouse on Saturday December 4th.

Outreach Committee

Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women



Thanks to all who volunteered and served at the shelter during its opening week of November 15th through November 21st:

Jo Ann Durrence - Kellar Ladies - Cunefare Ladies - Jan Levensgood

Lin and David Parker - Sue and David Benner

Living Grace has also committed to staff the shelter the week of March 11th through March 17th. However if those nights are not convenient for you, David or Sue Benner will be happy to find a night that would fit your schedule!

Consider giving one night of your time as a gift to those who need our help to be able to spend a night in a safe and secure environment. Without willing volunteers, these women would have to spend the night on the streets, never peacefully sleeping and constantly on their alert for danger.

Questions? Call Sue or David Benner@ 770.493.4044 or @dobenner@yahoo.com.

NETWorks

Thanks to all who have so generously donated food items to the food pantry. The need continues for donations. You may place your nonperishable food items in the designated box in the Narthex.

As our economy continues to struggle, more and more families are in need of food. Our donations are critically needed.

Heifer Sunday

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. December 19th and Sunday January 16th will be the next designated dates for donations.

Heifer International is an organization that provides farm animals for families in developing countries. Heifer International puts faith into action with its time proven principal of "passing on the gift". Every family who receives livestock agrees to pass on one or more of its animal's offspring to another neighbor in need.

Special envelopes are provided on these designated Sundays for contribution to this cause.



Angel Tree for Foster Parents

Again this year we will participate with other Lutheran churches to provide gas cards to help defray the travel expenses of foster parents, who are the backbone of the success of the Lutheran Services of Georgia Foster Care Program.

Please take one of the "Angel" envelopes from the tree in the Narthex; buy a \$10 gasoline credit card, make a cash donation or make out your check to Living Grace Lutheran Church and place the envelope in the offering plate. This year there are 100 foster parents in the program that need your help.

God's Justice Everywhere

The Southeastern Synod's commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. will take place on **Sunday**, January 16, 2011, at **3:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**, 731 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA, 30308. There are two parts to this year's event. At 3:30 p.m., we will gather for a service of Word and Song, "God's Justice Everywhere," with keynote speaker Dr. Earl Lewis, Provost at Emory University. Following the service, we will be blessed by the presence of Representative John Lewis, Georgia 5th District to the United States Congress, who will address the gathering and welcome ELCA mission directors from around the country. For more information, please contact Beverly Shaw, bbshaw1@comcast.net, or Bradley Schmeling, pastorbrad@stjohnsatlanta.org.

Parish Education/Youth

Prepare Ye the Way of The Lord!

All children and youth are invited to a birthday party for Jesus during the Sunday School hour on December 19th. Join us at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall for a *royal* celebration with activities and refreshments for Living Grace Kids of all ages.

Also on December 19th, the children and youth of Living Grace will present a special Christmas program, directed by Carol Ireton. The time is yet to be determined, so please be looking out for a future announcement so you can make plans to attend! Practices are underway on Sundays from 1:00-3:00pm. Please see Carol if you have any questions about this program.

We are pleased that the late service Little Ones class has resumed! We hope that this new time for instruction and worship for potty-trained toddlers through Kindergarteners will enjoy continued success. Please see Stephanie Rhodes if you have any questions or comments about this program.

Living Grace kids got into the Christmas spirit early this year when, on Oct. 31st, they wrapped and filled 15 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Somewhere else in the world, 15 children will soon feel God's abundant love through these simple gifts prepared joyfully and then prayed over by our children and youth. Many thanks to the kids who participated and to Sue Benner for overseeing the parish-wide project.



There's no substitute for Sunday School subs. Thanks & blessings to Scott Hilley for giving his time and talents in teaching the youth class on 10/24.

And a big thanks to Lisa Guptill for accepting the challenge of planning and carrying out an event with our youth! She tested the water with a pizza dinner and corn maze trip on the night of November 6th. Everyone was well-fed and made it safely out of the maze, praise God!

Keeping the faith,
Cathy Shirah and Stephanie Rhodes
Co-Directors, Parish Education

Images of the Season

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Worship Services in Advent

You will see some changes in the service liturgy as we set apart the Advent season. We will be changing to Setting Five for the liturgy. The psalm will be replaced by the lighting of the Advent Wreath and we will be using alternate prayers in the Holy Communion liturgy for the season of Advent. Come, let us prepare the way for the Lord.

Christmas with Atlanta Sacred Chorale

Share the wonder, the joy, and the promise of Christmas in an evening of musical memory-making with Atlanta Sacred Chorale and guests, the Yuletide Brass Ensemble on Saturday, 11 December, at 7:00 p.m. Amid the classic beauty of the Second-Ponce Sanctuary, let the hustle and bustle of the season fall away as you bask in the glorious sounds of the season. Tickets are \$25. for adults, \$15. senior/student or \$65. family of four. You may purchase your tickets at the website, www.AtlantaSacredChorale.org.

Choir Program

The Senior Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. All adults and older teens are welcome to come and sing. The Senior Choir normally sings at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. For more information, please contact Ken Sass, Director of Music.

The Handbell Choir rehearses on Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. services. The December rehearsal date is Sunday the 5th, at 12 noon. We welcome anyone from 10 years old to 100 years old to come and ring. You don't have to read music, we will teach you. For more information, please contact Leanne Beutler, Handbell Director.

Worship and Music Committee

We will have a Worship and Music Committee meeting after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, 12 December.

Special Days in December

24 December
Christmas Eve

25 December
Christmas Day

27 December
John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 December
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

29 December
Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

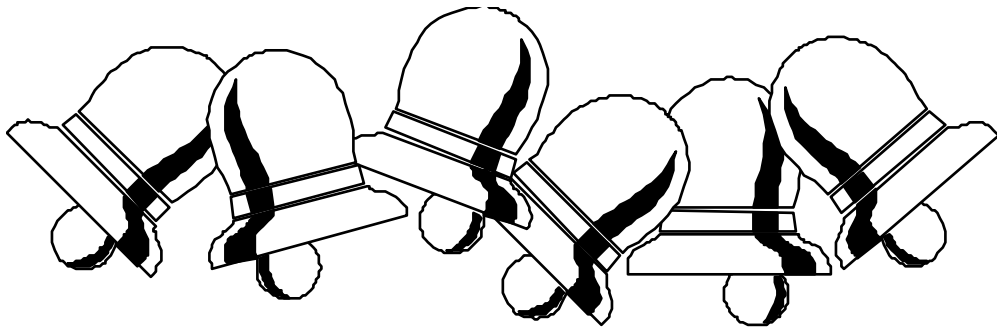
Did you ever wonder what “*Good Morning*” really means?

G-OD
O-ffers us His
O-utstanding
D-evotion to

M-ake us
O-bedient &
R-eady for a
N-ew day with Him.
I-nspire others please, and
N-ever forget
G-OD loves you!

DECEMBER CALENDAR WILL BE INSERTED ON THIS PAGE.

WILL BE SENT VIA SEPARATE EMAIL.



LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

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