

Living Grace

Notes

January 2011 Newsletter

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

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

Happy New Year

Sunday, 30 January 2011
ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 A.M.

We will have one service on Sunday, 30 January at 10:30 a.m., with lunch to follow the service. This service will be a Gospel Hymn Festival. Please come join us to worship and sing the old Gospel hymns and fellowship with your Living Grace family at lunch.

Lay Assistants

Sunday, 2 January

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Harold Bowers/Ed Kennedy
Lectors	8:30 – Merritt Shealy 10:30 – Will Arroyo
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 2
Acolyte	10:30 – Mackenzie Arroyo
Greeters	10:30 – Betty Hitz/Connie Holley
Counters	John and Margaret Holden

Sunday, 9 January

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Cate Sulek/Walter Sobers
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Carol Ireton
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 5
Acolyte	10:30 – Melody Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

Sunday, 16 January

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – Chip Combee/Jason Dick
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Jo Kroger
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Team 4
Acolyte	10:30 – Michael Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Counters	Steve and Cindy Nelson

Sunday, 23 January

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – TBD
Greeters	10:30 – Viola Main/Doris McGreevy
Counters	Pat Stowers/Dot Beaver

Sunday, 30 January, ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 A.M.

Ushers	David and Lin Parker
Lector	Missy Streubel
Communion Assistants	Team 1
Acolyte	TBD
Greeters	Pat Stowers/Phyllis Prunty
Counters	David and Lin Parker

- 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

January Birthdays

2	Peter Phan		
6	Nita Helmey		
7	Michael Hardy		
11	Jamie Combee		
12	Mackenzie Lionberger	Alice Adler	
13	Nikki Ireton		
14	David Parker	Emily Dick	
15	Margery Kellar		
17	Johnny Levengood		
19	Jean Lemonds	Karl Ireton	Ann-Margaret Holden
20	Duncan Shirah		
24	Becky Frye	Dot Beaver	
25	Alison Durrence		

Births

Campbell Conrad Keller, was born on Thursday, 23 December. His proud parents are *Chris and Claire Keller*.

Marriages

We congratulate *Don Edmond* and *Doris Muellner* on their marriage on 22 December at Living Grace.

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. As the printing costs increase, we strongly encourage you to receive the newsletter via electronically if you have an email address. Please inform Stephanie Cunefare, sacunefare@hotmail.com or Leanne Beutler, Lbeutler@aol.com to receive the newsletter electronically.

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. In the past months that we have been using this calendar it has eliminated the “double-bookings” of the facilities.

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. There are still many Sundays that are still blank.

Thank You's

I want to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, visits and calls for me during my recent accident. I can't express just how much all of this meant to me. Thank you so very much.

Mary Boyd

We thank all the members and friends of Living Grace who have so kindly remembered us at this time of year -- the greetings, cards, and special gift. We wish to all of you God's richest blessings for and of the New Year.

Pastor and Marlene

I would like to thank everyone for the special gift for Christmas.

Thank you,
Dot Beaver

I wish to thank the congregation of Living Grace for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciate it and look forward to serving you this next year.

Yours in Christ,
Leanne Beutler

Thank you so very much to the congregation of Living Grace for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciate it and look forward to helping you all in a joyous and Happy New Year.

In friendship,
Stephie Cunefare

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity with the check you gave me for Christmas! I am so thankful for all of you and the fact that I can minister to you. I hope we all have a healthy and happy New Year.

Much love,
Jan

Merrill and JoAnn Durrence have collected over 110 pounds of pill bottles and taken them to Medshare in 2010. Thank you everyone for your pill bottles and special thanks to the Durrences.

Karen Bramlet

Graceful Group

The Graceful Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 13. 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.

Dr. John Nelson, a retired music professor from Georgia State University and a long-time member of Living Grace, will give a talk about the history of music. The particular period of history to be discussed remains a surprise, but we have it on good authority that it will not include the current hip-hop phase. Music is such a generally enjoyed art form that Dr. Nelson's talk will be of interest to everyone.

We are planning to have a "WHITE ELEPHANT" gift exchange at the January meeting. Look around the house and find some precious thing that you want someone else to store...this is your opportunity! Maybe recycle a Christmas gift?

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 January 13 on your calendar and join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

Watch for the details of the special program, "A Theatrical Review of Some Early Comedians" by Scott Hilley at the February Graceful Group meeting.

An election of officers for the 2011-2012 year will be held at the February Graceful Group meeting.

SIGN UP FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP IS NOW! SECOND NOTICE!!

- When is the trip?: 5 June-11 June 2011
- How do I sign up?: Intent Forms are on a table in the Narthex.
- How much is the trip?: \$150.00 pp (cheaper than last year!)
- How much do I have to pay now?: \$50.00
- More Questions?? See Steph C. or Pastor Hardy for more answers!

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

Patrick Newton

Friend of Leanne Beutler

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
has come home from 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

January- Year of Health

"This is a permanent law for you, to purify the people of Israel from their sins, making them right with the Lord once each year." Leviticus 16:34 NLT

In the Chinese culture, the New Year is the time dedicated to finish with the old and to start with the new.

Their traditions include visiting friends and family to re-establish relationships, cleaning the house to prepare for the coming year, stocking cupboards with household provisions, settling all old debts, and putting forth their best behavior. All of these activities are to make the new year better and healthier.

What are you going to do for your health this year? Are you going to keep all of your old habits and ignore the healthier ones? For example, have you considered limiting your meals at fast food restaurants? Can you develop healthier choices at the grocery store? Will you improve your exercise habits by walking or joining a health club? Have you considered the health benefits of practicing self-care and a well-balanced lifestyle? Any and all of these will guide you to a healthier life.

Once you decide to make an improvement, you must first choose what area to change, then make the commitment to see that change occur. Many of us take the first step of making the promise to change our behavior or habit, but find it difficult to take the actual steps and then follow through on the lifestyle change. To be successful when making the commitment to alter behavior you need to have dedication, strategy, and action. Until you have a plan and begin to follow it, change is only a verbal statement.

The New Year is a good time to look at your life and determine what you need to change or improve. Start the year by considering your health. Follow the monthly tips from your parish nurse to see how you can become healthy, prevent disease, or minimize complications to your current health. Focusing on the future and a well-balanced life will help you participate more fully in the love and joy of your family.

Yours in Christ,

Jan Levengood, Parish Nurse/Health Minister

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

This month we will start planning to walk the Hunger Walk in March. Last year we had a good group from Living Grace walk, but I bet we can do better this year. Each of us needs to collect money for the food bank and see if we can do as well as some of our other Lutheran Churches!

More info will be coming and I'll get an envelope for each walker. Let me know if you are interested.

We will have a Health Ministry meeting on Sat. Jan. 8th at 10AM to plan the luncheon for the fifth Sunday in Jan. We will have soup, so lets plan some really good kinds to serve!

On Jan. 21st there will be an advocate training here at Living Grace at 6:30PM for the Dekalb Chapter of Thrivent.

Happy New Year!!!!

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

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

The Women of the Church General Meeting was held on Saturday, December 11th, 2010 at 12:00 Noon at the church, more than 20 ladies attended the meeting. The Executive Board hosted providing drinks, desserts and the program. Vice President Marlene Hardy conducted the meeting. The program was presented by Phyllis Prunty.

The Executive Board recommended and the assembly approved a recommendation to change the Constitution of the Women of the ELCA – Living Grace Unit. The change establishes a total of three General Meetings per year; one in the Spring, one in the Fall and a social event in December.

Louise Iconis has generously agreed to prepare our handbook for this year. Please let your Circle Leader know of any changes that need to be made, or you may contact Louise directly @ 770.934.5072 or louise@iconis.com.

January Circle Meeting

Miriam: Saturday, January 22nd @10:00 AM at the church

Sew-N-Sews-Book Bag Ladies

The Sew-N-Sews and the Book Bag Ladies next scheduled meeting is Monday January 10th, 2011 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 JoAnn 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 January 6th and Thursday January 27th and on Saturday January 8th - 9:00AM to 12:00N.

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!

Remember that we are now able to accept 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.

Your donations for both programs can be placed in the designated box in the Narthex. Judy Knapp of Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Stone Mountain, is the Clinical Chaplin at Pulaski State Women's Prison in Hawkinsville, GA.

Outreach Committee



Thanks to all who volunteered and served at the shelter already this year. As of this writing, there are several nights open during the week of March 11th through March 17th, the second week we will be staffing the shelter.

Remember, if that night is not convenient for you, and you would still like to volunteer, David or Sue Benner will be happy to find a night that would fit your schedule - there are several nights open in January and February, just waiting to have someone volunteer!

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

To all who attended contributed, planned or prayed for this year's Community Thanksgiving Service, NETWorks extends its sincerest thanks for your participation. The offering collected over \$2,300. Those proceeds go directly to NETWorks and back into our community.

Thanks also to all those 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.

Your donations are critically needed.

Heifer Sunday

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. Sunday January 16th will be the next designated date 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".**

Living Grace is working toward providing a fourth "Ark" this coming year.

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

Church Women United

On Friday, January 21st, Church Women United will hold their Annual Meeting at Messiah Lutheran Church, on Clairmont Road in Decatur. All women of the church are cordially invited to attend. You may contact Viola Main @ 770.938.0896 or Sue Benner, Keywoman @770.493.4044 or suembenner@yahoo.com for any additional information.



***Bringing Hope, Healing and
Strength to People in Need***

Foster Parent Gas Cards

Again this year we participated 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.

Our goal this year was to provide gas cards to 100 foster parents in the program. We are happy to report that we reached our goal and that we were able to provide \$20 in gas cards to each of the 100 foster parents!

Living Grace was pleased to serve as host for the annual Christmas party held on Saturday December 18th. The cards were presented to the foster parents as part of the celebration.

Sincere thanks to all of you who so generously participated in this annual Outreach program.

Coming Events

Lutheran Services of Georgia sponsors many events throughout the year to bring Lutherans together for fellowship, work projects throughout communities in Georgia and to raise funds to provide needed services for those in need. The following is a list of those events between now and March.

Martin Luther King Day of Service and Food Drive **January 17, 2011**

Refugee Services Trivia Night at Raging Burrito **January 31, 2011**

Lutheran Night at the Gwinnett Gladiators **February 5, 2011**

Catch the Spirit!!! "God's Work Our Hands" Turning Dreams into Action! **February 25-26, 2011**

Hunger Walk **March 13, 2011**

For more information on any of these events, please contact Bob Gibeling at Lutheran Services of Georgia: Telephone - 678.686.9626; email - bgibeling@lsga.org or visit the Lutheran Services of Georgia website @ www.lsga.org/newsandevents.html.

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

God's Justice Everywhere



The Southeastern Synod's commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. will take place on Sunday, January 16th, at 3:30 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 731 Peachtree Street.

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 Lutheran church, including ELCA mission directors from around the country.

For more information, please contact Beverly Shaw, bbshaw1@comcast.net, or Bradley Schmeling, pastorbrad@stjohnsatlanta.org.

Lutheran Day of Service to be held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 17, 2011

The Southeastern Synod is excited to announce a Lutheran Day of Service to be held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In partnership with Team Lutheran, Lutheran Services of Georgia, The Lutheran Theological Center-Atlanta and Thrivent-Metro Atlanta Chapter, the Southeastern Synod invites you to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by participating in this full day of events. Held at the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts Center in DeKalb County, projects include assembling 50 pound bags of rice to be used by refugee families, and outdoor projects at Wonderland Gardens & Lyons Farm.

Registration information:

Information about how to register and the specifics of the project will be available in early January. Until then, all questions about registration and details of the event can be directed to Kyle Cristofalo, Synod Coordinator of Programs for Hunger, Poverty and Justice Issues and Lutheran Volunteer Corps Staffer at kristofalo@elca-ses.org or 404-589-1977 ext 222. For more information, you may also contact: Gene Lewis - Team Lutheran - gene1950@gmail.com or 404-299-8880 Lorraine Dorough - Lutheran Services of Georgia - ldorough@lsga.org or 678-686-9613

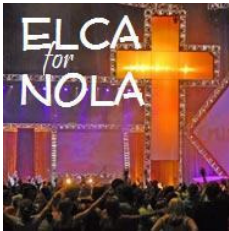




Southeastern Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
God's work. Our hands



...rton, assistant for federal chaplaincy ministries to the
...Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA),
...n at the 87th National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony,
...ashington.



ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 18-22, 2012

Gather again, in New Orleans, not to cheer on the Saints football team, but to stand with the saints of God in that place: the young and the old, the privileged and the uninvited, the lonely and the claimed, the powerful and the shamed, the weak and the strong, those who have built new homes and those still struggling to rebuild.

Please join us in the summer of 2012, and be a part of God bringing in God's New Creation through the church.

Go to [ELCA Youth Gathering](#) and become part of the movement, ELCA for NOLA!

Parish Education/Youth

December was an exciting month for the children and youth of Living Grace! Dec. 19th was an especially significant day! We celebrated Jesus' birthday by having a party in His honor. Edible "angels" were enjoyed. Carolyn Davis and Cathy Shirah gave a Power Point presentation to accompany a reading of "King Backwards," a story about Jesus. The scripture reading was from Isaiah. The children and youth also made decorative crowns. A fun Sunday School hour was had by all!

Later that day, the children and youth performed "Behind the Pageant." The children's program was directed by Carol Ireton with Leanne Beutler as the Music Director, Lisa Guptill accompanied on piano. A prelude to the children's program was sung by Tom Bellamy and accompanied by Jo Kroger. A reception followed the pageant. A BIG thank you to all of the participants, leaders and parents of the Christmas pageant. It could not have happened without you!

The parish education committee would like to wish everyone a happy 2011!

God's peace for the new year,
Cathy Shirañ and Stephanie Rhodes
Co-Directors, Parish Education

Images of the Season***Epiphany of Our Lord
6 January***

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

Worship Services in the Season of Epiphany

We will continue to use Setting Five for the liturgy. However, for the Season of Epiphany, we will add back to the service, the Canticle of Praise. The psalm will come back reading it in the 8:30 service and singing it in the 10:30 service.

Atlanta Sacred Chorale

In what promises to be one of the most thrilling performances in ASC history, experience the drama, the brilliance, and the power of Bach’s magnificent masterpiece, the *Mass in B Minor*, presented by ASC with professional soloists and orchestra. The performance will be at Emory University, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, 1700 North Decatur Road, Atlanta. Tickets are \$30. for adults, \$20. senior/student. You may purchase your tickets at the website, www.AtlantaSacredChorale.org. Bach’s *Mass in B Minor* is very rarely performed, so you don’t want to miss this performance.

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 January rehearsal dates are Sundays, 9th and 23rd, 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, 16 January.

Special Days in January

1 January
Name of Jesus

6 January
Epiphany of Our Lord

9 January
Baptism of Our Lord

18 January
Confession of Peter

25 January
Conversion of Paul

LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!