

Living Grace

Notes

August 2011 Newsletter

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

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

Funny, but Insightful

Thought for this month, the first page of the newsletter will start with funny, but insightful church signs that you might see driving around the city, state or country.

HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS, TEXT WHILE DRIVING IF YOU WANT TO MEET HIM.

WITH EVERY BEAT OF YOUR HEART YOU ARE CLOSER TO GOD.

WHAT IS MISSING FROM CH CH U R.

<i>Lay Assistants</i>

Sunday, 7 August

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Walter Sobers/Cate Sulek
Lectors	8:30 – Merritt Shealy 10:30 – Colin Cressman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – MacKenzie Arroyo
Greeter	10:30 – Connie Holley
Counters	Dot Beaver/Pat Stowers

Sunday, 14 August – (9:30 service lead by the Spirits out at the Pavilion)

Ushers	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – James Reynolds
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 6
Acolyte	10:30 – Alvin Jorkey
Greeters	10:30 – The Cressman Family
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

Sunday, 21 August

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Chip Combee/Jason Dick
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Mary Ann Blessing
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Team 5
Acolyte	10:30 – Michael Akamo
Greeter	10:30 – Phyllis Prunty
Counters	John and Margaret Holden

Sunday, 28 August

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – Harold Bowers/Ed Kennedy
Lectors	8:30 – TBD 10:30 – TBD
Communion Assistants	8:30 – TBD 10:30 – Team TBD
Acolyte	10:30 – TBD
Greeter	10:30 – Scott Hilley
Counters	Steve and Cindy Nelson

- 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
Nikki Ireton
- Team 5 = Lynn Lefebvre – Captain
Stephanie Rhodes
Carolyn Davis
- Team 6 = Jason Eklund – Captain
David Guptill
Mark Arneson

Floater/Substitute – 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. In order to be a communion assistant, you must be a confirmed member of the congregation. If you are interested in serving as a communion assistant, please inform Leanne Beutler and she will train you.

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

August Birthdays

1	Laurel Jackson	Ashley Chandler
2	Kathryn Castro	
3	Jane Vreeland	
5	David M. Parker	
6	Merrill Durrence	Matt Parker
	Scott Melchionda	Debra Melchionda
8	Stephanie Osada	
11	Will Arroyo	Julien Lange
13	Olivia Kellar	
15	The Rev. Dirk Lange	
16	Kevin Iconis	
18	Ilona Lange	
21	Gaelon Ratel	
26	Kelly Lyons	
29	Lisa Guptill	

Deaths

Nevada Seawell was called to her eternal home on Tuesday, 12 July 2011. She was laid to rest in Salisbury, NC. We pray for comfort and peace for her family.

New Members

We received into our Living Grace family in the month of June 2011 the following families:

Dr. Gary and Lisa Levengood, with children, John, Eric, Mark and Bryn
2300 Wilshire Drive
Grayson, GA 30017 Telephone: 770/985-6837

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher (Jill) Holte, with children Jaidyn and Keira
3213 Trace Views Court
Norcross, GA 30071 Telephone: 770/330-5050 (Chris's cell)
404/234-9139 (Jill's cell)

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.

Announcements for Bulletins

Reminder that announcements for weekly Sunday bulletins need to be electronically sent to Leanne Beutler no later than Thursday evening prior to the Sunday insertion normally. 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.

Graceful Group

The Graceful Group will not meet again until September 2011.

Knitting and Crochet Group

We hope you had a summer of fun and happy crocheting or knitting. It is August and we are ready to get going on those Christmas gifts. A shrug is an easy thing to make it is just a giant dish cloth. Or maybe if you were crocheting you now want to learn to knit. Maybe you are a newbie come join us. K & C is not only a learning experience but a fellowship of women. If you like making dish cloths Hobby Lobby has a new cotton yarn that is softer and more absorbent. This would make great spa cloth and back scrubber as a gift.

Knitting and crocheting has become a popular craft again. So dust off your needles and hooks. There are many new yarns to explore. If you don't know what to made Sew'n Sews would be pleased if you made a baby afghans/blanket to add to the gift bag that goes to DEFC's. Sew'n Sews even has some yarn that you can get to start with so get your creative spirit on.

Come to the first fall class August 23, Tuesday, at 7 P.M. If you have made anything over the summer please bring to show and tell. If this is the first class we will have some yarn and needles for you to use and get you started on your first project. Judy and I will be looking forward to seeing you.

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 Newsletter 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

Nancy Althafer; Sue Benner; Ruthie Cressman; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Paul Lefebvre; Debra Melchionda; Agnes Nelson; Lin Parker; John, Diane and Lisa Reitz and Connie Rivers-Ivy.

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
Pat LaFleur
Cousin of Don & Jac Larson
Diana Williams Martin
Friend of Kathie Kennedy
Emily and Nick
Friends of David Guptill
Kathryn Fugate
Friend of Margery Kellar
Sue Stutts
Friend of Ruth Scott
Anne Mola
Mother of Jim Gerke
Virginia Freeman
Friend of Don Larson

Linda Linke
Friend of Living Grace
Jimmy and Caroline Gammell
Parents of Louise Iconis
Patricia Newton
Friend of Leanne Beutler
Tom Grissmon
Friend of Don Larson
Pastor Don Hanberry
Friend of Living Grace
Larry Leach
Friend of Jan Levensgood
Lindsay
Friend of Lisa Guptill
Jerry
Friend of Ruth Scott
Eugene Lee
Carolyn Davis
Beverly
Daughter of Lanny Henderson
Marquetta Clark and Family
Friends of Living Grace

PFC Sean O'Connor

Deployed to Afghanistan, serving in Paktika Province with 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade
– (grandson of Mary Ann Blessing)

Health Ministry

I hope you and your loved ones are able to enjoy the bounty of garden fresh produce and some precious family time. This month I would like for you to think about SELF-IMAGE: IMPROVING OUR VISION. Self-Esteem can affect both our life and our wholistic health. It seems that in much of our life, our problems are magnified when we fail to have God's vision or perspective. But thanks be to God, there is a way to improve our vision by being grounded in His Word! (*Is. 55:8*)

SELF-IMAGE CHECK UP

- A. Do I like myself? Why? Why not?
- B. What are some of my strengths? What do others see in me?
- C. What are some areas I would like to improve?
- D. Am I worthy of love? Why? Why not?
- E. When I think about God, which image is more powerful, that of love or punishment?
- F. What is God's perception of me? How does He feel about me?
- G. On what do I base my self-image?

- H. On what do I want my children to base their self-image?
- I. On what should I base my self-image?
- J. What would I like to change about my self-image?

Self-Image refers to a perception of our worth and value, as well as estimation of our strengths and areas for needed growth. As Christians, we are grateful that our worth is not based on what we have done, but rather on He who has already done it all for us!

YOUR PARISH NURSE'S SELF IMAGE PRESCRIPTION

- *Refocus your vision with God at the center and everything else in increasing distance from Him. Draw this as a map and plot your stressors.
- *Stay grounded in God's Word and in prayer: It will improve your vision!
- *Guard against negative self-talk, and when you do, restate it in words God could agree to.
- *Build intimacy with others.
- *Invest yourself in the work that matters, be involved in serving others.
- *Periodically look in the mirror and see what God sees: A precious redeemed child!
- *Speak a word of affirmation to others.

Yours in Christ,
Jan Levensgood, Parish Nurse/Health Minister

LGLC Health Ministry Offers "Grief-Share"

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18).

Beginning Sunday, 11 September 2011, the Health Ministry will offer the Grief-Share bereavement support program every Sunday at 12 noon to 1 p.m. from September to December. Refreshments will be served!

Grief-Share is a faith-based program for anyone who is mourning the death of a loved one. Each session includes a DVD on different topics about death and grieving from the Christian perspective, workbook exercises and a group discussion. Led by trained members of the Health Ministry, the Grief-Share sessions will offer an opportunity for bereaved members to receive and give support to others who know what it's like to lose someone you love. The cost to purchase your own Grief-Share workbook is \$20. You can read more about the Grief-Share program at www.griefshare.org. For more information about the support group, contact Jan Levensgood at 404/307-9283.

Outreach Committee

Heifer Sunday

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. Sunday August 21st will be the next designated dates for donations.

Heifer International puts faith into action with its time proven principal of "passing on the gift" by providing farm animals for families in developing countries. Those families

receiving the animals then provide offspring to other families who are in need.

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

Sew-N-Sews-Book Bag Ladies

The Sew-N-Sews next scheduled meetings are Monday August 8th beginning 9:30 AM 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. 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

In August the quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday August 4th and Thursday August 25th. NOTE: NO SATURDAY QUILTING IN AUGUST!

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

The Annual Blessing of the Quilts will be held on Sunday August 21st.

The annual raffle for one of the quilts will be held on Sunday August 28th.

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



Strength In Numbers In 2010

577 refugees were resettled and given a new home

40 children were placed in permanent and safe adoptive homes

78 developmentally disabled clients were given support to live personally meaningful lives,
outside institutions

188 children were provided care in specialized foster care families

Volunteers contributed over 8,720 service hours to help make this possible

Baseball for a Cause

Gwinnett or Atlanta...choose your Braves!



Tip Your Cap for CAPS at the Gwinnett Braves

Sunday, August 14 @ 2:05pm

Coolray Field (Gwinnett Stadium), Lawrenceville

(An event to show appreciation to parents and support companions in our Specialized Foster Care, FACES, and Adoption programs)



Lutheran Night at the Braves
vs. New York Mets

*Saturday, September 17 @ 7:10pm
Pregame parade line-up begins @ 5:30pm
Turner Field, Atlanta*

*Information on how to order tickets will be posted on the bulletin board
(Presented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans-proceeds of the event benefit LSG)*

Other LSG Upcoming Events

Heroes of Hope, Healing, and Strength Gala

755 Club at Turner Field, Atlanta
Thursday, September 8, 2011

Atlanta Golf Classic

Heritage Golf Links, Tucker
Monday, October 17, 2011

Savannah Golf Classic

Henderson Golf Club, Savannah
Monday, November 7, 2011

For more information on upcoming events please contact Alyson Coffman at acoffman@lsga.org
or 678-686-9602.

LLLLSG - Bringing Hope, Healing and Strength to People in Need for 30 years



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

***Low Country Boil
& Silent Auction***

***5th Annual Fundraiser for Lutheran Campus Ministry in Atlanta
GA Tech, Agnes Scott, GA State, and now Emory***

Sat Aug 27

Two Sponsorship Levels

Hungry and Thirsty — \$50

(Beverage Tasting, All beverages,
Shrimp Boil, T-Shirt, souvenir koozie)

Hungry — \$35

(Shrimp Boil, Soft drinks only,
T-Shirt, souvenir koozie)

LOCATION AND REGISTRATION

St. John's Lutheran Church located at 1410 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta 30307

Limited number of seats [21+ only] RSVP by August 15

To register, contact Robby Johnson, rjohnson@stjohnsatlanta.org
404-378-4243 x205

Aug. 15-19, 2011 • Orlando World Center Marriott • Theme: "Freed in Christ to Serve."



What's new at this year's Churchwide Assembly?

The 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, "Freed in Christ to Serve," August 15-19 in Orlando, Florida, will have many new elements to help participants engage in and understand more deeply the ELCA's mission in the world.

The new elements begin with the theme: "Freed in Christ to Serve." This is more than just a theme; it expresses the heart of our faith. In Christ we are both bound to be free from the power of sin, death and the devil, and free to be bound to God in faith and to our neighbor in service.

This includes service to our neighbors in the United States and around the world. The Mission Encounter event on Tuesday, August 16, will encourage participants to explore how service to our neighbors translates to our mission around the world. Participants will learn about the deep connections and rich relationships between ELCA mission in Africa, Asia and Latin America and in the United States. They will experience ministries using story, song and art to spread the gospel.

Voting members will have an additional opportunity to engage in what it means to be freed in Christ to serve in daily Bible study. This year Bible study will occur in small groups in order to facilitate deliberate and intense discussion on the daily texts. Each small group will be led by either a synod bishop or synod vice president.

The assembly theme and Bible studies will be drawn into and interwoven into daily assembly

worship. Worship will be streaming live for the first time this year for those who are not able to be present at the assembly. Both plenary sessions and worship can be watched live at the assembly website: www.elca.org/assembly.

Live worship streaming is not the only technological addition to this year's assembly. Five synods will participate in a pilot paperless program. These 79 voting members will read the *Pre-Assembly Report* online prior to the assembly and will then receive a rented iPad with all of the reports and materials needed for plenary sessions when they arrive at the assembly. This pilot program is a means for the ELCA to reduce paper consumption and continue to care for creation. By 2013, it is hoped that all voting members will be paperless.

To learn more about what else will be new at this year's assembly, please visit the assembly Web page at www.elca.org/assembly.



Glocal Mission Gathering - Norcross, GA

God's work in mission always propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly *in* the stranger. ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering equip us for God's work in today's global and local realities as well as their "glocal" intersections.

What is mission? Who is the neighbor? Let's consider these questions together as they relate to our migrating and immigrating world. Come join us for mission conversations around the realities of the world we live in today.

Genesis 4:9 Then the Lord said to Cain, 'where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?'

The Glocal Mission Gathering (GMG) gathers congregational leaders for a day and a half of worship, workshops and sharing around global and local mission.

Register as a Team

For only \$35 per person and in only 1 and ½ days, your team can:

- Enhance your connections with the worldwide Christian family
- Gain practical skills for mission
- Engage in current intersections of mission, migration, and immigration
- Give, receive, and serve more effectively
- Discover how changes in the world are transforming the way churches like the ELCA proclaim and serve
- Lead inviting worship that includes global voices
- Travel internationally in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive

To register go to the website tab at the bottom of this notice! Looking for a team? Click on the link below to get connected with others through Facebook or indicate your interest on your

registration form.

Cost \$35 per person

- **When** Thursday, August 4, 2011 7:00 PM - Saturday, August 6, 2011 2:30 PM
- **Where** Christ the King Lutheran Church
5575 Peachtree Parkway
Norcross, Georgia 30092
- **Web-site** www.cvent.com/events/glocal-mission-gathering-norcross-ga/registration

If you would like to request Glocal information in Spanish or need any further information, contact Kyle Cristofalo at 404-589-1977, ext 222.

Women of the ELCA

Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention

Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA

Lake Guntersville State Park

Guntersville, Alabama

September 16-18, 2011

Theme: *“Renew your Heart”*

Bible Verse: Psalms 51:10

Hymn: *“Create in me a Clean Heart”*

Bible Study: Pastor Morgan Gordy

Churchwide Rep: Sharon Heck

Chaplain: Pastor Morgan Gordy

Music Director: Diana Revell

Keynote Speaker: Amy Vehec, M.D.

Banquet: *Red & White Banquet (Casual)*

Love Offering: Lutheran Campus Ministries/GA

In-Kind Gifts: Mercy Children’s Clinic, Franklin, TN

Host Cluster: Cluster 8 - The King

Hospitality: Cluster 7 - Diaspora

If you would like more information regarding the convention, please contact Phyllis Gerke at 770-938-4880 phyllis_gerke@yahoo.com.

IN-KIND GIFTS

This year’s in-kind gathering will benefit Mercy Children’s Clinic (MCC) in Franklin, Tennessee (www.mercytn.org). Mercy Children's Clinic provides quality healthcare for children. As you

enter the door of their facility, their mission statement is painted on the wall, "To Reflect the Love and Compassion of Jesus Christ by Providing Healthcare Services to **ALL** children and support to their families." . The clinic does not turn away families if they are uninsured or do not qualify for TennCare (medicaid). Even if families are unable to pay, they do not turn them away. In support of this mission, we will be collecting **\$10 gifts cards** from **Walmart, Kroger and Publix** will be shared with patients so they may purchase items such as prescriptions, diapers, food or gas. If you would like to support this wonderful ministry, please give all gift cards to our convention delegate, **Carolyn Davis**.

LOVE OFFERING

The recipient of this year's love offering will be Lutheran Campus Ministries of Georgia. Lutheran Campus Ministries is a Lutheran ministry on campus, not just a ministry to Lutherans. Students at eleven colleges and universities are served by three programs in the Atlanta and Athens area. College years are a major transition in a young person's life. Statistics show that church attendance declines when students leave home. Many of you have children and/or grandchildren going to college this fall. High school graduates from our congregation will be heading out on their own in a few short weeks. We'd like to have them stay connected with the "church" while they are away from home. This is our chance to help campus ministry expand and provide an anchor to incoming college students.

Worship and Music

Living Out Our Baptism

Images of the Season ***Mary, Mother of Our Lord*** ***Monday, 15 August***

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (*Luke 1:48*). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God, the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

Choir Program

The Senior Choir does not rehearse during the month of August on Wednesday. However, for the remaining of the summer, the choir will rehearse on Sunday mornings easy and familiar anthems. If you would like to come and sing with the *summer choir*, please contact Ken Sass, Director of Music.

9:30 a.m. Services in the Pavilion

We will have our 9:30 a.m. service in the pavilion on Sunday, 14 August. This service is led by the "*Spirits*."

Concert – “A Labor of Love”

On Saturday, 13 August, at 3:00 p.m., at Central Congregational United Church of Christ, the “The Thomas Tallis Choral Motet, “*Spem In Alium*”” will be performed. This exciting work has never been performed in Georgia due to the difficulty of blending 40 individual, independent vocal parts, making it a true musical masterpiece! This is a once in a lifetime event. Also being performed is Brahms *Gypsy Songs*, Ralph Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music* and Wagner’s *Tannhauser Overture*. Our two staff singers, Tom Bellamy and Matthew Bonaker are singing in the motet. Admission is free, but donations are always welcome. Please set the date to attend this concert of the extraordinary works of music. There is an advertisement flyer on the bulletin board near the coffee in the narthex.

Worship and Music Conference Montreat, NC

Every year since 1991, I’ve been attending the Worship and Music Conference in beautiful Black Mountain, North Carolina, at the Presbyterian College called Montreat. Church Musicians, Worship Leaders, Choir Singers from all denominations attend this week long conference. The workshops consist of bible study, liturgical dance, using instruments in worship, singing in a choir of about 600 voices, observing methods of conducting children and youth choirs and handbells and of course, worship service everyday. This conference is not only to witness to one another, but to show how we can in our own church traditions use music and the reading of the word in various ways to praise God.

Each year, there is a theme for the conference. This year’s them was “One in Christ.” Each day the worship service focused on this theme with:

- One God
- One Baptism
- One Song
- One Table
- One Peace
- One in All

This is a spiritual renewal for me and I come away with various ways to praise in worship in word and music. So sometimes if we are doing something a little different in our worship services, it is not to confuse you or frustrate you, but to give you an insight into our worship.

Yours in Christ.
Leanne Beutler

AUGUST CALENDAR WILL BE PRINTED HERE

Special Days in August

15 August

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

24 August

Bartholomew, Apostle

SUNDAY, 7 AUGUST – HEALING AND ANOINTING IN BOTH SERVICES

LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

1812 Cooleage Road

Tucker, GA 30084

Phone: 678/406-9229

Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!