

Living Grace

Notes

December 2011 Newsletter

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

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

December Events

Sunday 4 December – 12 noon – *Women of the ELCA Christmas Lunch*

Friday, 9 December – 1:30 p.m. – *Christmas Tea at Dunwoody Country Club*

Sunday, 18 December – 5 p.m. – Dinner/Theatre – (must make reservations)

The Case of the Missing Christmas
A 1940's-Style Radio Show

Christmas Eve – Saturday, 24 December

Lessons and Carols, Family Service with Holy Communion – 5 p.m.
Festival Candlelight Service with Holy Communion – 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day – Sunday, 25 December

Worship Service with Holy Communion – 10:30 a.m.

<i>Lay Assistants</i>

Sunday, 4 December

Ushers	8:30 – Phyllis Gerke 10:30 – Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Lectors	8:30 – Merritt Shealy 10:30 – Mary Jane Outman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Greeter s	10:30 – Mike and Renee Watson
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

Sunday, 11 December

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Will Arroyo/Terry Blanton
Lectors	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Bernice Bland
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 4
Acolyte	10:30 – Michael Akamo
Greeter s	10:30 – Steve and Cindy Nelson
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Counters	Dot Beaver/Pat Stowers

Sunday, 18 December

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – Cate Sulek/Walter Sobers
Lectors	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Lynn Lefebvre
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Team 5
Acolyte	10:30 – Emma Jorkey
Greeter s	10:30 – James and Mary Woyar
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Leyla Kellar
Counters	Steve and Cindy Nelson

Saturday, 24 December

Ushers	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:00 p.m. – Chip Combee/Jason Dick 10:30 p.m. – Harold Bowers/Chris Keller
Lectors	5:00 p.m. – Gaelon Ratel Jan Levensgood Stephanie Cunefare 10:30 p.m. – Margery Kellar

Communion Assistants	5:00 p.m. – Team 4 10:30 p.m. – Team 1
Greeter	Scott Hilley
Counter	Leanne Beutler

Sunday, 25 December	<i>Christmas Day – One Service only – 10:30 a.m.</i>
Usher	David Benner
Lector	John Nelson
Communion Assistants	Team 2
Nursery Worker	Leyla Kellar
Counter	Leanne Beutler

Team 1 =	Will Arroyo – Captain Jan Levensgood Stephanie Cunefare
Team 2 =	Margery Kellar Lesley Campbell David Guphill
Team 3 =	Jim Outman – Captain Mary Jane Outman Cynthia Outman
Team 4 =	Marlene Hardy – Captain Jo Kroger Mark Arneson
Team 5 =	Lynn Lefebvre – Captain Stephanie Rhodes Carolyn Davis

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 at 10:30 a.m. service, please contact Harold Bowers and he will be happy to schedule you and for 8:30 a.m. service, please contact Leanne Beutler at LBeutler@aol.com and she will be happy to put you on the schedule. For counter of the offering, 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		
3	Scott Hilley		
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	David Guptill
20	John Nelson		
23	Campbell Keller		
24	Sheree Benner		
27	Louise Iconis		
29	Gene Durrence, Jr.		

Births

We welcome *Joseph David Gunnells*, born on 9 November 2011. His proud parents are *Joel and Laurel Gunnells* with baby sister, *Elizabeth*.

Deaths

Beverly, Lanny Henderson's daughter, was called to her eternal home after she lost her battle with cancer on 20 November 2011. Our prayers and sympathy are with Lanny and her family.

Susan, Walter and Norma Mackenzie's daughter, was called to her eternal home on 24 November 2011. Our prayers and sympathy are with Walter and Norma and their family.

New Members

We welcome into our family the following new members:

Mr. Edward Condon
4256 Tuckersham Lane
Tucker, GA 30084
770/939-3093
egcon84@gmail.com

Mr. Adam Cofell
1563 Milowyn Place, NE
Atlanta, GA 30319
404/914-5696
adam.cofell@gmail.com

Distribution of 2012 Newsletters

Starting in February 2012, the monthly newsletter will no longer be hard copy and placed in the members' mailboxes. The newsletter for the past year has been made available electronically by email or on our website. We know that not all of our members have access to computers or email therefore, we will have limited hard copy newsletters at the visitors table for those of you that cannot receive the newsletter through the two electronic means. It will be first come, first serve on the hard copies and we ask the members with computers to refrain from picking up the hard copies so they can be distributed to the members without computers and to our visitors. You still can submit a newsletter article, either by a hard copy into the church office by the deadline date listed or send an electronic format to Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com.

Worship Service Recordings

We have been recording our entire 10:30 worship service starting from the prelude to the postlude. This recording is then uploaded to our website the following Tuesday for those of you who could not attend the service for a particular Sunday. However, for those of you who are shut-in and don't have access to a computer, Missy Streubel is making CD copies of the services and delivering them to our shut-ins with a copy of the bulletin. If you would like to have a recording delivered to you or to a loved one who is unable to attend church, please contact Missy Streubel at 404/784-7909 and she will make sure you will be given a CD for the short term or long term period of time.

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.

Altar Flower Calendar 2012

The 2012 Altar Flower Calendar is now posted in the reception area. If you wish to place altar flowers for a certain Sunday in the year, please print your name clearly on the line provided for that Sunday. The cost is \$50. If we receive no entries for a Sunday, the church has to cover the cost of the flowers. So please take prayerful consideration and sign up for altar flowers. We would like to have all the Sundays filled up. Thank you!

Poinsettias

Poinsettias to beautify our church for Christmas will go on sale, Sundays, 4, 11 and 18 December. The cost is \$10. You can purchase them in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Blue Star Project

The Anna Circle would like to thank all who donated to the Blue Star project either by cash donations or by specific items. We mailed 3 boxes which will be received before Christmas. Items included in each box are: a fleece blanket, gum, beef jerky, candies, a Christmas stocking and much more! SSgt Michael Hardy (Pastor's son) and PFC Sean O'Connor (MaryAnn Blessing's grandson) are among the recipients. Pictures are in the narthex. Our next mailing will be July 4, 2012.

Graceful Group

The Graceful Group will meet on Thursday, 8 December at 11:30 a.m. We will have Christmas music presented by Susan McDonald. Come join us to celebrate the Christmas season. Bring a potluck dish and join in the fun and fellowship.

Mission Trip 2012

SIGN UP NOW for the 2012 Mission Trip. The trip is Sunday 3 June-Saturday 9 June 2012. We will again do Habitat for Humanity work in Franklin WV. *Intent to Attend and Covenant* forms are available in the Narthex. A \$50.00 deposit is due 18 December 2011. Please speak with Steph C if you have any questions.

The Case of the Missing Christmas

Directed by Scott Hilley

Produced by Leanne Beutler

Performed by the Living Grace Actors and Children

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, 18 December at 5:00 p.m., Living Grace's Dinner Theatre presents, *"The Case of the Missing Christmas"*, a 1940's radio show. A sign-up sheet for the dinner is in the narthex. The dinner is being catered by LNS catering and the only cost for the diners will be a free-will offering. Also, if you don't like to drive at night and you want to attend, please call the office and let us know. We will provide transportation for you. This plans to be a night of fun and preparation for Christmas. **You must sign up so we know how much food to prepare for dinner.**

Nursery for 10:30 a.m. service

We have a couple of our young people who will be in the nursery to attend the children that won't be at Sunday-Fest during the 10:30 a.m. service. There is a schedule up on the bulletin board in the reception area informing you who the person will be on a given day. The schedule goes from 25 September through 25 December. If you have any questions, please contact Leanne Beutler, Parish Administrator.

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, Parish Administrator, 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; Georgia Blanton; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Paul Lefebvre; Debra Melchionda; Lin Parker; John, Diane and Lisa Reitz and Connie Rivers-Ivy.

Helen Cunningham

Mother of Margery Kellar

Jimmy and Caroline

Gammell

Parents of Louise Iconis

Marshall Anderson

Friend of Don Larson

Marietta Sandidge

Mother of Jo Kroger

The Cacioppo Family

Friends of Jim Gerke

Lib and Joe Hale

Friends of Connie Holley

Larry Leach

Friend of Jan Levensgood

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

James Davis

Friend of Carolyn Davis

Linda Linke

Friend of Living Grace

Charmaine Bailey

Friend of Leanne Beutler

Tonya Dillard

Friend of Leanne Beutler

Lynn Picioccio

Friend of Gail Horton

Stacy Wood

Friend of Cappi Arneson

Marquetta Clark and Family

Friends of Living Grace

Lindsay

Friend of Lisa Guptill

Jerry

Friend of Ruth Scott

Eugene Lee

Friend of Carolyn Davis

Stephanie Davis

Daughter of Carolyn Davis

Don Nelson

Brother-in-Law of Jo Ann Durrence

Sherrie Benner

Daughter-in-law of David and Sue Benner

Dan

Uncle of Lisa Guptill

PFC Sean O'Connor

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

SSgt. Michael Hardy
2nd Marine Logistic Group (Forward)
Personnel Retrieval and Processing, Camp Dwyer, Helmand Province

Health Ministry

December – Holiday Blues / Stress

“One day Jesus told His disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.: Luke 18:1

Are you overbooked for this month? Do you look at your schedule and start to panic? How can you possibly do everything? There are meetings, birthdays, gifts, decorating, parties and too many other things, not including work, family and church.

It’s time to trim your list, instead of the tree. Consider fewer gifts, fewer decorations and not so many parties. Find quiet time to spend with devotional materials and in prayer. The only way to get to the heart of Christmas is with Jesus. All of the other things are fine, but they aren’t necessary.

Practice some stress busting techniques. Here are some ideas:

Leave. If the noise level is too much or the crowds are closing in, just leave. You don’t have to stay in the toy store with all the screaming youngsters, and you don’t have to converse with the know-it-all at the party. You can walk away.

Close the eyes. Take a break from the lights and activities. Closing the eyes is a great way to get re-centered.

Try some solitude. In the middle of so much activity it helps to have time alone. Use the quiet time to set priorities, to pray, or to count your blessings.

Go outside. Fresh air and sunshine can make a difference in how you feel. Being in God’s creation and going for a walk can help find extra energy.

Locate some water. Listen to it, watch it, drink it or sit in it. Water refreshes in so many ways. He knows what we need; maybe that is why God put so much on earth.

Breathe! Remember to exhale occasionally. When the shoulders are up to the ears, it’s time to take some deep breaths. Fill the lungs completely from the bottom to the top. Pause for a couple of seconds. Exhale, letting all the air out of the lungs from the top to the bottom. Repeat three or four times. Your shoulders have relaxed with the rest of the body. Stress causes shallow breathing. Deep breathing releases it.

Listen to music. Choose whatever type makes you happy. Sing along. It’s amazing how good it can make us feel.

The holiday season can be a mixture of feelings, especially if you are grieving the loss of a loved one. Celebrations take on a different meaning as you work through the many emotions of grief. Do you maintain family traditions or create new ones? Whether the loss is recent or old, you

have to determine what kind of celebration and remembrance is right for you. Tackling the holidays after a loss is a work in progress. Make changes that feel right to you and honors those you have lost.

Give yourself the gift of peace in the midst of a world in chaos. Have a great holiday and share your peace with those around you.

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

Upcoming Events

You and your family are invited to attend the 2011 Lights of Love and Remembrance Celebration on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Gwinnett Medical Center main Lobby at 1000 Medical Center Blvd. Lawrenceville, GA 30046. This is presented by Congregational Health Ministry.

Our Parish Nurse program here is a partnership with the hospital. If you would like to support the program, you may give a gift in honor or remembrance of someone. There are envelopes on the table in the Narthex.

Healing and Anointing on Sunday, 4 December during the distribution of Holy Communion in both services.

FYI: Publix pharmacy will fill prescriptions free for lisinopril, metformin, and antibiotics such as amoxicillin, penicillin and erythromycin.

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 14th through November 20th:

Cunefare Ladies - Kellar Ladies - Jan Levensgood – Viola Main

Missy Streubel - Sue and David Benner

Living Grace will also be staffing the shelter the week of March 16th through March 22nd. However, if you cannot serve on one of the nights Living Grace is scheduled to staff the shelter, you can go the shelter website www.sishelter.org, click on the  icon, create an account, go to the Overnight Volunteer page where you can select any night throughout the season that needs overnight volunteers.

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 Food Pantry

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.

Networks Opening a Real Team Effort!

Many people helped to ready our new space in time for our Grand Open House and Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, November 12. Prayers were given in abundance, but some people put feet and hands to their prayers. They did everything from cleaning and moving to demolishing and painting to sewing and decorating. An overwhelming effort was made by the following:

Marianna and Eric Anderson, Carolyn Bales, Patrick, Monica and Paige Bradshaw, Joanne Brittingham, Randy and Kay Bryant, Ric and Debbi Caldwell, Dan and Janice Church, Chris and Kathy Craddock, Chris Goodman, Tom Hamilton, Lou Hightower, Sally Lambert, Jackie Marler, Lisa Marler, Hugh and Sabrina Macdonald, Tommy McGuire, Don Murray, Robert Nowell, Lois Pippin, Mike Prewitt, Carson and Vickie Reed, Barrett Sanders, Mary Shearon, Cliff Shelton, Tom Skoog, Doug Smith, Norman Smith, Stewart Smith, Carl Stokes, Neal and JoAnne Stuberfield, Mike Sullivan, Jim Wagner, Susie Webb and Mark Whitworth. My sincere thanks to you all!!!!

Lynne Stone, Director

Christmas at Networks

This year Networks will be giving out \$25 Gift Cards to Dollar Tree. Each family we help will get a gift card, beginning December 2. Any cards left over after the holidays will be given out in January. Please help us make this possible! You may purchase cards or make a check out to Networks marked "Christmas" or "Dollar Tree." We would prefer that you purchase the cards and bring them to us any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 1-4 p.m. Of course, we will accept your check as well. Thanks in advance for making this a special Christmas for those in our community.

Lynne Stone, Director



Heifer Sunday

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. December 18th and Sunday January 22nd 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 contributions 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.

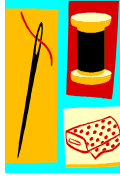
Please take one of the "Angel" envelopes from the tree in the Narthex; buy a \$10 gasoline credit card, make a cash donation or make out your check to Living Grace Lutheran Church and place the envelope in the offering plate. This year there are over 90 foster parents in the program who need your help.



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.

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 Samaritan's Purse and place in the offering plate.

Forty-four completed shoe boxes will be delivered to the Samaritan's Purse warehouse on Saturday December 3rd.



Sew-N-Sews

The Sew-N-Sews will be meeting on Monday December 12th from 9:30AM to 12:00N at the Church.

After the meeting, the group will go to Appleby's in Tucker for lunch.

If you would like to help you may call JoAnn Durrence @404.633.183.



Piece Maker's

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday December 1st, Thursday December 8th and on Saturday December 10th - 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!

We continue to collect both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries. We are also collecting Birthday Cards, Valentine Cards, Christmas 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.

Images of the Season
Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve
24 December

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ’s birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, “Glory to God in the highest.” Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ’s body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day
25 December

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John’s gospel tells of the Word that swells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
28 December

The infant martyrs commemorated on this day were the children of Bethlehem, two years old and younger, who were killed by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of a new king. Augustine called these innocents “buds,” killed by the frost of persecution the moment they showed themselves. Those linked to Jesus through their youth and innocence encounter the same hostility Jesus encounters later in his ministry.

Christmas with Atlanta Sacred Chorale

Share the wonder, the joy, and the promise of *Christmas with Atlanta Sacred Chorale* in an evening of musical memory-making with Eric Nelson and special guest Alejandro Cote, classical guitarist and newly appointed Artist Affiliate at Emory University. Amid the elegant beauty of the Schwartz Center’s Emerson Concert Hall—our new venue!—let the hustle and bustle of the season fall away as you bask in the glorious sounds of the season. Reception with Eric and the singers following. Tickets are \$25. for adults; \$15. for seniors/students. Address of Schwartz:

Emory University
Schwartz Center for Performing Arts
1700 North Decatur Road
Atlanta, GA

Choir Program

The Senior Choir rehearses on a weekly basis on Wednesday night. The rehearsals are from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The choir prepares an anthem for the 10:30 a.m. worship services. If you would like to come and sing with the *choir*, please contact Ken Sass, Director of Music.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir of Living Grace has lost 4 ringers as they have transferred to another church. This leaves only 4 ringers left in a choir that needs at least 7 to 8 ringers. Anyone who thinks they would like to play handbells please speak to Leanne Beutler, Director. If you don't even know how to read music, we will teach you.

Special Days in December

24 December

Christmas Eve

25 December

Christmas Day

26 December

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

27 December

John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 December

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

DECEMBER CALENDAR WILL BE PRINTED HERE



HEALING AND ANOINTING ON SUNDAY, 4 DECEMBER, BOTH SERVICES

LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

1812 Cooledge Road

Tucker, GA 30084

Phone: 678/406-9229

Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!