

# *Living Grace*

# **Notes**

## **February 2012 Newsletter**

The Reverend David E. Hardy, D. D., Pastor  
Web Page: [www.livinggracelutheran.org](http://www.livinggracelutheran.org)

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

**Ash Wednesday**  
**22 February 2012**

**7:30 p.m. Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes**

**Mid-Week Services for Lent**  
**Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m.**

**Beginning Service 29 February - Ending Service 28 March**

**Book of Faith**

**Begins 22 February - Ends the last week of March – 30 March**

**Wednesdays – 10:30 a.m.**

**Thursdays – 7:00 p.m.**

**Fridays – 1:30 p.m.**

**(Please sign up for either times – sign up sheets in the narthex)**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, 26 February – after the 10:30 worship service**

***Lunch will be served***

<b>Lay Assistants</b>
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**Sunday, 5 February**

Ushers	8:30 – Bobby Smith 10:30 – Will Arroyo/Terry Blanton
Lectors	8:30 – Merritt Shealy 10:30 – James Reynolds
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Team 2
Greeters	10:30 – Bernice Bland/Doris McGreevy
Acolyte	10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Counters	Dot Beaver/Pat Stowers

**Sunday, 12 February**

Ushers	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Harold Bowers/Adam Cofell
Lectors	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Jo Kroger
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 1
Greeters	10:30 – Jerry and Christine Chappell
Acolyte	10:30 – MacKenzie Arroyo
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Counters	John and Margaret Holden

**Sunday, 19 February**

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Chip Combee/Jason Dick
Lectors	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Team 3
Greeters	10:30 – Jac Larson/Betty Hitz
Acolyte	10:30 – Emma Jorkey
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

**Wednesday, 22 February**

	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
Ushers	Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Lector	Leanne Beutler
Communion Assistants	David Guptill, Stephanie Cunefare, Margery Kellar

## Sunday, 26 February

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Stephanie Cunefare
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 4
Greeters	10:30 – Mike and Meredith Collver
Acolyte	10:30 – Antemil Jorkey
Nursery Worker	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Counter	David Parker

- Team 1 = Will Arroyo – Captain  
Jan Levengood  
Stephanie Cunefare
- Team 2 = Margery Kellar  
Lesley Campbell  
David Guptill
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:streub@bellsouth.net).

## **General News and Notes**

### **February Birthdays**

9	Walter Sobers	Lisa Conley
11	Avery Balsavage	
12	Mary Jane Outman	
13	Allison Combee	
18	Jim Brinkley	
20	Meridith Oys	
24	Henry Melchionda	
25	Craig Chandler	Jason Eklund
	Diane Reitz	
27	Curtis Nelson	
28	Leigh Chandler	Stuart Holden
	Edward Condon	

### **Baptism**

*Jaycee Jean Beaver* was welcomed into God's family through Holy Baptism on 14 December 2011. Her parents are *Allen Beaver and Carla Veronica Smith*. Her proud grandmother is *Dot Beaver*.

### **Death**

*Jimmy Gammell*, father of *Louise Iconis* was called to his eternal rest on Saturday, 21 January 2012. His funeral service was at A.S. Turner on Saturday, 28 January 2012. Our prayers and sympathy go out to *Caroline*, his wife and the *Iconis* family.

### **Distribution of 2012 Newsletters**

The monthly newsletter will no longer be hard copy and placed in the members' mailboxes. 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, email and the website. 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 or send an electronic format to Leanne Beutler at [Lbeutler@aol.com](mailto:Lbeutler@aol.com) by the deadline date listed on the calendar.

## ***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 or a hard copy placed in the church office no later than Thursday evening prior to the Sunday insertion. The email address is Lbeutler@aol.com.

## ***Church Calendar 2012***

Don't forget the 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***

Our calendar for 2012 still has many Sundays opened. If we do not get anyone to sign up for a Sunday, we will have no altar flowers. Please take prayerful consideration in placing altar flowers for a Sunday. Thank you!

## ***Lilies to Beautify our Sanctuary for Easter***

You probably are thinking **WHY this announcement, we just finished with Christmas!** The florist has to put in the order for lilies several weeks before Easter which is Sunday, 8 April. In the past, we have ordered the flowers in anticipation we would get the number that was ordered. However in the past couple of years, we have not received enough orders therefore the church had to pay out of the budget the remaining flower order. In order to eliminate this expense, we are going to be taking orders for lilies starting **Sunday, 12 February through Sunday, 4 March**. Based on the number after 4 March, that is what we will order from the florist.

## ***2012 Church Offering Envelopes***

The 2012 offering envelopes have been assigned and placed in the members' mailboxes in the narthex. Please pick them up and use them. When you have envelopes, it makes for the database entries easier for the Financial Secretary and to make sure the correct monies are posted to the correct member. Thank you!

## **Thank You's**

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas check. I enjoy making the outside grounds look good.

*Dot Beaver*

Much thanks to the congregation for their generous Christmas gift and the words of appreciation I hear throughout the year.

*Peace,  
Missy Streubel*

## **Graceful Group**

The Graceful Group will meet on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for a delicious potluck lunch (main dish, salad, vegetable or dessert) at 11:30 AM. Instead of being entertained, we are thinking of having a Rummy cube playoff. Bring books or magazines to share for other's enjoyment. We have a good time talking and enjoying each other's company.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers need to help organize, clean, sort and price *PlayMobile Play Sets* for sale at the Spring Yard Sale. If you are interested please contact Steph C. at [sacunefare@hotmail.com](mailto:sacunefare@hotmail.com).

## **The Picture And The Pieces**

**What brings you to Living Grace on Sunday?** There are many pieces that play a part in your answer to this question.

**Is it the rejuvenation you get from having your sins forgiven by God?** That is certainly one piece of the Living Grace picture.

**Is it our Pastor and the many attributes he brings to our Congregation?** That is a piece of the Living Grace picture.

**Is it the sermon and its significance to our daily lives?** This is another piece in our picture.

**Is it our Choir and music program?** Again, this is another piece of the Living Grace picture.

**Is it the Parish Education programs?** They are another piece of the picture.

**Is it our Health Ministry and Outreach Programs?** They are more pieces in our picture.

**Finally, is it our Youth Programs?** This is another piece in the picture.

I have shown a picture of Living Grace as a Congregation. But, I have not shown the most important piece of the picture. **The most important piece of the picture is YOU.** Living Grace needs your presence every Sunday and your participation in the life of our Congregation. If we accomplish this task our Congregation will grow and fulfill our mission statement to serve God in this community.

**Don't let apathy take you out of our picture.** Answer the call to worship and participate in the programs of Living Grace Lutheran Church.

Peace be with you,  
*Jerry Chappell*

## **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; Mark Arneson; Georgia Blanton; Phyllis Gerke; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Paul Lefebvre; Johnny Levengood; Debra Melchionda; Lin Parker; John, Diane and Lisa Reitz; and Cynthia Shealy.

#### **Helen Cunningham**

Mother of Margery Kellar

#### **Caroline Gammell**

Mother of Louise Iconis

#### **MaryAnn Sweeny**

Friend of Shirley Arroyo

#### **Marshall Anderson**

Friend of Don Larson

#### **Ruth Olsen**

Friend of Margery Kellar

#### **Karen Shaw**

Friend of Jim and Phyllis Gerke

#### **Lib and Joe Hale**

Friends of Connie Holley

#### **Larry Leach**

Friend of Jan Levengood

#### **Charlee Lambert**

Friend of Margery Kellar

#### **Emily and Nick**

Friends of David Guptill

#### **Wayne Linke**

Friend of Living Grace

#### **Kathryn Fugate**

Friend of Margery Kellar

#### **Sue Stutts**

Friend of Ruth Scott

#### **Dan**

Uncle of Lisa Guptill

#### **Linda Linke**

Friend of Living Grace

#### **Jodie Hardy**

Daughter-in-law of Pastor & Marlene Hardy

#### **Dan Lazarus**

Friend of Living Grace

#### **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

#### **Reginald Rivers-Ivy**

Son of Connie and Melvin Rivers-Ivy

#### **Tonya Dillard**

Friend of Leanne Beutler

#### **Don Nelson**

Brother-in-Law of Jo Ann Durrence

#### **Sherrie Benner**

Daughter-in-law of David and Sue Benner

**PFC Sean O'Connor**

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

**SSgt. Michael Hardy**

Camp Bastion Hospital (Helmond Province)  
Mortuary Affairs (PRP) USMC  
FPO AE 09372

**Health Ministry**

**Women and Heart Disease**

*“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23*

There is a misconception that cancer is the greatest health risk for women, especially breast cancer. In reality, heart disease kills more women than all forms of cancer put together. Minority women have the highest death rate from heart disease while the entire gender has a higher death rate from stroke than men. Part of the problem is that heart disease is displayed differently in women than in men, so it becomes difficult to recognize in women if the observer doesn't know the difference in symptoms.

The classic symptoms for heart attack are severe chest pain, a squeezing sensation in the chest lasting 5 – 10 minutes, pain radiating down the left arm, or profuse sweating. Up to 50% of women who suffer heart attacks have symptoms that are atypical. These include shortness of breath, indigestion, pain in the jaw, shoulder or back, sudden nausea or vomiting, unexplained fatigue, fainting, or even dizziness. Anytime a female experiences these symptoms, she should seek medical attention by calling 911. Even a slight hesitation could lead to severe consequences if she is having a cardiac episode.

Plaque buildup can be different in women also. In men it tends to be clumpy and irregular which responds well to angioplasty and stents that flatten out the plaque. In some women, plaque forms an even layer on the vessel lining which means drug therapy works better than angioplasty. Women also respond to aspirin differently. In women, it seems more effective in preventing stroke, while in men it is more effective for heart attack prevention.

For a woman, the most important thing to do is talk to her physician. She should discuss her health history and determine potential risks for heart disease. The next step would be to create a plan to change or impact those risks and follow the doctor's instructions. Women are the same but different. It is important to find out individual needs and then address them.

To decrease your risk for heart disease it is important to maintain a healthy weight and to promote good circulation. Exercise can do that and should be part of your daily life. The most economical exercise is walking since the only cost is a good pair of walking shoes. Set a course that gets the blood pumping and offers you a contemplative setting. This will strengthen your heart and relax your mind. If you work better with support, find a walking buddy to keep you on track for a healthy heart.

On February 12<sup>th</sup> all women can wear red here at church to show our support for heart health

month.

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

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, 5 February is Healing and Anointing in both services during the distribution of Holy Communion.

The annual Walk for Hunger is coming up again in March. It will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Let's get a team together and collect money and go to Turner Field and either walk or run. You can go on line at [HWR2012.org](http://HWR2012.org) and register. We have participated for years and have fun walking with the crowd. More info will be forthcoming.

**10 Minutes Could Save Your Life:** Preventative ultrasound health screenings are being held at Living Grace Lutheran Church on Tuesday, 27 March. **LifeLine Screening** will scan the carotid artery in the neck for plaque build up, which can lead to a stroke. (75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage). They also scan the arteries in the legs for Peripheral Arterial Disease, (PAD), which is linked to heart disease. They offer a third ultrasound for Aneurysms in the Aortic vessel in the abdomen & an irregular heartbeat EKG. Bone density screenings will be available also. This is a preventative program, and with early detection, these problems can be treated. The results are sent directly to you after being reviewed by a Cardio Vascular Surgeon. These 5 tests are non-invasive and completely painless and take about ten minutes each. The vascular tests are offered for only \$60. each or at a package price of \$149. for all 5. Screenings are recommended yearly for ages 50+ and pre-registration is a must. Space is limited! Please call 770/667-8526 to receive \$10. off the package price!


## **Outreach Committee**



### ***Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women***

The 28<sup>th</sup> year of shelter operations is going well. Several ladies have already gained employment! The additional instructional programs being offered this year are being well received.

We are still looking for volunteers to serve for the nights of March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 22<sup>nd</sup>, our second week of the season, which is also the final week of operations for the shelter this season. So, if you weren't able to help us out in November, perhaps you can help us one of those nights in March.

Remember, if those nights are 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. You can also go directly to the shelter website [www.sishelter.org](http://www.sishelter.org), click on the  icon, create an account, and go to the Overnight Volunteer page where you can select any night throughout the season that needs overnight volunteers. There are several nights open in February and March that are just waiting to have someone volunteer!

Your gift of one night of your time, a gift that will ensure our residents that they can spend a night in a safe and secure environment, will be greatly appreciated.

Questions? Call Sue or David Benner@ 770.493.4044 or [@dobenner@yahoo.com](mailto:@dobenner@yahoo.com).



Thanks 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.

Although we are beginning to see positive signs of recovery, there are approximately 10% of the families in our community who still need our prayers and our support.



### ***Heifer Sunday***

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. **Sunday February, 19<sup>th</sup> will be the next designated date for donations.** Special envelopes will be available on the 19<sup>th</sup> for your use.

**Heifer International is an organization that provides farm animals for families in developing countries.**

**Living Grace continues to work toward providing a fourth “Ark”. As of December 31<sup>st</sup> we have \$2,866 toward the \$5,000 needed for another “Ark”.**



### **Piece Maker's**

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> and on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> - 9:00AM to 12:00N. The quilts are made and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need around the world.

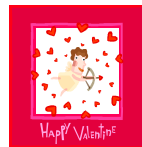
You may call Agnes Nelson @770.458.3473 if you would like to participate.



### **Sew-N-Sews**

The Sew-N-Sews will be meeting on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30AM to 12:00N 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

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



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

Georgia's women prisons are still very much in need of both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries. Please consider donating any type of book you are not using so that those in prison might have access to positive and inspirational material. 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.



### ***Villa International Atlanta***

Church Women United is a sponsor of the Villa International program and is pleased to report that they have received a new grant earmarked for some long needed building maintenance, and for thinking ahead to Villa's next 40 years. They are celebrating the first anniversary of their website ([www.villainternational.org](http://www.villainternational.org)) which has made information about them far more accessible to potential guests. Over 2,700 unique visitors in 99 different Countries have learned about Villa online. A full 25% of those visitors read the website in Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese or German. A blog will be added in the near future as a way to share Villa's stories with friends, as well as future guests and potential donors.



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

## **Hundreds Join Together for MLK Day of Service to Benefit Refugees**



More than 350 kids, families, and individuals came together on January 16 for MLK Day of Service at the Clarkston Community Center. The day's activities, which benefited LSG's refugee clients and other local refugees, included packaging rice, packing pots and pans, assembling hygiene kits for newly arrived families, and cleaning up the Clarkston community. All said, volunteers picked up 84 bags of trash equaling 1,680 pounds, made 240 hygiene kits, painted walls, dug post holes, demolished a sign, sanded wood, and bagged immense amounts of rice!

Thank you to all those who participated and helped ease the transition for refugees in Georgia!

### **Angel Tree Program Provides Gifts to Hundreds of LSG Clients**



LSG's Refugees Services, Foster Care, and FACES clients received more than 1,500 gifts from generous Angel Tree donors this holiday season. Individual gifts of winter coats, hats and gloves, blankets, winter clothing for children, household items, books and toys were delivered to our clients throughout the state during the week of December 12-16. The gifts were gratefully and joyfully received by all, especially the children!

Thank you to all the congregations and organizations that participated in this year's Angel Tree program, helping us deliver a record-breaking number of gifts and spreading the Christmas spirit to hundreds of people throughout Georgia.

### **Join Us for Lutheran Day at Georgia Tech and the Gwinnett Gladiators**

Lutheran Services of Georgia will be teaming up with Georgia Tech Basketball and the Gwinnett Gladiators to host two Lutheran-themed sports days. The proceeds from Lutheran Day at Georgia Tech will benefit various LSG programs, while Lutheran Night at the Gwinnett Gladiators will benefit Refugee Services. Come show your team spirit for a good cause!

**Lutheran Night at the Gwinnett Gladiators**  
**Saturday, February 11 at 7:05 p.m.**  
**Gwinnett Gladiators vs. Chicago Express**  
**Arena at Gwinnett Center**  
**\$15 per ticket, \$5 for Frenzy Night**

*The Metro Atlanta Chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide matching funds for a portion of each ticket cost. To order tickets, click [here](#). Deadline for ticket orders is February 1.*

**Lutheran Day at Georgia Tech**  
**Saturday, February 25 at 2:30 p.m.**  
**Georgia Tech vs. University of Maryland**  
**Philips Arena**  
**\$30 per ticket**

Contact Mary Kay Kates at 678-686-9601 to order tickets or e-mail Bob Gibeling at [bgibeling@lsga.org](mailto:bgibeling@lsga.org) for more information.

**Save the Date for Hunger Walk/Run : March 11, 2012**



The annual Hunger Walk/Run brings together people of diverse faiths, socio-economic statuses, ages and activity levels to raise funds and awareness for those struggling with hunger. As a benefiting partner, LSG uses the funds raised from the walk to provide food and other services to families and individuals in the Atlanta area.

This year's Hunger Walk/Run will take place Sunday, March 11, 2012 at Turner Field from noon to 4 p.m. HWR is an excellent opportunity for us to come together as Lutherans and live out Jesus' message of providing food, help, and hope to the hungry.

Last year over 500 individuals participated in the walk on behalf of Lutheran Services of Georgia, helping raise a record-breaking \$79,587. We want to make this year another one for the books, and we hope you'll join us!

To learn more about how to participate in this year's Hunger Walk/Run, [click here](#).

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## **Parish Education**

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### **Christ – Quenching Thirst for Over 2,000 Years**

This is written on a “soda can look-alike” which is an offering bank. Each child in the church received one of these cans. We talked about this being the can for money for Jesus’ church. On the first Sunday of each month, the kids bring their offering cans and at the Gathering of the Gifts, the kids empty their cans into the offering plates. They are excited and proud to be helping in the work of the church. It also teaches them the importance of giving of oneself to the work of the kingdom of God.

### **Music Sunday**

The children of ages 2 through 6 are having music the first Sunday of each month. They will be learning to tell the Gospel stories with musical instruments. The first story will be Jesus' Resurrection.

**Worship and Music**

*Living Out Our Baptism*

### **Images of the Season**

#### ***Transfiguration of Our Lord – 19 February***

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

#### ***Ash Wednesday – 22 February***

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in the readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

We will offer a worship service on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

### **Sundays in Lent**

This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

You will also notice in these Sundays that the worship liturgy will have changed to another setting. The Canticle of Praise will not be sung and a different Gospel Acclamation will be used. It is customary that we sing no *Alleluias* during Lent until the glorious Day of Resurrection.

### **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 leads the congregation in worship and also 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.

### **Dinner/Theatre – Virgil's First Easter**

In place of the Vigil of Easter worship service, again, we will offer to the congregation an Easter Play with dinner. Save the date, 7 April. As previously, you will have to make a reservation in advance. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex shortly.

**Special Days in February**

*Presentation of Our Lord*

2 February

*Transfiguration*

19 February

*Ash Wednesday*

22 February

*First Sunday in Lent*

26 February

**HEALING AND ANOINTING ON SUNDAY, 5 FEBRUARY, BOTH SERVICES**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2012 – AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE  
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

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***LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church***

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Tucker, GA 30084

Phone: 678/406-9229

*Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!*