

Living Grace

Notes

January 2012 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 2012

The Case of the Missing Christmas Solved on 18 December 2011

Gil Gumshoe, solved the case of the missing Christmas in front of 106 dinner theatre goers. Everyone had a wonderful time, including sampling “figgy pudding.” Below is the cast of the Radio Show.



Lay Assistants

Sunday, 1 January

Usher
Lector
Communion Assistants
Acolyte
Counter

ONE SERVICE ONLY – 10:30 a.m.

David Benner
Carolyn Davis
Team 4
MacKenzie Arroyo
David Parker

Sunday, 8 January

Ushers

Lectors

Communion Assistants

Acolyte
Nursery Worker
Counters

8:30 – Bobby Smith
10:30 – Harold Bowers/Chris Holte
8:30 – David Benner
10:30 – Agnes Nelson
8:30 – David Benner
10:30 – Team 2
10:30 – Cynthia Outman
10:30 – Erin Cunefare
John and Margaret Holden

Sunday, 15 January

Ushers

Lectors

Communion Assistants

Acolyte
Nursery Worker
Counters

8:30 – Phyllis Gerke
10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
8:30 – Amy Eklund
10:30 – Jim Outman
8:30 – Jason Eklund
10:30 – Team 3
10:30 – Antemil Jorkey
10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Will and Shirley Arroyo

Sunday, 22 January

Ushers

Lectors

Communion Assistants

Acolyte
Nursery Worker
Counters

8:30 – Keith Siekierski
10:30 – Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
8:30 – Merritt Shealy
10:30 – Virginia Dick
8:30 – Jan Levensgood
10:30 – Team 5
10:30 – Emma Jorkey
10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Steve and Cindy Nelson

Sunday, 29 January

Ushers
Lector
Acolyte
Communion Assistants
Nursery Worker
Counter

ONE SERVICE ONLY – 10:30 a.m.

Cate Sulek/Walter Sobers
Marlene Hardy
Michael Akamo
Team 1
Erin Cunefare
Leanne Beutler

- 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 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

January Birthdays

2	Peter Phan	
6	Nita Helmey	
7	Michael Hardy	
11	Jamie Combee	
12	Mackenzie Lionberger	Alice Adler
14	David Parker	Emily Dick
15	Margery Kellar	
17	Johnny Levensgood	
19	Jean Lemonds	
20	Duncan Shirah	
24	Becky Frye	Dot Beaver
25	Alison Durrence	
26	Gail Horton	
28	Natalie Dick	

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 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

The 2012 Altar Flower Calendar is now posted in the reception area. Unfortunately, due to the economy and fluctuations in gas prices, our altar flowers for 2012 will now cost \$55. per week (a \$5.00 increase). 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. If we receive no entries for a Sunday, the church has to cover the cost of the flowers and if there are too many of these Sundays, we will have to consider no flowers for the Sundays that the church has to cover. So please take prayerful consideration and sign up for altar flowers. If you cannot afford the cost, you can have a partner to sign up with you to help cover the cost of the flowers. We would like to have all the Sundays filled up. Thank you!

On a brighter note, our florist, Josh Borden, was chosen by the White House this year to decorate the feature tree in the Blue Room, design and install the garland for the entry to the Blue Room, and the White House front dignitaries entry. This is a great honor and we congratulate Josh.



Blue Room Entry

Thank You's

Marlene joins me in thanking all our members for the kind and gracious greetings and cards we have received this Christmas season and for the generous gift you have provided through the church. We are sincerely grateful. As it has been, so it continues to be a joy and a delight to serve as your Pastor here at Living Grace. We hope that this has been a joyful season for you and we pray that your New Year may be one truly blessed by our gracious Lord.

Pastor Hardy

I want to extend my most sincere thanks to you, the congregation, for your generous Christmas gift. It and your many kind words throughout the year are truly appreciated.

*With warmest regards,
Ken Sass
Director of Music/Organist*

Dear Congregational Family:

Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and Christmas check. It is a joy and privilege to be your health minister. I can't think of any better way to serve in my retirement!!

*Much love,
Jan*

Health Minister/Parish Nurse

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. After my retirement a year ago from 37 years with the Federal Government, I didn't know what I would do with myself. It has been a joy and fun to serve as your Parish Administrator and I hope to continue in this, my vocation.

*Love,
Leanne*

Parish Administrator

Graceful Group

The Graceful Group will meet on Thursday, 12 January at 11:30 a.m. Come join us to celebrate the start of the New Year. 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. Please speak with Steph C if you have any questions.

January Church Council

The January Church Council meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, 17 January, at 7:00 p.m. All church council members please make note of the change of date.

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; John Nelson; Lin Parker; John, Diane and Lisa Reitz; and Cynthia Shealy.

Helen Cunningham
Mother of Margery Kellar

Linda Linke
Friend of Living Grace

Jimmy and Caroline Gammell
Parents of Louise Iconis
Marshall Anderson
Friend of Don Larson
Marietta Sandidge
Mother of Jo Kroger
Karen Shaw
Friend of Jim and Plyllis Gerke
Lib and Joe Hale
Friends of Connie Holley
Larry Leach
Friend of Jan Levensgood
Charlee Lambert
Friend of Margery Kellar
Emily and Nick
Friends of David Guptill
Kathryn Fugate
Friend of Margery Kellar
Sue Stutts
Friend of Ruth Scott
Wayne Linke
Friend of Living Grace
Ruth Olsen
Friend of Margery Kellar

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
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

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

Health Ministry

January-Year of Health

“I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green; all your fruit comes from me” Hosea 14 ;8

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 with 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 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.

Besides improving your physical health, what can you do to improve your mental and spiritual health? What are your interests? Do you like to talk with people, visit the homebound, tutor young children, or help with the disabled? Explore your community for organizations or agencies where you could volunteer in those capacities and pick a project. Good health is more than eating right; it is sharing the love of Jesus Christ by sharing your time and talents. Giving of yourself benefits the recipient as well as you. It improves your mental health by focusing on others rather than yourself and grows your spiritual life as you demonstrate your faith, so start volunteering today!

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

Upcoming Events

The Healing Service will be January 8th at both Services instead of January 1st.


You may have seen the ads about “Passages” where you can view 450 rare biblical texts and artifacts spanning pre-Christian times to the present day. If we still have the bus, we can all go together. This is at 1201 Hammond Dr. NE, near Perimeter Mall. If we have enough interest, let me know and we can get group rates and pick a date.

Outreach Committee



Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women

Thanks to all who volunteered and served at the shelter this past year! Your presence means so much to the women we serve. We will also be looking for volunteers to serve for the nights of March 16th through March 22nd, the second week we will be staffing the shelter and the final week of the shelter 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, 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 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.



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 still around 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 January 15th 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 continues to work toward providing a fourth "Ark" this year. As of November 30th we have \$2,670 toward the \$5,000 needed for another "Ark".

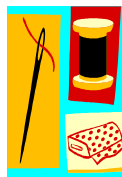
Special envelopes are provided on these designated Sundays for contribution to this cause.



Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child

Agnes Nelson and Sue Benner delivered the forty-four completed shoe boxes to the Samaritan's Purse warehouse in Lawrenceville on Thursday December 1st.

Miriam Circle Members prepared the 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.



Sew-N-Sews

The Sew-N-Sews will be meeting on Monday January 9th 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.



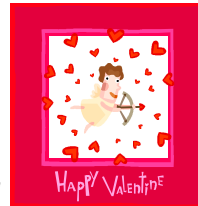
Piece Maker's

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday January 5th, Thursday January 26th and on Saturday January 14th - 9:00AM to 12:00 The quilts are made and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need around the world.

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



Prison Ministries



Books ...Greeting Cards!

We continue to collect both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries. We are also collecting Birthday Cards, Valentine Cards, Easter Cards, note cards and greeting cards for all occasions so that the women can send their personal greetings to family members and friends. We also have needs for reading (not prescription) glasses.

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



Villa International Atlanta

Church Women United is a sponsor of the Villa International program and is pleased to report to you that this past year there was an average of 36 guests living, eating and playing at Villa each night. Almost 500 people from over 70 different countries stayed with Villa as they gained valuable medical knowledge that they could put into service when they returned home. While here they learn how to make new vaccines, or they study how pesticides affect children, or how Parkinson's affects the brains of chimps and how that relates to humans. Though they arrive as strangers from many different fields, they depart as friends, and the health of the entire world benefits.



Bringing Hope, Healing and Strength to People in Need

LSG Services

Refugee Services helps refugees make a smooth transition to life in the US, achieve economic self-sufficiency, and become socially integrated into their new communities.

Disaster Response works in partnership with congregations and Lutheran disaster response to respond to disasters and participate in recovery efforts.

Family Intervention Services works to maintain family connections and prevent out of home placements of children. FIS coordinates the provision of a range of services including parent education, supervised visitation, individual and family counseling, kinship care, parent aid, employment support, and health education and support.

Specialized Foster Care assists the state in placing at risk and special needs children in quality specialized foster care homes, helping save state resources while providing homes for children who otherwise would be at risk of neglect and or abuse.

FACES (Facilitating, Advocacy, Care, Education, and Shelter) helps individuals with developmental disabilities find host homes and environments in which they can thrive and obtain the support they need. The program provides support in all areas of residential community while respecting the rights and abilities of persons served.

Adoption Services provides access to stable and compassionate homes for children who have not had a chance at a secure and stable life. Two types of adoption services are provided: domestic adoption of children in foster care (especially those with special needs), and cooperative domestic infant adoption.

This past year, LSG placed 41 children with special needs, as well as sibling groups of three or more, in permanent adoptive homes.

Foster Parent Gas Cards Foster Care provides a solution for children in need of a safe, temporary home. A child comes into foster care for many reasons. Sometimes it is the result of a birth mother deciding to give up her baby for adoption; it could be that drug abuse leads parents to neglect or abuse their children; or perhaps a child's medical and developmental issues overwhelm a young family.

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.

We are happy to report that we were able to provide \$20 in gas cards to each of the 92 foster parents!

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

**Welcoming God's Many Faces
with an Open Heart
MLK Commemoration Service**

The Southeastern Synod's commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. will take place on Sunday, January 15, 2011 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 3050 Cascade Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30311. We will gather at 3:30 pm for a service of Word and Sacrament.

The preacher is the Rev Ruben Duran who serves as Director for New Congregational Development in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Commemorative Service is the hallmark of the King Holiday Observance. The service endeavors to empower Lutherans to engage in volunteer service in tribute to the work and life of Dr. King. It is a day on not day off.

You are invited to bring rice and pots and pans to the service in preparation for our MLK Lutheran Day of Service which takes place the next day, Monday, January 16 at Clarkston Community Center at 3701 College Ave, Clarkston, from 9am to 1pm.

For more information, please contact

Dr Everett Flanigan IELCA Southeastern Synod
at eflaniganses@gmail.com | Phone: 404-589-1977 or 815-614-9965

Malisha Brown Lutheran Theological Center
at mrb.consultants@gmail.com

Pastor Beverly Shaw Emmanuel Lutheran Church
at bbshaw1@comcast.net

Worship and Music

Living Out Our Baptism

Images of the Season

Name of Jesus

1 January

From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. This day we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

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.

Baptism of Our Lord
8 January

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace.

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 is still looking for people interested in making music with handbells. The children are learning the chimes in Sunday Fest and enjoying themselves. 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.

Emory Community Choral Festival

Celebrate the rich and varied traditions of choral music from across the city as Atlanta Sacred Chorale hosts local guest ensembles in their 23rd annual *Emory Community Choral Festival*. Sharing the stage this year will be some of Atlanta’s most accomplished youth choruses, including the Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde Youth Chorale and the Lakeside High School Viking Chorale. Come and enjoy this fun-filled occasion—free and open to the public—and catch a glimpse of the future of Atlanta’s choral talent! It will be Saturday, 21 January, at 8 p.m. at Emory University, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, 1700 North Decatur Road, Atlanta—Free Admission and Free Covered Parking.

JANUARY CALENDAR WILL BE PRINTED HERE

Special Days in January

Name of Jesus/Christmas I

1 January

Epiphany of Our Lord

6 January

Baptism of Our Lord

8 January

Confession of Peter

18 January

Conversion of Paul

25 January

HEALING AND ANOINTING ON SUNDAY, 8 JANUARY, BOTH SERVICES

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:30 A.M. ON 1 JANUARY AND 29 JANUARY

LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Tucker, GA 30084

Phone: 678/406-9229

Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!