

Living Grace

Notes

November 2009 Newsletter

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

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

Homecoming Sunday

Dear Living Grace Members,

I believe that the first ever Homecoming at Living Grace was a success. At the 10:30 service there were at least 209 persons in attendance. It was hard to keep count because people continued to arrive up to sermon time. For the luncheon there were a number of others that joined us not in that count.

I know that many of you saw old friends and were able to catch up. I know I did. Many of you also were able to have family members here and that was wonderful. We heard from others that were unable to attend. Pastor Suhr and Ann could not be there, but sent their best wishes. We also heard from Pastor Hanberry who is acting as interim pastor at another church and could not attend.

Ken and the choir sang beautifully and with a full sanctuary, the sound flowed beautifully throughout. Pastor, as usual, gave a great Reformation sermon.

When we saw the crowd, many of us fretted on whether or not we had enough food, but, of course, God provided and we had more than enough. Speaking of food, thanks to all the good Lutheran cooks, it was all great! But the biggest thanks goes to Mike Collver for his expert roasting of all that pork. Mike sat up all night babysitting that pig, while others of us less hardy souls kept him company in shifts. I thought that was the best pork I have ever eaten. The pork pullers did such an efficient job, we had plenty of pork left despite feeding

200plus people. We have bagged the pork in one pound bags and frozen it. For those of you that would like to have some, we are going to sell the pound packages on Sunday.

So many of you worked very hard to make this event a success. We all prayed for 200 people (and we had more); we prayed for enough food (and we had more); we prayed for enough hands to do the work (and we had more); we prayed for good weather (and we had a pleasant night to cook and a beautiful sunny day to worship). Now we pray that each of you enter the weeks from now to the new year with renewed spirit. Thanks to each of you for your help and thanks be to God!

Lin Parker on behalf of the Church Council

The Home Coming and pig roast was fantastic!! I started to write individual notes to all who helped pull it off, but obviously I do not know who all to thank, so let this be one of your praise reports. On behalf of all the former members that were invited and able to attend this past Sunday - IT WAS GREAT!

The Service was inspiring, the food was great and the fellowship was wonderful. (The new arrangement for going through the serving line sure worked nicely.)

Thank you to Living Grace and all the workers that made the event all that it could be.

Margie & Don Linnartz

A few words of thanks to all of the ladies that helped provide the food for the Pig Roast. You really did come through for us. Everything was so good as you could have known if you would have seen how many empty bowls were sent to the kitchen. Of course I would also like to thank all who helped cook the pig. I know Lin already did, but I wanted to add in my two cents worth.

Phyllis Prunty

Lutheridge, Lutherock, and, now, Lutheranch

For years the first two named camps in the headline have served adults and young people from across the Southeastern states, from Virginia to Mississippi. Thousands of young people especially have spent at least one week a year at these camps. Some have gone for 5 or more years; some have grown to be camp counselors themselves. Lutheridge used to give pastors a “free” week if they would shepherd a cabin and teach Bible studies in their week. The impact of the camp experience is really incalculable.

Now there is a new camp coming into being: Lutheranch. Located in Talapoosa, GA, it is intended primarily for use by the members, young, old, and in-between, and congregations of the Southeastern Synod. It will be our camp.

Already we have the land with two lakes and some housing available for use, but those must be paid and more needs to be done. As a consequence, Lutheranch has launched a 3-year appeal for support: **Foundations for Faith: The Challenge**. The minimum goal within each congregation would be gifts over a 3-year period totaling \$100 per attending member. For a congregation the size of Living Grace, that's \$15,000 over three years. Translated simply, that would be a gift of \$33.33 in each of two years and a gift of \$33.34 in one of the years, per attending member.

On a table in the narthex of the church are pledge cards in information sheets. We hope you will take one, fill it out, and return it ASAP. Though the form does not indicate the support arrangement indicated above, you may amend the card to match that if you so desire.

Remember your own days at church camps if you were able to go. And think ahead to the idea that your children or grandchildren may be able to go to Lutheranch because of the gift you make over the next few years.

Jan to be honoured

Our own Parish Nurse, Jan Levengood is to be honoured by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at a special dinner in November. Thrivent Financial works in five areas of concern: charitable, religious, educational, social, and patriotic. Taking the first letters from each of those, Thrivent has created a new award, the CRESP Award. This year will mark the first of these awards and, within the Southeast region, Jan is one of the five selected to be honoured for her service within the church and community. The awards night is 13 November.

Congratulations to Jan!

Lay Assistants

Sunday, 1 November (*All Saints Day*)

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski
	10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella
	10:30 – Taylor Cunefare
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Missy Streubel
	10:30 – Team 1
Acolyte	10:30 – Nikki Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – Jac Larson/Lanny Henderson
Counters	John and Margaret Holden

Sunday, 8 November

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella
	10:30 – Cate Sulek/Walter Sobers
Lectors	8:30 – David Benner
	10:30 – Nikki Ireton

Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 2
Acolyte	10:30 – Olivia Durrence
Greeters	10:30 – Connie Holley/Viola Main
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

Sunday, 15 November

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Jim and Cynthia Outman
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – John Nelson
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – Melody Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – Will and Shirley Arroyo
Counters	David and Lin Parker

Sunday, 22 November (*Christ the King*)

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – David and Lin Parker
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Gaelon Ratel
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Team 4
Acolyte	10:30 – Abi Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – Doris McGreevy/Betty Hitz
Counters	Leanne Beutler

Wednesday, 25 November (*Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7:30 p.m.*)

Ushers	Michael Hardy and David Benner
Lector	Stephanie Cunefare
Communion Assistants	Leanne Beutler Carol Ireton Jan Levensgood
Acolyte	Melody Ireton

Sunday, 29 November – ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 (*First Sunday of Advent*)

Ushers	Chip Combee/Jason Dick
Lector	Amy Eklund
Communion Assistants	Team 5
Acolyte	James Cressman
Greeters	Pat Stowers/Phyllis Prunty
Counters	Pat Stowers/Dot Beaver

Team 1 = Will Arroyo – Captain
Jan Levensgood
Stephanie Cunefare

- Team 2 = Margery Kellar – Captain
 Lesley Campbell
 Carol Ireton
- Team 3 = Jim Outman – Captain
 Mary Jane Outman
 Cynthia Outman
- Team 4 = Marlene Hardy – Captain
 Jo Kroger
 Paul Lefebvre
- Team 5 = Lynn Lefebvre – Captain
 Stephanie Rhodes
 Carolyn Davis

Floater/Substitutes – Leanne Beutler; Taylor Cunefare; and Jason Eklund

General News and Notes

November Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Bob Axel | |
| 2 | Terez Ratel | |
| 7 | Viola Main | |
| 12 | Sue Benner | |
| 14 | Aaron Durrence | Kingsley Marske |
| 15 | Harold Bowers | Amy Eklund |
| 17 | Leyla Kellar | |
| 21 | Bitsy Marske | |
| 23 | Rev. David Hardy | |
| 25 | Lauren Axel | Mark Nelson |
| 26 | Carolyn Davis | Lynn Lefebvre |
| 29 | Edna Waring | |
| 30 | Lanny Henderson | |

Newsletter Articles

To submit a newsletter article, you can either have a hard copy into the church office by the deadline date listed or send an electronic format to Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com.

Newsletter Distribution

The newsletter is being received electronically via email to members of those who requested it. We will continue to print the newsletter and place them in the mailboxes in the narthex but we strongly encourage you that if you have an email address, you receive your newsletter electronically. This will save costs on paper, the copier costs and the time in collating the hard copy of the newsletter.

At any time, you wish to receive this newsletter via electronically please inform

Stephanie Cunefare, sacunefare@hotmail.com or Leanne Beutler, Lbeutler@aol.com.

Graceful Group Monthly Meeting

The Graceful Group will hold it's next meeting on Thursday, November 12. Come join us for a potluck lunch (main dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert) at 11:30 a.m. Invite your friends to join our group.

Perhaps some of you will remember the Cadenheads from last year. They will again entertain us with their program of "Songs From the Heart". They will combine some Broadway, Hymns, Christmas music and also one or two comic numbers.

Please make your reservation by calling or emailing JoAnne Durrence by Tuesday, November 10 if you plan to attend (404-633-1833 or email gmdurrence@bellsouth.net).

We are always in need of helpers for table set up and clean up. Let us know if you can assist us in this way.

We will again have a table for books and magazines that you are willing to donate for someone else's enjoyment. You may read a book or magazine and bring it back for someone else to enjoy next month. Unclaimed magazines will always be given to the DeKalb recycling program.

Mark November 12 on your calendar and join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

Living Grace Young Adults

As a relatively young(er) Living Grace member, I would like to invite you to our home Sunday, 8 November, at 6:30 p.m., for a fun-filled game night. At this first get together, we can get to know one another, have some good fellowship and decide if we are interested in future young adults events, bible studies, men's/women's groups, etc. Please bring an appetizer to share and we will provide beverages. If you have a favorite game you'd like to teach us all to play, bring that too! Thanks!

Hallie Dillon

The Magnetism of Church

On the day of the blessings of the pets approximately 13 dogs and a picture of two cats showed up. While walking into the sanctuary, however, two more dogs were discovered. A husky and a mixed breed brown dog. They were both being held by the collar in order to be stopped from running. It turned out that they had been wandering through the parking lot and one of our church members had grabbed them, but they weren't any of our dogs. So, being good Lutherans, we put them on make-shift leashes and brought them into the sanctuary and had them blessed. Afterwards, Taylor and Erin Cunefare, along with Olivia Kellar went up to the side walk that runs along the front of the church and sat with the dogs, assuming

that the owners had to live somewhere nearby. After a while, a woman in a small Champaign colored car pulled up and tells us that the mixed breed's name is Steve and that he belongs to her neighbor, who she then proceeds to tell us that she will go and get. We then wonder if the husky belongs to her neighbor. About ten minutes later a green minivan makes a u-turn into the right turn lane in front of the church and a small frantic woman with at least two kids hops out. She proceeds to tell us that the dogs are both hers, Steve the mixed breed and Star the husky. She also informs us that she thinks someone is letting them out at night. We hand her dogs over and inform her that her pets have been blessed. She thanked us and got back into her car and drove away.

Later as we were leaving another dog ran through the parking lot, this time, followed by a woman in her pick-up truck. We slowed down and she told us that she'd seen the dog running and was trying to get it back and try to find an owner. This time, we left the dog to the woman and her pickup truck as the dog sprinted away, its floppy ears fluttering in the breeze.

It could have been coincidence that these three dogs showed up on St. Francis of Assisi day for the blessing of the pets, or it could have been the call of St. Francis of Assisi himself.

Guidelines for Prayer Requests

Please notify Leanne Beutler, Newsletter Editor via email at Lbeutler@aol.com or written note to add or remove a name from the prayer list. If the name has appeared in three consecutive newsletters, it will be removed in the fourth newsletter unless you notify Leanne by the newsletter deadline.

Praying for Members, Family, and Friends

Members

Jim Axel; Jim Carter; Bill Conley; Carolyn Davis; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Lorraine Koeves; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Ree Lionberger; Debra Melchionda; and Linda Tuminella

Marian Seckinger

Sister of JoAnn Durrence

Steven Main

Son of Viola Main

Fred Reese

Brother of Cate Sulek

Helen Cunningham

Mother of Margery Kellar

Alex Markert

Nephew of Linda Tuminella

Juanita Mitchell

Mother of Linda Tuminella

Anne Cressman

Mother of Marlene Hardy
MaryAnn Sweeney
Friend of Shirley Arroyo
Linda Linke
Friend of Living Grace
Judy Kissel
Friend of Lin Parker
Ursula Booch
Friend of Connie Holley
Marietta Sandidge
Mother of Jo Kroger
Barbara Marsh
Friend of Jan Levensgood
Evelyn Woosley
Friend of Living Grace
Lib and Joe Hale
Friends of Connie Holley
Mary Mildred McArthur
Mother of Mary Jane Outman
Rosemary Stewart
Friend of Tom Bellamy
Sarah Jane
Sister of Tom Bellamy
Marquenetta Clark and children
Friend of Living Grace
Wynn Franke
Cousin of Margery Kellar
James Davis
Friend of Carolyn Davis
Gerry
Friend of Carolyn Davis
Bob Parris
Friend of Tamara Albrecht
Max Carroll
Friend of Shirley Arroyo

Health Ministry

Since this is the season for flu, most of us know about getting the seasonal flue vaccine, as well as the HINI for the younger ones in our population. I would like to share with you another disease about which you might want to ask your doctor.

What you need to know about Shingles:

Shingles is a disease caused by the same virus that caused chickenpox. Once a person has had chickenpox, the virus can live, but remain inactive in certain nerve

roots within your body for many years; if the virus becomes active again, usually later in life, it can cause shingles. If you've had chickenpox (and more than 90% of adults in America have), you're at risk for shingles; also, the risk for shingles increases as you get older. UP to half of the nearly 1 million shingles cases in the U.S. each year occur in people 60 years or older. 1 out of 2 people who live to 85 will have shingles. In fact, shingles can affect anyone who has had chickenpox at any time, without warning; there is no way to tell who will get shingles or when they may occur.

Spotlight on Signs and Symptoms:

You may not be able to see the first signs of shingles, but you may feel them; the first signs may include: itching, tingling and burning. Within a few days, a rash of fluid filled blisters appears (usually on one side of the body or face); the blisters may take 2 to 4 weeks to heal. Shingle rashes can be painful; for most people, the pain from shingles rash lessens as it heals. However, for some people after the rash heals, shingles may lead to pain that can last for months or even years. It occurs because the virus that causes shingles may damage certain nerves. Long-term nerve pain hurts more and lasts longer in older adults. For many people with long-term nerve pain, even the touch of soft clothing against the skin can be painful.

What Should I Do if I Think I Have Shingles?

Talk to your doctor or healthcare professional if you think you may have shingles so that treatment may begin as soon as possible. If you are an older person and have had chickenpox, talk to a doctor or healthcare professional about your risk for shingles.

This may seem like more information than you might wish, but I have seen cases and believe me, you don't want to get it.

Be sure to keep up with your miles per week on our Walk to Bethlehem. We have 47 people signed up, so let's keep up the good exercise!

In the narthex, on the bulletin board, you will find a chart on "Know the Difference between Cold and H1N1 Flu Symptoms. Please take a minute to read it.

You're invited! Bring the entire family for the lighting of the luminaries, holiday music, and handbell choir concert. The 2009 Lights of Love and Remembrance ceremony presented by Congregational Health Ministry of Gwinnett Medical Center (the Parish Nurse Program) will be 10 December at 7 pm, at the Gwinnett Medical Center, Lawrenceville.

It offers an opportunity to honor or remember a loved one or someone special by making a donation in their name. All the proceeds directly benefit the Parish Nurse program from which individual parish nurses of congregations in partnership with Gwinnett Medical Center may request funds for use in their congregation. To learn more, please talk with me. Also, there will be more information in the narthex shortly.

Jan Levensgood, Parish Nurse/Health Minister

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

Church Women United

The 2009 World Community Day will be held on Friday November 6th at Clairmont Presbyterian Church, 1994 Clairmont Road. Registration and coffee at 9:30 AM. Celebration Service at 10:00 AM.

For information on attendance please call Vi Main @770.938.0896 or Sue Benner @ 770.493.4044./suembenner@yahoo.com.

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

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 12th 12:00N General Meeting and Christmas Luncheon. Anna Circle will serve as hostess.

All women of the church are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

November Circle Meetings

Dorcas: Tuesday, 3rd @10:30 AM at the church
Miriam: Saturday, 21st @9:00 AM at the church
Anna: Saturday, 21st @10:30 AM at the church

Piece Maker's

On Women of the Church Sunday, September 27th, \$200 was raised from the sale of tickets for the annual raffle of quilts which were won by Margaret Holden and JoAnn Durrence. The funds will be used to help pay for the quilting supplies.

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

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday November 5th, Saturday November 14th and on - Friday November 20th 9:00AM to 12:00N. Please be sure to note changes in dates.

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

Sew-N-Sews

The Sew-N-Sews and the Book Bag Ladies will be meeting on Monday November 9th between the hours of 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Church.

The Sew-N-Sew morning session will end at 12:00N. The Book Bag Ladies will then convene from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Remember these layettes are not only used for indigent families, but are also used for children going into the Foster Care Program. Book bags are sewn, filled with supplies and donated to Lutheran World Relief.

If you would like to help you may call JoAnn Durrence @404.633.1833 or Sue Benner @ 770.493.4044.

Prison Ministries Books ...Greeting Cards!

We are pleased to be able to announce that we are now able to accept both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries.

We will also now start collecting Birthday Cards, Christmas Cards, note cards and greeting cards for all occasions so that the women can send their personal greetings to family members and friends.

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

Judy Knapp of Rock of Ages, Stone Mountain, is the Clinical Chaplin at Pulaski State Women's Prison in Hawkinsville, GA.

Outreach Committee

Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women

For the 27th consecutive year, Living Grace will staff the shelter for two weeks. We will be staffing the shelter on the opening week of the season - Monday November 16th through Sunday November 22nd, and from Friday March 12th through Thursday March 18th, the closing week of the season.

As of this writing, most nights are still available. Sign up on the display in the narthex for the nights that suit you best, whether it is in November or March. Questions? Call Sue or David Benner @ 770.493.4044 or email @dobenner@yahoo.com.

NETWorks

The NETWorks Community Ministry Board met on Tuesday October 20th at Lawrenceville Road Methodist Church. Holly Duncan of Northlake Church of Christ was elected as the new president.

NETWorks Community Ministry will be relocating to First Baptist Church on

LaVista Road in Tucker as of December 31st of this year. Operating hours will remain 11:00 AM - 2:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please consider volunteering to help those in need. For information, contact Sue Benner @770.493.4044/suembenner@yahoo.com.

Thanks to all who have so generously donated food items to the food pantry. The need continues for donations. You may place your non-perishable 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.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday November 22nd. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Time and place will be announced later.

Atlanta HOPE Lodge

On Monday October 19th, Phyllis Prunty and her group of dedicated volunteers served dinner to 40 cancer patients, caregivers and staff at the Atlanta HOPE Lodge facility of Emory University's Cancer Treatment program. The meal and fellowship was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Atlanta Hope Lodge provides housing for cancer patients undergoing treatment at Emory Hospital and for their caregivers. Last year the lodge served 775 patients and 750 caregivers.

A new 18 suite wing has recently opened, bringing the total number of suites to 52.

Heifer Sunday

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. November 15th will be the Sunday for this month!

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 contribution to this cause.

Foster Parent Gas Cards

For the past several years, Living Grace, in cooperation with a number of other Lutheran churches, has provided gasoline credit cards for the parents participating in the Lutheran Services of Georgia Foster Parent program. This is just a quick reminder to please include this program in your Christmas giving plans.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

This will be the third year of participation in this program of the Salvation Army. The exact day and times that will be set aside for our church will be announced shortly.

Parish Education/Youth

October has proven to be an exhilarating month in parish education for the children and youth! Attendance has been higher than usual, and the kids are glad to be in Sunday School!

The Pre-K and K class has been viewing a video series entitled, "The Greatest Adventure: Stories from the Bible." The children have watched Noah's Ark and Moses so far. The Hardys donated this video series to the church library. Thank you, Pastor Hardy and Marlene.

The Elementary class has enjoyed their new SPARK curriculum. A special thanks to Mary Ann Blessing and Meredith Collver for substituting.

The Youth class has been having lively discussions in their comparison of the Bible and Disney movies.

NOTE: There will be no Sunday School for children and youth the Sunday following Thanksgiving, Nov. 29.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Preparations for the Christmas program are underway! The practices are every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please see the director of the program, Carol Ireton, for more details. Also, check out the parish education section of the church website next month for more information.

We hope to see all of you little ones (and not so little) in the Fellowship Hall on your way to Sunday School or play practice!

Cathy Shírah and Stephanie Rhodes
Co-Directors, Parish Education

Worship and Music

Living Out Our Baptism

Images of the Season

Christ the King

22 November

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, they still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One

(Messiah); he would be the “one like a human being” (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel’s vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

First Sunday of Advent
29 November

Advent is a joyful season. It is a time of hope amid crisis, light in deep darkness, a growing sense of expectation, a growing trust in the promises of God. Advent offers an optimistic outlook: a way of looking at the world and our troubled human problems that may seem senseless at first. “Do not be afraid,” the angel tells Mary. A nervous mother listens to the hopes of her heart. A prophet stirs people to action, encourages their expectation of a coming age of justice and peace. Wake up! The news will be good, even if, like the Judeans of Jesus’ time, we have “almost ceased to believe that it could ever come to pass.”

Since this is the 5th Sunday, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. This will be hymn festival with readings and hymns of the Advent season. Also, we will be lighting our Advent Wreath in a very unique way, so please come and experience beautiful music and listen to the word as we prepare for the Christ.

Thanksgiving Service

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a worship service of Holy Communion on Wednesday, 25 November, at 7:30 p.m.

Handbell Choir

For those of you who feel they cannot sing, come join the ringing choir! Even if you don’t know how to read music, we will teach you. Our normal rehearsals are on Sundays after the 10:30 worship service for an hour. Rehearsals for the month of November will be on the 8th and 22nd, at 12 noon. You can be as young as 10 years old and as mature as a 100! For more information, please contact, Leanne Beutler, Director.

Special Days in November

1 November
All Saints Day

22 November
Christ the King

29 November
Advent 1

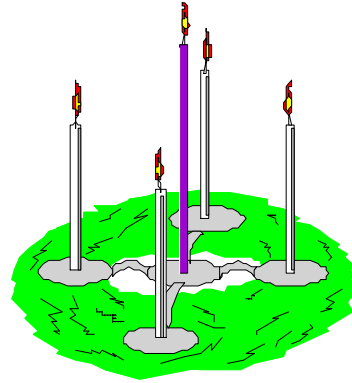
30 November
Andrew, Apostle



A woman was asked by a coworker, “What is it like to be a Christian?”

The coworker replied, “It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.”

ADVENT



LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

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