



Living **Grace** **Notes**

December 2017 Newsletter

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

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

Sunday, 24 December 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am – Holy Communion/10:30 am – Holy Communion



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm – Family Service with Holy Communion

10:00 pm – Candlelight Festival Service with Holy Communion





Poinsettias

Poinsettias to beautify the church for Christmas Eve will be going on sale starting Sunday, 3 December through 17 December. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$35.00 each. If you remember the plants last year, they were very exquisite with beautiful flowers. Yes, you probably could get a plant at a retail store for a lot less, but this is for the church at Christmas Eve. You may give one in honor or in memory of loved ones. You may pick up your plant after the 10:00 pm service or the following Sunday. Please consider beautifying your church at Christmas.

Nativity Scene

As you drive into the church parking lot, please take a look at our Nativity Scene. It has been refurbished. A big THANK YOU goes to Cathy Shealy for her very talented hand at painting the figures and to Dot Beaver, who carefully carried them back and forth from the church to Cathy's house and stored them until they were ready to set up. A big THANK YOU to Dot, as well as her helpers, Ed and Pat Stowers and Jan Levensgood who helped place them in the ground.



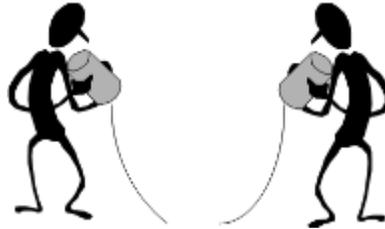
Living Grace's Chrismon Tree

As our annual tradition, the Chrismon Tree will be up and ready to decorate with the Chrismons on Sunday, 17 December. We ask the congregational members after each worship service to stay a few minutes and place a Chrismon or two on the tree. Thank you!!



Communications Ministry

The ministry continues to send out “MailChimps” with Living Grace’s services and events. If you don’t receive these “MailChimps,” please let Beth Roy know via email bettaray@yahoo.com and she will make sure you get on the group list. Also, Leanne has a new email address for all emails that you wish to send to her regarding church business. It is livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com. Also if you have anything to place on Facebook or the LED Sign, please contact Phyllis Gerke or Leanne Beutler.



Health Ministry

As we look toward our celebration of Christmas, many of our hearts are filled with warm memories and eager anticipation. For persons who have experienced a loss of a loved one, this can be a very difficult time. This month I would like to share with you ways we can be a comfort to those who are grieving.

Jesus has won victory over suffering and death, yet these are very real and painful experiences for us. The Bible reminds us that even Jesus cried at the death of his dear friend Lazarus. Often we may wonder ‘what can I say or do that will be a comfort to a grieving friend?’

Being a Comfort to a Grieving Friend

When a friend is grieving there are several things we can do for/with them. First, we need to remember that there isn’t a right thing to do or say that will make the pain go away. We need to be willing to simply be a continuing presence in our friend’s life. It can be a comfort to just sit quietly. We can always be willing to listen. The pain of loss creates a deep and abiding loneliness; this is magnified when those grieving feel separated from others. Second, we need to take our cues from our friend. If they need to cry and experience sadness, we need to be able to be with them at this time without trying to ‘cheer them up’. If they need reassurance of their worth, we need to be affirming. When they need to hear words of comfort from our Lord we need to speak these to them. Third, we need to remember them in our prayers and let them know we are praying for them.

May we “comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”
(2 Cor. 1:4)

Grief is a very real and painful experience. Our faith offers us tangible help when all else gives way. May we speak and live these words Job spoke from the depth of his misery “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God” (Job 19:25-26).

Yours in Christ,
Jan Levensgood
Parish Nurse/Health Minister

Upcoming Events for Health Ministry

Sunday, 3 December – Healing and Anointing in both services

Fridays, 1 and 15 December – Walk Away the Pounds, at 9:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

Hospitality Ministry

The Hospitality Ministry would like to thank all who participated in the Thanksgiving dinner. We had great fun and fellowship. We want to give a BIG THANK YOU to the Gerkes and Watsons for cooking the turkeys and ham. They were delicious!! Also a BIG THANK YOU to all the ministry members who worked the events that the ministry sponsored especially the very successful Reformation Celebration in October.

ATTENTION: At the Thanksgiving dinner, Beth Canada brought her beautiful large spoon from her own silverware. We went looking for it in the church’s kitchen and it is gone. It has a round handle with 3 markings on the handle. If you mistakenly picked it up with your dishes, please return to Dot Beaver. Thank you!



Outreach Ministry

Sew ‘N’ Sews

The Sew ‘N’ Sews will meet on Monday, 11 December, at 9:30 a.m.



Piece-Makers

The quilting group meets on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you like to quilt, please come join them. The dates for December will be 7 and 14. If you don't know how to quilt, they will teach you. Come for the fun and fellowship and possibly learning a new skill.



Game Night

Game Night will be on Friday, 8 December. This is an opportunity to get with your friends and have fun and fellowship playing your favorite game or even learning a new one. All ages are welcome.



Heifer Sunday

Heifer Sunday for the month is 17 December. Although this is a designated day for Heifer, you can contribute to Heifer at any time. Living Grace has given 6 arks. Hopefully, we can make it 7 arks.



NETWorks News

Thank you to the congregation and the assistance of Thrivent, that Living Grace donated over 125 toys and games for NETWorks Christmas Shop. A number of children will have a great Christmas this year because of your generosity.

Beginning January 2018, NETWorks will be open on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be closed on Mondays. Here is their telephone number 770/939-6454. The address is 2380 4th Street, Tucker, GA 30084. If you would like to volunteer, you may call them or go in person to the office when they are open. They welcome volunteers!

Parish Education

Adult Bible Class

Please come join the Adult Bible Class on Sundays, at 9:45 a.m. The class does not meet on the 5th Sundays of the month.



Youth Group News

Youth group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays following the 10:30 worship service. If your youth is interested in this group, please contact Bernice Bland at bernicebland@bellsouth.net.



Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA Christmas Party will be on Sunday, 3 December, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Naomi Circle will be hosting a baked potato feast. We will be making Vision or Memory boards for ourselves or loved ones. So bring pictures (we will have a scanner and color printer) to copy them. You can make a board to envision your life in 5 years, your prayer life or possibly the life of a child or a grandchild. You will be cutting out pictures and pasting them onto a board which will be provided. We will also discuss the 2018 budget. Come and join the fellowship and fun. Bring a friend!

The kitchen has a new dishwasher! Monies from the Anna Circle Cookbook Sale have made this possible.



Worship and Music Living Out Our Baptism

Advent Season

As we begin the Advent Season Sunday, 3 December through 24 December, you will see some differences in the church service. We will be lighting the Advent Wreath during the time of the psalm. Instead of the psalm, we will be singing the appropriate stanzas from the hymn, “*Come Now, O Prince of Peace,*” *ELW 247*. The hymn will be accompanied by handbells. A prayer will be prayed after the singing of the hymn. Also we will open the service with a “*Call to Worship.*” We will be changing to Setting 3 and as always during the Advent season, we don’t sing the Hymn of Praise. It will return on Christmas Eve. Come and worship with us and prepare for the coming of the Savior.



Sunday, 24 December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – Family Service with Holy Communion

10:00 p.m. – Candlelight Festival Service with Holy Communion



Come worship with us!

Church Choir Rehearsals in December

If you would like to sing with the choir for Christmas, you will need to come to rehearsals starting Wednesday, 6 December. Please talk with Steve Honeychurch if you are interested in singing with us for Christmas.



Sunday, 31 December

One Service only at 9:30 a.m.

Special Days in December

24 December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (morning)

24 December

Christmas Eve (afternoon and evening)

25 December

Christmas Day

26 December

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

27 December

John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 December

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

31 December

Christmas I

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 livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com or written note and place in her mailbox to add or remove a name from the prayer list.

Praying for Members, Family, and Friends

Betty Bartling; Charlette Beutler; Maurice Cole; Gene Durrence; Linda Ferguson; Betty Hitz; Julien Lange; Mary Ann Long; Norma Mackenzie; Lin Parker; Ruth Scott; and Tim Shirah.

Helen Cunningham

Mother of Margery Kellar

Nellie Bass

Family of Phyllis Prunty

Bill Veronda

Friend of Margery Kellar

Jill Stewart

Friend of Steph Cunefare

Gregg Cole

Son of Maurice and Betty Cole

Vickie Smith

Friend of Margery Kellar

Walter Smith

Friend of Ed and Pat Stowers

Bronwyn Blanco

Sister of Carrie Orr

Sarah Endsley

Friend of Margery Kellar

Karen Shaw

Friend of Jim and Phyllis Gerke

Anne Mola

Mother of Jim Gerke

The Rev. Charles Beckler

Family of Charlette and Leanne Beutler

Esther Droege

Friend of Living Grace's family

Bill Franke

Uncle of Margery Kellar

Ella Nelson

Friend of the Orrs

Bill and Mary Cressman

Brother and Sister-in-law of Marlene and
Pastor Hardy

We pray for those whom we bear in our hearts.



General News and Notes

December Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Stephen Arroyo | |
| 3 | Michael Roy | |
| 10 | Bryn Levengood | |
| 13 | Greyson Roy | |
| 15 | Michael Ely | |
| 18 | Connie Holley | |
| 20 | John Nelson | |
| 23 | Campbell Keller | |
| 24 | Diane England | Hayden Roberson |
| 25 | Lisa Levengood | |
| 27 | John Jackson | |
| 28 | Mike Watson | |
| 29 | Gene Durrence | |

If you don't see your birthday listed or it is listed but incorrect, please inform the church office of the correction either by email at livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com or place in the Parish Administrator's mailbox in the narthex. Thank you.

Announcements for Bulletins

Announcements for weekly Sunday bulletins need to be electronically sent to Leanne Beutler or a hard copy placed in the Parish Administrator's mailbox no later than Thursday prior to the Sunday insertion. The email address is livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com

New Email for the Church

If you want to send an email to the church, please send to livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Christmas Tea

Save the Date: On Saturday, 16 December, the annual Christmas Tea will be held at the church. It will be a catered tea. Phyllis Prunty is the coordinator of the tea. Please speak with her for details and to register.



Around Town

Cathy Shirah and her mom, Lucy Haddock, were pictured in the *Tucker Times*, taking a hike on the Marsh Trail during the Friends of Johns Homestead Cider Pressing Party at the Johns Homestead Park in Tucker.

Walk Away the Pounds

Come join the fun and fellowship. Walk away the pounds in a nice cool atmosphere on Fridays, 1 and 15 December, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will be taking a break on Friday, 29 December.



Warmest greetings to my family at Living Grace,

As we approach this Advent season and we look to the coming of the Christ child with anticipation, we also reflect on the past year. There certainly have been ups and downs for everyone. Praise reports of healing. The far too many shared sorrows of death that quickly disperse into the knowing of a beautiful place of peace with God for those we love and miss. We have had much joy and laughter during our many opportunities to share in fellowship activities together.

The 500th anniversary year of the beginning of the Reformation by Martin Luther will be coming to an end, but it doesn't stop there does it? As taught us by historians, it was Martin Luther who first designated the Community Chest to those in true need. It was not controlled by one person and one key. It was decided by several as to its use. We at Living Grace hold this same principle true. We try to provide for those in the community with our Ministry work and donations to many different organizations. Each year the Finance Ministry and the Council take a look at where our money would be of best use to others. At the same time, we also have our own needs to be taken care of, such as the basic operation of the building, paid staff, mortgage for our beautiful worship space and of course, those pesky things that you can't count on. Trees falling, hurricanes, etc.

This year, our financial situation has also had its ups and downs. We started the year committing to a very conservative budget. It was lower than the previous year, much in-part to Pastor and Marlene who volunteered a reduced salary. Many of our own Ministry's have cut back, all-the-while, we still are meeting our Outreach goals. Many Sunday's we have met or exceeded our necessary weekly budget, but more Sunday's have fallen quite short of our weekly needs. The savings account was used more this year than previous years, however, the good news is that we are repaying ourselves when we able.

As you reflect on the previous year and the many blessings you truly have, know that God and the Holy Spirit are with you. The Holy Spirit provides all you need, so be assured that you too can provide for others. Please prayerfully consider your past year of giving and have the faith to be able to contribute as you are able, so we may end our year on a positive note.

"All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired" MARTIN LUTHER

Yours in Christ,

Stephanie Cunefare
Council President

Lay Assistants

Sunday, 3 December

The First Sunday of Advent
Healing and Anointing in both services

Ushers	8:30 – Phyllis Gerke 10:30 – Dennis Fritsch/Harold Bowers
Lectors	8:30 – Merritt Shealy 10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Jim and Cynthia Outman
Greeter	10:30 – Jac Larson
Acolyte	10:30 – Aaron Combee
Counters	Mark and Anna Schuette
Altar Guild	Set Up – Missy Streubel Clean Up – TBD

Sunday, 10 December

Ushers	8:30 – Liz Jackson 10:30 – Mike Ely/Alvin Jorkey
Lectors	8:30 – Liz Jackson 10:30 – Bernice Bland
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Gary and Mark Levensgood
Greeter	10:30 – Diane England
Acolyte	10:30 – Jamie Combee
Counters	Dot Beaver/Pat Stowers
Altar Guild	Set Up – Meredith Collver Clean Up – Allison Combee

Sunday, 17 December

Heifer Sunday

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Mark Schuette/Dot Beaver
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Mark Nelson
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Mike Collver 10:30 – Will Arroyo/Alvin Jorkey
Greeters	10:30 – John and Beth Canada
Acolyte	10:30 – Bethany Roy
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo
Altar Guild	Set Up – Carrie Orr Clean Up – Priscilla Fritsch

Sunday, 24 December

Ushers

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 – Keith Siekierski

10:30 – Steve and Cindy Nelson

Lectors

8:30 – Meredith Collver

10:30 – Leanne Beutler

Communion Assistants

8:30 – Alvin Jorkey

10:30 – Dennis Fritsch/Diane England

Greeter

10:30 – Phyllis Prunty

Acolyte

10:30 – Greyson Roy

Counter

Leanne Beutler

Altar Guild

Set Up – Phyllis Gerke

Clean Up – TBD

Sunday, 24 December

Ushers

Christmas Eve – 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – Michael Hardy

10:00 p.m. – Dennis Fritsch/Harold Bowers

Lectors

4:00 p.m. – Michael Hardy

10:00 p.m. – Gaelon Ratel

Communion Assistants

4:00 p.m. – Margery Kellar

10:00 p.m. – Dennis Fritsch/Margery Kellar

Sunday, 31 December

Ushers

One Service Only – 9:30 a.m.

Mark Schuette/Alvin Jorkey

Lector

Liz Jackson

Communion Assistants

Marlene Hardy/Jo Kroger

Greeter

Dot Beaver

Counter

Steve and Cindy Nelson

Altar Guild

Set Up – Missy Streubel

Clean Up – Allison Combee

Coordinators responsible for worship service assistants:

Altar Guild – Missy Streubel at streubel55@gmail.com

Lector/Communion Assistants – Margery Kellar at margery.kellar@gmail.com

Greeters – Phyllis Prunty at 770/237-9807

Sunday Counters – Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com

Ushers – 8:30, Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com – 10:30, Harold Bowers



DECEMBER CALENDAR



Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared

LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Tucker, GA 30084
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Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!