

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

422 Valhi Boulevard Houma, Louisiana 70360

Phone 985-879-1865 Fax 985-879-1833

WWW.GRACEHOUMA.ORG

Guest Preacher - Rev. Alan Kornacki, Jr.

Pastor - Rev. Richard D. Rudnik pastor@gracehouma.org  
President - Richard A. Thalheim, Jr. president@gracehouma.org

Church Secretary - Donna Boger secretary@gracehouma.org  
ECC Director - Sofie Arceneaux ecc@gracehouma.org

Accompanist(s) - Mila Estupinan & Mike Cape

**Today**

Service Elder - Dale Boger

Scripture Reader - Bonnie Dupre

Acolyte - Michael Thalheim

Greeters - D. & D. Boger

Offering Stewards - C. & J. Deane

Altar Guild - M. Beach & P. Cuneo

Ushers - J. Kohls, G. Meyer,  
& R. Reaves, Jr.

**Next Sunday**

Dale Boger

Joe Deane

Adeline Perryman

D. & L. Kelley

B. & M. Beach

M. Johnston & A. Perryman

K. Boger, J. Deane,  
& R. LaCour

**Welcome** to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

**Altar Flowers** are placed today to the glory of God by Betty Carpenter in memory of Alyne Saba, Henry & Mildred Stegall, Sr., & Marion Bolton and in honor of Tom & Brigitte Kinsella's twenty-sixth wedding anniversary which they'll celebrate December seventeenth.



**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus our savior in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with the pastor. Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

**Non-alcoholic wine** is white and located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.



**The Third Sunday in Advent  
December 13, 2009**

**Introit**

*(The congregation will please respond with the bold print.)*

*Rejoice in the Lord always;*

***again I will say, Rejoice.***

*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,*

***whose hope is in the LORD his God,***

*who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,*

***who keeps faith forever;***

*who executes justice for the oppressed,*

***who gives food to the hungry.***

*The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens*

*the eyes of the blind.*

***The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;***

***the LORD loves the righteous.***

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

***and to the Holy Spirit;***

*as it was in the beginning,*

***is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

*Rejoice in the Lord always;*

***again I will say, Rejoice.***

**Collect of The Day**

*(All pray together)*

***Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers  
and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your  
gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.***

***Amen. (Sung)***

**Divine Service**

*Third Setting*

*Lutheran Service Book, Page 184*

**Pre-Service Music**

1. Hymn #515
2. Confession and Absolution p 184
3. Introit Bulletin
4. Glory be to the Father... p186
5. Kyrie p186
6. Salutation p189
7. Collect Bulletin
8. Old Testament Reading Bulletin
9. Epistle Bulletin
10. Glory be to... p190
11. Holy Gospel Bulletin
12. Praise be to... p191
13. Apostles' Creed p192
14. The Word for Children
15. Sermon Hymn #338
16. Sermon
17. Meditation Mike Cape
18. Offertory p192
19. Offering p193
20. Prayer of the Church p193
- Pastor: Stir up Your might, O Lord,  
**People: and come and save us.**
21. Preface p194
22. Holy, Holy, Holy... p195
23. The Lord's Prayer (ALL) p196
24. The Words of Our Lord p197
25. Pax Domini (Amen sung) p197
26. Agnus Dei p198
27. Communion
28. Distribution Hymns #331, #623,  
#353 & # 641
29. Nunc Dimittis p199
30. Thanksgiving p200
31. Post Communion Collect p201
32. Salutation p201
33. Benediction p202
34. Closing Hymn #349

Postlude

Dear wonderful family of faith,

Thank you so much for the wonderful birthday gifts. The Lutheran Study Bible is the fanciest Bible I've ever owned and will serve me well for years and years to come. The visitation companion will do the same. I pray that all of these books will help me to be a better pastor to you as I continue to serve this congregation that treats me so well. Your love and generosity truly warms my heart...and your constant cooking continually warms my belly. Thank you for everything you do to make my service at Grace Lutheran Church such a pleasure.

Thankfully yours in Christ,  
Pastor Rich

### District Happenings

Twenty-first Annual Christmas Concert, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church 2624 Burgundy St., New Orleans, LA. 70117. Please join us for a wonderful casual evening of instrumental Christmas carols and music.

Christmas Concert December 13th at 5:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, near the corner of Canal St. & Carrollton Ave, Mid-City. Join the Lutheran High School Band & Choir, along with the elementary bands from Atonement, Concordia, & St. Paul Schools for a concert that will help you celebrate the Christmas Season. Admission is free and a freewill offering will be taken.

Live Nativity at St. John Lutheran Church Friday, December 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m. This is a free event that includes refreshments, pony rides, and Christmas songs. This will be supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Call Dee Jones at 504-452-8951 if you have any questions.

### **Biscuit Makers**

December 20 - Connor & Hannah Cuneo  
January 3 - Michael & Victoria Thalheim

### Poinsettia Order Form

Even as we observe Advent, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One such preparation is ordering poinsettia plants to beautify our sanctuary as our expression of joy and to the glory of God. Cost is \$10.00 a plant and these may be picked up after services on Christmas Day, December 25th. Order forms are on the table in the narthex and in the church office.

### *Grace's Mission*

*Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness,  
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship*

### **This Week at Grace**

Today	9:00 AM	Worship/Mite Box Collection Coffee and MG Baked Goods follow
	10:45 AM	Sunday School for all ages
	11:45 AM	Board of Directors meeting in conference room
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	12:00 PM	ECC Christmas Program in sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Potluck Fellowship
	7:00 PM	Advent Midweek Service
Thursday	5:30 PM	Confirmation Class
Saturday		Social Ministry Christmas Baskets distribution
Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship Coffee & Youth Biscuits follow
	10:45 AM	Sunday School for all ages

### **For the week of December 13 - 19, 2009 BIRTHDAYS**

December	13	.....	Michael & Molly Kornacki
	14	.....	David Braden
			Kristen Schwausch
	16	.....	Stacie Bauman
	19	.....	Cindy Deane

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

December	13	.....	John & Pat Wegner
	17	.....	Tom & Brigitte Kinsella
	18	.....	Glenn & Linda Meyer

### **FOOD BANK SUNDAY**

Last Sunday was "Food Bank Sunday" and we collected \$200.00 and groceries for the Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity! Our next collection will be Sunday, January 3, 2010.

*Social Ministry is asking for monetary donations for Christmas Food Baskets for needy families. **Deadline for donations is today.** God bless, Connie Oswalt*

### **MEMBER BOXES**

Please remember to check your member box while at church. If you don't see your name on the list, please contact Donna or Gordon by calling or emailing the church office at [secretary@gracehouma.org](mailto:secretary@gracehouma.org).

### Early Childhood Center

We have "Wish List Trees" for the ECC classrooms in the fellowship hall. If you would like to purchase an item from a tree, please make a check payable to GLC - ECC, put the tag in an envelope with the check, and we will take care of the rest. If you would like to make a cash donation towards something on a tree, please put that in an envelope and we will use all cash donations toward items on the trees. We appreciate everything the congregation does to help the ECC. We are blessed to have great children, staff, and friends here at Grace Lutheran.

We are having our Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 16th at noon in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend!

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

### An Old Lutheran?

*Reproduced from the Q&A section of the August 2009 Lutheran Witness*

**Q:** *My husband teases me about being "an old Lutheran." In this day of universal informality, lots of decency and manners seem to have gone out of style, even in church. Perhaps it is the floor plan of our church, but I can't help but notice that people don't seem to observe what was once known as proper etiquette when it comes to their late entrances to the worship service. What is considered proper now? Am I just an old-fashioned Lutheran?*

**A:** Before we sat down to answer your question, we checked with the staff of our LCMS Commission on Worship. Yes, they acknowledged, things often are more casual today, as with so many aspects of our life. Yet, they reminded us, out of respect for the service and consideration for other worshipers, it's still good to observe some "old-fashioned" guidelines when one enters a church after the service has begun.

What are those guidelines?

In his Usher Handbook (Augsburg, 1990), Ralph R. Van Loon notes that, traditionally, latecomers never enter the nave during times of silence, prayer, or while the lessons or the Gospel are being read. Instead, appropriate times to quietly find a seat—or be ushered to a seat—include the Prelude, the day's announcements, a hymn, or a liturgical song.

Van Loon wrote his book as a help for ushers. But his advice is a good reminder for all of us. The goal, of course, is to accommodate and welcome those of us who have arrived late while disturbing our fellow worshipers as little as possible.

*Send your questions to "Q&A," c/o The Lutheran Witness, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Please include your name and address. All questions will be considered, but none can be answered individually. Or, [Click Here](#) to send your question via e-mail."*

**The "what" of our future is determined by the "Who" of eternity.**

### In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Alan Kornacki, Sr., Betty Carpenter, Betty Cummins, Brock Tabor, David Mack, Debbie Olivier, Denise Reaves, Dennis Kelley, Eddie Olivier, Emmett Pillault, Gary Baker, Geraldine Lewis, Gladys Dupre, Glen Carpenter, Gloria Barnard, Jean Frey, John Schlichting, Kay Pffaffman, Kevin Smith, Kristen Brandtly, Laura Naquin, Lloyd Chiasson, Matthew Taylor, Mina Escobedo, Mitch Bascle, Paden Kohls, Pat Rabun, Percy Songe, Ruth Morris, Sarah Ledet, Stephanie Dahl & Todd Mueller



EXPECTANT MOTHERS & BABIES: Casie Duplantis

ELDERLY: Elaine Cofield

MOURNING A LOSS: the family of Joy Kraus, Carroll Hebert & Mary Mingee

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Brandon Darce, Caleb Dufrene, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Matt Babin, Matthew Spolarich, Stephen Darce and Todd Mueller

MISSIONARY FAMILY IN VIETNAM: J.P., Aimee, Celeste & Bella Cima

### 3rd Sunday in Advent

### Philippians 4:4-7

Our LCMS definition of stewardship begins with these words: "**Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God...**" During this preparation season of Advent we are reminded that Christian stewardship really is free and joyous when we acknowledge that God is the Owner of all things and He delights in lavishing His gifts upon us to use to His glory and the welfare of our neighbors.

In Sunday School today, the children will hear the message of the angel to Mary, telling her that the promised Savior would be born to her (Luke 1:26-38). God favored Mary because of Jesus Christ, choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. God favors us because of Jesus Christ, choosing us to be His children! In your family discussions, ask your children to tell you the story of the angel's visit to Mary, pointing out that because of our sin we are separated from God, and we deserve nothing from Him. Encourage your children, reminding them that God grants us unmerited grace and favor because of His Son, who unites Himself with us through His Word and Sacraments.

### Advent Midweek Services

Our last midweek Advent Service is this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a potluck fellowship at 6:00 p.m. Join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior.

Board of Directors Meeting today at 11:45 a.m. in the conference room.