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**The Newsletter
for members of
Grace Lutheran Church
422 Valhi Blvd.**

Houma, LA 70360

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December, 2011



The Pipeliner

If you are interested in helping with future editions, please contact Pr Rich, Donna in the office, or Gordon Fitzgerald. This is your newsletter and we need your help to make it a success. Also, if you would like to receive it by e-mail, please let us know.



Pastor's Corner

After Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving has come and gone and if you were a foreigner here who didn't follow American football, you may have missed it. Halloween certainly trumps Thanksgiving when it comes to decoration and public participation; you can't possibly miss it. And immediately after that the Christmas decorations go up. The very second Thanksgiving Day ends store doors swing open for the "Black Friday" sales, signaling the beginning

of the busy and heavily commercialized holiday season. It's almost that as a society we can't get past Thanksgiving fast enough.

How worldly and how backward this is! Thanksgiving is the perfect way to start off the holiday season, not to be quickly passed by, but to set our hearts aright as we anticipate our celebration of the coming of the Christ child. If this season truly is about remembering the Son of God's entrance into our humanity to save us, it should be all about thankfulness. *"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!"* (Psalm 95:2) *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!"* (Psalm 100:4)

Unfortunately, we often fall for the worldly version of Christmas. Instead of giving thanks for the gift received in the manger 2000 years ago that lasts into a perfect eternity, we stress about the outcomes of our plans for the next four weeks. The economists make it about having a successful retail season. We make it about a successful search for the perfect gift, throwing success-

ful parties for friends, pulling off successful and peaceful family gatherings, getting the cards out without missing anybody, getting everything perfect for the season without maxing out the credit cards.

That's not what the season is about and it's not what your life is about. If you've done this type of Christmas season in the past and you're headed for it again this year, perhaps you would do well to pause and go back to Thanksgiving.

Back on November 24 when you were saying a prayer of thanks for all of your blessings, did you thank God for sending His Son to die for your sins? Was that even on your radar amid the business of the feast and family and football?

If not and you feel bad about it; good. You should. Repent and give thanks right now and every day of this Christmas season and beyond, realizing that because God's Son was born into humanity and died for humanity, your sin is forgiven and you are in Christ.

If you did give thanks for Jesus; good. You should. Keep doing so each and every day of the season and into eternity. It is right to do because we live in a perpetual

season of thanksgiving.

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)

These few weeks leading up to Christmas are made stressful by the worldly obligations we place upon ourselves. Many people lament the hectic pace and crass commercialization of Christmas. While I may be stretching the biblical context a bit, I think St. Paul writes that even the crazy and worldly way we do the Christmas season is not a bad thing if you have the right attitude. *"Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving."*

Don't let Thanksgiving Day fall into your rear view mirror as you navigate your way to Christmas Day. That day is about remembering the worship of our infant Savior in the manger at Bethlehem. But that baby grew to go to the cross and through the grave for us and now reigns victorious forever as King of all that is. Be giving thanks today, tomorrow and every day for you know that one day you will do so face to face before His throne, crying

"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." (Revelation 7:12)

The Christmas season is for but a few weeks. Our Thanksgiving is forever.

Christmas Baskets

The joyful Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth is approaching. GLC will again be sharing the love of Christ through the giving of food baskets in December. Please stop by the lighted Christmas

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

tree poster in the narthex. On it you will find Christmas cards with a shopping list for a Christmas basket inside. Please take a card, write your name in the space on the tree behind it, purchase the non-perishable food items on the list and bring them to the tables by the door in the fellowship hall. The items will then be delivered along with a turkey purchased by Thrivent to needy families on December 17. If you have any questions or would like to be part of the assembly and delivery teams, please contact Connie Oswalt at (985) 226-2520. Thank you!
Connie

Receiving of New Members

Sunday, November 13th we received into membership through adult instruction Paul and Mary Kopari. Paul and Mary have two sons, Conrad and Holden. We celebrate with them Holden's baptism on Thanksgiving Day. The Kopari's address is 293 Port Royal Way, Houma, LA. 70360.



We welcome Paul, Mary, Conrad and Holden to the family of Grace!

Baptism

On Thanksgiving Day through the washing of Holy Baptism, Holden Lalrinawma Kopari became a member of God's Kingdom. Holden is the son of new members Paul & Mary and younger brother of Conrad. We welcome Holden to the family of Grace!

Wedding Bells

We are pleased to announce the marriage of our daughter Lori to Patrick Prugh.

Lori and Patrick were married November 18th in Virginia.

We look forward to their visit to Houma for Christmas.

Dale and Donna Boger

Thank You

We wish to thank our church family for the warm wishes and prayers for the speedy recovery of our son Wylin Williams. Thank You to all of you from the bottom of our hearts.
Wanda and William Williams

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who participated with Food Bank Sunday last MONTH. \$115.00 in cash and groceries were donated. Our next collection will be Sunday, December 4, 2011.

Biscuit Makers

December 4 -
Ross & Annie Reaves
18 -
Seth Cunningham

2012 Board of Directors

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Dale Boger
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Bradley Cinnater
Mission Outreach Chair:
Jerrie Fitzgerald

2012 Elders

Joe Deane, Gordon Fitzgerald,
Paul Gerken, Jerry Ledet,
Joey Souther, Richard
Thalheim, Mike Wallace and
John Wegner

Thank you to those who have
volunteered to serve our
congregation this next year.
Please keep our Board of
Directors and Elders in your
prayers.

Important Date to Note

2012 Final Budget approval.
Sunday, December 11, 2011 at
12:00 p.m. The meeting will
take place in the sanctuary after
St. Matthew's worship service.

Fall Festival 2011 Check Presentation

Proceeds from this year's
festival will be given out during
fellowship time on Sunday,
December 11th to:

The Bunkhouse Homeless
Shelter

St. Vincent de Paul
Community Pharmacy
Terrebonne Churches United
Food Bank
Project Learn LaTerre (Family
Literacy Program)

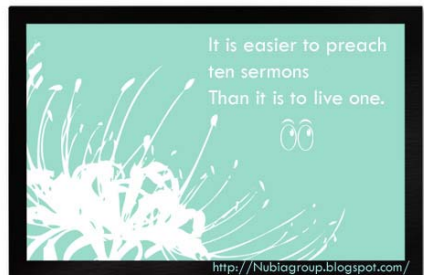
We are pleased to announce
that each charity will receive
\$4000.00. This amount is
wonderful considering this
year's crowd was smaller and
the inclement weather. God is
so good!

Thank you again to everyone
who helped with this year's
Fall Festival!

Jerrie Fitzgerald & Donna
Boger

Sunday Morning Worship & Fellowship

Just a reminder to leave the
sanctuary, fellowship hall and
kitchen tidy on Sunday
mornings - or any other time
you may use them. Make sure
bulletins are picked up, pew
envelopes and pencils are in



place, fellowship hall tables are wiped off and any food around the chairs is picked up. Please, do not leave dirty dishes in the kitchen sinks. The ECC is inspected by the state and health departments on a regular basis and the kitchen area is one part of these inspections. Thank you for your cooperation.

Outreach Opportunity

There are so many signs in our world that tell us that the end is drawing nearer each day. However, wars, earthquakes, famine and other catastrophes are only signs of the end. The world will not end until all the elect are safely in Christ. The fact that some of the elect are not yet saved is evidence that urges us to keep sharing our faith and giving the Holy Spirit the opportunity to gather the elect! Luke 21:5-28

Lutheran Witness Subscription Renewal Time

Now is the time to renew or start a new subscription to the "Lutheran Witness". The cost is \$13.00 for a year's subscription. The church receives a free monthly copy. You may make out a check to GLC with "Lutheran Witness" noted in the memo line and place this in the offering plate. **Subscrip-**

tions must be turned in by Sunday, December 11, 2011. See Donna for more information.

Altar Flowers

The beautiful altar flowers we enjoy every Sunday are donated by Gloria Ashley. She continues to bless Grace with this gift of love. If you would like to send Gloria a "thank you" note, her address is: 226 Hampton, Houma, LA. 70364.

2012 Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for next year is up and ready to be filled in. **We ask that each family sign up just once to give everyone a turn to designate altar flowers.** Donations for the flowers may be given to the "general fund".

Devotionals are in...

"Our Daily Bread" for December, January and February along with Lutheran Hour Ministries and Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots Advent Devotionals are on the table in the narthex and the round table by the sacristy.

Thank you to Gordon & Jerrie Fitzgerald, owners of Kwik Kopy for printing the Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotionals.

Advent Suppers & Worship Schedule

Our church family will be meeting every Wednesday evening in Advent beginning November 30th. Our suppers will be hosted by different groups in the church and begin at 6:00 p.m. Worship service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

November 30 -
Youth Group

December 7 -
Board of Directors

December 14 -
Thrivent

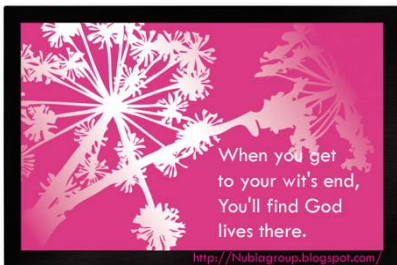
December 21 -
LWML/ Mission Guild

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

***Saturday, December 24th
7:00 p.m.***

Christmas Day Worship Service

***Sunday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.***



In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Betty Carpenter, Catherine Lepeure, Cherie Delaney, David Mack, Donna St. Amant, Glenn Meyer, Jerry Barnard, Jim & Iva Kohls, Joelle Gerken, John Bagert, John LeBlanc, Kettie Britton, Lynda Kelley, Mary Velasquez, Michael Dupre, Mike Brunette, Reynold Pitre, Rudy Escobedo, Sandy Waalk, Shirley Keen, Stephanie Dahl, Vanessa Dupre, Kohen Treser & family & Wylin Williams
PRAYER OF THANKS-GIVING: Butch Henderson, Penny Cuneo & Richard LaCour

ELDERLY: Barbara Hillman, Gertrud Weidmann & Stella Gilbert

EXPECTANT MOTHERS & BABIES: Kristan Plaisance & Rebekah Spolarich

NEW MOTHERS & BABIES: Alyce & Jonah Eschete; Wendy & Jacob Hardin; Laura & Madison Schmitt; Christy & Gabriel Thomas

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of Alan Brandel, Anita Harper, Bill Sullivan, Cody Davenport, Colton Riley Doyle, Jean Frey, Joyce Shugart, Myrtle Cannon & Tyreik

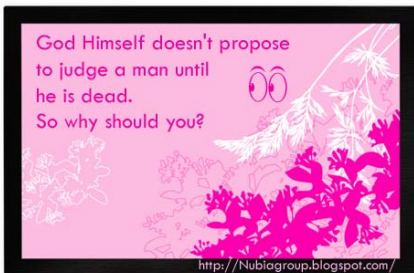
Gregoire

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Brandon & Heather Darce, Caleb Dufrene, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Mark St. Romain, Matthew Spolarich, Stephen Darce and Todd Mueller
VIETNAM MISSIONARY FAMILY : J.P., Aimee, Celeste & Bella Cima

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Please note: copies of the front and back of a page equals two pages.



Lutheran Women in Mission

Mission Guild

MITES: Mites are collected the 2nd Sunday of each month, however you can put your offerings in the large mite box in the back of the church any time and we thank you.

For those who want an update, all Mite monies are forwarded to LWML for mission projects. A list of these projects are on the Mission Guild bulletin board. All monies collected on Sundays for love offerings, baked goods, dish cloths, etc. are used for local projects and the support of our seminary student, Jacob Hummel.

Thank you to Bridgette Rudnik and Jerrie Fitzgerald for helping with the baked goods table this past month. Also, thank you to all of the "bakers and partakers" of our goodies. All monies raised are used for our own mission projects at Grace.

Please mark your calendars for our annual visit to Heritage Manor Nursing Home on Saturday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. We will call bingo games and sing Christmas Carols with the residents. Everyone is invited to participate.

Dish cloths, Christian key rings, Portals of Prayer/Devotion booklet covers plus other assorted items are available the second Sunday of each month. See Joelle, Jerrie or Donna for more information.

All ladies of Grace are invited to join us at our next quarterly meeting on December 18 - immediately following service in the Conference Room.

The ladies of Grace's LWML/ Mission Guild wish you and yours a very Merry **CHRIST**mas and a healthy and safe New Year!

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Joelle Gerken & Donna Boger

Stewardship

Over 2,000 years ago the world received the greatest gift that has ever been given. The angel announced this gift to shepherds who were watching their flocks at night. The message of God's angel explained what a truly remarkable event this was. The angel said: ***"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."*** Suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel,

praising God and saying: ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."*** (Luke 2:10-12; 14 NIV)

Those shepherds were never the same again. They went to Bethlehem to see for themselves this great happening. After seeing the Christ child with their own eyes they left in great joy and shared this good news with everyone they met.

On that first Christmas God fulfilled His promise to send a Savior who would rescue His people from their sins. What a blessing for the lowly shepherds to be the first people besides Mary and Joseph to hear about and see this great happening!

Years later the Apostle John by inspiration of the Holy Spirit acknowledged this miraculous gift with one of the most memorable verses in the Bible: ***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life."*** (John 3:16 NIV) This single verse expresses two things that God delights in doing and those two things are ***loving*** and ***giving***.

Children are richly blessed when they have good and godly parents who bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Children are also blessed when they imitate the positive qualities of their Christian parents.

St. John in the third chapter of his first letter stated: ***“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are.”*** (1 John 3:1 NIV)

What does this say to us as God’s stewards of all [including time, money, abilities and much more] that He entrusts to our management? It says this: If we are to grow as children of God we will develop those godly characteristics of our Heavenly Father, namely **loving** and **giving**.

Christmas is in the very best sense a gift that keeps on giving. May the Holy Spirit help us to receive this great gift with joy and thanksgiving and respond with growth in **loving** and **giving** as God’s children! This desire could become an important part of our New Year’s resolutions! Wouldn’t that make our part of the world so much better?

Have a blessed Christmas and a joy-filled New Year!

Peach Cobbler

1 can of sliced peaches (29 oz)
1 egg
1 stick of margarine
1 box yellow cake mix
½ cup of sugar
½ cup of milk

Mix egg, sugar, milk and cake mix in mixing bowl (add more milk if needed, but dough must remain stiff when finished)

Melt margarine in med. Baking pan (or spray with spray margarine)

Discard about one half of peach juice

Add peaches to baking pan

Spoon dough on top of peaches (don’t worry the dough will even out when baked)

Bake at 350 for about one hour or till golden brown

Thanks to:
Cullen Boudreaux
St Vincent DePaul Free
Pharmacy



Acolytes

Dec 4	Karly Kyzar
11	Annie Reaves
18	Victoria Thalheim
25	Hannah Cuneo

Ushers

Dec 4	Dave Akins/Dennis Armstrong/Gordon Fitzgerald/Joey Souther
11	Jim Kohls/Glenn Meyer/Ricky Reaves/Michael Thalheim
18	Youth Group
25	Dale Boger/Joe Deane//Richard LaCour

Altar Guild

Dec 4	Mary Lou—Kristen—Lorie
11	John—Patsy—Ellen
18	Marilyn – Penny
25	Ann—Addie

Scripture Readers

Dec 4	Bonnie Dupre
11	Joe Deane
18	Youth Group
25	Mona LaCour

Offering Stewards

Dec 4	Donna Boger & Glenn Meyer
11	Rana DaSilva and Brigitte Kinsella
18	Joe and Cindy Deane
25	Burt and Marilyn Beach

Greeters

Dec 4	Dennis & Gwen Armstrong
11	Gordon & Jerrie Fitzgerald
18	Youth Group
25	Mary Lou Johnston

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