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

Houma, LA 70360

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November, 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

Strange Voting

Election season seems to bring out the worst in good people. Political attack ads fill the airwaves, doing their best to tarnish, smear and destroy political opponents. Lies, half-truths and innuendo seem to be the rule of the day, and despite the fact that everybody I know says they hate the negativity, the candidates wouldn't run the ads if they didn't work. The theory which seems to be reality is that if a candidate can paint an

opponent deep enough into the sewer, he or she will look good and righteous in comparison.

It is ironic that sometimes the candidate who can best fool us, the electorate, into thinking their opponent is a vile human being is the one who ends up being elected, while the candidate who fails or refuses to effectively engage in this type of mudslinging often is left giving the concession speech on election night. The one with the least moral character gets elected.

Peter writes in his second letter of several praiseworthy traits and then states, *"Therefore, brothers be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall."* At first this statement might take us aback because we practice so many qualities that aren't praiseworthy at all. We might think our election is somehow unsure, that we might instead be on the losing end of things.

Thankfully for us the one with low moral character, the one who is unrighteous and doesn't deserve election is the one who wins. You might say we even win by a landslide with 100 percent of the vote, because God alone casts this ballot. God is a strange voter.

While we may be fooled by clever campaign slogans, creative statistics and fancy rhetoric, God is not. God knows what sinful creatures we are. God knows that in our sin we aren't even seeking election to the office of being His beloved child forever. God knows we are in fact an enemy to Him. He elects us anyway. In His mercy and love He chooses to make us something that we are not; holy.

How does He do this? He elects the only one who is good and righteous—His only begotten Son—to the office of scapegoat. His will is that the holy one of Himself by humbled and punished and suffer the wrath of God for all the sin of mankind. This clears the way for sinners to be seen as righteous in God's sight. That sacrifice made by the only perfect man accepted, God raises Him in glory forever, the firstfruits of all of us who are elected to salvation.

So what was Peter talking about when he wrote, "*make your calling and election sure*"? It wasn't about God changing His mind. God's ballot is cast and He doesn't go back on His promises. The only way our election is unsure is if we decide to refuse the seat at God's eternal banquet to which He has elected us.

Peter is urging Christians to practice God pleasing virtues at all times so we don't fall into worldly ways that draw us away from God and tempt us to willingly leave His kingdom. Practicing virtue, godliness, self control and love strengthen us as we live out our election as a baptized child of God. Not practicing these qualities leaves us open to partaking of the opposite qualities promoted by the enemy of God and the lusts and passions of a fallen world.

You have been elected to salvation. If you doubt it, pull out your baptismal certificate. Consider it God's ballot punched next to your name. Know that despite your utter unfitness for the office, it's yours by the strangest of all voters—God the Father almighty. It's a done deal, so live out your office in godliness under Christ's forgiveness each and every day all the way into eternity.

Financial News

Grace's voters passed a deficit budget for 2011 and her membership stepped up their giving and we were operating in the black—until the insurance company hit us with a 52 percent hike in our premiums. The board of directors hopes to adjust our coverage to get our costs down

in 2012, but we have been saddled with the added expense for several months. To meet operating costs the board authorized borrowing up to \$10,000 from the building/capital improvements fund. To date we have had to borrow more than half of that allowance. We hope to start 2012 not owing the fund anything. If you are able, please consider a gift in addition to your normal giving to offset this cost. Mark your check "debt abatement". Thanks for your generous support of God's work through Grace Lutheran Church.

-Pastor Rich

Stewardship

November is a popular month for many Americans. In the farm belt most of the crops have been harvested and stored safely away. In other areas snow has already fallen and skiers are anxious to head for the hills to get an early start on the new ski season. Sports fans are treated to a large number of college and professional football games. But perhaps the best thing about November is:

"THANKSGIVING DAY"!

Christians love to join together with fellow Christians and sing hymns of harvest and thanksgiving like:

***"Come, ye thankful people come;
raise the song of harvest-home.***

***All be safely gathered in ere the
winter storms begin; God, our
Maker, doth provide for our
wants to be supplied.***

***Come to God's own temple,
come; raise the song of harvest-
home."*** (TLH, 574, v 1)

Christians and Lutheran Christians, in particular, recall how Dr. Martin Luther explained the meaning of the petition ***"Give us this day our daily bread."*** Luther said that ***"God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all wicked people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."*** He then went on to explain what is meant by daily bread with these words: ***"Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and wants of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."***

October 18, 2011

That's quite a list of things for which to be thankful. We enjoy these many blessings because two things that God delights in doing are ***"loving and giving."*** This is stated so clearly in the well-known words of John 3:16 (NIV): ***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***

St. Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, penned these words in Romans 8:31-32 (NIV): ***"He [God] who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"***

A suggestion for Christians each morning is to pray, ***"Thank You, Lord, for the gifts of life, health, work, family, friends, home, daily bread and this new day. Bless and protect us this day in all our activities, travels, work and play."***

One of the best benefits that comes with ***thanksgiving*** is ***thanksgiving*** that shows up as we freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. That is Christian stewardship in the best sense of the word.

Dear fellow members of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are writing to give you an update on the status of our future bell tower.

I am disappointed with the delay, but we have not yet been able to get the plans and specifications that we need to proceed toward contracts.

Mr. Hayes, our architect/engineer, is working on other projects and has not yet completed our final plans. He has assured me that we will meet the week of October 24th and work out the details necessary to finalize these plans.

Fred and I have each been speaking with engineers (lighting, steel, and electrical) and contractors. The results of these meetings have been most encouraging. BUT we cannot move forward without plans.

Thank you all for your support and patience. I have to remind myself that this project is too important to rush into improperly. I hope you agree!

Jerry
Jerry Ledet

Mission Guild

Thanks to Pastor Rich for a blessed LWML Sunday. We hope you enjoy your new LWML nightlight.

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.

Thank you to all who volunteered at this year's Fall Festival. All baked goods sold at the LWML table during the Fall Festival went toward the Rummage Sale treasury.

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 Jenny Jones for volunteering to help Joelle with the baked goods table the second Sunday of each 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 are still available for a \$2.00 donation each; and Christian key rings for \$6.00. We also have covers for our Portals of Prayer/Devotion booklets for \$5.00 each, plus other assorted items. See Joelle, Jerrie or Donna if there is anything you wish to purchase.

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

A very happy and blessed Thanksgiving to all,

Joelle Gerken & Donna Boger

2012 Board of Directors and Elders

Now is the time to start thinking about serving as a member of



the Board of Directors or elder for 2012. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself. Grace needs you! Please prayerfully consider how you can help the Lord's work by volunteering to serve as a candidate for an elected position.

2012 Board of Directors Candidates

President:

Richard Reaves, Sr.

Social Ministry Chair:

Connie Oswalt

Vice President:

Dave Greve

Christian Ed. Chair:

Michele Wallace

Board Secretary:

Ann Dyer

Activities Chair:

Donna Boger

Treasurer:

Bonnie Dupre

Property Chair:

Dale Boger

Financial Secretary:

Cindy Deane

Stewardship Chair:

Bradley Cinnater

Mission Outreach Chair:

Jerrie Fitzgerald

Elders Candidates

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

Bits and Pieces at Grace

Building Stewardship and Security

If you're among the last to leave the church building at any time, please be sure *all* doors are locked *and* closed completely. Also, please make sure all thermostats are returned to vacant-building settings.

Food Bank Giving Sunday

Thank you to everyone who participated with Food Bank Sunday last month. \$210.00 in cash and groceries were donated. Our next collection will be Sunday, November 6, 2011.

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 by calling or emailing the church office at:

secretary@gracehouma.org

Worship Service DVDs Available

Sunday services are recorded and put on DVD. If you or someone you know would like to receive these, please contact the church office. Extra DVDs are placed on top of the congregational mailbox

cabinet and are free for the taking. DVDs are usually available for pick up by Tuesday.

Biscuit Makers

November 6 - Michael & Victoria Thalheim

November 20 - Addie Perryman

Time To Turn Our Clocks Back!

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 a.m. Remember to set your clocks **back** an hour before you go to bed Saturday night. If you forget, you'll have an extra hour to meditate before worship!

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Anita Harper, Betty Carpenter, Cherie Delaney, Colton Riley Doyle, David Mack, Donna St. Amant, Glenn Meyer, Jerry Barnard, Jim & Iva Kohls, Joelle Gerken, John Bagert, Kettie Britton, Lisa Ledet, Lynda Kelley, Reynold Pitre, Rudy Escobedo, Sandy Waalk, Stephanie Dahl, Vanessa Dupre & Wylin Williams

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Butch Henderson & Richard LaCour

ELDERLY: Barbara Hillman, Gertrud Weidmann & Stella Gilbert

EXPECTANT MOTHERS & BABIES: Kristan Plaisance

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

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of 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, Matt Babin, Matthew Spolarich, Stephen Darce and Todd Mueller

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

FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE

As of the writing of this article, our 12th Annual Fall Festival has yet to be enjoyed. We are believing we'll have great weather to go along with great food, fun and fellowship.

A Fall Festival "Wrap Up" Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 9th at 7:15 p.m.(after Prayer & Praise). We'll schedule a date to

present our charities with this year's proceeds.

A BIG HEARTFELT THANKS to all those who have and/or will donate their time, treasures and talents to this year's festival. Remember, this is Grace Lutheran's festival. That means all of us!

Important Dates to Note

Election of 2012 Board of Directors

**Sunday, November 6, 2011
at 12:00p.m.**

2012 Budget Review and discussion

**Sunday, November 27, 2011
at 12:00 p.m.**

**2012 Final Budget approval
Sunday, December 11, 2011
at 12:00 p.m.**

All meetings will take place in the sanctuary after St. Matthew's worship service.

ECC

The ECC will have a Thanksgiving Program on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:45 p.m. after potluck. This year we have decided not to have a fundraiser dinner and focus on our program with the children. The parents are invited to attend potluck and the children will begin singing

songs at 6:45. All are welcome! We would like to thank all of you for the continued support that you give to help the school continue to succeed year after year. We are so grateful for your donations month after month. It is truly a blessing! We are always in need of paper products such as: Kleenex, Paper Towels, Baby Wipes, Napkins, and 5 oz. Dixie Cups.

We received memorial donations in memory of Mrs. Elaine Cofield and Mrs. Jean Frey and we have used this money to purchase a Merry Go Cycle for our playground. We are so excited about our new playground equipment. We would like to thank their families and those who donated toward their memorials. We are so blessed to have your support!

The ECC will be closed for the Thanksgiving

Holidays:

Monday, November 21

Friday, November 25.

After the holidays, we will have a Wish List Tree for each class with items that we would like to purchase for the classrooms. If you would like to purchase something from the tree, please place the check made payable to GLCECC or cash for the item in

an envelope with the tag and put in the ECC Box in the office. We will purchase all items that are picked off the tree. The price of the item will be on the tag. The trees will be located on the cubbies in the hall by the Terrific Twos Class.

Reformation Day Prayer

O Lord, our Mighty Fortress, on this day I celebrate the gift of Your grace, which freely grants salvation in Christ. I praise You for the gift of faith, through which You bring me into Your family and give me the promise of eternal life. I thank You for the precious gift of Your Word, which reveals Your love and grace to me. With joy I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Portals Of Prayer
October-December 2011*

A Place of Restoration, a local Christian addiction treatment facility, is holding a fundraising golf tournament at Ellendale Country Club Monday, November 14 beginning at 7:30 a.m. Pastor is looking into the possibility of putting a foursome together from Grace. If you are interested, please email Pastor at:

pastor@gracehouma.org.

More information about A Place of Restoration can be found at www.aporhouma.com.

Registration for the tournament is due by November 1st.

New Address

Pat Bauman's new address:
514 E. Musique St., Carencro,
LA 70520 (985) 860-7251.

Good Eats at Grace

Chocolate-Covered Cherry Cake

Cake:

Vegetable oil spray for misting the pan

1 package (18.25 ounces) plain devil's food cake mix or devil's food mix with pudding

1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling

2 large eggs

1 teaspoon pure almond extract

Chocolate Glaze:

1 cup sugar

1/3 cup butter

1/3 cup whole milk

1 package (6 ounces: 1 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Place a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly mist a 13 x 9 baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Set the pan aside.

Place the cake mix, cherry pie filling, eggs, and almond extract in a large mixing bowl. Blend with an electric mixer on low

speed for one minute. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Increase the mixer speed to medium and beat 2 minutes more, scraping the sides down again if needed. The batter should look thick and well blended. Pour the batter into the prepared pan, smoothing the top with the rubber spatula. Place the pan in the oven.

Bake the cake until it springs back when lightly pressed with your finger and just starts to pull away from the sides of the pan, 30 to 35 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and place it on a wire rack while you prepare the glaze.

For the glaze, place the sugar, butter, and milk in a small saucepan over medium-low heat and cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture comes to a boil. Boil, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the chocolate chips. When the chips have melted and the glaze is smooth, pour it over the warm cake so that it covers the entire surface. The glaze will be thin but will firm up. Cool the cake for 20 minutes before cutting in to squares and serving.

Store this cake, covered in aluminum foil, at room temperature for up to 5 days or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week. Or freeze the cake, wrapped in foil, for up to 6 months. Thaw the cake overnight on the counter before serving.

(Any of you who have come to "Prayer and Praise" on Wednesday evenings can testify that this is a chocolate lovers dream. Ed.)

Angels Explained by Children

Gregory, Age 5

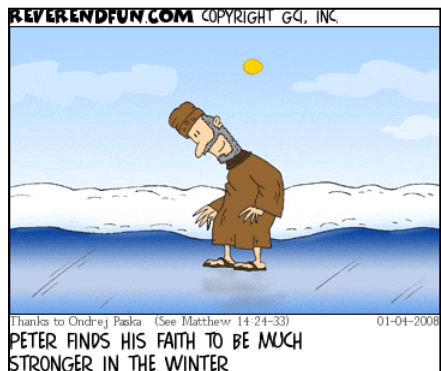
I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold.

Mitchell, Age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.

Jared, 8

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.



Acolytes

November 6	Hannah Cuneo
13	Victoria Shroyer
20	Jared Moise
27	Ross Reaves

Ushers

November 6	Dave Akins/Dennis Armstrong/Gordon Fitzgerald/Joey Souther
13	Jim Kohls/Glenn Meyer/Ricky Reaves/Michael Thalheim
20	Youth Group
27	Dale Boger/Joe Deane//Richard LaCour

Altar Guild

November 6	Mary Lou—Kristen—Lorie
13	John—Patsy—Ellen
20	Marilyn - Penny
27	Kendra - Ann—Addie

Scripture Readers

November 6	Joe Deane
13	Jeannie Thalheim
20	Youth Group
27	Gordon Fitzgerald

Offering Stewards

November 6	Donna Boger & Glenn Meyer
13	Rana DaSilva and Brigitte Kinsella
20	Joe and Cindy Deane
27	Burt and Marilyn Beach

Greeters

November 6	Bonnie Dupre & Charlene Shroyer
13	Dale & Donna Boger
20	Youth Group
27	Dennis & Lynda Kelley

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