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

Houma, LA 70360

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January, 2012



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

Today it is the payroll tax cut and tomorrow it may be greenhouse emission legislation and the day after that it might be welfare reform, but no matter what the issue the Democrats and Republicans are arguing over, one word keeps getting batted around the 24/7 political pundit channels—"compromise."

"Can they reach a compromise?" is always the question. When some budget deadline is approaching the talking heads start bemoaning the lack of a

compromise and agreement. In the upcoming presidential primaries I'm sure we're going to hear talk about which candidate is best able to "reach across the aisle" and reach a compromise with the opposition.

I'll keep my political feelings to myself and I do not believe that compromise is a bad thing in government. However, sometimes I think the politicians, the media and even the electorate make compromise the end goal in every situation, as if compromise is always in and of itself a virtue.

That, I believe, is dangerous because what one believes of in politics often drips over into one's theology.

Have you ever referred to a sin as not being so wrong or not being one of the "really bad" ones? Have you ever felt that God should make allowances for a sin of yours because you're in some sort of special circumstance? Have you ever looked at your tendency to sin and your desire for what God forbids and think God just has to put up with your sin because He made you this way? All of these things we do to rationalize our sin are really just wanting God to compromise.

God's law is very firm, yet we want it to yield, to give a little ground. What we want is for God to meet us half way in our sin—and to us half way means letting our sins slide or at least meeting out some lesser punishment that we can deal with and work off.

I checked eight different versions of the Bible. The word "compromise" isn't anywhere in any of them. Compromise is not one of the attributes of God. Compromise is not part of His character. Perfect doesn't compromise. Holy doesn't compromise. There is no wiggle room when it comes to God's righteousness.

"Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer. The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind." (Proverbs 24:8-9)

"Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear." (Ecclesiastes 5:6-7)

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree

bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit." (Jesus in Matthew 12:33)

God doesn't compromise when it comes to sin. The Bible makes clear what the consequences are when we do; *"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."* (James 1:14-15)

Thankfully, while God will never relent when it comes to the punishment for sin, in His mercy He redirected that punishment onto Christ Jesus. God is uncompromising—Sin must be paid for. God's justice demands it. He did what justice demands, but lovingly sacrificed His Son in our place. *"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 5:20-21)

If you want to include compromise in your politics, that's fine. It's a free country. But when it comes to your God, remember that there are no compromises. God cannot abide sin. Neither should you. Don't

make excuses for sin. Don't make allowances for sin. Stop sinning without compromise. That's God's standard.

When you fail at doing this, repent and receive God's forgiveness. The Gospel good news is the God doesn't compromise there either. He promises through His prophet, *"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."* (Jeremiah 31:34)

Jesus Christ was uncompromising in His sacrifice for you. He gave it all to forgive it all. Follow Him. Be uncom-promising as you strive to live in Christ each and every day.

Christmas Food Baskets For Needy Families

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for all your donations. We were able to give food baskets to 22 families this Christmas. A very special THANK YOU to Roy and Edith Labat for the toys that came from Toys for Tots. We gave gifts to 39 children ages 1 yr. to 17 yrs. Thanks also to Thrivent for the Turkeys for the food baskets and the Food Bank.

Blessings to everyone. MERRY CHRISTMAS
Connie Oswalt

Food Bank Sunday

Thank you to everyone who participated with Food Bank Sunday in December. \$90.00 in cash and groceries were donated.

Our next collection will be Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Blood Donors Needed

If you are interested in donating blood, and are at least 17 years old and 110 lbs, please call the TGMC Blood Donor Center at 985-873-4025 or come by the Center located in TGMC's Medical Annex Building behind the hospital on Belanger Street (across from the parking garage).

Hours of Operation: Monday—
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Extended hours on Tuesday
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. (by
appointment only)

For more information call the TGMC Blood Donor Center - 985-873-4025 or 985-873-4026.

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".

Building 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.

Fall Festival 2011 Check Presentation

Proceeds from Fall Festival 2011 were given out during fellowship time Sunday, December 11, 2011 to The Bunkhouse Homeless Shelter, Project Learn LaTerre (Family Literacy Program), St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy, and Terrebonne Churches United Food Bank.

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

We are pleased to announce that each charity received \$4000.00 - including matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. 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!

Watch your Sunday bulletins and Pipeliners for the date and time of our next Fall Festival Meeting.

Giving Deadline for 2011

All offerings and donations to Grace Lutheran Church or GLC's Early Childhood Center should have been received in the church office or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2011** to be included on GLC's contribution statements for 2011. Any funds received in 2011 that were not postmarked by December 31, 2011 will be posted as 2012 contributions on GLC records.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

The monthly Prayer Meeting will be held Friday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Directors and Elders Installation Sunday, January 15th during the worship service.

February 2012 Pipeliner articles should be turned in to Gordon by Friday, January 20th. You may email these to fitz@kwikkopy.com

2012 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2012 are in the members boxes. If you did not receive any and would like some, please contact the church office or Cindy Deane.

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 the church office at 879-1865 or sending an email to:

secretary@gracehouma.org

ECC Paper Products Donations

Please consider a donation of one or more of the following items:

Baby wipes, paper towels, kitchen-size paper cups, bath-

size paper cups, Kleenex and napkins.

Thank you for leaving your donations in the blue box in the narthex.

The ECC will be closed for the Christmas Holidays Dec. 21-Jan. 2.

Biscuit Makers

January 8 - Jacob & Brandon Cinnater

15 - Jared Moise

29 - Billie Bohannon

2012 Board of Directors

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

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.

A word of thanks to the people who served on the 2011 Board of Directors and Elders.

The logo for Lutheran Women in Mission is written in a cursive, purple font. The words "Lutheran Women in Mission" are arranged in a slightly curved line.

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 donations 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

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.

Thank you to everyone who played Bingo and sang Christmas Carols at Heritage Manor last month. The residents really appreciated our visit.

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.

The ladies of Grace's LWML/ Mission Guild wish you a healthy and safe New Year!

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Joelle Gerken & Donna Boger

Prayer for The New Year

Heavenly Father, thank You for all the blessings You have given me during this past year. I ask for Your forgiveness for past sins and the gift of hope for the future. Give me the strength needed for today and each day of this new year. By the power of the Holy Spirit, help me to grow in faith, in the study of Your Word, and in prayer. Let this year be one in

which I serve my Lord Jesus and witness to Him as I live in love and service to others. I ask all of these things in Jesus' name. Amen. (from Portals of Prayer January-March 2012)

Portals of Prayer and Our Daily Bread devotionals are available on the tables in the narthex, by the sacristy and in the church office.

Degreening of the Church

We will meet Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. to "degreen" the sanctuary along with the rest of the church. The more helping hands we have the smoother things will go. See Donna Boger for more details.

A word of thanks to GLC's Youth Group, Board of Directors, local Thrivent chapter and the LWML/Mission Guild for providing our Advent suppers last month. All the meals were delicious!

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Abbie Schmitt, Alisa Theriot, Betty Carpenter, Brayden Mitchell, Catherine Lepeure, Cherie Delaney, David Bourgeois, David Mack, Donna St. Amant, Glenn Meyer, Janet Chiasson, Jerry Barnard, Jillian Steckler, Jim &

Iva Kohls, Joelle Gerken, John Bagert, John LeBlanc, Kettie Britton, Kohen Treser & family, Laura Naquin, Lynda Kelley, Mary Velasquez, Michael Dupre, Mike Brunette, Penny Simmons, Reynold Pitre, Rudy Escobedo, Ruth Mack, Sandy Waalk, Shirley Keen, Stephanie Dahl, Vanessa Dupre & Wylin Williams

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:
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, Amanda Doyle, Anita Harper, Bill Sullivan, Chris Smith, Clarence Falgout, Cody Davenport, Colton Riley Doyle, Herman Woodside, 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

Cima Family

Take a moment to send a note to missionaries J.P. & Aimee Cima in Viet Nam at John.Cima@lcms.org. GLC continues to support their ministry through Sunday School offerings. and special gifts from members. You can support the Cima family by sending a check to:

LCMS World Mission
P.O. Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089
Memo: "J.P. & Aimee Cima"
Acct # A16155-69110"

You can also give online by going to www.lcms.org/cima. Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity!

Stewardship

How did you do with your resolutions for the year 2011? About the same as for other years? Can you even remember

what those resolutions were? Why do we struggle so much with resolutions? Is it because they are not realistic? Is it because we try to do it completely on our own without any outside help (even from God)? Failure is one of the biggest disappointments in life. Is it possible to start over successfully?

As we enter into this New Year we have another opportunity to start over. Having the privilege of starting over is one of the things in life that gives us hope and courage as we look to the future. As we take down our 2011 calendars and replace them with 2012 calendars we really can start over.

In Romans 12:12 (NIV) the Holy Spirit gives us some great ingredients for a really good New Year's resolution. The encouragement is to ***"be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer."*** Life would be so sweet if everyone could adopt and live out those three pieces as a New Year's resolution.

"Be joyful in hope" should be pretty easy for Christians because our hope is in Christ and ***"that hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our***

hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” (Romans 5::5 NIV)

“Be patient in affliction” can be considerably more difficult because we do not like affliction. Who of us likes to be mistreated by people who are rude, inconsiderate and downright nasty? Where can we get the strength to be patient in affliction? It takes a giant transformation to behave so nicely when afflicted? Our comfort is that the power to do that does not come from within us, but from outside of us. When we were baptized **“we were buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”** (Romans 6:4 NIV) No one in the history of mankind had to deal with as much affliction as Jesus, our Savior! And He did it out of love for us so that we do not have to fear eternal affliction!

“Faithful in prayer” keeps us in touch with God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus spent entire nights in prayer with His Father in heaven so that He would have the strength to carry out His mission of dying for sinners so that they might have the forgiveness of sins, life and

salvation. Prayer is an excellent way to stay in touch with God and His love and power.

How does this threefold resolution make a difference in our lives and the lives of those around us? It does because the Holy Spirit is at work within us to make us more and more the children of God. As children of God we seek to do the same things that give Him such delight. John 3:16 tells us that God delights in **loving** and **giving**. God has entrusted us with all of life and life’s resources and desires that we manage them wisely according to His purposes. **Loving** and **giving** are at the heart of Christian stewardship.

May God bless us all as His stewards in this New Year of 2012

Angels Explained by Children

--Gregory, Age 5
I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold.

--Jared, 8
Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who’s a very good carpenter.

--Katelynn, 9
My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

Messiah Church Mission Giving

Greetings and God's blessings from Messiah Church, your mission congregation in Prattville, Alabama!

For the past two years, Messiah Church has been gathering and growing as new Lutheran congregation in Prattville. We have grown from 12 families in the spring of 2010 to 43 families as of September 2011! Our outreach has been to those with no church home or have left the church and over the past year we have had 6 adult baptisms!

We covet your prayers and have seen many obstacles overcome! One last obstacle we face is financial. Our support from the Southern District will be depleted shortly and our goal is to be self-sufficient by the end of 2012. We need your help. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with Messiah Church? We are asking you to pledge as a congregation, your support of \$50 per month (or more) to the mission in Prattville for one year. It may not seem like a large amount, but in total, your congregation's support will aid greatly in our missional efforts.

You can support the mission either through your congregation, by simply marking your contribution as **Messiah Church Mission Giving**. Or, mail your personal contribution direct using the form below or electronically at www.myMessiahChurch.org/firstfruits.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this additional offering to growing His Kingdom in Prattville! To God be the Glory! Pastor Doug Davis

Enclosed is my gift to **Messiah Church Mission Giving**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip : _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Mail to: Messiah Church - 2072 Hwy 14 E, Prattville, AL 36066

Acolytes

January 1	Charles Wallace
8	Annie Reaves
15	Jacob Cinnater
22	Victoria Thalheim
29	Brandon Cinnater

Ushers

January 1	Dave Akins/Dennis Armstrong/Gordon Fitzgerald/Joey Souther
8	Jim Kohls/Glenn Meyer/Ricky Reaves/Ross Reaves
15	Youth Group
22	Dale Boger/Joe Deane/Richard LaCour/Michael Thalheim
29	Dave Akins/Dennis Armstrong/Gordon Fitzgerald/Joey Souther

Altar Guild

January 1	Marilyn - Penny
8	John-Patsy-Ellen
15	Ann-Addie
22	Kendra - Jeannette
29	Mary Lou-Lorie-Kristen

Scripture Readers

January 1	Jeannie Thalheim
8	Gordon Fitzgerald
15	Youth Group
22	Bonnie Dupre
29	Ricky Reaves

Offering Stewards

January 1	Donna Boger & Glenn Meyer
8	Rana DaSilva and Brigitte Kinsella
15	Joe and Cindy Deane
22	Burt and Marilyn Beach
29	Donna Boger & Glenn Meyer

Greeters

January 1	Dave & Gail Akins
8	Ellen DeSoto
15	Youth Group
22	Bonnie Dupre & Charlene Shroyer
29	Dale & Donna Boger

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