

THE GRACE REPORTER

DECEMBER 2011

MONTHLY PARISH NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
710 E. 17th Ave. – Eugene, OR 97401 Phone #: (541) 342-4844 Email: glc@glchurch.org

MIDWEEK ADVENT SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE AT GRACE

Wednesday – November 30, December 7 & 14

Supper at 5:45pm / Christmas Hymn Sing at 6:45pm / Worship at 7:00pm

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE/LUNCH - At Messiah Lutheran Church

Messiah Lutheran Church (3280 River Road) will have midweek Advent services and a lunch. The services will be held on November 30, December 7 and 14. **The lunch will begin at 12:15 and the service at 1:00pm.** Members of Grace Lutheran that would prefer a noon service are invited to attend. Pastor Dan Suelzle Pastor Ron Leder will be the Worship leaders.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 3rd

5:00pm - Social Hour 6:15pm – Dinner
in the Grace Lutheran Church Parish Hall

The Church will provide the meat, potatoes, rolls, beverages.

Sign-up sheet in narthex - please sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable, or dessert.

(Call Kirk Gunson at 541-688-1069 for more information)

Come for the Food – Come for the Fellowship – Come to make

ADVENT FEST

Sunday – December 4th from 2:00-5:00pm

in the Parish Hall

Join us for Crafts, Fun, Food, Carol sing, and More! If you would like to provide a soup or dessert or host a craft table, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Kirk Gunson

(688-1069). After making crafts, we will have a soup and dessert supper and sing Christmas carols. **This is for ALL ages so please join us for this fun event. Everyone is welcome!**



Our LIVING NATIVITY will take place on the church lawn, **Friday, Saturday and Sunday - December 16-18 from 7:00-9:00pm.** The Christmas story re-enacted by actors with live animals, narration and music!

CHRISTMAS EVE – Saturday, December 24

6:00pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols (with Harp)

9:45pm Musical Selections

10:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion
(with Harp, Vocal Choir, and Handbell Choir)



CHRISTMAS DAY – Sunday, December 25

10:00am Christmas Day Communion Service
(with Harp)

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH CHRISTMAS MUSIC - Youth and Adults, if you are willing to share your musical talents at Christmas services, **please contact Linda Gurney or Olivia Hunt Spangler by December 4th.** Please select two possible pieces of music, one of which will be chosen. Thank you for your participation.



Sunday School News

Kids of the Congregation: If you would like to play a song in the **Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday December 18th**, please let Olivia or Linda know by November 27th. We will need your name, your instrument, the name of your song and how many minutes your song is. Any question please contact us. I'm looking forward to hearing from you! Olivia

Sunday School Christmas Program “He Fulfills” will be Sunday, December 18th at the 10:00am worship service. **There will be practice for the program on:**

Sunday, December 11th and Sunday, December 18th

No Saturday practices will be held.

No Sunday School for the children/youth on Sunday, December 25th or January 1st.
No Pastor Bible Study on Sunday, December 25th.

Contemporary Worship Team News

There will be a Music Team rehearsal on **Monday, December 5th at 6:30pm**. We will be doing the worship at the December 7th Wednesday Advent Worship service.

NO Contemporary Worship services on Sunday, December 11th or Sunday, January 8th.



HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

- Sunday, December 4th at 10:00am Worship Service
- **NO Holy Communion on December 18th – due to Sunday School Christmas program**
- Christmas Eve – 10:00pm Candlelight Service
- Christmas Day – 10:00am Worship Service

REMEMBER IN PRAYER.....



- + Corenne Jackson, Dixie Rohle, Jean Frank, Vernell Freitag, Tom Dostale, Clarence Henshen, Deanna Henshen, Les Kunkel, Bernice Kunkel, Olivia Hunt Spangler, Paul Reffstrup, Phyllis Brauner, Judy Richmond, Robert Koester (father of Mick Koester)
- + Shut-ins: Frances Bradshaw, Ann Porisch, Evelyn Moore, Kay Johnson, Myrtle Larson, Alice Boring, Dorothy Ostermiller, Jovita Hunt
- + **OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Roland Eberhardt who passed away on Tuesday, November 15th. Please keep the family in your prayers.



I want to wish everyone at Grace a very Merry Christmas! May God bless all of you in the New Year!

Peggy Johnson, secretary at Grace Lutheran Church

The Grace Reporter is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church

710 East 17th Ave – Eugene, OR 97401 (located at the corner of 18th & Hilyard)

Church Office: (541) 342-4844 Email: glc@glchurch.org Web Site: www.glchurch.org

LIFE! School Office: (541) 342-5433 Web Site: www.lifeschool.us

Church Staff

Rev. Dan Suelzle, Pastor

Peggy Johnson, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Darrel Rothauge – Principal at LIFE! School

Linda Gurney – Organist, Handbell & Music Director

Olivia Hunt Spangler – Organist/Choir Dir.

Church Office Hours: Weekdays 8:30am – 12:00 and 1:00pm – 4:30pm

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class – 9:00am

Worship -- 10:00am

Coffee Fellowship after Worship Service

* Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month.

* Contemporary worship is the 2nd Sunday of each month.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE

SUNDAY

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - Begins at 9:00am

+ Pastor leads a Bible study in the Parish Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am

Classes for all ages.

WEDNESDAY

* **6:30am** Breakfast and Bible Study in Rm. #5 at 6:30am

* **10:00am** – Women's Bible Study in Rm. #5

ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER 2011

WORSHIP SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/6	Sunday-10am	154
11/13	Sunday-10am	160
11/20	Sunday-10am	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children/Youth</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Offering</u>
11/6				\$
11/13	12	35	5	\$13.00
11/20				

Sunday School mission offerings will go toward support of 1) our Compassion child, Hendrik and 2) Terry & Janet Borchard, Lutheran Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea



BITS AND PIECES.....

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The newsletter deadline for the January "Reporter" will be **Thursday, December 15th**! Please submit your articles to the church office.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00pm** in Room #5. All Board chairpersons should attend each council meeting or send another representative.

THANK YOU... We would like to thank all of our church family at Grace for your thoughts and prayers, the food that was brought and all that you did for us during Naomi's illness. We truly appreciate all of you. Red, Todd, Allison and Matt Baker

Les and Bernice Kunkel have moved to an apartment. Their new address is: 175 S. Garden Way, Apt 427 – Eugene, OR 97401. Phone: 541-683-6681.

PLASTIC BAGS... Please save all grocery size plastic bags. If you have any questions, please see Jean Harsch. Thank you. The Mat Makers

CAN YOU HELP? We still need old blankets and sturdy material for our quilts and sleeping bags. If you have questions, contact Nancy Leapaltd.

MEMORIAL GARDEN – There has been a delay in the plans for the Memorial Garden. In order to benefit from the reduced cost of \$120.00 for the engraved granite markers, we need to place an initial order of ten or more. If less, the cost will be \$150.00. Because of this, the Property Board has chosen to find financial assistance to cover the first ten, and thereby passing on this benefit to all members so desiring. At this time, we do not have that amount in our Property Board budget. We will see that January makes possible. Succeeding orders of ten could then be financed by payments received for the first ten. To new families, please see the granite market on display in the narthex. The garden area is located in front of the classroom to the right of the walkway as you leave the parking lot. Please fee free to speak to any member of the Property Board. Thank you for your interest and your patience. Reuben Leapaltd, Memorial Garden Representative

If you would like your business listed as an insert in the Church Directory so members can possibly use your services, please let us know by signing the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



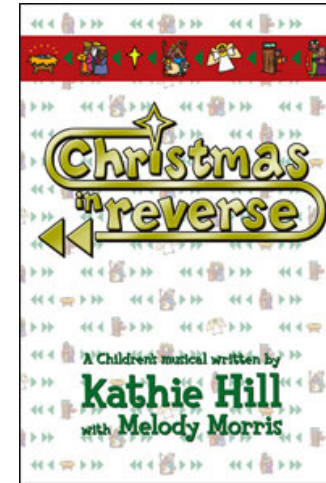
WHERE CAN I PARK WHEN OUR LOT IS FULL?? On Sunday mornings our parking lot gets full at times. Just a reminder that we have permission to use the parking lot at the medical building across 18th & Hilyard (there is parking on both sides of the building). Please consider parking in this lot so our guests and first time visitors will be able to find a parking spot. Thank you! -5-

LIFE! LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Phone: 342-5433

Email: office@lifeschool.us

Website: www.lifeschool.us



You are invited to...

The PreK-8th Grade
2011 Christmas Program
LIFE! Lutheran School
710 E 17th Ave, Eugene
December 15 - 6:30 PM
Join us for refreshments
following the program

ALL ARE WELCOME!



LIFE! Lutheran School annual wreath sale is underway again. Order a fresh locally made wreath for yourself or as a gift. They are handcrafted from Noble Fir with juniper pine cone and a red bow accent. We are offering the usual traditional as well as several specialty wreaths: Oregon Duck, OSU Beaver, Red Hat, Winter Splendor, Cinnamon/Spice, and an Advent wreath. **Order forms are provided on the table in the narthex or at the school office.** You may also call the school office (541-342-5433) to reserve yours today. **Orders can be placed beginning November 7th and ending December 9th.**



BIDS OPEN... The school foundation was given a resort in Hawaii. Bids are being taken at this time for one week on the island of Kauai. The one bedroom & one bath unit is for 7 days on the beautiful island of Kauai at the Lauai Beach Resort. The highest bidder wins with the bidding closing on December 31, 2011. Unit needs to be reserved in advanced. Please see the bid poster on the bulletin board by the school office and **place your bid NOW.** Any questions, contact Rob Wiesert at 541-915-7090.

GOOD NEWS--from LIFE! LUTHERAN SCHOOL: LIFE! now has the capability to accept donations, payments and purchases with VISA, American Express, Discover and MasterCard!! Go to the school's website (www.lifeschool.us) and click on the blue button on the lower right hand side of the home page: "Donation" or "Payment" where you will be linked to a page to set up your access with a password. It's easy--it's quick--it's a great way to make donations or payments to the school!

LIFE! School News (cont'd)

LIFE! School still has openings for enrollment for 2011-2012. If you know of anyone looking for smaller class sizes, share with your family and friends about LIFE School. We have classes for Pre-school through 8th grades. Thank you for your prayers and support of LIFE! School. This important ministry continues because of the love and support of people like you! **The school has new brochures available** for anyone who would like to help us publicize LIFE! in the community. Please feel free to stop by the school office and pick some up for distribution. Please contact the school office at 541-342-5433 to request the school information packet or if you have any questions. Also check out our school website at: www.lifeschool.us.

Here's your opportunity to impact the lives of the children who attend LIFE! School. You can make a donation to LIFE's scholarship fund that will be matched dollar for dollar by the LIFE! Foundation. For every dollar you give, the benefit to the school will be multiplied doubly! Just send your donations to the school address marked "Scholarship Fund". Thank you so much for helping LIFE! School flourish and grow—and touch the lives of young people and their families. Your donation is tax deductible. We want to thank those who have already contributed for their support and generosity.

The Lutheran Hour Broadcast

Sunday Mornings – 8:00am ---- on KKNX – 840 AM

Rev. Gregory Seltz delivers the messages.

December 4 – “What Kind of People Should We Be?” (2 Peter 3: 1-13) This world is passing away. It is faith in Christ alone that saves, not faith in man-made works, policies, or programs. As we wait for Christ to return, what kind of people should we be?

December 11 – “Waiting for Jesus; Living Relentless Lives of Grace!” God's grace is relentless, always there, forgiving, encouraging, and empowering our lives in Him. (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24)

December 18 – “Ordinary? No, Extraordinary!” (Luke 1:26-38) Through God's gift of a Savior, ordinary lives take on extraordinary significance.

December 25 “Something To Ponder” (Luke 2: 16-19) The very first Christmas greeting was: "...unto you has been born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." That's still something for us to ponder.

The Lutheran Hour can also be heard on the internet or downloaded onto an MP3 player at www.lutheranhour.org. If you would like to listen to The Lutheran Hour message and need assistance with the above options, please call Barb Ronne at 343-0327.

Stronghold - Campus Ministry

STRONGHOLD (Grace Campus Ministry) meets at Pastor Dan & Mary's home (3510 Mill St, Eugene) on Monday evenings at 8:00 pm. The group has begun a study of the book of Daniel. College students (and other young adults) are welcome! The coffee, tea & hot chocolate will be ready. If you'd like to bring a snack to share, you're welcome to do so! For more information and directions to their home, contact Mary Suelzle at: suelzlemd@gmail.com

Outreach Board

A PROJECT THAT CONTINUES AT GRACE.... We have a box in the narthex to collect items for the **Lane Pregnancy Support Center in Eugene**. There is a "wish list" on the bulletin board in the narthex and also on the box. You are invited to support this worthy project by purchasing items on the list. There is always a need for diapers, clothing for babies and other items for the Center. Some of the items needed are: Gently used/new hooded baby towels, 3-6 month boy/girl sleepers, 3-5 month onesies, 0-3 month boy tops, diapers, wipes, Maternity clothing size XL and up. You can put your items in the box at any time which is located by the nursery by the sanctuary. If you would like to donate – any amount is greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to Lane Pregnancy Crisis Center and leave in the church office. All the donations, items or money, help pregnant women who cannot help themselves.



Social Ministry Board

HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION

The Grace Social Ministry Board is collecting food for Holiday Food Gift Boxes within our church/LIFE School community. We will also use food collected to add to our available church food pantry. **This food drive will take place between now and Sunday, December 20th.** A large marked collection box is in the church narthex area.

If you would like to make a **cash donation** for meats and other perishables, please CLEARLY note on your offering check – **“Social Ministry Food Boxes”**. It is helpful to use the blue offering envelopes- checked, **“Living/Giving-Social Ministry”**.

We are especially in need of these items:

Boxed instant mashed potatoes	Canned sweet potatoes or yams
Canned cranberry sauce	Canned hearty soups, stews and chili
Canned vegetables (corn, peas, carrots, green beans, etc)	
Gravy Packets (esp. Turkey)	Canned fruits-all types Canned tuna
Dried pasta, rice mixes, and mac & cheese	Canned/Bottled spaghetti sauce

AND.....

SPECIAL COLLECTION OF NEEDED ITEMS FOR THE EUGENE MISSION

The Social Ministry Board is again having a collection of items especially requested by the Eugene Mission during December. These items are important for men, women, and children in their program. The Mission has expressed many thanks for our donations in recent years. **This collection will take place between now and Sunday, December 20th and be delivered to the Mission that week. Thank you-thank you-thank you for donations!**

Especially requested are: (Important: except as noted, clean/gently used clothing – from home/thrift stores – is appreciated, as well as new.)

Bath Towels	Pajamas (all sizes for men, women, children)
Underwear (new)	Diapers (disposable)
Baby wipes	Stocking caps Baseball caps
Socks (all types and sizes)	Slipper socks Toothbrushes
Gloves (jersey-men & knit-women)	Toothpaste (small tubes)
Deodorants (small travel size)	Bar Soap Shampoo (any size)
Hairbrushes	Razors Shaving Cream- canned
Candy Canes	Cough Drops

All donations are very much appreciated!

SOCK MINISTRY FOR THE HOMELESS - Social Ministry is collecting items to put in small packages to give to the homeless this fall and winter. We are collecting items that are appropriate for these packages including new crew or wool socks for men and women. (Goodwill on Crescent sells packages of new crew socks for about \$6.00.) Also small packages of hand wipes, bus tokens, hard candy, candy bars, or granola-type bars, covered toothbrushes and other appropriate items are being collected. We have a good supply of Portals of Prayer booklets to add to these packages. Thank you for your donations to this ministry! There is a box in the narthex.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER



- 1 Bob Geisler
- 9 Aaron Collver
- 13 Annette Harkins
- Andy Collver
- 15 Delia Lundeen
- 17 Paul Thompson
- 18 Alice Boring
- 23 Nick Richmond
- 26 Holly Genthner
- Kristin Henshen
- Trumann Ducker
- 28 Bob Jones
- Kari Hovet
- 29 Debbie Jenkins
- 30 Mike Link
- Arline Link
- 31 Donna Geisler
- Barrett Codieck

CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN DECEMBER



- 4 Bob and Evelyn Jones
- 28 Bob and Ruth Sylwester

From Lane-Douglas Associates of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

A season to reflect, give thanks and prepare --

As fall draws to a close, we turn our thoughts to thankfulness for all of our blessings, and to preparation for the coming winter—and our future. We have gathered in the harvest and now we begin to look to the next phase. Our financial lives often follow a similar pattern.

Amplify your giving

November and December are times to give thanks and to share our financial blessings with our church, other charities and our family. Are you making the most of your charitable giving? Many options are available to help you amplify your gifts to make an even bigger difference.

Prepare for a new year

As a new year approaches, it's important to plan for your future and your family's security. Have you thought about:

- Taking advantage of your current tax bracket and converting some of your IRA to a Roth IRA?
- Consolidating some scattered accounts?
- Getting your children off to a good start by helping them open an IRA or a Roth IRA?
- Directing your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA to your church or favorite charity? If you're 70 or older and you don't need your RMD, it may be an option for you.

As your local financial representatives with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we can help you find ways to live a more secure and generous life, and be more impactful in your gifting. For more than 100 years, Thrivent Financial has helped members protect their families, prepare for the future, and support their congregations and communities. We'll do the same for you. Feel free to give us a call any time to see how we might be able to assist you.

Sadly missed

Some of you may have had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Naomi Baker. We mourn the loss of our dear friend and volunteer extraordinaire. Although we miss her greatly, her giving, supporting spirit lives on within us.

Peace and blessings to you

Our entire team wishes you and your family all of the joys this special season has to offer. May God's peace and blessings be upon you during the holidays and throughout the new year.

Rick, Tina, Clay, Jan and Rikki

Lane-Douglas Associates - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

1400 Executive Parkway, Suite 110 - Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: 541-741-1999

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN DECEMBER

December 4, 2011

Children's Message: Paula Walker
Lector: Bill Blade

Acolytes: Teal Henshen, Ben Thompson
Greeters:

Coffee Hosts: Fellowship Board

Altar Flowers: Nick & Jan Richmond

Communion Assts: Randy Ronne, Bert Wheeler

Altar Guild: Betty Libke

Ushers: *Rick Krumdieck, Jerry Fibelstad, Tammy Smith, Paul Thompson

December 11, 2011

Children's Message: Pastor Dan
Lector: JR Gaddis

Acolytes: Rebecca Farnham, Sarah Hovet
Greeters: Tammy Smith, Todd Baker

Coffee Hosts: Outreach Board

Altar Flowers: Glenn Family

Ushers: *Ken Reffstrup, Devon Kirkpatrick, Taylor Kirkpatrick, Rob Wiesert

December 18, 2011 – Sunday School Christmas Program

Acolytes: Hunter Frank, Casey Genthner

Greeters: Anna and Caitlin Zemke

Coffee Hosts: Education Board

Altar Flowers: Philip & Elisabeth Hahn

Ushers: *Kirk Gunson, Roy Genthner, Randy Ronne, John Stoecker

December 24, 2011 – Christmas Eve – 6:00pm

Acolytes: Casey Genthner

Ushers: *Byron Baule, JR Gaddis, Roy Genthner

December 24, 2011 – Christmas Eve – 10:00pm

Acolytes: Max and Anika Harkins

Ushers: *Byron Baule, Todd Baker, Rob Wiesert

Communion Assts: Dick Jenkins, Bert Wheeler

December 25, 2011 – Christmas Day

Children's Message: Pastor Dan

Acolytes: Nate Koester, Harrison Wiesert

Lector: Todd Baker

Greeters: John & Jan Stoecker

Coffee Hosts:

Altar Flowers: Todd & Tricia Baker

Ushers: *Kirk Gunson, Clarence Henshen, Jerry Fibelstad

Communion Assts: Todd Baker, Randy Ronne