

# ✠ Grace E-Notes ✠

A weekly publication for Grace Lutheran Church & Friends ✠ ✠ ✠ Wednesday, December 9, 2009

*(Deadline for article submission is 3:00p.m. on Tuesdays!)*

## Some Scripture...

*John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, "Turn back to God."*

*"The **crowds** asked John, 'What should we do?' John told them, 'If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else...'*

*"When **tax collectors** came to be baptized, they asked John, 'Teacher, what should we do?' John told them, 'Don't make people pay more than they owe...'*

*"Some **soldiers** asked him, 'And what about us? What do we have to do?' John told them, 'Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone. Be satisfied with your pay... In many different ways John preached the good news to the people.'" (CEV).*

**Luke 3:7-18**

## A bit of Church Humor...

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Being 3 **wise MEN** the journey to baby Jesus took longer than expected because they refused to stop and ask directions.

## A Devotional Thought...

In this text three groups of people are confronted by John the Baptizer. Three very different groups – the crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers, and yet all three responded with the same question to John's command, "**Turn back to God,**" "What should we do?"

All three may have had different reasons for asking. The crowds may have just been curious. The tax collectors may have wanted more profit. The soldiers may have wanted to keep order. Interestingly, John the Baptist had three different answers for them. John's initial message was the same for everyone: "**Turn back to God.**" But he answered their question in three different ways.

It is really a question of discipleship or stewardship. As such it is also a relevant question for us: "What should we do?" More specifically, it becomes the question of: **How do we turn direction of our lives back to God.. and how do we then live differently?**

As Jesus' disciples in this time and place how do we become witnesses to his grace and love? Or simply put: **What should we do?**

Thoughts to ponder...

1. How would John the Baptist answer our asking, *What shall we do?*
2. What might *returning to the Lord* look like in our individual lives and our congregation?
3. How does this then help us live out God's calling for us to reach out to those who sit in the pew behind us or live across the street from us?

## Prayer:

Gracious God, we give thanks for yet another chance to return to you. Show us what you want us to do, and give us the faith to do it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Join Pastor on Sundays at 9:30 for a discussion on the book: **Power Surge ~ The six Marks of Discipling.** Has the church paradigm of mission and ministry has changed? Is there a difference between *discipleship* and *church membership*?

These are just a few of the thought provoking questions we will discuss. As always... coffee provided!




Now Zeke, the shepherd needed a little help from ... 'friends' to recall where baby Jesus could be found. **Luke 2**

# TONIGHT!!!

## Advent Evening Dinner and Program

We will be joining St. Paul's, Farmers Branch for their Mid-Week Advent Dinners & Worship. The program for December 9, & 16 will be to gather at St. Paul's for a casual, light potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by *Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.* The pastors will alternate weeks in offering a brief scripture meditation based on our Acts Bible studies.

St. Paul's is located at:  
13605 Webb Chapel Rd  
Farmers Branch.



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**  
*Last day to order is Sunday!*

This year the cost of the poinsettias is \$8.50 each. A sign-up sheet is located on the Bulletin board next to the Narthex.

### What Happens Next Sunday?

- ✘ **Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.**  
**"Happy Holy Hour" ~ 9:30 a.m.**  
*(For more details see page 4)*
- ✘ **Sunday School Hour ~ 9:30 a.m.**
- ✘ **Adult Sunday School new series: Power Surge ~ 9:30 a.m.**
- ✘ **Confirmation Class ~ 3:30 p.m.**
- ✘ **Confirmation Dinner ~ 5:00 p.m.**
- ✘ **2010 Offering envelopes will be available**

<b>Assisting With Worship</b>	<b>8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Caroline Wagner</b>	<b>Tanner Jordan</b>
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	<b>Joan Swenson</b>	
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Isabel Anders</b>	<b>Laura Jordan</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Bryan Swenson</b>	<b>Steve Hill</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Rick &amp; Jeanne Witte</b>	<b>John &amp; Linda Smalley</b>
<b>Counting</b>	<b>Jim Lundgren &amp; Mary Ferron</b>	
<b>Pianist</b>	<b>Maria Lorentzen</b>	
<b>Guitar</b>	<b>Richard Gall</b>	

<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Set Up</b>	<b>Clean Up</b>	<b>Bread</b>
<b>12/13 &amp; 12/20</b>	<b>Stephanie Holowak</b>	<b>Karen Schmid</b>	<b>Judy Cheshier</b>

## Prayer Concerns...

**NEW CONCERNS:** The family of Jean Hutchinson who died 12/2/2009 (mother of Dan Hutchinson); The family of Harvey Haas who died 11/26/2009 (uncle of Daniel Haas); Selma Grover (gall bladder surgery 11/29 – mother of Sylvia Belanger); Cherry Langley (home - post-kidney stone infection); The family of Ray Beduhn who died on 11/21/2009 (Uncle of Karen Schmid & Carroll Scott); The family of Frances Meador who died on 11/23/2009 (sister-in-law of Carroll Scott); Col. Mark Davis, U.S. Army (brain cancer- nephew of Paula Parker); Isabel Anders; Jan Wilson; Ron Nelson (heart meds); Mason Billiot (immune deficiency); The 7 leaders of Iran's Baha'i community imprisoned; St. Paul's and Grace as we seek to discern God's will for our future; Antonio Avona (knee replacement surgery); Jerry Finnell (final stages of cancer – friend of Clint Frank); Carl Rewerts; Heidi Deters (cancer – friend of Gloria Putz).

**ON-GOING CONCERNS:** Betty Opalecky (cancer treatment began 8/24 – friend of Mary Howard); Luke Sullivan; Kay Sembrick (Corinthians Rehabilitation Center); Corey Wilson; Janice Brokens; Marianne Howard; the men and women of the Armed Forces. Also keep in your prayers the members of Grace who are unemployed and their families, and the members of Grace who are homebound.

# Thank You

Hello!

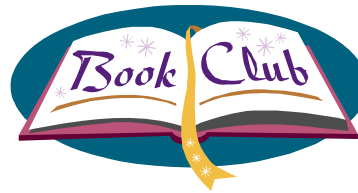
*I just wanted to say Thank you so much for the holiday gifts that I have received in the mail. It was such a nice gesture and thank you for thinking of all the students while we are away from home!*

*Thank you!*

*Laurie Streder*

(Received 12/2/2009 via E-Mail)

- ☺ Thank you to Dwane & Kathie Brown for cleaning up our front flower beds
- ☺ Karen Schmid, Carroll Scott, Donald & Sherry Lazor for hanging the wreaths and garland... and council for putting up the tree.
- ☺



***The Wednesday morning Book Club has been cancelled for the December.***

***Please join us for a lively discussion of "The Book Thief" Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:30 a.m. (Coffee, teas and goodies will be provided!)***

## Weekly Calendar...

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/9/2009</b>	9:30 AM	Book Study (The book of Luke) <b>CANCELLED</b>
		6:00 PM	Advent Pot Luck/Worship St Paul's Lutheran Church
		7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/10/2009</b>	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
		7:00 PM	Cub Scout Pack 405 Den 6 & 7
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12/11/2009</b>	7:00 PM	JYO & SYO Retreat Briarwood
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/12/2009</b>	All Day	JYO & SYO Retreat Briarwood
		9:30 AM	Set up for "Luther's Pub"
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/13/2009</b>	8:15 AM	Worship
		9:30 AM	Sunday School, Adult Discussion, & "Holy Happy Hour"
		10:45 AM	Worship
		3:30 PM	Confirmation Class/Dinner
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/14/2009</b>	4:30 PM	Troop 937
		7:00 PM	Faith Community Nursing Committee
		7:00 PM	Knit & Crochet
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/15/2009</b>	7:00 PM	Disciple Life Meeting
		7:00 PM	Troop 723
		7:00 PM	WELCA Bad Girls Bible Study

**Future Events and Notes. . .**



**SUNDAY!**

**DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Property Committee  
will host its annual  
*Luther's Pub "Holy Happy Hour"*  
between and after  
Worship Services.

Come enjoy your favorite  
pub drink & grub.  
Awards will be handed out!



*Sunday, December 20*

*9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*

# *Scandinavian Hour*

*Share a plate of your favorite  
Scandinavian or holiday goodies.  
Join the festivities in the kitchen  
between services for  
fun, food, and fellowship!*



## COLLEGE and HIGH SCHOOL GRADS CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

Come "hang out" with your friends from Grace Lutheran at the Lewisville Main Event on Monday, December 21 from 8 till???

Cost: \$21.60 w/tax. Bring a friend if you want. RevSEZ will pop in to meet everyone and catch up.

## Advent and Christmas are almost here!

The Adult Choir needs your voice this Advent and Christmas season. We need your help in making the music for our worship exciting, joyful and meaningful. The Adult choir will be singing for the Live Nativity on December 20th, the 7 p.m Christmas Eve service, as well as all Sundays during the month of December. Please talk to Gary Adgate if you are interested in singing during this wonderful time of the year. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!" Isaiah 9:6

## The Return of the Kids Choir!

The **Sunday School Kids Choir** returns to sing on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December. to sing *Hear the Angels*. If we have enough kids here for the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service I would love for them to sing *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. **Parents** please check your calendars so your child can participate in these praise opportunities. The **Sunday School Kids Choir** is for all children up through 5th grade. If your child is in this group please call or e-mail me with the dates your child can participate. Grace Lutheran is also having a **Live Nativity** on December 20 from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. If we have enough kids interested they could sing a few of their tunes during this time. The Adult choir will also be singing.

Thanks and Gods' Peace!

Gary Adgate  
469-261-1317  
[adgate@mac.com](mailto:adgate@mac.com)

## JYO/SYO Advent Celebration at Briarwood-December 11/12



*The JYO and SYO will be having an "Advent Celebration Retreat" on the 11th of December at Briarwood Retreat Center. Come join us for campfires, games, songs, Bible study, service project, pizza and worship as we explore the meaning of Advent 2009. If you have not signed up or if you have any questions please call Gary Adgate at 469-261-1317.*

## The Gift Tree



The Metrocrest Social Service Center will again conduct a Holiday Program that distributes food and gifts to needy persons in our immediate area. As in the years past, Grace Lutheran is supporting this program. From November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>, gift/food tags will be available on our felt tree by the office door. If you would like to participate, simply remove the tag(s) of your choice from the tree, purchase the item(s) and return to the church by late service on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

A suggestion is to let each member of your family shop for someone their own age. This way everyone gets involved and appropriate gifts are chosen for all! Returned items may be placed under the tree in the Sanctuary. Gift items should not be wrapped. Our donations will be delivered to the Metrocrest Holiday Store where families can “shop” for their gifts. Call Janet Johnson at (972) 393-1107 with questions. Thank you for your generous support.



### **Christmas Sing Along with Live Nativity Scene**

**All are invited to a Sing Along with hot chocolate and cookies  
December 20 from 4-6 pm**

**The Sunday School youth will be in full costume  
for a live nativity scene out on the front lawn.**

**The choir (with tuba quartet !) will lead us in traditional Christmas songs.**

**This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbors to join us.**

**Hope to see everyone there!**



# Happy Birthday



- 12/02 Haley Courtney
- 12/02 Christopher Wagner
- 12/03 Kelsey Haza
- 12/05 Laurie Streder
- 12/07 Carl Rewerts
- 12/09 LeeAnn Maas
- 12/11 Audrey Swanson
- 12/14 Ashley Avona
- 12/14 Turner Hill
- 12/17 Jayce Sundberg
- 12/18 Maggie Plata
- 12/22 Janet Johnson
- 12/27 Thomas Bolger
- 12/28 Griffin Lazor



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12/17 Jayce Sundberg  
12/18 Maggie Plata  
12/22 Janet Johnson  
12/27 Thomas Bolger  
12/28 Griffin Lazor



- 12/17 Richard & Dorothy Goodrum
- 12/25 John & Janice Brokens
- 12/27 Jim & Cheryl Lundgren
- 12/30 Gary & Pam Adgate



*This is one of my Favorite recipes, except I like to use Patrón instead of Cuervo!  
Submitted by: Caroll Scott*

### TEQUILA COOKIES

- 1 cup of dark brown sugar
- 1 cup (2sticks) butter
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups of dried fruit, such as dried cranberries or raisins
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 bottle Jose Cuervo Tequila (silver or gold, as desired)

Sample the Cuervo to check quality.

Take a large bowl, check the Cuervo again, to be sure it is of the highest quality pour one level cup and drink

Turn on the electric mixer...Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add one teaspoon of sugar...Beat again.

At this point it's best to make sure the Cuervo is still OK, try another cup...just in case.

Turn off the mixerer thingy. Beat 2 leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit...pick the frigging fruit off floor...

Mix on the turner. If the fried druit gets tuck in the beaterers just pry it loose with a drewscriver.

Sample the Cuervo to check for tonsisticity.

Next, sift two cups of salt, or something.

Check the Jose Cuervo. Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.

Add one table.

Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink. Whatever you can find.

Greash the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.

Don't forget to beat off the turner. Finally, throw the bowl through the window.

FINISH the Cose Juervo and make sure to put the stove in the dishwasher.

