



# Grace Lutheran Church

31-20 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Long Island City, New York 11105-2022

A Congregation of the E.L.C.A.

Rev. James A. Y. Klockau, Pastor  
Tel. (718) 728-0093 or (718) 545-1129  
Fax (718) 726-0340  
grace55@verizon.net  
www.gracelutheranqueens.org

## NEWSLETTER January 2010

### FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends of Grace,

The first day of January, New Year's Day, is called "Name of Jesus" on the church calendar. When I was growing up it was called "Circumcision of Our Lord" according to *The Lutheran Hymnal*. Both names recognize the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph in calling their firstborn son "Jesus," the name given by the angel before he was conceived, and for having their eight-day old son circumcised according to the Law of Moses. On the First Sunday of Christmas we heard the story of Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem at the age of twelve. His parents were devout Jews, and they brought him every year to celebrate the Passover. The Holy Family is celebrated as a model of faithfulness.

These celebrations give us the opportunity to consider the importance of the family in the faith formation of children. Christians recognize the family as the first church, and mothers and fathers as the first pastors, of their children. The "domestic church" is as important as the Sunday church gathered around Word and Sacrament in the religious instruction and spiritual nurture of all Christians, not only young ones. Ideally it is in the home that we learn to pray, to read the Bible, to sing hymns, and serve one another as Christ serves us. One hour in Sunday School and one hour in worship each week is not enough to encourage the fruits of the Holy Spirit which were given to us in our baptism. We need to practice our faith every day, because faith is as much about doing as it is about believing.

When I was growing up in a parsonage, I thought my family was typical. Not only did we pray at bedtime and before and after every meal, but we had family devotions after supper, before we could go off to study or play. A Bible story would be read, and a devotional on that story would follow. My father would ask us questions about the devotion, and then we would pray. Finally, we would gather at the piano, where my mother accompanied us in singing a hymn. It wasn't until I was old enough to visit friends for overnight that I realized not all families followed a similar practice. I began to think that we were "overdosing" on religion, and I hesitated inviting friends over for dinner so as not to subject them to so much piety.

Today I miss those family devotions, and I am grateful for the faithful practice they instilled in my spiritual life. I'm also thankful for having attended a Lutheran school, where the Bible, faith, and prayer were part of every school day. Our greatest treasure here at Grace Church is our school. We have the privilege of supporting families in forming their children as disciples of Jesus Christ. Of course family life is different from when I was growing up. Domestic life today makes it more challenging than ever to encourage families to participate in the spiritual disciplines that once were common practice in Christian households.

That's why it is all the more important for our congregation to take seriously its role as spiritual family to everyone who is a beneficiary of our ministry – both in church and in school. This past September we started a Children's Church (a combination Sunday School and Worship Service) which meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. About 15-20 children and many of their parents are in attendance each week.



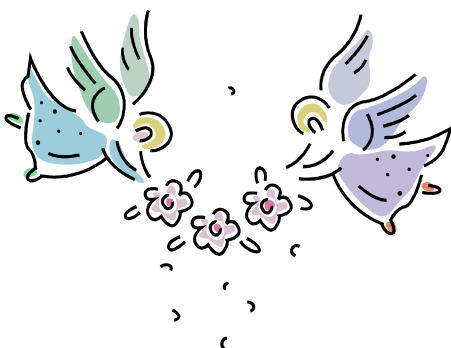
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Most of these young people are enrolled in our school. What a wonderful opportunity this is for us to reach out to them and extend the benefits of “family” to them. As they grow in their faith here, our hope is that they will strengthen our congregation, and that their family life will be strengthened as well.

Mary and Joseph were faithful in providing Jesus a spiritual foundation for his life. We are called to provide the same spiritual foundation to those we serve. Let this be our New Year’s Resolution for 2010: to be a “Holy Family” to all who come through our doors this year!

Blessings for Christmas and the New Year,

Pastor James Klockau



## Thank You

The Stephan family  
would like to thank  
everyone for attending  
the services, the lovely  
flowers and your  
donations.

We appreciate you  
taking the time to come  
and share in the  
remembrance of Linda.

Your generosity and  
support during this  
difficult time is greatly  
appreciated.

### Linda Stephan

August 26, 1936 – December 15, 2009

I knew there would come a day when I would be without my grandmother but I never thought I would be without my best friend. She was someone special to each and every one of us in her own way and I’m sure she touched each of your lives. I know we are all grieving today for we lost an amazing person.

Grandmothers are some of the most important people in our lives and she was especially important to me. When my parents had divorced it was my grandparents who had taken me in. She showed me how to be a compassionate and caring person. It was my grandmother who I would sit with late at night and talk about boys, friends, night’s outs and what I wanted out of life. She supported me through all my decisions no matter how right or wrong they were.

My grandmother was one of a kind. She worked hard her entire life always putting the happiness of others before her own. Working for 20 years at the New York Hilton as a hostess, she never called in sick or was late. She was a true example of what it means to be a hero. Her compassion, kindness and dedication won her the Golden Key Award among all Hilton hotel employees. I am so glad to call her my grandmother.

No matter how hard I try, I can never to justice to what she overcame in her lifetime. In 2005 she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It was the worst experience of her life and she overcame the extensive chemotherapy and radiation. She had survived cancer. She was so determined and strong. We couldn’t have been more proud of her. As unfortunate as cancer can be, it returned in 2008. Again she fought as hard as she could and won.

In November 2009 her battle grew to its hardest. The cancer was spreading but she remained strong and on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> she peacefully passed away. God safely guided her to His Kingdom where she is with her mother looking over us.

I will always remember the good times we shared together laughing on the couch and eating snacks in the middle of the night. Some of my best memories of her are attending Broadway plays, cooking in the kitchen and of her spending hours in the garden. Gardening was one of her favorite hobbies. She was as beautiful as the flowers she planted every year.

Women have many roles and my grandmother played them all. She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a best friend, a teacher and everyone’s biggest supporter. She was my best friend and always will be a part of me.

~ Charissa Meyer ~



**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**  
**JANUARY, 2010**

**JANUARY 3**

Reader: Carolyn Bensen  
Ushers: Linda Kvam  
Julius Nytransky, Jr.  
Comm. Asst.: Robert Gambarini

**JANUARY 10**

Reader: Linda Kvam  
Ushers: Linda Kvam,  
Barbara Wilson  
Comm. Asst.: Robert Gambarini

**JANUARY 17**

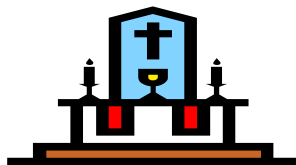
Reader: Barbara Wilson  
Ushers: Barbara Wilson  
Julius Nytransky, Jr.  
Comm. Asst.: Robert Gambarini

**JANUARY 24**

Reader: Linda Kvam  
Ushers: Linda Kvam,  
Julius Nytransky, Jr.  
Comm. Asst.: Robert Gambarini

**JANUARY 31**

Reader: Carolyn Bensen  
Ushers: Barbara Wilson  
Julius Nytransky, Jr.  
Comm. Asst.: Robert Gambarini



**ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE**  
**JANUARY, 2010**

**JAN. 2** Dorothy Regler

**JAN. 9** Barbara Gambarini  
Robert Gambarini

**JAN. 16** Dorothy Regler

**JAN. 23** Barbara Gambarini  
Robert Gambarini

**JAN. 30** Dorothy Regler

**Church Council Meeting**

Please mark your calendars for our next **Church Council meeting** on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm.



**JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

**Capital Improvements and Renovation Fund** is used to cover the costs of maintaining our church properties. We are trying very hard to build up this fund again. Your generous contributions to the C & R Fund are greatly appreciated.

**Holy Redeemer Church** is a congregation located in Brooklyn's East New York neighborhood and ministers to lower income families. Please help keep this ministry of Gospel outreach healthy with your contribution.

If you would like to donate to either one of these funds please mark your check and mail to: **Grace Lutheran Church, 31-20 21st Avenue, LIC, NY 11105-2022.**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2009**

- We apologize for the error in last month's statement!

C & R Fund.....	\$ 685.00
Bear & Boiler Fund Donations .....	\$ 30.00
<b>Memorials from:</b>	<b>In Memory of:</b>
Eleanor Schwart	Uwe Schwart
<b>Total Memorials .....</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>Total Amount Received.....</b>	<b>\$ 1,215.00</b>
	=====

Eleanor Schwart, Linda Kvam  
Special Accounts

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS REPORT FOR December, 2009**

C & R Fund.....	\$ 275.00
Bear & Boiler Fund Donations .....	\$ 17.00
<b>Memorials from:</b>	<b>In Memory of:</b>
Geiger, Charlotte	Linda Stephan
Koch, Lydia	" "
Matusch, Wilma	" "
Regler, Dorothy	" "
Richins, Mary	" "
Stephan, Guenter	" "
Torres, Elfriede	" "

**Memorials from:** Richins, Mary  
Regler, Dorothy

**In Memory of:** James Moore  
"

**Memorials from:** Nytransky family

**In Memory of:** Steve Boor

<b>Total Memorials .....</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>
<b>Total Amount Received.....</b>	<b>\$ 917.00</b>
	=====

Eleanor Schwart, Linda Kvam  
Special Accounts



# School Newsletter- January 2010



## QUEENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

"The Academy in Astoria"  
Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

Tel: 718.721.4313 Fax: 718.721.7662

[info@queenslutherschool.com](mailto:info@queenslutherschool.com) [www.queenslutherschool.com](http://www.queenslutherschool.com)

Our Curriculum Theme: "Grow Green"  
Our School Theme: "Connected in Christ"

### *A new year... a new beginning*

We'd like to thank the parents, guardians and friends of both schools for donating toys for "Toys for Tots." By your generosity you've made a child smile at Christmas.

Mere words alone cannot express the wonderful meal that Grace staff and Queens Lutheran School's staff as well as the Church Council enjoyed on Monday, December 14, 2009. Pastor Klockau, you are a most gracious and attentive host, not to mention, one excellent chef. We thank you for all your obvious and delicious talents, in making that dinner a memorable and most enjoyable event. Photos on this event may be found on our website's photo album.

### **BACK FROM CHRISTMAS BREAK**

After 11 days at home or away we look forward to getting back to teaching our children.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Upon our return we'll be scheduling Open House dates.

### **RE-REGISTRATION**

Forms will be sent out to our current students giving their parents enough time to re-register them for the coming school year, 2010-2011.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY**

- Jan. 4** Classes Resume
- Jan. 18** School Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 23** Farewell Service & Dinner at Concordia College at 5:00 p.m. for the Lutheran Schools Association Director, Marlene Lund.

May peace fill all the empty spaces around you...  
May happiness answer all your wishes in this  
New Year!!!

Betty J. Lee, Principal

## GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells,  
across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
~Alfred, Lord Tennyson

### **January Themes**

Many of our themes this month will be winter related – i.e. snow, ice, and hibernation. Other, class specific, themes will be announced by our teachers.

### **Registration/Open House for 2010-2011 School Year**

Registration for our 2010-2011 school year will begin in February. We are asking our current parents to register early before open registration begins at our open house in February [Date to be announced]. As you know our seats are limited and our program fills-up quickly so if you know of anyone who is interested in registering please tell them to do so early.

### **Inclement Weather Closings**

The cold weather and snow are here. We have reminded our parents about our bad weather closing policy. If NYC schools close then we are also closed. If we decide to close when NYC schools remain open their child's teachers will call either the night before or early in the morning on the day of the closing.

### **JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER**

- January 1** Welcome 2010!
- January 4** Classes Resume
- January 10** 6<sup>th</sup> Tuition Payment Due
- January 18** School Closed – Happy Birthday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **Thank You**

While the decorations and gifts from the holidays are put away, the glow of your thoughtfulness and generosity will long warm our hearts. A special thank you to Pastor Klockau who not only cooked and served a fabulous holiday dinner, but also gave all of us – church council members and staff and faculty of both schools a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate. However, as always, our greatest gifts and treasures are the children. We thank God for entrusting them into our care at this great mission called Grace Church.

*Happy New Year,  
Carla Olmez, Director*



**THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS DONATED BY:**

*Pastor James Klockau in honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of his father, The Rev. Keith Klockau*

**THE ALTAR WREATH IS DONATED BY:**

*Barbara Gambarini in loving memory her parents, John & Mildred Zoeller*

**THE WINDOW WREATHS ARE DONATED BY:**

*Doreen Dralla in loving memory of Harry Dralla and departed friends at Grace*

*Eleanor Moulton in loving memory of Gale Leili*

*Mary Richins in loving memory of William C. Richins, husband and Judy Richins, daughter-in-law*

*Jackie & Lynn Schaefer in loving memory of George & Dorothy Schaefer, parents*

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE GENEROUSLY GIVEN  
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS TO BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH**

**THIS GLORIOUS SEASON 2009:**

*Alger family in loving memory of Robert, Grace, and Phyllis Best, beloved father, mother and sister*

*Alger family in loving memory of Bridie, Claire and Carolyn Alger, beloved grandmother, mother and sister*

*Lydia Aloviseti in loving memory of Elise Bagnoud, sister*

*Kathleen Armstrong to the glory of God*

*Carolyn Bensen in loving memory of Alfred Victors, Daryl Ingersoll, Evelyn Rubino, and Robert Hard, M.D.*

*Robert & William Bordonaro in memory of James & Martha Bordonaro, beloved parents*

*Robert & Michelle Bordonaro in memory of Michael Stevens, beloved father*

*Margaret Charbonnier in loving memory of her mother Jean and her father Etienne*

*Margaret Charbonnier in loving memory of her sister Jeanette*

*Margaret Charbonnier in loving memory of her friend Frances Galimi*

*Margaret Charbonnier in loving memory of her friend Sylvia Kvam*

*Gigi Clark in loving memory of Emma Grace Clark*

*Gigi Clark in loving memory of Robert Preston, Jr.*

*Gigi Clark in loving memory of Pedro Saez*

*Steve & Yolanda Csizmadia to the glory of God*

*Judy Gearhart in loving memory of Catherine Scicchitano*

*Charlotte Geiger in memory of beloved husband, Carl Geiger*

*Charlotte Geiger in memory of beloved parents, Charlotte & Herman Elsenbroek*

*Charlotte Geiger in memory of beloved sister Johanna Degnan*

*Gerda Geisperger in loving memory of Henry Geisperger*

*Barbara Huegler in loving memory of Anne Gural*

*Lydia Koch in loving memory of parents and grandparents*

*Karen Kvam in loving memory of Solfest & Sylvia Kvam, parents*

*Karen Kvam in loving memory of Ole & Bertha Johansen, grandparents*

*Karen Kvam in loving memory of Ola & Kari Kvam, grandparents*

*Karen Kvam in loving memory of aunts, uncles, cousins too numerous to name*

*Karen Kvam in loving memory of dear friends from our congregation never to be forgotten*

*Linda Kvam to the glory of God*

*Linda Kvam in loving memory of Solfest & Sylvia Kvam, parents*

*Continued...*



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# **LOYALTY SUNDAY LUNCHEON & MEETING, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**

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Grace Church Loyalty Sunday Meeting will be on **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010**. We will have our Luncheon & Meeting **following our 10:00 am Service**. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.



## **Up-Coming Dates at Grace Church, 2010**

### **January**

**Jan. 31:** Loyalty Sunday: Congregational Meeting & Luncheon

### **February**

**Feb. 17:** Ash Wednesday

**Feb. 24:** Mid Week Lent Service + Dinner

### **March**

**March 3:** Mid Week Lent Service + Dinner

**March 10:** Mid Week Lent Service + Dinner

**March 17:** Mid Week Lent Service + Dinner

**March 24:** Mid week Lent Service + Dinner

**March 28:** Palm Sunday

### **April**

**April 4:** Easter Sunday

**April 17:** Spring Rummage Sale

### **June**

**June 5:** FLEA MARKET

### **September**

**Sept. 19:** Grace Church & Schools "Rally Day"  
Picnic & Bar-B-Q

### **November**

**Nov. 6 & 7:** Rummage Sale

