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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org)

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

Phone: 763-784-8784

Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Advent 4

Date: December 18, 2005

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: ..... *Psalm 89, TLH p. 141 f.*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 339, st. 1-4, 7: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Liturgy: ..... *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

Note: Today we will sing the introit and have the Advent candle lighting in place of the liturgy from pages 6 - 9.

Introit: ..... *Tune of TLH 58: O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee*

Drop down with grace, ye heavens, Drop down now from above.

And let the skies show favor With righteousness and love.

Let earth bring forth salvation, Let His bright light arise!

The heav'ns declare His glory, The firmament His praise.

Advent Candle Lighting: ..... *The Angel Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of purity. This we will experience when the pure and holy angels accompany Jesus' coming again on the last day. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, purify us that we may be ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: ..... *TLH 62, st. 4: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come

And open wide our heav'nly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high

And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.



First Reading: ..... *Romans 16:25-27*

The mystery of God's salvation is revealed through the sacred Scriptures.

## Gradual:

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

C: Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!

P: See, your King comes to you,

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Alleluia, Alleluia. The virgin will be with Child and give birth to a Son,

C: And they will call His name Immanuel, God with us. Alleluia.



Choir: ..... *We Are Waiting*

Second Reading: ..... *Luke 1:26-38*

By the power of God, Jesus is conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Confession of Faith: ..... *Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 59, st 1, 4-6: Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Sermon: ..... *2 Samuel 7:8-16*

(8) "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. (9) "And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. (10) "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, (11) "since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. (12) "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. (13) "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (14) "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. (15) "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. (16) "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.''" (NKJV)

## "THE PEDIGREE OF DAVID'S ROYAL DYNASTY"

Offertory: ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 341: Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: ..... *TLH p. 14*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 647: O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

◆ **Today:** Everyone is invited to stay around for hospitality like normal. However, during the hospitality time there will be a Christmas music recital by the children of our congregation involved in musical training. Please stay and show your support of their efforts. At noon the Council will have their meeting. We also ask those who are able and willing to help with the decorating of the Christmas tree. Many thanks in advance to those who donated the tree and helped set it up.



◆ **Reminder:** While there are no further rehearsals for the Christmas Eve service, this year there is a longer amount of time than normal between the last rehearsal and the actual Christmas Eve service. Therefore we ask parents to help their children refresh their memories during the week of their parts.

◆ **Candlelight Service:** This evening at 6:00 pm there will be a service of Christmas songs and readings. Following the service there will be a Christmas supper. Members are invited to bring sandwiches, cookies, or bars. Committee #3 will serve. Come and enjoy the special service and fellowship opportunity.

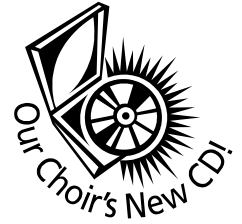


◆ **Christmas Eve** service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *See Christmas Through a Child's Eyes*. The children have been working diligently in preparation of the service. Come and worship the newborn King with the heart of a child this Christmas!

◆ **Christmas Day** worship will be on Sunday at 10:00 am. Christ's birth is the greatest gift of the season. He is the *Light of Life*. May this be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!

◆ **Among Us:** Jean Gunther will be undergoing surgery with regard to her uterine cancer on Tues. at the U of M Fairview Hospital. The doctors will determine what course of treatment she'll receive following the surgery. Ardis Trulin suffered what is known as a "silent heart attack." Tests revealed that there was no extensive heart damage. There is some blockage, but manageable via medication. However, while in the hospital the doctors believe that she suffered a stroke. It appears that this has impacted her more mentally than physically. She will be in Methodist hospital for the next couple weeks for therapy. May the Lord keep both Jean and Ardis secure in their faith during their trials. Rick Nelson and Heidi Aymond (teacher at Saginaw, MI, and daughter of Dave and Mikki Aymond at Berea) are now engaged to be married. May the Lord richly bless their union with His love.

◆ **ILC Tour Choir CD's:** The new Tour Choir CD's are available today. For those who have already signed up, if you haven't been contacted yet please speak with Janelle Hein for your copy and submit your \$11 payment (checks to ILC Tour Choir). There are extra copies available.



◆ **Reminder from the Elders:** Per Voter resolution, all loose offerings collected during Dec. will be distributed equally among the four called workers of the congregation.

◆ **Nomination Slate for 2006:** President: Paul Lentz; Vice President: Don Auel; Secretary: Michael Ude; Treasurer: Jeff Radichel; Financial Secretary: Ole Ohlmanson, Brandon Paplow; Elder: Dave Rust, Benno Sydow; Education: Matt Dick, Ed Lentz; Trustee: Rick Nelson, Pat Paplow; Delegates: Frank Radichel, Benno Sydow.

◆ **India Greetings:** Hello All, I just received Christmas greetings to the CLC from Pastor Jyothi Benjamin and the CLCI, along with a beautiful "Christmas Card" collage. You may see it on the CLC Missions Website (first item under "What's New"), or simply click on the following link: [http://clclutheran.org/missions/clci\\_christmas\\_2005.htm](http://clclutheran.org/missions/clci_christmas_2005.htm) -- Pastor Bruce Naumann, Chairman, CLC Board of Missions

◆ **CLC News:** Seminary graduate Eric Libby has accepted the call to Our Savior's in Jamestown, ND. † Pastor Maas of Holy Cross in Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area). † Brett Bailey, ILC boy's dorm supervisor, has announced his intention to step down from his position at the end of the current school year.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Service Parts

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> Dec. 11, 2005			
	B.Cl.:	S.S.:	Sun.:
Sun. Offering:	Grace: 3,270.76	CLC: 1,315.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace: 733.00	CLC: 110.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace: 2,933.00	CLC: 846.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace: +1,070.76	CLC: +579.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace: 137,801.67	CLC: 44,082.26	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace: 146,650.00	CLC: 42,300.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace: -8,848.33	CLC: +1,782.26	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith: 3.00	Tuition: 65.00	
GLC Other: 58.25	MDF: 60.00	Kinship: 60.00	
ILC Improv.: 11.00	ILC Bldg. 24.00	CEF: 45.00	

*Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!*

# The Meaning of Christmas

NO DEEPER MEANING BEHIND JESUS' BIRTH THAN THAT WHICH GOD HIMSELF ASSIGNED TO IT: The Heavenly Father did not ordain the season of Christmas. He did send His Son into the world. We are concluding the Advent season on this Sunday. As in years past, the season in word and song in our services has directed our attention to the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son and our Savior. On Christmas Eve we will give ear and heart and mouth to hear, contemplate, and praise the Father Who sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit Who with the Father and the Son is the One, true and eternal God- the God of our salvation. But our attention will be given specifically to the stable, in which was a manger in which lay Jesus Who "though He was rich, yet for your sakes became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9) - rich beyond anything of this world or in it. Paul calls this "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." Everything about Jesus is about grace- His coming, His ministry and life, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, and finally His return again to take His redeemed and believing children home to heaven.



During the Christmas season we are confronted with the darkness that envelopes the world and which if it were possible would take the luster off the celebration of Jesus' birth as society celebrates it. News reports tell us of break-ins in cars in parking lots. Entering the mall, one sees policeman and security, some passing out information on how to thwart thieves. Then we hear the obligatory news stories of how grinchers steal yard decorations. Of course this is nothing different than we generally hear on the news. We have a hymn that begins, "The world is very evil ..." (Hymn 605), and so it is. It is precisely into such a world that the Lord Jesus Christ was born - to save the wretches, no less. What grace!

There is frequently a tendency in us, and certainly in society, to make Christmas something that it is not. Unbelief, of course likes to look behind the event to find some deeper meaning than the God-appointed meaning of Jesus' birth. But we miss the point if we do not recognize God's purpose, born of our necessity. We and all mankind are by nature under the wrath of God because of sin. Christ Jesus came into the world to rescue us, and to restore to us hope and everlasting life. What grace!

We who with all have been indicted under the divine Law, and who are subject to condemnation nevertheless cannot lose the luster of Christmas we if remember what Christmas is really all about. The celebration of Christmas which is nothing more than a charade to those who reject Christ, is precious and meaningful to us and to all who look at the manger-child in faith and believe, "He was born for me!"

Paul wrote to the Galatians who were in danger of falling from the faith. They were being enticed back under the tent of the Law. In so doing they were in danger of losing the blessings of Christ's birth, which gave them freedom from the Law, and its condemnation.

Paul reminded them, and now we are also reminded of what Jesus' birth and His atoning work means for us. We may not generally associate these words with the more familiar Christmas lessons, but appreciate that without Jesus' birth it were not possible, but through His birth it is ever true:

*"... When we were children, [we] were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Galatians 4:3-7).*

Analyze it: We were in bondage to sin, death, and the devil...In God's time the promised Son came ... born of a woman ... under the law ... To redeem us who were under the law ... we are adopted sons (children) ... sons of God so that we can call God Father ... no longer servants under law ... but sons, free sons of God ... heirs of God. All this through Christ, the child of Bethlehem. What grace!



The world is very evil, and thieves and no- goods rob so many of their Christmas. But Christ is our Christmas. In Him we are God's, and heirs of heaven. No one can rob us of Christmas - except we ourselves! No other meaning of Christ's birth - or its celebration- assigned to it by the world can hold a candle to that which God Himself assigned to it. Further, the promise of salvation to those who believe in Christ is as certain as God is eternal. What grace! A blessed Christmas to all!

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Clint Welker; Gary Gunther; Brian Eichstadt; Richard Rhinesmith; Bob Vandever; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

Hospitality Team 5: Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel

Church Cleaners: R. Oman

School: Davis

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Clint Welker; Gary Gunther; Brian Eichstadt; Richard Rhinesmith; Bob Vandever; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Ole Olmanson

Hospitality: None (Team 6 for Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>)

Church Cleaners: Hein

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

- Today:**  
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:00 am –Worship Service  
11:00 am – Christmas Music Recital During Hospitality  
11:15 am – Board Meetings  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
6:00 pm – Christmas Candlelight Service  
7:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal
- Wed., Dec. 21:** 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert @ Northtown Mall
- Thu., Dec. 22:** School Christmas Party  
School Recessed for Christmas Break
- Sat., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
- Sun., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service (No S.S. or Bible Class)  
No Hospitality
- Sun., Jan. 1:** 10:00 am – New Years Day Service with Lord's Supper (No S.S. or Bible Class)  
11:00 am – Hospitality
- Wed., Jan. 4:** School Resumes  
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children
- Sun., Jan. 8:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service
- Wed., Jan. 11:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

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Today in the  
town of David a  
Savior has been  
born to you;  
he is Christ  
the Lord.

Luke 2:11

