

Click here to open service web page for: 2007/12/09/

Grace Lutheran Church & School

460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Email: jphein@clclutheran.com
Home Page: 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-8th
Church Year: Advent 2 **Date:** December 9, 2007

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 18, TLH p. 125 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 63: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Laminated Sheet in Pew Also Available)*

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*

Behold, Daughter of Zion, Salvation now draws near;
The Lord will speak His message That all may rightly hear.
Grant us a heart with gladness, Shepherd of Israel, dear,
Thou ledest us like Joseph, With Thee we have no fear.

Advent Candle Lighting: *The Bethlehem Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of proclamation. This we experience because Christ came to earth at Bethlehem. May the Word sent from God through the apostles and prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: *TLH 62: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh,
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



First Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

The Lord's coming will bring marvelous changes.

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. Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him;
C: All mankind will see God's salvation! Alleluia.



Second Reading: *Romans 15:4-13*

Those who are the Lord's react to Jesus' coming with like-mindedness.

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

Hymn: *TLH 61: Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*

Sermon: *Matthew 3:1-12*

(1) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, (2) and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (3) For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" (4) And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. (5) Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him (6) and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. (7) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (8) "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, (9) "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. (10) "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (11) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (12) "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (NKJVTM)

Reactions to Jesus' Coming

JOHN: PREACHING REPENTANCE

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 272: When All the World Was Cursed*

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

Hymn: *WS 705: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

◆ **Today:** Following our worship service there will be light lunch served by the hospitality committee to which everyone is invited. Some of the children will be presenting a music recital. Christmas Eve Rehearsal for the children will begin at noon and last until 2 pm. We ask that parents of pre-schoolers have one parent present during the rehearsals in case help is needed. The pre-schoolers will likely be done with the afternoon rehearsals at least ½ hour earlier. There will be two more rehearsals during Sunday School hour at 9 am on Dec. 16 and 23. There will be no Bible Class those Sundays.



◆ **Among Us:** Delores Englehorn is now resting with her Lord Jesus. She passed away late Monday night, December 3, 2007. Her memorial service is scheduled for this coming Wed., Dec. 12, 2007, 11:00 am. A luncheon will follow the service. Committee Number #1 is being asked to serve. Members are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Thanks to all who helped out with Linda Wagner's funeral this past Thursday. For an online memorial in her honor, visit www.mem.com and type in her name in the search fields. Lyle Lacroix will be having surgery this coming Thursday in order to install a heart monitor. Ellen Bergstrom's surgery for breast cancer was successful this past Tues. The cancer had not spread to the lymph nodes. Radiation will begin once Ellen is healed from the surgery. God's plan is always good. Let us rely on that promise as we face our difficulties together as His children.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Parents, please continue to help your children so that they might know their parts well for next week's rehearsal. By now the children should know all their individual pieces, group parts, and music. If not, please make sure that they catch up by next week. The Christmas story may just be spoken together daily. If you do this, they won't need to memorize it, for by Christmas they will know it well.

◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** Our Midweek Advent services continue the next two Wednesdays, Dec. 12 and 19, 7:00 pm. Dec. 19 will be the candlelight service which will be preceded by a fellowship meal. The services this year are focusing on "Reactions to Jesus' Coming."



◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal prior to the Candlelight service on December 19th. Committee #2 is in charge and will be providing soup. Dessert is being provided from the Dorcas Guild's Christmas cookie bake. Those attending may bring salad or bread to share.



◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 21, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. Those who wish to sign up for a ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip by the guestbook. Due to Council policy, there is no cost for the trip.

◆ **Christmas Caroling:** A caroling outing is scheduled for next Sunday, December 16. Please speak with Pastor Hein should you have interest in participating.

◆ **Nomination List:** The Nomination Committee is almost done with their work. God willing, the list will be published next week.

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

◆ **Missionary Ude Installation:** Please consider yourself invited to the installation and commissioning service of Pastor Matthew Ude. Pastor Ude has accepted the call to serve as our second foreign missionary in India. The service will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, on Sunday, December 30, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The ladies of Messiah will be serving a lunch, following the service.

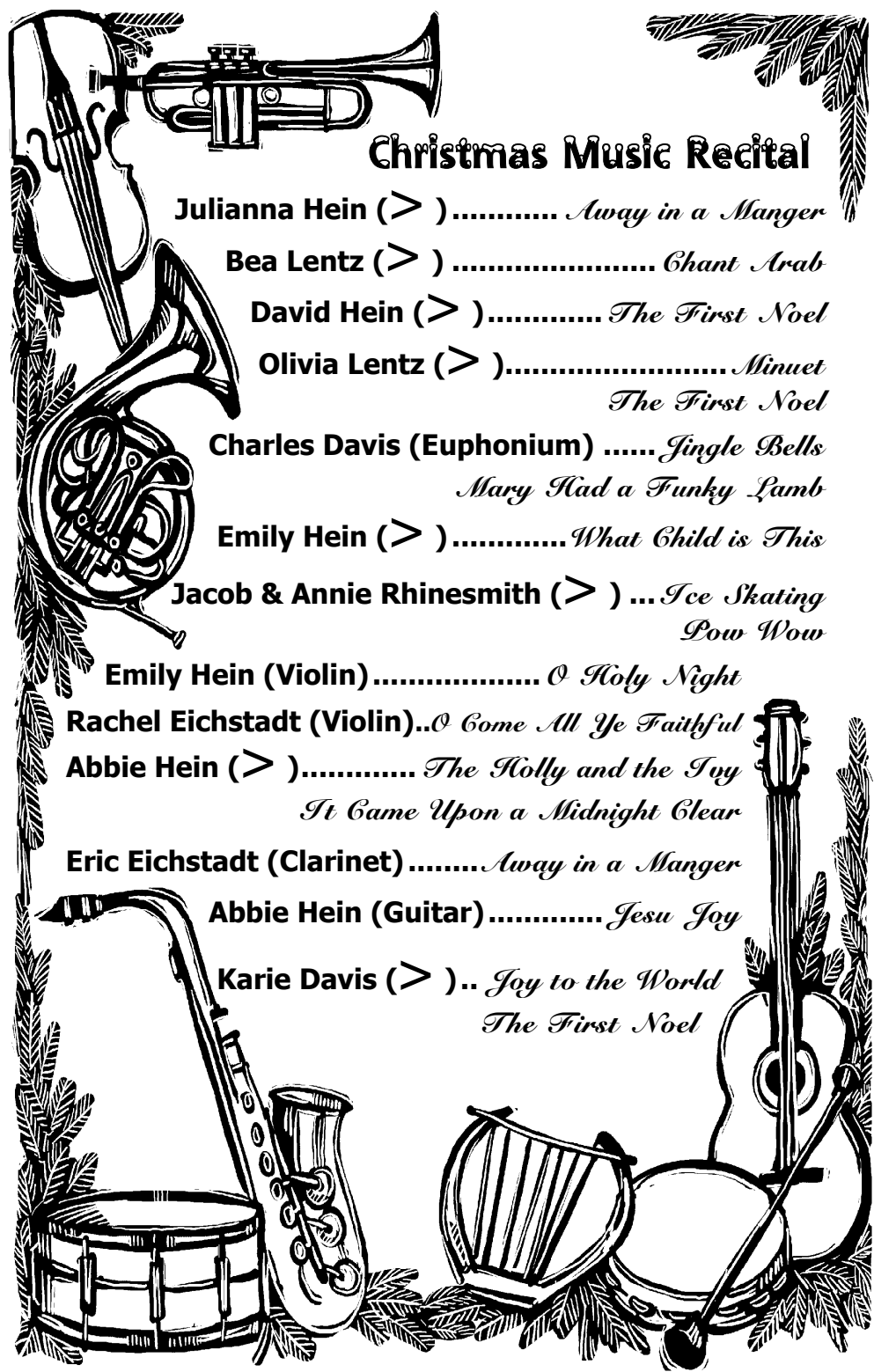
◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve service parts.

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 2, 2007 Sun.: 113 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 31 Wed.: 68

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,074.80	CLC:	680.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	556.00	CLC:	200.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-399.20	CLC:	-80.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	138,205.22	CLC:	44,209.24	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	145,440.00	CLC:	46,080.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-7,234.78	CLC:	-1,870.76	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	3.00	Tuition:	45.00	
GLC Other:	101.91*	MDF:	7.00	Kinship:	55.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	25.00	IIF: 25.00	CEF: 50.00

* \$50 Stifter Memorial





Christmas Music Recital

Julianna Hein (>)..... *Away in a Manger*

Bea Lentz (>) *Chant Arab*

David Hein (>)..... *The First Noel*

Olivia Lentz (>)..... *Minuet*
The First Noel

Charles Davis (Euphonium) *Jingle Bells*
Mary Had a Funky Lamb

Emily Hein (>)..... *What Child is This*

Jacob & Annie Rhinesmith (>) ... *Ice Skating*
Pow Wow

Emily Hein (Violin)..... *O Holy Night*

Rachel Eichstadt (Violin).. *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Abbie Hein (>)..... *The Holly and the Ivy*
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Eric Eichstadt (Clarinet)..... *Away in a Manger*

Abbie Hein (Guitar)..... *Jesu Joy*

Karie Davis (>).. *Joy to the World*
The First Noel

A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS:

When the fullness of the time was come according to the determination of the Heavenly Father, Caesar Augustus called a census for the purpose of taxation. Unbeknownst to Caesar, he set in motion God's plan for the salvation of mankind. Joseph and Mary set out for Bethlehem and thus was fulfilled the prophecy of Micah that declared where Jesus should be born (Micah 5:2). So this Christmas time we in spirit will go to Bethlehem to worship at the manger in which was laid the incarnate Christ. In a lowly manger bed lies the Son of God, born of Mary into the flesh, and appointed to be our Savior from sin.

But our Christmas worship is incomplete if we do not get beyond the manger. On the other hand, our Christmas is complete if as we stand at the manger bed we see the shadow of the cross upon which Jesus would die for the sins of the world. As we look even further, behind the cross we see the light of the empty tomb from which our Savior came forth on Easter. Jesus Who was born to die in our place, did not see corruption in the grave. He rose again for our justification. But it is not yet complete – our appreciation of Christmas. Look even beyond the empty tomb. There you see the mount of ascension. Ah, what a glorious sight it is as Jesus, true God and true Man in glorified body raised His hands in blessing upon His disciples, and ascended to the right hand of His Father from whence He had come. In heaven the child for whom there was no room in the inn, Who in time died the ignominious death upon the cross, but burst the grave restoring life, pleads for us before the Father as our Advocate. Yes, it is He Who according to His own word has prepared our mansion in the heavens. The birth, the cross, the resurrection, and the ascension occurred in space time history. Each event was planned by the Heavenly Father to bring about our salvation. But we encourage you to anticipate with eyes of faith another event that is yet to occur. The child who once came in lowliness will come in exalted state as the glorious Lord to judge the world. He will come to take His children Home. Then finally will be completed the fullness of all that the Father planned in eternity and brought to pass when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Many will forget Christmas when they pack away the party hats and the decorations. They are to be pitied as they turn back again to the pitiful manifestations of a world obsessed with the shadowy, passing pleasures of life. It is a lonely life for those who use the birth of the Lord Jesus only for their own purpose and who are so short sighted as to be blind to the purpose of His birth. God spare us! Rather may we be among those who as Christ believers see the love of God as a continuum from the Lord's birth to the Lord's return. Truly, then we will know the joy that has no end.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (12/9/2007)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: **Maureen Ochsner** *Elder:* **Benno Sydow**
Ushers: **Roger Ochsner; Bill Rust; Don Dahlin; Michael Englehorn; Bob Maki; Joel Stifter; Arnold Gehrls**
Counting Team 5: **Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner**
Hospitality Team 7: **Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland**
Church Cleaners: **Kitzman** *School Cleaners:* **Davis**

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: **Roger Ochsner; Bill Rust; Don Dahlin; Michael Englehorn; Bob Maki; Joel Stifter; Arnold Gehrls**
Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Ryan Libby**
Hospitality Team 1: **Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner**
Church Cleaners: **Bergstrom** *School Cleaners:* **Davis**

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 2)
11:00 am – Hospitality Luncheon w/ Music Recital
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Christmas Recital

Wed., Dec. 12: 11:00 am – Englehorn Memorial Service/Luncheon
4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service

Fri., Dec. 14: 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Northtown Concert

Sun., Dec. 16: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal (No Bible Class)
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Boards; 12:00 pm – Council

Wed., Dec. 19: 6:00 pm – Christmas Meal
7:00 pm – Candlelight Service

Fri., Dec. 21: 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert @ Eau Claire, WI

Sun., Dec. 23: 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal (No Bible Class)
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Mon., Dec. 24: 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Tue., Dec. 25: 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service

Sun., Dec. 30: 4:00 pm – Missionary Ude Installation @ Eau Claire, WI

Grace Lutheran Church & School

Repent,
for the
kingdom
of heaven
is near.

Matthew 3:2

