

Click here to open service web page for: 2007/12/16/

Grace Lutheran Church & School

460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Email: jphein@clclutheran.com
Home Page: www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.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 3 **Date:** December 16, 2007

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 146, TLH p. 156*

Hymn: *TLH 73: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

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*

Rejoice, rejoice, ye Christians, Again I say: Rejoice!
Lead lives of moderation, The Savior is at hand;
Be full of care for nothing, Address the Lord in prayer.
He leads us out of prison, Brings Jacob safely there.

Advent Candle Lighting: *The Shepherd Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of joy. This we experience as Christ comes into our hearts. May the joyful promise of Your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation, just as it did for the shepherds that first Christmas night!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: *TLH 62, st. 3: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



First Reading: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The Lord's coming brings refreshment to this world lying in sin.

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. I will send My messenger ahead of You,
C: Who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.



Second Reading: *James 5:7-11*

We are to await the Lord's coming with patient hearts.

Baptism: *Mahala Lin Smith*

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

Hymn: *WS 750: See This Wonder in the Making*

Sermon: *Luke 1:26-38*

(26) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, (27) to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (28) And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" (29) But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. (30) Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. (32) "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. (33) "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (34) Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (35) And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (36) "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. (37) "For with God nothing will be impossible." (38) Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (NKJV[™])

Reactions to Jesus' Coming

MARY: ACCEPTING WITH GOD-GIVEN FAITH

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 76: A Great and Mighty Wonder*

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

Hymn: *TLH 89, st. 1, 4-5: To Thee My Heart I Offer*

◆ **Christmas Eve** service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *The Bow in the Clouds and the Boy in the Cloths*. The focus is how God always fulfills His promises, just as He has done with the rainbow. The children have been working diligently in preparation of the service. Come and worship the newborn King!



◆ **Christmas Day** worship will be on Sunday at 10:00 am. Christ's birth is the greatest gift of the season. May our reaction to His coming be the opposite of Bethlehem's which was unaware of His greatness. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!

◆ **Nomination Slate for 2008:**

- President: Michael Dick, Phil Radichel
- Vice President: Peter Fleischer, Jack Kirkham
- Secretary: Roger Ochsner
- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
- Financial Secretary: Ole Olmanson
- Elder: Frank Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Education: Lynn Sandhoefner, Michael Ude
- Trustee: Bill Rust, Jeff Stifter

◆ **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.

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

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 9, 2007 Sun.: 127 S.S.: 28 B.Cl.: 45 Wed.: 64

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,628.00	CLC:	1,442.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	185.00	CLC:	50.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+783.00	CLC:	+532.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	141,978.22	CLC:	45,701.24	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	148,470.00	CLC:	47,040.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,491.78	CLC:	-1,338.76	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	13.00	Tuition:	85.00	
GLC Other:	884.85*	MDF:	252.00	Kinship:	72.00
ILC Student Aid:	75.00	ILC Bldg.	40.00	IIF: 13.00	CEF: 39.00

* \$45 Englehorn Memorial; \$537 Wagner Memorial

** \$100 Wagner Memorial to ILC Student Aid Endowment

CHRISTmas TIME:

We submit that for a great part of our society Christmas is nothing more than an excuse to celebrate man's self absorption and greed. The weekend following Thanksgiving kicks off Christmas shopping in earnest. We are told that the economics of the Christmas season are determined to a great extent by the number of shoppers as well as the amount of money spent on that weekend. We have the obligatory news reports ad nauseum from malls and stores around town interviewing shoppers and store managers about what, how much, and who is buying. Stores open at early morning hours, if not midnight, so that people who have been standing in line for hours in rain, snow, and cold can be the first ones into the store to spend their money which otherwise they seem not to have.

From where we sit we look on with amazement at the gullibility and emptiness of people whose Christmas is consumed by the pursuit of stuff. We look on with a sense of sorrow that we don't have people lining up with chairs, cots, tents, and blankets hours in advance so that they can rush the church door as soon as it opens during the Christmas season, or on Sunday. Shall we conclude that we must not be marketing the church correctly, because surely people would want to hear the Gospel? Hearing the Gospel would seem to be attractive, for, after all, the church does not charge to hear the Gospel- but then today, who knows? We might even suggest that the church offers a comfortable place to sit for an hour while it dispenses its message *free of charge*. And surely the gift it gives through the Gospel – assuming that the Gospel is till preached, this too is not guaranteed – is the message of forgiveness and eternal life through the Savior, Jesus Christ. Why are people not lined up outside the church door?

The answer? The "natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them for they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). By nature, man is concerned with the things of this world. His focus is earthly and material. Natural man is a religious being, which is not the same as a spiritual being. He cannot know the things of the Spirit of God except through the Word.

Natural man denies anything higher than himself, and if by

chance he acknowledges a higher being than himself, he wants to be the creator of whatever it is that is higher than he. Natural man is therefore an idolater. Sin and guilt are foreign to natural man. Secure in himself and without knowledge of sin and its consequence, he tries to address the evil in the world by addressing the symptoms. Natural man lives in a state of denial concerning sin. The regenerate person on the other hand, still in the flesh, recognizes the reality of sin, confesses his sin, and believes that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

They who are of the Spirit of God are they who have been convicted by the law of God and who despairing of self have been renewed unto a new hope in Christ through the Gospel. Their Christmas obsession is not the shopping mall, but the manger bed wherein lies the Savior!

They enjoy the blessings and opportunities which God showers upon them while on the earth, but their focus is different. Their focus is heaven. They look forward to eternal life, to the everlasting inheritance received in all its fullness when they have put off the mortal body. To grow in faith and in confidence of salvation they love to hear the Word of the Gospel.

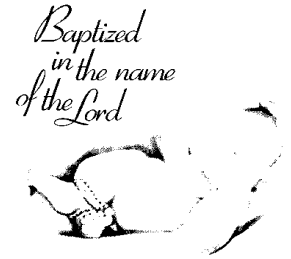
The challenge of the Church is to proclaim faithfully the Word of God- both law and gospel. No, we do not ever expect people to storm the doors of the church to hear the Word. But we can pray that when "sinners see their lost condition, and feel the pressing load of sin ..." (TLH 65), they will be open to the gospel, and will be moved to understand that their future lies not in mad pursuit of substance that moth and rust corrupt, but in the eternal Son of God born in the flesh in Bethlehem. Blessed are all who understand that focus of this season is not about stuff, but the manger and the cross. It is about God giving His Son, the Redeemer and Savior. It is CHRISTmas time!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (12/2/2007)



† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Congratulations:** to little Mahalia Smith who was reborn by the Spirit through the waters of Holy Baptism. Mahalia is the daughter of Jeremiah and Kris Smith, born on August 18. May she be a blessing to her parents and may she continue to be connected to the Lord through the power of His Word.



- ◆ **Among Us:** Lyle LaCroix's surgery this past week to install a heart monitor was successful. We thank the Lord that all is well.
- ◆ **Christmas Caroling:** We will be meeting here at the church at 6:30 pm. If you plan on joining us, please speak with Pastor Hein if you have not already done so. It always brings joy to those who hear the Gospel message we bring in song.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Rehearsal:** There is one more remaining, next Sunday at 9 am. Please have the children here on time as there is just enough time to practice the worship service. There will be no Bible Class.
- ◆ **Candlelight Service:** Our Candlelight service will be this Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7 pm. It will continue our Advent theme, "Reactions to Jesus' Coming." It will include Scripture readings and many hymns. The candlelight service will be preceded by a fellowship meal starting at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal prior to the Candlelight service this Wednesday, December 19. 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.



- ◆ **Christmas Concert at ILC:** This year's Christmas concert will be held this coming Fri., Dec. 21, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. There is still some room on the bus going to Eau Claire should anyone else who hasn't signed up desire to ride. Due to Council policy, there is no cost for the trip. The bus will be leaving at 5 pm, so please plan on being here by 4:45 pm.



† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

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

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School Cleaners: Ferris

† OUR SCHEDULE †

- Today:** 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Boards; 12:00 pm – Council
6:30 pm – Caroling Outing
- Wed., Dec. 19:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Christmas Meal
7:00 pm – Candlelight Service
- Fri., Dec. 21:** 5:00 pm – Bus Departure for ILC Concert
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert @ Eau Claire, WI
- Sun., Dec. 23:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
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
- Wed., Dec. 26:** No Catechism or Bible Class
- Sun., Dec. 30:** No Sunday School or Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Christmas 1)
4:00 pm – Missionary Ude Installation @ Eau Claire, WI
- Mon., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Service

Grace Lutheran Church & School

