

Click here to open service web page for: 2008/12/07/

*Grace Lutheran Church & School*

460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)  
Home Page: [www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>  
**Church Year:** Advent 2      **Date:** December 7, 2008

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 85, TLH p. 140*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 608: Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road*

**Liturgy:** ..... *TLH, p. 15 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 16 - 19.

**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 leadest 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 40:1-11*

The LORD desires that His people be comforted by His forgiveness.

**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:** ..... *Mark 1:1-8*

John the Baptizer prepares the way before Christ by preaching repentance.

**Confession of Faith:** ..... *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 604: Great God, What Do I See and Hear?*

**Sermon:** ..... *2 Peter 3:8-14*

(8) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ... (NKJV™)

**THE "THIEF" TO TRULY WELCOME**

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 609: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

**Offertory, Offering, & Prayer:** ..... *TLH p. 22 f.*

**Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:** ..... *TLH p. 24 ff.*

**Distribution:** ..... *TLH 65: When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

**Note:** In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

**Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction:** ..... *TLH 29 ff.*

**Hymn:** ..... *WS 702, st. 1, 6-7: As Angels Joyed with one Accord*

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Today:** Following our worship service there will be light lunch served by the hospitality committee to which everyone is invited. 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 another rehearsal next Sunday afternoon along with one more at 9 am on Dec. 21. There will be no Bible Class that Sunday.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** This year's Midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesdays, Dec. 10 and 17, 7:00 pm. Our theme this year is The Birth Announcement of Jesus of Nazareth. Dec. 17 will be the candlelight service which will be preceded by a fellowship meal.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal prior to the Candlelight service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Committee #2 is in charge. Dessert is being provided from the Dorcas Guild's Christmas cookie bake. Those attending may bring something to share.
- ◆ **Caroling:** Having emailed many of the prospective carolers, let us plan on our caroling outing for this Friday, meeting at the church at 6:00 pm.
- ◆ **Grace Music Recital:** Next Sunday a music recital will be held during hospitality.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC music teachers extend an invitation to attend the student Piano/Organ Recital next Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 19, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. Those who wish to ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip by the guestbook. Plan on a 4:45 pm departure time from the church.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** There is a signup sheet by the guest book in the narthex for those wishing to purchase a poinsettia for church during the Advent season. Plants will range in price but generally will be \$8 and will be purchased by Jackie Radichel throughout Advent.
- ◆ **Books:** Pastor Emeritus Dale Redlin has published a book entitled Poems of Prayer and Praise. The cost for the book is \$10. There are a couple of copies on display underneath the mailboxes. Those who wish to purchase a copy may ask for one from Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **Catechism:** Our regular Catechism class for public school students will be suspended on Dec. 24 and 31 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on January 7.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the four called workers of the congregation.



- ◆ **2009 Cleaning:** The 2009 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Grace's former vicar, Scott Schiermeister, has received and accepted the call to St. John's Lutheran, Clarkston WA, and Peace Lutheran, Orofino, ID. His installation will be January 4th. The time is set for 2:00 pm. † With the retirement of Teacher Marion Fitschen, Holy Trinity of West Columbia, SC, has called Laura Ude to teach its lower grades. She has accepted this call.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve group recitations

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 30, 2008			
	Sun.:	S.S.:	B.Cl.:
Sun. Offering:	Grace: 3,530.78	CLC: 1,455.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace: 508.60	CLC: 264.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace: 3,225.00	CLC: 1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace: +814.38	CLC: +719.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace: 140,055.26	CLC: 46,792.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace: 154,800.00	CLC: 48,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace: -14,744.74	CLC: -1,207.65	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith: 14.00	Tuition: 39.00	
GLC Other:	89.00	MDF: 141.00	Kinship: 64.00
ILC Student Aid:	5.00	ILC Bldg. 91.00	IIF: 14.00 CEF: 14.00

## † MONTHLY STATISTICS †

Monthly Statistics:	November Totals	Year-to-Date
Sunday Attendance.....	(Ave. 126.0) .. 630	(Ave. 122.8) 5,770
Special Services.....	(Ave. 98.0) .. 98	(Ave. 73.6) .. 810
Sunday Bible Class.....	(Ave. 41.6) .. 208	(Ave. 41.8) 1,254
Sunday School.....	(Ave. 20.6) .. 103	(Ave. 21.8) .. 589
Wed. Bible Class.....	(Ave. 21.7) .. 65	(Ave. 21.0) .. 315
Grace General Fund.....	\$15,157.47	\$139,546.66
Grace Tuition Fund.....	365.00	5,650.00
Grace Living Fund.....	40.00	945.00
Grace Dorcas.....	34.00	1,027.29
Grace Memorial Fund.....	99.00	380.00
Grace Video Projector Fund.....	1,090.00	2,415.00
Grace Project Undesignated.....	0.00	250.00
Grace Other.....	0.00	230.75
CLC Budget (Missions).....	4,960.00	46,528.35
Church Extension Fund (CEF).....	130.00	1,617.00
Mission Development (MDF).....	174.00	2,213.00
Kinship (for orphans).....	320.00	2,993.67
ILC Improvement (IIF).....	34.00	823.00
ILC Building.....	693.00	9,723.00
ILC Student Aid.....	10.00	790.00
ILC Student Aid Endowment.....	0.00	25.00
CLC Other.....	0.00	1,087.00
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>\$23,106.47</b>	<b>\$216,244.72</b>

*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!*

## **DECEMBER 7:**

Today is significant in the history of our nation. In 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The United States was at war. Pearl Harbor had not been on a state of high alert. An attack was not thought imminent. Planes were wingtip to wingtip in the airfields. Anti-aircraft guns were unmanned. Many ammunition boxes were locked reflecting peacetime regulations. No torpedo nets protected the anchored fleet. Since it was a Sunday morning, many officers and crewmen were ashore. At 7:53 AM, the first Japanese assault wave arrived. Americans were taken by surprise. The first attack wave targeted airfields and battleships. The second wave targeted other ships and facilities.

The air raid lasted until 9:45 a.m. Eight battleships were damaged, with five sunk. Three light cruisers, three destroyers and three smaller vessels were lost along with 188 aircraft. Many lives were lost. On the home front lives and families were disrupted.

As much as wars are a “necessary evil” in this corrupt world, they also reflect in many ways the inhumanity of men and nations toward one another. They who think that wars will cease on the earth are poor students of human nature, as well as of history, and the Word of God itself. December 7, 1941, as well as the recent 9/11 is reminder to us that a nation cannot take peace for granted, and that it must be on constant alert. The cry of “peace, peace” when there is no peace is the cry of people not in tune with reality. It is not pessimism but reality to acknowledge that an enemy within and without wants to destroy our society, our culture, and our nation. They who are not ready to acknowledge that and/or are only minimally interested in preparing to defend our nation may well contribute to a repeat of a surprise similar to that of December 7, 1941.

War in which nations advance hostilities against one another is just a microcosm of the war that is waged against God’s people, which necessitates a state of constant alert for God’s children. This war began when Satan tempted Adam and Eve. It serves no purpose to debate how Satan could have prevailed against them. The fact is that he did and he intensifies his attacks in each succeeding generation. Satan is not bashful. He carried on the war against the Messiah, the Anointed of the Father, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus was manifested that He should destroy the works of the devil. Satan lost the war. He could not prevail

against God’s Son. He was overcome by the Word in the wilderness (Matthew 4). The victory of our Lord was confirmed at the cross and empty tomb. God in His grace has credited this victory over sin, death and devil to our account. All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ bask in the confidence of victory over the foe who has designed our overthrow!

Yet the devil is nothing if not persistent. Whether as an individual child of God, or the body of believers, the Church, we have been put on alert that we should not be taken by surprise. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith ...” (1 Peter 5:8). The devil carries on overt war against the redeemed of God. As circumstances dictate he engages in guerilla warfare. He could not overcome the Master though he tried, so he pursues Christ believers individually and collectively. As the Church, the body of Christ, reflects the spirit of its Head, it will proclaim the Gospel of peace as commissioned by the Lord. But it will not be docile in the face of satanic attacks calculated to rob the child of God of faith, and the Church of the Word. The Church in this world must ever be the Church militant as it awaits the eternal day in which it shall be the Church victorious!

As we value the faith and our relationship with the Lord as well as our salvation, we will be alert, and ready to defend the faith against the open enemies of the Lord and His Church, as well watchful for enemies who surreptitiously infiltrate the Church militant for one purpose and one only, to rob and destroy.

The Lord has told us that as we continue in Him and in His Word no one will snatch us from His saving embrace. The message of God in Revelation is that the Church ultimately will prevail. However, let us take nothing for granted lest - as the nation was caught off guard on December 7, 1941 - we Christians are caught asleep in our faith-life by the enemy who never sleeps and is ever plotting our overthrow. Be alert. Stay in the Word! Wield the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Have it at the ready. Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6). Be strong and of good courage! Our Lord tells us, “I will be with thee; I will not fail thee” (Joshua 1: 5, 6). And pray, “O my God, I trust in Thee, let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on Thee be ashamed” (Psalm 25: 2, 3).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/07/2008

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: David Stifter, John Auel, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude

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

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye; Jeff & Sarah Radichel

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School Cleaners: Dick

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred & Pal Dauer; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School Cleaners: Dick

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

- Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Advent 2)  
11:15 am – Hospitality w/luncheon  
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 10:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service
- Fri., Dec. 12:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Caroling
- Sun., Dec. 14:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)  
11:15 am – Hospitality w/Christmas Music Recital  
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal  
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 17:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal  
7:00 pm – Candlelight Service
- Fri., Dec. 19:** 2:00 pm – Grace Lutheran School @ Northtown  
7:30 pm – ILC Concert @ Messiah – Eau Claire, WI
- Sun., Dec. 21:** 9:00 – Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal (No Bible Class)  
12:00 – Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
- Thu., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service
- Wed., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Service w/Lord's Supper

---

# Grace Lutheran Church & School

---

