

Click here to open service web page for:2014/12/28/

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Brandt Wendland

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Mike Dick, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Mike Dick, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Kirkham

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Dec. 28:** 10:00 am – Worship Service (No Bible Class, S.S., Hospitality)  
**Wed., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper  
 8:00 pm – New Year's Eve Fellowship  
**Sat., Jan. 3:** 1:00 pm – Hein/Noeldner Wedding  
**Sun., Jan. 4:** 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (No Bible Class, S.S.)  
 11:15 am - Hospitality  
**Wed., Jan. 7:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
**Sun., Jan. 11:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:15 am – Hospitality  
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
**Sun., Jan. 18:** 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

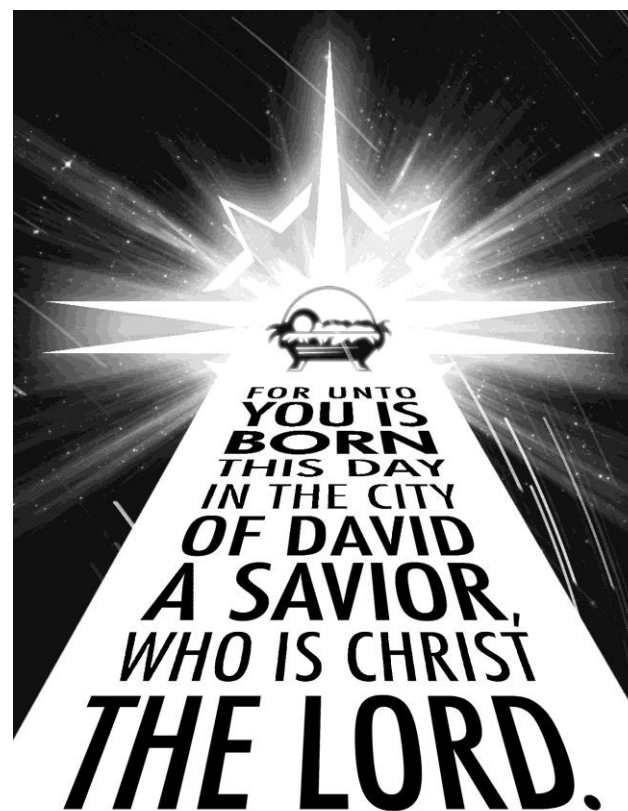
**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 21, 2014 Sun.:135 B.Cl.:36 S.S.:35 Eve:201 Day:80

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,301.75	CLC:	\$911.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	1,035.10	CLC:	565.00
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	1,520.00	CLC:	100.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,200.00	CLC:	1,040.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,656.85	CLC:	+536.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$166,267.79	CLC:	\$52,320.15
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	163,200.00	CLC:	53,040.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+3,067.79	CLC:	-719.85
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	167,000.00	CLC:	54,000.00
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	-732.21	CLC:	-1,679.85
GLC Other:	3,190.00*	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid: 1,310.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	80.00	Kinship: 50.00
ILC Student Aid:	35.00	ILC Bldg.	115.00	IIF: 50.00 CEF: 0.00

Current Balances: Parking Lot: +2,845.00 Tuition Aid: +5,849.12

\* \$625 Maynard Hammond Memorial

# Grace Lutheran Church & School



## Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: [jphain@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphain@clclutheran.com)

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

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

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

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

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

Church Year: Christmas 1

Date: December 28, 2014

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 76: A Great and Mighty Wonder  
WS 711: See in Yonder Manger Low  
WS 715: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt  
WS 706: Go Tell It on the Mountain

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 111, TLH p. 147

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5  
Gloria: TLH 102:3-4

### Scripture Readings:

Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:25-40

### Sermon: Isaiah 45:20-25

<sup>20</sup>“Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You *who have* escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god *that* cannot save. <sup>21</sup>Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the Lord? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me. <sup>22</sup>“Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other. <sup>23</sup>I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. <sup>24</sup>He shall say, ‘Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. To Him *men* shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him. <sup>25</sup>In the Lord all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.’” (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## LOOK TO ME AND BE SAVED

1. GOD OF WOOD: EMPTINESS

2. GOD OF FLESH: SALVATION

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ♦ **Gratitude:** My family and I are truly thankful for the generous spirit of the congregation in sharing their prayers, cards, gifts, and encouragement this Christmas season. We pray that our ministry reflects our appreciation for your support. It is a privilege to share the Good News of our Savior's birth with you. May He continually be born anew in our hearts during the upcoming year as we are blessed through His Word of grace. – Pastor Hein
- ♦ **New Year's Eve:** On New Year's Eve we will be having a 7 pm worship service with the Lord's Supper. Afterward the congregation is invited to a party in the fellowship hall. Please bring an appetizer to share along with any of your favorite games.
- ♦ **2015 Cleaning:** The 2015 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ♦ **Wedding Invitation:** An invitation to the Abbie Hein/Nathan Noeldner wedding at 1 pm on Sat. is posted on the bulletin board by the office.
- ♦ **Immanuel Positions:** Immanuel is hiring a new dormitory supervisor for our female students and a new food services manager/head cook. To apply, please contact ILC President Steven Sippert ([steve.sippert@ilc.edu](mailto:steve.sippert@ilc.edu) / 715.836.6620) prior to January 11, 2015.
- ♦ **CLC Mission Helper Trip to East Africa:** The application deadline is quickly approaching. If you are interested in participating, please apply no later than January 5, 2015. You can find information and apply online at: [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/).
- ♦ **From India:** 1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In Christ, dearly beloved, On behalf of the CLCI, we send-forth our heartfelt Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the Son of God given to us be wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace, to us not only during this Christmas season but also all through the years! May He also dwell in your hearts, minds and homes, fill you all with the eternal joy and make you all delighted! Praying that we all be granted an abundant entrance into the blessed New Year 2015 with His sure mercies, to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for all our CLCI Churches, leaders, pastors, members, teachers, youth, seminary students, seminary staff, Sunday school children and Orphan boy and girls. Please convey our special Christmas and New Year greetings and blessings to your children and loved ones also. We love you all in Christ. Thank you for all your prayers. Your brother in Christ, Pastor Jyothi Benjamin
- ♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke's in Lemmon, SD, has received the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX. He is also still considering the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI.
- ♦ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

# AS THE YEAR PASSES

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2014

"Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory" (Psalm 73:23-24).

**Again the days have quickly run,  
Another year is past.  
And with the passing of the year,  
We pause to thank our Lord.**

**Blessings every day were new,  
For the Lord is always true!  
He showered us in every need  
Beyond what we could dream.**

**And though we sinned and earned His wrath,  
The Father loved us still.  
Through holy Jesus' precious blood,  
He all our sins forgave!**

**And so when trial and afflictions came,  
He kept us in His care.  
He did so cause He counts us His—  
He could not let us go.**

**So many of His children passed,  
From this world to the next!  
Yes, they have gone where we will go,  
As in His Son we trust.**

**Now as the latest year has passed,  
And another year arrives,  
We know not what it'll bring,  
Our Father knows it well!**

**If what the New Year holds  
Is sorrow, pain or loss,  
Or if it's filled with goodness rich  
We know God's will is best!**

**And so we wait on Him to lead,  
Through whatever days remain.  
He'll bear us in His gracious arms,  
Until He takes us Home.**

**So then, for this New Year we ask  
And this we want the most,  
That in whatever days remain,  
"Dear Jesus, lead us on!"**



## Born of Mary, God's Begotten

By Chad Sybyt 2013 (Son of Trudy Wales)

Sung to tune of 'Hymn of Joy' (WS 738)

**Born of Mary, God's Begotten, Here on earth, incarnate Word.  
Born to die for man's salvation, Gentle Baby, Lord of lords.  
"Do not fear, behold, I bring you Tidings of great peace and joy:  
Born to you in David's city Is God's promised little Boy."**

**Sleeping soundly in a manger, Savior wrapped in swaddling clothes  
Is adored by shepherd strangers, And the Babe's angelic host.  
When they saw the Christ, Messiah, They made Him more widely known,  
Shouting hope throughout the country: "All our waiting now is done!"**

**Mary in her heart was pond'ring All the things her God had planned  
For all men, their sins forgiving Through this Jesus – God and man.  
Let us ponder, as did Mary, God's great gift of Love He's shown.  
Let us run, as did the shepherds, Share this news with ev'ryone.**

## Caesar August – Martin Luther

The birth of Christ took place exactly when the Emperor Augustus sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed. This was no accident. The birth of Christ was timed to coincide with the census because God wanted to teach us the duty of obedience even to a heathen government. Had He been born prior to the census, it might have appeared that He was unwilling to be subject to the Roman Empire. At the very first moment of His life, Christ and His parents had to give evidence of obedience, not to God, but to the heathen emperor, the enemy of the Jews. This is the strongest proof that Christ's Kingdom is to be distinguished from that of the world. Christ did not wish to erect a kingdom like an earthly king, but wished to be subject to a heathen government. Is not this shameful, that Christ should obey a power that His people and His household regarded as an abomination? But Christ obeyed the civil government of the emperor. Every Christian, therefore, should let Augustus administer his realm –should not hinder but help.



## “ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL”

“And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them ... Then the angel said ... ‘I bring you good tidings of great joy’” (Luke 2:9-10). In that announcement is the heart of the Gospel—good news! The Gospel is from God. He sent the angel. The Gospel is about God. He gave the angel the message. The Gospel is God—the Word (Gospel) become flesh (John 1:1). Jesus, the Savior, was and is the substance of the message announced by the angel to the shepherds on Christmas night.

The fullness of the gospel is Immanuel, *God with us* through every circumstance and condition of our life on earth. It is the message of forgiveness, redemption, and eternal salvation. *The gospel is the smiling face of the Father shone to us in the face of the innocent Bethlehem babe, the face of the suffering Christ, and the radiant face of the risen Lord.* Jesus is the substance without which the message is meaningless. There is no good news for the fallen world without Jesus! However, the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes ...” (Romans 1:16).

In Romans 2:16, Romans 16:25, and 2 Timothy 2:8 Paul uses the expression, “*according to my Gospel*.”? Elsewhere Paul speaks of “*our gospel*.” He claimed the gospel as his own! He likely was using the expression “*according to my gospel*” as a counter to the “gospel” of false teachers, reminding his readers of the blessings derived by believing the gospel he proclaimed, as compared to the emptiness and worthlessness of the message of false teachers. But how could Paul make such a claim that *his* gospel was better than any other?

Paul made no claim to worthiness; nor did he usurp the gospel, or deny to the Lord the glory and honor due Him as the Author and Giver of the good news. Paul could make such a claim in view of what we read in 1 Thessalonians, “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel ...” (2:4). He could make the claim because his was from God! Martin Luther spoke in similar vein when he said, “Not from men have I received *my Gospel* but *from heaven alone*, through my Lord Jesus Christ” (WLS, Vol. 3, para. 3767, p. 1179).

The same gospel given to Paul has been entrusted to the Church, to believers. As such, we too can before the world speak of “*our gospel*,” as a contrast to any counterfeit gospel. To us is given the ministry of reconciliation, that is, “that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Paul took this charge of proclaiming the Gospel seriously. He said, “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the

gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16). Furthermore he wrote, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than *what we have preached* to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

As we are appointed and privileged to proclaim the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20), we dare to say that we are God’s angels in this world to bring good tidings of great joy! What a privilege and responsibility! As believers in Christ, we will have the same mind as Paul. In as much as the Gospel has been entrusted to us, it is ours to share. It is not to be hidden, abused, or misused. Bearing in mind that the gospel in its fullness is the Word made flesh, our Savior, we are to treasure the gospel committed to us and to proclaim it faithfully.

There is another aspect. As we live in the love of God and are possessors of the gospel—a privilege given only to such as believe and confess the Lord Jesus Christ—we should be offended when the ungodly and the wicked defame the gospel, or use it for their own ill-conceived purpose. In the face of such opposition we should the more vigorously preach it and by steadfast confession, as well as by renewed commitment, stand up for and with the gospel as we will want to have done “in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ ...” (Romans 2:16).

When the Lord claimed us by His grace to be His own, He gave to us all things that are His, and issue from His gracious hand. Most notably this means the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through the merit of our Lord Jesus Christ—the best news of all. May we without hesitation claim the gospel as our gospel and always let it be a testimony of that which He has entrusted to us! May we further take “pastor Paul’s” word to Timothy to heart, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2014

*Peace* Love **JOY** *Peace* Love **JOY**

### The following is the nomination slate for 2015:

- President: Eli Wales
- Vice President: Mike Dick
- Secretary: Michael Ude
- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
- Elder: Al Rosendahl, Benno Sydow
- Education: Chad Hestekin, Roger Ochsner
- Trustee: Kevin Baker, Pat Paplow