

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Benno Sydow; Gary Gunther; Larry Nelson; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: LaDue

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel

Hospitality Team 4: James & April Bomber; Rachelle Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: LaDue

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 4:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Advent 2)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 7:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Sun., Dec. 11:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 14:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Fri., Dec. 16:** 2:00 pm – CDS Northtown Mall Concert
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 18:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal; 12:00 Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 21:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship
- Sat., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Sun., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Sat., Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve (No Worship)
- Mon., Jan. 2:** 7:00 pm – Missionary Ohlmann Commissioning (Eau Claire, WI)

Grace Lutheran Church & School

I have baptized you
with **WATER;**
but he
will baptize you
with the
**HOLY
SPIRIT.**

Mark 1:8



Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: 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-8th
Church Year: Advent 2 **Date:** December 4, 2016

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 130, TLH p. 153*

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

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's intent is for His people to have the comfort of knowing their sins are forgiven, even sending forth this message to the world.

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: *2 Peter 3:8-14*

We are to patiently wait for the coming Day of the LORD.

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

Hymn: *TLH 75: Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken*

Sermon: *Mark 1:1-8*

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the Prophets¹: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."³ ³ "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight!'" ⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵ Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. ⁸ "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (NKJVTM)

JOHN, THE HERALD OF THE LORD

1. *John's purpose*
2. *John's person*
3. *John's message*

Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

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

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution: *TLH 307; TLH 67*

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. 6-7: As Angels Joyed with One Accord*

- ◆ **Parking Reminder:** For those members who are able, please park further away to permit those with physical impairments to be able to park closer to the church.
- ◆ **Parking Lot:** To make a contribution toward replacing this, write in "Parking Lot" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **Liberia:** To make a contribution to the work in Liberia, write in "Liberia" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ◆ **Immanuel Christmas Events:** As Christmas approaches, there are a few upcoming Immanuel (ILC) events. On Sun., Dec. 11, 3 pm, there will be the piano recital at the campus fieldhouse. The highlight of the music department will be the Christmas concert at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm. This will include the flute choir, band, mass choir, and tour choir. The choir portion of the event is considered a sacred worship service as the students sing the Christmas Gospel message. This is always a spiritually edifying concert to help one focus, even in the midst of the busy holiday season, on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This concert ends the busy Finals Week for the students as they conclude their first semester of the academic year with their various tests and projects. We pray the students will safely arrive at their homes in order to enjoy Christmas break with their families. The students resume classes on Jan. 9.
- ◆ **2017 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal:** Plans are underway for the CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in July. More information can be found at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2017-nepal.
- ◆ **CLC Youth Camp at ILC:** Counselor applications for CLC Youth Camp 2017 are now open! The Youth Camp will be held at the ILC Campus in Eau Claire, WI, from June 18-24 this year. The link to the form and other important information can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/summeryouthcamp. Or, if you don't have Facebook, email us at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com and we will send you the link. We are also looking for kitchen staff, and anyone who is interested in helping can email us. Thank you!
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Recitations

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 27, 2016 Sun.: 93 S.S.: 13 B.Cl.: 42

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,781.25	CLC:	\$545.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-518.75	CLC:	-455.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$141,477.79	CLC:	\$42,086.84	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	158,400.00	CLC:	48,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-16,922.21	CLC:	-5,913.16	
GLC Other:	135.10	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	100.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	18,665.25	Tuition Aid:	1,301.12

THE LORD, OUR STRONG TOWER

A prominent *New York Times* Op-ed writer opined ^(11/17/2015): "Terrorists won't destroy civilization, but global warming could." On the same day an on-line article carried the headline: "Humanity's future in the balance at UN Climate Summit."

With the first we agree in part. Terrorists will not destroy civilization. The evil of deluded terrorists be they Islamic terrorists or any other kind threaten the peace of society. They cause untold fear and harm, pain and anguish, and frequently death. As children of God who have the ear of God ^(1 John 5:14) we pray that the Lord will stay the evil of such, even as we pray that He will lead them to see the evil of their ways and lead them to repentance. For all their evil, terrorists *will not* destroy civilization. At the end of time the *Lord God will exercise judgment*. Anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the fire. End of civilization on earth!

Neither climate change nor the alleged global warming which has become a religion to those who fear-monger with it will destroy civilization or be the end of humanity. At the day of judgment when the Lord comes to take His children home according to His promise, humanity on the earth will end. Until then, the Lord who created the earth and seas and all that is in them will look after His creation, as well as after humans living on the earth.

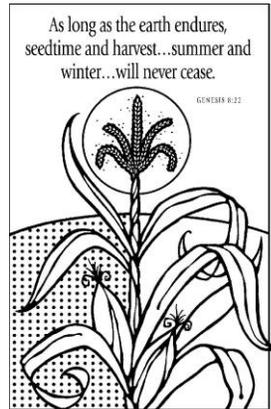
We are living in the time described by Scripture through the apostle Paul. He called them *perilous times*. You will find his description of these times in the 3rd chapter of his last epistle written to Timothy.

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). Yet, as difficult as the times are, the Lord uses them as a reminder to us to keep our focus on the heavenly home, purchased and won for us not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, and guaranteed to us by His resurrection. The Lord also uses them as a daily call to repentance to us, and a like call to those who still reject Him. As we endure them we maintain our sanity by virtue of the promise of our Lord by whose grace we look for "a better, that is, a heavenly country" ^(Hebrews 11:16).

As Christians living on the earth and subject to the same forces and circumstances that affect all regardless of race, religion, or national origin, we do care about the earth upon which the Lord has placed us. We are here to tend and care for it; we are here to enjoy it and not abuse it. But we have the assurance of faith through the promise of the Lord Who created it that it will endure until such time as He determines to end it. We have the promise that they whose god is no greater than themselves do not accept. Our Lord said: "While the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease" ^(Genesis 8:22).

Even though they create havoc, heart-ache, pain, suffering, and all manner of discomfort, neither will the wickedness of men, nor the might of armies, nor the selfishness of governments end civilization or the world. They may be the catalyst that moves the Lord to end it for the sake of His Church, but He shall come as a thief in the night ^(1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10) to end what is, and create a new heaven and a new earth in which dwells righteousness ^(2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21: 1-8).

The perspective of the waiting child of God is therefore different from that of those whose life is earth bound, whose god is self, and whose hope will die with them.



Christians are not naive to the realities of life. But our perspective is a reflection of that which Paul spoke, saying, "If God is for us, who can be against us" ^(Romans 8:31)? God has given us all things in Christ; He has justified us; He has saved us from condemnation, and makes intercession for us ^(Romans 8:32-34). "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" ^(Romans 8:35-39). Confident in God's love, Paul said and to this every Christ-believer can subscribe, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" ^(Romans 8:18).

The Lord whose birth we celebrate each Christmas, and whose victorious advent in the clouds of heaven we await says, "Surely I am coming quickly" to which John in exile on Patmos responded, "Amen, Even so, come, Lord Jesus" ^(Revelation 22:20).

The atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ is the light that shines in the darkness of this gloomy world; the promise of our Savior is the quiet voice that speaks more loudly to our heart than the vain and loud voices that shout in the dark, and whistle by the cemetery!

Thankful praise to our Lord in whose name the righteous find safety ^(Proverbs 18:10) and Who declares: "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" ^(Romans 10:13).

This is our perspective. This is our faith. This is our hope.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2015

- 1) Freedom From Religion Foundation web site
- 2) Athanasian Creed
- 3) Franzmann, Martin; Concordia Bible with Notes, CPH. St. Louis

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ **Thanks** to Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer for presenting the Advent message today. He will likely be conducting a number of worship services during the next few weeks. Pastor Hein has been struggling with back issues, now to the point of preventing him from doing regular activities. Surgery is in the process of being scheduled.

◆ **Among Us:** This past Wednesday Naomi Story had successful eye surgery. May the Lord tend to her so that she knows by faith that her care is in His gracious hands.

◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wed., Dec. 7, 14, and 21, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on Dec. 21 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm.



◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on December 21. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share. Committee #1 will host.

◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:

- Sun., Dec. 4: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
- Sun., Dec. 11: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
- Sun., Dec. 18: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly in order to get through everything)

By now the children are to know their individual parts. Please have them know the entire children parts by the next rehearsal. The last rehearsal on December 18 is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well.

◆ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *This Is Most Certainly True!* The children are asked to be here 1/2 hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00 am.

◆ **Northtown Concert:** The Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall on Fri., Dec. 16, 2 pm.

◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held next Sun., Dec. 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.

◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. There is a signup list by the guestbook should you like to ride the bus to the concert.

◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4.

◆ **2017 Cleaning:** The 2017 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.