

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: www.FridleyLutheran.org

Member: *CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION*



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

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Advent 3

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: December 11, 2022

✠ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✠

Hymns:

TLH 56: Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

TLH 73: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TLH 98: Of the Father's Love Begotten

TLH 90, st. 1,4: Come, Your Hearts & Voices Raising

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 130, TLH p. 153

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-17

Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. (NKJVTM)

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH: THE ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CHRIST:

When Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem there was no room for them in the inn so Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. In a small town in West Virginia this Christmas there is no room in the stable. "The communities holiday display has a manger with shepherds, a guiding star, camels and a palm tree, but no baby Jesus, Mary or Joseph" (CT-December 3, 2006) The mayor of the town says Jesus was omitted for purely technical reasons. Too difficult to "put a light-up representation of a baby in a small manger scene ..." he says. The park superintendent is more honest. The concern is "about the separation of church and state," is his explanation. In other words the town leaders have bowed to the politically correct crowd! [Because of protest, they returned Jesus, but not Mary and Joseph- CT-12/5]



CHRISTMAS

There is something suggestive about the empty manger. Christmas parties, Christmas sales, Christmas presents, Christmas balls, Christmas cookies, Christmas pageants, Christmas caroling, Christmas worship all find there reason because of the birth of Christ. Have you ever heard of a Christmas – you name it – in the middle of summer? But if CHRIST is not the center of our CHRISTmas observation, yes the center of our worship but is instead simply an excuse for celebrating who knows what, and if Christ finds no dwelling in the heart, how is that different from a politically correct manger scene without Christ?

Many Christians of all stripes lament the dumbing-down of the Christmas season to the lowest common denominator. A Christ-less manger display is indicative of a mindset that recognizes Christmas as nothing more than a holiday for fear of offending other religionists who would not tolerate it if their religious festivals were similarly dumbed-down.

But Christians, who are upset at the political correctness that openly and without shame attacks the Christian faith, are compelled by that very attitude to engage in self-examination. It begins with asking oneself, "What is Christmas really all about? Whose birth are we celebrating?" Unless one is ready to

acknowledge and confess that all men are sinners and under the wrath of God, and by sin separated from God, any protest of a politically correct Christmas is a sham. Unless one recognizes and confesses that the Christ of Bethlehem is the incarnate Son of God - true God from eternity, and true Man born of the virgin, Mary - any protest about a politically correct Christmas is hollow. Unless one recognizes that the Christ of Bethlehem is the Savior of the world apart from Whom there is no eternal life, any protest of a politically correct is hypocrisy. Unless one recognizes that the cross of Christ is as important as the manger in which He was laid, any protest of a politically correct Christmas is empty rhetoric. Anyone who turns the Christ of Bethlehem and the cross into a nothing more than an example of Christian living might as well give up the protest of a politically correct Christmas! Anyone who professes to be upset at a politically correct Christmas but who at the same time denies the Word of God is deceiving self, and engaging in empty protest. Furthermore, to protest the world's mistreatment of Christ is meaningless if after the celebration of His birth a Christian should be neglectful of Him and His Word when the celebration of Christmas is past.

There is no Christmas without Christ. Celebration of Christmas without Christ is a contradiction and hypocrisy. But it is a greater contradiction and hypocrisy, and the more serious when a Christian protests the world's abuse of it, then himself closes his heart to the Savior of the world. That is fatal unbelief!



A true Christ believer will not be among them for Christ will find room in the heart of each believer who knows and confesses the purpose of His coming, how He came to bear the sins of many, and to give life to all who believe in Him. Let the world do what it will. With Christ in the manger of our heart we rejoice that He was "made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). How glad we are each Christmas day and every day!

✠ **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** ✠

- ➔ **Candlelight Worship:** This coming Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 pm, will be our annual candlelight service with hymns and Bible readings. We are continuing our Midweek theme of "Angels We Have Heard on High" Join us during this precious time of year to ponder our Savior's coming. The children will be singing.
- ➔ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service this Wednesday. This is always a joyous occasion for the congregation to get together and fellowship during the busy season. Those attending may bring something to share. Dorcas Guild committee #2 is hosting.
- ➔ **Northtown Concert:** The Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall this Fri., Dec. 16, 2:30 pm. They will be located at the inside-of-the-mall entrance to Best Buy. Everyone is encouraged to come attend as it is always an experience greatly appreciated. If you haven't ever come to this, you may be pleasantly surprised at how well received it is. Come support the school!
- ➔ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the remaining rehearsal schedule:
 - Sun., Dec. 11: 11:30-1:00 pm (hospitality after worship)
 - Sun., Dec. 18: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so we can start promptly)
 The children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well.
- ➔ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Sat., Dec. 24, 6 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel based on the theme: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The kids are asked to be here ½ hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things. Christmas Day worship will be held Sun., Dec. 25, 10 am. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!
- ➔ **Christmas Eve Video:** A reminder that we are having a Christmas Eve service instead of a Christmas Eve program. Therefore, we ask that parents and friends avoid using their cell phones to take pictures and video during this service so that the focus remains on the joyous message of our Savior's birth. Our Christmas Eve service will be recorded via digital video and made available on our website which can be downloaded. If you are interested in a DVD, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson.



- ➔ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4.
- ➔ **Poinsettia** signup sheet is in the narthex by the guest book. Poinsettias are \$8 each. They will be purchased in stages throughout the Advent Season. Please see Laura Wales for payment.
- ➔ **2023 Cleaning:** The 2023 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ➔ **Church Keys:** Recently the "billy club keys" by pastor's office have been used quite a bit to where there are none around. If anyone has these, please return them when finished with them.
- ➔ **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.
- ➔ **Large Print Hymnals:** As a reminder, there are three copies of The Lutheran Hymnal in large print. These are by the guest book. Feel free to use these and return at the end of the worship service.
- ➔ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ➔ **From the Elders:** To help with medical expenses, donations to the Hein family can be marked "Hein Gift" and placed in the collection plate or mailed to Grace Lutheran Church, attention Treasurer, 460 75th Ave NE; Fridley, MN 55432, or can be received online at www.gofundme.com/john-and-janelle-hein-family.
- ➔ **Sunday School Teachers:** Perhaps something to consider this Christmas is extending our Sunday School teachers an expression of gratitude for what they do for our children each week.
- ➔ **Liberia:** To make a contribution to the work in Liberia, write in "Liberia" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ➔ **Stock Donations:** The Voters of Grace have provided a process for members to donate equities to the Congregation. Anyone interested in doing this can get information from President Rick Nelson or Secretary Bill Rust. Such a donation spares the donor from being taxed on any capital gains.
- ➔ **Qualified Charitable Distribution:** For those over 70½ it may be beneficial for you to send your offerings directly from an IRA fund to the church. The advantage of this procedure is those amounts are NOT considered as income and your adjusted gross income is less. For more information see Phil Radichel or Benno Sydow.
- ➔ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held today, Dec. 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.

- ➔ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will present a Choral Christmas Service entitled Christmas Memories this Friday, December 16, 7:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church. Video streaming information will be published at ilc.edu/tv as it becomes available.
- ➔ **2023 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** The application deadline for the 2023 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 16, 2023. Space is limited for this trip so please apply soon. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, has accepted the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL. † Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, SD, has received the dual call to serve Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA (north Seattle area), and Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA. † President Eichstadt reports that he has been able to resume the work of his ministry with some extra caution in keeping his heart rate low.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Parts

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 4, 2022 Sun.: 71 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 30 Wed.: 44

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,955	CLC:	\$390
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,242	CLC:	\$20
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,250	CLC:	1,020
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-53	CLC:	-610
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$223,412	CLC:	\$54,995
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	208,250	CLC:	49,980
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+15,162	CLC:	+5,015
GLC Other: 9,537	Living Faith:	70	Tuition Aid:	75
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	300	Kinship:	160
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF: 0	CEF: 0
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid: \$1,848		

Facebook Page: If you're on Facebook, be sure to like or share items that are on the Grace Lutheran Church page. This can help promote the page to others, along with events that we publicize there.

The more shares, etc., the more Facebook promotes our church page to others.



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!

CLC Financial Report - November

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2022	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 5 Months	Balance 11/30/2022
General Fund	0	423,128	533,884	533,000	- 110,756
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	678,269	629,222	646,500	49,047
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF) **	223,343	23,071	18,551		227,863
ILC Building Projects **	1,164,731	107,656	28,132		1,244,255
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	168,733	112,741	108,148		173,326
Kinship	194,437	43,482	79,692		158,227
Church Extension Fund (CEF) **	2,539,155	234,836	384,951		2,389,040
Student Aid Fund (SAF) **	127,406	42,872	38,424		131,854
CLC Reserve Fund**(YTD gains/losses)	190,153	6,171	0		196,324
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,607,958	\$570,829	\$657,898		\$4,520,889

General Fund – November offerings were **\$100,905** (\$5,000 special) **VS** disbursements of **\$112,782**. November offerings fell short of actual expenses by \$11,877, and increased the deficit to **–\$110,756**. YTD disbursements are just slightly over YTD budget. All of our Boards (Missions, Trustees, EdPub, & Regents), receive their major funding from the General Fund (often called “CBP” offerings or “CLC Mission” offerings), which is 20% short of needs YTD. General Fund's annual needs are \$1,279,680.

CLC Reserve Fund (above) is held in our Investment Pool account until needed, typically each fiscal year-end. The positive \$6,171 amount for November reflects the Fund's recovery in value since July. September was negative –\$18,964. Div/Int income received since July: \$5,856,

ILC Operations – November revenue: **\$102,314** (incl. \$36,190, Tuition/R&B/Fees; \$2,313, misc revenue; \$63,810 General Fund Nov subsidy) **VS** disbursements: **\$118,791** (incl \$79,926 wages; \$13,500 Food Service; \$9,487 Bldgs/Ground/Utilities; \$6,525, Admin. Annual Budget: \$1,552,000.

IIF – November receipts: **\$11,833** (\$6,884 capital gains; \$2,453/mo bequest; \$2,180 offerings) **VS** \$9 disbursed. Div/Int income received since July: \$2,498.

ILC Bldg – November receipts: **\$74,333** (\$68,385 capital gains; \$3,495 offerings; \$2,453/mo bequest) **VS** disbursed: **\$10,637** (Architectural work) Div/Int income received since July: \$23,221.

CEF – November receipts: **\$173,076** (\$128,804 capital gains; \$28,137 loan repayments; \$16,024 new Notes; \$110 gifts) **VS** disbursed: **\$186,851** (\$82,966 Member Notes repaid; \$100,000 Sleepy Eye CDS Bldg Loan; \$3,885 Admin). Div/Int income received since July: \$46,737.

MDF – November receipts: **\$70,337** (\$50,000 gift; \$20,289 offerings) **VS** disbursed **\$27,275** (\$2,655 Church Bldg Assist; \$5,532 Outreach Africa; \$7,300 Pastoral Conferences; \$700 Bibles & Literature.

SAF – November receipts: **\$9,382** (\$6,412, SAF loan repayments; \$2,970 gifts) **VS** disbursed: **\$6,070** (\$5,136 STU grants, loans, scholarships; \$934 admin). Div/Int income received since July: SAF: \$25,909; PMP Fund (Pastor/Teacher Prep): \$31,354; Scholarship Fund: \$2,070.

Kinship – November receipts: **\$9,619** (\$6,104 offerings, \$3,515 sponsors) **VS** disbursed: **\$25,045** (\$8,920 Orphans; \$9,690 Seminary students; \$5,533 India/Nigeria Widows support; \$987 medical).

**** Positive & negative values in the revenue column (2nd above) reflect market fluctuations of long term invested funds of the ILC Building Projects, IIF, CEF, SAF, & Reserve funds.**

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer / Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

✠ **TODAY AT GRACE** ✠

Organist: **Sue Nelson**

Elder: **Benno Sydow**

Ushers: **Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow**

Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob
Vandever; Clint Welker**

Hospitality Team 1: **Dan & Cindy Degnan; Larry Nelson;
Barb Sydow**

Church Cleaners: **Ochsner**

School: **Ude**

✠ **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** ✠

Ushers: **Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow**

Counting Team 3: **Duane Enns; Tom Graham; Kevin Hulke;
Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow**

Hospitality Team 2: **James & April Bomber; Rachelle
Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever**

Church Cleaners: **Volunteers?** School: **Vandever**

✠ **OUR SCHEDULE** ✠

- Sun., Dec. 11:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30-1:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 14:** 3:00 pm – ILC Piano and Organ Concert (Eau Claire, WI)
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service
- Fri., Dec. 16:** 2:30 pm – Grace School Concert at Northtown Mall
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert (Messiah – Eau Claire, WI)
- Sun., Dec. 18:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 21:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
- Fri., Dec 23:** Grace School - Christmas Party & Christmas Break Begins
- Sat., Dec. 24:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**
5:30 pm – Children Arrive at Church
6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
- Sun., Dec. 25:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship Service (No S.S. or Bible Class)
- Sun., Jan. 1:** **NEW YEARS DAY**
10:00 am – New Year's Day Worship Service (No S.S. or Bible Class)
- Wed., Jan. 4:** Grace School Resumes from Christmas Break
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students