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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.org

Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.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 I

Date: November 27, 2005

Welcome to the Lord's House as we begin the season of Advent, a season that marks the coming of our Savior. May He come to your heart this morning through the Word, lifting your spirit for Christmas.

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 24, TLH p. 128*

Hymn: *TLH 64: Jesus, Thy Church, with Longing Eyes*

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*

Written by Gerhardt Mueller (retired CLC teacher)

I lift my soul to Thee, Lord; God, I now trust in Thee.

Let me not be ashamed Before mine enemy.

May He not over-take me Nor triumph o'er my soul;

Teach me Thy ways and paths, Lord, That I may reach the goal.

Advent Candle Lighting: *The Prophecy Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of expectation. This we experience because Christ's coming has been prophesied. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: *TLH 62, st. 1: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lowly exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.



First Reading: *Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1-8*

The LORD's coming is one that is eagerly anticipated by the believer but feared by the one who rejects Him.

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. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: From the house of the Lord we bless You! Alleluia.



First Sunday of Advent

Second Reading: *Mark 13:32-37*

We are prepared for the Lord's coming lest we be caught off-guard.

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

Hymn: *Lo, He Comes on Clouds Descending*

Sermon: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

(3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (4) I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, (5) that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, (6) even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, (7) so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, (8) who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be blameless* in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (NKJV™)

"ALWAYS ENRICHED, NEVER COMING SHORT"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 374: Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound*

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

Hymn: *TLH 572: Praise to God, Immortal Praise*

Silent Prayer:

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!

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** This week begins our Advent journey to the manger. Midweek worship services will be held at 7:00 pm for the next three Wednesdays. Our theme will be Jesus Christ: The Light of Our Christmas. Come and be enriched for the upcoming season!

◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** The practice bulletin for the Christmas Eve service is now available. Except for the pre-schoolers, each child has two parts and some joint recitations. We ask that the parents help their children so that they might know their individual parts by next Sunday, Dec. 4. Help from the parents will be crucial to a successful Christmas Eve Service. Rehearsals will be according to the following schedule:

★ Sunday, Dec. 4 & 11: 12-2 pm; Sunday, Dec. 18: 9-10 am

On the 4th and 11th there will be a light lunch provided to the entire congregation during our regular hospitality time so that the children will have an opportunity to be well-nourished prior to the rehearsal.

◆ **Identity Theft:** In the 7th Commandment the LORD says, "You shall not steal." Stealing has taken on many modern forms, for example shoplifting, copying copy-written materials, etc. However, the fastest growing form of stealing has become identity theft. This weekend some friends of Pastor's in the Fridley area were robbed of their Social Security cards, credit cards, and check book from their unlocked vehicles. Please take necessary precautions to lock your doors and keep such financial and personal information protected. It is also wise to invest in a paper shredder for any documents that may have any such information on them, including some junk mail. This is just good stewardship of the resources with which the LORD has blessed us.

◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Delwyn Maas of Holy Trinity in Phoenix, AZ (currently on a leave of absence), has received the call to St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area). † Former CLC Pastor Gene Rutz has been diagnosed with ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease. † Faith in Markesan, WI, will be holding a service in Green Bay on Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 pm. It will be held in the conference room at the Super 8 motel 2868 Oneida St. Those who may know of anyone in the area who might be interested may contact Pastor Michael Schierenbeck at 920-398-2778.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Service Parts



ADVENT:

Today marks the beginning of Advent, a season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. To a certain extent it coincides with the Christmas preparations in society and the commercial world. Obviously there is no connection between the real preparation for Christmas, and that of the world. Society and commercial interests have prostituted the pre-Christmas season to their own purpose. At the end of the season, society and the world will also observe Christmas, giving lip service to the season of "peace." As with Advent there is no connection between the Christmas of Christ-believers and that of the world.

The season of Advent, however, for the Christ believer has another significance. It is also one that the world does not recognize, and in fact that it denies. It is the season in which we give special attention to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ, the bearer of the sins of the world, and the Savior of all who believe in Him, will come again with all His holy angels to judge the living and the dead. It is the end of all things, the end of the world.

When we think of the significance of Advent both with respect to Christmas as well as the end of the world, we can celebrate it with joy at the fact of the birth of Jesus, and with anticipation of His return. The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of our anticipation of His return. Only the Christ believer who appreciates the real meaning of Christmas can respond to Jesus' word, "Surely I am coming quickly" (Revelation 22:20) with the pleading anticipation of John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." We are confident of the Savior's return because He has demonstrated His faithfulness in fulfilling the prophecy of His birth. God's faithfulness begets confidence in our heart. We know He will come again!

Death and judgment hold terror for natural man. The flesh, including our own, does not relish the thought of death. But it is inevitable as the end of the world itself. Yet as we follow the Son of God from manger side to the cross, and finally to the mount of ascension, our thoughts are turned from the earth and what we leave behind to heaven and what we shall receive. During the Advent season we prepare for the birthday celebration of our Lord Who has written our names in the book of life with His own indelible blood. During Advent we prepare our hearts for the culmination of His saving work when He will take His people home. There we will hunger or thirst no more, and the Lord Himself will shepherd us (Revelation 7). "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolater, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone..." (Revelation 21:8). There is a reason why the unbelievers do not want to acknowledge the end of the world! But there is reason why we anticipate it, for God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. "There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

May our Advent season be a time of remembering what was and is, as well as anticipating and preparing for what shall be!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (11/27/2005)

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 20, 2005 B.Cl.: 36 S.S.: 27 Sun.: 146 T-G: 85

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,362.00	CLC:	1,252.00	
Thanksgiving Offering:	Grace:	611.50	CLC:	151.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+40.50	CLC:	+557.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	123,983.46	CLC:	39,408.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	134,918.00	CLC:	38,916.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,934.54	CLC:	+492.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	13.00	Tuition:	113.00	
GLC Other:	69.25	MDF:	20.00	Kinship:	75.00
ILC Student Aid:	10.00	ILC Bldg.	18.00	IIF: 10.00	CEF: 41.00

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

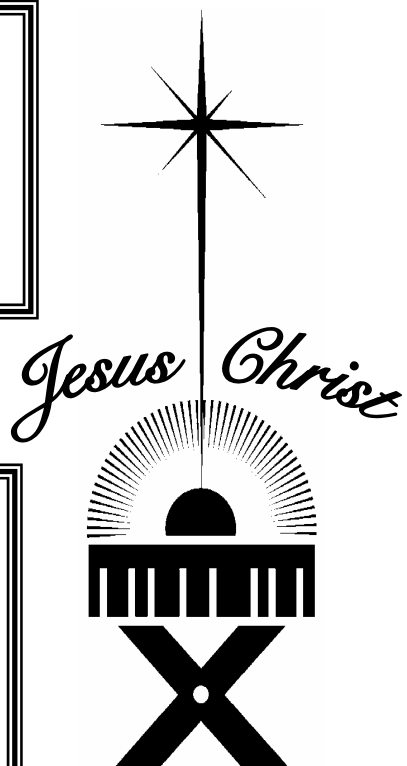
Midweek Advent Services:

Wed., Nov. 30 – 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 7 – 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 14 – 7:00 pm

Special meditations on the meaning of Jesus Christ being “The Light of Our Christmas”



Candlelight Service:

Sun., Dec. 18 – 6:00 pm

A service of readings & hymns along with a candle lighting portion in which members “receive their light from Christ”

Followed by Congregational

The Light of Our Christmas

Christmas Eve Service:

Sat., Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm

A service in which the children present the Christmas message, reminding people of all ages to “See Christmas Through a Child’s Eyes”

Christmas Day Service:

Sun., Dec. 25 – 10:00 am

A service in which we ponder the fulfillment of Christ bringing the light of LIFE to the world sitting in the darkness of death.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Ed Lentz

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Bill Ryan; Brad Kitzman; John Auel;
Rick Nelson; Elijah Wales; Keith Radichel

Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust;
Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Bill Ryan; Brad Kitzman; John Auel;
Rick Nelson; Elijah Wales; Keith Radichel

Counting Team 5: Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger
Ochsner

Hospitality Team 3: Dan & Cindy Degnan; Ed & Verona
Lentz; Angela Valley

Church Cleaners: R. Oman

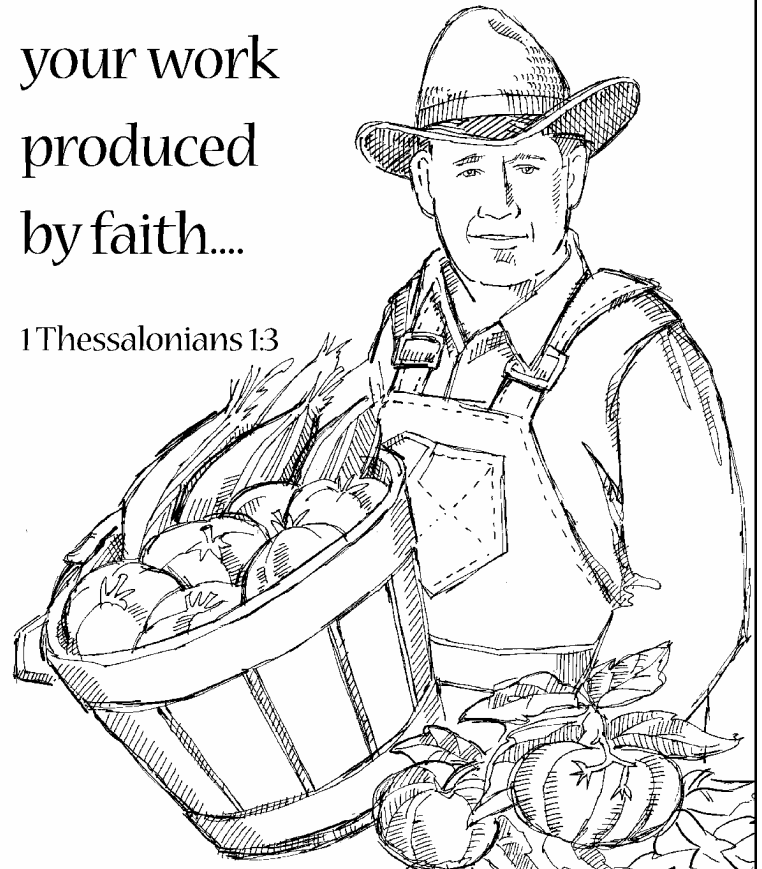
School: Vandever

† OUR SCHEDULE †

- Today:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:15 am – Youth Bible Forum
- Wed., Nov. 30:** 2:30 pm – Chiquettes (Little One's Story Hour, Theme: Apples)
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service
- Sun., Dec. 4:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
12:00-2:00 pm – Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 7:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Services
- Sun., Dec. 11:** 12:00-2:00 pm – Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal
3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling
- Wed., Dec. 14:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Services
- Sun., Dec. 18:** 9:00 am – Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal
11:00 am – Christmas Music Recital During Hospitality
6:00 pm – Christmas Candlelight Service
7:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal
- Sat., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
- Sun., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service (No S.S. or Bible Class)

Grace Lutheran Church & School

We continually remember
before our God
and Father
your work
produced
by faith....



1 Thessalonians 1:3