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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

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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

Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Advent 2

Date: December 4, 2005

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 146, TLH p. 156*

Hymn: *TLH 55: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

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 61:1-3, 10-11*

The Lord's year of grace is proclaimed by the Lord's Servant. He brings freedom and joy to those seeking His comfort and mercy.

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: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

John the Baptist points to Christ as someone who is greater than he. That in itself humbles us before Christ as the one who receives the greater glory.

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

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

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

(16) Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit. (20) Do not despise prophecies. (21) Test all things; hold fast what is good. (22) Abstain from every form of evil. (23) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*. (NKJV™)

"COOKING UP THE IDEAL HOLIDAY RECIPE OF CHEER"



Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 234: Holy Ghost, with Light Divine*

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution: *TLH 58; 65*

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: *TLH 92, st. 1 & 4: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

Silent Prayer:

† 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 will begin at noon and last until 2:00 pm. Those with pre-school children may come at 1:30 pm just in case they finish early. We ask that the parents continue to help their children so that they might know their parts well. Help from the parents will be crucial to a successful Christmas Eve Service. There will be another rehearsal next Sunday afternoon along with a final one at 9:00 am on Sunday, Dec. 18th. There will be no Bible Class that Sunday.
- ♦ **Midweek Advent Services:** Our Advent journey continues this Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Our theme for consideration is Jesus Christ: The Light of Our Christmas. Come and be enriched for the season!
- ♦ **ILC Concert:** The ILC concert is on 7:30 pm, Fri., Dec. 16. For those interested in going on a bus, a sign-up sheet is by the guest book.
- ♦ **Among Us:** Cliff Schwieger has faced some further challenges with regard to his Parkinson's disease. Please keep Cliff and Marion in your prayers as they rely upon the Lord during this difficult time. Cliff is residing at Marantha Care Center; 5401 69th Ave. N (Room 21); Brooklyn Center, MN 55429; Phone: 763-549-9600. † This afternoon Kylan Ostman will become a child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Kylan is the daughter of Scott and Heather Ostman, Heather being the daughter of Arnold and Terry Gehrls. Kylan was born on Aug. 25th, but will be reborn of the Spirit today. May the Lord bless Kylan with His grace, and may she be a blessing to her parents!
- ♦ **Grace Lutheran 2006 Calendar:** A draft copy of the annual calendar has been placed in each family mailbox. Please look it over carefully. If there are any concerns, please let any of the Elders know (Ed Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Mike Dick). This will be presented at the January Voters' meeting.
- ♦ **Christmas Caroling:** A caroling outing is scheduled next Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m. It is always exciting to be able to make people smile by singing praises about our Savior in this special way. Please inform Pastor if you would like to participate.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Trinity, Millston WI, has called the Rev. Arthur Schulz, who is "retiring" at the end of the year, as vacancy pastor.
- ♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Service Parts



Last Week's Stats: Nov. 20, 2005 B.Cl.: 39 S.S.: 25 Sun.: 117 Wed: 50

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,602.85	CLC:	696.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	606.25	CLC:	205.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+276.10	CLC:	+55.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	130,166.06	CLC:	41,712.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	140,784.00	CLC:	40,608.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,617.94	CLC:	+1,104.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition:	88.00	
GLC Other:	29.75	MDF:	20.00	Kinship:	70.00
ILC Improv.:	1.00	ILC Bldg.	5.00	CEF:	25.00

HOW SHALL I GREET THEE?

How do we greet one another, or our friends? In special seasons of the year we tend to greet people with reference to the particular season. Among Christ believers it is common to wish one another a "Merry Christmas." At Easter people frequently will wish another a "Happy Easter." But then we also hear "Happy Thanksgiving" or even "Happy Halloween." While "Happy Thanksgiving" is understandable, what makes for a happy halloween?

Some greetings are quite generic. What makes Christmas merry, and what makes Easter happy? We suggest that among Christ believers a more meaningful greeting is to wish one a "Blessed Christmas," a "Blessed Easter" and a "Blessed Thanksgiving." Forget Halloween. It is neither happy, merry, nor blessed!

When we wish one another a "Blessed _____" we are expressing the hope that the one we greet will enjoy spiritual blessings and favor of God. Thus a "Blessed Christmas" expresses the hope that the one to whom we speak will enjoy all the grace and riches of God, which He bestows through the birth of the promised Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our desire that the one to whom we speak will know the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior, and the peace that He brings. So also with Easter; we are expressing the desire that the one whom we greet will know the confidence and hope of heaven through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we wish one a "Blessed Thanksgiving" we desire for another an appreciation of the multitude of blessings which the Giver of all good things bestows according to His will.

Secular society has turned Christmas, a uniquely Christian remembrance into a meaningless secular exercise. And while they will use the word "Easter" because the word itself does not have any spiritual overtones, we are told in our politically correct but spiritually bankrupt society that it is not appropriate to enunciate "Christmas," because it may offend someone. Both the word as well as the celebration has Christian overtones because Christ is named, and His birthday celebrated. So we have holiday trees, holiday cards, holiday parties, holiday vacations, and even holiday candy and cookies, none of which by the way is necessary for a meaningful celebration of Christ's birth. Tell the Jew that he should not call Hanukkah by its name, but should celebrate a holiday. Or tell a Muslim that he should call his religious observance something other than it is.

Drip by drip, our secular society is seeking to wash away any vestige of Christianity. Of course we can celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ whether we are deprived of the word "Christmas" or not. It may be a small thing in the grand scheme of society's nefarious efforts, or even our own observance of our Savior's birth, but we have, we do, and we will continue to greet our neighbor with a "Blessed Christmas." After all, it is not a day off from work that makes a holiday season a "holy season." What makes this season of the year a holy season for the Christ believer is the birth of Christ, God's Son and our Savior. Consequently we will call it what it is, the Christmas season, and wish all a "Blessed Christmas."

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (12/4/2005)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Janelle Hein

Elder: Ed Lentz

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

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Clint Welker; Gary Gunther; Brian Eichstadt; Richard
Rhinesmith; Bob Vandever; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Rick Nelson;
Phil Radichel; Ryan Libby

Hospitality Team 4: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred, Pal, &
Scott Dauer

Church Cleaners: Dauer/Sandhoeffner School: Davis

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today:	9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School 10:00 am – Worship Service 11:00 am – Hospitality (with light lunch) 11:15 am – Youth Bible Forum
Wed., Dec. 7:	2:30 pm – Chiquettes (Little One's Story Hour) 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service
Sun., Dec. 11:	8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3) 12:00-2:00 pm – Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal 3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling 3:00 pm – ILC Organ & Piano Christmas Recital
Wed., Dec. 14:	7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Services
Sun., Dec. 18:	8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal (No Bible Class) 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4) 11:00 am – Christmas Music Recital During Hospitality 12:00 pm – Council Meeting 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)
Sun., Jan. 1:	10:00 am – New Years Day Service (No S.S. or Bible Class)

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“My soul magnifies the Lord,
& my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior,....”

Luke 1:47

