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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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 3

Date: December 11, 2005

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 85, TLH p. 140*

Hymn: *TLH 68: The Advent of Our King*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

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*

Rejoice, rejoice, ye Christians, Again I say: Rejoice!

Lead lives of moderation, The Savior is at hand;

Be full of care for nothing, Address the Lord in prayer.

He leads us out of prison, Brings Jacob safely there.

Advent Candle Lighting: *The Shepherd Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of joy. This we experience as Christ comes into our hearts. May the joyful promise of Your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation, just as it did for the shepherds that first Christmas night!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: *TLH 62, st. 3: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.



First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

The LORD desires that His people be comforted by His forgiveness.

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. I will send My messenger ahead of You,

C: Who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.



Second Reading: *Mark 1:1-8*

John the Baptizer prepares the way before Christ by preaching repentance.

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

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

Sermon: *Psalm 85:8-13*

(8) Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

(9) Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. (10) Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other. (11)

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and

righteousness will look down from the sky. (12)

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will

yield its increase. (13) Righteousness will go

before him, and will make a path for his steps.

(*New Revised Standard Version*)



"THE LORD'S AFFECTION IS FOUND AT THE MANGER"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 76: A Great and Mighty Wonder*

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

Hymn: *TLH 95, st. 1, 6-7: Savior of the Nations, Come*

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 †

- ♦ **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. There will be one more rehearsal next Sunday morning, Dec. 18, at 9:00 am. Please have the children here promptly as there will be just enough time to run through the service. There will be no Bible Class.



- ♦ **Christmas Caroling:** A caroling outing is scheduled this afternoon, meeting here at the church at 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 plan to participate.

- ♦ **Midweek Advent Service:** Our Advent journey concludes this Wed. evening at 7:00 pm. Our theme for consideration is Jesus Christ: The Light of Our Christmas. Come and be enriched for the season!

- ♦ **Candlelight Service:** Next Sunday, Dec. 18th, will be an evening service at 6:00 pm of Christmas songs and readings. Following the service there will be a Christmas supper. Members are invited to bring sandwiches, cookies, or bars. Committee #3 will serve. Come and enjoy the special service and fellowship opportunity.



- ♦ **ILC Concert:** The ILC concert is this Fri., Dec. 16, at 7:30 pm. For those interested in going on a bus, a sign-up sheet is by the guest book. Pastor will attempt to contact all those interested when plans are finalized. At this time we are currently 2 short of the 30 required, although some have volunteered to pay for the shortage.

- ♦ **ILC Tour Choir CD's:** The new Tour Choir CD's will be available next Sunday. For those interested, there is a sign-up sheet. Cost is \$11.



- ♦ **Hymnal Pocket Organist:** The sets of CD's arrived this week. Most have paid the \$20 per copy. But there are a few who have not yet done so. We ask that payment be submitted today.

- ♦ **Among Us:** Jean Gunther is recovering a home from the strep infection (not staph) in her hand. However, later this last week she learned that she has uterine cancer. May the LORD care for His child as she leans upon Him for all her cares and concerns during this trying time. Jesse Maestas had successful shoulder surgery this past Thursday. Thanks be to the LORD who brings healing.

- ♦ **Reminder from the Elders:** Per Voter resolution, all loose offerings collected during Dec. will be distributed equally among the four called workers of the congregation.

- ♦ **Nomination Slate for 2006:** President: Paul Lentz; Vice President: Don Auel; Secretary: Michael Ude; Treasurer: Jeff Radichel; Financial Secretary: Ole Ohlmanson, Brandon Paplow; Elder: Dave Rust, Benno Sydow; Education: Matt Dick, Ed Lentz; Trustee: Rick Nelson, Pat Paplow; Delegates: Frank Radichel, Benno Sydow.

- ♦ **New Years Eve:** Several have asked about the New Year's Eve service. None is planned this year since the Voters resolved to do without it when they set the calendar last year. The reasoning was that New Year's Day fell on a Sunday.

- ♦ **CLC Missions Website:** The CLC Missions website has just been updated. Under the "What's New" section, there is a recap of the recent Mission Board visitation to Africa, with higher-resolution photographs than had previously been available. Also, there is the most recent Mission Newsletter (in pdf format), and a link to Missionary Koenig's own website, with his personal mission journals and photographs. The address is: <http://www.clclutheran.org/missions>. Our CLC mission program is supported primarily from local "mission" offerings to the CLC General Fund, as well as through your congregational contributions to the Mission Development Fund (MDF). In Christ -- Pastor Bruce Naumann, Chairman, CLC Board of Missions

- ♦ **From Glenn Oster** (CLC member from S. Carolina): "I am sure that we all frequently offer up prayers for our people in the military, as well as the civilians who are working to rebuild Afghanistan & Iraq. I would like to request a special prayer for my cousin, Ron Schulz, who was taken hostage a few days ago in Iraq. If you have been following the news, you know that the terrorists have threatened to kill him and several other hostages today (Thursday) if the U.S. doesn't release all the terrorists we have imprisoned."

- ♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Service Parts

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 4, 2005					
	B.Cl.:	38	S.S.:	25	Sun.: 139 Wed: 64
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,154.85	CLC:	790.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	477.00	CLC:	155.26	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+698.85	CLC:	+99.26	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	133,797.91	CLC:	42,657.26	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	143,717.00	CLC:	41,454.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-9,919.09	CLC:	+1,203.26	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	11.00	Tuition:	98.00	
GLC Other:	95.00	MDF:	15.00	Kinship:	60.00
ILC Improv.:	30.00	ILC Bldg.	40.00	CEF:	40.00

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Christmas:

- *Christmas is for the children.*
- *Christmas is a time for family gatherings.*
- *Christmas is a time to renew commitment to peace.*
- *Christmas is a time for nations to lay aside animosity toward one another.*
- *Christmas is a special time to help the less fortunate.*
- *Christmas is a time for giving.*
- *Christmas is a time to forsake the rat race, and get away.*
- *Christmas is a time for snow, sleigh bells, and carols.*
- *Christmas is a time for the older set to remember and reminisce about the past.*
- *Christmas is a time to talk to Santa Claus*
- *Christmas is a time for Christmas trees, and presents.*

The above and more are descriptions that are heard when the question is asked, "What is Christmas? What is the essence of Christmas?" This year, 2005, it is fashionable among some to buy an "up-side-down" Christmas tree. It hangs from the ceiling. It was reported that they are selling so quickly that merchants can't keep them in stock.

We have not seen such a tree. But the upside down tree might be a fit description of the way Christmas is thought of and celebrated by many. Christmas has been turned upside down, emptied of its meaning.

The event of Christmas was planned already in eternity in the heart of God. So what is Christmas? The meaning of Christmas is not difficult to understand as we listen to the Word of God. It is as simple in its meaning as it is profound in its message. Christmas is the celebration of the faithfulness of God the Father, Who in keeping His promise to Adam and Eve sent His own Son into the world. The eternal Son of God took human flesh and blood and was born of a virgin. The Savior Who was born to take our sin upon Himself, and to remove the curse of sin from us is God's unspeakable gift to a sin-cursed world. Jesus, God's gift freely given of the Father, is an inexhaustible source of comfort, peace, joy, and hope to every weary and heavy-laden sinner.

Unfortunately, even in our own lives many things intrude themselves into the birthday celebration of Jesus. Christmas will be a real blessing to us as we remember before, during and after all the activities of Christmas that the real meaning is found in Christ of whom the angel declared, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Christmas can of course be whatever people want to make of it. It can be defined however people want to define it, but it is really only Christmas if the Savior is the center of our celebration, and the focus of our attention. All who long for heaven when life is past will say, "Jesus, Jesus, only Jesus can my heartfelt longing still..." Jesus is the meaning of Christmas. All are blessed who celebrate His birthday with anticipation of the eternal joys of heaven which He shall give in due time to all who live and die in Him.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (12/11/2005)

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

Christmas Eve Service:

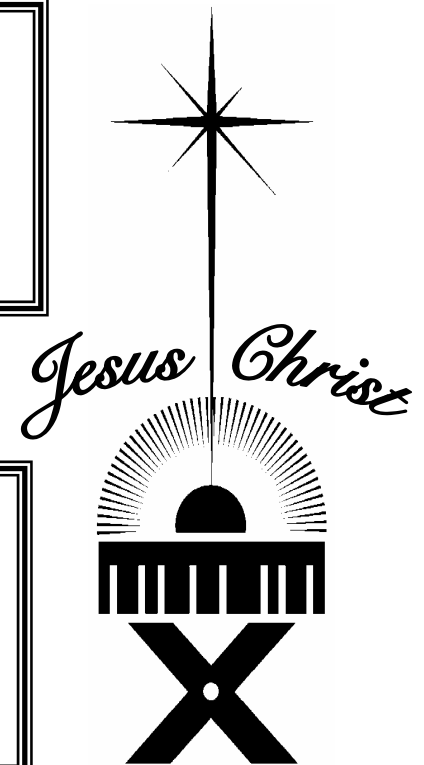
Sat., Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm

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.



The Light of Our Christmas

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner

Elder: Al Rosendahl

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/Sandhoefner School: Davis

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

Hospitality Team 5: Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel

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 (with light lunch)
11:15 am – Youth Bible Forum
12:00 - 2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling
3:00 pm – ILC Organ & Piano Christmas Recital

Wed., Dec. 14: 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. 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

Wed., Dec. 21: 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert @ Northtown Mall

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)

Grace Lutheran Church & School



Love &
Faithfulness

meet
together;

Righteousness
& Peace



kiss
each
other.

Psalm 85:10