

Click here to open service web page for: 2005/12/25/

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

*Organist:* Sue Nelson

*Elder:* Al Rosendahl

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

*Counting Team 3:* Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Ole Olmanson

*Hospitality:* None

*Church Cleaners:* Hein

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

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

*Hospitality Team 6:* Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel

*Church Cleaners:* Hein

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

<b>Today:</b>	10:00 am – Christmas Day Service (No Hospitality)
<b>Sun., Jan. 1:</b>	10:00 am – New Years Day Service with Lord's Supper 11:00 am – Hospitality (No S.S. or Bible Class)
<b>Wed., Jan. 4:</b>	School Resumes 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children
<b>Fri., Jan. 6:</b>	Epiphany Day
<b>Sun., Jan. 8:</b>	8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 1) 11:00 am – Youth Forum
<b>Wed., Jan. 11:</b>	7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
<b>Sun., Jan. 15:</b>	Annual Voters Meeting

**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 18, 2005 Sun.: 132 Candle: 82 Christmas Eve: 162

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,535.72	CLC:	737.00	
Christmas Eve:	Grace:	5,001.00	CLC:	2,905.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+5,603.72	CLC:	+2,796.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	146,588.39	CLC:	47,424.26	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	149,583.00	CLC:	43,146.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,994.61	CLC:	+4,278.26	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	17.91	Tuition:	68.50	
GLC Other:	296.50	MDF:	184.50	Kinship:	60.00
ILC Student Aid:	70.00	ILC Improv.:	16.50	ILC Bldg:	68.50
				CEF:	41.50

## A SERVANT'S BEGINNINGS

A man and his wife set out on a journey  
Commanded by Caesar to fulfill his decree.  
They arrive in Bethlehem -- crowded to o'er flowing --  
None in the village suspecting what would be.

No room in the inn for the traveling couple,  
No comfortable lodging anywhere in sight,  
Yet the woman named Mary was great with her child,  
And this would be her delivery night.

At God's appointed hour, Mary brought forth her son  
And swaddled Him with motherly love.  
She laid Him in a manger and Scripture was fulfilled  
The Messiah had been sent from above.

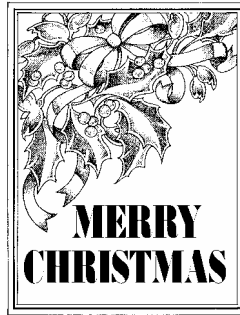
Such simple beginnings for one yet so great --  
God's own eternal Son born on the earth.  
He came to be the sinner's substitute.  
Come, now, rejoice in His birth!

A birth unnoticed then and oft' forgotten still,  
But 'tis God's gracious gift profound.  
The Son of God humbled to be your slave,  
To bring redemption for sinners the world 'round.



## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

◆ **From the Hein Family:** My family and I are truly thankful for the generous spirit of the congregation in sharing their prayers, cards, gifts, and encouragement this Christmas season. We pray that our ministry reflects our appreciation of your support. It is a privilege to share the Good News of our Savior's birth with you. May He continually be born anew in our hearts, giving you light to brighten your outlook during the upcoming year as we are blessed through His Word of grace. – Pastor Hein



- ◆ **Among Us:** Jean Gunther had surgery this past week for her uterine cancer. While she has undergone a lot of pain, the good news is that the doctors do not believe the cancer spread. Ardis Trulin is still undergoing therapy with regard to her stroke. The Lord continue to be born in these women's hearts as they see His message of hope found at the manger. Marion Schwieger desires to thank the congregation for all the support she has received recently through Cliff's struggles. She has appreciated the prayers, cards, and encouragement. We are also thankful to the Lord that Cliff has really perked up this week.
- ◆ **ILC Tour Choir CD's:** The new Tour Choir CD's are still available. Please speak with Janelle Hein for your copy and submit your \$11 payment (checks to ILC Tour Choir).
- ◆ **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, Benno Sydow; Vice President: Don Auel, Larry Nelson; Secretary: Michael Ude, Mike Dick; Treasurer: Jeff Radichel, Al Rosendahl; 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.
- ◆ **Project Kinship:** The Kinship program currently supports 50 students and 54 children in our mission fields in India and Africa. The cost to sponsor a student or orphan ranges from \$30 to \$50 per month. The Project Kinship Committee reports that sponsorships are still available for seminary students and orphans in our overseas mission fields. If you would like to become sponsor for a student or child, or if you desire more information, contact: Pastor Tom Schuetze, 6768 Paw Paw Ave., Coloma, MI 49038. Phone: (269) 468-4368. Email: tschuetze@netzero.net.
- ◆ **BELC Greetings:** Pastor Moses of the BELC has just sent Christmas greetings, and a photograph, to the people of the CLC. You may see them at: [www.clclutheran.org/missions](http://www.clclutheran.org/missions) (the first item under "What's New"). In Christ, Pastor Bruce Naumann

## Council Meeting Notes

December 18, 2005

Opened with prayer at 12:10 pm. Minutes from November read and accepted. Treasure's report from November, accepted as presented.

**Elders:** Motion to accept transfer of Justin and Sarah Walker from Berea in Inver Grove Hts., MN. Accepted. January 11<sup>th</sup> to start up midweek Bible Class again.

**Education:** Working with parents on continuing education with kids. Looking at possibility of another lock-in. January CEA. February teacher's conference.

**Trustees:** Working on furnace and water softener issues, and other on going projects.

**Building Committee:** Waiting on decision on floor for fellowship hall and kitchen.

**Nominations:** Finishing up names today.

**New Business:** Discussion regarding record keeping. Motion to keep church records on the church intranet (local network). Accepted. Discussion on a council budget. Motion to support a bus each year to Eau Claire for the ILC Christmas concert through the Elder's budget and a freewill offering. Accepted. Motion to support softball each year through the Elders budget and a freewill offering. Accepted.

Adjourned with the Lords prayer at 1:37 pm.



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## FROM THE MARTIN LUTHER CHRISTMAS BOOK

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*"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."*

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

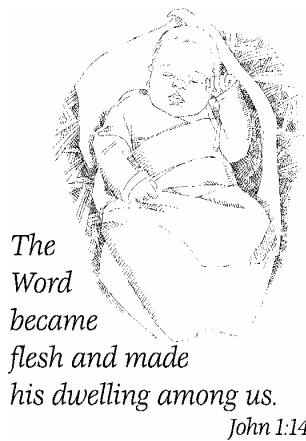


She wrote them in her heart, meditated upon them, and thought to herself, "This is wonderful news that I am the mother of the Child whom the angels call Lord." These thoughts sank so deeply into her heart that she would have held to them though the whole world were against her.

Why did she ponder these things in her heart? Because she too was in need of preaching. Even though she was the mother and had borne the Child, she had need to ponder these words in her heart, in order to strengthen her faith and increase

her assurance. She reflected how these words correspond to those of the angel: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." The message of the angels fitted in exactly with the annunciation by Gabriel. This was to her a great joy and confirmation. Without these a human heart, and especially a woman's, would have had difficulty in believing: "I am the mother of the King of kings lying here in the manger." There was nothing kingly about the Babe, but Mary heard from the shepherds that he was the Savior of the world and greater than all kings, and that she should be his mother and nurse him. The quality of faith in this Virgin no words can express. If anyone has faith and thinks he knows enough, let him take a lesson from this mother and let him assemble the passages of Scripture in order to confirm his faith. If he has one passage, good, but if he has eight or ten, that is better.

When I die I see nothing but sheer darkness except for this light: "Unto you is born this day ... a Savior." The Savior will help me when all else fails. When the heaven, the stars, and all the creatures glower, I see nothing in earth and heaven but this Child. This light should be so great in my eyes that I can say: "Dear Mary, you have borne this Child not for yourself alone. You are indeed his mother. But I have an even greater honor than yours as a mother. Your honor is the bearing of the body of this Child, but my honor is this, that you have my treasure, and I know no one, man or angel, who can help me as can the Babe that you, dear Mary, hold in your lap." If, for the sake of this Child, a man could count all gold and goods, all power and honor as blackness; if, compared with this Child, the stars in heaven and all the treasures of earth were as nothing, then he would know the true use and fruit of the angel's message.



**GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DECEMBER 25, 2005**

**Pastor:** John P. Hein  
**Organist:** Susan Nelson  
**Web:** www.CLC Grace Lutheran Church.org  
**Email:** jphein@clclutheran.com  
**Phone:** 763-784-8784

**Jesus Christ, the Light of Our Christmas**

**ENTRANCE:**.....*TLH 98, st. 1: Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**CANDLE LIGHTING:**..... *The Christ Candle*

**OPENING DIALOG:**

- P:** Unto us a Child is born, Hallelujah!
- C: Unto us a Son is given, Hallelujah!**
- P:** The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
- C: And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- P:** Oh, come, let us worship Him:
- C: Let us kneel before the Lord in the manger. Hallelujah!**

**HYMN:**..... *TLH 102: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:**.....*Based on TLH 90*

- P:** Dear Heavenly Father, having come into Your presence, we are moved to confess to you all of our many sins; sins that we have committed in our desires, our thoughts, our words, and our actions.
- C: Have mercy upon us, O God, we pray.**  
**SING: Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,  
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join th' angelic choir.**

**P:** You who are dearly loved by God, it is good and right for us to come before the throne of His grace in Christ Jesus and confess our many sins. The command of our Lord is that His

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**..... *Tune of 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'*

**C: Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,  
Most holy be Your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done  
On earth — in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need;  
Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.  
Yours is the kingdom; unto You  
In grateful love we bow;  
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view  
Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung  
By angel hosts and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue Forevermore! Amen.**

**HYMN:**.....*Angels We Have Heard on High*

- 1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountain in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains: **(Refrain)**
- Refrain:** Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? **(Refrain)**
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing:  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **(Refrain)**
- 4. Glory to the Father be,  
Glory, Virgin-born, to Thee,  
Glory to the Holy Ghost,  
Praised by men and heav'nly host: **(Refrain)**

**BENEDICTION:**.....*Tune of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"*

- P:** The Lord bless and keep you, Look with love upon you,  
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!
- C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
The Savior close beside us,  
God's love from harm to hide us,  
The Spirit's pow'r to guide us Evermore!**

**HYMN:**.....*TLH 87: Joy to the World*

**HYMN:**..... *The First Noel*

**ALL**

1. The first Noël the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep: **(Refrain)**

**Refrain:** Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, Born is the King of Israel!

**Men**

2. And by the light of a great star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went: **(Refrain)**

**All**

3. This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay: **(Refrain)**

**Women**

4. Then enter'd in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offer'd there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense: **(Refrain)**

**All**

5. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought: **(Refrain)**

**SERMON:**.....*John 1:4-5, 9*

(4) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... (9) That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

**Jesus Christ, the Light of Our Christmas**

*The Light of Life*

**HYMN:**..... *TLH 99: Now Are the Days Fulfilled*

**OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST-CHILD:**..... *Interlude*

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER:**

people be comforted with the message of forgiveness in the Christ. Through the Prophet Isaiah, the Lord says to His people, Israel: "Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over." Our Savior came to make peace between God and man. Now He desires to come to us and abide with us — in our hearts — with His forgiveness and peace.

**SING: See how God, for us providing,  
Gave His Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.**

**C: O most merciful God, we confess to You all of our many sins. We have sinned against You by what we have thought, what we have said, and what we have done. Yet You have given Your only begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us we pray, and for His sake grant us forgiveness for all our sins. By the power of Your Holy Spirit cause us to know Your will truly, and to obey it willingly, so that by Your grace, through faith, we may finally come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**SING: Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing  
And to Thee we come confessing  
That our freedom Thou hast wrought!**

**P:** Since God has given you the Keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and as you have called me to administer the same, even so may it be to you as you believe, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved! For if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed! O Lord, grant this unto us all.

**SING: From the bondage that oppressed us,  
From sin's fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us,  
We, the captives, now are free.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECT:**

**P:** Grant, almighty God, that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free, who through sin are held in bondage; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**CHOIR:**.....*Handel's Hallelujah Chorus*

FIRST READING:..... 1 John 1:1-7

SECOND READING:..... Luke 2:1-14 with "From Heaven Above"

**ALL:** "From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:"

**Pastor:** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

**ALL:** "To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth,  
Shall be the joy of all the earth."

**Men:** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

**ALL:** "This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free."

**Women:** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**MEN:** Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!  
What is it in yon manger lies?  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

**Men:** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

**WOMEN:** Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
Thou com'st to share my misery;  
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

**Women:** And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."



**ALL:** Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

**All:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

**ALL:** My heart for very joy doth leap,  
My lips no more can silence keep;  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:  
Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto us His Son hath given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

CONFESSON OF FAITH:.....The Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, Who  
sent His Son as my Savior on  
Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
our Lord, Who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Announced by the Angels,  
Worshipped by the shepherds,  
Adored by the Wise Men, Who lived  
to suffer, die, and rise again, To free  
me from sin, death, and the power of  
the devil.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, Who has  
brought me to faith in the Christ of  
Christmas, And by whose continuous work in my heart, I am  
ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love  
and live under Him as my King, Both now and forevermore.  
Amen.



CHRISTMAS