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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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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:** December 3, 2006

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

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

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

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*
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: *Malachi 3:1-4*

The messenger will prepare the way for the Messenger of the Covenant.

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.



Second Reading: *Luke 3:1-8*

John the Baptizer prepared the way for Jesus with his preaching.

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

Hymn: *TLH 254: Lord God, We All to Thee Give Praise*

Sermon: *Luke 1:5-25*

(5) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth. (6) And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. (7) But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. (8) So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, (9) according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. (10) And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. (11) Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. (12) And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. (13) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. (14) "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. (15) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. (16) "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. (17) "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (18) And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." (19) And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. (20) "But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." (21) And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. (22) But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. (23) And so it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. (24) Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, (25) "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people." (NKJVTM)

"The Angel Appears to Zacharias"

Offertory:.....TLH p. 22 f.

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

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution:.....TLH 65; TLH 90

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 309: *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

Silent Prayer:

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 26, 2006 B.Cl.: 42 S.S.: 25 Sun.: 134

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,311.50	CLC:	620.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	850.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+341.50	CLC:	-230.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	139,437.06	CLC:	43,039.48
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	142,560.00	CLC:	40,800.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,122.94	CLC:	+2,239.48
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	50.00	Tuition:	30.00
GLC Other: 267.50	MDF:	101.00	Kinship:	105.00
ILC Student Aid: 516.00	ILC Bldg.	0.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

† MONTHLY STATISTICS †

Monthly Statistics:	Nov. Totals	Year-to-Date
Sunday Attendance.....	(Ave. 136.5) ..546 ..	(Ave. 132.0) 6,337
Special Services.....	(Ave. 77.0) ...77 ...	(Ave. 73.2) .. 659
Sunday Bible Class.....	(Ave. 45.5) ..182 ...	(Ave. 38.1) 1,142
Sunday School.....	(Ave. 27.8) ..111 ...	(Ave. 23.5) .. 681
Wed. Bible Class.....	(Ave. 21.5) ...43 ...	(Ave. 18.2) .. 509
Grace General Fund.....	\$15,076.61	\$139,437.06
Grace Tuition Fund.....	161.00	1,893.00
Grace Living Fund.....	114.00	540.60
Grace Dorcas.....	119.00	909.00
Grace Floor Fund.....	145.00	2,701.00
Grace Furnace Fund.....	244.00	5,179.00
Grace Memorial Fund.....	15.00	388.00
Grace Project Undesignated.....	10.00	317.00
Grace Other.....	3.75	1,250.04
CLC Budget (Missions).....	3,719.48	43,039.48
Church Extension Fund (CEF).....	99.00	1,951.00
Mission Development (MDF).....	226.00	3,200.00
Kinship (for orphans).....	284.00	2,947.00
ILC Improvement (IIF).....	74.00	901.00
ILC Building.....	96.00	2,035.94
ILC Student Aid.....	516.00	1,286.00
ILC Student Aid Endowment.....	0.00	100.00
Total Offerings:	\$20,902.84	\$208,075.13

Grace Lutheran Church & School

Angels We Have Heard on High



The Birth of
John the Baptist
Foretold

Luke 1:5-25

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Michael Dick

Ushers: Jeff Radichel; Gerald Anderson; Dan Degnan; Matt Dick; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow; Andrew Rosendahl

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner

School: Vandever

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Bill Rust; Don Dahlin; Dan Degnan, Jr.; Michael Englehorn; Bob Maki; Roger Ochsner; Joel Stifter

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

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

Church Cleaners: Dauer/Sandhoefner

School: Arends

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today:	9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 am – Worship Service 11:00 am – Hospitality Luncheon 12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
Wed., Dec. 6:	4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students 6:00 pm – Advent Soup Supper 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
Sun., Dec. 10:	8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class 11:00 am – Hospitality Luncheon w/ Music Recital 12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
Wed., Dec. 13:	7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
Thu., Dec. 14:	2:00 pm – Northtown Concert
Fri., Dec. 15:	7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert @ Eau Claire, WI
Sun., Dec. 17:	9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal (No Bible Class) 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3) 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting 3:00 pm – Caroling Outing
Wed., Dec. 20:	7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service
Sun., Dec. 24:	9:00 – Christmas Eve Rehearsal (No Bible Class) 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
Mon., Dec. 25	10:00 am – Christmas Day Service

ADVENT AGAIN!

Advent is a season of preparation for Christians. Consisting of the first 4 Sundays of the new church year, it is the season during which we prepare to celebrate the birthday of the incarnate Christ. All of us for however many years old we are have observed this season in which we prepare ourselves with prayer, and contemplation of the historical fact, as well as the significance of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The season of Advent prior to the birth of Jesus lasted 4,000 years - through the whole Old Testament period from the time of the first promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after the fall. Being born 6 months before Jesus, John the Baptist spanned the two testaments. In his adulthood he fulfilled the purpose of his ministry by preparing the way for the Savior Who would shortly embark on His ministry. John's message was, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord..." (John 1:23).



This is the message of the Advent preparation. John's message calls us to repentance and faith, and to put away all the baggage that prevents us from focusing on the real purpose of the birth of Jesus. In Christ we are to see the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world. They who see in Jesus the fulfillment of God's promise, and who cling to Him as the Savior from sin, and Bearer of eternal life will have had a blessed Christmas.

When we celebrate Christmas we celebrate an historical, space-time event that has occurred. It is history, yet not cold and musty. Each day of our life is lived in the power and under the grace of God through Whose Spirit Christ is a living reality. Through faith we recognize that Christmas is an every day event in our life. Each moment we spend around Word and Sacrament is a moment in which the Lord comes into our lives with His blessing! As at His birth when no room was found for Him in the homes of Bethlehem, sadly in this intervening time between birth and judgment the majority have no room for Him. Rejecting the Word, and despising the Sacrament there is no room for Him in heart or home.

There is another aspect to Advent. It too is observed at this time. In reality however this observation has no season for we are called to observe the whole period of our life from birth to death as a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. Whereas Christ's birth has occurred, Christ's coming again lies in the future. There are some similarities to the time before His birth. The similarity lies in the fact of His coming- it was prophesied then and now. Further the time of His coming was hidden from men, known only to the Father who selected the fullness of time. The time of His coming in judgment is known to God, but not to man.

There is also dissimilarity. When He came in the flesh at birth, He came in lowliness. When He comes again He will come in glory and power, attended by the angels of heaven. When He came into the flesh He came to die for the sins of the world; when He comes in judgment He will come to take the saved home and cast away those who have had no time for Him.

Each day that passes brings us closer to the Advent of our Lord. We appreciate the rich significance of His first Advent personally at the occurrence of His second. The purpose of His birth for us will be fulfilled when He invites, "Come ye blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ..." (Matthew 25:34).




The question of whether one will go to heaven or hell on the last day is not decided on judgment day. It is determined in the here and the now! Therefore, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." There is no time like now to hear and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches" (Revelation 3:20-22).

Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
To wait for the appointed hour
And fit us by Thy grace to share
The triumphs of Thy conquering power (TLH 64:5)

The time of Advent watching is stressful. The fruit of Advent fulfillment is joy everlasting for those who have been faithfully waiting and watching.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (11/26/2006)

† 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 for the children will begin at noon and last until 2 pm. We ask that parents of pre-schoolers have one parent present during the rehearsals in case help is needed. The pre-schoolers will likely be done with the afternoon rehearsals at least ½ hour earlier. There will be another rehearsal next Sunday afternoon along with two more at 9 am on Dec. 17 & 24. There will be no Bible Class those Sundays.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Parents, please continue to help your children so that they might know their parts well for next week's rehearsal. Having learned their individual pieces for today, we ask that the children work on the parts that the children all say together. The Christmas story may just be spoken together daily. If you do this, they won't need to memorize it, for by Christmas they will know it well.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** This Wednesday will begin our series of services focused also on "Angels We Have Heard on High." These services will focus on the Angel of the LORD in the Old Testament. The services will start at 7 pm, preceded by a soup supper at 6 pm. A donation basket will be available. Any funds remaining after the cost of supplies has been covered will be donated to the church floor fund.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Roger Ochsner's father, Peter, had a heart attack this week. He is hospitalized in Sioux Falls for tests. Former member, Mike Henry, is moving into the area once again.
- ◆ **Christmas Caroling:** A caroling outing is scheduled for Sunday, December 17, 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.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 15, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. We would like to tentatively schedule bus departure at 4:30 pm so that we might be able to pickup some Berea members at 5:00 pm in Woodbury. Should you wish to make a special donation to defray the expense, please indicate so on your offering envelope as "ILC Concert Bus."
- ◆ **Ephesians Series:** For the past 3 months we studied the Book of Ephesians in a sermon series. As your Pastor, I'd like to encourage all of our members to review the book once more by reading it through. It is only 6 chapters so it wouldn't take you long. It will be a way to solidify and treasure in our hearts that upon which we have meditated. As Jesus Himself once said:
 **FROM THE PASTOR**
"Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!"
- ◆ **Reminder from the Elders:** Per Voter resolution, all loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the four called workers of the congregation.