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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Advent 4

Date: December 23, 2007

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 66: Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

**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*

Drop down with grace, ye heavens, Drop down now from above.

And let the skies show favor With righteousness and love.

Let earth bring forth salvation, Let His bright light arise!

The heav'ns declare His glory, The firmament His praise.

**Advent Candle Lighting:** ..... *The Angel Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of purity. This we will experience when the pure and holy angels accompany Jesus' coming again on the last day. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, purify us that we may be ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

**Response:** ..... *TLH 62, st. 4: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come

And open wide our heav'nly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high

And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.



**First Reading:** ..... *Isaiah 7:10-14*

The sign of God's promised fulfilled: the virgin birth of the Savior.

## 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. The virgin will be with Child and give birth to a Son,

**C: And they will call His name Immanuel, God with us. Alleluia.**



**Second Reading:** ..... *Romans 1:1-7*

The prophecies of the Scriptures are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *WS 712: What Child Is This*

**Sermon:** ..... *Matthew 1:18-25*

(18) Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. (19) Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. (20) But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (21) "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (22) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (24) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, (25) and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## Reactions to Jesus' Coming

### JOSEPH: PERPLEXED WITH THOUGHT

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 96: Oh, Rejoice Ye Christian, Loudly*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 78: Hail the Day So Rich in Cheer*

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

♦ **Among Us:** Gil Maestas had a hip replacement at Methodist Hospital. Jessie Maestas is now blinded in one eye, awaiting surgery to help repair damage so that she can see. God willing, the surgery will occur near the end of January. Bobby Vandever has sent a Christmas card to the congregation which is posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. May Christ continue to be born in our hearts this season!

♦ **Christmas Eve** service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *The Bow in the Clouds and the Boy in the Cloths*. The focus is how God always fulfills His promises, just as He has done with the rainbow. The children have been working diligently in preparation of the service. Come and worship the newborn King!

♦ **Christmas Day** worship will be on Sunday at 10:00 am. Christ's birth is the greatest gift of the season. May our reaction to His coming be the opposite of Bethlehem's which was unaware of His greatness. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!

♦ **From the Trustees:** With the congregation's financial help, we were able to accomplish some major updates this year. Our big project was the flooring the fellowship hall. This was done with special donations to a specific fund. Many thanks to all who helped bring the project to its completion. The total cost for the flooring was \$9,424. The trustees also had a couple other projects that fell into the maintenance area. The parking lot was seal coated for \$5,343 and the school hallway was carpeted for \$2,565. None of this could have been accomplished without the congregation's donations of monetary funds and labor. We thank the Lord for moving hearts to be able to do these things.

### ♦ **Nomination Slate for 2008:**

- President: Michael Dick, Phil Radichel
- Vice President: Peter Fleischer, Jack Kirkham
- Secretary: Roger Ochsner
- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
- Financial Secretary: Ole Olmanson
- Elder: Frank Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Education: Lynn Sandhoefner, Michael Ude
- Trustee: Bill Rust, Jeff Stifter



♦ **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.

♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve service parts.

## INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD, A LIGHT HAS SHINED:

During the Christmas season we see the Christmas message as recorded in Luke 2 printed in newspapers. How long this will occur yet is of course a question as our society sinks deeper and deeper into the mire of political correctness and not so subtle rejection of anything Christian.

But even apart from the obvious growing disdain of those who belittle, if not reject Christianity, we have wondered what the purpose of printing the Christmas message is. We suspect that for the most part it is printed as a feel good story.

How can it be otherwise if the same editors, who print the account of Jesus' birth, openly promote evolution? The Christian faith holds that "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet there are not three Gods but one God" (Athanasian Creed). The true and living God is Triune! Evolutionists may talk about God but in fact reject the true God! They reject the divine Christ of whom we read, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1: 3).

Jesus is true God (Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:23), Who is also true Man (1 Timothy 2:5) born of the virgin, Mary (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23). What does the Christmas message mean for those who deny the divinity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, or both, and who further deny His miraculous conception, and birth?

Of what meaning is the Christmas message to those who deny the reality of sin as well as its eternal consequence? The very name Jesus which means Savior is meaningless to any who do not acknowledge sin, and who do not accept the fact that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Without Christ man is without God (Ephesians 2:12), and without faith in Christ there is no salvation (Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:12).

What is the significance of the Christmas message to those who believe that its source - the Bible- is only another book of myths and fairy tales, and just another book of religious tales of no more value than that of any other religion?

To such the Christmas message of Jesus' birth can be no more than a feel good story, quoted to give an appearance of spirituality. The rejecters of Christ in His time as well as in our age were religious, but were religious impostors. Scripture says, "In Him (Christ) was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:5)... He was in the world, and world was made by Him, and the world did not know Him. He came unto his own, and His own did not receive Him" (10, 11).

It is an interesting phenomenon that even those who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ cannot ignore Him! And so we get the Christmas message printed in the very pages that otherwise reject Bible truth as well as the Triune God Himself. Printing the Christmas history will be the extent of their bow to Jesus until Easter, when they will print the resurrection account of the same Christ, in Whom they do not believe, but Whom they cannot ignore.

Dear Christian, when you read the Christmas message know for certainty that what Jesus, the Child of Bethlehem, says is truth, "I am the light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). All who receive the Christmas message as what it is, the message of the living Creator God's gift of eternal life in His Son, will know the fulfillment of God's promise "that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). For us the message is more than empty words that titillate the imagination! Or more than words written for effect! They are in fact spirit, and they are life (John 6:63).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (12/23/2007)



CHRISTMAS

## **"JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH GOD AND MAN:"**

"We say and sing with all joy that God's Son, the one true God with the Father and the Holy Ghost, became man for us, a Servant, a Sinner, a Worm; that God died, God bears our sin in his own body on the cross, God has redeemed us through his own blood. For God and man are one Person. Whatever this man does, suffers, and speaks, God does, suffers, and speaks; and whatever God does and speak the man does and speaks who is both God and Mary's Son in one inseparable Person and two distinct natures." --- Martin Luther

## **THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS**

A crowded town- a stable bare-  
A father's love- A mother's care-  
And angel's song – The Shepherds joy-  
A trip to town to see a boy-  
All these are part of Christmas.

A preacher's urging to repent-  
A life in humble service spent-  
A kiss- A trial – A cross – A grave-  
A Savior come – A world to save –  
All these are part of Christmas.

An empty tomb – A risen King-  
A joy that makes the heart to sing-  
A word to spread – A Lord to share-  
A day of hope – An hour of prayer-  
All these are part of Christmas.

A soul set free! - a burden gone!-  
A Lord to love!- Salvation won!-  
A joyful heart!- A peaceful soul!-  
A time of rest! – A heavenly goal!-  
THESE ARE THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

**-selected**

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner      Elder: Benno Sydow  
Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Bill Rust; Don Dahlin; Michael Englehorn; Bob Maki; Joel Stifter; Arnold Gehrls  
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales  
Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye  
Church Cleaners: Kitzman      School Cleaners: Davis

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Bill Rust; Don Dahlin; Michael Englehorn; Bob Maki; Joel Stifter; Arnold Gehrls  
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Ole Olmanson  
Hospitality Team 3: Bye  
Church Cleaners: Kitzman      School Cleaners: Ferris

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal (No Bible Class)  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)  
 11:00 am – Hospitality

**Mon., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

**Tue., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service

**Wed., Dec. 26:** No Catechism or Bible Class (Resumes Jan. 9)

**Sun., Dec. 30:** No Sunday School or Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Christmas 1)  
 No Hospitality  
 4:00 pm – Missionary Ude Installation @ Eau Claire, WI

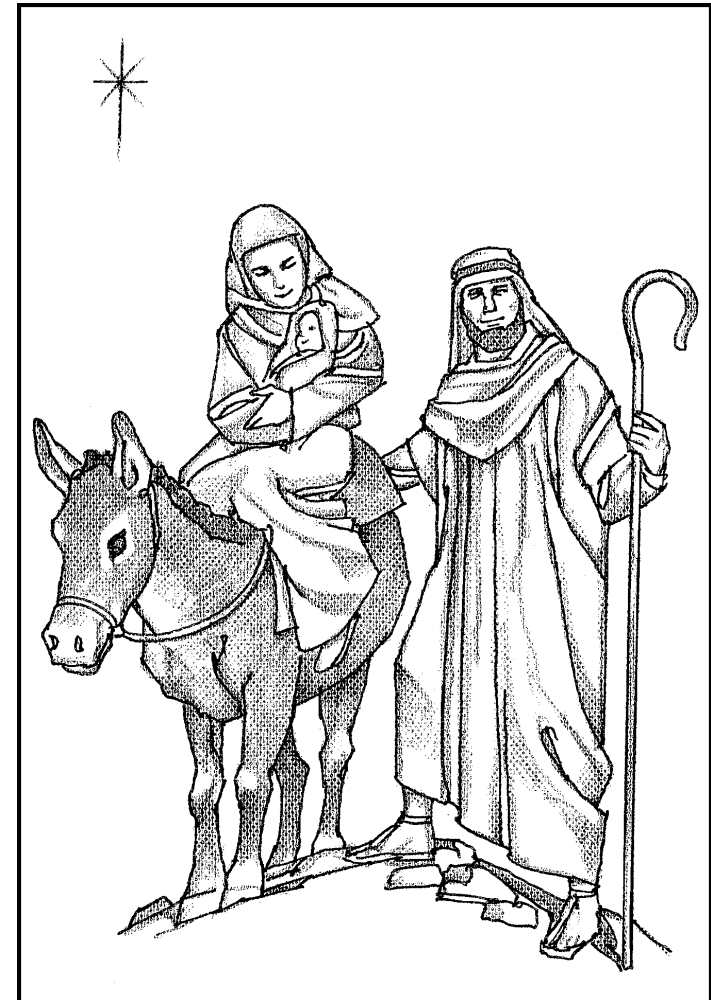
**Mon., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Service w/ Lord's Supper

**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 16, 2007 Sun.: 178 S.S.: 31 Wed.: 95

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	5,394.86	CLC:	2,191.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	1,025.43	CLC:	65.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+3,390.29	CLC:	+1,296.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	148,398.51	CLC:	47,957.24
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	151,500.00	CLC:	48,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,101.49	CLC:	-42.76
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	3.00	Tuition:	61.00
GLC Other: 451.07*	MDF:	14.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 110.00	ILC Bldg.	86.00	IIF: 10.00	CEF: 40.00

\* \$50 Wagner Memorial

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS,  
FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.”

Matthew 1:21