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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 20, 2009

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

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

Hymn: *TLH 70: Hosanna to the Living Lord*

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: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Christ came to offer up Himself as the sacrifice ... once for all.

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: *Luke 1:39-55*

Mary expresses her joy in the coming Savior who is in her womb.

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

Hymn: *TLH 710: Once in Royal David's City*

Sermon: *Micah 5:1-5a*

(1) Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. (2) "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting." (3) Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. (4) And He shall stand and feed *His* flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; (5) And this *One* shall be peace. ... (NKJVTM)

Coming Peace in the Midst of War

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 103: To Shepherds as They Watched by Night*

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

Hymn: *TLH 647, st. 1, 4: O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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 †

♦ **Among Us:** Ryan and Mikey Oman were blessed with a baby girl last weekend on December 12. Reagan Marie was born at 6 lb., 3 oz., 20 ½ inches long. While a C-section was necessary, both mom and baby are well. Reagan entered into God's family through the waters of baptism this past Wednesday at the Candlelight service. Following the candlelight service on Wednesday, Michael Ude and Jessica Fabian were engaged to be married! May the Lord bless their life together with the sacrificial love of Christ. Ellen Bergstrom continues to recover from her surgery. May the Lord strengthen her!

♦ **Christmas Eve** service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *O Holy Night*. The focus is on how the concept of holiness fits in with our salvation – that God sent His holy Son to be the holy life and sacrifice for the sins of the unholy human race. The children have been working diligently in preparation of the service. Come and worship the newborn King!



♦ **Christmas Day** worship will be on Friday at 10:00 am. Christ's birth is the reason for the season. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!

♦ **Video Tape:** A reminder that we are having a Christmas Eve service instead of a Christmas Eve program. Therefore, we ask that parents and friends avoid taking flash pictures and videotaping during this service so that the focus remains on the joyous message of our Savior's birth. Our Christmas Eve service will be discreetly videotaped and made available by request. If you are interested in a copy, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



♦ **Catechism Class:** Class will be suspended on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on Jan. 6.

♦ **Cleaning 2010:** The 2010 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.

♦ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during Dec. will be distributed equally among the four called workers of the congregation.

♦ **Eden Prairie Worship:** Regular Sunday morning services are being held at 9:00 am in Eden Prairie, MN, as an outreach effort in the southwest area of the Twin Cities. Fliers are by the guest book.

♦ **Mission Calendars:** 2010 calendars are available which focus on our CLC missions. If you would like one, please make a \$3 donation to the MDF. Copies are available below the mailboxes.

♦ **India Flood Relief Update:** The time for shock and mourning among our fellow believers in the CLC is giving way to the time for the rebuilding of devastated homes and lives. The leaders of our Indian congregations have expressed their heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the members of the CLC-USA. Our appeal to the CLC for India flood relief has so far resulted in contributions in excess of \$18,000. In the next few weeks we expect the total to reach our goal of \$20,000. These funds will be used for ongoing needs such as food and clothing, as well as for help with rebuilding churches which were destroyed by the floods, and aid to those who lost family members. A report with the details of these efforts will be forthcoming. Our thanks to all those who were moved by God's love to help our brothers and sisters in India! Please continue to remember our Indian brethren in prayer, for both their physical needs and the spread of the Gospel among them. In Christ, *The CLC Board of Missions*

♦ **Call News:** Pastor Michael Gurath, assistant pastor at Holy Cross in Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to Morning Star in Fairchild, WI.

♦ Nomination Slate for 2010:

- President: Phil Radichel
- Vice President: Jack Kirkham
- Secretary: Michael Dick, Rick Nelson
- Treasurer: Paul Lentz; Jeff Radichel
- Financial Secretary: Brandon Paplow
- Elder: Ed Lentz, Roger Ochsner
- Education: Benno Sydow, Michael Ude
- Trustee: Pat Paplow, Bob Vandever

♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** All Parts for Christmas Eve

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 13, 2009 Sun.: 136 S.S.: 19 B.Cl.: 32 Wed.: 102

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,838.00	CLC:	\$922.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$535.00	CLC:	\$0.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+73.00	CLC:	-78.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	148,985.30	CLC:	44,582.40
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	165,000.00	CLC:	50,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-16,014.70	CLC:	-5,417.60
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition:	11.00
GLC Other: 360.51	MDF:	7.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	111.00	IIF: 16.00	CEF: 0.00



THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS:



Bethlehem. "Peace on earth, good will toward men," is for the world a vague hope of temporal peace, even while the nations of the earth are continually on the brink of war if not engaged in active war. Within our own nation where political correctness from the highest authority to the daily newspaper implies that the word "Christmas" is offensive, there is little peace but only a semblance of civility until the "holiday" is past. The fact is that what is offensive is the abuse of the Lord Christ, Whose birth gives meaning to Christmas, and Whose return Christians await anxiously. It is frankly offensive when they who have no regard for Christ twist the sense of the angels' message to serve political and social ends.

Martin Franzmann put the Christmas message in its divine context: "Not the Romans but God, the Lord of history, dictated the place of Jesus' birth; He is fulfilling His promise of a Deliverer from little *Bethlehem*, the city of David (Micah 5:2-4; Matthew 2:1-6). God brought the Deliverer down into the depth of man's misery, that He might deliver man by taking up the burden of man's misery Himself ..." (*Concordia Bible with Notes*, p.112). It is that fact, long awaited by the faithful and watching people of God, which inspired the angels' "peace on earth."

When Jesus was born there was political corruption as well as all the other expressions of evil common to man. People were being oppressed and Christians were hated. Godless politicians and false religious leaders were rampant. But the greatest burden for the waiting people was the burden of sin that separates from God. Man has no peace within until he is at peace with God. But sin and an accusing conscience robs the sinner of peace. Some seek to allay their fear by denying the reality of God and the reality of the coming judgment. They delude themselves while they give lip service to the message from the very God whom they deny.

One of the beautiful mysteries of God's grace is that *He* made our peace with Himself. This He did by sending His Son in human

Societies' lack of understanding of Christmas is overshadowed only by the shallowness of its repetition of the angelic message to the shepherds on the fields of

flesh to bear our sin. God in Christ reconciled the world unto Himself by laying the sins of the world upon Jesus and delivering Him up on the altar of the cross to pay our debt. Now, though your sins be as scarlet and though they be red like crimson (Isaiah 1:18), they are washed away in the sacrificial blood of the Lord Jesus. Therein is real peace!

Every person with an ounce of sense wants peace in the world, a cessation of hostility, hatred, and war. However, it is not pessimism but reality to say that though such might appear less intense at times, they will never cease. Man is too corrupt and too self serving. Consequently even God's waiting people suffer pain, heartache and anguish on this earth and in the midst of an ungodly and morally bankrupt nation. The unknowns of life on earth cause anxiety and fear also for the children of God. But through them all a peace fills the heart, a peace that the world cannot know because it rejects God, His Son, and the message of the cross.

The Psalmist spoke the confident faith of God's people who worship the Lord, and rejoice in their salvation, a salvation accomplished outside of themselves through the Christ child of whom the angels sang. We who understand the real meaning of the angelic message will say with the Psalmist, "I will both lay me down in peace and sleep: for Thou only, Lord, makest me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8). As your focus this season and always is Christ, may you know true peace — God's peace — now and most surely when you are called from life to see Jesus.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/13/2009



The Miracle of Christmas

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Dave Rust

Ushers: Mark Wales, Pete Fleischer, Don Auel, Ole
Olmanson, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;
Pat Paplow

Hospitality Team 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick;
Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School Cleaners: Ferris

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Mark Wales, Pete Fleischer, Don Auel, Ole
Olmanson, Brandt Wendland

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

Hospitality Team 6: Bye

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00-9:45 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal (No Bible

Class)

10:00 am –Worship Service (Advent 4)
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
3:00 pm – Christmas Carol Outing

Wed., Dec. 23: Catechism Suspended until January 6

Thu., Dec. 24: 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

Fri., Dec. 25: 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

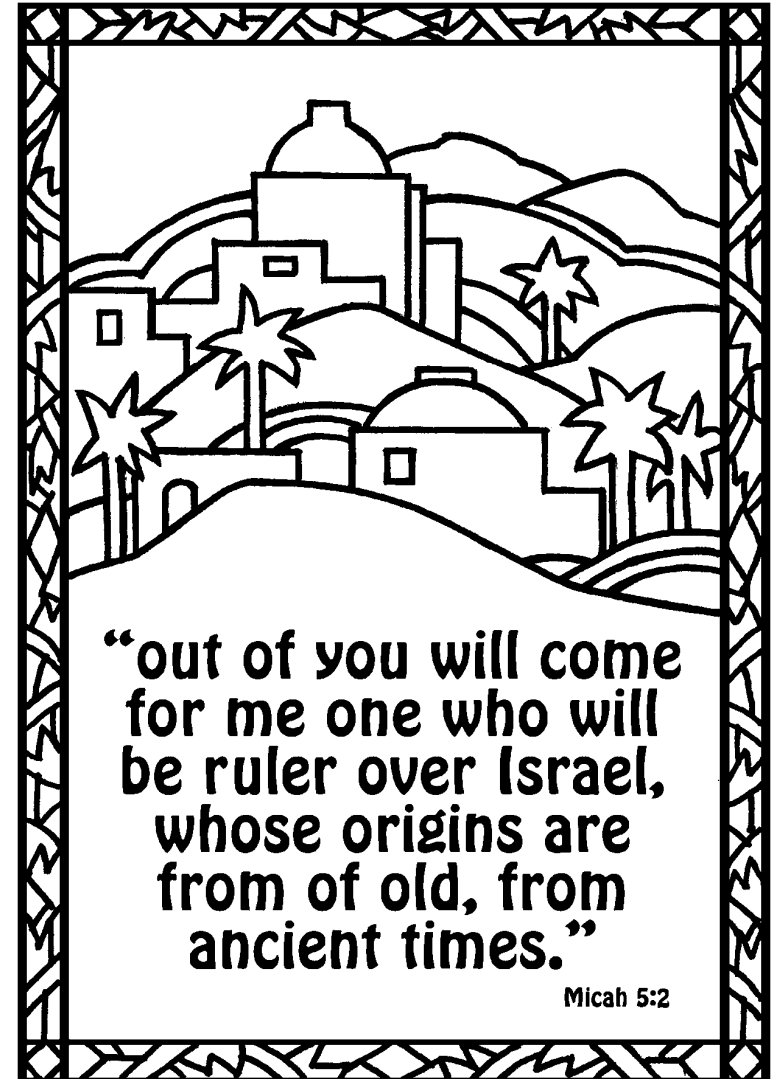
Sun., Dec. 27: Sunday School and Bible Class suspended until Jan. 10
10:00 am –Worship Service (Christmas 1)
Hospitality suspended until Jan. 10

Thu., Dec. 31: 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Jan. 3: 10:00 am –Worship Service w/Lord's Supper



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**“out of you will come
for me one who will
be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are
from of old, from
ancient times.”**

Micah 5:2