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† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ♦ **Christmas Greetings:** Christmas is always a time to remember the great blessings with which the Child of Bethlehem has granted us in His grace. The forgiveness, love, and mercy of our Savior is beyond what we could ever expect. As Christians, we are to reflect that love. That would be a challenge beyond any capability of our own. Yet when our reaction comes naturally by faith, as empowered by the Spirit, great things happen. Certainly that is reflected in many ways by the Christians in our flock. We are thankful that so many of you are mindful of us and keep us in your prayers, especially when it comes to the challenging ministry of the Gospel. Thank you for all your continual support and love. That in itself emboldens your Pastor to do the work of ministry in your midst. We also want to thank the congregation for all the gifts and thoughts received this Christmas. May your fruits continue to abound in the coming year as we labor together in the Lord's kingdom. A blessed Christmas to all! Pastor & Mrs. Hein
- ♦ **Welcome!** We welcome Rona Flesner and her children as members at Grace! Yesterday Rona and her two youngest children, Dayne and Gavin, were baptized in a private service. Cole was previously baptized at Grace and attends our Christian Day School. May the family be blessed as they remain connected to the Word of God. What a wonderful Christmas gift!
- ♦ **Catechism Class:** Class will be suspended on Dec. 28 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on Jan. 4.
- ♦ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's three called workers.



† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Ed Lentz

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Eric Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland

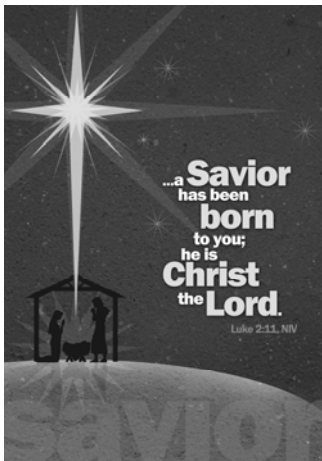
† OUR SCHEDULE †

- Today:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
Sun., Jan. 1: 10:00 am – New Years Day Worship w/Lord's Supper
Wed., Jan. 4: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
Sun., Jan. 8: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 Council Meeting
Sun., Jan. 15: 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



★ STARS OF PROMISE ★



**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2011**

Pastor: John P. Hein
Organist: Susan Nelson
Web: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org
Email: jphein@clclutheran.com
Phone: 763-784-8784

Our Christmas Worship

ENTRANCE:..... *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:..... *Come Hither, Ye Children*

1. **Come hither, ye children, O come one and all,
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small,
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your joy and Delight.**
2. **He's born in a stable for you and for me;
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek, and so mild,
And purer than angels - the heavenly Child.**
3. **See, Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes,
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;
The shepherds are kneeling with hearts full of love,
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.**
4. **Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly Host.**

WOMEN: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

MEN: **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 the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

ALL: **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing.**

SERMON:..... *2 Peter 1:19*

"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ..." (NKJVTM)

Stars of Promise:

The Star to Arise in Your Own Heart

HYMN:..... *TLH 94: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:

BENEDICTION:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C: [Sung] Amen. Amen. Amen.

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

MEN: From God our Heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

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."

WOMEN: God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

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: Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountain in reply
Echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

MEN: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

WOMEN: What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Responsory:Based on TLH 95

P: The Lord be with you.

C: The Lord bless you.

P: As the Lord Jesus once came in love and great poverty to be born in a manger in Bethlehem

C: So now He comes to us in the richness of His Word.

P: As Jesus once came from heaven to earth to live with people in love

C: So now He comes in the Word, to give the light of the Spirit.

P: As He came to heal, to forgive, and to save

C: So now He comes to rescue, to relieve, to love.

P: Let us bless the great name of the Lord.

C: Let us sing with our hearts the great songs of His Word.

SING: Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh--
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

P: O Lord, our transgressions are multiplied before You,

C: And our sins testify against us;

P: For our transgressions are with us,

C: And as for our iniquities, we know them:

P: We are all like an unclean thing,

C: And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;

P: We all fade as a leaf

C: And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

P: Do not be furious, O Lord,

C: Nor remember our iniquity forever;

SING: Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.

P: Rejoice! The Baby whose birth we celebrate today is named "Jesus" because He came to "save" His people from their sins. His name is "Immanuel" for He is "God with us." He became a man like us, except without sin, so that He might die for us, rise in victory, and then live again forever as our eternal King. Rejoice this Christmas morning! Your sins are all forgiven!

**SING: From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell--
High the song of triumph swell!
Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?**

P: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

C: For He has done marvelous things;

P: The Lord has made known His salvation;

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

C: Proclaim the Good News of His salvation from day to day.

P: Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

C: For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised.

**SING: Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.**

CHOIR:.....*Christmas Joy*

FIRST READING:.....*Isaiah 52:7-10*

The Lord comes to manifest His strength and power to redeem.

SECOND READING:.....*Hebrews 1:1-9*

The Christ Child is appointed heir of all things, the eternal King.

PROFESSION OF FAITH:.....*Rona Flesner*

CONFESSION OF FAITH:.....*The Christmas Creed*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL:.....*Luke 2:1-20 w/Christmas Carols*

**ALL: Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels.**

WOMEN: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

MEN: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

ALL: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

MEN: 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. 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.

**WOMEN: O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;**

**MEN: Yet in thy darkness shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

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.

**WOMEN: Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
Asleep on the hay.**

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.