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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFSSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Christmas 1

Date: December 30, 2012

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation:Psalm 148, TLH p. 156 f.

Hymn: TLH 99: Now Are the Days Fulfilled

Liturgy: TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): TLH, pp. 6-7

P: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,

C: And the government will be upon His shoulders.

P: And He shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

C: The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

P Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: For He has done marvelous things. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: TLH 102, st. 3-4

3. Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,

“To God in the highest all glory be given!”

To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;

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

4. To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth

Be glory and honor through heaven and earth,

True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!

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

First Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, carrying out His covenant.

Gradual:

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

C: We have beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

C: Shout for joy before the Lord, the king.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

C: For all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Second Reading: Luke 2:21-40

Jesus is placed under the Law and is identified as the source of redemption.

Baptism: Roran Michael Ude

Confession of Faith: Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12

Hymn: TLH 300: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

Sermon: Genesis 17:1-11

(1) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. (2) “And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.”

(3) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: (4) “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. (5) “No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. (6) “I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. (7) “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. (8) “Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.” (9) And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. (10) “This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; (11) “and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.” (NKJV™)

“*OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW—*

God’s Blessing through His Covenant of Grace”

Offertory: TLH p. 12 f.

Hymn: TLH 91: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: TLH p. 14

Profession of Faith: Kevin and Tracy Baker

Hymn: TLH 97: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Congratulations!** After completing instruction and agreeing to the doctrinal position of our congregation, we welcome Kevin and Tracy Baker to our congregation as communicant members. Also, this past Friday, Dec. 28, Roran Michael Ude was born to Michael and Jessica Ude. He weighed 6 lb and was 19 inches long. Mom and baby are both doing well! We praise God that through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Roran will become His child today!
- ◆ **Among Us:** This week Pal Dauer returned home from the hospital after breaking her leg. Curt Miesen is now being treated at the Univ. Medical Center for a blood clot in his lung. This will temporarily delay the plan to try an experimental treatment for his leukemia.
- ◆ **New Years Eve:** Tomorrow at 7 pm, we will be having a New Years Eve worship service along with the Lord's Supper. Afterward the congregation is invited to a party in the fellowship hall. Please bring an appetizer to share along with any of your favorite games. Sparkling cider will be provided. For questions, please speak with Trudy Wales.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve DVD:** If you are interested in a copy of the Christmas Eve service, please speak with Pastor or Frank Radichel.
- ◆ **Thanks:** The Hein family appreciates all the greetings, cards, gifts, support, and prayers this Christmas season. It is a joy to serve a congregation that appreciates and stands steadfast on the Word of God. In Christ, Pastor, Janelle, and the children.
- ◆ **Quilt Day:** Back by popular demand, on Sat., Jan. 19, those who are interested are invited to help assemble two quilts for the ILC after-banquet party. We will be making a Morning Glorious quilt and a Dominoes quilt. We hope to start bright and early at 9:00 am and stay until 2:00pm. Please bring something to add to the lunch menu. Sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, and cutting tools will be needed. You don't have to be a sewer to help out. We need ironers, cutters, and someone to do the lunch. It is a fun time for all.- Ann Radichel
- ◆ **2013 Nomination Slate:**
 - President: Al Rosendahl
 - Vice President: Eli Wales
 - Secretary: Jack Kirkham
 - Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom, Roger Ochsner
 - Elder: Frank Radichel, Brandt Wendland
 - Education: Alex Baker, Ole Olmanson, Brandt Wendland
 - Trustee: Brandon Paplow, Bill Rust, Lyle Trulin

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!

2013

Another year has passed and we are entering what to the superstitious could well be an ominous year for reasons totally founded on superstition. Athletic teams frequently avoid the jersey number 13. High rises skip the 13th floor. Many apartment complexes and motels have no room 13. The number 13 is considered the genitor of bad luck. But now that 2012 is past they can't skip 2013.

Flash: Two days after the above was written the following appeared in the *New York Post*: "The 7-foot-tall "13" that will be part of the lit-up "2013" when the ball drops on New Year's Eve arrived in Times Square yesterday — and organizers are trying to make sure the number doesn't frighten off superstitious revelers ...

Just to make sure, the "13" will come with 13 "lucky" charms.

But just to keep all bases covered, we've gone ahead and gathered 13 good-luck charms — everything from a four-leaf clover to gold," a spokesman said.

Scripture says, "You shall have no other god's before Me" (Exodus 20:3) In the explanation of the catechism we learn, "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." To the superstitious there are greater forces at work in the world than the Triune God, the only God Who was and is and always shall be. Superstition is a sin against the 1st commandment.

There are many suggestions as to the origin of the "13" superstition. The most prevalent theory seems to be that it comes from the date Friday, October 13, 1307, which is the date the Knights Templar were eradicated by Philip IV of France. The Knights Templar traces its origin back to shortly after the First Crusade. As a result of the fall of the Templars on the 13th the number 13 was viewed as a day of bad luck. The superstition of the number 13 is rooted in unbelief.

As we look ahead to the New Year, it is doubtful that the fear of the number 13, *triskadekaphobi* as such a fear is known, will move us to call the 800 phone number that is available (Really!) for help in coping with what is an irrational fear.

Unfortunately, people who claim not to have such fear frequently

play along with this and other superstitions. If we are among them, are we perhaps playing along as a cover for some personal superstitions and insecurities? Surely as we recognize that superstitious fears are a lack of faith and trust in God we will ask the Lord to cleanse our heart of superstition. The expressed fear of others who are superstitious is an open door to witness to the reality of our God before Whom all gods and godless fears are idols and without merit.

Fear is a common malady of people in the flesh. As we see society crumbling about us because it has set upon a course of destruction through its setting aside of truth and its rejection of the Lord God, we do have fears as we enter the New Year. David said in Psalm 18: 4, "The pangs of death surrounded me, and the floods of ungodliness made me afraid." Jacob was afraid of Laban (Genesis 31:31). Israel feared Pharaoh (Exodus 14:10) as well as the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:7). We fear for our nation as well as for our children and grandchildren, if not for ourselves. These are not fears associated with superstition as it is commonly understood, but fears rooted in interpretation or misinterpretation of real events and circumstances in the world. These fears of the flesh are real, but as they are of the flesh they are rooted in a lack of trust. When the disciples feared in the storm (Matthew 8:25), Jesus reprimanded them for their little faith.

Jesus reprimanded the disciples but *He did not abandon* them. He stilled the storm. Our God knows our weaknesses and invites us to call upon Him in the time of trouble (Psalm 50:15). So David did and so we will say, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:3). Again in the 18th Psalm David wrote, "I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies."

We have just celebrated the birthday of our Savior. One of the choicest names given to Him by the Father in heaven was "Immanuel"-- "*God with us.*" There are unknowns to us which have nothing whatever to do with superstition. The Lord has concealed things from us, things we do not need to know such as the hour of

our death, the end of the world, what tomorrow may bring. But *God Who is with us* knows! Though there are things we do not know, there are two we do because God's Word has revealed them to us: firstly, we know our future in *time* is known to Him Who in this life will bring all things to pass according to His gracious will. Even death itself can only deliver us from the things that frighten us to the perfect safety of heaven. And the second is equally as sure. In the Christ of Bethlehem we have been redeemed from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. Believers in Christ need not fear what men can do. As we "fear, love, and trust in God" alone, other forces, real or imagined, cannot steal us from God, or steal our *eternal* future from us. Our eternal future is secure through and in the risen Lord Jesus. As we in time and for eternity commit ourselves to the warm embrace of the Savior's arms, we can say at the end of each day, "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

We are not naive to the afflictions and sorrows that lurk in this life. But we go into the New Year with the confidence in Christ that exemplified the apostle: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8: 37-39).

Where you are Immanuel is! The Lord will be with you and will help you through the evil days and the existing dangers of life.

As far as superstitions are concerned you might not want to walk under a ladder. It makes good sense to use common sense. Otherwise step on the crack, cuddle the black cat, and sleep in room 13 on floor 13 on Friday the 13th in the year 2013. Superstitions are real only in the minds and hearts of those who don't believe or forget that God is!

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis Elder: Larry Nelson
Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl,
 Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham;
 Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland
Hospitality Team 3: Bye
Church Cleaners: Brad Kitzman School Cleaners: None

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl,
 Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude
Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl;
 Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner
Church Cleaners: Kirkham School Cleaners: Hein

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Dec. 30: 10:00 am – Worship Service
 (Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
Mon., Dec. 31: 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord’s Supper
 8:00 pm – New Years Eve Party
Wed., Jan. 2: Christian Day School Resumes
Sun., Jan. 6: 9:00 am – Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord’s Supper (Epiphany)
 11:15 am – Hospitality
Wed., Jan. 9: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
Sun., Jan. 13: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
Sat., Jan. 19: 9:00 am – Quilt Day

Last Week’s Stats: Dec. 23				Sun.: 139	S.S.: 18	B.Cl.:27	Eve: 155	Day: 97
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,165.00	CLC:	\$1,255.00				
Christmas Eve Offering:	Grace:	\$480.00	CLC:	\$115.00				
Christmas Day Offering:	Grace:	\$1,380.00	CLC:	\$1,015.00				
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00				
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,995.00	CLC:	+1,425.00				
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$150,914.07	CLC:	\$46,771.00				
Year Total Need:	Grace:	157,500.00	CLC:	50,000.00				
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,585.93	CLC:	-3,229.00				
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	120.00	Tuition Aid:	170.00				
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00				
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	320.00	IIF:	120.00	CEF:	0.00		

\$100 Ruth Sydow Memorial to ILC SAF Endowment

Grace Lutheran
 Church & School



A Blessed New Year in
 God’s Covenant of Grace!