

Click here to open service web page for: 2013/12/01/

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Phil Radichel

Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel,  
Bob Vandev eer, Bobby Vandev eer, Matt Vandev eer

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

Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &  
Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt & Teresa Wendland

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: None

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob  
Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl;  
Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice  
Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: Hein

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Dec. 1:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper  
11:15 am – Luncheon  
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

**Wed., Dec. 4:** 4:30 pm – Catechism  
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship

**Sun., Dec. 8:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Luncheon  
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital

**Wed., Dec. 11:** 4:30 pm – Catechism  
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship

**Fri., Dec. 13:** 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert at Northtown Mall

**Sun., Dec. 15:** 12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

**Wed., Dec. 18:** 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner  
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship

**Fri., Dec. 20:** 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert

**Sun., Dec. 22:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal; 12:00 pm – Council

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

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

**Sun., Dec. 29:** 10 am – Worship Service  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)

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

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.  
Genesis 3:15

*Grace Lutheran Church & School*



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org)

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFSSION



**Pastor:** John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)      **Phone:** 763-784-8784  
**School Phone:** 763-784-6340      **Grades:** Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>  
**Church Year:** Advent 1      **Date:** December 1, 2013

✠ ***THE ORDER OF WORSHIP*** ✠

**Worship Preparation:** .....Psalm 18, TLH p. 125 f.  
**Hymn:** .....TLH 276: Come unto Me, Ye Weary  
**Liturgy:** ..... TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)  
**Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie):** ..... TLH, pp. 16-17

P: Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,  
**C: The world and those who dwell in it;**  
P: Let the rivers clap *their* hands;  
**C: Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,**  
P: For He is coming to judge the earth.  
**C: With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... TLH 5, st. 3  
To God, the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.

**First Reading:** ..... Ephesians 5:6-14

**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 19:29-40

**Confession of Faith:** ..... Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22  
**Hymn:** ..... TLH 68: The Advent of Our King

**Sermon:** ..... **Genesis 3:1-15**  
1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

**WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND CHRISTMAS unless...**

1. *We recognize the reality and consequence of sin*
2. *We appreciate the first promise*

**Offertory:** ..... TLH p. 22 f.  
**Hymn:** ..... WS 701: Prepare the Royal Highway

**Offering & Prayer:**  
**Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:** ..... TLH p. 24 ff.

**Distribution:** ..... TLH 308; TLH 311  
**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

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Thanks:** to Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer for sharing the Word of God with us today! Pastor Hein is in Baltimore visiting family and is preaching at our sister congregation in Fairfax, VA this morning. He will be returning tomorrow, God willing.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wed., Dec. 4, 11, and 18, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on Dec. 18 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on December 18. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** There is a signup sheet for Christmas Poinsettias by the guest book. For any questions, please see Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
  - ◆ Sun., Dec. 1: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
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- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held on Sun., Dec. 8, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year will be held on Fri., Dec. 20, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. There is a signup list for the trip by the guestbook. The students in the choir are currently preparing to sing the famous and familiar "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah". But not to sing it alone! If you are planning to attend the concert and would like to sing along from your place in the pews, you are asked to bring with you a copy of the score. A downloadable version (from the choral public domain library) is available at the following address: <http://www0.cpd.org/wiki/images/sheet/han-m42c.pdf>
- ◆ **2013 Advent Devotions:** There is a booklet available compiled of Advent devotions by CLC pastors. This follows the 2013 calendar: [www.redeemerclc.org/documents/devs/AdventDevotions-2013.pdf](http://www.redeemerclc.org/documents/devs/AdventDevotions-2013.pdf)
- ◆ **2014 Cleaning:** The 2014 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.

- ◆ **Bible Reading Plan:** In the past few years a LC-MS pastor began correspondence with Pastor Hein about a paper he wrote. His name is Rev. Ernie Bernet. He has since joined the CLC and is now requesting colloquy. For the past 20 years he has worked on a variety of Bible reading plans. Recently, he produced and has made available a reading plan that will take the reader through the Bible in three years loosely following the Christian Worship Three Year pericope. To follow the Church calendar schedule the reader would need to begin on Monday, December 2. You can find copies of the reading plan underneath the mailboxes.
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- ◆ **New Online Course at ILC:** Beginning January 13, 2014, the ILC college course known as Religion 102: *A Survey of the Old Testament* will be available online. Up to ten applicants may take the online course for credit. There is no limit to the number of online applicants who choose to audit the course. For more information on the nature of the course in its online form, the costs involved, and how to register, visit the ILC website at the College Course Description page ([http://www.ilc.edu/academics/co\\_course.htm](http://www.ilc.edu/academics/co_course.htm)); there you can click "Religion" and access the link to the online course information. You may also contact the academic dean, Prof. John Ude, at: [john.ude@ilc.edu](mailto:john.ude@ilc.edu).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Matthew Gurath of Gift of God in Mapleton, ND (Fargo area), has returned the call to Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Group Parts for Christmas Eve

| Last Week's Stats: Nov. 24, 2013 |               | Sun.: 112    | S.S.: 22                                 | B.CI.: 48   |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|-------------|
| Sun. Offering:                   | Grace:        | \$2,153.75   | CLC:                                     | \$930.00    |
| Weekly Need:                     | Grace:        | 3,000.00     | CLC:                                     | 960.00      |
| -Under / +Over:                  | Grace:        | -846.25      | CLC:                                     | -30.00      |
| Year-to-Date Offering::          | Grace:        | \$137,915.92 | CLC:                                     | \$45,903.75 |
| Year-to-Date Need:               | Grace:        | 141,000.00   | CLC:                                     | 45,120.00   |
| Year-to-Date (+/-)               | Grace:        | -3,084.08    | CLC:                                     | +783.75     |
| GLC Other:                       | Living Faith: | 149.25 0.00  | Tuition Aid:                             | 418.25      |
| SAF Endowment:                   | MDF:          | 100.00 5.00  | Kinship:                                 | 105.00      |
| ILC Student Aid:                 | ILC Bldg.     | 0.00 135.00  | IIF: 40.00                               | CEF: 5.00   |
| Current Balances:                | Fire Alarm:   | -1,794.19    | Projection:                              | -112.93     |
|                                  | Tuition Aid:  | +1,507.92    | (\$9,350 would cover 6 students in Jan.) |             |

### The following is the nomination slate for 2014:

- President: Ryan Oman, Eli Wales
- Vice President: Mike Dick, Pat Paplow
- Secretary: Frank Radichel, Michael Ude
- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
- Elder: Frank Radichel, Benno Sydow
- Education: Paul Lentz, Roger Ochsner
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Abraham, Isaac and Jacob looked forward to the day of deliverance. Simeon and Anna waited for it, (Luke 2). The apostle John believed the promise of the Lord Who said, "Surely I am coming quickly." He waited for that event and prayed for it, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). All believers of Jesus' time on earth lived in anticipation of when it would come to pass as Jesus said in His High-priestly prayer, "Father, I desire that they who You gave Me may be with Me where I am ..." (John 17:24).



This Advent and Christmas time is no different than any other Advent and Christmas time in this world of confusion. But as it is our time, we are confronted with circumstances that move us to pray that our anticipation will soon be turned into reality. The world is in turmoil; society is unraveling before our eyes; our nation is going the way of those nations before us whose glory has oxidized into rust, and whose stature has been reduced to dust!

They who deny Christ and love this world are as people through whose fingers sand trickles. Only that which is of God shall endure, and only they who find rest in the embrace of the Savior are in possession of that which shall endure.

We make the best of our life in this foreign environment — its welfare and duration is in the hands of a gracious God — while we pray for the moment at which the Father "will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He has ordained" (Acts 17:31).

They who prepare with careful reflection and preparation can celebrate Christmas with care-free hearts, and live with confident anticipation of their eternal future. As you give attentive consideration to the Advent season, you will have a blessed Christmas season. May it be so!

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2013

## ANOTHER ADVENT

The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the new church year. While it ushers in the Christmas season, the thoughts of the season direct our heart and mind in two directions, both of which are connected with the coming of Christ. Advent is a time of preparation for celebration of the Savior's birth which occurred 2013 years ago, as well as for the coming of the Savior at the end of time which from our perspective lies in the future known only to God. We like to think of the season in these terms: *contemplation, preparation, anticipation.*

**CONTEMPLATION:** Contemplation may be defined as attentive consideration. Advent invites us to attentively consider the faithfulness of our Father in heaven, the blessings of our Savior's birth, as well as His anticipated return. Such contemplation begins with consideration of what from the Father's perspective necessitated the Savior's birth. Unless we recognize this—which the world does not—celebration of Christmas is but a charade signifying nothing.

What necessitated the Savior's birth was our sin. Sin destroyed the relationship that Adam and Eve, and in them all mankind, had with God. It was a relationship of perfect harmony between the Creator and the created! God was pleased to be called their Father, and they were pleased to call Him Father. However, in an incomprehensible moment Adam and Eve listened to another voice than that of their Father, and followed a foreign god—the devil, Satan. Bible Christians know the event recorded in Genesis 3. In a twinkling of an eye, the relationship of the Creator and the created changed. Death and separation occurred, and fear overtook Adam and Eve. When their Father did as He always had done—He walked and talked with them in the garden—they hid from their Father. The spiral toward judgment had begun!

When we say that our sin necessitated the Savior's birth, that is not to say that the Father was under any compulsion to rescue man. He could well have washed His hands of the fallen creation. But the Father is not vindictive.

He promised a Savior, His own Son, through whom He determined to reconcile the sinner unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19)! The Father could not go back on His judgment against sin, but He determined to exact from His Son the penalty man deserved. Upon Jesus, “He laid the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

Through centuries the Father nurtured His promise; patiently He endured the weakness and foibles of His people. He exercised discipline to rescue His people from their sinful wanderings, until finally the time had come that He would redeem His promise by sending the Savior.

A meaningful Advent observance is one that is manifest by repentance in the lives of all who recognize their sin and its horrible consequence. We have sinned as we confess each Sunday – in thought, in word, and in deed. We further observe Advent with thankful hearts that God demonstrated His loving and unqualified faithfulness and love according to the dictates of His own heart—faithful in sending the Savior, and faithful in giving salvation to as many as call on His name. Because He is faithful, we celebrate Christmas with joy and thanksgiving as we wait with confidence for the return of our Lord Jesus!

**PREPARATION:** To celebrate is to commemorate a meaningful event; to sound the praises of, and to make known publicly the accomplishment of a notable person. Such celebration requires *preparation*. Advent is a time during which we prepare our heart for a meaningful, respectful, and blessed celebration of our Father’s faithfulness in keeping His promise. We prepare our heart for the celebration of the birth of the most notable personage born on earth in the person of the incarnate Lord Jesus Christ.

As we worship in spirit at the manger side, we celebrate with the shepherds the birth of the Child born of the Virgin Mary according to promise. As the shepherds returned to the fields, they praised Him Who rescued mankind from the dark hole of judgment that we may stand in the marvelous light of eternity. We praise Him as they.

Further, we celebrate the accomplishment of the Savior Who coming in the form of man made no boast of His equality with God (Philippians 2:6), but was like us in every regard except for sin. We

prepare our hearts to receive Him whose perfect life, shed blood, vicarious death, and glorious resurrection accomplished what He was sent to do. He broke down the wall of separation which man had constructed. Jesus is the manifestation of the smiling face of a reconciled Father, whose face was hidden from us because of sin (Isaiah 59:2).

We do not celebrate Jesus’ birth haphazardly or flippantly, or as an add-on to a commercial excuse for a holiday. Advent is a time of penitence, and a time of reflection on what the Father has done for us. So as not to lose the significance of what we are about to celebrate, or lose the blessing of Jesus’ birth, we take seriously the words of John, the Baptizer, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” John echoed the words of Isaiah, saying, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight’” (Matthew 3:2-3; cf. Isaiah 40). That is one part of our preparation for a blessed Christmas celebration. The other is the public praise to which we are encouraged, “*O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’ Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young*” (Isaiah 40:9-11).

They who with penitent heart have prepared for the Christmas celebration, and have imbibed the meaning of the Savior’s birth are filled with our third Advent word –

**ANTICIPATION:** As Jesus’ birth lies in the past, we *anticipate* His coming again, not in the lowliness of His birth, but in the glory of heaven. We anticipate, and look forward patiently (perhaps not so patiently?), for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ at the end of time. Such anticipation is manifest through *daily repentance*, and *faith* in the promises of the faithful God, as well as in the accomplished salvation which Jesus won for us.