

Click here to open service web page for: 2013/12/22/

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis                      Elder: Brandt Wendland  
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter  
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales  
Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan  
Church Cleaners: Kitzman              School: A. Baker

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter  
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland  
Hospitality Team 4: (Bye)  
Church Cleaners: Kitzman              School: NA

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

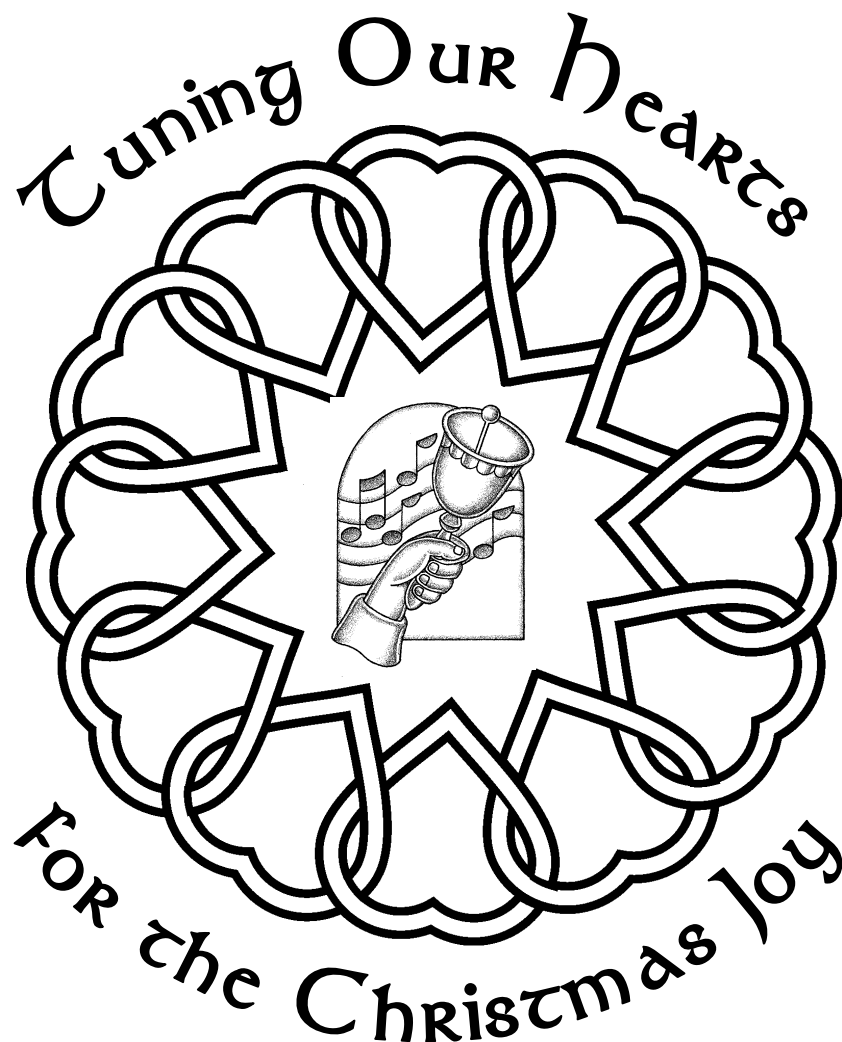
**Sun., Dec. 22:** 8:45 am – Bible Class & Sunday School (Rehearsal)  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:15 am – Hospitality  
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
 2:00 pm – Caroling  
**Tue., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship  
**Wed., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship  
**Sun., Dec. 29:** 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 Bible Cl., S.S., Hospitality suspended  
**Tue., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> Dec. 15, 2013		Sun.: 112	S.S.: 16	B.Cl.: 49	Wed.: 110
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,200.00	CLC:	\$730.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$310.00	CLC:	\$120.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,000.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-490.00	CLC:	-110.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:.	Grace:	\$148,168.36	CLC:	\$48,905.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	150,000.00	CLC:	48,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,831.64	CLC:	+905.00	
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	157,000.00	CLC:	50,000.00	
GLC Other:	714.18	Living Faith:	50.00	Tuition Aid:	100.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	30.00	IIF:	50.00
Current Balances:	Fire Alarm:	-1,287.19	Projection:	+117.07	
	Tuition Aid:	+2,932.92	(\$9,350 would cover 6 students in Jan.)		

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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# 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 CONFESSION

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 4

Date: December 22, 2013

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 702: As Angels Joyed with One Accord  
TLH 359: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies  
WS 797: Sing Praise to the God of Israel  
TLH 91, st. 1-5: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 24, p. 128

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)  
Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Luke 1:57-66

### Sermon: Luke 1:67-79

(67) Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: (68) "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, (69) And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, (70) As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, (71) That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, (72) To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, (73) The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: (74) To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, (75) In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. (76) "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, (77) To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, (78) Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; (79) To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## "Tuning Our Hearts for the Christmas Joy with the Song of Zacharias"

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Caroling:** Today there will be a caroling outing, the group meeting at the church at 2 pm. The hope is to sing to a few of our shut-ins and elderly members. Please let Pastor know of your involvement.
- ◆ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *Christmas: A Celebration of Life*. The kids are asked to be here 1/2 an hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through some things. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00 am, Tuning Our Hearts for the Christmas Joy with the Song of the Angels. Come worship the newborn king!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **New Years Eve:** On New Years Eve we will be having a 7 pm worship service 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. If you have any questions, please speak with Trudy Wales.
- ◆ **Catechism Class:** Class will be suspended on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on Jan. 8.
- ◆ **2014 Cleaning:** The 2014 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 December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **Christmas Greetings:** Missionary Joythi Benjamin from India has relayed Christmas greetings from our brothers and sisters in Christ from the CLCI. This is posted on the narthex bulletin board.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** All Parts for Christmas Eve

### 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
- Trustee: Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson

# Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Dear Members of Grace, and friends, in Christ,



In this season of celebration we extend to you all our wishes for a blessed and most joyous Christmas in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with grateful hearts that we serve and live among you because it gives us the opportunity to share with you and rejoice with you in the exceedingly rich love of God the Father, which He made known in the Christ-Child.

“The grace of God which brings salvation has appeared unto all men.” This is the joyous theme of every Christmas! Jesus is the face that gives that rich grace meaning, and the redemption unto salvation that we know in Him is the ultimate expression of grace.

May you and yours find your peace and hope in Him this season and in the New Year. In a world so disoriented may you find hope in believing the Word of Scripture,

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

Pastor Hein & Janelle,  
Christina, Abbie, Emily, David, Julianna, & Daniel

*O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forthshineth.*

*He whom the sea And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son, With us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.*

*Thy light and grace Our guilt efface,  
Thy heavenly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell  
The power of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.*

*Thou Christian heart, Whoe'er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!  
For God's own Child, In mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him; - how greatly God must love thee!*

## LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

How closely heaven and earth are drawn  
When God sends forth His Son,  
And gives the world the grandest Gift  
Forgiveness, everyone.

Our life begins when Jesus comes  
And draws us to Himself  
And causes us to kneel before  
That rustic cattle shelf

**LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, MY FRIENDS,  
LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING.**

The angels could not be contained  
But on that holy night  
They burst the gates of heaven and  
Appeared in glorious light.

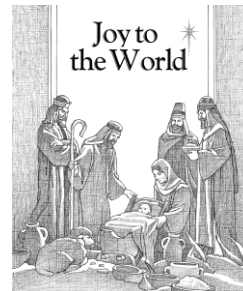
“All glory be to God on high  
And peace on earth to men.”  
The Shepherds were the first to hear  
On plains of Bethlehem.

**LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, MY FRIENDS,  
LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING.**

As snow flakes gently fall and make  
The hills and valleys white  
A squirrel scampers up a tree  
A walnut in his bite.

A blue jay darts from branch to branch  
A white tail takes its flight  
A rabbit scurries cross the snow  
God's nature – what a sight!

**LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, MY FRIENDS,  
LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING**



**It's Christmas in the country and  
It's Christmas everywhere  
Where'er the Christ Child enters in  
And makes the hearts aware.**

**That in Him we have life indeed  
And it shall never end  
We thus shall join the chorus as  
A prayer we upward send**

**LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, MY FRIENDS,  
LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING...**

By Rev. L. D. Redlin (based on TLH 87: Joy to the World)



## **Contemplation, Preparation, Anticipation—NOW CELEBRATION**

As the season of Advent passes, we move on to CELEBRATION. At Christmas we celebrate the most meaningful event in the history of the world. We cannot celebrate it more meaningfully than to listen to the angelic message which those blessed shepherds heard in the dark of night on the fields near Bethlehem. In the darkness of our night in this world in which confusion reigns in many hearts, and fear makes many hearts quake, the message is still loud and clear:

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 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, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:10-14)!

At Christmas we celebrate the faithfulness of God Who promised the Savior, and in the fullness of time sent Him. We celebrate the birth of God’s incarnate Son by whose faithfulness to His task—suffering and dying in our place—has washed us of our sin, and reconciled us unto God, so that we can confidently call the God of heaven our Father. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ whose resurrection from the dead has extended life beyond the days of our years in this world of sin and grief to eternity free from all sin and grief. All that the gracious God did and all that Jesus accomplished is God’s gift to the world—the Gift of gifts *enjoyed by all who believe* in the Child of Bethlehem!

*To all who believe in Jesus Christ*, Christmas time is the time of celebration of the Gift that keeps on giving—from time to eternity—for none who believe in Him shall perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)!

In time and history, each believer personally waits for his (her) translation into eternity, the final deliverance of soul and body to the heavenly home. While waiting, we are beset with trial and affliction, sorrow and woe. But in Christ we know that such difficulties are not punishment, for the punishment for our sin has been laid on Jesus. There is no double jeopardy for God’s people. We need not bear what Christ has already borne and paid for. How then shall we look on our present difficulties? Scripture tells us that whom the Lord loves He chastens (Hebrews 12:5-6). Chastening serves to our benefit (1 Peter 1:6-7). It directs us back to the manger and the cross.

King Hezekiah was sick and near death (Isaiah 38:1). With bitter tears he prayed to the Lord. The Lord heard his prayer and added years to the king’s life. When he recovered from his sickness, he gave thanks. Part of that word of thanksgiving was, “Indeed *it was for my own peace That* I had great

bitterness; But You have lovingly *delivered* my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back” (Isaiah 38:17). Is that not a reason for celebration and thanksgiving?! As with every other word of Scripture it is true, “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:11). Is that not also a reason for celebration and thanksgiving?

Hezekiah’s experience demonstrates that we need not wait for eternity to know Christmas joy. Indeed, the joy of Christmas now finds substance in the abiding presence of the Lord Jesus whose birth brought immediate joy to the shepherds. They celebrated it. First of all, they made widely known what they had heard concerning the Savior (Luke 2:17), and they returned to their menial task “glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.” (Luke 2:20). Do not overlook the last words of that passage. “As it was told unto them” celebrates the faithfulness of the Father, as well as the reliability of His Word!

As we recognize that another advent is past—we might better say advent season—we are still in the time of contemplation, preparation, and anticipation. Throughout the year coming there is reason to contemplate daily the abounding love of God shown to the benefit of our body and soul. Daily we will go to the Lord in sorrow and repentance for the many sins by which we have offended His majesty, and most surely as we believe the Word we will anticipate the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Who at that moment will translate our waiting into fulfilled reality.

What our Heavenly Father planned in eternity—all that pertains to our salvation—and what He accomplished in time through His Son, our Savior, is the foundation of our Christmas celebration. To the extent that our feeble hearts and stammering tongues can do so, let such celebration be known through joining the shepherds in openly, boldly, and unashamedly glorifying and praising the Lord before the world. Let such celebration be heard, but also let it be witnessed through living unto Him from whom we have life, and in whom we live in hope and confidence as we await His triumphant advent to take us home!

Christmas worshipers, rejoice! “For He is coming to judge the earth, with righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity” (Psalm 98:9). Celebrate at the manger side as you wait for Jesus’ return in glory. Say with the Psalmist “He only is my rock and salvation, He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength and my refuge, is in God” (Psalm 62:6-7).

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2013