

Click here to open service web page for:2013/12/29/

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner      Elder: Brandt Wendland  
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

## ✠ 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 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel  
Church Cleaners: Kirkham      School: NA

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Dec. 29:** 10:00 am – Worship Service  
**Tue., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper  
**Sun., Jan. 5:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
                   10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper  
                   11:15 am – Hospitality  
**Wed., Jan. 8:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students Resumes  
**Wed., Jan. 15:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes

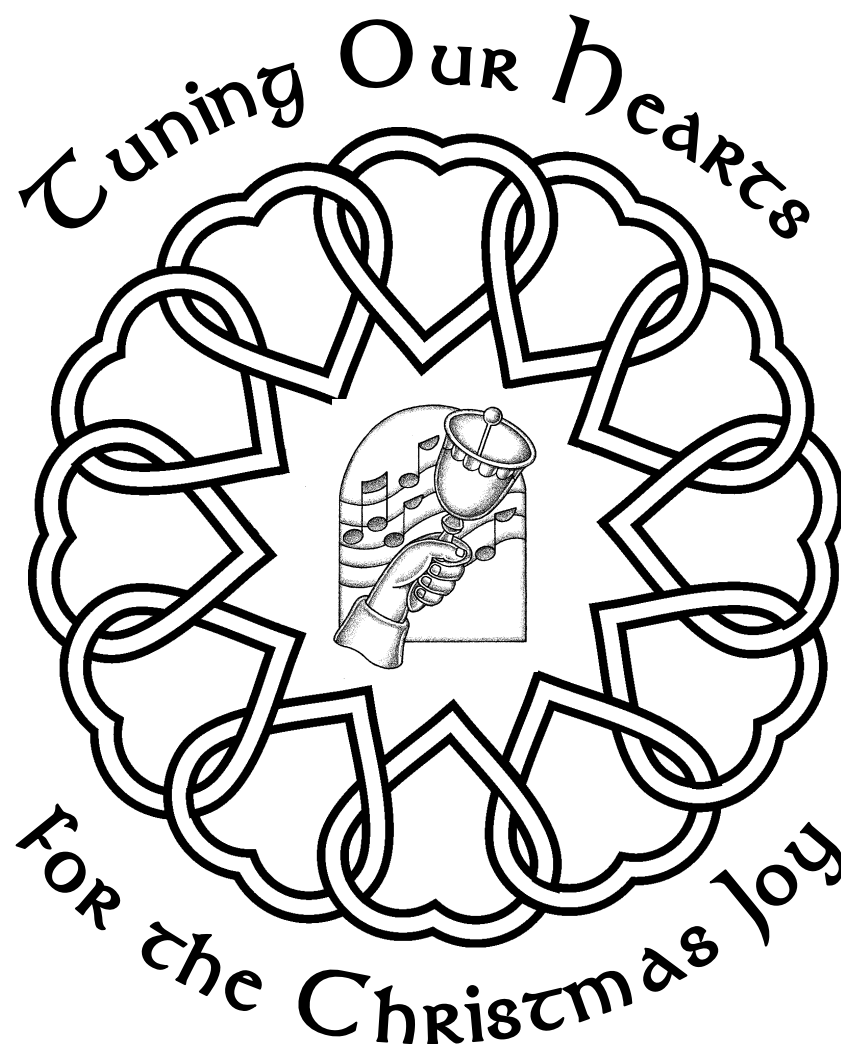
**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 22, 2013 Sun.: 150 S.S.: 24 Eve: 169 Day: 101

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,840.00	CLC:	\$1,160.00
Christmas Eve Offering:	Grace:	\$790.00	CLC:	\$100.00
Christmas Day Offering:	Grace:	\$1,055.00	CLC:	\$1,065.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,500.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+2,185.00	CLC:	+1,325.00
Year-to-Date Offering:.	Grace:	\$153,853.36	CLC:	\$51,230.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	153,500.00	CLC:	49,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+353.36	CLC:	+905.00
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	157,000.00	CLC:	50,000.00
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	-3,146.64	CLC:	+1,230.00
GLC Other: 2,138.45	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	570.00
SAF Endowment: 25.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	165.00
ILC Student Aid: 225.00	ILC Bldg.	45.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Fire Alarm:	-1,078.94	Projection:	+142.07
	Tuition Aid:	+3,672.92	(\$9,350 would cover 6 students in Jan.)	

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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## Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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

Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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:** Christmas 1

**Date:** December 29, 2013

### ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

#### **Hymns:**

TLH 136: Angels from the Realms of Glory

TLH 138: Thou Light of Gentile Nations

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart (bulletin)

Born of Mary, God's Begotten (bulletin)

#### **Worship Prep:**

Psalms 2, p. 123

#### **Liturgy:**

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 106, st. 4,7

#### **Scripture Readings:**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Galatians 4:4-7

#### **Sermon: Luke 2:25-33**

(25) And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (26) And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (27) So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, (28) he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: (29) "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; (30) For my eyes have seen Your salvation (31) Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, (32) A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." (33) And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

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

### **Born of Mary, God's Begotten**

By Chad Sybyt 2013 (Son of Trudy Wales)

Sung to tune of 'Hymn of Joy' (WS 738)

Born of Mary, God's Begotten, Here on earth, incarnate Word.

Born to die for man's salvation, Gentle Baby, Lord of lords.

"Do not fear, behold, I bring you Tidings of great peace and joy:

Born to you in David's city Is God's promised little Boy."

Sleeping soundly in a manger, Savior wrapped in swaddling clothes

Is adored by shepherd strangers, And the Babe's angelic host.

When they saw the Christ, Messiah, They made Him more widely known,

Shouting hope throughout the country: "All our waiting now is done!"

Mary in her heart was pond'ring All the things her God had planned

For all men, their sins forgiving Through this Jesus – God and man.

Let us ponder, as did Mary, God's great gift of Love He's shown.

Let us run, as did the shepherds, Share this news with ev'ryone.

### ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Gratitude:** My family and I are truly thankful for the generous spirit of the congregation in sharing their prayers, cards, gifts, and encouragement this Christmas season. We pray that our ministry reflects our appreciation for your support. It is a privilege to share the Good News of our Savior's birth with you. May He continually be born anew in our hearts during the upcoming year as we are blessed through His Word of grace. – Pastor Hein
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Immanuel Newsletter:** This was emailed yesterday. Hardcopies are available underneath the mailboxes.
- ◆ **Offering Envelopes:** If in need of any, please inform Eli Wales.
- ◆ **2014 Cleaning:** The 2014 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross in Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to Living Hope in Appleton, WI.

## CLC E-Devotion - Monday, January 3, 2011

Luke 2:25-27a Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

### SIMEON: PREPARED FOR CHRISTMAS

Simeon lived in Jerusalem at the time Jesus was born. He was a devout man. He believed in God and he believed in God's promise to send a Savior into the world. He was waiting, we are told, "for the consolation of Israel."

With as much trouble as the Jews of the day faced (both with respect to the conquering Romans and to their own spiritual fall away from the LORD), we might think that Simeon would have lost heart, but God strengthened his faith and prepared him for Christmas in a special way. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Thus He trusted that Christmas was coming -- that the best kind of help was on the way.

Forty days after His birth, Jesus was brought to the temple in Jerusalem. This happened according to the law given in Exodus 13. It was at this time of presentation that Simeon "Moved by the Spirit ... went into the temple courts." Then Simeon saw the Child -- and His Christmas came. The Spirit had prepared his heart and had brought him to where the Baby was.

It reminds us in a certain way of our Christmas, doesn't it? For God also prepared us to see the Holy Child, just as He prepared Simeon. He prepared us during the season of Advent in which we were brought to repent of our sins and see the need we had of a Savior who would rescue us from them. In the days before Christmas we anxiously awaited the Lord's arrival, just as Simeon did, looking with longing toward the manger, hardly able to wait for the glory that would be revealed there.

And then God led us to the Child. By the same Holy Spirit that brought Simeon to the temple, we were led to the manger through the words of Luke 2 and Matthew 1. We were led into our churches where we "saw" this wonder in the making, God made flesh. Thanks be to God that He prepared our hearts and brought us to Jesus' cradle once again this season!

## In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

Words: Martin Luther; Music: Lane Fischer

The musical score is written for a single voice in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are in German and English, with the English translation provided below the German text.

1. In peace and joy I now de - part At  
2. 'Tis Christ that did this work for me, My  
3. You have to all the world shown forth Their  
4. He is the Hope and sav - ing Light Of

God's dis - pos - ing; For full of com - fort is my heart,  
faith - ful Sa - vior, Whom You have made my eyes to see  
great Sal - va - tion; And to Your king - dom calls the earth,  
lands be - night - ed; By Him are they who lived in night

Soft re - pos - ing. So the Lord has pro - mised me, And  
By Your fa - vor. Now I know He is my Life, My  
Ev' - ry na - tion, By Your true and liv - ing Word, In  
Fed and light - ed. He is Is - rael's Praise and Bliss, Their

death is but a slum - ber. So the Lord has  
Help in need and dy - ing. Now I know He  
ev' - ry place re - sound - ing. By Your true and  
Joy, Re - ward, and Glo - ry. He is Is - rael's

pro - mised me, And death is but a slum - ber.  
is my Life, My Help in need and dy - ing.  
liv - ing Word, In ev' - ry place re - sound - ing.  
Praise and Bliss, Their Joy, Re - ward, and Glo - ry.

## THINGS WE KNOW UPON ENTERING A NEW YEAR

There are hidden things of the coming year of which we do not know. God in heaven knows. God's knowledge—His omniscience—includes knowledge of all things, and all future events. He knows what shall transpire in the world. He knows the future and the number of days and years it shall remain. He knows exactly how your life will unfold in the coming year, whether good or bad.

Things concerning the future known *only* to God cannot be known by us unless God has chosen to reveal them to us in His Word. In His “all knowingness” resides, for example, the moment of our death, as well as the end of the world. Of all the things He has revealed to us in Scripture the *moment* of our death, and the *time* of His coming at the end of the world, are not among them. As relates to what it is that He has not told us, we wait on His gracious will to be done, at which time we will know.

The omniscience of God is one reason unbelievers deny and reject Him. They who wallow in unbelief do not want to be confronted with the fact that there is One Who knows the wickedness of the deepest recesses of the heart, and passes judgment on unbelief and evil. The unbeliever's response to Truth is to deny reality. On the other hand, the omniscience of God is a *comfort* to the child of God who has been restored to a Father/child relationship through the reconciliation effected by the Lord Jesus.

Our Father knows our sin also. At the same time, He knows the sorrow of those who are contrite of heart and tremble at His Word. He knows the need of our body and soul. He knows when we are hurting, lonely, troubled and afflicted. He knows the groaning of our heart and the thoughts of our heart even before we ask. He knows when we are beset by evil in this world, and are maligned by those who speak evilly of Christ-believers. He knows because He is God. He knows because the incarnate Son of God was tested in every way as we, except without sin.

We are content to know that God knows what we do not know! We have no need to speculate about what God knows that we don't. We are better served to know and believe what God has told us in His revealed Word! What are some things we know as we enter the New Year—2014 years since the birth of Christ?

We know in the coming year the devil will walk about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). We know that we are in the last times—the last times have been since the coming of Christ, the whole New Testament era. We know that the last times will be perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1-5). We know that false teachers will arise, walking according to their own lust, denying even the Lord's coming (2 Peter 3). We know that all must stand before the judgment seat of God—both believer and unbeliever (2 Corinthians 5:10). We know that God will judge the world in righteousness by that Man (Christ) whose birth we have just celebrated (Acts 17:31). We further know that those who have loved the world and the things of the world, and who rejected the Lord Jesus will be condemned (Matthew 13:42). We know that those who wasted their time in triviality and in sleeping (spiritually) will not be invited into the marriage feast in heaven (Matthew 25:5,12). They will be among those who gnash their teeth (Luke 13:28) at the appearance of the Lord Jesus. This is not speculation. This is truth. You can look it up!

We know further by way of contrast that they who are prepared in faith for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will enter into the joy of heaven (Matthew 25: 7,10; Matthew 25:34). Until we arrive at that glorious day we will rejoice in what we know concerning the attainment of that day. We know that the Lord Jesus, true God and true Man was born into the world according to promise (Luke 2). We know that our eternal salvation, free to us, was not without price. It cost the Lord Jesus His very life-blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). We know that Jesus fulfilled the righteous demands of the Law for us, and in our place (Isaiah 53:4-6). We know that the Father in heaven accepted His sacrifice for sin—our sin having been laid upon Him (2 Corinthians 5:19)—for Jesus rose again from the dead as witness to having satisfied the Father's demands (Resurrection accounts), and restored life (John 14:19). We know that our salvation is of grace and not of our works or merit. It is a free gift (Ephesians 2:8). We know that He ascended into heaven to prepare a place for all who believe in Him (John 14:2), and will come again to take His children where He is (John 14:3).

We know that Jesus died for all people (2 Corinthians 5:15), and took away the sins of the world, without exception (John 1:29). We know that they who are in possession of the precious gift of life in heaven have received it by no power of their own (2 Timothy 1:9), but possess saving faith only by the working of the Spirit of God (Titus 3:5). We know that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16-17). We know that in His time, at the moment settled already in the heart of the Father, Jesus will come again and the trusting, waiting children of God shall be with the Lord (2 Thessalonians 4:14-16). This is not speculation. It is truth. You can look it up!

While waiting for the glorious day we know something else. We are called to speak the Truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), and to share the blessed Gospel message (Matthew 28:18-20).

Finally, we know that in the coming year we will have trial and tribulation of different sorts (John 16:33). The same passage tells us something else of which we are sure. Jesus said, “I have overcome the world,” for which reason He told His disciples, “Be of good cheer.”

As you enter the new year with all its uncertainties and raucous noise, be confident that as you believe what you know from God's Word, you will know the good cheer to which the Lord encourages when He assures you: “For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord Who has mercy on you” (Isaiah 54:10).

What we know removes any concern about what we don't know. In the final analysis, inasmuch as you know that you have not been redeemed by corruptible things, but by the holy, precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1: 18), and that *you are known by the Savior* (John 10:14, 2 Timothy 2:19), what more do you need to know as you enter the new year, and wait for the dawning eternity?

That you may continue to know and to believe in Him, “Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom ...” (Colossians 3:16).

A blessed New Year to you in the knowledge of Him Who knows you with an everlasting love. Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2013