

Click here to open service web page for:2014/12/07/

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Phil Radichel

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,
Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey
Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School: Hein

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Mike Dick, Arnold
Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;
Pat Paplow

Hospitality Team 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Rachelle Kanneh;
Bob & Suki Vandever

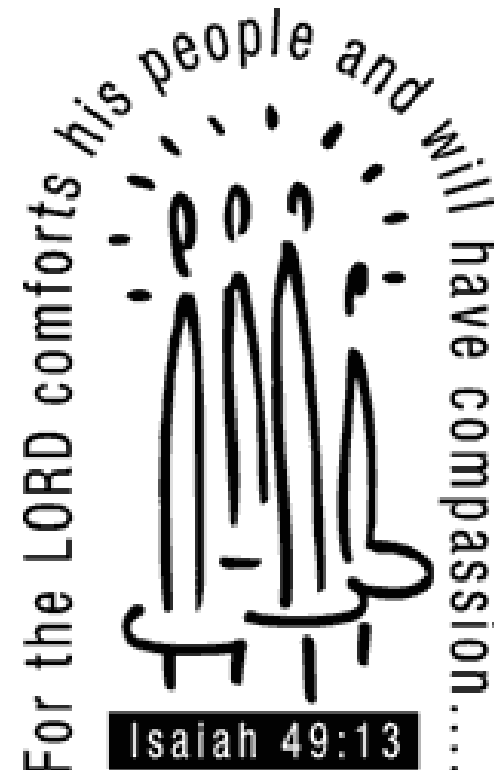
Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School: Miller

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 7:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Luncheon
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 10:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Sun., Dec. 14:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
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. 17:** 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert at Northtown Mall
4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship
- Fri., Dec. 19:** 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 21:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal; 12:00 Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Thu., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
- Sun., Dec. 28:** 10 am – Worship Service
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Wed., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper
8:00 pm – New Year's Eve Fellowship
- Sat., Jan. 3:** 1:00 pm – Hein/Noeldner Wedding

Grace Lutheran Church & School



Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



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

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Advent 2

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: December 7, 2014

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 701: Prepare the Royal Highway

TLH 272: When All the World was Cursed

TLH 61: Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Communion: TLH 304; TLH 65

TLH 95:5-7: Savior of the Nations, Come

Worship Prep:

Psalm 85, TLH p. 140

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Readings:

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. ² "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins." ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." ⁹ 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!" ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. (NKJVTM)

COMFORT FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Services:

Wed., Dec. 3 – 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 10 – 7:00 pm

Special meditations on
Isaiah's Royal Prophecies,
seeing how Jesus is our
coming King to conquer our
enemies and rule within us.

Candlelight Service:

Wed., Dec. 17 – 7:00 pm

A service of readings & hymns
along with the lighting of
candles to celebrate the light
of Christ's rule in our hearts.

Preceded by Congregational
Christmas Meal @ 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service:

Wed., Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm

A service in which the
children present the
timeless and treasured
Christmas message, as
we give "Glory to the
Newborn King"



Christmas Day Service:

Thu., Dec. 25 – 10:00 am

A service in which we
ponder the fulfillment of
Christ being our King,
as "God With Us."

GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!

- ♦ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held on Sun., Dec. 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ♦ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year will be held on Fri., Dec. 19, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. There is a signup list for the trip by the guestbook.
- ♦ **Immanuel Positions:** Immanuel is hiring a new dormitory supervisor for our female students and a new food services manager/head cook. Job descriptions are available from your pastor. To apply, please contact ILC President Steven Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu / 715.836.6620) prior to the deadline on January 11, 2015.
- ♦ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students. There will be no Catechism on Dec. 24 and 31.
- ♦ **Book of Poetry Available:** Pastor Chad Seybt of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, WY has recently published a book of devotional poetry entitled *And Then, Eternity: Poems from a Pilgrim on the Narrow Way*. The book also includes an appendix that gives the story behind each of the Biblically based poems. The cost of the book is \$5 (plus shipping), and may be ordered directly through Pastor Seybt via email at cmseybster@yahoo.com.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Doug Priestap of Resurrection in Calgary, AB, Canada, has accepted the call to Grace in Live Oak, FL. † Pastor John Hein of Grace in Fridley, MN, has returned the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI.
- ♦ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** All Parts for Christmas Eve

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 30, 2014 Sun.: 122 B.Cl.: 48 S.S.: 31 Wed.: 68

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,981.01	CLC:	\$540.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	1,165.00	CLC	100.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,200.00	CLC:	1,040.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+946.01	CLC:	-400.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$153,822.03	CLC:	\$48,510.15	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	153,600.00	CLC:	49,920.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+222.03	CLC:	-1,409.85	
GLC Other:	498.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	350.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	+1,170.00	Tuition Aid:	+3,434.12	

The following is the nomination slate for 2015:

- President: Eli Wales
- Vice President: Mike Dick
- Secretary: Michael Ude
- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
- Elder: Al Rosendahl, Benno Sydow
- Education: Chad Hestekin, Roger Ochsner
- Trustee: Kevin Baker, Pat Paplow

BORN TO DIE

The time of waiting for the birth of a child is a time of anticipation on the part of parents-to-be—with the exception of those who choose to abort (kill) the child in the womb. The season of Advent is a season of such anticipation as we await the celebration of the birth of the Savior who 2014 years ago was born in Bethlehem. With the arrival of Christmas the Advent anticipation of Christ-believers turns to fullness of joy as the Savior of the world was born according to prophecy. "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7: 14). The unidentified virgin of Isaiah is revealed to us in Luke when the angel appeared to a young virgin. Mary was told, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus" (Luke 1:31). Immanuel (God with us) was given a personal name defined to Joseph, both as to meaning and purpose, upon the announcement to him of what was about to occur, "... That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she ('Mary, your wife') will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1: 20-21).

We can believe that Jesus had a normal childhood. We are told that "He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). No doubt He worked in Joseph's carpenter shop. We don't know anything about the parenting skills of Mary and Joseph; however, the young lad growing up in their home was a model boy—unique before His time and after, for He had no sin, a lad without deceit and guile. (2 Corinthians 5:21).

We anticipate the celebration of His birth and rejoice in it as Christ-believers Who confess regularly in the Apostolic Creed: "I believe in Jesus Christ, His (the Heavenly Father's) only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..." and with the explanation of this miracle of love as expressed by Martin Luther in the second article of the 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..."

It is sad and unfortunate that the real reason for the joy of Christmas has been co-opted by the crass commercialism that has been yoked to Christmas. We do well to pause and refocus each Advent and Christmas season to keep the seasons in perspective:

Rejoice, for thy salvation, O Israel, draweth nigh.
O Zion, bring oblation, your King comes from on high;
Comes not in royal splendor, no crown bedecks His head.
But as an Infant tender, laid in a manger bed.

He comes, the Lord all-glorious, with healing in His wings;
He comes to reign victorious, all life and hope He brings.
He comes to end death's terror, to triumph o'er the grave,
To blot out sin's dark error, and ransomed souls to save.

Since the consequence of sin is death (Romans 6:23a), and since the consequence of sin is everlasting condemnation, and since it is not possible for the sinner to avoid death, much less redeem himself or his brother (Psalm

49:7), it took another, someone unique, to accomplish what fallen man cannot. Hence, Jesus came to blot out sin's error, and to end death's terror. He came to ransom souls from death and condemnation, but at a price!

We see this foreshadowed in the Old Testament. When Abraham was told to sacrifice his son, Isaac, God provided a substitute (Genesis 22). Consequently Abraham offered a ram in the place of Isaac. The sacrifice of a lamb for the sins of the people was performed in the Old Testament time and again. Though it was to be a perfect lamb of the flock, there was no intrinsic value in the lamb as such. But God's word and promise made the sacrifice and blood of the lamb what it was, and what it was was a shadow of things to come—a shadow of One to come in whom were rich blessings for those who believed God's Word then, and now in fulfillment. Since "...without the shedding of blood there is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22), and since "it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4), it took a nobler sacrifice to take away sin and overcome death. And so we sing of Jesus, the Son of God and Mary's son.

He comes so poor and lowly to make us rich and pure;
The Son of God most holy sin's pain comes to endure;
From heav'n's angelic nation descends to earth to die,
That we, through His salvation, might reign with Him on high.

The anticipation of Christ's birth, and the joy of Christmas is fulfilled in the heart of all who recognize their sin, and who recognize that JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE. God provided a substitute for Isaac; there was no substitute for Jesus. He was the Substitute! Jesus acknowledged this and rejoiced to do the will of the Father in our behalf though He knew exactly what this meant. "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour" (John 12:27).

Christ was born into the world as the perfect Lamb of God to bear the sins of all and as foreshadowed by the Old Testament sacrifices to shed His blood by which we are washed and cleansed, and through which we have forgiveness of sins.

Man was created to live forever. By his sin, he earned death and condemnation (Romans 6:23a). Jesus was born to die and restored life (Romans 6:23b)—the grandest exchange ever. *That is what Christmas is really all about.* Rejoice!

So we eagerly anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Savior and rejoice at His birth, even as we await the grand finale of which the Lord has told us, "...To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).

O Lord of love and glory, Thou everlasting King,
May this sweet, joyful story Thy ransomed people sing!
Oh, grant that we may praise Thee while here on earth we stay,
And endless anthems raise Thee in heaven's eternal day.

(Hymn is from The Lutheran Witness of Dec. 10, 1940)

Article Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2014

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Maynard Hammond has returned home to receive in-home care after being in the care center. May the Lord comfort him and tend to his and Dorothy's every need, spiritually and bodily.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wed., December 10 and 17, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on Dec. 17 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 17. 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. 7: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 14: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 21: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly in order to get through everything)December is a busy month, but these rehearsals are important for a successful Christmas Eve service. The last rehearsal on December 21 is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. The children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well, as is evident by how well things have gone the past few years.
- ◆ **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: *Glory to the Newborn King!* 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.
- ◆ **2015 Cleaning:** The 2015 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **New Year's Eve:** On New Year's 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.
- ◆ **Wedding Invitation:** An invitation to the Abbie Hein/Nathan Noeldner wedding at 1 pm on Jan. 3 is posted on the bulletin board by the office.
- ◆ **Parking Reminder:** For those members who are able, please park further away to permit those with physical impairments to be able to park closer to the church.
- ◆ **Parking Lot:** To make a contribution toward replacing this, write in "Parking Lot" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.