

Click here to open service web page for: 2014/12/14/

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Maureen Ochsner** Elder: **Brandt Wendland**

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**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales**

Hospitality Team 5: **Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel**

Church Cleaners: **Kitzman** School: **Miller**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Dec. 14: 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: 4:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert Bus Departs
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert

Sun., Dec. 21: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
9:00 am – Bible Class ?????
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

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

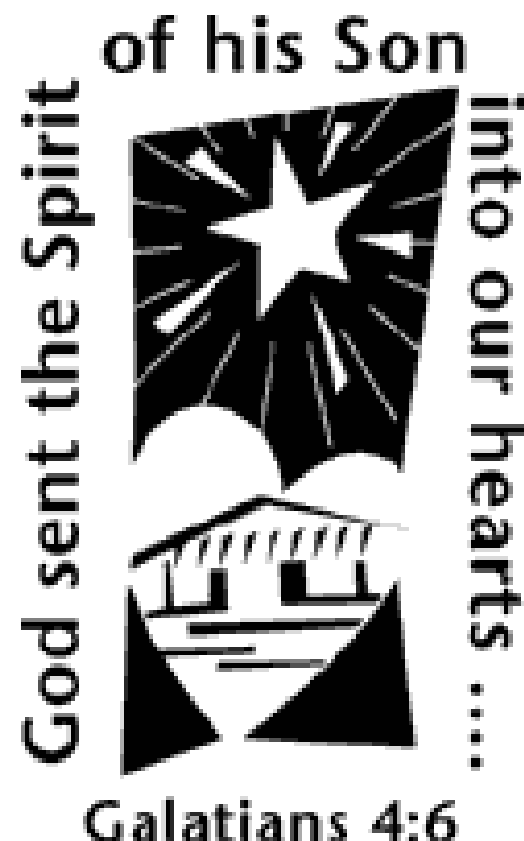
Thu., Dec. 25: 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

Sun., Dec. 28: 10:00 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.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-8th

Church Year: Advent 3

Date: December 14, 2014

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 55: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come
TLH 234: Holy Ghost, with Light Divine
TLH 77:1-2,11-15: All My Heart This Night Rejoices
TLH 95:5-7: Savior of the Nations, Come

Worship Prep:

Psalm 146, TLH p. 156

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5
Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

(16) Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit. (20) Do not despise prophecies. (21) Test all things; hold fast what is good. (22) Abstain from every form of evil. (23) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (NKJV™)

COOKING UP THE IDEAL HOLIDAY RECIPE OF CHEER

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Candlelight Worship:** This Wednesday at 7 pm will be our annual candlelight service with hymns and Bible readings. We continue our meditations on Isaiah's Royal Prophecies.
- ◆ **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. Committee #2 is hosting.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** Here are the remaining rehearsals:
 - ◆ 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)
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Caroling:** Next Sunday afternoon a caroling outing is planned at 2 pm. The hope is to sing to a few of our shut-ins.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Frieda Aden was hospitalized for a couple of days this past week. May the Lord be with her and keep her as His!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital is today at 3:00 pm.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year is this Fri., Dec. 19, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. There is a signup list for the trip by the guestbook. Plans are for the bus to depart around 4:30 pm.
- ◆ **Immanuel Positions:** Immanuel is hiring a new dormitory supervisor for our female students and a new food services manager/head cook. To apply, please contact ILC President Steven Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu / 715.836.6620) prior to January 11, 2015.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Immanuel in Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Redemption in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area). ✠ Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke's in Lemmon, SD, has received the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI. ✠ Pastor Burgess Huehn, received by colloquy, has accepted the call to Trinity in Millston, WI.
- ◆ **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

IMMANUEL

In the uniqueness of the divine God-head the pre-incarnate Son of God was Immanuel, even as He was Immanuel in His incarnate state, and is the God-Man Immanuel in His ascended state. As there never was a time when God was not, so there has never been a time that Christ was not IMMANUEL--God with us!

The Pre-incarnate Immanuel

"In the *beginning* was the Word and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:1-3). In the garden Adam and Eve "heard the sound of the *Lord God walking in the garden* in the cool of the day..." (Genesis 3:8). "*I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob*, as God Almighty, but by my name LORD I was not known to them" (Exodus 6:3). When Israel fled Egypt, "*The LORD went before them* by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light..." (Exodus 13:21). Not only was Israel provided direction and light; they had protection as "*The Angel of God (the Son of God), who went before the camp* of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud *went from before them and stood behind them*" (Exodus 14:19). The Lord said to Joshua, ""No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses so *I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you*" (Joshua 1:5). To Joshua the people said, "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only *the LORD your God will be with you, as He was with Moses*" (Joshua 1:17). "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, *You are there*; if I make my bed in hell, behold *You are there*. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there *Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me*...My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. *Your eyes saw my substance being yet unformed*." (Psalm 139). When men of God were thrown into the fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar was astonished, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt,,, and the form of the fourth is *like the Son of God*" (Daniel 3:25). "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; for I have called *you* by your name; *You are Mine*. When you pass through the waters, *I will be with you*; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. *For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior...*" (Isaiah 43: 1-2).

God's Promise: Forever

"Hear now, O house of David...the Lord Himself will give you a sign: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name **IMMANUEL**'" (Isaiah 7:14). And so it happened according to the word of the Lord spoken through the prophet, saying: "'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **IMMANUEL**' which is translated, '*God with us*'" (Matthew 1:23). And she brought forth her

firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger..." (Luke 2:7). Of the Son of Mary the centurion at the cross declared, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39). We would amend the statement of the centurion and say, "Truly He was and is, "God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God" (Nicene Creed), Immanuel, God with us!

The Incarnate Immanuel

The whole New Testament abounds with incidents where Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry, embraced the children, cast out demons, comforted the sorrowing, taught the inquiring, raised the dead. Jesus was there. As Jesus went up on the mountain to pray, the disciples were toiling in a storm on the sea when suddenly they "*saw him walking on the sea*." He stepped into the boat and calmed the storm (Matthew 14:26, 32). After His resurrection Jesus appeared to the weeping Mary (John 20). He appeared to the Emmaus disciples (Luke 24), and also to His fearful disciples who were behind locked doors (John 20). Yet again He appeared on the sea-shore where the disciples enjoyed breakfast provided them by the Lord (John 21).

For our life while on this earth, as well as for the mission He assigned to His Church before His ascension, He promised us for our comfort and peace of heart, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

The Ascended Immanuel

Immanuel's promise is eternal. As He told Joshua, so the LORD has told us in Hebrews 13:5, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you*."

Day by day Immanuel is "God with us." His unseen presence is with us. He is with us in His holy Word, and in the Sacraments. He is with us in every fruit of faith or act of kindness that He generates in the heart of those who weep with us in our sorrow, comfort us in our distress, help us in our need, and strengthen us in our weakness.

How blessed we are not only each Christmas time but every minute, of every day, of every year, of every decade, that we have the eternal Immanuel with us until the ages end and the circle is complete as it comes to pass for believers in Christ Who prayed in His grand high-priestly prayer, "*Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them*" (John 17: 24-26).

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