

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Chad Hestekin, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin

Counting Team 4: Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; James Bomber

Hospitality Team 4: James & April Bomber; Rachelle Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: Kanneh

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt, Charles Davis, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner, Ned Sandhoefner

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

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 6:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 9:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
- Thu., Dec. 10:** 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert at Northtown Mall
- Sun., Dec. 13:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 16:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship
- Fri., Dec. 18:** 4:00 pm – Missionary Evensen Commissioning @ Messiah
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 20:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal; 12:00 Council Meeting
3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling
- Thu., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Fri., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
- Sun., Dec. 27:** 10:00 am – Worship Service
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Thu., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.JustifiedByGrace.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 6, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 64: Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes

TLH 61: Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

TLH 63: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Communion: TLH 314; TLH 65

TLH 62, st. 4: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 24, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: Malachi 3:1-4

(1) "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. (2) "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. (4) "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. (NKJV™)

Purified in Christ

- 1. Prepared by the message**
- 2. Refined in the Refiner's fire**
- 3. Rendered pleasant to the LORD**

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Bible Class:** This Sunday and next Sunday, Pastor intends to present pictures and video from his trip to Liberia. This starts at 9 am.
- ◆ **Large Print Hymnals:** Due to a recent bargain, there are three copies of The Lutheran Hymnal in large print. These are by the guest book. Feel free to use these and return at the end of the worship service.
- ◆ **Northtown Concert:** The Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall earlier than normal, this Thursday, Dec. 10, 2 pm.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wed., Dec. 9 and 16, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on Dec. 16 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 16. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share. Dorcas Guild #3 is hosting.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** A signup sheet for Christmas Poinsettias is by the guest book. Please signup if you are interested in purchasing a plant for our Advent/Christmas services. For questions, consult Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
 - Sun., Dec. 6: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - Sun., Dec. 13: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - Sun., Dec. 20: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly in order to get through everything)By now the children are to know their individual and group parts. Please have them know the entire children parts by the third rehearsal. The last rehearsal on December 20 is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well.
- ◆ **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: *The Good Shepherd is Born!* The kids are asked to be here 1/2 hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 23 and 30.
- ◆ **2016 Cleaning:** The 2016 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.
- ◆ **Parking Lot:** To make a contribution toward replacing this, write in "Parking Lot" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ◆ **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.

- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year will be held on Fri., Dec. 18, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. There is a signup list by the guestbook should you like to ride the bus to the concert.
- ◆ **Immanuel Christmas Events:** As Christmas approaches, there are a few upcoming Immanuel (ILC) events. On Sun., Dec. 13, 3 pm, there will be the piano/organ recital at the campus fieldhouse. The highlight of the music department will be the Christmas concert at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Fri., Dec. 18, 7:30 pm. This will include the flute choir, band, mass choir, and tour choir. The choir portion of the event is considered a sacred worship service as the students sing the Christmas Gospel message. This is always a spiritually edifying concert to help one focus, even in the midst of the busy holiday season, on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This concert ends the busy Finals Week for the students as they conclude their first semester of the academic year with their various tests and projects. We pray the students will safely arrive at their homes in order to enjoy Christmas break with their families. The students resume classes on Jan. 11.
- ◆ **Invitation:** The Commissioning of CLC Foreign Missionary Peter Evensen will take place at 4:00 pm on Fri., Dec. 18 (prior to the ILC Christmas Concert) at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI
- ◆ **Immanuel Maintenance Position:** With the retirement of Ron Porath at the end of March, Immanuel Lutheran College will have a vacancy in the position of a full-time maintenance man. Interested applicants may direct inquiries about the position, applications, and resumes to ILC president, Prof. Steve Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu or 715-836-6620). The deadline for applications is January 10.
- ◆ **ILC President Nominations:** The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Steve Sippert expires June 30, 2016. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Nominations must be written or E-mailed no later than midnight January 5, 2016 to: Mr. Craig Ryan; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131; E-Mail: cryan@page1printers.com.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Prof. John Pfeiffer has announced his retirement from ILC in Eau Claire, WI, effective the end of this academic year.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Recitations

The following is the nomination slate for 2016:

- President: Eli Wales
- Vice President: Roger Ochsner, Ryan Oman
- Secretary: Fred Dauer, Roger Ochsner
- Treasurer: Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Elder: Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Education: Phil Flesner, Pat Paplow
- Trustee: Phil Flesner, Pat Paplow

ADVENT

The season of Advent is a time of waiting, watching, expectation, and anticipation. It is a season of preparation as children of God look forward to the return of the promised Lord.

From the moment of the Heavenly Father's promise of Jesus' birth (Genesis 3:15), the time of the Old Testament could be equated with what we call "Advent."

To the time of Jesus' birth, the patriarchs and prophets were watchers and waiters. Think of Simeon and Anna (Luke 2). They watched and waited for the fulfillment of the promised Messiah's birth. This era of waiting ended, **"When the fullness of time had come, [and] God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons"** (Galatians 4:4-5). The Heavenly Father himself selected the time, and the place, as well as the participants through whom He fulfilled His promise to send the Savior Who would save sinners from eternal ruin. What a joyous time for such as Simeon and Anna! Simeon gave voice to the reality that there was more to come (Luke 2:29-32)! Anna joyfully spoke of it to those who looked for redemption (Luke 2:38).

In the New Testament age, we celebrate Advent with an appreciation of the past, and an eager anticipation of the future.

We too are watchers. We are watching, not for His birth which is an historical reality. We are waiting, sometimes impatiently, for the *return* of our Lord Jesus Christ in judgment, a judgment which Christ believers do not fear. As children of God we watch because our Father has so commanded us, and because we yearn for the life of heaven which will be free of our own weaknesses as well as of the misery and evil associated with life on earth.

In the meantime we celebrate. But what makes our celebrations different from those in which the world engages? As children of God we celebrate matters related to our faith and hope. Each Christmas, ushered in with the Advent season, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, long promised and in God's time sent into the world in Bethlehem. Every Easter we celebrate the Savior's resurrection. This too is history.

Our present advent hope of Jesus' return to usher His children into heaven is confirmed by past advent hopes fulfilled. At Christmas we celebrate the faithfulness of our Father in sending the Savior. At Easter we celebrate the faithfulness of the Father in confirming our salvation by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our Christmas celebration would be incomplete without Easter, and our Easter joy would have been impossible without Christmas: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:6-3).

Peter wrote "to the ... elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father" whom he addressed as "pilgrims of the Dispersion ..." This Advent season his words still resonate in the heart of the elect who, as pilgrims in this evil world, penitently wait for the fulfillment of the Lord's promise. He said, "Surely I am coming quickly." To that believing hearts reply, "Even so, come Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20)!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2015

From Pastor Samuel in Liberia

Dear Pastor John Hein, We the family of the Children Against Force Labor Organization wish you and the congregation more blessings to come in all of your activities. Pastor Hein, the staff and the children of the school extends you and the church many thanks and appreciation for your timely visit on the campus and we ask God that this is just the beginning of your visit to the school. I received the communication with clear understanding, that which has to do with Doctrinal Agreement and we feel that will be good for the children and us who will understand your teaching from God words the Bible. As for CAFOL, We are always willing to go into an agreement that teaches the truth about God and put the interest of the children first. As for reading those CLC documents that were given to me, I had read almost all, this is why I have developed the interest in the church. I hope and pray to get clear understanding of God words as time go by. Best Regards Pastor Samuel

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 29, 2015 Sun.: 109 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 41 Wed.: 61

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,434.35	CLC:	\$465.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	310.00	CLC:	50.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-595.65	CLC:	-545.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$146,022.46	CLC:	\$41,153.45	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	160,320.00	CLC:	50,880.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-14,297.54	CLC:	-9,726.55	
GLC Other:	183.45	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	80.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	75.00	Kinship:	125.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	8,836.00	Tuition Aid:	1,342.12