

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Ryan Mueller** Elder: **Benno Sydow**
Ushers: **Benno Sydow; Gary Gunther; Larry Nelson; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter**
Counting Team 3: **Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow**
Hospitality Team 2: **Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz**
Church Cleaners: **Sandhoefner** School: **Kanneh**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Benno Sydow; Gary Gunther; Larry Nelson; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter**
Counting Team 4: **James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust**
Hospitality Team 3: **Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan**
Church Cleaners: **Kitzman** School: **LaDue**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Nov. 27: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 1)
 11:00 am – Hospitality

Wed., Nov. 30: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Fri., Dec. 2: Grace School Field Trip for “Peter and the Wolf”

Sun., Dec. 4: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord’s Supper (Advent 2)
 11:00 am – Hospitality
 12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Wed., Dec. 7, 14: 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship

Sun., Dec. 11: 12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
 3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital

Fri., Dec. 16: 2:00 pm – CDS Northtown Mall Concert
 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert

Sun., Dec. 18: 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal; 12:00 Council Meeting

Wed., Dec. 21: 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
 7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship

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

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

Sat., Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve (No Worship)

Mon., Jan. 2: 7:00 pm – Missionary Ohlmann Commissioning (Eau Claire, WI)

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Advent 1

Date: November 27, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 703: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
 TLH 479: Zion, Rise, Zion, Rise
 TLH 469: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken (767)
 TLH 473, st. 1-2,5: The Church’s One Foundation
 Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 121, TLH p. 152

Liturgy:

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

Scripture Reading:

Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:37-44

Sermon: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the LORD’S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD. (NKJVTM)

**The Hills are Alive
 with the Sound of the Gospel**

1. The Church is established by it
2. The Church proclaims peace through it

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** This coming Wednesday Naomi Story will be having eye surgery. May the Lord tend to her so that she knows by faith that her care is in His gracious hands.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** There is a signup sheet for Christmas Poinsettias by the guest book at the church entry. If anyone would like to purchase a plant for church, please indicate it by signing your name and plant information on the sheet. For questions, please contact Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wed., Dec. 7, 14, and 21, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on Dec. 21 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 21. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
 - Sun., Dec. 4: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - Sun., Dec. 11: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - Sun., Dec. 18: 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 please remember the importance of these rehearsals for a successful Christmas Eve service. It is quite helpful for the children to know their individual parts by the first rehearsal, grade level parts by second rehearsal, and entire children parts by the third rehearsal. The three "Luke 2" parts are all together as a group. Parents are encouraged not to have your children formally memorize Luke 2, but to simply say it with the children once or twice a day. By the time Christmas Eve comes around, they will know these well. Each child should attend at least 2 sessions, but attending all is obviously the most preferable. The last rehearsal on December 18 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: *This Is Most Certainly True!* The children 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.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held on Sun., Dec. 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year will be held on Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. There is a signup list by the guestbook should you like to ride the bus to the concert.
- ◆ **Northtown Concert:** This year the Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall on Thurs., Dec. 16, 2 pm.

- ◆ **500th Anniversary Reformation Clothes:** Looking for a unique Christmas gift. We have available polo shirts, non iron shirts, fleece jackets with the 500th Lutheran Reformation logo on them. See the advertisement insert. Speak with Rick Nelson for questions. There is no shipping for Grace members. This was produced by the CLC 500th Anniversary Reformation Committee.
- ◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4.
- ◆ **2017 Cleaning:** The 2017 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **Liberia:** To make a contribution to the work in Liberia, write in "Liberia" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ◆ **2017 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal:** Plans are underway for the CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in July. More information can be found at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2017-nepal.
- ◆ **CLC Youth Camp at ILC:** Counselor applications for CLC Youth Camp 2017 are now open! The Youth Camp will be held at the ILC Campus in Eau Claire, WI, from June 18-24 this year. The link to the form and other important information can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/summeryouthcamp. Or, if you don't have Facebook, email us at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com and we will send you the link. We are also looking for kitchen staff, and anyone who is interested in helping can email us. Thank you!
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Timothy Wheaton of Living Word Lutheran in Blue Springs, MO (Kansas City area) has returned the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Recitations

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 20, 2016 Sun.: 122 S.S.: 17 B.Cl.: 42 Thu.: 75

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$5,301.56	CLC:	\$1,245.00	
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	679.50	CLC:	20.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+2,681.06	CLC:	+265.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$138,696.54	CLC:	\$41,541.84	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	155,100.00	CLC:	47,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-16,403.46	CLC:	-5,458.16	
GLC Other:	103.60	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	241.50
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	150.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	170.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	18,665.25	Tuition Aid:	1,201.12	

FAITHFUL EXERCISE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Perhaps you did not know that there is an organization calling itself “Freedom from Religion Foundation.” It describes itself as a group “working for separation of state and church...and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.” In other words, it is an atheist organization. It is a charitable, tax exempt organization headquartered in Wisconsin that solicits gifts; however, the Better Business Bureau has raised a red flag. One of the flags is that it has not filed an “effectiveness report.”

The Constitution of the United States guarantees freedom *of* religion. Freedom *from* religion is a product of the mind corrupted by sin. The founder of the organization, a woman, objected to legislators gathering in a room in the Wisconsin capitol to pray. Rather than praying, she said, they should get to work. Her reasoning is typical atheistic: “Nothing fails like prayer.”⁽¹⁾ We ought not be surprised at her assertion. Atheists have no one to whom to pray. Latter day Atheists are not original. Scripture says, “The fool has said in his heart ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1).

Atheists, though they claim to believe in no god, have a god. They are gods unto themselves. In their own mind, they are the determiners of what is right and wrong. While they acknowledge there are bad things in the world, by their assessment there is no sin. An atheist wrote: “As an atheist, since I do not believe in the existence of any supernatural being who will look after my moral well-being, there is no sin.” Atheists, as well as evolutionists, do not accept that what moral conscience they do have, corrupted as it is since the fall, is a consequence of the natural law which was implanted in the heart by the God they deny.

The atheist will one day face the God he denies and receive the fearsome reward for his unbelief. Yet we who confess not only that there is a God, but that “the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God, and yet they are not three Gods, but one God,”⁽²⁾ and that the Triune God is our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sanctifier are wise to consider what Scripture says: “For to whom much is given, from him much will be required: and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:48).

The passage from Luke speaks of the vigilance we are to have as we await the return of the Lord. When He knocks at our door, we are to be ready to go. “Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching” (Luke 12:37). We who claim the Lord as our God are to be watching and, while watching, we are to be responsible members of the kingdom. Each day of our lives as children of God we are called to recognize the seriousness of the hour, for from the day of birth no one is guaranteed tomorrow. “The vigilant, responsible disciple will, unlike the unheeding multitudes” [the freedom from religion crowd], “be able to interpret ... the present time, to read the weather signals of God’s approaching storm”⁽³⁾ (Luke 12:54-56).

Even among such as claim to believe in the Lord, it is unlikely they who *neglect* God in their life will be watching for the unknown hour at which time He will appear. Might the word of the Lord spoken of the betrayer be a warning to the neglectful? “It would have been better for that man if he had

not been born" (Matthew 26:24). While the degree of difference in judgment and eternal punishment for neglect and unbelief will not be noticeable by those suffering it, we leave to the Lord the ultimate meaning of the word He spoke to the impenitent cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida: "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you" (Luke 10:14).

The intent of our national constitution was not to *promote* freedom from religion, but to *protect* freedom of religion. To the present we are privileged and blessed to be able to practice our religion (our faith). For us the practice of freedom of religion is more than a nebulous, vague, acknowledgement of a god of many names and faces. We are privileged and blessed to learn of, and confess in word and in practice, the Triune God Who has created us, Who in love has freely redeemed us from sin and death and the power of the devil, and Who has called us to faith by the Spirit through the gospel. As Christianity is increasingly a target of wrath from those who hate it, we commit our freedom to practice our Christian religion (faith) to the Lord to protect it for us.

But the reality is that if we pray for the continued right to practice our faith, but do not practice what we believe and confess we place ourselves in jeopardy. The prophet Amos spoke of a famine "of hearing the words of the Lord," as well as an inability to find it if it departs (Amos 8:11-12). Blessings wasted or abused can be blessings lost.

Our Lord invites us, "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mixed. Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding" (Proverbs 9:5). Through the prophet Isaiah we are invited:

¹ "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ² Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. ³ Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-- The sure mercies of David. ⁴ Indeed I have given him *as* a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. ⁵ Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations *who* do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you." ⁶ Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:1-7).

At this time of the year when we celebrate Thanksgiving, and enter into the season of Advent and contemplation of our Savior's birth and coming again, may our faith manifest itself in the face of the freedom from religion crowd, with an active joyful exercise of our right to freedom of religion, and practice of our faith. Until our Savior comes again to take the faithful to the heavenly home, drink deeply of the well of salvation (The Word of God) which dispenses forgiveness, peace, comfort, and hope, gifts from our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ—until He comes again to take the faithful to the heavenly home.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2016

- 1) Freedom From Religion Foundation web site
- 2) Athanasian Creed
- 3) Franzmann, Martin; Concordia Bible with Notes, CPH. St. Louis

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form no later than
November 28

500th Anniversary

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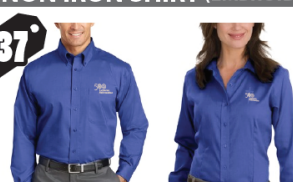
☐ ADULT
☐ WOMEN'S

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☐ WOMEN'S

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☐ ADULT
☐ WOMEN'S

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☐ SMALL ☐ X-LARGE
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