

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

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

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: LaDue

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: Middleton

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 11:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 14:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Fri., Dec. 16:** 2:00 pm – CDS Northtown Mall Concert
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 18:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal;
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 21:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
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
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Sat., Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve (No Worship)
- Sun., Jan. 1:** 3:00 pm – Pastor Doug Libby Installation at Eden Prairie, MN
- Mon., Jan. 2:** 7:00 pm – Missionary Ohlmann Commissioning (Eau Claire, WI)

Grace Lutheran Church & School

The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.



Matthew 11:5.

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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 11, 2016

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 146, TLH p. 156*

Hymn: *TLH 55: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Laminated Sheet in Pew Also Available)*
 Note: Today we will sing the introit and have the Advent candle lighting in place of the liturgy from pages 6 - 9.

Introit: *Tune of TLH 58: O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee*
Rejoice, rejoice, ye Christians, Again I say: Rejoice!
Lead lives of moderation, The Savior is at hand;
Be full of care for nothing, Address the Lord in prayer.
He leads us out of prison, Brings Jacob safely there.

Advent Candle Lighting: *The Shepherd Candle*
We light this candle as a symbol of joy. This we experience as Christ comes into our hearts. May the joyful promise of Your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation, just as it did for the shepherds that first Christmas night!
O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: *TLH 62, st. 3: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*
Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

First Reading: *Malachi 3:1-6*
 The unchanging Lord comes to bring great change to this sinful world.



Gradual:
 P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
C: Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!
 P: See, your King comes to you,
C: Righteous and having salvation.
 P: Alleluia, Alleluia. I will send My messenger ahead of You,
C: Who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.



Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*
 The Lord comes to bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.

Confession of Faith: *Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12*

Hymn: *TLH 272: When All the World was Cursed*

Sermon: *Matthew 11:2-10*
²And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"
⁴Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵*The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* ⁶And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." ⁷As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰For this is *he* of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'" (NKJVTM)

DO NOT BE OFFENDED AT THE LOWLINESS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THE LORD

1. Jesus witnesses to Himself in His lowliness as the Messiah
2. Jesus validates John's ministry as one who was prophesied

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *WS 701: Prepare the Royal Highway*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: *TLH p. 14*

Hymn: *TLH 72, st. 4: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with the Pastor. He would be delighted to visit with you!

◆ **Immanuel Christmas Events:** As Christmas approaches, there are a few upcoming Immanuel (ILC) events. On Sun., Dec. 11, 3 pm, there will be the piano 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. 16, 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. 9.

◆ **Ministry by Mail:** is a weekly sermon publication produced by pastors of the CLC. Sermons are available through a weekly postal mailing, email, on our webpage (www.lutheransermos.org), and on our Facebook page. Annual subscriptions for printed copies of "Ministry by Mail" is \$42.00 and begin on Sun., Jan. 15, 2017. To receive this weekly publication by print or email, please contact the editor, Nathan Pfeiffer (editor@lutheransermos.org/509-327-4203) Mail: 4704 N. Wall St / Spokane, WA 99205.

◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Doug Libby has accepted the call to be part-time pastor at Living Savior Lutheran in Eden Prairie, MN. He will be installed on Jan. 1 at a 3 pm service at Huber Chapel. Light coffee and cake will be served in the fellowship hall afterward. † Pastor Luke Bernthal of Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran in Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Lutheran in White River, SD, has accepted the call to St. Stephen Lutheran in Mountain View (San Francisco area), and Hayward, CA (Oakland area). † Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has returned the call to Zion Lutheran in Lawrenceville, GA (Atlanta area). † Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO (St. Louis area), is requesting a candidate from the 2017 Immanuel Lutheran Seminary graduating class.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Recitations

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 4, 2016 Sun.: 120 S.S.: 16 B.Cl.: 40 Wed.: 55

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|------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$3,140.00 | CLC: | \$688.00 | |
| Wed. Offering: | Grace: | 380.00 | CLC: | 50.00 | |
| Weekly Need: | Grace: | 3,300.00 | CLC: | 1,000.00 | |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | +220.00 | CLC: | -262.00 | |
| Year-to-Date Offering: | Grace: | \$144,997.79 | CLC: | \$42,824.84 | |
| Year-to-Date Need: | Grace: | 161,700.00 | CLC: | 49,000.00 | |
| Year-to-Date (+/-) | Grace: | -16,702.21 | CLC: | -6,175.16 | |
| GLC Other: | 240.55 | Living Faith: | 52.00 | Tuition Aid: | 133.00 |
| SAF Endowment: | 0.00 | MDF: | 100.00 | Kinship: | 70.00 |
| ILC Student Aid: | 0.00 | ILC Bldg. | 200.00 | IIF: 0.00 | CEF: 0.00 |
| Current Balances: | | Parking Lot: | 18,740.25 | Tuition Aid: | 1,434.12 |

After-Word

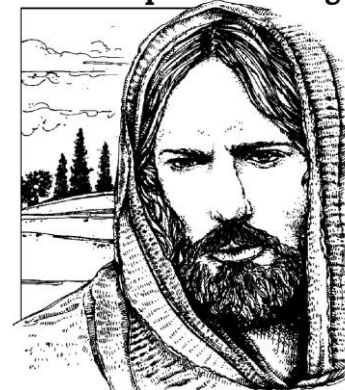
THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

Read Revelation 1:4-8

Jesus Christ is everything we need from "A" to "Z".

Scripture contains many names for God; and each one describes something important about His divine nature. For example, He is ELOHIM, the majestic God; ADONAI, the Lord God; EL SHADDAI, the almighty God; and YAVEH, the eternally existent God. These are not names that we chose for God, but names by which God revealed Himself to us. They are not merely forms of address, but descriptions of God's attributes.

I am the Alpha & the Omega,



the beginning & the end.

Revelation 21:6

The Book of Revelation provides more than twenty names or titles for Jesus: Faithful Witness; Firstborn from the Dead; Son of Man; Son of God; Amen; Lamb; King of Kings and Lord of Lords; and others. However, only in Revelation is Jesus called "**the Alpha and the Omega.**" In 1:8 Jesus says, "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.**" And in 1:11, "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.**" And in 22:13, "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.**"

Alpha and Omega are the beginning and end, the first and last letters, of the Greek Alphabet—equivalent to our "A" and "Z". But what does this name mean when applied to Jesus?

Jesus is Eternal

"Alpha and Omega," particularly with the explanation "**First and Last,**" describes Jesus as eternal. As God the Son, He existed before all things and will endure eternally beyond all things. The author of Hebrews wrote of Jesus: "**You remain the same; and Your years will never end,**" Hebrews 1:12.

You and I cannot comprehend the eternity of God—that He has always existed; that He had no beginning and will have no end. Yet, at its simplest, eternal means "always there." And as our Alpha and Omega, Jesus is always there for us; always loving and forgiving, protecting and providing; always giving us God's Very Best; always inviting, "**Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest,**" Matthew 11:28.

Jesus is the Source of All Things

“Alpha and Omega,” especially with the addition “Beginning and End,” describes Jesus as the source of all things. He is the Creator who carried out each of God the Father’s “Let there be!” at the creation of the universe. Paul wrote of Jesus, “**For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together,**” Colossians 1:16-17.

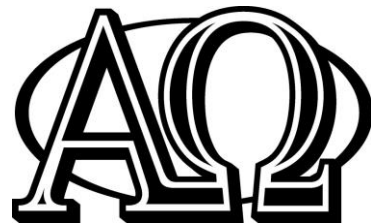
While you and I cannot grasp the infinite power and wisdom that God exerted in creation—the vastness of the universe, the complexity of life; these attributes of God give us great comfort. According to the Bible, God is exerting this same infinite power and infinite wisdom in our daily lives. And on this basis Paul wrote, “**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,**” Romans 8:28. And again, “**If God is for us, who can be against us?**” Romans 8:31. Do the math. The answer is no one and nothing can be against us; not with God’s infinite wisdom and power at work in our lives.

Jesus is Our All-Sufficient Savior

You’ve heard advertisements from retailers who promise: “Come on down! We carry everything from A to Z.” This same idea is contained in the name Alpha and Omega. Jesus Christ is everything we need in life from “A” to “Z”. Or as beautifully expressed by the hymnist: “Just as I am, poor wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind; yea, all I need in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.”

How comforting to know that every aspect of our salvation, from “A” to “Z”, has been perfectly accomplished through the blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Nothing is missing. There is nothing left for us to do. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:1, “**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**” Or as stated so beautifully in Revelation 1:5, “**Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood.**”


“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” said Jesus. Don’t just rejoice in this knowledge. Live each day in its power.



Written by Pastor Mark Weis, 12/4/2016 (GraceLutheran.net)



✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Thanks** to Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer for presenting the Advent message today. For the next couple of weeks he is covering for Pastor Hein who had back surgery this past Thursday.
 - ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** This Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 pm, we will continue our Midweek Advent services with the theme, “Lord Jesus, Come to Me.” Our last midweek service on Dec. 21 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm.
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- Prepare the Way
- ◆ **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. Committee #1 will host.
 - ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the remaining rehearsal schedule:
 - 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)By now the children are to know all their parts. Next Sunday’s rehearsal on December 18 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: *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.
 - ◆ **Northtown Concert:** The Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall this Fri., Dec. 16, 2 pm.
 - ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held today at 3 pm in the ILC Fieldhouse.
 - ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year’s Christmas concert is this Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. For those who wish to sign up for a ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip. Plans are for the bus to depart around 4:45 pm.
 - ◆ **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.