

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller

Elder: Al Rosendahl

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

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

Hospitality: Suspended for Christmas

Church Cleaners: Kitzman      School: Middleton

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 18:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
9:00 am – Bible Class  
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
- Fri., Dec. 23:** 12:00 pm – School Christmas Party (Gift Opening @ 2 pm)  
Grace School Dismissal for Christmas Break
- Sat., Dec. 24:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:30 pm – Children to Arrive at Church  
6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Sun., Dec. 25:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Sat., Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve (No Worship)
- Sun., Jan. 1:** **NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
10:00 am – New Year's Day Worship w/Lord's Supper  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)  
3:00 pm – Pastor Doug Libby Installation at Eden Prairie, MN  
7:00 pm – Missionary Ohlmann Commissioning (Eau Claire, WI)
- Mon., Jan. 2:**
- Sun., Jan. 8:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Wed., Jan. 11:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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*And Mary said: "My  
soul glorifies the Lord and  
my spirit rejoices in God  
my Savior ..."*

LUKE 1:46-47

*Grace Lutheran Church & School*



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org)

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFSSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)      Phone: 763-784-8784  
 School Phone: 763-784-6340      Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>  
 Church Year: Advent 4      Date: December 18, 2016

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 85, TLH p. 140*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 68: The Advent of Our King*

**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*  
**Drop down with grace, ye heavens, Drop down now from above.**  
**And let the skies show favor With righteousness and love.**  
**Let earth bring forth salvation, Let His bright light arise!**  
**The heav'ns declare His glory, The firmament His praise.**

**Advent Candle Lighting:** ..... *The Angel Candle*  
*We light this candle as a symbol of purity. This we will experience when the pure and holy angles accompany Jesus' coming again on the last day. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, purify us that we may be ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.*  
*O come, O come, Emmanuel!*

**Response:** ..... *TLH 62, st. 4: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*  
**Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come**  
**And open wide our heav'nly home;**  
**Make safe the way that leads on high**  
**And close the path to misery.**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
**Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



**First Reading:** ..... *2 Samuel 7:8-16*  
 The offspring of David will have His throne established forever.

**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. The virgin will be with Child and give birth to a Son,  
**C: And they will call His name Immanuel, God with us. Alleluia.**



**Second Reading:** ..... *Romans 16:25-27*  
 The mystery is revealed through faith in Jesus Christ.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 95: Savior of the Nations, Come*

**Sermon:** ..... *Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

*"The Heavenly Father Unfolded the Plan of Salvation to*

1. A virgin      2. Concerning her son

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 275: My Soul doth Magnify the Lord*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 85, st. 13: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

## CLC Financial Report - November

CLC Financial Report	Balance	YTD	YTD	Budget	Balance
Operating Funds	7/1/2016	Revenue	Disbursed	5 Months	11/30/2016
General Fund	0	361,585	381,608	\$375,000	-20,023
ILC Operations	0	562,570	493,562	\$310,000	69,008
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$924,155</b>	<b>\$875,170</b>	<b>\$685,000</b>	<b>\$48,985</b>
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	15,928	5935	10,492		11,371
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	12,682	112,633	70,608,		54,707
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	46,243	82,250	119,070		9,423
Kinship	56,626	26,799	49,204		34,221
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,291,661	513,101	393,772		1,410,990
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	10,103	57,613	80,988		-13,272
Reserve Fund	119,697	0	0		146,111
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,552,940</b>	<b>\$798,331</b>	<b>\$724,134</b>		<b>\$1,653,551</b>

ILC Academic Center Mortgage (& North Hall Renovation)	
Beginning Balance January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance October 31, 2016	\$1,249,923
Principal paid to date	\$501,881
North Hall Reno Budget \$300,000. YTD Spent:	\$13,700

### Notes:

- \* **General Fund** offerings in November totaled \$79,508 vs disbursements of \$79,069. Offerings for the first 5 months of the fiscal year slipped behind another \$2,000 in November to a budget short-fall in the General Fund of -\$20,023. The General Fund is supported by congregational offerings to the CLC Budget, which provides the basic monthly subsidy needed for the work of our Boards of Trustees, Missions, ILC, & Education/Publication. The budgeted needs of the General Fund is \$75,000/month.
- \* **ILC Building Projects** offerings in November totaled \$5,178 vs disbursements of \$21,672. Disbursements included the \$8,000 monthly payment on our CEF loan for the Academic Center (AC), as well as \$13,700 in initial expenses (roof repairs) for the \$300,000 renovation project of the North Hall boys' dorm. Accumulated North Hall renovation expenses will be added to our existing CEF loan for the Academic Center.
- \* **MDF:** offerings in November totaled \$17,726 vs disbursements of \$27,662, which included \$8,000 for Myanmar's 4<sup>th</sup> & final installment for a construction project, and \$11,250 for a Rice Aid Christmas gift for 750 BELC pastors in 22 districts in southern India, approved by the 2016 CLC Convention last summer.
- \* **SAF:** received \$13,000 in offerings & student loans repaid in November vs \$9,000 in loans & family discounts allocated to student accounts during the month. SAF needs \$13,000 in December to balance 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

### Last Week's Stats: Dec. 11, 2016 Sun.: 84 S.S.: 16 B.Cl.: 30 Wed.: 56

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,848.30	CLC:	\$915.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	516.36	CLC:	50.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-935.34	CLC:	-35.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$147,362.45	CLC:	\$43,789.84
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	165,000.00	CLC:	50,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-17,637.55	CLC:	-6,210.16
GLC Other: 537.60	Living Faith:	50.00	Tuition Aid:	75.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 20.00	ILC Bldg.	45.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
<b>Current Balances:</b>	<b>Parking Lot:</b>	<b>18,865.25</b>	<b>Tuition Aid:</b>	<b>1,509.12</b>

## HASTEN TO SEE, AND TELL

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men!”**

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, **“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass,** which the Lord has made known to us.” **And they came with haste** and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. **Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them** (Luke 2: 8-20).

Imagine yourself sitting in the fields in the dark of night. The sheep for which you are responsible are safely in the enclosure for the night. Given the circumstance at night, no doubt the Bethlehem shepherds were relaxed, but watchful. Suddenly the dark of night became bright as morning. The Light of the world had come—the glory of the Lord shone round about them. The momentary fears of the shepherds were calmed by an angel. These men who waited with many others for the consolation of Israel were the first to hear the magnificent message. Not to the priest, not to waiting Simeon and Anna, but first to lowly shepherds came the message that changed the world: **“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”** And just as suddenly the heavens echoed with an angelic choir, the likes of which had never been seen nor heard: **“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men!”**

The unknown moment prophesied was being fulfilled in God's time. What strikes us is the reaction of the shepherds. There was no debate; no argument; no delay. **“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”** They committed the safekeeping of their flocks to the Lord. They knew where to go; they knew from whom the message had come; there was no

doubt. *They went with haste.* They were not ashamed of their lowly lot, nor the stench of sheep on their robes. Urged on by the message, they hastened to Bethlehem and were the first, except for Mary and Joseph, to lay their eyes upon the Child in the manger — the incarnate Son of God, their Savior. They found Him just as the angel had told them.

The glad tidings of the gospel have that power to move hearts. The waiting shepherds went with haste to see their Savior from sin. Simeon and Anna rejoiced to see the Savior. The penitent apostle Peter ran to view for himself the empty tomb of the risen Savior.

Today we sit in a world still grossly enveloped in spiritual darkness. The darkness of unbelief has covered many hearts. Scholars debate about the exact season of the Savior's birth; others reject the celebration of Jesus' birth because the Church appropriated the days of the heathen Roman solstice celebration with its ungodly excesses as the time to celebrate this momentous event, an event with eternal consequences. Unbelief can debate what it chooses, and make of Christ what it chooses, but no one can ignore Christ. Some celebrate Him as a prophet, a good man, a miracle worker. Despite their very conscious rejection of Him they cannot rid themselves of the thought or the fear that He is who He says He is, namely true God, one with the Father. Ironically, the world will not accept Him, yet it repeats the angelic message of peace on earth, albeit with its own interpretation. History cannot be changed! No one can ignore Christ, true God and true Man Who by His life, His suffering and death, and His resurrection brought true peace to troubled hearts. The birth of Jesus Christ speaks to the Father's faithfulness, and to His love for fallen man. In the child of Bethlehem, He reconciled the world unto Himself. All who believe it enjoy angelic pronounced peace in the knowledge of sins forgiven. They live in anticipation of seeing their Lord in glory!

There were no encumbrances to the shepherd's celebration. They hastened to see the Promised One, their Savior. What they had heard, and what they had seen filled their hearts with joy and thanksgiving. As they returned to their sheep, the shepherds did so **"glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."** They became the first missionaries as they returned to their fields and to their work. Good news wants out. As they went, they manifested the attitude of the apostles after them who said, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

May the Lord help us to feel the same urgency to see for ourselves, and, as we believe, tell the message to others. Be an angel to someone, and share the message: **"There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."**

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2016

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Thanks** to Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer for presenting the Advent message today. Pastor plans to be back to his full duties later this week.
- ◆ **Candlelight Worship:** This Wednesday, December 21, 7 pm, will be our annual candlelight service with hymns and Bible readings. We continue our meditations on "Lord Jesus, Come to Me." The Sunday School and Christian Day School children will be singing.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service this Wednesday. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share. Dorcas Guild #1 is hosting.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve 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 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:** This will be next Sunday at 10:00 am. Christ's birth is the reason for the season. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!
- ◆ **Video Tape:** A reminder that we are having a Christmas Eve service instead of a Christmas Eve program. Therefore, we ask that parents and friends avoid taking flash pictures and videotaping during this service so that the focus remains on the joyous message of our Savior's birth. Our Christmas Eve service will be discreetly videotaped and made available by request. If you are interested in a copy, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ **2017 Cleaning:** The 2017 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.
- ◆ **Installation:** Pastor Matthew Ude will be installed in a special service at Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, 3 pm, Sun., Jan. 8, 2017. There will be a dinner served after the installation. Please respond to Sherman Carstensen (shermdc40@gmail.com) with the approximate number that will be attending from your congregation by January 1.
- ◆ **Installation:** Pastor Doug Libby of Immanuel, Mankato, has accepted the call to serve Living Savior of Eden Prairie on an expanded basis. He will be installed in a special service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 1, 2017, at the Huber Funeral Chapel, 16394 Glory Lane, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344. A brief reception will follow service. Pastors who wish to participate in the laying on of hands may share a Bible passage at that time. Members of area CLC congregations are invited to join Living Savior on this joyous occasion.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Recitations

