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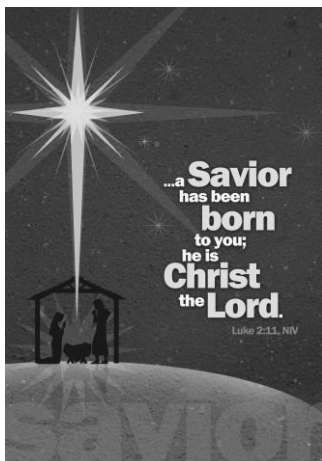
# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LORD JESUS, COME TO ME ... WITH THY BIRTH

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# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DECEMBER 25, 2016**

**Pastor:** John P. Hein

**Organist:** Susan Nelson

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## Our Christmas Worship

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**ENTRANCE:**..... *The Christ Candle*

### OPENING DIALOG:

**P:** Unto us a Child is born, Hallelujah!

**C: Unto us a Son is given, Hallelujah!**

**P:** The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**C: And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**P:** Oh, come, let us worship Him:

**C: Let us kneel before the Lord in the manger. Hallelujah!**

**HYMN:**..... *Come Hither, Ye Children*

- 1. Come hither, ye children, O come one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small,  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your joy and Delight.**
- 2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek, and so mild,  
And purer than angels - the heavenly Child.**
- 3. See, Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;  
The shepherds are kneeling with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.**
- 4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today  
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly Host.**

**Responsory:** .....*Based on TLH 95*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: The Lord bless you.**

**P:** As the Lord Jesus once came in love and great poverty to be born in a manger in Bethlehem

**C: So now He comes to us in the richness of His Word.**

**P:** As Jesus once came from heaven to earth to live with people in love

**C: So now He comes in the Word, to give the light of the Spirit.**

**P:** As He came to heal, to forgive, and to save

**C: So now He comes to rescue, to relieve, to love.**

**P:** Let us bless the great name of the Lord.

**C: Let us sing with our hearts the great songs of His Word.**

**SING: Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh--  
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.**

**P:** O Lord, our transgressions are multiplied before You,

**C: And our sins testify against us;**

**P:** For our transgressions are with us,

**C: And as for our iniquities, we know them:**

**P:** We are all like an unclean thing,

**C: And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;**

**P:** We all fade as a leaf

**C: And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

**P:** Do not be furious, O Lord,

**C: Nor remember our iniquity forever;**

**SING: Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'er cloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.**

**P:** Rejoice! The Baby whose birth we celebrate today is named "Jesus" because He came to "save" His people from their sins. His name is "Immanuel" for He is "God with us." He became a man like us, except without sin, so that He might die for us, rise in victory, and then live again forever as our eternal King. Rejoice this Christmas morning! Your sins are all forgiven!

**SING: From the Father forth He came  
And returneth to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell--  
High the song of triumph swell!  
Thou, the Father's only Son,  
Hast o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?**

**P:** Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

**C: For He has done marvelous things;**

**P:** The Lord has made known His salvation;

**C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.**

**P:** He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

**P:** Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

**C: Proclaim the Good News of His salvation from day to day.**

**P:** Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

**C: For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised.**

**SING: Praise to God the Father sing,  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.**

**CHOIR:**..... *For Unto Us a Child is Born*

**FIRST READING:**..... *Isaiah 52:7-10*

*The Lord comes to manifest His strength and power to redeem.*

**SECOND READING:**..... *Hebrews 1:1-9*

*The Christ Child is appointed heir of all things, the eternal King.*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:**..... *The Christmas Creed*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL:..... Luke 2:1-20 w/Christmas Carols**

**ALL: Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels.**

**WOMEN: Oh, come, let us adore Him,**

**MEN: Oh, come, let us adore Him,**

**ALL: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**MEN:** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

**WOMEN: O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;**

**MEN: Yet in thy darkness shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**

**WOMEN:** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**WOMEN: Away in a manger,  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky  
Looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus,  
Asleep on the hay.**

**MEN:** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

**MEN:** From God our Heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**WOMEN:** And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

**WOMEN:** God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

**ALL:** 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."

**ALL:** Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountain in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**MEN:** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

**WOMEN:** What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**WOMEN:** And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

**MEN:** **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child.  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.**

**ALL:** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**ALL:** **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing.**

**HYMN:**..... *WS 710: Once in Royal David's City*

**SERMON:**..... *Luke 2:15-20*

(15) And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." (16) And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (17) And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. (18) And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (19) But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. (20) And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Lord Jesus, Come to Me With Thy Birth

**HYMN:**..... *WS 715: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

**OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST-CHILD:**..... *Interlude*

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:**


**BENEDICTION:**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**C: [Sung] Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**CHOIR:**..... *Handel's Hallelujah Chorus*

# ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Christmas Greetings:** Over the past year we have been blessed in many ways by our companionship with our fellow members and friends of the faith. We each thank you for your expressions of appreciation through various cards and gifts. Such kind gestures uplift our hearts and encourage us as we labor for the LORD and His gracious Word of life. May you all have a blessed Christmas in Christ Jesus! Pastor and Mrs. Hein
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From  
the  
Pastor
- ◆ **Video Tape:** If you are interested in a copy of the Christmas Eve video, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson.
  - ◆ **Christmas Flowers:** All members who purchased flowers for the altar may take them home.
  - ◆ **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.
  - ◆ **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 pm on Sun., Jan. 1, 2017, at the Huber Funeral Chapel, 16394 Glory Lane, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344. A brief reception will follow service. Members of area CLC congregations are invited to join Living Savior on this joyous occasion.
  - ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke's Lutheran in Lemmon, SD, has received the call to Zion Lutheran in Lawrenceville, GA (Atlanta area). ✠ Pastor Mark Tiefel of Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area), has received the call to the tri-parish of Grace Lutheran of Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran of Mission, SD, and St. Paul Lutheran of White River, SD,

**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 18, 2016 Sun.: 102 S.S.: 30 B.Cl.: 18 Wed.: 106

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,210.00	CLC:	\$875.00	
Candlelight Offering:	Grace:	1,185.00	CLC:	325.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,095.00	CLC:	+200.00	
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:	1,472.85	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	75.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	60.00	Kinship:	110.00
ILC Student Aid:	10.00	ILC Bldg.	0.00	IIF: 10.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	19,271.25	Tuition Aid:	1,584.12



# OUR FAITHFUL GOD

As God is faithful, He cannot lie,  
He keeps His Word and promise.  
He sent the Savior of the world,  
A precious Gift for all on earth.  
The Child conceived of Holy Ghost,  
Was born of virgin mother.  
He thus is God and Man in one  
The perfect Sacrifice for sin.

He lived His perfect life for all  
And calls all to repentance.  
It is His will that all should heed,  
And put away the life of sin.  
To all who do in Him believe,  
He gives the promised gift  
Of life eternal, fore'er with Him—  
The glorious home in heaven.

He came to earth to live and die,  
That was His single purpose.  
There was no other one to do  
What only God's own Son could do.  
He took our place upon the cross  
To cleanse us all of filthy dross.  
In death, He paid the debt we owed  
And reconciled us to God.

But death could not defeat God's Son  
And death, by death, was overcome.  
For Jesus came forth from the dead,  
The Victor over our dread foe.  
The Savior did most clearly say,  
That all in Him who do believe  
Shall not see death, but live again.  
It's sealed by Jesus' resurrection!

At Christmas time, and through the year,  
We thank our Lord and Savior.  
We know not what each day will bring,  
But this we surely know, and say:  
"Lord, let Your servant go in peace  
When shadows fade and days do end.  
For as we've seen Your faithfulness,  
We know You'll take us home to heaven."

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2016

# CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT...

## Read Titus 2:11-14

Christmas has nothing to do with what we deserve, and everything to do with what we don't deserve: forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

You've likely seen the holiday classic, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. In it Charlie Brown agonizes over the true meaning of Christmas. "I think something must be wrong with me," he tells Linus. "Christmas is coming but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel."

To make matters worse, many in the Peanuts Gang have a commercial view of Christmas. Lucy wants real estate. Sally wants cash, preferably tens and twenties. Snoopy wants to organize a neighborhood Christmas lights contest, with a cash award going to the winner. His invitation reads: "Come see what Christmas is all about. Money, money, money."

Frustrated, Charlie Brown finally cries out, **"Does anyone know what Christmas is all about?"** We too may ask the same question amid the preparations of the busy Christmas Season. And if the preparations don't distract us from the true meaning of Christmas, personal circumstances often do—sickness, debt, the loss of a loved one. Soon enough, we may find ourselves lamenting with Charlie Brown: "Christmas is coming but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel." And yet, our feelings are not meant to determine Christmas. The facts of Christmas are meant to determine our feelings. What are the facts?

## Christmas is about God's Faithfulness

Admittedly, the faithfulness of God is not specifically mentioned in Titus 2:11-14, but it is certainly implied. When Paul writes **"the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,"** he is referring to the appearance of Jesus Christ; His birth in Bethlehem; His ministry, miracles, teaching, suffering, atoning death, and glorious resurrection—all that Jesus did to accomplish our eternal salvation. Yet, the only reason Christ appeared that First Christmas was because of God's faithfulness in keeping His promise to send a Savior.

Human promises roll easily from human lips and, despite best intentions, frequently fail. Not so with the promises of Almighty God. By some estimates, the coming of Christ fulfilled more than three hundred Old Testament prophecies or promises. And God fulfilled each one because God is faithful. Has He promised to save you? He will. Has He promised to deliver you safely from this life to the next? He will. Has He promised to forgive you whenever you turn to Him in repentance and faith? He will. Has He promised to enrich your marriage, prosper your ministry, and provide for all your needs? He will. And Christmas is the proof.

## Christmas is about God's Grace

Paul wrote of **“the grace of God that brings salvation.”** The New Testament uses the word “grace”

156 times, referring to such blessings as the Gospel of God's grace, Romans 5:2; living under grace, Romans 6:14; being chosen by grace, Romans 11:5; having gifts of grace, Romans 12:6; being called by grace, Galatians 1:6; being forgiven through the riches of God's grace, Ephesians 1:7; and being saved by grace, Ephesians 2:8-9.

But what is grace? Simply put, grace is God's undeserved love, kindness, and good will expressed in Jesus Christ—the very Christmas blessings proclaimed to shepherds as they watched their flock by night: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men,”** Luke 2:14. Consequently, Christmas has nothing to do with what we deserve, and everything to do with what we do not deserve; namely, forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

## Christmas is about Change

Some years ago, I attended a Christmas concert. During the various readings and Christmas hymns, a video began to play on a large screen. The video was of a little baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, moving his tiny fingers and toes while smiling. For one instant, the baby turned his head and looked at the audience with wondrously brown eyes. And suddenly, the meaning of Christmas swept over me anew. God, the almighty God, came to us just like that little baby, wiggling His toes and fingers, and smiling at us in wonder.

Think about John's words in the first chapter of his Gospel: **“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us,”** John 1:14. What a remarkable, miraculous sentence! Not only does the Gospel or Good News tell us about Jesus; Jesus Himself is the Gospel—the Good News who came to us in flesh and blood. God didn't merely send us inspired writings and letters, prophets and apostles. When showing us the full extent of His love for us, God sent His one and only Son. How can we know that and not be changed?

This is why Paul wrote, **“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good,”** Titus 2:11-14.

Written by Pastor Mark Weis, 12/2016

GraceLutheran.net

## ✝ TODAY AT GRACE ✝

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Al Rosendahl

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

## ✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

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

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

Hospitality: Suspended for New Years

Church Cleaners: Hein

## ✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

**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:**

**Fri., Jan. 6:** EPIPHANY DAY

**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

**Sun., Jan. 15:** 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

**Sat., Jan. 21:** 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

**The following is the nomination slate for 2017:**

- Elder: Dale Enns
- Education: James Bomber, Michael Ude
- Trustee: Brad Kitzman, Ryan Oman
- Delegates: Rick Nelson, Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl, Dave Rust