

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner      Elder: Dale Enns

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob Vandever

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; David Hein; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

Church Cleaners: Kitzman      School: Nelson

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob Vandever

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Brad Kitzman; Paul Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Church Cleaners: Kitzman      School: None

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Dec. 24:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 8:45 am – Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
 9:00 am – Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4) (No Hospitality)  
 5:30 pm – Children to Arrive at Church  
 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

**Mon., Dec. 25:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

**Sun., Dec. 31:** **NEW YEARS EVE**  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (No Bible Class or Sunday School)

**Wed., Jan. 3:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

**Sun., Jan. 7:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 1)  
 11:00 am – Hospitality  
 11:30 am – Special Voters Meeting (Call Meeting for Teacher)

**Sat., Jan. 20:** 2:00 pm – Nicole Best Baby Shower

**Sun., Jan. 21:** Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 17, 2017    Sun.: 111    S.S.: 19    B.Cl.: 40    Wed.: 103

|                              |              |               |              |              |           |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Sun. Offering:               | Grace:       | \$6,624.24    | CLC:         | \$555.00     |           |
| Wed. Offering:               | Grace:       | 775.00        | CLC:         | 175.00       |           |
| Weekly Need:                 | Grace:       | 3,300.00      | CLC:         | 950.00       |           |
| -Under / +Over:              | Grace:       | +4,099.24     | CLC:         | -220.00      |           |
| Year-to-Date Offering:       | Grace:       | \$168,668.93  | CLC:         | \$45,805.00  |           |
| Total Budget for Year:       | Grace:       | 172,400.00    | CLC:         | 50,350.00    |           |
| Difference from budget (+/-) | Grace:       | -3,731.07     | CLC:         | -4,545.00    |           |
| GLC Other:                   | 1,051.50     | Living Faith: | 0.00         | Tuition Aid: | 200.00    |
| SAF Endowment:               | 0.00         | MDF:          | 250.00       | Kinship:     | 85.00     |
| ILC Student Aid:             | 0.00         | ILC Bldg.     | 100.00       | IIF: 0.00    | CEF: 0.00 |
| Current Balances:            | Parking Lot: | 32,599.25     | Tuition Aid: | 3,860.12     |           |

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: john.p.hein@gmail.com

Home Page: www.FridleyLutheran.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-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Advent 4

**Date:** December 24, 2017

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 105: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men  
 TLH 76: A Great and Mighty Wonder  
 TLH 647: O Little Town of Bethlehem  
 TLH 102: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalms 96, TLH p. 144

### Liturgy:

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

### Scripture Reading:

Micah 5:1-5a  
 Titus 2:11-14

### Sermon: Luke 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there [Bethlehem], the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

O Little Town of Bethlehem,  
Are You Aware of the Greatness in Your Midst?



O Little town of Bethlehem

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

♦ **Christmas Eve Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held tonight at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *Savior of the Nations!* The children are asked to be here 5:30 pm so that we can take a group picture and run through things.



♦ **Christmas Day Worship:** This will be tomorrow 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!

♦ **Christmas Eve Video:** 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.

♦ **Council Meeting:** Due to the busy December schedule, the Council meeting has been a challenge to schedule. After consultation with the Board chairs, there is not much business. There is one small matter that will likely be done by email.

♦ **Special Voters Meeting:** At the October Voters meeting, a motion was passed to have two full time teachers at Grace Lutheran School with individual classrooms starting in the 2018-19 school year. In order to start preparing for this, on January 7, after worship, there will be a special Voters meeting in order to call a second full-time teacher.

♦ **Student Teacher:** Grace has been assigned Michaela Winters as its student teacher from January 2 until mid-March. If anyone would be willing to provide housing, please speak with Janelle Hein.

♦ **Best Baby Shower:** A baby shower will be held for Nicole Best on Saturday, January 20, at 2 pm here at church. See the invitation on the bulletin board for more details. Please RSVP to Heidi Nelson.

♦ **2018 Cleaning:** The 2018 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.

♦ **God's Promise Kept:** You may order copies of Dale Redlin's new book at [hope-dale@juno.com](mailto:hope-dale@juno.com). They are \$15.

♦ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

### The following is the nomination slate for 2018:

- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
- Elder: Frank Radichel; Eli Wales
- Education: Larry Nelson, Rick Nelson
- Trustee: Brad Kitzman, Bob Vandever
- Delegates: Rick Nelson, Ryan Oman, Bill Rust, Benno Sydow

## JESUS, SO LONG AGO FORETOLD

By Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2017

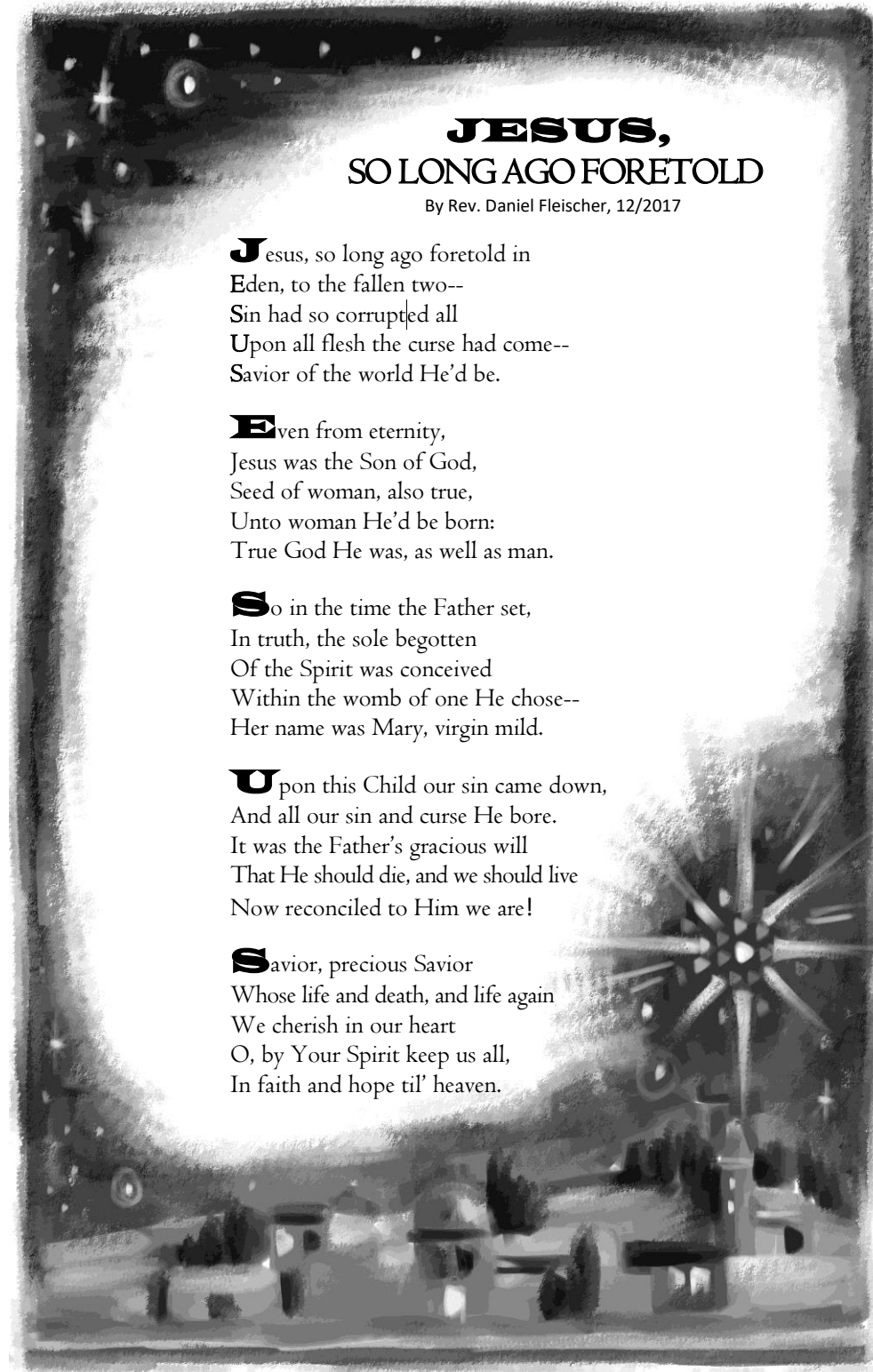
**J**esus, so long ago foretold in  
Eden, to the fallen two--  
Sin had so corrupted all  
Upon all flesh the curse had come--  
Savior of the world He'd be.

**E**ven from eternity,  
Jesus was the Son of God,  
Seed of woman, also true,  
Unto woman He'd be born:  
True God He was, as well as man.

**S**o in the time the Father set,  
In truth, the sole begotten  
Of the Spirit was conceived  
Within the womb of one He chose--  
Her name was Mary, virgin mild.

**U**pon this Child our sin came down,  
And all our sin and curse He bore.  
It was the Father's gracious will  
That He should die, and we should live  
Now reconciled to Him we are!

**S**avior, precious Savior  
Whose life and death, and life again  
We cherish in our heart  
O, by Your Spirit keep us all,  
In faith and hope til' heaven.



## After-Word:

### THE LITTLE THINGS OF CHRISTMAS

Written by Pastor Mark Weis

#### Read Micah 5:1-5a

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*“Big” is such a part of Christmas mentality, many find it difficult to equate a little Christmas with a merry Christmas.*

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Much of what we associate with Christmas is “big.” Big excitement. Big Christmas trees. Big family gatherings. Big meals. Big crowds. Big traffic jams. Big presents. *Mom, why did he get the biggest present?* And once Christmas has passed, big credit card bills from all the big spending.

“Big” is such a part of Christmas mentality, many find it difficult to equate a little Christmas with a merry Christmas. When the song “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” was written for the 1944 movie *Meet Me in St. Louis*, Judy Garland refused to sing the original lyrics because, as she explained, ‘They’re too sad. People will think me a monster.’ A monster, presumably, for suggesting that a little Christmas could be a merry Christmas.

Yet, so much about the Christmas Narrative in Scripture is about little things—some little in size; all little in the sense of lowliness. Nor should this surprise us. The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, **“God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world, and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are; so that no one may boast before Him.”**

#### The ‘Little’ People

Consider all the little, lowly people of the First Christmas: Mary, a lowly virgin, chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah. Joseph, a lowly carpenter, chosen by God to be the adoptive father of Jesus. Lowly shepherds, chosen by God to hear the first announcement of the Savior’s birth. Shepherds were poor, uneducated, often despised, and prohibited from testifying in court. Yet, God chose lowly shepherds to be the first to testify about the birth of His Son. The shepherds **“made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this child,”** Luke 2:17.

At times, all of us feel too little to accomplish God-pleasing tasks. Abraham said, “I’m too old.” Jeremiah said, “I’m too young.” Moses said, “I can’t speak well.” Elijah hid in a cave. Jonah jumped ship. David had only a slingshot and a pebble. But these human inadequacies did not prevent God from accomplishing His purposes. In fact, through such littleness God displayed His strength. This is one of the lessons of Christmas.

## The Little Places

The prophet Micah wrote: **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah.”** Bethlehem was where Jacob buried his wife Rachael; where Naomi, the mother-in-law of Ruth, lived; where Ruth met and married Boaz; where David was anointed king; where Jesus Christ was born; where shepherds heard the good news of His birth; where the wise men found Jesus; and where Herod slaughtered all male children two years old and younger.

Yet, despite its long Biblical history, Bethlehem was a very small place—too little to be included in the list of Israelite towns with a population of at least one thousand; i.e., **“the thousands of Judah.”** Yet, as God proclaimed, out of little Bethlehem **“shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting,”** Micah 5:2.

Startling, isn’t it? The long-promised Savior was not born in Jerusalem or any of the other large and prosperous Israelite cities, or even in the World Capital of Rome. Instead, He was born in the littleness and nothingness of Bethlehem. And in this little place God fulfilled His big promise to save lost humanity.

Sometimes, we feel embarrassed when attending a little church; embarrassed that all we have to share with the world is the ‘old family Bible,’ with its wrinkled cover and dog-eared pages and underlined verses. Have we forgotten? The Bible is the almighty power of God and the means through which the Holy Spirit calls lost and condemned sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. God uses little places and seemingly little means to accomplish big things. This too is a lesson of Christmas.

#### The Little Baby

Of all the little things of Christmas, what was littler or humbler than the newborn Child who was placed in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes? Yet, He was none other than the almighty Son of God—God, who came to us as a Baby so that we would not fear Him; God, who shared in our humanity to atone for our sins; and so that you and I could never rightly say, “God, You don’t understand me. You don’t know what I’m going through.” Yes, He does understand and know, because He Himself went through it and overcame it. And what big things God accomplished through that lowly birth.

If you feel sad or lonely today; if you feel little, insignificant, unwanted, then this message is for you: **“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 Savior, who is Christ the Lord,”** Luke 2:10-11.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy darkness shineth the everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

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