

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Dale Enns

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Dale Enns; Larry Nelson; Ryan Oman; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel

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

Church Cleaners: Oman School: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Dec. 31: 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: 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)
Wed., Jan. 10: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes
Sun., Jan. 14: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 2)
 11:00 am – Hospitality
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Sat., Jan. 20: 2:00 pm – Nicole Best Baby Shower
Sun., Jan. 21: Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
Sat., Jan. 27: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 24 Sun.: 101 S.S.: 30 B.Cl.: 28 Eve: 158 Day: 67

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,895.00	CLC:	\$975.00	
Christmas Eve Offering:	Grace:	\$663.00	CLC:	\$4,100.00	
Christmas Day Offering:	Grace:	\$865.00	CLC:	\$295.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,123.00	CLC:	+4,420.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$173,091.93	CLC:	\$51,175.00	
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	172,400.00	CLC:	50,350.00	
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	+691.93	CLC:	+825.00	
GLC Other:	1,714.00	Living Faith:	40.00	Tuition Aid:	155.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	110.00	Kinship:	160.00
ILC Student Aid:	10.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF:	0.00
				CEF:	0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	32,849.25	Tuition Aid:	4,015.12	

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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-8th

Church Year: Christmas 1/New Year's Eve

Date: December 31, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

How Swiftly Did the Year Pass By (Tune TLH 541)

Note: All 5 stanzas in bulletin

TLH 420: My Jesus, as Thou Wilt

Another Year Has Come and Gone (Tune TLH 125),

Note: Stanzas 1-3 and 13-14 in bulletin

TLH 97: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Worship Prep:

Psalm 111, TLH p. 147

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 117:5

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 45:20-25

Luke 2:25-40

Sermon: James 4:13-17

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin. (NKJVTM)

If the Lords Wills ...

1. Our plans are flawed
2. His plans are perfect

A NEW YEAR/EPIPHANY

Poem/Hymn

Paul Gerhardt Fleischer, Pastor Emeritus, 12/28/17

Fits any "L.M." metrical tune, Author's Order of Preference:

#125 "The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away"

#261 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"

#256 "Around the Throne of God a Band"

#550 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

- 1. Another year has come and gone,
Another looms, who knows how long?--
Th' eternal One, the Lord of all,
Who's made all creatures, large and small.**
- 2. His children He protects, and feeds
Their blood-bought souls in all their needs.
His sacred Word, inspired and pure,
Stands firm each year, the perfect cure.**
- 3. Creator He, Redeemer too—
His Son He gave, for me, for you.
Th' incarnate Word, our Savior dear,
Came down to save; be of good cheer.**
- 4. Oh Holy Child we worship You,
For all You came to Earth to do--
And did (the gospel verifies)!
It's You our faith e'er glorifies!**
- 5. 'Twas plan of God e'er time began,
To have His Son become a man;
So that in time He'd rescue those
Whom, lost in sin, for heav'n He chose.**
- 6. See in the manger more than man--
His Godhead cloaked--so that He can
Offer Himself as Substitute,
As perfect Man beyond repute.**
- 7. The Christ He is, God's Promised Son,
Who took our place--the Holy One.
By virgin's Son, the undefiled,
The Father would be reconciled.**
- 8. As Lamb of God to pay our price
Christ gave Himself as Sacrifice.
On Calv'ry's tree His blood He shed;
Though sinless, for the world He bled.**

**9. No need for fear, no longer fret
O'er sin and death with dark regret;
The wall sin built has been removed;
You, Satan, too have been reprov'd!**

**10. God's Spirit works such saving faith,
Sustains it e'en in daily strife.
In all our weaknesses He pleads;
And in our groanings intercedes.**

**11. Tho' dead in sin from mother's womb
And destined for eternal doom,
By baptism a new life is born
To live anew to God each morn.**

**12. With body, blood in Sacrament
More comfort, peace, and joy is meant
To buoy our spirits day by day
Until we live in heav'n for aye.**

**13. So as a new year dawns once more,
No ill can lurk behind its door;
What lies ahead can only be
What God, in love, has set for me.**

**14. All praise and honor be to God,
As day by day we earthlings plod
Through fallen world to heaven's shore,
To praise Him there forevermore.**

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **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. Teacher Hein has already been communicating items for her to work on. Michaela will be arriving tomorrow to start her preparations for the coming week. She will be staying with the Hein family until mid-March. May the Lord richly bless her stay here!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

ANOTHER YEAR OF GRACE IS PAST—ANOTHER IS BEFORE US

To put it in the concluding words of a radio show, “Well, we’ve done it again.” We have reached the end of another year and stand at the threshold of a new one. As we look back, we recognize that the joys as well as the sorrows of the past year are history. For better or for worse, we cannot reclaim what is past.

A backward glance compels us to recognize that our lives have been stained again with sin. The abominable devil, the world, and our flesh have conspired against us so that we cannot even begin to remember all the times we have rebelled against the holy God, and thus invited His wrath.

While only the Lord knows what lies ahead for us in the New Year, of one thing we can be sure. We will still have the devil, the world, and the flesh about us. None of these evil foes will do us favors, but will strive daily to drag us into the mire and muck of sin as they work to hinder the Spirit’s work in our heart.

Yet there is something we know. Thanks be to God, our Heavenly Father has blessed us with the wonderful Gospel of forgiveness and the promise of life in His Son whose birth we have celebrated again. He has promised that as we confess our sin, He remains faithful for the sake of Jesus Christ to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all iniquity (1 John 1:9).

While we do not know what the New Year holds for us in our material and temporal life, we are supremely confident as we enter it because we know that our God remains ever the same caring, loving, and gracious God. He Who has been our help in ages past—in days of sickness and of sorrow, days of trouble and of trial, days of uncertainty and confusion—He surely will keep His sheltering arms over us. We can say with David, “**Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings will I rejoice**” (Psalm 63:7). Further, we know it is the Father’s good will to deliver His penitent children in His good time to the eternal home where years no more come and go, but where there is one grand eternal day of joy and peace before the throne of God.

Our hope and confidence are based upon the fulfillment of the work to which God the Father appointed His Son when He sent Him into the world. In the fullness of the time Jesus came, leaving the throne of heaven to live as man among men that He might bear the sins of all, and reconcile a lost world unto God. His will was to do the will of the Father Who sent Him: So we read:

“And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb” (Luke 2:21).

According to Jewish law, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus on the 8th day to be circumcised. Our January 1, is the 8th day since we celebrated the Savior’s birth. None of the hope or the confidence which fills the regenerate heart would exist had Jesus not submitted to the Law. Being the Son of God, yea, God himself, it was not necessary for Jesus in His own being to be circumcised but being born in likeness of men and for men, Jesus was “**made under the Law**” according to Galatians 4. The Law of circumcision had been established in God’s command to Abraham, “He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations...” (Genesis 17:12). The way of salvation Jesus traveled involved obedience and suffering. At His circumcision Jesus shed the first blood for us. Had He in any way failed to keep the Law both in spirit and in letter, He could not have redeemed us! He would have been an abject failure! We would have been forever lost and condemned!

At His circumcision His name was called Jesus. Mary and Joseph did not agonize for weeks or days at what they should call this child. They had no choice in the matter for the Father in heaven had already determined what He should be called. The Father named His Son. The name was relayed to Joseph by the angel when he was told, “And she (Mary) shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Consequently, “**His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.**” Jesus’ name was more than a mark of identification as ours is for us. His name was descriptive of His purpose, as well as His accomplishment. He came to save His people from their sins.

The name given was important from another perspective. He was called Jesus that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. Not one detail of the birth of Christ from the journey to Bethlehem, to His birth in a stable, to the name He was given was left to chance.

The Law was fulfilled; the Word was fulfilled. When we look back on our lives and the sins we have committed, and when we contemplate the future with the honest acknowledgment that sin is part of our flesh, thank the Lord, we can know for certainty and without a shadow of a doubt that our sins are forgiven. We can believe with unwavering faith that where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

God Who “did **not** spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things” (Romans 8:32)? Every good and perfect gift flows to us from the Father in heaven (James 1:17), Who for the sake of Jesus will provide, guard, embrace, and keep us, until when our last hour is come, He will take His children to the place He has prepared for us (John 14:2), where there is no more sorrow, weeping, pain, or death (Revelation 21:4).

While we anticipate the glorious return of our Lord to fulfill the one promise yet to be fulfilled—deliverance to our eternal home—appreciate how richly blessed you are in comparison to those who live in unbelief, darkness, and without hope. Another year of grace is past, but another lies before us, and beyond that by divine promise to all who believe, an eternity where there are no more years!

How swiftly did the year pass by,
When we did laugh, and sometimes cry.
But now it’s gone, both good and bad,
Whatever made us glad or sad.

Yet God, our Father, blessed us well,
With thanks to Him our hearts do swell.
His Word and grace helped us endure,
God’s promises are ever sure.

We know not what the New Year’ll bring,
But to God’s Word we’ll truly cling.
In the new year we enter now,
Before the Lord in faith we’ll bow.

O, treasure then the grace of God
That Jesus shed His infant blood.
In faith rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of God’s good grace.

And then when all our years have passed,
And we have left this earth at last,
His promise true, as we shall see,
Forever Home, at rest, we’ll be.

- To Tune TLH 541, Rev. Daniel Fleischer/2017