

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Eli Wales

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;  
Dale Enns; Duane Enns

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

Hospitality Team 1: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle  
Hein; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Rust

School: None

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan  
Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 2: Andrea Dahl; Dan & Cindy Degnan;  
Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow

Church Cleaners: Rust

School: Oman

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

<b>Sun., Dec. 1:</b>	8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Advent 1) 11:15 am – Luncheon 11:45-1:30 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
<b>Mon., Dec. 2:</b>	Grace School Resumes after Thanksgiving Break
<b>Wed., Dec. 4:</b>	4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
<b>Sun., Dec. 8:</b>	8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 2) 11:00 am – Luncheon 11:30-1:30 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
<b>Wed., Dec. 11:</b>	4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
<b>Sun., Dec. 15:</b>	11:30-1:30 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal 3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
<b>Wed., Dec. 18:</b>	2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert at Northtown Mall 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner 7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service
<b>Fri., Dec. 20:</b>	7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert @ Messiah in Eau Claire, WI
<b>Sun., Dec. 22:</b>	8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
<b>Mon., Dec. 23:</b>	Grace School - Christmas Party & Christmas Break Begins
<b>Tue., Dec. 24:</b>	6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
<b>Wed., Dec. 25:</b>	10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
<b>Sun., Dec. 29:</b>	10:00 am – Worship Service (No Bible Class, Sunday School)
<b>Tue., Dec. 31:</b>	7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

# *Grace Lutheran Church & School*



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



Email: [john.p.hein@gmail.com](mailto:john.p.hein@gmail.com)

Home Page: [www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://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 1

**Date:** December 1, 2019

## ✝ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✝

### **Hymns:**

TLH 64: Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes

WS 701: Prepare the Royal Highway

TLH 296: Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

Communion: TLH 58

WS 702, st. 1,5-6: As Angels Joyed with One Accord

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### **Worship Prep:**

Psalms 45, TLH p. 133

### **Liturgy:**

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

### **Scripture Readings:**

Jeremiah 33:14-18

Luke 1:1-25

### **Sermon: 1 Samuel 3:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## **See Christmas through a Child's Eyes**

***Samuel: Unquestioningly Take the LORD at His Word***

# **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Written by Pastor Mark Weis

Christmas trees have been part of the Christmas tradition for more than five hundred years. In fact, Martin Luther is credited with being the first to place lights--at that time, candles--on a Christmas tree. No doubt all of us have cherished memories of decorating Christmas trees; first as children with parents, and later as parents with children.



But Christmas trees are not merely decoration. If we let them, they can be living-room reminders of Christmas truths. The evergreen color can remind us of God's everlasting love; or, if the color is white, of the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Christmas tree lights can be reminders of Jesus, "the light of the world." The beautifully wrapped presents beneath the tree can remind us of all the gifts God has lavished upon us in Christ: the gift of forgiveness; the gift of grace; the gift of eternal life; and certainly, the greatest gift of all, God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

Likewise, the ornaments on a Christmas tree can remind us of the "fruits of repentance;" that is, God-pleasing behavior which results from our connection to Christ; as Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

Scripture, of course, does not mention Christmas trees adorned with lights and tinsel and ornaments. However, it does mention four trees directly related to the Christmas Story; that is, directly related to the reason why Jesus Christ came into the world.

The **first two of these "Christmas trees"** were planted in the Garden of Eden. One was the Tree of Life, and the other was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Both of these trees were located in the center of the Eden, because they were central to humanity's relationship with God. Would man choose the Tree of Life and live? Or would he choose evil and die?

Sadly, we know which choice Adam and Eve made. And everything wrong with our world today can be traced to that wrong choice-to man aspiring to be God. The tempter told Adam and Eve, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,” Genesis 3:4-5.

By contrast, everything right with our world-salvation, the forgiveness of sins, eternal life-is the result of God aspiring to become man; that great reality we celebrate at Christmas: “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us,” John 1:14.

In a Biblical sense, then, the first ‘Christmas tree’ was that tree where Adam and Eve sinned, and where God in grace and love promised the Savior; saying, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel,” Genesis 3:15.

**The third “Christmas tree”** in Scripture was planted in the rocky soil of Golgotha, where Jesus Christ suffered and died for the sins of the world. In the remarkable wisdom of God, since human beings were overcome by a tree in Eden, Christ overcame by a tree on Golgotha. Isn’t that a wondrous paradox? We were overcome by a tree. Christ overcame by a tree.

Paul wrote in Colossians 2:13-15, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

And **the final “Christmas tree”** of Scripture is yet to come. This tree will be found in the new heavens and earth God will create at the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself spoke of this tree, saying in Revelation 2:7, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

As we gather about our decorated Christmas tree, let us remember these other trees which led to Christmas and Christ’s coming: the tree in Eden; the tree on Golgotha; and the tree in the Paradise yet to come.



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# MINISTRIES FOUND ONLINE

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[www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://www.FridleyLutheran.org)

## Some website links:



- ➔ Grace Lutheran Church: [www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://www.FridleyLutheran.org)
- ➔ Grace on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CLCGraceLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CLCGraceLutheranChurch)
- ➔ Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC): [www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)
- ➔ Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, & Seminary (ILC): [www.ilc.edu](http://www.ilc.edu)
- ➔ CLC Missions: [www.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.lutheranmissions.org)
- ➔ The CLC Book House (CLC book store): [www.clcbookhouse.org](http://www.clcbookhouse.org)
- ➔ The Lutheran Spokesman (CLC publication): [www.lutheranspokesman.org](http://www.lutheranspokesman.org)
- ➔ The Branches (women's publication): [www.thebranchesonline.info](http://www.thebranchesonline.info)

## Check out the following online devotional materials:

- ➔ Weekly video of the Grace Lutheran Church sermon: [www.clcgracelutheranchurch.org/category/sermons/](http://www.clcgracelutheranchurch.org/category/sermons/)
- ➔ Weekly CLC "Ministry by Mail" sermon: [www.clclutheran.org/ministrybymail](http://www.clclutheran.org/ministrybymail)
- ➔ Daily email devotions from The Bread of Life (The Lutheran Spokesman): [www.glcdailydevotion.wordpress.com](http://www.glcdailydevotion.wordpress.com)
- ➔ Daily email devotions from CLC pastors: [www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html](http://www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html)
- ➔ Daily email for a CLC Three-Year Bible reading program: [www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com](http://www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com)
- ➔ Daily audio of the chapel address from our Immanuel campus: [www.ilc.edu/chapel.htm](http://www.ilc.edu/chapel.htm)

Also, check out the Grace Lutheran Church on Google Play for Android devices.

**Facebook Page:** If you're on Facebook, be sure to like or share items that are on the Grace Lutheran Church page. This can help promote the page to others, along with events that we publicize there.

The more shares, etc., the more Facebook promotes our church page to others.



## ✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✝

◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** This coming Wednesday, 7 pm, begins our Midweek Advent worship services. These will be held for the next three Wednesdays with our last one on Dec. 18 being our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm. Our theme this year is “See Christmas through a Child’s Eyes,” considering how we are all to have child-like faith when it comes to the type of trust we are to have in our Savior. Join us during this precious time of year to ponder our Savior’s coming.

◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:

- Sun., Dec. 1: 11:45-1:30 pm (luncheon at church)
- Sun., Dec. 8: 11:30-1:30 pm (luncheon at church)
- Sun., Dec. 15: 11:30-1:30 pm (luncheon at church)
- Sun., Dec. 22: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly)

December is a busy month, but please remember the importance of these rehearsals for a successful Christmas Eve service. It is quite helpful for the children to know their individual parts by the first rehearsal, grade level parts by second rehearsal, and entire children parts by the third rehearsal. The three “Luke 2” parts are all together as a group. Parents are encouraged not to have your children formally memorize Luke 2, but to simply say it with the children once or twice a day. By the time Christmas Eve comes around, they will know these well. Each child should attend at least 2 sessions, but attending all is obviously the most preferable. The last rehearsal on December 22 is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. The children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The parents’ help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well.

◆ **Northtown Concert:** This year the Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall on Wed., Dec. 18, 2 pm.

◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on Dec. 18. Those attending may bring something to share. Dorcas Guild committee #1 is hosting.

◆ **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: *See Christmas through a Child’s Eyes*. 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.

◆ **Poinsettias:** There is a signup sheet for Christmas Poinsettias by the guest book at the church entry. If anyone would like to purchase a plant for church, please indicate it by signing your name and plant information on the sheet. For questions, contact Mikey Oman.

◆ **Appreciation:** Thanks to all who contributed to decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

- ◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- ◆ **Books Available:** This is a reminder of a few books that are available. Rev. Daniel Fleischer's "Christ--No Other Foundation" is directly available from him at a cost of \$15. There are also still several copies available in pastor's office of Pastor Dale Redlin's Volume II of "God's Promise Kept." The cost of \$15 is to be mailed directly to Pastor Redlin with a slip of paper in the book that has payment directions. Also, Pastor Mark Weis, a CLC pastor serving in Lemmon, SD, has published devotional books available on Amazon: "One Thing Needful, Volume 2" (\$9.75), "One Thing Needful" (\$8.99), and "On Eagles Wings" (\$9). Just search Amazon for his name and any of the titles and you can purchase them online.
- ◆ **Sunday School Teachers:** Perhaps something to consider this Christmas is extending our Sunday School teachers an expression of gratitude for what they do for our children each week.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **Liberia:** To make a contribution to the work in Liberia, write in "Liberia" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ◆ **2020 Cleaning:** The 2020 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.
- ◆ **Large Print Hymnals:** As a reminder, there are three copies of The Lutheran Hymnal in large print. These are by the guest book. Feel free to use these and return at the end of the worship service.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held Sun., Dec. 15, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year will be held on Fri., Dec. 20, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire.
- ◆ **Trip to Israel:** A group trip to Israel is being planned in January of 2021. The dates are set for January 13-22, 2021, with a possible three day extension to Jordan for those who are interested. The trip will include visits to Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and En Gedi and more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the events in the ministry of Jesus as well as those of the prophets and apostles. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the places which we read and hear about in the Scriptures and where God brought His plan of salvation to completion through the life and the death of Jesus. More information can be found in a brochure on the table in the church entry. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew (404-729-4602 or ndmayhew@att.net).

♦ **Mission Helper Trip:** The CLC Mission Helper Program is now accepting applications for the 2020 Trip to Nepal in July. This trip will be limited to eight volunteers so please apply early. An online application and more information can be found at [www.MHT.LutheranMissions.org](http://www.MHT.LutheranMissions.org).

♦ **Houston, Texas:** Recently a Sunday evening a Worship Service was held in Conroe, TX, which is a Northern suburb of Houston. The Worship Service attendance consisted of a mix of individuals that were members of Bethel when Roland Gurgel and two other men dissolved the congregation without notifying those families. Since then those individuals have become members of St. Matthew in Dallas. Also in attendance were those who were former members of Bethel and other individuals that have been instructed in the Gospel by Mark Bohde after he and a number of others left Bethel in 2012. As it stands right now, there are plans to hold Worship Services in Conroe for the next six months every Sunday evening. Pastor Sam Naumann in Corpus will lead a few services in November and along with myself and, Lord Willing, retired Pastor David Baker. It is the prayer of many of us that a congregation can be reestablished in the Houston area, especially considering there are a number of individuals that are in doctrinal agreement with the Church of the Lutheran Confession. If you know of anyone in the Houston area or simply passing through on a Sunday the Worship Services are held at: Outlets at Conroe; 1111 League Line Road, Suite 158; Conroe, TX 77303. Worship time: 5:30 pm. Any questions feel free to contact Pastor Matthew Hanel ([hanel95@hotmail.com](mailto:hanel95@hotmail.com)).

♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Mr. Stephen Sydow has returned the call extended to him by Berea Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD. † Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr., of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has been called by Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. † Retired pastor, Paul Fleischer, had a slight stroke this past Monday. After being hospitalized in Mayo at Rochester, he has returned home to Red Wing.

♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Grade-Level Parts

**Last Week's Stats:** Nov. 24, 2019 Sun.: 88 S.S.: 14 B.Cl.: 50 Wed.: 59

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,135*	CLC:	\$1,320
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,140	CLC:	\$290
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+275	CLC:	+610
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$177,835**	CLC:	\$44,839
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	188,000	CLC:	47,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,165	CLC:	-2,161
GLC Other: 65	Living Faith: 20	Tuition Aid: 85		
SAF Endowment: 100	MDF: 15	Kinship: 60		
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg. 100	IIF: 0 CEF: 0		
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid: \$444		

\* Includes \$0 in school tuition \*\* Includes \$9,460 year-to-date school tuition