

✝ TODAY AT GRACE ✝

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Eli Wales

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

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow

Church Cleaners: Oman

School: Rinne

✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

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

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

Church Cleaners: Oman

School: NA

✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

Sun., Dec. 22: 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

9:00 am – Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling

Mon., Dec. 23: 12:00 pm – School Christmas Party (Gift Opening @ 2 pm)
Grace School Dismissal for Christmas Break

Tue., Dec. 24: **CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:30 pm – Children Arrive at Church

6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

Wed., Dec. 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

Sun., Dec. 29: 10:00 am – Worship Service (No Bible Class, Sun. School)

Tue., Dec. 31: **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Jan. 5: 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

11:00 am – Hospitality

Wed., Jan. 8: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Jan. 12: 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 1)

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Sun., Jan. 19: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings



Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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: Advent 4

Date: December 22, 2019

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 72: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
TLH 63: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry
TLH 272: When All the World was Cursed
TLH 85, st. 1-3,14-15: From Heaven Above

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 67, TLH p. 137

Liturgy:

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

Scripture Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:57-80

Sermon: Luke 1:39-44

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." (NKJV[™])

See Christmas through a Child's Eyes

John: Excitedly Welcome the LORD in Spirit-Led Joy



✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✝

- ◆ **Christmas Caroling:** A caroling outing is still planned for this afternoon, 3 pm. Please speak with Pastor Hein should you have interest in singing with us. It is always exciting to be able to make people smile by singing praises about our Savior in this special way.
- ◆ **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: *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:** Our Christmas Day worship will be held 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.
- ◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- ◆ **New Year's Eve:** On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, we will be having a 7:00 pm worship service with the Lord's Supper.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **2020 Cleaning:** The 2020 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr., of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has returned the call to Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. ✝ Principal Joshua Ohlmann of Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, to be their upper grade teacher/principal. ✝ Mr. Jay Sydow has returned the call to be high school math and science teacher at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Parts and Hymns



The following is the nomination slate for 2020:

- Secretary: Bill Rust, Benno Sydow
- Elder: Al Rosendahl, Dave Rust
- Education: Roger Ochsner, Ryan Oman
- Trustee: Pat Paplow, Bill Rust, Bob Vandever
- Delegates: Dale Enns, Bill Rust, Dave Rust, Benno Sydow

LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

Luke 2: 8-18

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2019

One dark'ning night near Bethlehem
When shepherds tended in the field
The sheep entrusted to their care,
A sudden light did pierce the night,
The glory of the Lord appeared.

T'was nothing like the shepherds knew;
They'd never seen the sky so bright,
Much less heard angelic voices.
They trembled at the sight and sound,
Their hearts and minds were filled with fear.

The angel knew they were afraid,
He spoke to them, allayed their fear.
This was the Father's chosen time.
As an expression of His love,
He'd kept the promise He had made.

The angel kindly spoke to them:
"Don't be afraid, I bring glad news
To you and to your fellowmen.
For unto you is born this day,
Your Savior, Jesus, God's own Son."

Then suddenly a choir sang
From heav'n above—a joyful tune:
It was a song that lifts sad hearts:
"All glory and all praise to God,
Who in His Son brings peace to earth."

Tis not the peace the world pursues,
Nor which about it even cares.
It is the peace once held, but lost
When came with sin both fear and death.
It is the peace of sins forgiv'n.

The shepherds waited not a bit,
But trusted God to keep the sheep.
With wond'ring hearts, they ran with haste
To Bethlehem and found the Child
Calmly sleeping in the manger.

They heard the truth of this dear Child
Of Virgin, born, yet God's own Son.
Mary's child, yet pure and sinless,
Jesus is the Babe they worshiped—
From sin, the Savior of the world.

Back to the fields the shepherds went,
Restored to vigor, with new hope.
They stopped to speak along the way
Of all the things they'd heard and seen.
No more afraid, with peace of heart.

In darkness of this world of sin,
I live and work and pray each day.
Dear Father, on my heart bestow
The light of peace and joy and hope
Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord.

Blessed Father, You've seen my need,
So let me hear the angels' song,
As shepherds did, now help me Lord,
Proclaim Your wondrous love and grace,
For Christ, the Lord, was born for me.

As Luther prayed, I pray dear Lord:
"Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make You a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber, kept for You."¹³

* The Lutheran Hymnal #85, st. 13

A Christmas Day Devotion

by Martin Luther

Mary "...wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger." Why not in a cradle, on a bench, or on the ground? Because they had no cradle, bench, table, board, nor anything whatever except the manger of the oxen. That was the first throne of this King. There in a stable, without man or maid, lay the Creator of all the world. And there was the maid of fifteen years bringing forth her first-born without water, fire, light, or pan, a sight for tears! What Mary and Joseph did next, nobody knows. The scholars say they adored. They must have marveled that this Child was the Son of God. He was also a real human being. Those who say that Mary was not a real mother lose all the joy. He was a true Baby, with flesh, blood, hands and legs. He slept, cried, and did everything else that a baby does only without sin.

Think, women, there was no one there to bathe the Baby. No warm water, nor even cold. No fire, no light. The mother was herself the midwife and the maid. The cold manger was the bed and the bathtub. Who showed this poor girl what to do? She had never had a baby before. I am amazed that the little one did not freeze. Do not make of Mary a stone. It must have gone straight to her heart that she was so abandoned. She was flesh and blood, and must have felt miserable — and Joseph too — that she was left in



this way, all alone, with no one to help, in a strange land in the middle of the winter. Her eyes were moist even though she was happy, and aware that the Baby was God's Son and the Savior of the world. She was not stone. For the higher people are in the favor of God, the more tender are they.

Mary was the mother of the Lord. With trembling and reverence, before nestling him to herself, she laid him down, because her faith said to her, "He will be the 'Son of the Highest.'" No one else on earth had this faith, not even Joseph, for although he had been informed by the angel the word did not go to his heart as to the heart of Mary, the mother.

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the Baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.



Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother, still a virgin. What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! What fairer than her youth! What more gracious than her virginity! Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. See how God invites you in many ways. He places before you a Babe with whom you may take refuge. You cannot fear him, for nothing is more appealing to man than a babe. Are you frightened? Then come to him, lying in the lap of the fairest and sweetest maid. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 15, 2019 Sun.: 88 S.S.: 25 B.Cl.: 41 Wed.: 96

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$9,150*	CLC:	\$570
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$670	CLC:	\$20
<i>Weekly Need:</i>	<i>Grace:</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>CLC:</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>-Under / +Over:</i>	<i>Grace:</i>	<i>+5,820</i>	<i>CLC:</i>	<i>-410</i>
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$194,087**	CLC:	\$46,882
<i>Year-to-Date Need:</i>	<i>Grace:</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>CLC:</i>	<i>50,000</i>
<i>Year-to-Date (+/-)</i>	<i>Grace:</i>	<i>-5,903</i>	<i>CLC:</i>	<i>-3,118</i>
GLC Other: 865	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	0
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	315	Kinship:	60
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg:	100	IIF: 10	CEF: 0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$631

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