

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

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School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Advent 1

Date: December 1, 2024

✝ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✝

Hymns:

TLH 73: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TLH 609: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

TLH 290: We Have a Sure Prophetic Word

Communion: TLH 61, Meditative Music

WS 702:1,6-7: As Angels Joyed with One Accord

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 25, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Readings:

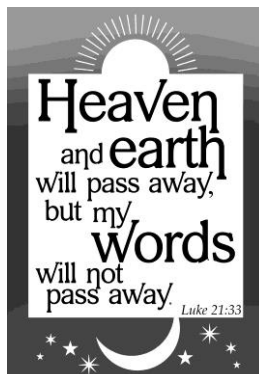
Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Sermon: Luke 21:33

³³ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (NKJVTM)

God's Word – It Stands the True Test of Time!



Not Better, But Better Off

A man was making fun of one of his friends who was a sincere Christian who believed in Jesus Christ as his Savior. "The trouble with you Christians is that you think you are better than everyone else," said the scoffer. To which the Christian replied: "Not better, but better off."

How true! Anyone who has been brought into a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ is indeed better for time and eternity than the one who has no faith at all.

"Godliness is profitable unto all things," the Bible says, "having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come (1 Tim. 4:8). The godly person does not have to wait until he gets to heaven to be better off; he or she is better off right now. That reward may not be financial success or higher social standing. Perhaps no one would rate him or her at the local bank as being better off than any other of their customers. No where has the Bible told us that godliness would guarantee material success. But the Lord has told us that the rewards of humble trust in Him are peace, joy, assurance, a victorious inner life and, finally, eternal life with God in heaven.

To awaken every morning knowing that we have a Savior Who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world (Matt. 28:20) and to know every evening when we invite sweet sleep to erase the scars of another day, that our Savior has, through His suffering, death, and resurrection, restored us to the status of God's true children is indeed a blessing whose value can never be truly measured and a reason for giving our God our continual thanks and praise.

Our daily sins remind us that we, by nature, are no better than other people, but God's daily grace will convince us beyond all doubt that we are better off. As a result we can say with the songwriter: "How rich is my condition because God and heaven are still my own."

Everything "good" that we are or have or hope to be comes to us "from above" (James 1:17), from our Heavenly Father as a blessing in and through Christ Jesus. This removes any possibility of sinful pride and instills in each of us a genuine and sincere Christian humility that finds its only cause for glorifying "in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31).

"Better?" - No, no, no, never! "Better off?" - As children of God, yes, yes, now and evermore! O give thanks unto the Lord! To Him Alone be all Glory!
(Adapted)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Services:

Wed., Dec. 4 – 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 11 – 7:00 pm

“Jesus Christ, the Light of Our Christmas.” Special meditations to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Candlelight Service:

Wed., Dec. 18 – 7:00 pm

A service of readings & hymns along with the lighting of candles to celebrate the light of Christ’s rule in our hearts.

Preceded by Congregational Christmas Meal @ 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service:

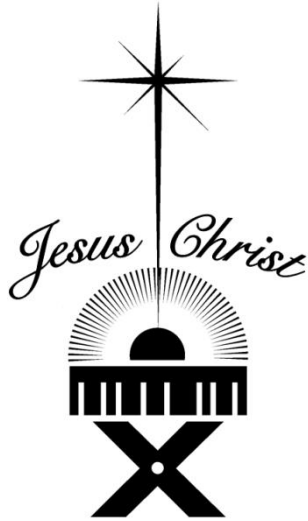
Tue., Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm

“The Cross in the Christmas Tree.” A service in which the children present the timeless and treasured Christmas message.

Christmas Day Service:

Wed., Dec. 25 – 10:00 am

A service in which we ponder the fulfillment of Christ being born as True Man and True God in order to bring us salvation.



The Light of Our Christmas

JESUS CHRIST
THE LIGHT OF OUR CHRISTMAS

† **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** †

- ➔ **Among Us:** Cindy Bruckbauer returned home from the hospital in time for Thanksgiving. She is healing from surgery to repair digestive blockage plus to remove her appendix. Tom Graham is healing slowly, but thus far has been able to avoid surgery on his intestine. His problems began after having surgery to remove a ruptured appendix. "Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up." (Hosea 6:1)
- ➔ **Hospitality:** Please note that there will be regular hospitality (instead of luncheons as in past) on December 1, 8, and 15.
- ➔ **Midweek Advent Worship:** Beginning this Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7 pm, we will hold Midweek Advent worship services with the theme: "Jesus Christ, the Light of Our Christmas." These services will focus on Jesus bringing us the light of righteousness in the midst of this dark world of sin. Our last one on Dec. 18 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm. Join us during this precious time of year to ponder our Savior's coming.
- ➔ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship potluck meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on Dec. 18. Those attending may bring something to share. Dorcas Guild committee #3 is hosting.
- ➔ **Christmas Caroling:** While a caroling outing is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 15, Pastor is considering doing it on a different day, maybe even a weekday. Please speak with Pastor Hein should you have any desire to sing with us so that he can get an idea as to what the interest is. It is always exciting to be able to make people smile by singing praises about our Savior in this special way. This year Pastor has a rather lengthy list of possibilities, so putting together a plan would be helpful to make this possible.
- ➔ **Northtown Christmas Concert:** This year the Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall on Thu., Dec. 19, 2:00 pm. They will be located at the inside-of-the-mall entrance to Best Buy. Everyone is encouraged to come attend as it is always an experience greatly appreciated. If you haven't ever come to this, you may be pleasantly surprised at how well received it is. Come support the school!



➔ **Christmas Eve Rehearsals:** This is the rehearsal schedule:

- Sun., Dec. 8: 11:30 am-1:00 pm (hospitality after worship)
- Sun., Dec. 15: 11:30 am-1:00 pm (hospitality after worship)
- 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. The last rehearsal on December 22 is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. It is quite helpful for the children to know their individual parts by the first rehearsal and all parts by the second 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. 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.

➔ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Tue., Dec. 24, 6 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: "The Cross in the Christmas Tree." The kids are asked to be here ½ hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things. Christmas Day worship will be held Wed., Dec. 25, 10 am. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!



➔ **New Year's Eve:** On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, we will be having a 7 pm worship service with the Lord's Supper.

➔ **Poinsettia** signup sheet is in the narthex by the guest book. Poinsettias are \$8 each. They will be purchased in stages throughout the Advent Season. Please see Laura Wales for payment.

➔ **2024 Cleaning:** Any volunteers for the remaining weeks of 2024?

➔ **2025 Cleaning:** The 2025 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.
- ➔ **Listening Assistance:** There are a few receiving units by the mailboxes that can be placed in one's ear in order to hear the sound that is picked up by the pastor's microphone. Please feel free to use these (and return) if they are of any help to hear the sermon, etc.
- ➔ **From the Elders:** This time of year is when a collection is taken for our "Called Workers Gift." All such designated offerings and any loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ➔ **Local Special Funds:** Just to highlight a few of our local funds ...
 - 1) Liberia Fund: supports special projects related to work in Liberia
 - 2) Sanctuary Improvement Fund: supports the current sanctuary project
 - 3) Tuition Aid Fund: supports Grace students who attend Immanuel Luth. H.S.
 - 4) Living Faith Fund: supports people who are in need, particularly members
 - 5) Dorcas Guild Fund: supports projects by our women's group
- ➔ **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.
- ➔ **Stock Donations:** The Voters of Grace have provided a process for members to donate equities to the Congregation. Anyone interested in doing this can get information from Phil Radichel. Such a donation spares the donor from being taxed on any capital gains.
- ➔ **Qualified Charitable Distribution:** For those over 70½ it may be beneficial for you to send your offerings directly from an IRA fund to the church. The advantage of this procedure is those amounts are NOT considered as income and your adjusted gross income is less. For more information see Phil Radichel or Benno Sydow.
- ➔ **Immanuel Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held Sun., Dec. 15, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ➔ **Immanuel Christmas Concert:** The concert is at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire on Fri., Dec. 20, at 7:30 pm. This is always a spiritually edifying concert to help a person focus, even in the midst of the busy holiday season, on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This concert ends the busy finals week for the students as they conclude their first semester of the academic year. We pray the students will safely arrive at their homes in order to enjoy Christmas break with their families.

- ➔ **Family Bible Camp:** Zion Lutheran Church in Loganville, GA (Atlanta area), invite you to consider the possibility of joining us for our first annual Family Bible Camp. Currently, we are hoping to have enough expressed interest in this idea to reserve the group campsite at Cloudland Canyon State Park in northwest Georgia for early June. If this is something you would be interested in, please let us know by sending an email to pastorfrankgantt@gmail.com. At this time, we are not requesting an absolute decision from you but a simple "Yes, I'm interested." Also, please inform us of how many you would likely bring if you were to join us. Please respond by December 31.
- ➔ **CLC Youth Camp:** The CLC Youth Camp is looking for 2025 camp staff. Camp will be June 8-14, 2025 at Camp JIM in Pillager, MN. Staff must be 18+ to apply to be a counselor. Sign up can be found on our Facebook page or our website: youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp. Email Amber Casto for any questions youthcamp.clc@gmail.com. Applications close December 31, 2024.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Individual Parts

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 24, 2024 Sun.: 76 S.S.: 13 B.Cl.: 37 Wed: 63

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$8,150	CLC:	\$2,190				
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$614	CLC:	\$70				
Weekly Need (est.):	Grace:	4,900	CLC:	1,135				
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+3,864	CLC:	+1,125				
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$230,240	CLC:	\$53,220				
Year-to-Date Need (est.):	Grace:	230,300	CLC:	53,345				
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-60	CLC:	-125				
GLC Other:	0	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	50	Sanctuary:	1,100	
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship:	222	EduK8:	0	
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	1,000	IIF:	0	CEF:	0	
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid:		\$1,870	Sanctuary:				\$9,900

"My words will by no means pass away."



Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to speak with you!



✝ TODAY AT GRACE ✝

Organist: Ryan Mueller

Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Eli Wales; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Kelley; Ryan Oman; Bob Vandever; Uriah Wales

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

Hospitality Team 1: Dan & Cindy Degnan; Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow

Church Cleaners: A. Baker/Kelley School: NA

✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Kyle Aymond; Kevin Hulke; Jack Maki; John Maki; Keith Radichel; Grant Wells

Counting Team 2: Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker

Hospitality Team 2: Theresa Aymond; Rachele Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: A. Baker/Kelley School: Konway

✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

- Sun., Dec. 1:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship (Advent 1)
11:00 am - Hospitality (Team 1)
- Mon., Dec. 2:** Grace School Resumes from Thanksgiving Break
- Wed., Dec. 4:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
- Sun., Dec. 8:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 2)
11:00 am – Hospitality (Team 2)
11:30-1:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 11:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
- Sun., Dec. 15:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality (Team 3)
11:30-1:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano and Organ Concert (Eau Claire, WI)
- Wed., Dec. 18:** 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal (Dorcas Guild #3)
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service
- Thu., Dec. 19:** 2:00 pm – Grace School Concert (Northtown Mall by Best Buy)
- Fri., Dec. 20:** Grace School Christmas Party (dismisses until Jan. 6)
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert (Messiah – Eau Claire, WI)
- Sun., Dec. 22:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Tue., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
- Wed., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship Service

