

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 2

Date: December 8, 2024

✝ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✝

Hymns:

WS 713: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We

TLH 96: Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly

TLH 464: Blest Be the Tied That Binds

TLH 391: Blessed Are the Sons of God

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 24, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-8

Sermon: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (NKJVTM)

Our Precious Partnership in Christ's Grace

Christmas Greetings from the CLC President

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost - Luke 19:10

Dear Preachers of the Christmas Gospel, For many in our world, Christmas is like one big desperate dive toward happiness. It's as if every year at this time a sad, lost, and lonely world tries to pull itself out of its misery, in hopes that, maybe, just maybe, this year they will find "it." But what "it" is, or how to find "it," they do not know.

Many years ago, at Wind Cave National Park, a group of young people belonging to the National Outdoor Leadership program were being trained in cave exploration. The assignment for the day was to find the leader, who had hidden himself in the cave. A girl named Rachel was searching with a team of four when she thought she heard a noise down a narrow crevice. Two of the team members waited on top while she and another member crawled down into the narrow space. When they reached the room below, the two got into an argument about how to get back to the rest of the team. Rachel took off on her own. It wasn't long before she was completely disoriented. Her training taught her to stay put and wait to be found. But, determined to find her own way back, she kept moving. Soon her flashlight went out, then her canteen went dry. Her strength slowly gave out, and though she had reached the point where she was barely able to crawl, her stubbornness would not allow her to stop and be found. Thankfully, after 34 hours of searching, she was rescued. Later, when investigators began to piece together what had happened, it was discovered that throughout most of the time she was lost, the rescue team was only minutes behind her. She was literally running away from her rescuers.

As we look upon the mad frenzy that has become Christmas, we see a world stubbornly running away from God. In his sinfulness, man is absolutely blind to the truth that only the God of the Bible can bring light and a way out from the darkness that is our sin. Our sins once threatened to condemn us all to endless despair in the fiery abyss of hell. But God sent His Son to take on our flesh and give Himself in death as a ransom for all. Through water and the Word, the Spirit has brought an end to our prideful, aimless wanderings. In God's great mercy He has made it so that, instead of running away from Him, we daily run to Him in repentant faith for the assurance of forgiveness and life everlasting. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He has found us! What grace is ours! Throughout this Advent and Christmas seasons, may we find renewed joy in preaching the searching and redeeming love of our Savior God. Thanks be to God for His Inscrutable Gift!

Our Hope and Expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Desire of nations, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, That brings us unto Thee! - TLH #72:4

A Blessed, Christ-filled Christmas to You All, Pastor Michael Wilke

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:

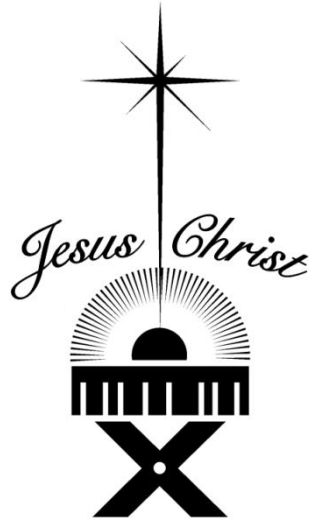
Tue., Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm

“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:** After learning little at a recent neurologist appointment, Cindy Degnan has had a few more seizures lately. There will be a waiting period until her next appointment. We pray that these will not harm her any further and that some sort of explanation will be forthcoming. Daniel Fleischer will be having a surgical procedure this Wed., Dec. 11, to remove what is believed to be a cancerous mass on his bladder. The urologist is hopeful about the outcome. Tom Graham has returned home from the hospital with a slow recovery from his intestinal issues. He is appreciative of the prayers and well-wishes. Late in the week Melvin Eichstadt became involuntarily unresponsive and thus hasn't been able to eat. Please keep all your fellow Christians in your prayers.

➔ **Midweek Advent Worship:** Continuing this Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 pm, we will hold Midweek Advent worship service 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 a dish 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 lengthy list of possibilities, so putting together a plan would be helpful to make this possible.

➔ **Northtown Christmas Concert:** The Grace School children will be singing at Northtown Mall, Thu., Dec. 19, 2 pm. They will be at the inside-of-the-mall entrance to Best Buy. Everyone is encouraged to 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)

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.

➔ **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 guestbook 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
- 6) Hein Medical Gift: to help the Hein family during Pastor's cancer journey

➔ **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.
- ➔ **Health Updates:** Pastor has been in touch with retired Pastor Tim Wheaton who has stage IV thyroid cancer and has moved to Cheyenne, WY. This week he received his second round of chemo infusions, so he has been rather weak of late and experiencing fatigue. Much of his pain, however, has subsided. Recently we had a prayer for Pastor Paul Nolting of Valentine, NE (also serving in Mission and White River, SD) who had open heart surgery. He reports that he is gradually resuming his pastoral activities. He will be starting cardiac rehab in early January. This week Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran in Loganville, GA (Atlanta area) was hospitalized with stroke-like symptoms. After a number of tests, he was given a clean bill of health, possibly having had a mini-stroke. He has returned home to resume his pastoral responsibilities. We thank the LORD for providing our pastors with the healing they need.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Group Parts

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 1, 2024 Sun.: 72 S.S.: 8 B.CI.: 37 Wed: 33

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,793	CLC:	\$300			
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$72	CLC:	\$23			
Weekly Need (est.):	Grace:	4,900	CLC:	1,135			
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-3,035	CLC:	-812			
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$231,937	CLC:	\$53,543			
Year-to-Date Need (est.):	Grace:	235,200	CLC:	54,480			
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,263	CLC:	-937			
GLC Other:	349	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	90	Sanctuary:	50
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship:	140	EduK8:	0
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF:	0	CEF:	0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid:		\$2,107	Sanctuary:		\$9,950	

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: Jan Davis

Elder: Frank Radichel

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: A. Baker/Kelley School: Conway

✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

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

Counting Team 3: Duane Enns; Tom Graham; Kevin Hulke;
Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow

Hospitality Team 3: Jan Davis, Ryan & Mikey Oman; Laura
Wales; Janelle Hein

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: Conway

✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

- 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:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
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
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)
- Tue., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
- Wed., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship Service

