

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 3

Date: December 15, 2024

✝ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✝

Hymns:

TLH 60: Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding
TLH 63: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
TLH 272: When All the World was Cursed
WS 705: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 130, TLH p. 153

Liturgy:

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

Scripture Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-17
Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ Then [John] said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ⁹ "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." ¹² Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." ¹⁴ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." ¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, ¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. (NKJVTM)

Repentance Gets at the Heart of Christmas

- 1. Cuts to the heart**
- 2. Comforts the heart**

✝ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✝

- ➔ **Among Us:** Daniel Fleischer had successful surgery on Wednesday to remove a cancerous mass on his bladder. Once the pathology report is available, a possible treatment plan will be considered.
- ➔ **Christmas Eve Rehearsals:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
 - 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 children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ.
- ➔ **ILC Piano/Organ Recital:** will be today at 3 pm in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ➔ **Melvin Eichstadt:** was called to be with his Lord this past Monday Dec. 9. The Eichstadt family has planned a service of comfort from the Word of God with Melvin's soul now experiencing the eternal glory and presence of the LORD. This will be held Mon., Dec. 16, 11 am, here at Grace. Visitation will precede at 10 am and a luncheon will follow. All members are asked to bring salads and desserts. Dorcas Guild Committee #3 will serve. A committal service will be held Tue., Dec. 17, 9 am, at Fairview Cemetery in Oakland Township, MN. Memorials may be designated per the donor's wishes.
- ➔ **Candlelight Worship:** This Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 pm, is our final Midweek Advent worship service with the theme: "Jesus Christ, the Light of Our Christmas." This 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 this Wednesday, Dec. 18. Those attending may bring a dish to share. Please note that there's been a change in committee with Dorcas Guild committee #1 now hosting.
- ➔ **Northtown Christmas Concert:** The Grace School children will be singing at Northtown Mall, this Thursday, 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!
- ➔ **Immanuel Christmas Concert:** The concert is at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire on Fri., Dec. 20, at 7:00 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.



- ➔ **Christmas Caroling:** A number of us will be caroling next Sunday, December 22, meeting at the church at 1 pm. It is always exciting to be able to make people smile by singing praises about our Savior in this special way. If you wish to join us, please speak with Pastor.
- ➔ **Christmas Eve:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Tuesday, December 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 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 using their cell phones to take pictures and video during this service so that the focus remains on the joyous message of our Savior's birth. Our Christmas Eve service will be recorded via digital video and made available on our website which can be downloaded. If you are interested in a DVD, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson.
- ➔ **Christmas Day:** Christmas Day worship will be held Wednesday, December 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.
- ➔ **2025 Cleaning:** The 2025 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ➔ **Nativity Scene:** The nativity scene in the narthex is fragile. Parents are asked to supervise their children around it.
- ➔ **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.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran in Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran in Ponsford, MN, has received the call to St. Stephen Lutheran in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area). † Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Spokane, WA, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO (St. Louis area). Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran in Eagle Lake, MN, has now received this call.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** All Christmas Eve Parts & Hymns

Online Giving:

In the summer, the Voters directed that members be allowed to give online. We are now ready for you to give contributions online if you wish. Please contact Kevin Hulke 715-828-7986 or kevin.hulke@gmail.com if you are ready so he can set up your account. You probably have online access to your bank account. The security is set up in such a way that neither you nor the church has access to the other's bank records. When you make a donation, you are in total control of the amount. One member writes, "It was straight forward, I didn't see anything that is different from any bill pay setup." Another wrote, "WOW!!! That is what I've been waiting to see. Easy. Very straight forward. Even a 5th grader can do it. There is no reason why a member can't figure this out."

QR Code for Instructions with Online Giving:



QR Code for Online Giving:



The following is the nomination slate for 2025:

- Chairman: Dale Enns, Benno Sydow
- Elder: Phil Radichel
- Education: Kyle Aymond, Dan Kelley
- Trustee: Dan Kelley, Pat Paplow
- Delegates: Tom Graham, Rick Nelson, Bill Rust, Benno Sydow
- Key Executives: Rick Nelson, Bill Rust

"O Sing of Christ": The new hymnal that Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI, has produced is now available for purchase. The cost per hymnal is \$20. If you are interested in the hymnal for yourself, please contact church.office@ecmessiah.org. A volume organist's edition in an 8½ X 11 format is available and costs \$65. We will try to process any orders for pickup at the ILC Christmas concert on December 20th at Messiah. Arrangements can also be made with ILC students going home for Christmas break.



CLC Financial Report - November 2024

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2024	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 5 Months	Balance 11/30/2024
General Fund	0	411,204	522,621	547,075	(111,417)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	742,673	695,794	718,375	46,879
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	110,979	16,450	53,954		73,475
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	279,410	0		1,839,692
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	81,518	63,274		139,028
Kinship	169,884	60,010	80,529		149,365
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	310,381	56,123		2,938,466
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	39,479	84,484		72,312
EduK8 Fund	47,692	16,748	0		64,440
Reserve Fund	79,964	77,511	0		157,475
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,891,110	\$881,507	\$338,364		\$5,434,253

General Fund – In the month of November we spent about \$12,000 more than we received in contributions. This increased the deficit in the fund to just over of \$111,000 compared to a year ago when it we had a deficit of about \$34,000. Contributions through November are down about \$53,000 from last year at this time.

ILC Operations – Revenue is up about \$38,000 over the same period as last year while disbursements are up about \$22,000.

ILC Building Projects – Year-to-date contributions have been about \$157,000 with remaining revenue of around \$122,000 a result of increases in the market value of the investments

Church Extension Fund – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of almost \$114,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, about \$195,000 of increases in the market value of the investments and just under \$1,000 of contributions to the fund.

Other Auxiliary Funds – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer / Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 8, 2024 Sun.: 73 S.S.: 10 B.CI.: 27 Wed: 37

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,145	CLC:	\$515
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$162	CLC:	\$3
Weekly Need (est.):	Grace:	4,900	CLC:	1,135
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,593	CLC:	-617
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$235,244	CLC:	\$54,061
Year-to-Date Need (est.):	Grace:	240,100	CLC:	55,615
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-4,856	CLC:	-1,554
GLC Other:	912	Living Faith:	3	Tuition Aid: 50 Sanctuary: 0
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship: 147 EduK8: 0
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF: 0 CEF: 0
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid: \$2,157		Sanctuary: \$9,950

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Frank Radichel

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 4: Gary Gunther; Roger Ochsner; Al
Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠



- 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)
- Mon., Dec. 16:** 10:00 am – Visitation for Melvin Eichstadt
11:00 am – Service for Melvin Eichstadt
12:00 pm – Fellowship Luncheon (Dorcas Guild #3)
- Tue., Dec. 17:** 9:00 am – Eichstadt Committal Service (Fairview Cemetery)
- Wed., Dec. 18:** 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal (Dorcas Guild #1)
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)
7:00 pm – ILC Christmas Concert (Messiah – Eau Claire, WI)
- Sun., Dec. 22:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)
- Tue., Dec. 24:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**
6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
- Wed., Dec. 25:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship Service
- Sun., Dec. 29:** No Bible Class or Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Christmas 1)
- Tue., Dec. 31:** **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship Service w/Lord's Supper