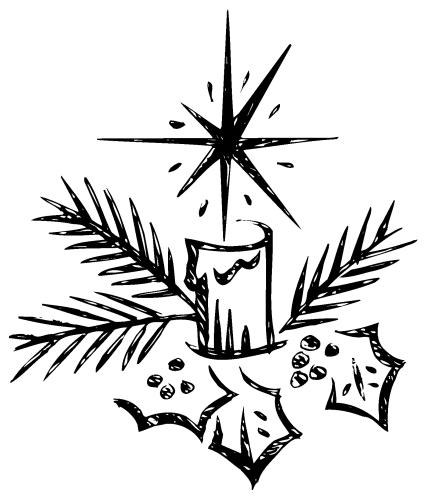
Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

December 20 & 21, 2025



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME/PRELUDE

GATHERING

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

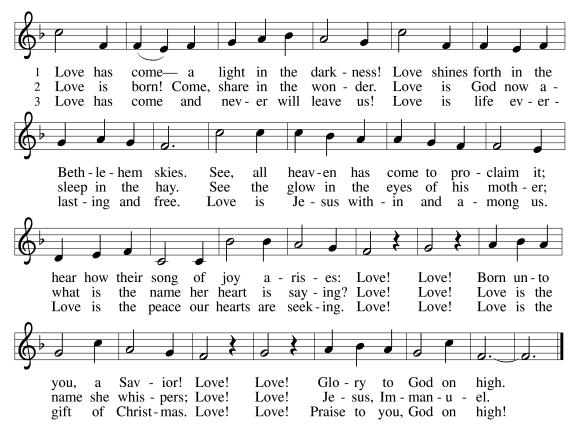
(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Long-expected God,
- C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.
- P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + We are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
- C: Amen.



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

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ADVENT CANDLE "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (sing twice) R240



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

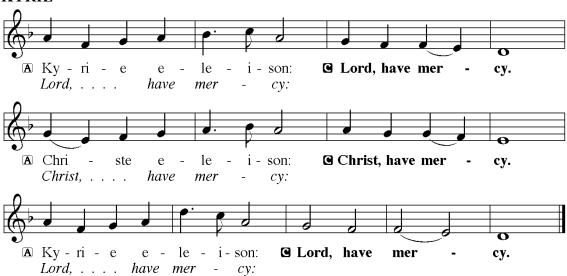
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE







P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³ Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

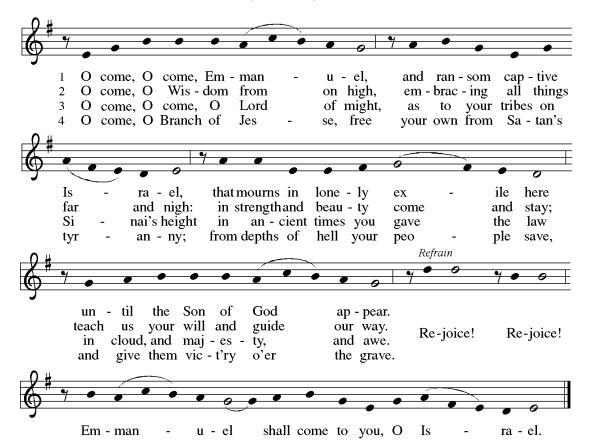
¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY

(Continued on next page)

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 @ 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (the assembly stands as they are comfortable and sings as the gifts are brought forward)



P: Let us pray...Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

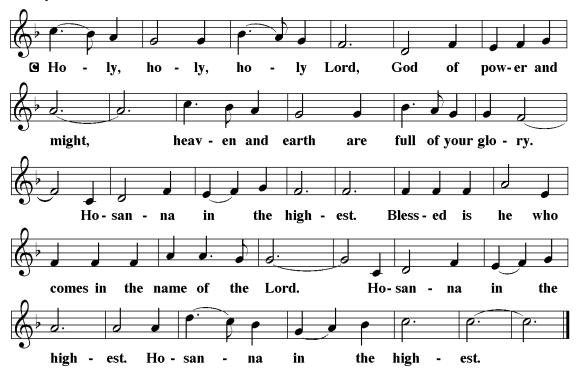
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...(concluding)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

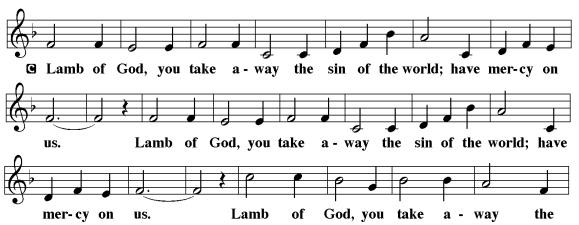
LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

HOLY COMMUNION

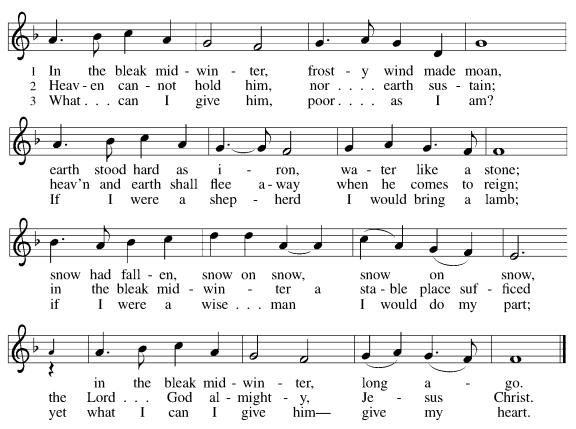
(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)





COMMUNION HYMN "In the Bleak Midwinter"

R294



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

This selection is in the public domain.

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

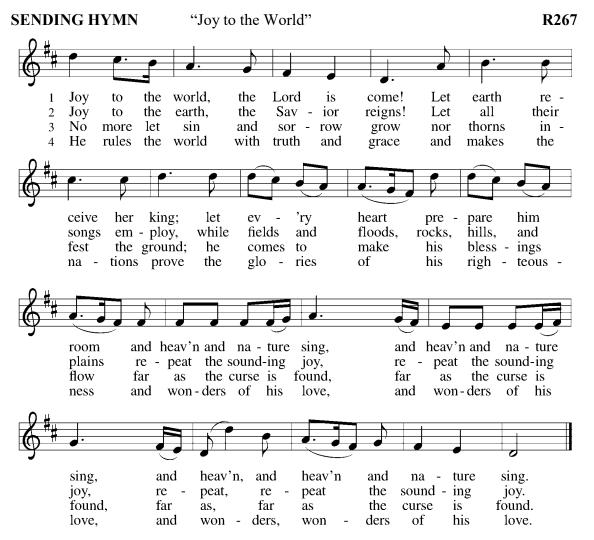
P: Let us pray...God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant us patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.



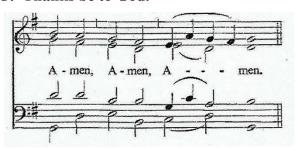
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 This selection is in the public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Celebration of Donna Czarnecki's Birthday, December 19, and
In Honor of 70 Years of Friendship
That Began in Margaret Kroll's Sunday School Class
Given by Joelyn Rich

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24TH
5:00 & 7:30 PM
Communion offered at both services

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season

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# IN OUR PRAYERS

Tom Lappan, Ed Czarnecki, Patti Tucker, Bonnie Cross, Anna Lewis, Darlene Freel, Hope Kamyszek, Bill Whitscell, Joanne Kindt, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski -- Maria Shelton, Paul Kroll, Jim Marquardt, Aggie Jakubiak, Jerry McConnell, Lisa Creger, Lynsie, Becky & Dante, Lyle Beck, Candy & Tom Laughlin, Margaret Kamyszek, Michelle, Joan Vanover, Paige Lancewicz, Randy Thiem, Mychele Allmacher, Deborah Al-Duwaisan, Daphne Flack, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, Herb Schiller, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Joseph Hansen and the family of Fr. Emmanuel Finbarr, All Saints Catholic Parish, whose sister and nieces have been kidnapped during the conflict in Nigeria. Military: Will Stafford (Rich & Sherie McTaggart's grandson), Amelia Berles, US Air Force Pilot Training, and Michael Herrmann, US Air Force.

### PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for all who work on Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue. Our Synod Prayer Partners for this week: Trinity Lutheran/Midland, Rev. Jeffrey Gramza; and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas and Synod Staff.

#### PRAYER LETTERS

**Please sign** the prayer letter(s) each week that we send out telling other churches and ministries they have been included in our prayers. Fill the page with our names. The letter(s) are on the podium by the table in the Office Lobby.

# SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN PHOTOS

Send in photos of the family creche nativity you set up, how you decorate your tree or around the house. We will put them in a "Life of Grace" video to share with others. Send them to Peggy at <a href="mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org">officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org</a>. Thanks.

# PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

Have you changed your email address? Dropped your landline phone, and only use your cell? PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE let the office know so we can be in touch with you. We've had trouble reaching some people recently.

# **BAKE SALE THANKS**

Thanks to everyone who helped, baked and donated items to our Bake Sale. It made our Bake Sale a great success. With God's blessing and many hands we made \$1,571. Thanks to everyone. -- Ruth Circle

# **RUTH CIRCLE DONATIONS**

This year the Ruth Circle donated \$1,100 from their funds, contributing \$100 to each of the following charities: Hospice of Michigan, Samaritas, Sunrise Mission, Salvation Army, Alpena Sr. Center, Lutheran World Relief, Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Supper, Women of Haiti, The Friendship Room, Friends Together and WELCA membership. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support, which makes these gifts possible.

#### LITTLE FOOD PANTRY THANK YOU

Thank you for all your help in making the Little Food Pantry a success this year. Food insecurity is real and we so appreciate all who have helped this year and for the past years. Blessings!!

# NEW OFFICE COPIER/PRINTER -PARTIALLY PAID FOR WITH MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Council recently approved the replacement of the Office's copier/printer. The old one was 9 + years old and replacement parts were no longer guaranteed in the coming year. A *BIG THANK YOU* to Memorial Donations over the years that paid for half the total cost of \$8,327. The other half came from the Building Fund.

### A REMINDER TO PET OWNERS

As we celebrate the Christmas season, please remember that many festive plants such as holly, mistletoe, yew, lilies, poinsettias, and even real Christmas trees and their water can be toxic or harmful to dogs and cats. Please keep these items out of pets' reach and be mindful of tree water hazards to help ensure a safe and happy holiday season for all.

# THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have access to two powerful resources that can amplify your support for ministry: **Thrivent Choice Dollars** and **Thrivent Action Teams**.

Eligible Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars based on their membership, insurance premiums, and product holdings. These dollars can be directed to our Grace Lutheran Congregation at no additional cost to you. *Members may direct Choice Dollars quarterly throughout the year, or make a one-time designation before March 31, 2026, to allocate all Choice Dollars earned in 2025.* 

Thrivent members can also apply year-round for Thrivent Action Team grants, which provide \$250 in seed money to support volunteer projects that address community needs. If you are a Thrivent member and would be willing to support Grace Lutheran's ministry efforts by applying for an Action Team grant, please let us know.







# Anniversaries of Baptism



December 1 Decem Andrea Matzke Cheryl

**December 6** Monica Jahnke Levi Konarzewski

**December 7**Gary Grove

**December 8**Jewel Lancaster
Ryan Werblow

**December 9** Cindy Suszek

**December 11**David Dekett

December 13 Clarence Cross **December 14** Cheryl Lang

December 16 Polly Cook

December 17 Joel Gillard

December 21 Gracie Gillard

December 24 Riley Garant

**December 28** Jessica Konarzewski Sherie McTaggart

December 30 Ethan McIntosh

# Birthdays

**December 1**Denise Timrick

**December 2**Laurie Slater
Ashlev Timmreck-Walker

**December 3** Ricky Slater Laura Thompson

December 5 Cody Suszek

**December 7** Riley Garant Sophia Kamyszek

**December 8** Hannah Kamyszek

**December 9**Paul Denstaedt

**December 16** Stephanie Adamski Jerry Mudge

**December 18** Stephen Hansen **December 19**Donna Czarnecki

**December 20**Gracelyn Gohlke
Reed Lappan

**December 21** Charlotte Werth

December 22 Shane Jaroch Connie Stepanski

December 24 Patricia Schultz

**December 25** Matthew Freel

**December 27** Jessica Timm

**December 29** Verna Furze Kenda Yochum

**December 30** Tom Lappan



# Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Joe & Dawn Gentry
Dick & Barb Werle
4th Mike & Tracey Urland

4th Mike & Tracey Urlaub 7th Mike & Kim McCourt 19th George & Mary Rowader21st Matt & Jessica Gillard

30th Tom & Mary Lappan

# SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

# **HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

| Sunday | 7-21st |
|--------|--------|
|--------|--------|

8:50 am Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School **9:30 am Worship** 

# Monday - 22nd

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

# Tuesday - 23rd

8am-noon Church Office Open 9:00 am Sewing/Quilting

# Wednesday - 24th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5 & 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

# Thursday - 25th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

# Friday - 26th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

# Saturday - 27th

5:00 pm

Lessons & Carols Worship

# SERVING DECEMBER 20/21

| SERVING DECEMBER 20/21        |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ministers                     | God's People                  |
| Pastor                        | Rev. Tom Orth                 |
| Music Director                | Claire Witt                   |
| Recorded Accompan             | <b>iment</b> Kat Tomaszewski  |
| Comm. Asst.                   | Joe Gentry, Stephanie Suszek, |
|                               | Cindy Domrase                 |
| Lector December 21 - 9:30     | amBob Greene                  |
|                               | Sharon Engstrom               |
| Christmas Eve Late.           | Ruby Haske                    |
| Ushers                        | Matt, Everett & Olivia Haske  |
|                               | Wayne Lewis (Saturday)        |
| Greeters Dec. 21-9:30 am      | Dawn Anderson, Pat Schultz,   |
|                               | Bruno Hirzel                  |
| Christmas Eve Early           | Rick & Sharon Engstrom        |
|                               | /ayne & Chris Christopherson  |
| Altar Guild                   | Gentry Family                 |
| Livestream Team               | Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter,   |
|                               | Don LaBarre, Alex Struble     |
|                               | Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek,    |
|                               | Stephanie Suszek              |
| Coffee Hour December          | 21                            |
| <b>SERVING DECEMBER 27/28</b> |                               |
| Ministers                     | God's People                  |
| Pastor                        | Rev. Tom Orth                 |
| Music Director                | Claire Witt                   |
|                               | imentKat Tomaszewski          |
| Comm. Asst.                   | Joe Gentry, Stephanie Suszek, |
| (                             | Cindy Domrase                 |
| Ushers                        | Matt, Everett & Olivia Haske  |
|                               | Wayne Lewis (Saturday)        |
| GreetersM                     | ary Rowader, Cindy Domrase    |
| Altar Guild                   | Gentry Family                 |
| Livestream Team               | Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter,   |
|                               | Don La Darra Alax Strubla     |
| Counters                      | Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek,    |
|                               | Stephanie Suszek              |
| Coffee Hour                   | Pat Schultz, Dawn Anderson,   |

Darlene Freel

# Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

#### GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: Office 989-354-2640
Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org
Give online at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth
Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759
<u>E-mail</u>:

pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org

View our services

on YouTube



Find us on Facebook at ww.facebook.com/gracelutheranalpena