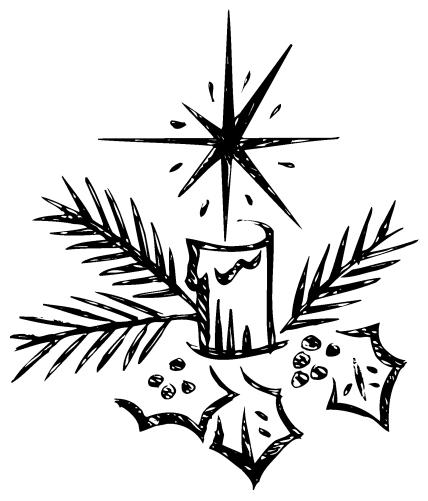
Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

December 14 & 15, 2024



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, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: God of mercy,
- C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
- P: God of might,
- C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.
- P: God in our midst,
- C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.
- P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.
- C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

R242



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE "He Came Down" (two times through)

R253



4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

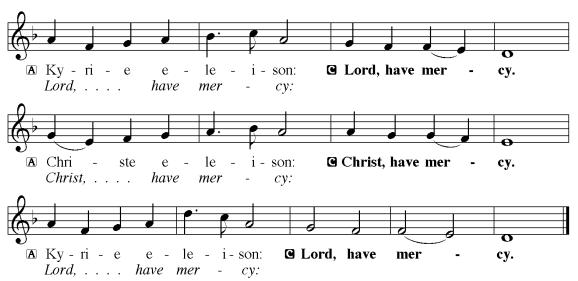
Arr. John L. Bell © 1986 Iona Community. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

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.

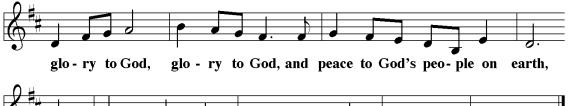
KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE







and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

P: The Lord be with you.C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

<u>WORD</u>

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
- ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

- ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" R251 soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my praise! My Sav - ior's To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy flows. ev - er To Is - ra - el. vour ser - vant blest, vour help is sure: ev - er looked up - on mv low - li - ness, and am full grace. dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose. With you might - v arm the prom-ise our par-ents made their chil - dren will to Now ev - 'ry land and this bless-ing shall pro - claim ev - 'ry age The you have a - side, the low - ly throned in stead: ruth-less cast Ho - ly One, give Sing glo - ry to the hon - or to the Word, have done for great won - ders you me, and ho - ly is your name. filled with all good things, the the hun - gry rich sent off un - fed. praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by a - dored. and all

Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 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: Merciful God,

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)

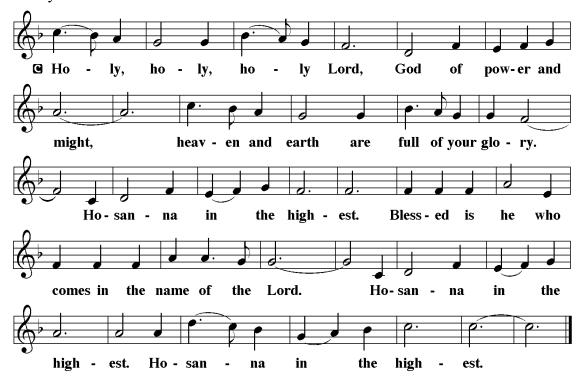


P: Let us pray...Creator God,

C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

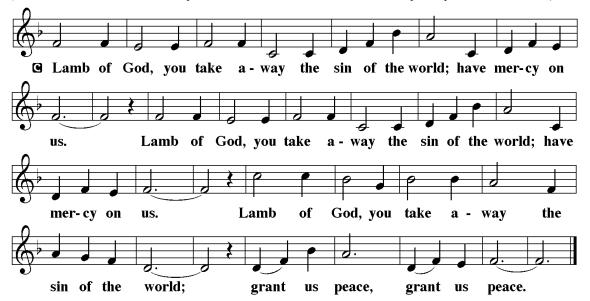
- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh 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: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

HOLY COMMUNION

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





Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784. Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

(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...Generous God,
- C: we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

R264



- 1 Pre pare the roy al high way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo ple, see him com ing: your own e ter nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o pen to greet your prom-ised king!
- 4 His is no earth ly king dom; it comes from heav'n a bove.



ev - 'ry hill and val - ley Let a lev - el road ap - pear! him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and Palm branch-es strew be - fore sing! Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute may bring. His is peace and free - dom rule and ius - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto ry: you! No God's prom-ise will not fail more shall doubt as - sail you! lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing ing: So your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound -



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Bill Whitscell, Gary Bettega, Don & Myra Cross, Adam Kamyszek, Kelly Pankey, Joanne Kindt, Tammy Furze, Eleanor Coddington, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Bonnie Cross, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Don Barnard, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry & Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski -- Mychele Allmacher, Danielle Lawrence, Bishop Emeritus Gary Hansen, Deborah Al-Duwaisan, Julie Stafford, Daphne Flack, Dixie Crevier, Brenda Donajkowski, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Kevin Carlson, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, and Joseph Hansen.

PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Children's Worship Center at Trinity Episcopal Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: St. Paul Lutheran Church/Au Gres, Rev. Max Miller, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOVING CARE MEMBERS

Please be sure to stop in the Office Lobby and sign the Christmas cards for our Loving Care Members.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - DECEMBER 15

You are invited to join in Christmas caroling around the community! There will be lunch provided after church on Sunday, December 15th at 11:00 am and caroling will begin at 12:00pm. A sign up sheet is in the Office Lobby. We will be going to assisted living homes as well as homes of some of our members. Please join in the fun!

A NEW CHURCH YEAR

We begin again our journey of faith through Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. This year with the Gospel of Luke. The beginning Advent season is a season of preparation, hope and expectation. We look to the manager, yes. More importantly though, we also look beyond it to the more that is coming. As we pray, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. That is truly what we are preparing for. The Kingdom of love, peace, grace and justice to come to here and now. That working with God and Jesus, we embody that in our living.

That is how we, the church, are different than the world. Christmas is not our goal. What lies beyond it is what we prepare for and hope for and expect. That is why we have a season of Advent before Christmas. And a season of Christmas after the 25th. If the church is not different than the world, we are of no value, and do not have meaning. We do have meaning though because of the more that is possible.

Christmas shows God's incarnation in Jesus and tells us we have value. And we have a purpose. We are church for God's mission. Believing that, we prepare again to learn the hear the story of Jesus and learn it for our living. That we are part of the Kingdom that is and the more Kingdom to come.

God's Grace and Peace to all, with Jesus' love

Pastor Tom

THANK YOU

The Ruth Circle wants to thank everyone who donated and helped to make our Bake Sale a success. We made \$1,328. Our next meeting is at 11:30 a.m. on December 18. We are having a potluck lunch. Anyone who wants to come is welcome to join us that day.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Mrs. Dasher's Ella White School third graders collected a generous amount of food for our pantry and the big yellow bus from Besser Elementary School with volunteers, including students and staff, came to Grace to donate 1,461 items of non-perishable food items and toiletries. We are very blessed with these donations and it will help in the months to come to fill our pantry. Thank you!

With our first significant snow fall we appreciate all the donations of hats, scarves and gloves! The Little Food Pantry is used frequently. Thank you!

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.

GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Average needed in November (4 weeks) to meet budget \$18,944.00 Monthly Giving - November 14,958.00

We received:

100 envelopes, 57 Simply Giving recurring payments, 8 Give+ payments made from our website, and 4Thrivent Choice donations

ANDLELIGHT WORSE December 24th

5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Communion offered at both services

December 28th at 5 p.m. December 29th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season.







Anniversaries of Baptism



December 1 December 1 December

December 6 Monica Jahnke Levi Konarzewski

December 7Gary Grove

December 8Jewel Lancaster
Ryan Werblow

December 9 Cindy Suszek

December 11
David Dekett

December 12Janie Hansen

December 13 Clarence Cross

December 14 Cheryl Lang

December 16 Polly Cook

December 17 Joel Gillard

December 21 Gracie Gillard

December 24Riley Garant
Edward Jahnke

December 28 Jessica Konarzewski Sherie McTaggart

December 30 Ethan McIntosh

Birthdays

December 1Denise Timrick

December 2 Laurie Slater Ashley Timmreck-Walker

December 3Ricky 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 18Stephen Hansen

December 19Donna Czarnecki

December 20 Gracelyn Gohlke Reed Lappan

December 21 Charlotte Werth

December 22 Shane Jaroch Connie Stepanski

December 24Patricia Schultz

December 25Matthew 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 Urlaub

7th Mike & Iracey uriaub

19th George & Mary Rowader 21st Matt & Jessica Gillard

30th Tom & Mary Lappan

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday - 15th

8:50 am **Choir Practice** 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Lunch & 11:00 am

Christmas Caroling 12:00 pm

Monday - 16th

8am-noon Church Office Open

Tuesday - 17th

8am-noon Church Office Open 9:00 am Sewing/Quilting Pastors Text Study 11:00 am

Wednesday - 18th

8am-noon Church Office Open 11:30 am Ruth Circle Potluck **Bell Choir Practice** 6:00 pm

Thursday - 19th

8am-noon Church Office Open

Friday - 20th

8am-noon Church Office Open

Saturday - 21st

5:00 pm Worship

SERVING DECEMBER 14/15		
Ministers God's People		
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth		
Music DirectorClaire Witt		
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski		
Lector Anne Gentry		
Comm. Asst Wayne & Chris Christopherson,		
Diane Prevost (Saturday)		
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom		
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)		
Greeters Anna Lewis, Darlene Freel,		
Patti Tucker		
Altar Guild Gentry Family		
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan		
Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble		
CountersCheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek		
Coffee Hour Joel & Cindy Suszek		
SERVING DECEMBER 21/22		
Ministers God's People		
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth		
Music DirectorClaire Witt		
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski		

Ministers	God's People	
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth	
Music Director	Claire Witt	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewsk		
Lector	Nancy Platt	
Comm. Asst Wayne & Chris Christopherson,		
Diane P	revost (Saturday)	
Ushers Gary & Kay	Grove, Rick Engstrom	
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)		
Greeters	Dale & Pat Schultz	
Altar Guild	Gentry Family	
Livestream Team	Dawn Anderson, Jan	
Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble		
CountersCher	ryl Lang, Cindy Suszek	
Coffee Hour	.Ruby Haske & Family	

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

E-mail:

pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org View our services on YouTube



