

✠ **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 9, 2017 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 10, 2017

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

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

HYMNS

G-R264 Prepare the Royal Highway
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (Psalms begin page 339)
D-R249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
C-R487 What Feast of Love
S-R239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Oh, How Beautiful the Sky"
arr. Paul Christiansen

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Welcome to our guests and visitors who are with us today. We hope you feel at home in our midst and look forward to seeing you again. If you would like more information about Grace Lutheran, the pastor or ushers can help you. Please consider your presence to be your gift to us. No other is necessary or expected. Thank you for worshiping with us today.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 8 LARCC parishes. Today we pray for the Sunday School Program at Grace Lutheran Church.

PRAYERS

Dorothy Hansen, Hope Kamyszek, Tom Brennan, Bev Attwell, Caroline Weise, Judy Kautz, Debbie Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Erv Simi, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Julie Troy, Scott Coddington, Bill Farnum, Gary Rich, Mimi, Dick Sanders, Trapp Truman, Kevin Salesman, David Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Eric Carlson, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, and Richard G.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of Bill Gohlke, given by Pam, Paul, Jamie, Gracelyn & Riley

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS

Large print worship folders, including hymns and weekly bulletin are available. Please ask the ushers for one.

**PICTURES OF
EVENTS AT GRACE**

If you have pictures of Grace events, etc. at Grace, please email them to Phran Ludington at captainphrantastic@yahoo.com. We will use these pictures on our website, our Facebook page and for the Community Celebrating and Sharing Dinner. Thanks!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

FOLLOWING BREAKFAST POTLUCK

Please join us following our 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 10, for a breakfast potluck. Following the potluck we will sing Christmas carols as we visit some of Grace's members who may not be able to make it to church. We will carpool from the church. We would also like to give a plate of cookies to those we visit. Sign-up sheets are available in the Office Narthex for the potluck, caroling and cookies. Any questions, contact Anna Lewis at 657-3324.

GOOD GIFTS TREE

This year we have put a Good Gifts Tree in the Narthex, on the table outside Peggy's office. The idea of the tree is to remind people there are others ways to give other than the purchase of a store bought item. Many people we know have plenty and are hard to buy for, the Good Gifts Tree offers options to honor the person and help with world hunger. The bulbs let you know what you can purchase and the amount. If you see something that strikes you, take the bulb/bulbs and go to the ELCA/goodgifts link (on the back of the bulb) and place your order. The Good Gifts Catalog, located under the tree, has plenty of information regarding the gifts and the project. If you are not comfortable ordering on line, there is an order form in the catalog, you fill that out, send your check/money order. The bulbs can be given to your recipient as acknowledgement of the gift. Please keep this in mind as a stocking stuffer or a small add-on gift. *We encourage you to take a look and consider another option for gift giving.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be having a Christmas program next Sunday, December 17, during our church service. The children have been practicing hard so we hope to see you there! There will be no Sunday school on December 24 or December 31 and we will resume the new year on January 7, 2018.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet at Polly Cook's home on Wednesday, December 20 at 1 p.m.

THANKS

Thanks to everyone who helped, baked and donated items. It made our Julefest Bake Sale a great success! With God's blessing and many hands, we made \$1,240. Thanks to everyone.

Ruth Circle

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,058.00
Weekly giving - Dec. 3, 2017	\$ 3,941.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	\$ (2,585.00)

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24 ~ 5 & 7:30 p.m.

No Saturday evening worship December 23

No Sunday morning worship December 24

December 30 ~ 5:00 p.m.

December 31 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols

Following Grace's pattern on the weekend after Christmas, we will have Lessons and Carols Services on Saturday, December 30, and Sunday, December 31. Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday - 10th

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Breakfast Potluck
12:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Monday - 11th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
5:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Tuesday - 12th

5:00 p.m. Worship Work Group

Wednesday - 13th

3-4:30 p.m. Lounge Reserved
5-6:00 p.m. Sanctuary Reserved

Thursday - 14th

4:30 p.m. Lounge Reserved

Friday - 15th

5-900 p.m. Sanctuary & Hall Reserved

Saturday - 16th

9am - 3pm Sanctuary & Hall Reserved
5:00 p.m. Worship

SERVING DECEMBER 10

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director Tina Honecker
Organist Kat Tomaszewski
Music Assistant Miriam Denstaedt
Lector Anne Gentry
Communion Assts. Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Ushers Joel Suszek, Gary & Kay Grove,
Rick Engstrom, Jack Tucker
Greeters Paul, Vicki & Miriam Denstaedt
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Gentry & Denstaedt Families
Counters Clarence & Bonnie Cross
Coffee Hour Wayne & Anna Lewis

SERVING DECEMBER 17

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director Tina Honecker
Organist Kat Tomaszewski
Music Assistant Miriam Denstaedt
Lector Bill & Nancy Platt
Communion Assts. Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Ushers Joel Suszek, Gary & Kay Grove,
Rick Engstrom, Jack Tucker
Greeters Roger & Jeanne Pankey
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Gentry & Denstaedt Families
Counters Clarence & Bonnie Cross
Coffee Hour Rick & Sharon Engstrom

FIRST READING**Isaiah 40:1-11**

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

(Psalms begin page 339)

SECOND READING**2 Peter 3:8-15a**

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be

dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL**Mark 1:1-8**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707****Phone: Office 354-2640****Pastor's Home 356-8729****Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759****Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth ~ Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org****E-mail: pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org****officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org**