

✠ **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 2, 2017 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 3, 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-R242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (Psalms begin page 339)

D-R438 My Lord, What a Morning

C-R246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

S-R260 The King Shall Come

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Light a Candle in the Night" Lloyd Larsen

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 worshipping 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 all who do tasks for the church at First Congregational UCC.

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Saturday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m.
All are welcome to join in the fellowship!

PRAYERS

Hope Kamyszek, Kelly Pankey, 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 Celebration of
Joe & Dawn Gentry's
Wedding Anniversary

GIVING TREE

Just a reminder that Giving Tree gifts are due back here, wrapped with the tag visible today, Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Thanks for helping make a child's Christmas brighter!!!

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS

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

Christmas Poinsettia orders are due today!

LARCC/PAX CHRISTI
Advent Prayer Service
“Emanuel Come Into Our Lives
Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church
All are welcome!

**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!

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.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
DECEMBER 10 FOLLOWING
APPRECIATION BREAKFAST POTLUCK

Please join us following our 9:30 a.m. service on December 10 for an Appreciation Breakfast Potluck to honor those who donated services to complete our new paved driveway. 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.

RUTH CIRCLE

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday -3rd

9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
9:00 a.m.	Children's Sunday School
9:30 a.m.	Worship
12:30 p.m.	Catechism - St. Paul

Monday - 4th

5:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
6:00 p.m.	Remembering Our Children - Lounge

Tuesday - 5th

7:00 p.m.	Council
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Wednesday - 6th

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

Thursday - 7th

4:30 p.m.	Lounge Reserved
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Saturday - 9th

9am - 3pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
9:30 am	Decorate the Church
5:00 p.m.	Worship

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.

SERVING DECEMBER 3

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

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,058.00
Weekly giving - Nov. 26, 2017	\$ 5,371.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	\$ (2,468.00)

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for

you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM 80:1-7,17-19

(Psalms begin page 339)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars

will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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