

Worship Folder



Christmas

Please leave folders with hymnals to be reused each week

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Grace Lutheran Church

January 3, 2021

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## **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**

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

**P:** Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Loving and forgiving God,

**C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

**P:** People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace our sins are forgiven, and we are free—free from all that holds us back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May we be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GATHERING HYMN “Word of God, Come Down on Earth”**

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## **GREETING**

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

P: Lord have mercy

**C: Christ have mercy**

P: Lord have mercy

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Unison*

**Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, 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 60:1-6**

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be

brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

*All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)*

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### **Ephesians 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of

Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HOMILY** Rev. Laraine Sundin

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*Text: Marcus Prudentius/Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent. This selection is in the public domain.*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Hear us, O God.

**C:** Your mercy is great.

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

**P:** Let us pray...Gracious God,

**C:** you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P:** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feasts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C:** Amen.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

**P:** Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

**C:** Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN “Light Dawns on a Weary World”**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to Rev. Laraine Sundin for preaching and leading worship today.

## **PRAYERS**

Paul Denstaedt, Nancy Platt, Darlene Freel, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth’s niece), Gordon & Dorothy Hansen, Alecia Lewis, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman’s Family, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Allison, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Bob Mackie, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich’s partner), Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David’s Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin. We also remember the family of Gordon Hansen, who passed away on December 21st.

***Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).***

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

## **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 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Homebound Ministry at All Saints Catholic Parish. We also pray for this week’s Synod Prayer Partner: Immanuel Lutheran Church/Allegan, Rev. Dan Ward and Rev. John Burow.

## **SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES**

With a heavy heart, Grace's Council and Pastor Tom have suspended in-person worship services again. With the increasing number of cases in the area, schools having to suspend class rooms and the prediction for more to come, the decision was made. Additionally, on November 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop Satterlee of our ELCA Synod along with the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod ELCA strongly recommended the suspension of in-person worship. This means that in-person Sunday School is also suspended. We will continue to evaluate local conditions and keep you informed of our future decisions on returning to in-person worship.

## **LIVESTREAMING OF SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM**

There will be livestreaming of the Sunday morning worship service. Worship will be conducted with a very limited number of worship leaders in the sanctuary and can be viewed as it is happening. A recording of that will be available for viewing anytime afterwards. Go to [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org) for the link to the YouTube livestream.

## **LIVESTREAMING TEAM - *HELP NEEDED***

Help place our services on the internet so people can join us from home and view them. We need a person to operate the system during the service. Like before it will be button pushing to position the cameras and buttons to send the service to the internet. A very straight forward process. We are looking for a few people to be familiar with the equipment so we can have a schedule of people to operate it on Sundays. David Delano will be our in-house person to head the group and train anyone interested. Contact the office 354.2640. THANK YOU.

## **COMING SOON! YOUTH GROUP**

Grace Lutheran is looking forward to rebooting it's youth group this upcoming January. While we navigate these unsure times, we plan to have youth group over Google Meet once a month. I am hopeful in transitioning to an in person setting sooner rather than later. Both Junior High and Senior High students are welcome to participate in our virtual youth group activities! We will be reading and discussing bible stories, as well as playing games and sharing in conversation. More updates to follow in the coming weeks! Keep an eye out in the weekly bulletin and in your emails! If you have any questions please contact me, Val Slaght, at [vslaght98@gmail.com](mailto:vslaght98@gmail.com).

## **YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Do we have all your current info?

Have you changed your primary phone?

New email?

Or new street address? Or PO Box?

Please update the office with any of these changes so we can be in touch. THANKS

**WHEN PLACING FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR FOR WORSHIP**

Please call (989.354.2640) or email the church office (officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org) with the information you would like listed in the bulletin. Thanks!

**DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?**

Several church members have been making face masks and some are available for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

**GENERAL FUND GIVING**

|                                         |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Average needed each week to meet budget | \$ 4,415.00 |
| Weekly giving - December 20             | 2,836.00    |
| Weekly giving - December 27             | 3,974.54    |

We received:

37 envelopes, 21 Simply Giving recurring payments and  
1 Give+ payment made from our website



## Birthdays



**January 2**  
Mitchell Agius  
Sharlene Kennedy

**January 16**  
Levi Konarzewski  
Allison Urlaub

**January 5**  
Judy Black  
Ryan Schultz

**January 19**  
Rhonda Himes

**January 7**  
Susan Stacey

**January 22**  
Michael Lang  
Elsa Phillips

**January 9**  
Arnold Jahnke

**January 25**  
Pamela Nowak

**January 10**  
Michael Herrmann  
Elfie Jahnke  
Kat Tomaszewski

**January 28**  
Jerry Charter

**January 12**  
Richard Engstrom  
David Hansen

**January 29**  
Madelyn Boyd

**January 30**  
Judy Dorr  
Adam Urlaub

## Anniversaries of Baptism



**January 1**  
Alec Kennedy  
Jessica Timm

**January 19**  
Sandra Malaski  
Meredith Smith

**January 7**  
Douglas Chroninger  
Olivia Haske

**January 20**  
Matthew Freel

**January 15**  
Michael Townsend

**January 21**  
Kasandra McInerney  
Ricky Slater

**January 16**  
Betty Dulebohn

**January 24**  
Brody Nowak

**January 17**  
Erika Nicholls

**January 25**  
Lisa McIntosh

**January 18**  
Nancy Stachnik

**January 30**  
Hannah Matzke  
Erin McCourt

**January 31**  
Brent Welch



**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**      119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707  
**Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**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](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**  
**E-mail: [pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org)      [officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**



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