

✠ **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 10, 2016 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 11, 2016

**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 146:5-10** (Psalms begin page 339)  
**D-R248** People, Look East  
**C-R311** Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
**S-R267** Joy to the World

**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 Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers in All Saints Catholic Community.

**PRAYERS**

Tom Brennan, Travis Konarzewski, Gar Nicholls, Bunny Lyon, Judy Kautz, Debbie Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Erv Simi, Jeanette Grove, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore, Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Julie Troy, Kevin Salesman, Jeff Lee, Conrad Addison, David Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Brett & Katie Schoner, Eric Carlson, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkowicz, and Richard G.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

In memory of Bill Gohlke from Pam, Paul, Jamie, Gracelyn & Riley.

**THE GIVING TREE**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** All Giving Tree gifts are due back today, December 11. Thank you to those who helped to make someone's Christmas a little brighter!

**LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS**

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

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to those who helped decorate the church last Sunday. It looks beautiful!

### **STUFFED ANIMALS IN PEWS YOUTH FUNDRAISER**

You have seen the stuffed animals in our pews over several weeks... Here is the story behind their presence. They are a YOUTH fundraiser... These animals have been loved - some may be lightly used and some may be brand new. They have: Sat among the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church during worship... Heard God's Word of Grace and prayers for comfort and healing... Experienced worship music and felt many praises raised!!! Loved and soaked in God's Love... Now - this animal comes to you to share these blessings!! Donations for any animal will benefit Youth Ministry Programs for those going to Living Water Ministry events like Summer Leadership Camps, Jr/Sr High/ College Gatherings. THANK-YOU!!!

### **NO QUILTING UNTIL JANUARY 2017**

The quilting group will NOT meet in December, but will resume in January. Mark your calendar for every Tuesday for the Quilting/Sewing Group in the Fellowship Hall from 9-11:30 a.m. and remember that you can drop in whenever you have an hour to spare. Some members also sew at home. Thanks for all of your donations of materials!

### **REMINDER**

**Poinsettia orders are due this weekend  
by Sunday, December 11**

Forms are located in the Narthex

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**December 11 at Noon**

#### **Following a Breakfast Potluck**

Join us for caroling today at noon following a breakfast potluck. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! We will car pool from the church and sing a few songs at each stop. Any questions, see Joelyn Rich.

### **RUTH CIRCLE**

The Ruth Circle Women of Grace will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, at the home of Polly Cook.

### **THANK YOU**

Thanks to everyone who helped bake and donate items for our Julefest Bake Sale. It made it a great success. With God's blessing and many hands we made \$1,356.00. Thanks to everyone!

Ruth Circle

### **GENERAL FUND GIVING**

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 3,981.00
Weekly giving - December 4	\$ 6,142.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	(\$ 7,154.00)

### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

#### **Sunday - 11th**

9:30 a.m.      **Worship**  
Breakfast potluck follows  
Worship  
12:00 p.m.      Christmas Caroling

#### **Tuesday - 13th**

5:00 p.m.      Worship Work Group

#### **Wednesday - 14th**

9:30 a.m.      LARCC - Lounge/Kitchen  
5:00 p.m.      Sanctuary Reserved

#### **Thursday - 15th**

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

#### **Saturday - 17th**

NOISY OFFERING WEEKEND  
5:00 p.m.      **Worship**

### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

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

**Christmas Day Worship**

**December 25 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE &  
NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP**

**December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

**January 1 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Lessons and Carols**

Following Grace's pattern on the weekend after Christmas, we will have Lessons and Carols Services on Saturday, December 31, and Sunday, January 1. Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season.

### **SERVING THIS WEEK**

**Ministers** ..... God's People  
**Pastor** ..... Rev. Tom Orth  
**Music Director** ..... Berniece Lyon  
**Lector** ..... Bob Greene  
**Communion Assts.** Wayne & Chris Christopherson  
Phran Ludington  
**Ushers** ..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson, Joel &  
Corinne Fraley, Corky Gates, Phran  
Ludington, Nic Timmreck  
**Greeters** ..... Polly Cook, Tammy Furze  
**Hospital** ..... Janet Chroninger  
**Altar Guild** ..... Gentry Family & Denstaedt Family  
**Counters** ..... Clarence & Bonnie Cross  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Breakfast Potluck/  
Ruby & Olivia Haske

### **SERVING NEXT WEEK**

**Ministers** ..... God's People  
**Pastor** ..... Rev. Tom Orth  
**Music Director** ..... Berniece Lyon  
**Lector** ..... Vicki Denstaedt  
**Communion Assts.** Wayne & Chris Christopherson  
Phran Ludington  
**Ushers** ..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson, Joel &  
Corinne Fraley, Corky Gates, Phran  
Ludington, Nic Timmreck  
**Greeters** ..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson  
**Hospital** ..... Janet Chroninger  
**Altar Guild** ..... Gentry Family & Denstaedt Family  
**Counters** ..... Clarence & Bonnie Cross  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Joe & Dawn Gentry

**FIRST READING****Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**PSALM 146:5-10** (Psalms begin page 339)

**SECOND READING****James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the

coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**GOSPEL****Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**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](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)**