

✠ **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 14, 2019 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 15, 2019

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
Psalm 146:5-10
D-R726
C-R257
S-R253

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
(Psalms begin page 339)
Light Dawns on a Weary World
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
He Came Down

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 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers at All Saints Catholic Parish.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of Jeanette Grove

PRAYERS

Gary Grove, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Alec Kennedy, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Julie Troy, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Karlene Trump, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Bill Estlack, Kim Branch, Nick Wittman, Dave Stebbins, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Duane Schultz, Maria Shelton, Mary Ann Czarnecki, Cassie Newman, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, Dewayne Nail, Edna Delano, Yvonne Stoll, Bill Carr, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, Cody Gustin. We also pray for the family of Jeanette Grove, who passed away December 9th.

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).

THANK YOU

Thank you to Rev. Gene Bacon for preaching and leading worship. We appreciate his being here this weekend.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us as we go Christmas Caroling on Sunday December 15th at noon. We'll have a sub lunch here and then leave for our rounds. See you then.

YULEFEST SALE THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who helped, baked and donated items. It made our Yulefest Bake Sale a great success. With God's blessing and many hands we made \$1,262. Our next meeting is at 1:00 p.m. on December 18 at Polly Cook's.

Ruth Circle

LOCAL BENEVOLENCE NEEDS

There have been many in need this holiday season/time of the year and the needs will become greater during the winter months. Our fund balance is very low at this time. If you would like to make a donation to help those less fortunate during the upcoming winter months, please mark your donation "Local Benevolence" and place in the offering plate or give to Peggy in the church office. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE DECEMBER & JANUARY

December 15 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
December 22 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
December 29 - No Sunday School

January 5 - No Sunday School
January 12 - No Sunday School
January 19 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
January 26 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday - 15th

9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
9:00 a.m.	Choir - Lounge
9:30 a.m.	Worship
12:00 p.m.	Sub Lunch/Caroling

Tuesday - 17th

9:00 a.m.	Quilting/Sewing
6:00 p.m.	Choir - Lounge
7:00 p.m.	Council

Wednesday - 18th

1:00 p.m.	Ruth Circle - Polly Cook's
3-4:30 p.m.	Lounge Reserved
6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir

Thursday - 19th

5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Reserved
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Saturday - 21st

5:00 p.m.	Noisy Offering Weekend
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Worship

**Large print worship folders,
including hymns and weekly
bulletin are available from
ushers.**

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,382.00
Weekly giving - December 7-8	4,925.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	\$ (13,700.35)

SERVING DECEMBER 14-15

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Gene Bacon
Music Director David Delano
Lector Anna Lewis
Communion Assts Phran Ludington
Ushers Wayne Lewis, Clarence &
Bonnie Cross, Corky Gates,
Mike, Tracey, Adam & Allie Urlaub
Greeters Paul & Vicki Denstaedt
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Denstaedt Family, Gentry Family
Counters Gary & Kay Grove
Coffee Hour Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Cookie/
Doughnut Pick Up Joe & Dawn Gentry

SERVING DECEMBER 21-22

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director David Delano
Lector Mike Urlaub
Communion Assts Phran Ludington
Ushers Wayne Lewis, Clarence &
Bonnie Cross, Corky Gates,
Mike, Tracey, Adam & Allie Urlaub
Greeters Rick & Sharon Engstrom
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Denstaedt Family, Gentry Family
Counters Gary & Kay Grove
Coffee Hour Dawn Anderson, Phran Ludington
Cookie/
Doughnut Pick Up Joe & Dawn Gentry

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say 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." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then 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; ⁷the 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. ⁸A 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. ⁹No 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. ¹⁰And 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**

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL**Matthew 11:2-11**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes

are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly 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****Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 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****E-mail: pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org****officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org****Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gracelutheranalpena**