

✠ **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 17, 2016 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 18, 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-R248 People, Look East
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Psalms begin page 339)
D-R257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
C-R490 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
S-R631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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 Prayer Chain at First Congregational UCC.

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. We also remember the family of Allen Stevens, who passed away December 15th.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In celebration of Jack Tucker's birthday, given by Patti and family; and in memory of Mildred and Ingvar Larsen, given by Eleanor & family.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS

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

ADULT CHRISTIAN ED

More Communications with New Technology

What new things have you learned about communications? What new ways do you communicate now? Are there ways to bridge the communications gap in generations and cultures today? Join us for a wonderful example of connecting generations across distances with technology. Lets think about how church needs to connect with the world. See you in the Lounge at 11.

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for grades preschool through fifth will begin on January 8, 2017 from 9-9:30 a.m. (Children are asked to arrive at 8:50 a.m. so we are prepared to begin our lesson/activity at 9:00 a.m.) We will meet upstairs in the Sunday School opening area. Elsa Phillips is the new teacher.

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.

TACO BELL FUNDRAISER FOR BUNNY LYON

Flyers for a Taco Bell fundraiser on December 22 are included in this bulletin.

Items must be ordered and flyer presented to cashier inside the restaurant to be applied.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday - 18th

9:30 a.m.	Worship - Noisy Offering Weekend
11:00 p.m.	Adult Christian Ed - Lounge

Wednesday - 21st

1:00 p.m.	Ruth Circle at Polly Cook's
5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Reserved

Saturday - 24th

5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
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Sunday - 25th

10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship
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SERVING THIS 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

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 NEXT WEEK

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director Berniece Lyon
Lector (Christmas Eve - Early) Verna Furze
(Christmas Eve - Late) Dawn Anderson
(Christmas Day) Joe Gentry
Communion Assts. Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Phran Ludington
Ushers Wayne & Chris Christopherson, Joel &
Corinne Fraley, Corky Gates, Phran
Ludington, Nic Timmreck
Greeters (Eve - Early) Clarence & Bonnie Cross
(Eve - Late) .. Vicki, Trevor & Isabelle Denstaedt
(Christmas Day) Roger & Jeanne Pankey
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Gentry Family & Denstaedt Family
Counters Clarence & Bonnie Cross
Coffee Hour (Christmas Day) Don & Verna Furze
Tammy Furze

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 3,981.00
Weekly giving - December 11	\$ 4,135.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	(\$ 7,000.00)

FIRST READING**Isaiah 7:10-16**

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

(Psalms begin page 339)

SECOND READING**Romans 1:1-7**

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL**Matthew 1:18-25**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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