

Worship Folder



Advent

Please leave folders with hymnals to be reused each week.

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Grace Lutheran Church

December 13, 2020

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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 your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### GATHERING HYMN "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

*Text: Latin hymn, Edward Caswall; Music: William H. Monk. This selection is in the public domain.*

#### ADVENT CANDLE

## **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*

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11**

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former

devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 126**

*The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)*

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

### **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

### **HOMILY**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

*Text: Charles Coffin; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius. 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...Generous God,

C: you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **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 feats; 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: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN "People, Look East"**

*Text: Isaac Watts; Music: English melody, 18th cent; arr. Lowell Mason. This selection is in the public domain.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **PRAYERS**

Nancy Platt, Dale & Pat Schultz, 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, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Bill Peterson, Alexandra Werth, 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.

*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 Sunday School Program at Grace Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Gethsemane Lutheran Church/Wyoming, MI, Rev. Lee Welker.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Given to the glory of God.

## **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.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO VAL SLAGHT**

Val has been accepted into the candidacy for people wanting to become ELCA ministers. A big first step for her on path to ordination. She is hoping to start seminary at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus this coming fall.

### **THANKSGIVING DINNER *THANK YOU***

To the Haske and Denstaedt families who prepared and cooked and packaged up the meals. And to those that delivered meals. Thank you. For doing it, and for thinking of doing it differently this year.

### **DONATIONS GIVEN TO VETERANS HOSPITAL IN SAGINAW**

For Veteran's Day the quilters contributed \$200.00 and a additional personal donation of \$110.00 totaling \$310.00 to purchase basic hygiene supplies, and socks for the veterans hospital in Saginaw. It included toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving supplies, and soap etc.

### **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](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)) with the information you would like listed in the bulletin. Thanks!

### **THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST SUPPORT**

Discipleship thanks everyone that helped to make this year's Christmas Wish List a success. Many families are in crisis situations and the gifts, groceries and household products donors provide bring relief from financial burdens and emotional stress. It was a difficult year to do the list as we have in the past, but with the help of members we were able to fulfill the list (items and monetary donations totaled \$1,834.82) and make a Christ-like difference in our community.—Discipleship Work Group

### **RECYCLING UPDATE: LIST OF ITEMS HAS CHANGED**

Our recycling list of items has changed. **Please recycle only the following: empty writing instruments, glue sticks, toothbrush/toothpaste, food storage containers (plastic or glass), vitamin/mineral/supplement bottles, cough/cold/flu bottles, all Hasbro toys and games.** *Anything other than these items I will have to dispose of.* Thank you for your cooperation and help. -- Corinne Fraley

### **LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you all for your continued donations to our Little Food Pantry. Many times we don't know the donor but sure want you to know that it is being used! We have volunteers fill each pantry many times during the week and food is gone very quickly. THANK YOU for those donations. If you would like to donate food here is what we are in need of: baby foods which are individual, pasta and rice sides, juice boxes, tuna packets, small containers of quick and easy meals, or breakfast packets. Fresh things from a garden go quickly too. We have no refrigeration.

### **COLLECTING MITTENS, GLOVES AND HATS**

Collecting mittens, gloves and hats for youth this winter. If you would like to donate please put items in the little gray house inside the doors of the church and we will distribute them to infants, toddlers and young school age children.

### **ELCA GOOD GIFTS CATALOG AVAILABLE**

The new issue of *Living Lutheran* has arrived and on the back is the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. If you like to give a gift to a good cause, like animals around the world or to a scholarship fund in honor of someone or help to programs in the US, stop in and pick up a copy off the cabinet in the Office Lobby. Or go to [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).

### **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.



## Anniversaries of Baptism



**December 1**  
Andrea Matzke

**December 4**  
Kevin Graham

**December 6**  
Monica Jahnke  
Levi Konarzewski

**December 7**  
Gary Grove

**December 8**  
Jewel Lancaster  
Ryan Werblow

**December 9**  
Cindy Suszek

**December 11**  
David Dekett

**December 12**  
Janie Hansen

**December 13**  
Clarence Cross

**December 14**  
Cheryl Lang

**December 16**  
Polly Cook

**December 17**  
Joel Gillard

**December 21**  
Gracie Gillard

**December 23**  
Melissa Chabot

**December 24**  
Riley Garant  
Edward Jahnke  
Kristina Wilson

**December 26**  
Erin Graham

**December 28**  
Jessica Konarzewski  
Sherie McTaggart

**December 30**  
Ethan McIntosh

**December 31**  
Brent Barrow



## Birthdays

**December 1**  
Denise Timrick

**December 2**  
Laurie Slater  
Ashley Timmreck

**December 3**  
Ricky Slater  
Laura Thompson

**December 5**  
Cody Suszek  
Amy Townsend

**December 7**  
Riley Garant  
Sophia Kamyszek

**December 8**  
Hannah Kamyszek

**December 9**  
Paul Denstaedt

**December 15**  
Rebecca Petrilli

**December 16**  
Stephanie Adamski  
Jerry Mudge

**December 18**  
Stephen Hansen  
Jack Tucker

**December 19**  
Donna Czarnecki

**December 20**  
Gracelyn Gohlke  
Reed Lappan

**December 21**  
Charlotte Werth

**December 22**  
Shane Jaroch  
Connie Stepanski

**December 24**  
Patricia Schultz  
Mick Zinsli

**December 25**  
Matthew Freel

**December 26**  
Taylor Agius

**December 27**  
Jessica Timm

**December 29**  
Verna Furze  
Kenda Yochum

**December 30**  
Tom Lappan

## Wedding Anniversaries

|      |                      |      |                        |
|------|----------------------|------|------------------------|
| 2nd  | Joseph & Dawn Gentry | 19th | George & Mary Rowader  |
|      | Dick & Barb Werle    | 21st | Matt & Jessica Gillard |
| 3rd  | Mick & Kay Zinsli    | 23rd | Tom & Joan Brennan     |
| 4th  | Mike & Tracey Urlaub | 29th | Bob & Susan Stacey     |
| 7th  | Mike & Kim McCourt   | 30th | Tom & Mary Lappan      |
| 16th | Tom & Keri Bertrand  |      |                        |

## **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 6              | 4,590.00    |

#### We received:

26 envelopes, 15 Simply Giving recurring payments and  
2 Give+ payment made from our website

**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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