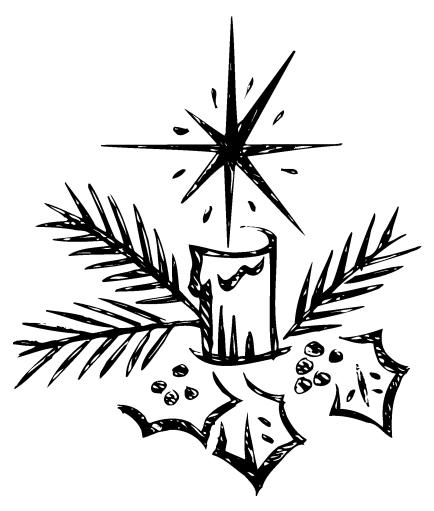
Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

December 16 & 17, 2023



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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Grace Lutheran Church

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

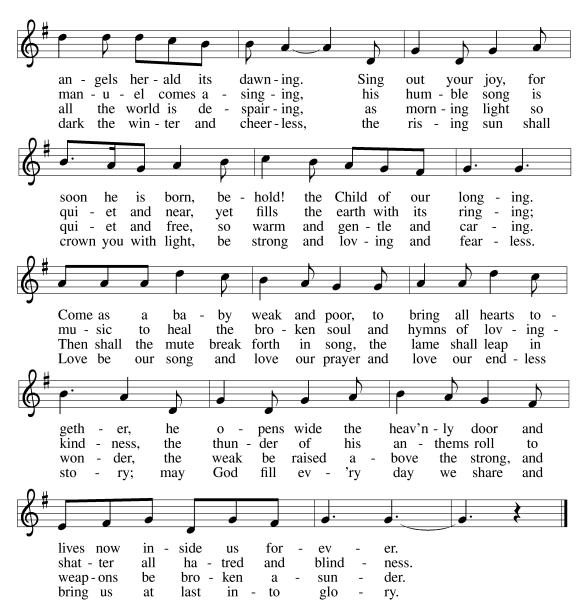
(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.) (the assembly stands as you are comfortable)

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. C: Amen.
- P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Everlasting God,
- C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.
- P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes us with garments of salvation and covers us with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.
- C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn **WOV633** wake! wake, and greet the new morn, for To us. all in sor row and fear. Em In dark est night his com ing shall be. when take Re joice, re - joice, heart in the night, though



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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ADVENT CANDLE "He Came Down" (two times through)

R253



4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Arr. John L. Bell © 1986 Iona Community. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

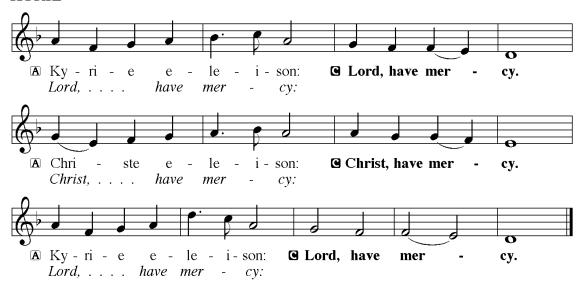
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE







P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

(the assembly may be seated)

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.

¹The 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; 2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to 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. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For 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. 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. ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹ 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)

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

²Then 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."

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

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those 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.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L: The word of the Lord.

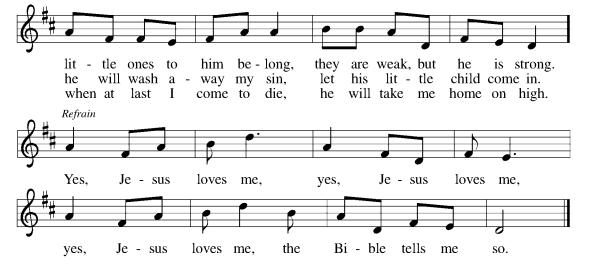
C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "We are the Body of Christ"

Hymn "Jesus Loves Me" (Children & Congregation)

R595

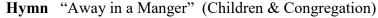




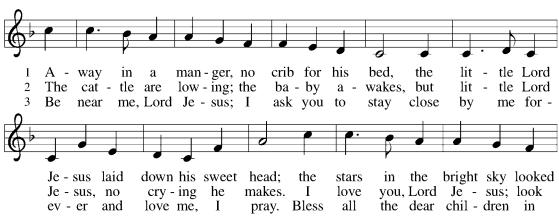
Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868 This selection is in the public domain.

Program



R277





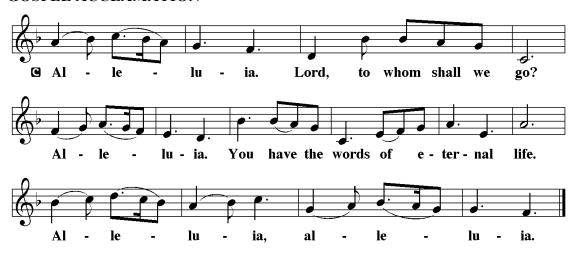
lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. down where he lay, the down from the sky and cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh. stav by my ten - der care and live with you there. your fit us for heav-en, to

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905 This selection is in the public domain.

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to 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.

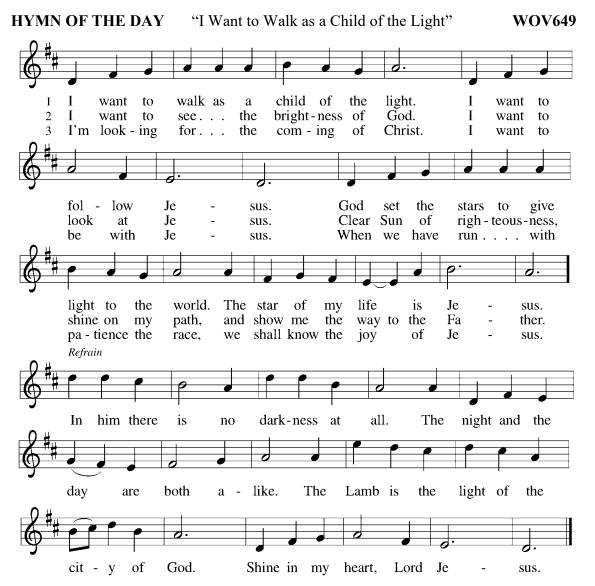
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to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

10

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

HOMILY

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

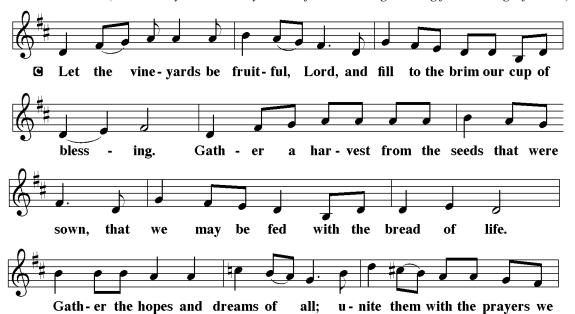
P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (the assembly stands as they are comfortable & sings as the gifts are brought forward)





P: Let us pray...God our provider,

C: by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

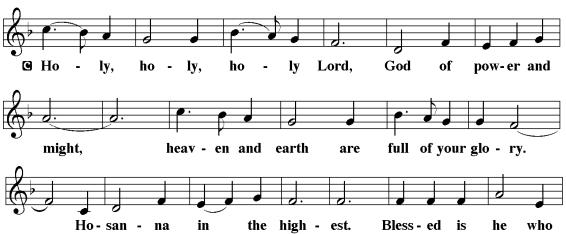
P: Lift up your hearts.

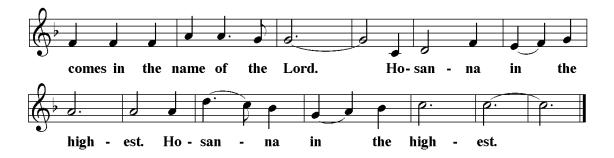
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...(concluding)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and 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.

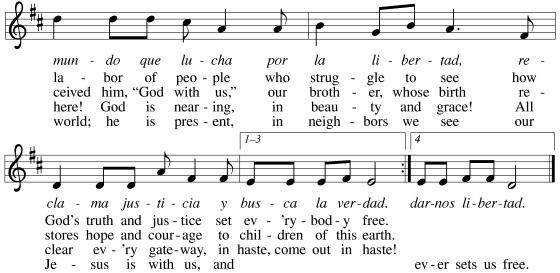
HOLY COMMUNION

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.



(Hymn continued on next page)



Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784. Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray...Generous God,

C: in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

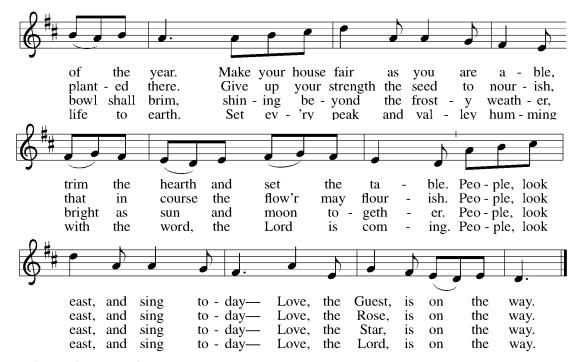
P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "People Look East"

R248





Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Mary Barney-Bock, Eleanor Coddington, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Bonnie Cross, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Harry Kautz, Lisa Wooll, Kristin Berles, Don Barnard, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Gerald Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry & Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Kathy Rettell -- Annie Olsen, Reed Domrase, Brenda Donajkowski, Carl Smith, Rev. Laraine Sundin, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Arlene Bettega, Judy Cattin, Sarah Cattin, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Kevin Carlson, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, James Marculewicz, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Joanne Coughlin, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Emily Cross, and Joseph Hansen.

PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Prayer Group at Trinity Episcopal Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Bethany Lutheran Church/Kaleva, Rev. Zachary Nelson, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17

Join us as the Children's Sunday School presents their Christmas program - *We are the Body of Christ* - during our Sunday morning service on December 17th.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20th at church. We will have a potluck lunch. Annie Hepburn will be there to talk about the Alpena Senior Citizens Center. All women in the congregation are invited to come and join us for lunch. -- The Ruth Circle

CARDS TO SIGN FOR LOVING CARE MEMBERS

Please be sure to stop in the Office Lobby this weekend (Dec. 16/17) and sign Christmas cards to be sent to our Loving Care Members.

WEEKEND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 23 AND 24

We will be having the usual Saturday evening and Sunday morning services this coming weekend as the 4th weekend of Advent. Christmas Eve services will be Sunday evening.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24, will be at our usual times of 5 and 7:30 p.m.

LESSONS and CAROLS SERVICE ON DECEMBER 30 & 31

Our traditional Lessons & Carols service will fall on the weekend following Christmas this year. These will be communion services.

QUILTERS NEWS

Recently 20 lap robes were given to two local veterans groups. In addition, 12 quilts went to the United Way and 44 smaller blankets/quilts were given to Operation Holidays Toys for Kids. If you would like to help, join us Tuesday mornings at 9am for fun and relaxation. Oh, yes, maybe a little work, too.

KITCHEN REFRIGERATOR BECOMES FREEZER ON DECEMBER 10TH

With food boxes coming in from United Way that have frozen meats in them, we are turning the refrigerator into a freezer to store the meats until distributed. So just a heads up for any thinking of using the refig/freezer that week or so.

NEW CHURCH ACCOMPANIST FOR ORGAN AND/OR PIANO

We have reposted the announcement on our Facebook page. Your specifically "sharing" the post, beyond just liking, will spread the word more online. Thank you.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Average needed in November (4 weeks) to meet budget \$18,344.00 Monthly Giving - November 19,332.07

(includes a six-month donation and a one time gift totaling \$3,600)

We received:

98 envelopes, 67 Simply Giving recurring payments, 10 Give+ and 2 Thrivent Choice payments made from our website

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday – 17th 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:30 am	Sunday School Choir Practice Worship - Children's Christmas Program
Monday - 18th 8am-noon	Church Office Open
Tuesday - 19th 8am-noon 9:00 am 11:00 am	Church Office Open Sewing/Quilting Pastors Text Study - Lounge
Wednesday - 20th 8am-noon 1:00 pm	Church Office Open Ruth Circle

Thursday - 21st

6:00 pm

8am-noon Church Office Open

Bell Choir Practice

Friday - 22nd

8am-noon Church Office Open

Saturday - 23rd

5:00 pm Worship

Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

SERVING DECEMBER 16/17

SERVING DECEMBER 10/17	
MinistersGod's People	
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth	
Music DirectorClaire Schreiber	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski	
Lector Janet Bettega	
Communion	
Assistants Wayne & Chris Christopherson	
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom,	
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)	
Greeters Anna Lewis, Darlene Freel	
Altar GuildGentry Family	
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan	
Charter, Don LaBarre	
Counters Wayne & Chris Christopherson,	
Darlene Freel	
Coffee Hour Rick & Sharon Engstrom	
č	
SERVING DECEMBER 23/24	
Ministers God's People	
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth	
Music DirectorClaire Schreiber	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski	
Lector (9:30 am)	
(5 pm) Joe Gentry, (7 pm) Dawn Anderson	
Comm. Asst Wayne & Chris Christopherson	
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom,	
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)	
Greeters (9:30 am) Rick & Sharon Engstrom	
(5:00 pm) Cindy Domrase, Mary Rowader	
(5:00 pm) Cindy Domrase, Mary Rowader (7:30 pm)Joe & Dawn Gentry	
(7:30 pm)Joe & Dawn Gentry	
(7:30 pm)	
(7:30 pm)	
(7:30 pm)	

Coffee Hour Christmas Eve

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707 Phone: Office 989-354-2640 Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org Give online at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth
Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759
E-mail:

pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org



View our services

on YouTube

