

✠ **SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., January 2, 2016 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., January 3, 2016

Hymns

G-R514 O Word of God Incarnate

Psalms 147:12-20 (Psalms begin on page 339)

D-R300 The First Noel

C-R296 What Child Is This

S- R302 As with Gladness Men of Old

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 Music Program at First Congregational UCC.

PRAYER LIST

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).

PRAYERS: Marilyn Whitscell, Sara Kamyszek, Bunny Lyon Clapp, Richard Clapp, Dick Carlson, Erv Simi, Jeanette Grove, Carolynne Wegmeyer, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore, Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Iris Snyder, Julie Troy, Tom Laughlin, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkiewicz, Sam Brown, and Jaiden.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God

**YOU ARE INVITED
YOU ARE NEEDED
ALL CHURCH RETREAT**

**Saturday, January 9
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

The retreat is for discovering what God is asking Grace Lutheran to be and do in this time and place.

This is about the planning and renewal of Grace, together seeking out how we can serve God and what will guide us in making decisions for the future.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. See Pastor Tom or Council members for more information.

ADULT CE IS GOING SURFING ON THE WEB - Sunday, Jan. 3

With so much information on the web, and remembering that anyone can put anything they want on their own website, we are going looking at websites for good religious and theological information. We'll look at some we know about, e.g. elca.org and others. And we'll look at others seeing where they fit in the religious landscape. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

Acolytes are needed for January - April 2016. If you would be willing to serve during this time, please contact Peggy in the church office (354-2640 or officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org). An acolyte boot camp (training for new acolytes) will be held in the Spring.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

A reminder to all continuing and outgoing work group leaders...Annual Reports are due in the church office by Monday, February 1, 2016.

TAKING THE DECORATIONS DOWN

We will take the decorations down following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on January 10. All are welcome to stay and help!

NEW FLOWER CHART

The 2016 Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign the chart and fill out an Altar Flowers form (located on the table in the Narthex). Completing this form lets the office know what you would like listed in the bulletin. Forms may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the office.

QUILTING/SEWING RESUMES

The Quilting/sewing Group will resume meeting on January 5, 2016. We meet every Tuesday morning from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and there is always room for anyone who can cut, sort, sew, tie, pack, etc., even if you can only stay for a short time. Some sewing can also be done at home on your own machine. Contact Dorothy Hansen (354-3563) or any of the sewing group for more information.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director Berniece Lyon Clapp
Lector Vicki Denstaedt
Acolyte.....
Communion Assts. Roger & Jeanne Pankey
Ushers..... Dale Schultz, Steve & Wesley Garant,
Charles Snyder, Vicki, Isabelle, Trevor
& Taylor Denstaedt
Greeters..... Rick & Sharon Engstrom
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Kay Zinsli, Elsa Phillips
Counters Dale & Pat Schultz, Linda Gapske
Coffee Hour Joel & Cindy Suszek

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director Berniece Lyon Clapp
Lector Dawn Anderson
Acolyte.....
Communion Assts. Roger & Jeanne Pankey
Ushers..... Dale Schultz, Steve & Wesley Garant,
Charles Snyder, Vicki, Isabelle, Trevor
& Taylor Denstaedt
Greeters..... Corky Gates, Patti MacNeill
Hospital Janet Chroninger
Altar Guild Kay Zinsli, Elsa Phillips
Counters Dale & Pat Schultz, Linda Gapske
Coffee Hour Wayne & Anna Lewis

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday - 3rd

9:30 a.m. Worship
NO Children's Sunday
School Today

11:00 a.m. Adult CE - Lounge

Monday - 4th

6:00 p.m. ROC - Lounge

Tuesday - 5th

9:00 a.m. Quilting
3:30-7:00 p.m. Lounge Reserved

Wednesday - 6th

BULLETIN DEADLINE
2:30-6:30 p.m. Lounge Reserved

Saturday - 9th

8:30 a.m. - All Church
3:30 p.m. Retreat

5:00 p.m. Worship

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week	
to meet budget	\$ 3,718.00
Weekly giving - December 27	\$ 5,623.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	\$6,546.00

RAZE THE HOUSE FUND

Total to date	(\$ 1,151.55)
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FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

PSALM 147:12-20 (Psalms begin on page 339)

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759

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