

✠ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 15, 2018 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 16, 2018

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-R264

Psalm

D-R249

C-R272

S-R267

Prepare the Royal Highway

Isaiah 12:2-6

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Joy to the World

Children's Christmas Program "The Night Before Christmas"

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. Today we pray for all who work on Ecumenical Projects and Interfaith Dialogue at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

PRAYERS

Peggy Tomaszewski, Doug Chroninger, Jim Clemens, Bev Attwell, Debbie Anderson, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Emma Nelson, Kevin Salesman, Laurie Foster, Kevin Reiser, Joseph Hansen, Roger Schultz, Violet McLaren, Brad Grove, Brian Gustafson, Baby Samuel, Evelyn Smith, Margaret Nosko, Reed Werth, Mark Jackson, Patricia Denstaedt, Scott Coddington, Mimi, David Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Dennis Diamond.

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).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS

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

NURSERY AVAILABLE

We have a nursery staffed by an adult available during our Sunday worship service time. If you have a child that worship is too long for or they need to move around or today is just a tough day for them, let the nursery attendant or ushers know and they will show you through the basement to our nursery space in the Fellowship Hall.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES
NOW AVAILABLE**

We have individual devices to help people hear the services more. Pick them up from the ushers in the Sound Room. There are ear pieces available. Or hearing aids with T Coil activated will be able to receive the sound directly from the devices.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,225.00
Weekly giving - November 24/25	3,434.00
Weekly giving - December 1/2	5,134.00
Weekly giving - December 8/9	3,507.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	\$ (3,521.37)

THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

The Little Food Pantry is constructed and in front of the church. The purpose of this pantry is to help our neighbors that might need a little extra with food and personal needs. Our goal is to stock the pantry ourselves, initially, but hopefully the community will get engaged and contribute. If you have questions you can talk to Dawn Anderson or Phran Ludington. Once this project gets rolling it will be a snap. Thanks.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN ED
Missionary Work**

How should we spread the Gospel of Jesus? Do we have an obligation to do that? A missionary died attempting to contact an isolated tribe with the Good News of Jesus. Was that the right thing to do? Join us as we talk about living out our faith in the Lounge at 11.

**CARDS/GIFTS FOR
COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The Discipleship Work Group would like to send cards to the college students with a gift card included. We need the address of the students from Grace that are in college. We have received one address. If you would like your student to receive a card with a gift card included, please get the address to Peggy, Phran or Dawn. Thank you.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will not have Sunday School on December 23rd and December 30th. Sunday School will resume on January 6, 2019.

PSALM**Isaiah 12:2-6**

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING Philipians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL**Luke 3:7-18**

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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**

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