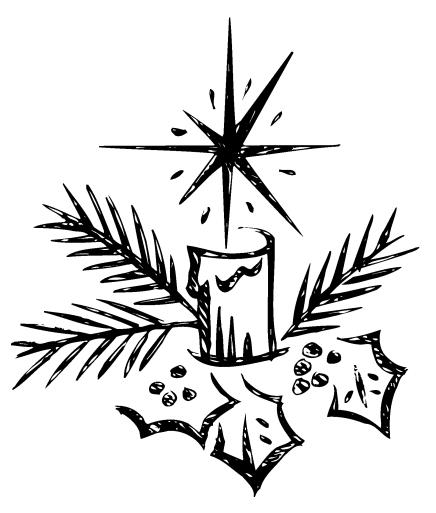
Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

December 23 & 24, 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.

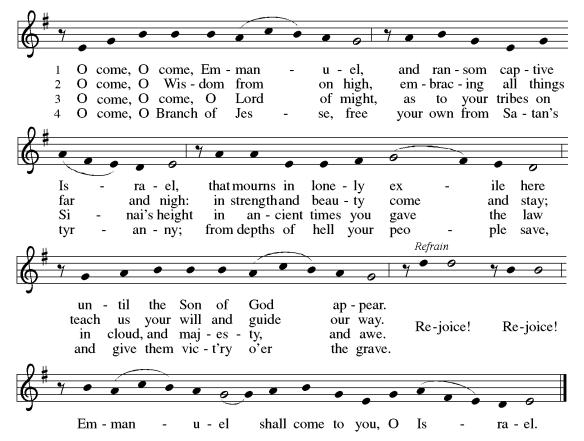
WELCOME/PRELUDE

(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.



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

R253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



he came down that we may have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

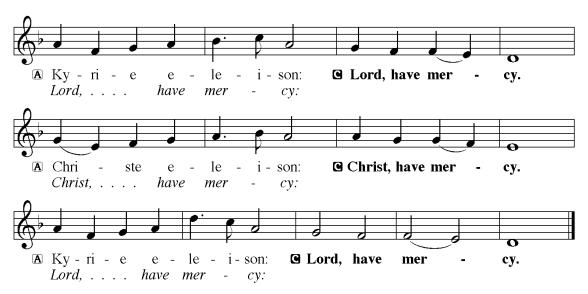
Arr. John L. Bell © 1986 Iona Community. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

- ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
- ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.
- ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
- ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
- ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

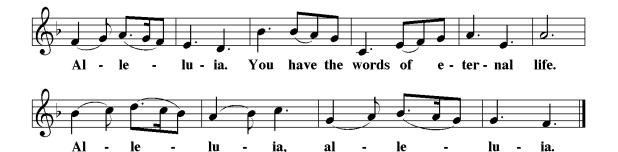
C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

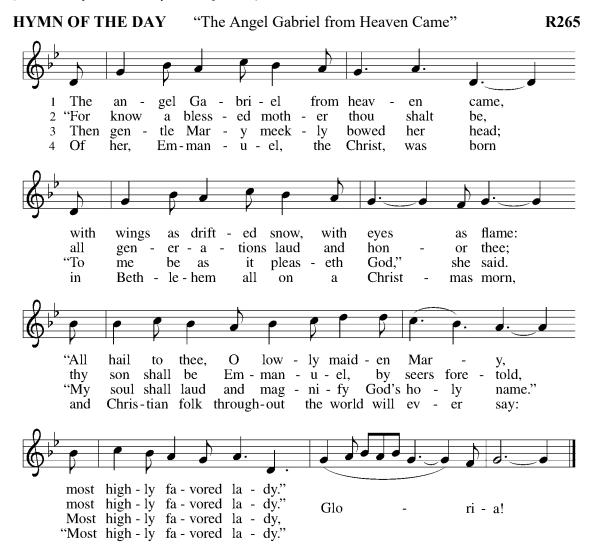
Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol This selection is in the public domain.

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)

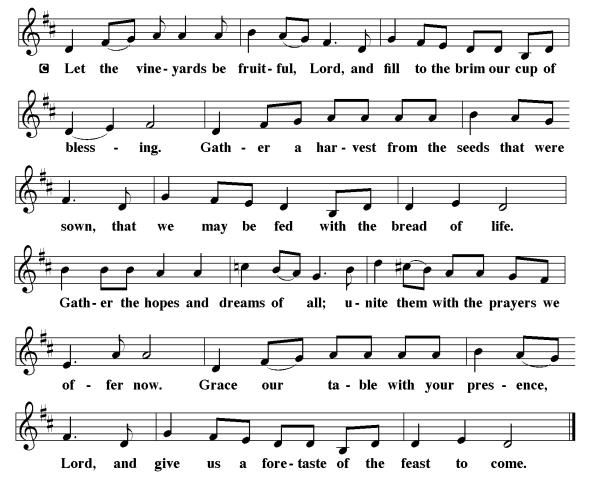
P: Merciful God.

C: receive our prayer.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING

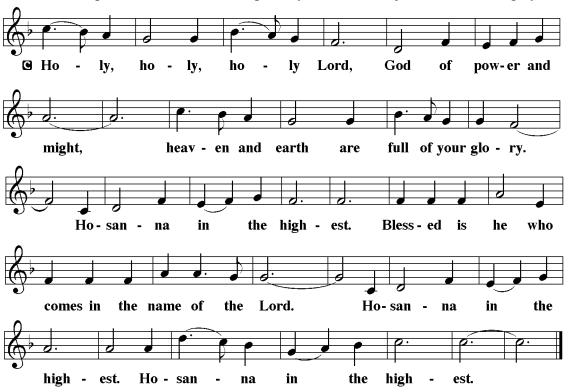
OFFERTORY (the assembly stands as they are comfortable & sings as the gifts are brought forward)



- 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

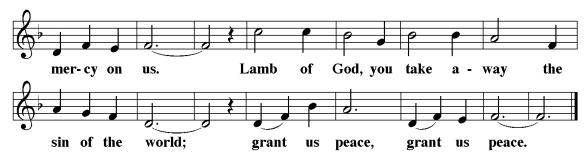
us.

(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.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" **COMMUNION HYMN**

R240



- Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead home-ward. them Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry. He com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

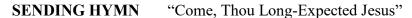
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(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.



R254





from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee. born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 This selection is in the public domain.

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 all who work on Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Mamrelund Lutheran Church/Kent City, Rev. Michael Conklin, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

WEEKEND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 23 AND 24

We will be having the usual Saturday evening and Sunday morning services this 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.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to Hunters Harvest for Charity for their donation of gift cards to purchase food for our Little Food Pantry. We are so grateful for the continued support of organizations in our community to help those in need.

Merry Christmas from the Little Food Pantry

OUILTERS 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 <u>little</u> work, too.

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

\$ 18,344.00
19,332.07

We received:

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







Anniversaries of Baptism



December 1 Andrea Matzke

December 6 Monica Jahnke Levi Konarzewski

December 7Gary Grove

December 8Jewel 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

December 21 Gracie Gillard

December 23 Melissa Chabot

December 24Riley Garant
Edward Jahnke

December 28Jessica Konarzewski
Sherie McTaggart

December 30 Ethan McIntosh

Birthdays

December 1Denise Timrick

December 2 Laurie Slater Ashley Timmreck-Walker

December 3 Ricky Slater Laura Thompson

December 5 Cody Suszek

December 7 Riley Garant Sophia Kamyszek

December 8 Hannah Kamyszek

December 9Paul Denstaedt

December 16 Stephanie Adamski Jerry Mudge

Decemer 18 Stephen Hansen **December 19** Donna Czarnecki

December 20 Gracelyn Gohlke Reed Lappan

December 21 Charlotte Werth

December 22 Shane Jaroch Connie Stepanski

December 24Patricia Schultz

December 25 Matthew Freel

December 26 Taylor Agius

December 27 Jessica Timm

December 29Verna Furze
Kenda Yochum

December 30 Tom Lappan



Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Joseph & Dawn Gentry
Dick & Barb Werle
23rd Tom & Joan Brennan
29th Bob & Susan Stacey
30th Tom & Mary Lappan
21st Matt & Jessica Gillard
23rd Tom & Joan Brennan
29th Bob & Susan Stacey
30th Tom & Mary Lappan

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday – 24th	Christmas Eve
9:00 am	Sunday School
9:00 am	Choir Practice
9:30 am	Worship - Advent 4
5 & 7:30 pm	Christmas Eve
_	Candlelight Worship

Monday - 25th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday - 26th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am Sewing/Quilting

Wednesday - 27th

8am-noon Church Office Open **Bell Choir Practice** 6:00 pm

Thursday - 28th

8am-noon Church Office Open 8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Friday - 29th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Saturday - 30th

5:00 pm Worship -Lessons & Carols

Large print worship folders &

CEDUING DECEMBED 42/4/

SERVING DECEMBER 23/24		
Ministers	God's People	
Pastor		
Music Director	Claire Schreiber	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski		
Lector (9:30 am)	Joe Gentry	
(5 pm) Donna Czarnecki, (7 pm) Dawn Anderson		
Comm. Asst Wayne & Chris Christopherson		
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom,		
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)		
Greeters (9:30 am) Ricl	k & Sharon Engstrom	
(5:00 pm) Cindy Domrase, Mary Rowader		
(7:30 pm)		
Altar Guild		
Livestream Team		
	Charter, Don LaBarre	
Counters Wayne & 0		
Darlene Freel		
Coffee Hour	Christmas Eve	
SERVING DECEMBER 30/31		
Ministers	God's People	
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth	
Music Director	Claire Schreiber	
Recorded Accompanime	entKat Tomaszewski	
Comm. Asst Wayne &	Chris Christopherson	
Ushers Gary & Kay G	rove, Rick Engstrom,	
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)		
Greeters Wayne & Chris Christopherson		
Altar Guild	Gentry Family	
Livestream Team	Dawn Anderson, Jan	

Counters...... Wayne & Chris Christopherson, Darlene Freel Coffee Hour Anne Gentry, Vicki Cripps

hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

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



Charter, Don LaBarre

