

✠ **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ✠

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., December 16, 2017 ~ Sunday, 9:30 a.m., December 17, 2017

**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-R257** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1-4)  
**Psalm 126** (Psalms begin page 339)  
**D-R815** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
**C-R272** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
**S-R267** Joy to the World

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

"There Will Be Joy" Ruth Schram

**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 Children's Worship Center at Trinity Episcopal Church.

**PRAYERS**

Dorothy Hansen, Hope Kamyszek, Tom Brennan, Bev Attwell, Caroline Weise, Judy Kautz, Debbie Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Elfie Jahnke, Gloria Moore, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Scott Coddington, Mimi, Kevin Salesman, David Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Dennis Diamond. We also remember the families of Jeff Lee and Steven Daniel Muszynski, who passed away this past week.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

In memory of  
Ernest & Dorothy Shores  
D.H. & Virginia Riley  
Given by Tuffy & Bonnie Cross

**LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS**

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

**PICTURES OF  
EVENTS AT GRACE**

If you have pictures of Grace events, etc. at Grace, please email them to Phran Ludington at [captainphrantastic@yahoo.com](mailto:captainphrantastic@yahoo.com). We will use these pictures on our website, our Facebook page and for the Community Celebrating and Sharing Dinner. Thanks!

**\*\*\*UPDATE - UPDATE\*\*\***

**Saturday, DECEMBER 23 at 5 pm  
Sunday, DECEMBER 24 at 9:30 AM  
LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE**

We will be having the usual services next weekend, as well as the Christmas Eve services Sunday evening at 5 & 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Dec 30 & Sunday Dec 31 we will have another Lessons & Carols Service as we usually do the weekend after Christmas.

**GOOD GIFTS TREE**

This year we have put a Good Gifts Tree in the Narthex, on the table outside Peggy's office. The idea of the tree is to remind people there are others ways to give other than the purchase of a store bought item. Many people we know have plenty and are hard to buy for, the Good Gifts Tree offers options to honor the person and help with world hunger. The bulbs let you know what you can purchase and the amount. If you see something that strikes you, take the bulb/bulbs and go to the ELCA/goodgifts link (on the back of the bulb) and place your order. The Good Gifts Catalog, located under the tree, has plenty of information regarding the gifts and the project. If you are not comfortable ordering on line, there is an order form in the catalog, you fill that out, send your check/ money order. The bulbs can be given to your recipient as acknowledgement of the gift. Please keep this in mind as a stocking stuffer or a small add-on gift. *We encourage you to take a look and consider another option for gift giving.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We will be having a Christmas program on Sunday, December 17, during our church service. The children have been practicing hard so we hope to see you there! There will be no Sunday school on December 24 or December 31 and we will resume the new year on January 7, 2018.

**RUTH CIRCLE**

The Ruth Circle will meet at Polly Cook's home on Wednesday, December 20 at 1 p.m.

**THANK YOU**

Our snowy day was made brighter with the Christmas carols of Grace sung at our home on Sunday, December 10th.

Gordon & Dorothy Hansen

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Creeds & Statements of Faith**

During our discussion of the Apostle's Creed in the Small Catechism study, we talked about how parts were challenging to some. So we will look at several contemporary statements of faith and compare them to the Creed. Do they express our faith sufficiently? Are they more understandable and thus approachable? How would you feel about using them in worship? Join us at 11 in the Lounge as we work on living out our faith in today's world.

**GENERAL FUND GIVING**

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,058.00
Weekly giving - Dec. 10, 2017	\$ 4,645.00
Year-to-date over/(under)	\$ (1,998.00)

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Lessons & Carols Service**

**December 23 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

**December 24 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

**December 24 ~ 5 & 7:30 p.m.**

**Lessons & Carols Service**

**December 30 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

**December 31 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

**Sunday -17th - Noisy Offering Weekend**

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. **Worship - Children's  
Program**

11:00 a.m. Adult Study - Lounge

**Monday - 18th**

5:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Wednesday - 20th**

1:00 p.m. Ruth Circle - Polly Cook's

3-4:30 p.m. Lounge Reserved

5-6:00 p.m. Sanctuary Reserved

**Thursday - 21st**

4:30 p.m. Lounge Reserved

**Saturday - 23rd**

5:00 p.m. **Noisy Offering Weekend  
Worship - Lessons & Carols**

**SERVING DECEMBER 17**

**Ministers** ..... God's People

**Pastor** ..... Rev. Tom Orth

**Music Director** ..... Tina Honecker

**Organist** ..... Kat Tomaszewski

**Music Assistant** ..... Miriam Denstaedt

**Lector** ..... Bill & Nancy Platt

**Communion Assts.** Wayne & Chris Christopherson

**Ushers** ..... Joel Suszek, Gary & Kay Grove,  
Rick Engstrom, Jack Tucker

**Greeters** ..... Roger & Jeanne Pankey

**Hospital** ..... Janet Chroninger

**Altar Guild** ..... Gentry & Denstaedt Families

**Counters** ..... Clarence & Bonnie Cross

**Coffee Hour** ..... Rick & Sharon Engstrom

**SERVING DECEMBER 24**

**Ministers** ..... God's People

**Pastor** ..... Rev. Tom Orth

**Music Director** ..... Tina Honecker

**Organist** ..... Kat Tomaszewski

**Music Assistant** ..... Miriam Denstaedt

**Lector** 5 p.m. .... Donna Czarnecki

7:30 p.m. .... Vicki Denstaedt

**Acolyte** 5 p.m. .... Maia Slominski

7:30 p.m. .... Michael Herrmann

**Communion Assts.** Wayne & Chris Christopherson

**Ushers** ..... Joel Suszek, Gary & Kay Grove,  
Rick Engstrom, Jack Tucker

**Greeters** 5 p.m. .... Don & Verna Furze

7:30 p.m. .... Rick & Sharon Engstrom

**Hospital** ..... Janet Chroninger

**Altar Guild** ..... Gentry & Denstaedt Families

**Counters** ..... Clarence & Bonnie Cross

**FIRST READING****Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

<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.

**PSALM 126**

(Psalms begin page 339)

**SECOND READING****1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<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.

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

<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.

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