

Worship Folder



Advent

Please leave folders with hymnals to be reused each week.

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Grace Lutheran Church

December 6, 2020

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## **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.)*

**P:** Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Loving and forgiving God,

**C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

**P:** People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, † comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GATHERING HYMN “On Jordan’s Stormy Bank I Stand”**

*Text: Samuel Stennett/Music W. Walker, adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh.*

*This selection is in the public domain.*

## ADVENT CANDLE

### GREETING

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE

P: Lord have mercy

**C: Christ have mercy**

P: Lord have mercy

### HYMN OF PRAISE

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### **Isaiah 40:1-11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory

of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

### **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

#### **Mark 1:1-8**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** “The King Shall Come”

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### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Hear us, O God.

**C:** Your mercy is great.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

P: Let us pray...Generous God,

C: you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feasts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN "He Came Down"**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **PRAYERS**

Dale & Pat Schultz, Darlene Freel, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Alecia Lewis, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Jimmy Lappan, Bill Peterson, Alexandra Werth, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Eric Steinke, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

## **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. This weekend we pray for all who do tasks for the church at First Congregational UCC. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Christ Lutheran Church/Wyoming, MI, Rev. Justin Walker.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Given to the glory of God.

## **SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES**

With a heavy heart, Grace's Council and Pastor Tom have suspended in-person worship services again. With the increasing number of cases in the area, schools having to suspend class rooms and the prediction for more to come, the decision was made. Additionally, on November 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop Satterlee of our ELCA Synod along with the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod ELCA strongly recommended the suspension of in-person worship. This means that in-person Sunday School is also suspended. We will continue to evaluate local conditions and keep you informed of our future decisions on returning to in-person worship.

## **THANKSGIVING DINNER *THANK YOU***

To the Haske and Denstaedt families who prepared and cooked and packaged up the meals. And to those that delivered meals. Thank you. For doing it, and for thinking of doing it differently this year.

### **LIVESTREAMING OF SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM**

There will be livestreaming of the Sunday morning worship service. Worship will be conducted with a very limited number of worship leaders in the sanctuary and can be viewed as it is happening. A recording of that will be available for viewing anytime afterwards. Go to [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org) for the link to the YouTube livestream.

### **LIVESTREAMING TEAM - HELP NEEDED**

Help place our services on the internet so people can join us from home and view them. We need a person to operate the system during the service. Like before it will be button pushing to position the cameras and buttons to send the service to the internet. A very straight forward process. We are looking for a few people to be familiar with the equipment so we can have a schedule of people to operate it on Sundays. David Delano will be our in-house person to head the group and train anyone interested. Contact the office 354.2640. THANK YOU.

### **DONATIONS GIVEN TO VETERANS HOSPITAL IN SAGINAW**

For Veteran's Day the quilters contributed \$200.00 and a additional personal donation of \$110.00 totaling \$310.00 to purchase basic hygiene supplies, and socks for the veterans hospital in Saginaw. It included toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving supplies, and soap etc.

### **YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Do we have all your current info?

Have you changed your primary phone?

New email?

Or new street address? Or PO Box?

Please update the office with any of these changes so we can be in touch.

THANKS

### **WHEN PLACING FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR FOR WORSHIP**

Please call (989.354.2640) or email the church office ([officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)) with the information you would like listed in the bulletin. Thanks!

### **RECYCLING UPDATE: LIST OF ITEMS HAS CHANGED**

Our recycling list of items has changed. **Please recycle only the following:** empty writing instruments, glue sticks, toothbrush/toothpaste, food storage containers (plastic or glass), vitamin/mineral/supplement bottles, cough/cold/flu bottles, all Hasbro toys and games. *Anything other than these items I will have to dispose of.* Thank you for your cooperation and help. -- Corinne Fraley

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you all for your continued donations to our Little Food Pantry. Many times we don't know the donor but sure want you to know that it is being used! We have volunteers fill each pantry many times during the week and food is gone very quickly. THANK YOU for those donations. If you would like to donate food here is what we are in need of: baby foods which are individual, pasta and rice sides, juice boxes, tuna packets, small containers of quick and easy meals, or breakfast packets. Fresh things from a garden go quickly too. We have no refrigeration.

**COLLECTING MITTENS, GLOVES AND HATS**

Collecting mittens, gloves and hats for youth this winter. If you would like to donate please put items in the little gray house inside the doors of the church and we will distribute them to infants, toddlers and young school age children.

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS CATALOG AVAILABLE**

The new issue of *Living Lutheran* has arrived and on the back is the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. If you like to give a gift to a good cause, like animals around the world or to a scholarship fund in honor of someone or help to programs in the US, stop in and pick up a copy off the cabinet in the Office Lobby. Or go to [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).

**DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?**

Several church members have been making face masks and some are available for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

**GENERAL FUND GIVING**

|                                         |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Average needed each week to meet budget | \$ 4,415.00 |
| Weekly giving - November 29             | 4,210.00    |

We received:

14 envelopes, 25 Simply Giving recurring payments and  
1 Give+ payment made from our website



# December



## Birthdays

## Anniversaries of Baptism



**December 1**  
Andrea Matzke

**December 4**  
Kevin Graham

**December 6**  
Monica Jahnke  
Levi Konarzewski

**December 7**  
Gary Grove

**December 8**  
Jewel 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**  
Joel Gillard

**December 21**  
Gracie Gillard

**December 23**  
Melissa Chabot

**December 24**  
Riley Garant  
Edward Jahnke  
Kristina Wilson

**December 26**  
Erin Graham

**December 28**  
Jessica Konarzewski  
Sherie McTaggart

**December 30**  
Ethan McIntosh

**December 31**  
Brent Barrow



**December 1**  
Denise Timrick

**December 2**  
Laurie Slater  
Ashley Timmreck

**December 3**  
Ricky Slater  
Laura Thompson

**December 5**  
Cody Suszek  
Amy Townsend

**December 7**  
Riley Garant  
Sophia Kamyszek

**December 8**  
Hannah Kamyszek

**December 9**  
Paul Denstaedt

**December 15**  
Rebecca Petrilli

**December 16**  
Stephanie Adamski  
Jerry Mudge

**December 18**  
Stephen Hansen  
Jack Tucker

**December 19**  
Donna Czarnecki

**December 20**  
Gracelyn Gohlke  
Reed Lappan

**December 21**  
Charlotte Werth

**December 22**  
Shane Jaroch  
Connie Stepanski

**December 24**  
Patricia Schultz  
Mick Zinsli

**December 25**  
Matthew Freel

**December 26**  
Taylor Agius

**December 27**  
Jessica Timm

**December 29**  
Verna Furze  
Kenda Yochum

**December 30**  
Tom Lappan

## Wedding Anniversaries

|      |                      |      |                        |
|------|----------------------|------|------------------------|
| 2nd  | Joseph & Dawn Gentry | 19th | George & Mary Rowader  |
|      | Dick & Barb Werle    | 21st | Matt & Jessica Gillard |
| 3rd  | Mick & Kay Zinsli    | 23rd | Tom & Joan Brennan     |
| 4th  | Mike & Tracey Urlaub | 29th | Bob & Susan Stacey     |
| 7th  | Mike & Kim McCourt   | 30th | Tom & Mary Lappan      |
| 16th | Tom & Keri Bertrand  |      |                        |

**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**      **119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 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 ~ Web Site: [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

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