



## December 3 & 4, 2017 First Sunday of Advent

To our friends, welcome again. To the visitor, it's great to have you here! To those looking for a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Savior, membership in His church and citizenship in His eternal kingdom.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper today. The Bible tells us that this is a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicine, of course, the right person must use it at the right time and for the right purpose, lest it do more harm than good. For this reason we ask our visitors to speak to our pastor before joining us.

***We have large print service binders available - please ask an usher for one.***

### **Advent Prayer and Advent Wreath**

**Gathering Rite for Worship: "I was Glad" (see *handout card*)**

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, according to your pleasure and will, in Christ you chose us by grace to be holy and blameless in your sight. We thank you for your amazing grace, your undeserved love for sinners. May we always treasure your grace as our dearest possession, and proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Amen.

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)**

*Through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord speaks of the gospel, the new covenant, the only covenant that saves: grace, which proclaims the forgiveness of sins.*

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 24 (page 73)**

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-9 (NIV)**

*Saint Paul says that by nature all of us were dead in sin and objects of God's anger. But by grace God made us alive in Christ Jesus. Grace is God's gift to us.*

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time,

gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: John 1:1-3,14,16,17 (NIV)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN #379: "Amazing Grace"**

### **TODAY'S SERMON: (Based on John 1:1-3,14,16,17)**

#### **"God's Grace Alone Prepares You for Christmas!!"**

*(Next week's readings: Genesis 15:1-6 / Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12 / Matthew 16:13-19)*

### **NICENE CREED (See projection or pages 18-19 in hymnal)**

**OFFERING** - *We gather an offering to support the Lord's work that we do here and around the world. If you are visiting us today, please do not feel that you must participate in the offering. You are our guest!*

### **PRAYERS**

P: Let us pray to the Lord for the Christian church on earth and all people everywhere.

P: For all who gather here today and for our entire congregation, that through the gospel the Lord would give us growth in faith and increase our love:

**C: We ask you to bless us, O Lord.**

P: For the spreading of the gospel throughout the world; for all pastors, missionaries, and their families, that they may boldly proclaim Christ to the nations:

**C: We ask you to hear us, O Lord.**

P: For those for whom this time of year brings depression, sadness, and grief, that in the middle of their deep darkness the ever-shining light of Christ's grace and truth may renew their joy and gladness:

**C: We intercede for your name, O Lord.**

P: For the people of our country; for the Lord's blessings on our work; for those seeking employment; for good health; and for good weather:

**C: We beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

P: For all who are sick in body or mind; for the hungry and the homeless; for those who are in prison; for those who are dying and those who are mourning:

**C: We ask you to help them according to your will, O Lord.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions....Silent prayer

P: All this we ask, O Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who...:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Sacrament (Common Service pg 23 in hymnal)

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS #307, #309**

**Closing HYMN #62: "Joy to the World" (stanzas 1 & 4)**

*Thank you to our Sunday organist, Jennifer Knutson and Monday pianist, Darci Matzke.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**This week's schedule, God willing...**

**TODAY:** Worship 8:00 & 10:45am / Pastor's broadcast on WCUB 9:00am  
Christmas Practice & Teen Bible Class 9:20am / Adult Bible Class 9:20am & 6:30pm

**Mon:** Pastor's Study Club @ Immanuel 10:00am

**Tue:** Catechism Class 5:30pm

**Wed:** Pastor preaches @ Bethany 8:00am / Bible Class 1:30pm  
Advent Worship 4:15 & 6:30pm with Potluck meal between services

**Thu:** Council Meeting 6:00pm

**Sat/Sun:** LLC Concerts - Sat @ St Peters, Mishicot 3:00pm & Sun @ Immanuel 3:00pm

**Sun:** Worship 8:00 & 10:45am / Christmas Practice 9:20am  
Open Forum 9:20am / Adult Bible Class 6:30pm

**Mon:** Worship 6:30pm  
Open Forum following worship



**Grace Ev. Lutheran Church**  
2426 North Rapids Road  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220  
Office Phone 682-7377

**Rev. Tom Pankow**  
Robert Fink, Staff Minister  
[www.graceLutheran-church.com](http://www.graceLutheran-church.com)  
[gracelutheran@tm.net](mailto:gracelutheran@tm.net)

**Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am & Mondays 6:30pm**



**God's Grace Alone Prepares You for Christmas!**



**December 3 & 4, 2017**

\*\*\*\***REMINDER!!!** This coming Monday is the deadline for the following:

- Poinsettia donations Sign-up
- Ladies Advent by Candlelight Sign-up
- Donate gifts for the residents of the Manitowoc Health Care Center

**Midweek Wednesday worship services begin this week at 4:15 & 6:30pm.** This week we will have a Potluck meal between services. Could you help by bringing something to share, setting up, serving or cleaning up after the meal. There is a sign up sheet on the Information table if you can help.

**Our Grace December/January Newsletter** is in member boxes along with the **December Calendar.** Please pick up your copies so you don't miss all of the wonderful Holiday events taking place in December.

**December "Forward in Christ"** magazines are available on the Information Table.

**Decorating the Church** - Can you help for a few hours on Saturday, Dec16th starting at 9:00am to put up our Christmas decorations here at church? Donna Langman has agreed to coordinate this, so if you can help, please contact her at 684-4062. She will be making calls in the next week to ask for help, so please help her limit how many calls she has to make by calling her and letting her know you can help! Thank you.

*Last Week's Attendance: Sunday 8:00 - #93, 10:45 - #80, Monday - #56= Total - #229*



**Open Forums:**  
**Sunday, 12/10 - between services**  
**& Monday, 12/11 @ 7:15pm**

**Voter's Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, 12/22 @ 6:30pm**



Voters Meeting

**Holiday Worship Schedule:**

**Christmas Eve:**

8:00 & 10:45am regular worship  
5:00pm Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day:**

9:30am Christmas Day Service

**New Year's Eve:**

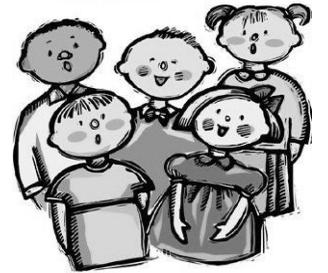
8:00 & 10:45am regular worship  
6:30pm Special NY Eve Service

**New Year's Day:**

No Worship Service



Please join us for our  
**Children's Christmas  
Programs at Grace  
in December**



**Jesus' Lambs of Grace  
Christmas Program  
Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:30am**

Lunch will be served following the program.  
All are welcome to join us and share in the festivities!



**Grace Sunday School  
Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:45am**

**Practice Schedule:**

- ◆ **Sunday, December 3, 10 & 17** during our Sunday School time between services
- ◆ **Saturday, December 16 @ 4:00pm**

*Please make every effort to have your child here for these practices.*