

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

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Pastor - Richard D. Rudnik
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Church Secretary - Lisa Giroir
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President - Richard Thalheim
president@gracehouma.org
ECC Director - Sofie Arceneaux
ecc@gracehouma.org

Today

Service Elder - John Wegner
Scripture Reader - Mona LaCour
Acolyte - Cassie Domangue
Greeters - B. & W. Domangue
Offering Stewards - Rana & Barbara
Altar Guild - J. & P. Wegner
Ushers - D. Boger & G. Fitzgerald

Next Sunday

Richard Thalheim
Bonnie Dupre
Allie Clark
D. & G. Akins
Brigitte & Jeannie
R. & B. Rudnik
D. Akins, D. Armstrong,
G. Fitzgerald, & J. Souther

First Sunday After Christmas

December 31, 2017

Welcome to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

Altar Flowers are placed today to the glory of God by Lorie Souther.



The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus or Savior, in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with pastor. Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.



This Week at Grace

Today	9:00 a.m. Worship	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship/Food Bank Board of Directors & Elders Installation
	10:15 a.m. Coffee & Youth Biscuits follow		
	10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages		
Wednesday	9:30 a.m. Bible Study		10:15 a.m. Coffee & Youth Biscuits follow
	4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class		
	6:00 p.m. Potluck Fellowship		10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
	6:45 p.m. Prayer & Praise		
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Fall Fest kick-off meeting		

For the week of December 31, 2017 - January 6, 2018

Birthdays	Baptismal Anniversaries	Wedding Anniversaries
January 3 Barbara Jacob Rebekah Spolarich 5 Lynden Duplantis	January 6 Kristen Gouaux	January 5 William & Wanda Williams

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Agnes Belknap, Allen & Betty Carpenter, Alex Lapeyrouse, Ann Perryman, Connie Oswalt, Denise Reaves, Edna Marie Sevin, Jason Rogers, Jerrie Fitzgerald, Jerry & Lola Ledet, Jimmy Poole, John Lewis, John Wegner Jr, Joy Stegall, Kathie Carlos, Laura Naquin, Linda Meyer, Lisa Ledet, Mark Dunn, Martha McDonald, Paul Gerken, Ruble Pitre, Susan Duet & Tad Doolittle.



ELDERLY: Iva Kohls & Myra Thalheim

EXPECTANT/NEW MOTHERS & BABIES: Jessica & Alice Kelwaski; Katie & Allison Von Burgsdorff; Kristen & Emma Gouaux; Samantha & Grisham Riddels

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of Billy McDonald, Judy Landry, Mike Strauser, Myrtle Dupre, Ronnie Comeaux, Sandra Matherne, Stephanie Dahl and Tyler Monson.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Allen Trahan, Chandler Crawford, Dave McClellan, Doug Mandel, Heather Darce, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Matthew Spolarich, Nigel Koorie, Ronnie Joe Ojeda, Timothy DeSoto, Todd Mueller, Tom Hemminger, & Victoria Shroyer

VIETNAM MISSIONARY FAMILY : J.P., Aimee, Celeste, Bella, & Isaac Cima

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alec Cunningham, Connor Cuneo, Hannah Cuneo, Jacob Cinnater, Jared Moise, Kara Kraus, Karly Kyzar, Matthew Gros, Michael Thalheim, Ross Reaves, & Satin Ursery

Dear Members of Grace,

I would like to thank the congregation for the cards, the kind words of encouragement and the love you have shown to me this Christmas season. It is and has always been such a wonderful opportunity to be able to play and sing here at Grace so again, thank you so much for that privilege. My prayer is that God would bless all of you richly in 2018 and in the years to come.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Grace's Mission

Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness, Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching, and Fellowship

Christmas I **Luke 2:39**
“And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord. . .” The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins: but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. But the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live – as Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living, as the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

Stewardship News
Attendance last Sunday: 46

Last Sunday GF Offerings: \$6,270.00 *GF offerings YTD: \$147,587.00*
Weekly 2017 Expenses: \$1,546.84 *2017 Expenses YTD: \$151,617.85*

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Next Sunday is “Food Bank Sunday” and we are collecting food & monetary donations for the Food Bank. You may leave items in the box in the narthex or designate your donation “Food Bank” on an envelope for the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity!

Biscuit Makers
January 7th - Karoline & Shelby Giroir
21st - Cassie & Donovan Domangue

THANK YOU...

I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to everybody at Grace who blessed me this holiday season in many different ways. I especially thank God for surrounding me with such great people who worked so hard to make our GLC Christmas activities special and beautiful. Thanks to Mike and Mila for the music, to Lisa, Bart, Bonnie and the youth for the Christmas play, to the Altar Guild and other volunteers who decorated the chancel, our free florist Gloria Ashley, and anyone else who gives their time, talent, treasure or voice help us all praise God for the gift of Christ to us all. I am truly blessed by you all. Thanks be to God.
In Christ, Pastor Rich

Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center

We have openings in our ECC for Tues/Thurs Half/Full Day for the 2 year old or 3/4 year old class. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them contact Sofie. Due to the unexpected circumstance of 4 children withdrawing from the program, we are in a financial crisis. If you can donate any amount to the ECC, it would be greatly appreciated. God Bless and please pray that our school will continue to bless our families in the community.
-Sofie Arceneaux

Mission Outreach

Grace is seeking volunteers who would be willing to give rides to church to people with no vehicle or who can't drive at night. Pastor Rich often comes across folks who don't come worship due to lack of transportation. If you're willing to help out, please drop a note or email to Pastor so he can add you to the driver list. Men are needed to give rides to men, and women for rides to women. You are not obligating yourself by being on the list. Pastor will contact you if a need arises in your area and ask if you are available.

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN “Of the father’s Love Begotten” LSB #384 (*Stand at last verse*)

INVOCATION *Based on Luke 2:29–31*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

Pastor: According to the Lord’s own Word, let us come before Him.
People: **Our eyes shall see the salvation He has prepared for us.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:7; Galatians 4:4–5*

Pastor: If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
People: **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us join together and confess our sins to God, our Father:
People: **Lord God, heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we have not walked according to Your commands. Our words and actions have not reflected the light of Your presence in our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in the darkness. In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Cleanse our hearts and minds with His mercy, and scatter the darkness of our sin with the brightness of His righteousness. Amen.**

Pastor: Your merciful Father has sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem you who are under the law, so that you might be adopted into His family and freed by His forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

+ WORD +

KYRIE (*p. 204 in hymnal*)

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord,. have mercy

HYMN OF PRAISE *Gloria in Excelsis* (*p. 204 in hymnal*)

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Good-will from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing— Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King. To You, O sole begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry, Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high— For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High, In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

People: **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Galatians 4:4–7*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE *Luke 2:30, 32*

Pastor: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;
People: **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Nunc Dimittis (p. 211 in hymnal)*

O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The
glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in
One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another, ever reflecting to all the nations the light of Your glory and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Based on Luke 2:29–31*

Pastor: According to the Lord's own Word, we have come before Him.
People: **Our eyes have seen the salvation He has prepared for us.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" LSB #390

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New Year's Eve Prayer

Lord, change is never easy. We feel more comfortable with the old ways, the old things, and the old places. But You are making all things new. As we come to the eve of the New Year, help me to move forward, trusting Your leading even as Abraham of old did by leaving his land and going to the place You would reveal. Unfold with Your grace and mercy that which comes to us now. In Jesus' name. Amen

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

People: **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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *(p. 210 in hymnal)*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Your Table I Approach" LSB #628

"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" LSB #624

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "Let All Together Praise Our God" LSB #389

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: For the blessing of God's kingdom, that people of all nations may come to the Savior who came into this world for us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son.**

Pastor: For the Christian Church, both here at Grace Lutheran Church and throughout the world, that we may rejoice in the Son of God and marvel at the mystery of His incarnation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son.

Pastor: For all pastors, teachers, missionaries, and servants of the Church, that wherever they go and whomever they reach, Your love may be seen and known, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son.

Pastor: For the community in which we live and for all of those who use their vocations to bless others, that we may do all things for the glory of God and for the good of mankind, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son.

Pastor: For all public servants, including our governmental leaders and the members of the Armed Forces, that they would embrace Jesus Christ and be filled with His wisdom, guidance, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son.

Pastor: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, [*especially* . . .], that they may be touched by the healing hand of our Great Physician, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son.

Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have that, coming before the throne of grace, we find mercy to help us in our time of need, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son. In His name we pray. Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" LSB #955

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (*p. 208 in hymnal*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. By Your Holy Spirit, You draw all nations unto Your light that the darkness of our sin may forever be removed by the sacrifice of Christ's body and blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You to unite us with all Your adopted children who have been redeemed through Him who was born under the Law for us. For to You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."