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CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION
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www.ilc.edu/home.htm

PRESERVICE PRAYER: Heavenly Father as we once again celebrate Your Son's incarnation and birth, lead us to find our comfort and joy in knowing that Jesus was born to be our Savior. Help us remember always that it was His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. May Your Spirit bless our hearing of the Christmas gospel and increase our faith, that we may grow in grace and in the assurance of everlasting life that is ours in Christ Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: (p. 22 Worship Supplement 2000)

HYMN 120: Help Us, O Lord! Behold, We Enter

1 Help us, O Lord! Behold, we enter
Upon another year today;
In Thee our hopes and tho'ts now center,
Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness,
We ask of Thee--oh, hear and bless!

2 May ev'ry plan and undertaking
This year be all begun with Thee;
When I am sleeping or am waking,
Still let me know Thou art with me.
Abroad do Thou my footsteps guide,
At home be ever at my side.

3 Be this a time of grace and pardon.
Thy rod I take with willing mind,
But suffer naught my heart to harden;
Oh, let me then Thy mercy find!
In Thee alone, my God, I live;
Thou only canst my sins forgive.

4 And may this year to me be holy;
Thy grace so fill my ev'ry thought
That all my life be pure and lowly
And truthful, as a Christian's ought.
So make me while yet dwelling here
Pious and blest from year to year.

5 Jesus, be with me and direct me;
Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me;
Jesus, be all my heart's Desire;
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day
Nor suffer me to fall away.

6 And grant, Lord, when the year is over,
That it for me in peace may close;
In all things care for me and cover
My head in time of fear and woes.
So may I when my years are gone
Appear with joy before Thy throne.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God is light and Him is no darkness at all.

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

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

P: Together let us pray:

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴ “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. (NKJV)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus. (NKJV)

THE APOSTLES CREED (The Lutheran Hymnal p. 12)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was
crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He
rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.

HYMN 91:1-5: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord. Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners' Help and Friend Now at last to us doth send.

2 What the fathers most desired, What the prophet's heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram's promised great Reward, Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord--
Him of two-fold race behold-- Truly came, as long foretold.

4 Welcome, O my Savior, now! Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray, Oh, prepare Thyself a way!

5 King of Glory, enter in; Cleanse it from the filth of sin,
As Thou hast so often done; It belongs to Thee alone.

THE SERMON: Galatians 4:4-5

Theme: God Marking Time According to His Purpose

- I. In the fulness of time God Sent His Son
- II. His Purpose: Redeem those Under the Law
- III. And Time Going Forward

SERMON TEXT: Galatians 4:4-5

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under
the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (NKJV)

PRAYER; THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 99: Now Are the Days Fulfilled

1 Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested,
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.
Behold the mighty God, By whom all wrath is stilled,
The woman's promised Seed-- Now are the days fulfilled.

2 Now are the days fulfilled, Lo, Jacob's Star is shining;
The gloomy night has fled Wherein the world lay pining.
Now, Israel, look on Him Who long thy heart hath thrilled;
Hear Zion's watchmen cry: Now are the days fulfilled.

3 Now are the days fulfilled, The child of God rejoices;
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.
Behold the Prince of Peace-- Now are the days fulfilled.

BENEDICTION

C: Amen.

HYMN 97: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

1 Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

4 O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school and Bible class and Catechism class are in holiday recess

NEXT SUNDAY: Epiphany Sunday! Worship at 9:30. Sunday School is scheduled to follow the service. Adults will be taking down church Christmas decorations following the service. Catechism class is scheduled for 11:30. Sermon text: Ephesians 3:2-12.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

January 30, 2022: The **annual voters meeting** is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: December 26 worship –13 No Sunday school or Bible class

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,285.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 1205.00	Missions	\$90.00
Needed for Year:	\$66,820.00	Memorial:	
Received for Year:	\$59,618.00	Steve Waterman	\$10.00

Donations toward Christmas bags totaled \$115.00

CLCNEWS: Professor emeritus Paul Sullivan was called to his eternal rest this past Thursday, December 29th. A service of thanksgiving and praise to Christ for the grace shown to His servant Paul Sullivan will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. (No visitation prior to the service.) Due to health concerns, the family requests masks be worn and spacing be utilized in the sanctuary, if possible. Memorials can be designated to **Kinship** or **CLC Missions** (501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701).