

This Week at Grace
Sunday, November 19, 2006
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

New Member Sunday
GLCW Appreciation and Thank Offering Sunday

INTRODUCTION

During November the lectionary leads the worshipping assembly to visions of the last day, to a reflection on the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Some religious people see only panic and doom in the future. They dwell in the land of fear. The conclusion to the Lord's Prayer offers another view: the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. It is a bold confession of faith in God, who is our refuge and our strength. Such a hope, according to Hebrews, leads us to encourage one another in love and good deeds.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth.
Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world,
trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

FIRST READING *Daniel 12:1-3*

The book of Daniel represents a kind of literature called "apocalyptic," which is full of bizarre visions, strange symbolism, and supernatural happenings. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature employs a vivid language that prevents outsiders to the faith from understanding its content. Overall, it is concerned with God's revelation about the end-time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

PSALM *Psalm 16*

My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

² All my delight is in the Godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.

³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who hold my lot.

⁶ My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 10:11–14[15–18] 19–25*

The letter to the Hebrews presents an extended discussion of how Christ offered himself as a sacrifice so that sinners, cleansed by his blood, might have life. Therefore, the writer concludes, our life together should be marked by confidence, assurance, hope, and encouragement.

¹¹ And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³ and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,

11:00a Pastor's Text Study
2:30p 3-D Meeting
5:00p Parish Nurses Meeting
6:30p Circle Bible Study Leaders Meeting
7:00p Gracious Christianity Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 9:15a Deborah Circle
1:15p Ruth Circle
6:30p Thanksgiving Worship Service

THURSDAY: *Thanksgiving Day*
Offices and Building Closed

FRIDAY: Offices and Building Closed

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
2:30p 7th-12th gr. Good Samaritan Sunday
5:30p Cantori Concert

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Nov. 19: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Nov. 19: Sunday School] [Nov. 20: In memory of two sisters, one brother, and one special friend, all of whom had birthdays in November: Palma Loken, Inga Loken, Art Foley, and Frank Heedeman given by Alice Lageson.] [Nov. 22: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Marlene Bergeson (Rochester), Richard Carlson (Rochester), and Lucille Kittelson.

THE CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Ella Anderson (granddaughter of Dan & Bonnie Anderson), Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark Fisher (father of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Lucille Kittelson, Anna Kycek, Conrad & Rose Masyga (parents of Kris Heine), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Marliss Sward (sister of Marlene Sorenson), Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember Tammy & Jeff Johnson and family upon the death of Tammy's father last week.

NOVEMBER is a Minnesota FoodShare Month. You can make a donation of cash/check or non-perishable food items any time during the month. Thank you for your generosity.

TODAY IS - GLCW Appreciation Day. Please take a moment to look at the information that is set up in the narthex area. Cake pans are placed on the table to receive donations for the "No Bake" Bake Sale. Please donate the cost of a baked good item that you would normally sell at a traditional bake sale. (This is being done as a fundraiser instead of the Mall Charity Day fundraiser, as voted on by the GLCW Board.)

THANK YOU to all of our new GLCW officers and second year officers for committing your time to your church family. We plan to have another great year of fun and fellowship and are excited to get started. We hope you will feel free to suggest or give any new ideas to further our purpose here at Grace. One of the Purposes states, *To know and do the will of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Let's do it together. Amen! Thanks also to our outgoing officers for giving of their time during their service to GLCW. We couldn't have done it without you.

BECKNELL DUO IN CONCERT: Tonight, 7:00p

LaJuanda Menssen (violist) and Hollie Shaver (pianist) founded the Becknell Duo this spring in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Their mission is to extend their love of music to the world through quality performance and educational outreach. Their inaugural season has included performances, lectures, and clinics at schools, churches, and their private teaching studios. The concert will include J.S. Bach's second suite for unaccompanied viola and Johannes Brahms's second sonata for viola and piano, along with Rebecca Clarke's *Passacaglia on an Old English Tune*. (LaJuanda Menssen is married to Jason Menssen, son of Grace members, Allen & Judy Menssen.) The concert is free and open to the public. (A freewill offering to help defray transportation expenses will be received.) Please join the Becknell Duo for an enlightening and enjoyable evening of chamber music!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We believe there are many times when we are unaware that someone is in the hospital. This can happen for a number of reasons. You don't want to bother the pastors. You enter through emergency or urgent care. You think your name is being placed on the list we have access to and it does not get on the list for some reason. It is our desire to provide pastoral care to all who are hospitalized for whatever reason. Please help us by letting us know you are in the hospital or will be hospitalized. Thank you for your help! -- Pastors John and Todd

CIRCLE MEMBERS: Prep sheets for the November GLCW Circle Bible Study are available in the narthex today.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served this morning by Parker Hanna and his parents, Scott & Stacey.

DON'T HAVE TO BAKE – BUT GIVE LIKE YOU DID!

GLCW is holding a "No Bake" Bake Sale this morning, GLCW Appreciation Day. Please

consider donating the amount you would normally put on your donated baked good to sell at a traditional bake sale. Cake pans will be used as collection plates and will be part of the GLCW display in the narthex. This "bake sale" is to help raise funds for the GLCW general budget. The GLCW Board voted to hold this fundraiser instead of participating in the September Mall Charity Day fundraiser (because of the poor customer outcome last year) in hopes to make more money for our 2007 budget.

GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY MEETING: Tuesday, Nov. 21st, 7:00p

The next gathering of the Gracious Christianity group will be held Tues., Nov. 21st, 7:00p, at the home of David & Carol Larson (111 South Lane). We will be looking at how Jesus might handle the sentencing of Saddam Hussein, and capital punishment in general. Come join the discussion as we enjoy the pursuit of, and seek to understand, the radical Jesus, our Lord! Please come, and bring a friend! Questions? Call David (377-3561), or Mary (373-1727).

DEBORAH CIRCLE will meet Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, 9:15a, at Bombo's Restaurant.

RUTH CIRCLE meets Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, 1:15p, in the church Fireside Room.

COULD YOU HELP? Grace Lutheran will be serving coffee at St. John's Home next Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26th. We are asked to provide assorted desserts, along with two workers to serve that day. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex this morning. Your help would brighten the holiday season for many residents and their families.

SR. HIGH YOUTH – YOU ARE SO INVITED!

It is time to get the Grace Lutheran Sr. High Bible Study going again, and we can't do it without you! Youth who have been confirmed are invited to come and explore our faith and spend time together on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 until 7:30/8:00 (first meeting, Nov. 29th in the Youth Room). If you have any questions, contact Denae, and by all means if you have a friend interested in coming as well – invite them along!

THE MEAL MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS have met and are in the process of developing the service delivery model. The plan is to begin the ministry in early December. Additional information will be made available to the congregation at that time. We are excited to be able to offer this service for individuals and families in times of need.

WOULD YOU LIKE to make a Christmas gift to a resident of Good Samaritan Center? The annual gift this year to each resident is a sun catcher at \$5.50. Send your donation to Theresa Thorland, Therapeutic Recreation Director, Albert Lea Good Samaritan Center, 75507 240th St., Albert Lea, MN 56007. Thank you for your generosity.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS! This morning at our 8:30 worship service we will receive those listed below into membership at Grace Lutheran Church. We rejoice that they have chosen Grace Lutheran as their church family. Between our morning services, there will be a reception held downstairs in the Fireside Room in honor of our new members. Please join us as we welcome them into our Grace Family.

*Shane & Kelly Christenson; Alexa and Aydan
 Doug & Renae Horecka; Bradley and Carter
 Alex & Angie Johnston; Hayden, Adler and Bryant
 Pastor Phil & Marilyn Peters
 Clarice Blise Porter
 Jill Watney
 Eric & Erika Youlden*

ADVENT PACKETS are available in the narthex today for the upcoming Advent season. They include great activity ideas and information - something for everyone! Stop and pick one up today.

BOOK CLUB will meet again on Monday evening, Dec. 4th, 7:00p, at the home of Hazel Spiering. The featured book for the month is *The Brother's Keeper* by Tracy Groot. Please join us.

THE GLCW CHRISTMAS PARTY is coming. Please mark your calendars and save the date. On Thursday, Dec. 7th, all Grace members (male and female, young and old) and their friends are invited to hear the Albert Lea High School Chorale, join in a Christmas devotional, sing some Advent songs, and share in warm fellowship. There will be Christmas treats following the program and meeting. Hope to see you there!

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support. Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, Nov. 12th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 8,912.00	\$ 425,964.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 441,135.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 41.50	\$ 2,305.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 65.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 428; Last Year - 457