

Grace Lutheran Church

24542 Melbourne Road
Strathroy-Caradoc, ON

L U K E 1 : 4 2



BLESSED ARE YOU
AMONG WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2012

WORSHIP SERVICE. 9:00 a.m.

Rev. James Scholz, Senior Pastor - pastorjsflc@rogers.com

Rev. Oscar Castillo, Pastor - pastorocflc@rogers.com

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Elizabeth Biser, Secretary Mrs. Linda Aitken, Organist

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PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Fill us with the Holy Spirit, O God, as we prepare to greet your Son. May our hearts leap for joy in his presence, and may our mouths be ready to sing praises to this child who has come to save the whole world.

O Great and Giving God, may we spring to life because of your Son.

WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU in the name of our Saviour, especially the visitors who have joined us this morning. If you do not have a church that you call home, we invite you to make Grace your spiritual home. Amid the trials and tribulations of life it's good that we can come to our Lord for strength through His Word. Please introduce yourself to the Pastor, and fill in the "Worship attendance registration" at the end of the pew.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service Setting 4. p. 203
Holy Communion

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH (see insert)

HYMNS: 361; 357; 935

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a (pg.779)

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 10:3-10 (pg.1006)

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-45(46-56) (pg.856)

SERMON: "The Song of Mary" - Luke 1:39-56



THE POINSETTIAS which beautify God's church this festive season have been given to His glory by the Beecrofts, Campbells, Castillos, Gmehlines, Issendorfs and Ryans.

GUESTS AND HOLY COMMUNION: The coming of Christ in the flesh at Bethlehem was a concrete outward act of God in humble means that was despised by the world. The flesh and blood coming of Christ in the **Sacrament of the Altar** is also a concrete outward act of God in humble means that can be despised. Rather than despise it, however, God would have us delight in it! With deep thankfulness for God's gift to us here we also express our deep desire to celebrate it according to His will. As this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Matt Mulligan

ALTAR GUILD: Tania Mulligan, Betty Catanzariti

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:



Special Needs: John Crowther, Else Jacobsen, John and Maria Paal, Pat Phillips, Alan and Carol Schmitt, Sandra Stewart, David and Imogen Strike, Sandra Stockman, Grace Woolner, Doris and Niels Jensen, Susan Gajdos, Ellen Phillips, Pastor Kenneth Voege, Konrad and Rosemarie Gmehlin, Nancy Curtis, Lois Juritsch, David Holden, David Chamberlain, Harold and Leone Sillers

Homebound: Becky Ames, Paul and Ana Greksa, Jean Mountenay, Melvin Dale

Family Focus: Paul, Marta, John Paul and Marian Greksa; Dieter Groneberg and Carolyn Crosbie; Katharina Gross; Irene Guilgoyle

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 34 ADVENT SERVICE(DEC. 13): 19

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 7

OFFERINGS: Current \$835.00; Missions \$40.00; Building Fund 55.00; Misc \$30.00; Other Income \$109.00; Other \$34.00 **Praise The Lord!**

FAITH-GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH has organized a trip to Nicaragua for December of 2013 to hold VBS, Adult Bible Study and to undertake some construction projects. This team will organize a few fundraising activities next year. If you would like to donate to this Mission trip, please write "Nicaragua Mission trip-2013" on your envelope beside "other".

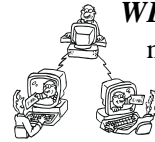
NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE with Holy Communion will be at Our Saviour this year. Service begins at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!



THE SACRED SEASON OF ADVENT continues today and we again prepare our hearts to greet the Saviour who came, who comes, and who is coming again. Advent mid-week services at Faith have come to a close for this year. Last Wednesday's theme was "God, the Father: The Faithful Father".

PLEASE REMEMBER to bring God our regular offerings and tithes as well for the ongoing work of His Church. God calls us here to be in His glorious presence, that He may bless us. Let us commit ourselves to Him who is our forgiveness, life and salvation.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR POP TABS and bring them in to Grace. You can place them in the designated container.



WE OFTEN USE EMAIL to communicate midweek messages to the majority of the congregation. Can we include your address? Send a message to the office to be on the list. We also appreciate if you notify us of changes to your present addresses or if we have your incorrect birthday. The office address is faithlutheranchurch@rogers.com

LIFE QUOTES: "Marvel with me at the meaning and miracle of the incarnation of Jesus: 'Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity' (Hebrews 2:14). He came to this world not merely to be *like* us. He came to *be* us, fully, in every way. In this marvelous way, He came to bring about a rescue in person, one that only He could do. He came to obey the laws of God and man as a man. He became human to die for the human race. If you believe this, you are going to have a very merry Christmas." *Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace* - A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2013 are available in the parish hall. *Please wait until the new year to begin using them*, as occasionally numbers may have changed. If you did not receive a box of envelopes, but would like some, please advise the office.

AS 2012 IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, it is time to remind our various organizations and committees that we will be preparing our Annual Report in the next few weeks. Your help in having reports to us as quickly as possible is greatly appreciated!

OUR VOTERS ASSEMBLY elected new members to our Church Council. Those who will be serving on the council this coming year are:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairman: Dan Johnston | Secretary: Carol Wilkinson |
| Treasurer: Barb Werner | Financial Secretary: Diane Geurkink |
| Elders: Mike Ansell | David Holden |
| Henry Balasch | Darcy Kahle |
| Lorne Campbell (Grace) | Keith Keller |
| Jack Geurkink | David Livingstone |
| Nelson Highfield | Matt Mulligan (Grace) |
| Trustees: Ken Beecroft (Grace) | Ed Oelke |
| David Chamberlain | Rick Ryan (Grace) |
| Ken Curtis | Brad Schieman |
| Janko Galat | Mark Wiersema (Grace) |
| Fred Neumann | Beth Wilker |
| | Fred Werner |

Auditor: Donna Livingstone

We thank God for these members and their willingness to serve the church. God bless them in their service to Him and among us.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday January 4th, at Faith at 7:00 p.m., we will once again be holding the Church Council orientation and social. This is for council members and their spouses, both the newly elected council members, as well as the outgoing members, as we get to know one another, and spend some time relaxing and enjoying our fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ. We will have a brief meeting, and then continue with the fun. Council members: please put this on your calendar. More information will soon follow!

OUR SPECIAL OFFERINGS: Our special gift envelopes have been designated as follows this Christmas season:

- our Advent midweek offerings support Concordia Seminary, Edmonton
- Christmas Eve offering supports our District and Synodical Missions
- Christmas Day offerings will support our Building Fund
- New Year's Eve supports Concordia University College in Edmonton.

You can always designate your offering any way you choose by writing on the envelope. Remember, though, that the special envelopes should not be used as substitutes for our regular gifts to the work of the church. Our faithful stewardship provides the needs of our congregation.



THE JOYOUS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS is a wonderful time to invite people to come and worship the Newborn King. Our festive services are as follows:

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|------------------------|--|
| December 24 - 7:00 pm | Christmas Carol Service - Grace, Strathroy |
| December 24 - 7:00 pm | Candlelight Carol Service @ Faith |
| December 25 - 10:00 am | Christmas Day Celebration w/Communion @Grace |
| December 25 - 10:00 am | Christmas Day Celebration w/Communion @Faith |
| December 31 - 7:30 pm | New Year's Eve Service w/Communion @ Our Saviour |

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Mission Services of London (MSL)

THIS WEEK AT FAITH AND GRACE

Mon.	9:30 a.m.	Office Prayers
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service at Faith
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Tues.	10:00 a.m.	Faith Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Grace Christmas Day Worship w/ Holy Communion
Wed.		Office Closed
Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Grace Morning Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Faith Morning Worship