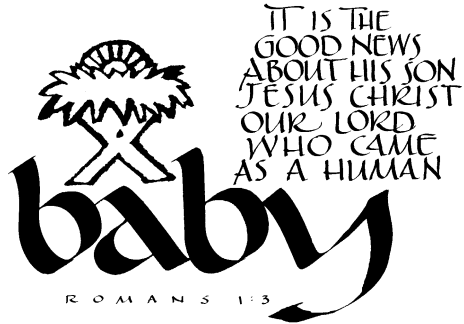


**Grace
Lutheran Church**
24542 Melbourne Road
Strathroy-Caradoc, ON N7G 3H5



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2016

Living Our Faith Under His Grace

BIBLE CLASS..... 9:00 a.m.
WORSHIP SERVICE..... 10:00 a.m.

Rev. James Scholz, Senior Pastor - pastorjshlc@rogers.com
Rev. Oscar Castillo, Pastor - pastorocflc@rogers.com
home phone 519-685-4287
Office: Ph: 519-245-3078; 226-378-6924(alternate)
fax: 519-685-1480

Rev. John S. Obeda, Pastor Emeritus

Elizabeth Biser, Secretary **Linda Aitken, Organist**
Website: www.gracelutheranstrathroy.com
Email: admin@gracelutheranstrathroy.com
www.facebook.com/faithlutheranlondon

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: O Advent Lord, come to us and bring us Your salvation. For we would be lost without Your presence, we would be sinking in sin without Your love, and we would be scattered far and wide were it not for Your guidance and strength. May we see Your salvation at work even now, in all the events surrounding Your birth.

O Coming Christ, save us by Your grace.

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" as it is being circulated.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Confession / Absolution. p. 151
Prayer and Preaching. p. 260

HYMNS: 352; 341; 353; 361

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH: see insert (#357)

CHOIR: "Carol of the Stable"

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-17 (p.572)

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 1:1-7 (p.939)

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 (p.807)

SERMON: "Can You See the Sign?" - Isaiah 7:10-17

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Lutheran Church - Canada

The work and programmes of Synod are dependent upon the financial support given through individual congregations of each District.

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

USHERS TODAY: Susan Campbell & Mayra Castillo

USHERS DEC. 24th: Ken & Sharon Beecroft

USHERS NEXT WEEK: Lorne Campbell & Mike Flikkema

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Gene Makish

ALTAR GUILD: Rosemarie Gmehlin & Anna Makish

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:



Special Needs: Walter and Donna Procknow, Else Jacobsen, John and Maria Paal, Pat Phillips, Sandra Stewart, David and Imogen Strike, Sandra Stockman, Ellen Phillips, Frank Kleiber, Sophie Wilson, John and Nancy Crowther, Ritva Kingo and family, Sarah Lawson, Keith Keller, Joanna Bode, Reiner Issendorf, Martha Fonger, David Biederman (Carole Atkinson’s brother), Grace Woolner, Katherine Atkinson (Carol Wilkinson’s mother), Nancy Curtis, Bill and Vicky Orłowski, Emily Playfoot, Rob Dieterle and family, Tony Van Vliet and family

Homebound: Becky Ames, Ana Greksa

Family Focus: Ellen Phillips; Pat Phillips; Brian and Carol Pierce; Gaëtan and Sarah Pizieux

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 22 (*15:29)

COMMUNED: 18

BIBLE STUDY: 4

MIDWEEK ATTENDANCE (Thursday, December 8th): 18

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS:

(FROM Dec. 4th): Current 605.00; Missions 45.00



NON-BUDGET GIFTS:

(FROM Dec. 4th): Love Fund 20.00; Loose 7.00

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.

LIFE QUOTES: “As Christmas approaches, I’m reminded of another man more than 2,000 years ago who also made a difficult choice about a mother and a baby. Joseph could have cut and run, but he didn’t. When men commit themselves to stand for life and for their families, they experience blessings far greater than wealth and fame.” *Bradley Mattes, executive director of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES: “What We Really Want” (Galatians 4:4-5)

Speaker Emeritus of the Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

What do you want for Christmas? Jesus is God’s greatest gift to a sinful world. Hear this inspirational message on 1290AM CJBK on Sunday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca

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

GRACE CONNECTION CARD: If you have a question or a prayer request, or would like to have a visit from one of the pastors, please fill out one of these cards which can be found on the back table of the sanctuary as well as on the table in the parish hall and put the card in the offering basket.



THE SACRED SEASON OF ADVENT continues as we again prepare our hearts to greet the Saviour who came, who comes, and who is coming again. We invite you to make our midweek Advent Services a special part of this preparation. Our theme will be “It’s About Time!”. **Services continue Thursday, December 22nd here at Grace at 7:00 pm.**

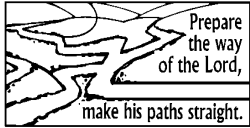
GRACE BIBLE STUDY: In December, there will not be any Bible Study due to the Advent Services at Grace. There is no Bible Study on January 19th, but we need someone to host the Bible Study on Thursday, January 26th. If you are willing to host a future Bible Study, please sign the list at the back of the church.

A **DONATION BOX** has been set in the fellowship hall of the church. Please bring non-perishable food items for Christmas for the local Food Bank. Let us all bring food in order to help all those in need during the Christmas season.

MEMBERS' TELEPHONE DIRECTORY: Please check your information in the congregation's telephone directory. If the information is correct, could you please put a check mark and initials beside your name to indicate that you have seen it? If there are changes/updates, please write them directly on the paper. Also, if you are aware of any information changes of other members, please add them. If you have an email address and you would like it included in the new directory, add it or let the office know, either by phone (519-685-9700) or email at faithlutheranchurch@rogers.com



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2017 are available in your mailbox. 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.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available today. As we prepare to greet the King, who came, who comes, and who is coming again, may these booklets help you find hope and joy in His appearing. The theme is "Christmas Memories".

DEAR MEMBERS OF GRACE: Our church has a Christmas message for this year. You can listen to this message on myFM105.7 until Sunday, December 25th.

Outreach Committee

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AGES 13-17: Continuing on Tuesday, December 20th from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., you are invited to an evening of fellowship and fun. Joanne Bode and Sarah Holden-Pizieux look forward to spending the evening with you.



FLOWER CHART: Please sign up for a Sunday to adorn our altar as we praise God for the many blessings that He has given us.

Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

THIS WEEK AT FAITH AND GRACE

Mon.	9:30 a.m.	Office Prayers / Staff Meeting
Tues.	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation (Faith)
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Wed.	6:20 p.m.	Soup Supper (Faith)
	6:40 p.m.	Chimers
	7:15 p.m.	Advent Service (Faith)
	8:15 p.m.	Choir
Thurs.	11:00 a.m.	Pastor Castillo at Grace
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Service (Grace)
Sat.	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service at Faith
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service at Grace
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Faith Christmas Day Worship / Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Grace Christmas Day Worship / Holy Communion