

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

24542 Melbourne Road
Strathroy-Caradoc, ON N7G 3H5



Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2017

We Love Because He First Loved Us

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

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Rev. John S. Obeda, *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Stan Diehl, *Emeritus*

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PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, who is, who was and who is to come, help us to see this Advent who we are--for we are Your children--and whose we are--for we belong to Christ. May our identity always be linked to his.

God, our Father, keep us connected to 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" as it is being circulated.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

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

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH: "We Light the Advent Candle" v. 1,2,3

HYMNS: 342; 563; 348

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (p.620)

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (p.988)

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (p.886)

SERMON: "Being a Witness of Christ!" - John 1:6-8, 19-28



FLOWERS: The flowers which beautify God's house today are given to the glory of God by Pastor and Mayra Castillo in celebration of Mayra's birthday.

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.

USHERS: After service, please collect the bulletins from the sanctuary and put them in the box which is located in the office. Also, please collect any paper scraps that have been left in the pews and dispose of them in the garbage cans. As well, make sure to record the names of all those attending service on the attendance sheet and give these sheets along with the offering envelopes to the pastor.

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

USHERS TODAY: Lorne and Susan Campbell

USHERS NEXT WEEK: Ken and Sharon Beecroft

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Gene Makish

ALTAR GUILD: Rosemarie Gmehlin and Anna Makish

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:



Special Needs: Walter and Donna Procknow, Else Jacobsen, John and Maria Paal, Pat Phillips, Sandra Stewart, Imogen Strike, Frank Kleiber, Sophie Wilson, Stacy Francis and sons, John and Nancy Crowther, Ritva Kingo and family, Sarah Lawson, Keith and Alice Keller, Reiner Issendorf, Martha Fonger, David Biederman (Carole Atkinson’s brother), Grace Woolner, Bill and Vicky Orłowski, Mary Lewis, Matthew Danyluk-Gascon, Earl Weiberg, Nancy Curtis, Marsha Kennedy, Shirley Kendall, Christina Hunt (Marissa Danyluk-Gascon’s mother), Janice Vandermyden, Sheila Mizon, Jenna Martinuzzi, Karen Webster (Jessalynn Webster’s mother-in-law), Dennis and Sara Bradbury

Homebound: Becky Ames, Ana Greksa

Family Focus: Walter and Donna Procknow; Calvin, Becky and Justin Rivett; Jim, Lillian, Matthew and Katie Robertson; Carol and Randy Robinson

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 18 (‘16:22)

COMMUNED: 15

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE (DEC. 7): 13

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS:

(from Dec. 3rd): Current 580.00; Missions 20.00

NON-BUDGET GIFTS:

(from Dec. 3rd): Love Fund(Midweek Advent) 115.00; Care Packages 60.00

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2018 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.

BIBLE STUDIES AT GRACE: You are welcome to participate in our Bible Study on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. Come and learn about the “Good News” of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

BIRTHDAY CAKE AT GRACE: On Sunday, December 31st after service, you are welcome to celebrate those members who have a birthday in December. If you would like to provide a cake for the last Sunday of the month, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway.

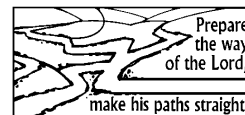
LIFE QUOTES: “The hinge of history can be found on a Bethlehem door.” *Evangelist J. John– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES: “The Greatest Story Ever Told”

(Luke 1:30-32a)

Speaker of the Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

What is your favourite story? This Christmas Eve day, The Lutheran Hour speaks about God’s greatest story. Hear this inspirational message on 1290AM CJBK on Sunday, December 24th at 9:00 a.m. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available at the entrances to the sanctuary 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 “Love Came Down”.



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. We invite you to make our midweek Advent Services a special part of this preparation. Our theme will be "Together in Advent!". **Services continue Thursday, December 21st here at Grace at 7:00 p.m.**

CHEESE SALES FOR LLL NICARAGUA MISSION: The cheese is available today. Total sales were \$1,016.60 of which 30% will be forwarded to LLL's work in Nicaragua. Thank you to all who supported this great cause!



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.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR: Instead of opening a little cubby and enjoying a treat each day of Advent, how about putting a little "treat" (aka non-perishable item) in a cubby/box each day of Advent for families to enjoy for the days to come. Your Reverse Advent boxes filled with 24 items are due next Sunday, December 24th and the week following. Donations will be delivered the first week of January. If you do not have a box, there are some for the taking in the fellowship hall.

THE LONDON CIRCUIT NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE will be hosted by our Congregation on December 31st at Faith at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on attending.

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



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



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.	9:00 a.m.	Pastors meet
	11:00 a.m.	Pastor Scholz at Grace
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation (Faith)
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Wed.	7:30 p.m.	Council (Faith)
	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study at Faith
	6:20 p.m.	Soup Supper (Faith)
	6:40 p.m.	Chimers
Thurs.	7:15 p.m.	Advent Service (Faith)
	8:15 p.m.	Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Pastor Castillo at Grace
Sun.	7:00 p.m.	Advent Service (Grace)
	10:00 a.m.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion (Faith)
	10:00 a.m.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion (Grace)
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service (Faith)
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service (Grace)