

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

24542 Melbourne Road
Strathroy-Caradoc, ON N7G 3H5



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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come.

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

Rev. James Scholz, Senior Pastor - pastorjflc@rogers.com
Rev. Oscar Castillo, Pastor - pastorcflc@rogers.com
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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" as it is being circulated.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service Setting 1..... p. 151
Holy Communion

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH..... white insert

HYMNS: 332; 361; 357 v.1-3, 7

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

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10 (p.1006)

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-45 (p.856)

SERMON: "Big New Beginnings" - Micah 5:2-5a

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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Lutheran Church - Canada

GUESTS AND HOLY COMMUNION: The *Nunc Dimittis* is called the "Song of Simeon". As he saw the baby Jesus in the temple, he spoke words that he was now ready to die--"Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace". In the **Lord's Supper** this same Jesus has given His body and blood to us. We, too, have seen the Lord's salvation and are prepared to depart this life at peace with God! With deep thankfulness for His gift to us here, we also express our deep desire to celebrate the Sacrament according to His will. As this includes oneness in doctrine, guests who desire to commune are kindly asked to speak with the pastor before doing so.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION: You may find it helpful to read Luther's Questions and Answers on p. 329 (LSB) prior to communing at the Lord's Table today.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

USHERS TODAY: Mike Flikkema & James Mulligan

USHERS NEXT WEEK: Olivia & Samantha Irons

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Mike Flikkema

ALTAR GUILD: Rosemarie Gmehlin, Lynn Kearns, Anna Makish

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Special Needs: Walter and Donna Procknow, John and Maria Paal, Patricia 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, Matthew Danyluk-Gascon, Earl Weiberg, Nancy Curtis, Marsha Kennedy, Shirley Kendall, Christina Hunt (Marissa Danyluk-Gascon's mother), Jenna Martinuzzi, Dennis and Sara Bradbury, Stan Diehl, Shirley Monk



Homebound: Becky Ames, Ana Greksa

Family Focus: Brian and Carol Pierce; Gaëtan and Sarah Pizieux; Stacey, Emily and Sara Pollak

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 49 ('17:18)

BIBLE STUDY: 5 **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 2

MIDWEEK SERVICE: 13

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS:

(from Dec. 9th): Current 470.00; Missions 141.98; Building 35.00



NON-BUDGET GIFTS:

(from Dec. 9th): LLL 20.00; Love Fund 75.00

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

- * Midweek Advent offerings support Love Fund
- * Christmas Eve offerings support our Missions
- * Christmas Day offerings will support our Building Fund
- * New Year's Eve offerings support Love Fund

Of course, you can always designate your offering anyway you choose by writing on the envelope. We do remind you, 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; may we always be faithful in God's gifts to us!

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 2019 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.

BIRTHDAY CAKE AT GRACE: Next Sunday, December 30th 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.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES: “A Long Good-Bye” (Luke 2:27-32)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy

As the year comes to a close, we likely have regrets and guilt. We can beat ourselves up over work left undone, but Jesus Christ has assured us that He is our hope. His grace is more than sufficient to take us into another year and give us peace. Hear this inspirational message on 1290AM CJBK on Sunday, December 30th at 9:00 a.m. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES TO BE BROADCAST: You can listen to these messages on myFM105.7 beginning on December 10th until Sunday, December 23rd. You can also find the transcripts for these messages in both the Gazette and the London Free Press. These have been written by Pastor Castillo.

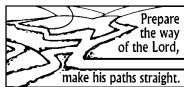
ONE-DAY COURSE FIRST AID TRAINING: Our next session will be taking place either Saturday, January 26 or Saturday, February 2, 2019. If you are interested, please inform the church office (519-685-9700). We require a minimum of 8 people in order to offer the course.

SANCTUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE: Please consider taking a turn at cleaning our church sanctuary. Duties include vacuuming, dusting and cleaning the bathroom. A sign up list has been placed in the parish hall. What a wonderful way to participate in our family of faith.



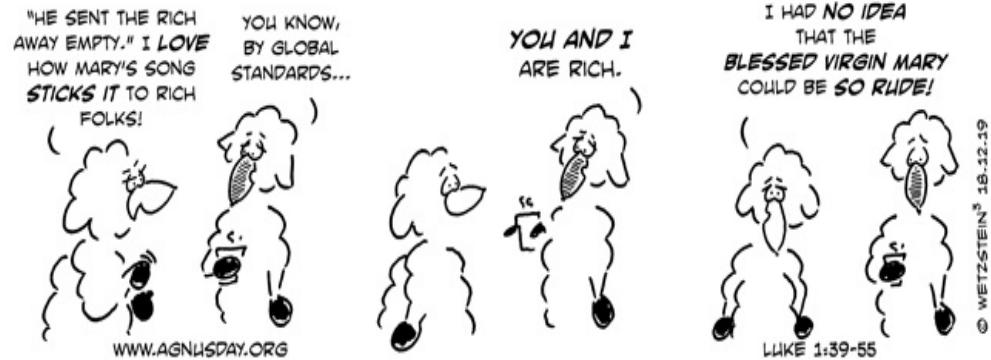
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR: Instead of opening a little cubby and enjoying a treat each day of Advent, how about putting a little “treat” (aka non-perishable item) in a cubby/box each day of Advent for families to enjoy for the days to come. Your Reverse Advent boxes filled with 23 items are due December 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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. 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 “*The Coming King*”.



THE FLOWERS which adorn the altar today are given to the glory of God by Janet Smok in thanksgiving for blessings received.

LIFE QUOTES: “Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus’ birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*



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

THIS WEEK AT FAITH AND GRACE		
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service (Grace)
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Carol Service (Faith)
Tues.	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion (Faith)
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion (Grace)
Wed.		Church Office closed
Thurs.		Church Office closed
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Morning Worship (Faith)
	10:00 a.m.	Morning Worship (Grace)

