

November 30, 2014

## The First Sunday in Advent

**Welcome!** Welcome to our friends and visitors who are joining us for our worship service this morning! We are glad that you are with us this morning and hope that you will join us again. Please sign our Guest Book at the back of our church before you leave today.

This morning you will hear a message of freedom from sin and eternal death through Jesus Christ who was "***anointed ... to proclaim liberty to the captives***" and "***to set at liberty those who are oppressed***" (*Luke 4:18*). May this message of liberty give you an appreciation for the selfless sacrifice He has made for you and bring you hope for eternity! If you have an interest in learning more about the great things God has done for you, please speak to our pastor. He would be happy to speak with you!



**Today's Organist:** Debra Mayhew

**Today's Hymns:** 278; 91; 352; 705

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 1:67-80 (*ESV*)

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow

of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

**Epistle Reading:** Hebrews 10:19-25 (*NKJV*)

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Sermon Text:** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (*ESV*)

31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

**Our New Covenant with God**

**Part 1 - The Problem with the Old**

Broken by man's disobedience

**Part 2 - The Content of the New**

Fulfilled by Jesus' obedience

## † This Week at Faith †

Today: 11/30 -	10:45 A.M. Worship Service at Faith 11:45 A.M. Church decorating
Wed: 12/3 -	7:00 P.M. Mid-week Advent Service at Grace
Sunday: 12/7 -	10:45 A.M. Communion Service at Faith 11:45 A.M. Bible Class (Law and Gospel)

## Announcements

**New Church year and Advent Services:** Today marks the beginning of a new church year. On Wednesday/Thursday we concluded the Trinity season with a worship service of Thanksgiving. We joined in thanking God for all the blessings He has given us in the past church year. Now we will start that cycle over once again with the season of Advent. The word advent means coming or arrival. During the four Sundays in Advent we will focus on the coming of our Savior Jesus and prepare for His birth on Christmas. Starting this Wednesday evening, Grace (Sleepy Eye) will be having mid-week Advent services, where we will be given opportunity for additional study through God's Word. The theme for our Advent service this year is ***The Family Tree of Jesus***. As we consider the family tree of Jesus we will see that The Savior has come for All People.

### ***The Family Tree of Jesus***

- **12/3** - The Savior has come for women
- **12/10** - The Savior has come for the high and mighty
- **12/17** - The Savior has come for the common person

It seems that every year there are more distractions to the true celebration of the birth of our Savior. This year we encourage you to take time out to join us for our special Wednesday evening Advent services as we consider the Family Tree of Jesus. We invite you to join us every Wednesday night in December! May the Lord strengthen our faith by His Holy Word throughout this Advent season.

**Christmas Decorating at Faith** - You are invited to join us after our worship service for Christmas Decorating as we decorate the church and prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth. We hope that you will join us!

**"God's Creation" Calendars are Available** - New 2015 monthly wall calendars are available for purchase through the Women of Grace. These beautiful calendars can be purchased for \$4 per calendar, and a sample can be seen on the table at the back of the church. If you are interested, please sign your name on the list and leave your payment in the basket on the table. Please note that checks should be made out to "Women of Grace." †

**Adult Choir** - If you are interested in participating in the adult choir and the singing "Stille Nacht" please speak to Pastor Mayhew. We will be singing this for our Children's Christmas service on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Music is available from the pastor. We would like to practice singing this after church today.

**CLC News** - Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood WA, has called Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato Minnesota. † Pastor Paul Naumann of Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma Washington has accepted the call to serve during the vacancy at Redemption. † Prince of Peace Lutheran, Loveland Colorado, has called retired pastor John Klatt, of Rapid City South Dakota, for one year and he has accepted the call. † Pastor Caleb Schaller will be installed at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, during its regular worship services on Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. There will be a reception with light refreshments following the Saturday service, and a reception with a fellowship brunch following the Sunday service. Visitors are welcome. †

### **Responding to God's Grace at Faith**

November 23, 2014	Attendance: 24
Unified Budget.....	\$ 596.00
November 26, 2014	Attendance: 17
Unified Budget.....	\$ 83.00
Total .....	\$ 679.00