

FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 19, 2021

*“A Community of Servants Sharing in the
Word and Work of Jesus”*

HOLY COMMUNION
(Based on ELW Setting Three)
Congregational responses are in bold print

*Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! There are four key parts to our Worship Service: we **GATHER** before our God to prepare to worship, and bring ourselves and all that we are before God. Then we hear the **WORD** of God; we share the four Bible Readings with at least one billion other Christians around the world each Sunday! And we hear that word proclaimed through the Sermon, confess our faith in the God whose Grace we hear about in the Word, and offer our prayers to God, for the sake of the Church, the World, and each other in our needs and joys. We then share in the **MEAL** of Holy Communion, offering ourselves and what we have to God, and then discovering God's love and forgiveness as we receive Christ's Body and Blood through the bread and wine. Finally we are **SENT**, the shortest but perhaps most important part of worship, because it is **THEN** that we live out our Faith and what we believe about God's Grace and Love, and how it makes us a blessing in this world as we share it.*

*During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to **stand**, please do so as you are able. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.*

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, ☩ one God
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✝ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

Prelude

Greeting

The grace our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff has a double bar line at the end. The third staff has a double bar line at the end. The fourth staff has a double bar line at the end. The fifth staff has a double bar line at the end. The sixth staff has a double bar line at the end. The seventh staff has a double bar line at the end. The eighth staff has a double bar line at the end. The ninth staff has a double bar line at the end. The tenth staff has a double bar line at the end.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of all time,
**Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen

Candle Lighting

Four candles are lit as we sing:

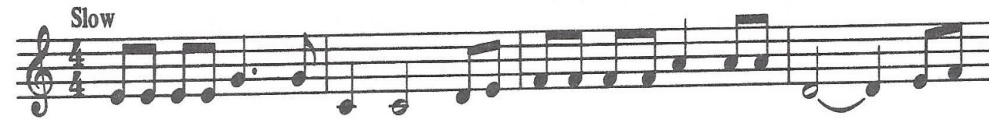
THE FIRST SONG OF ISALIAH

Ecce, Deus

The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

VERSE

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

REFRAIN (sung twice)

Word

First Reading: Psalm 130:5-8

A reading from Psalms:

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶my soul waits for the LORD
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
⁸It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation stands to welcome the gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to St. John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

#295, Page 9, Verses 1, 3, 5

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets,
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Apostle's Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The congregation is seated.

Meal

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

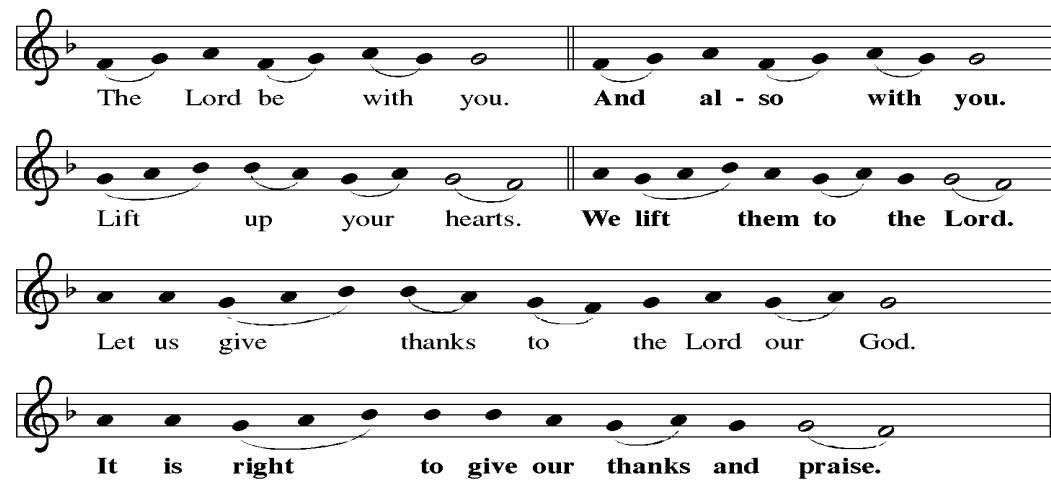
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

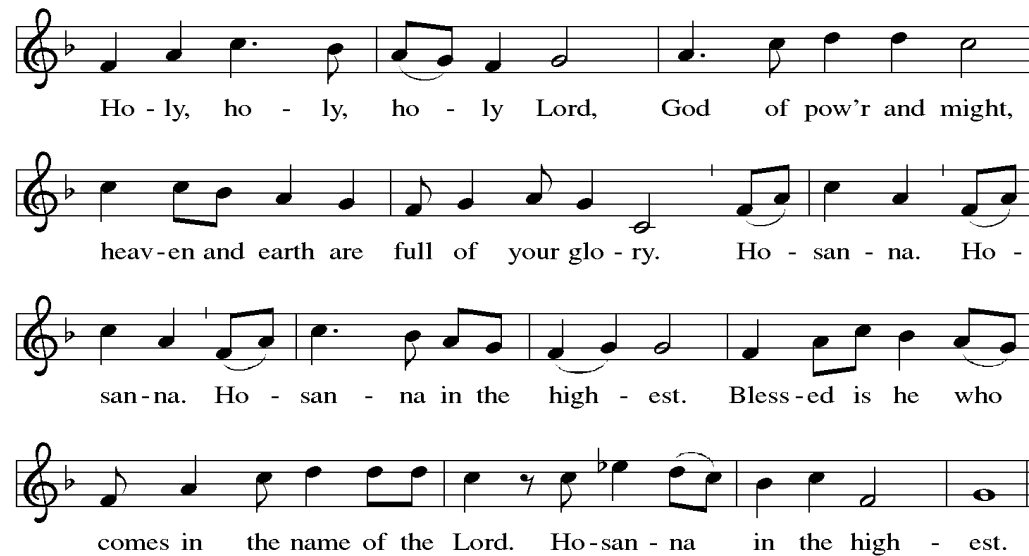
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and uses a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Continued

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take
flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the
Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Communion

*The congregation may be **seated**.*

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: *One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

Sending

Blessing

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus † for whom we wait.
Amen.

Sending Song: *“Soon and Very Soon”*

#439, Page 18

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

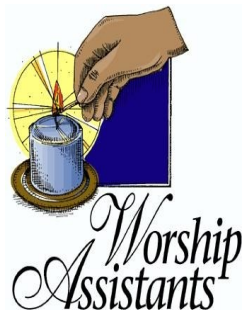


jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Altar Flowers:	<i>Linda Meyer</i>
Altar Guild:	<i>Jean Morgan</i>
Assisting Minister:	<i>Donna Gum</i>
Communion Assistant:	<i>Cathy Crowder</i> <i>Andrew Sell</i>
Council Person of the Week:	<i>Andrew Sell</i>
Covid Monitor:	<i>Karen Walck</i>
Offering Stewards:	<i>Pat Brady</i> <i>David Proctor</i>
Ushers:	<i>Jack Eckstrom</i> <i>Jim Nelson</i>



*The Chancel Flowers today are given
to the glory of God in memory of
parents Robert and Agnes Meyer*



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

December 26, 2021
First Sunday of Christmas

Service of Holy Communion
And via You Tube

Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching
Psalm 32:1-2
John 1:19-34



Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. **Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks,** in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Beth Brady
Al McKechnie

Pat Giesen
Dick Tomey

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Janet Bess, Call in Request

Wanda Davenport, Friend of Fred, Caroline and Sam Biggers

Ginger Fries, Friend of Bob and Carolyn Barrette

Philip Giang, Friend of Bob and Carolyn Barrette

Ron Hite, Brother of Bobby Hite

Hilary Hoffman, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow

Gary Lee Kimber, Cousin of Kathryn Johnson

Sharon O'Hare, Friend of Kathryn Johnson

Lois Ostapczuk, Friend of Bob and Carolyn Barrette

Patricia Wasielewski, Sister of Pat Brady

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members *(Please advise of status changes)*

Liz Ann Binns	Fred Brower
Marie Brown	Nancy Fitzgerald
Sandra R. Hoy	Phyllis Kite
Bob Knemoller	Glenn and Flossie Myers
Janet Parmer	Barb Susen

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends *(Please advise of status changes)*

Janice Collins , Friend of Grace	Nancy Delaney , Dave Delaney's Wife
Kyle Getler , Member Relative	Regan Grant , Friend of Richard and Kathy Bump
Sandy Higgs , Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow	
George Toop , Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow	

Members/Friends Grieving

Family of Liz Erskine Lechliter, Friend of Sharon Lynch

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Kathy Meicke	LizAnn Binns
Dwight Moomaw	Chuck Goodrich

The Needs of the World

Health Crises– epidemic of drug overdoses and continuing mental health concerns

Tornado Devastation in Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri

Our Veterans who have served with selflessness

Our neighbors at Sherando United Methodist Church (fire destroyed the worship space)

The continued epidemic of gun violence in schools (Michigan) and the workplace

The Church

Pray for (at least) five others from Grace this week - three who you know, or whose needs you are aware of, and two that you are less familiar with (pray for their daily walk of faith, and their blessing)

Pray for God’s plan for Grace—our life together and witness and service to the community

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors near Club Court

Monday

Zechariah 1:7-17
Revelation 3:7-13
Matthew 24:15-31
Psalm Morning 145, Evening 67

Tuesday

Zechariah 2:1-13
Revelation 3:14-22
Matthew 24:32-44
Psalm Morning 146, Evening 94

Wednesday

Zechariah 3:1-10
Revelation 4:1-8
Matthew 24:45-51
Psalm Morning 147:1-12, Evening 17

Thursday

Zechariah 4:1-14
Revelation 4:9—5:5
Matthew 25:1-13
Psalm Morning 147:13-21, Evening 62

Friday

Zechariah 7:8—8:8
Revelation 5:6-14
Matthew 25:14-30
Psalm Morning 148, Evening 16

Saturday

Zechariah 8:9-17
Revelation 6:1-17
Matthew 25:31-46
Psalm Morning 149, Evening 72

worship WITH US

Welcome to Worship! We gather in praise, we hear a living Word from our God, and God nourishes us at the Table so we can go forth as Ambassadors, as Salt and Light, wherever we are! Please remember the following as we continue to worship and *bear with one another* with care and Christian friendship during Covid:

- We continue to mask during worship
- Fellowship is a blessing of our time together! Remember social distancing, and take good conversations outside.
- Smart phones are a marvel of our time! Please check your phone before worship and mute, silence or turn your phone off before the service begins.



Budget Meeting

Congregation Meeting today immediately after Worship:

There will be a called Congregation Meeting for the purpose of reviewing - and voting on - the 2022 Spending Plan/Budget for Grace. Your participation is very important, since all matters of God's Mission for us, including a Church budget and its approval, are a part of being a Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus!



*Hanging
of the Greens*

Christmas Eve Decorating After Worship! We'll be setting up a Christmas tree, putting up greens, getting candles in place on pews, walls, and altar area! Can you help? Stay after the congregation meeting, and pitch in! And thanks!



Advent Vespers In Person on Wednesday Evenings – We join with our sister congregations in the area under the theme: **Holy Darkness**. While *darkness* can often have a negative connotation, as the absence of light, or as an opposition to goodness, God's Word often points to the Glory of God being found in the darkness. Think of Nicodemus visiting with Jesus and hearing Jesus tell how God so loved the World...or of Christmas Eve and the shepherds discovering in the night sky the Good News of Jesus' birth. We ponder the presence of God in the darkness of our worship at our area Lutheran Churches Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m.:

December 22nd at Grace – *Darkness Holds God* – Masking is required. Grace offers its worship Live via Grace's YouTube channel, or by telephone via Zoom (audio).



Sign-Up for Christmas Eve Worship Today! – Grace will offer **three services** on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Because of lingering concerns of the Coronavirus we are *limiting attendance* at each service to 80 persons sitting in the congregation (not including soloists, musicians, etc.). Find the Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex at Grace or call Nancy at the Church Office. We ask that you **SIGN-UP** for one of the following services, all held in the main worship space at Grace:

- * 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve – We will “create the manger scene,” with lessons read by families, carols sung joyfully, special music, Holy Communion, and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.
- * 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve – **FULL**
- * 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve – A traditional Christmas Eve liturgy of Holy Communion, filled with carols, special music, Holy Communion and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.



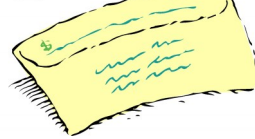
Holy Communion

Holy Communion at Grace—We have returned to a more “active” form of Holy Communion:

- Ushers will invite communicants by row to come down the center aisle, safely distanced.
- The Communicant will receive the bread (the body of Christ) from the Pastor, who will be masked.
- The Communicant will pick up a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice from the trays, and hear the pronouncement of “the blood of Christ” from the (masked) worship assistant located on the other side of the communion rail.
- The Communicant will then put their glass in another tray located further down the aisle, and return to their seat via the side aisle.
- Those unable to come forward will have Communion brought to them by the Pastor and communion assistant.

In addition to participating more fully in Holy Communion, this will reduce the plastic waste from the use of chalices—or more recently, the bags and containers—used in Holy Communion.

Offering Envelopes



Giving envelopes for 2022 are available in the Nave. Please pick them up or contact the church office to have them mailed to you. In an effort to reduce waste, we did not get envelopes for those who have been giving electronically. And, as a result, many giving numbers have changed this year and not everyone will receive envelopes. If you have any questions, etc., please contact the church office.



Holy Communion Chalices remain available from the Church Office - Call the Church Office in order to pick up Communion Chalices for Sunday worship if you are watching via You Tube or Zoom.



Lutheran Disaster Response is on the ground in Tornado stricken states. The reputation of LDR is they (we!) remain until the response to survivors is complete. Make check payable to Grace and put "LDR/Tornado" in the memo line.



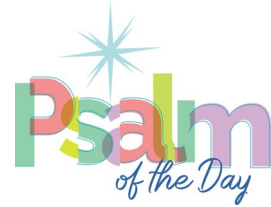
Prayer Group on Wednesdays starting in January - Grace will offer a regular Prayer Group on Wednesday mornings beginning in January at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. We will begin each time with an abbreviated Morning Prayer worship, and conclude with Prayers offered by all participants: for the World, for the Church and its Mission of the Gospel; for Creation, for Peace and Justice among the Nations, for those who are sick, poor, grieving, lonely; for Grace church, and for special concerns. You are invited to Prayer!



Grace Office Hours to Change starting January 2022: Beginning January 1, 2022, Grace's Office Hours will be Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with Nancy taking lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The office will then be CLOSED on Fridays. This extends office hours by 1/2 hour Monday through Thursday.



Yoga Class Offered at Grace - Shelton Sprouse, who had the "Blue Moon Yoga" studio on Main Street until the pandemic, is offering a Yoga class Saturday mornings at Grace. It is designed for beginners and senior adults, for "physical activity and mindfulness." The class is offered at 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 a.m. Saturday mornings, in the Fellowship Hall. A donation may be given, but is not required. Classes will begin in earnest starting January 8th.



Psalms added to the Daily Lectionary - Each week in the bulletin is a set of readings designed to allow people to read through the Bible in two years. After our Bible study on the Psalms (finished in November), we are including Psalms for those who wish to pray the Psalms as a part of their everyday discipline (see page 24). There is a Psalm for the morning, and one for the evening. *Whether you read all the readings, or choose one reading, or only pray the Psalms, being daily in the Word of God is a great discipline and aid to faith. If you don't have a daily discipline in the Word, Advent is a great time to start!*






Disciple's Kitchen Christmas Gifts—Thank you for your donations of shampoo and deodorant that Grace collected for the Disciple's Kitchen program to use as part of their Christmas gift bags. We were able to provide items for 45 men and 14 women.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made **twenty-three** deliveries thus far, ten to Main Street United Methodist, and thirteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over a TON of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



**Life of Grace Church
December 19—26, 2021**

DAY OF WEEK	DATE	TIME	MEETING
TODAY— SUNDAY	12/19	10:00 a.m. 10:50 a.m.	 <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching Congregational Meeting Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p>
Tuesday	12/21	7:00 p.m.	Congregation Council (Conference Room and Zoom)
Wednesday	12/22	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Backpacks (Stage in Fellowship Hall) Advent Vespers @ Grace
Thursday	12/23	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall) Grace Walkers (Meet in Parking Lot) Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom (CCE&J)
Friday	12/24	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	 <p><i>Christmas Eve Worship</i></p>
Sunday	12/26	10:00 a.m. 10:50 a.m.	 <p>First Sunday of Christmas Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p>



**Members of Grace
Congregational Council**

Robin Crowder, President
Jerry Kite, Vice-President
Bob Barrette
Fred Biggers,
Kathy Bump
Kim Hull,
Jean Morgan
Nancy Schwiesow,
Andrew Sell
Amy Warren
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Vivian Proctor, Secretary
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor—Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music—Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary—Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

**Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:30—12:30) Monday-Thursday;
8:00 a.m.—Noon - Friday**

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