

Fourth Sunday
OF ADVENT

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 24, 2023



HOLY COMMUNION
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Three)
Congregational responses are in bold print

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of the Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card.

We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available.

Please inform Communion Assistant of your need.

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are the parts 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 to
Our Church*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Now ev-ry land and ev-ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
 the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.
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Apostolic Greeting

The grace of 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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.
Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles,
and more dear than all else we seek.
Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears.
We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

Candle Lighting

Four candles are lit as we sing:

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

#240, Page 8, Verse 4



*Fourth Sunday
of Advent*

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Word

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from 2 Samuel:

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

We read responsively

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."

¹⁹Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

²¹my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

**²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.**

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from Romans:

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

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.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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“The child to be born
will be holy;
he will be called
Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke:
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The

Continued

angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

Children’s Message

Pastor Paul Pingel

Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: “*The Angel Gabriel From Heaven*”

#265, Page 13



*“Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you!”*

Luke 1:28, NRSV

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Apostles' 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.**

**Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi,
Muumba wa mbingu na dunia;**

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo
la R`oho Mutakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira
Maria. Akateswa zamani za Pontio
Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,
akashuka kuzimuni mwa wafu,
akafufuka katika wafu siku ya tatu,
akapanda mbinguni, ankaa kwa
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.**

**Ninamwamini Roho Mutakatifu, Kanisa
kikristo takatifu, ushirika wa watakatifu,
ondoleo la zambi, ufufuko wa mwili, na
uzima wa milele. Amina**

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these words

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

Peace

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

We sit.

Meal

Offering

We offer our thanks to God for "ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love" by our offerings. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle.

(Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate)

We stand.



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. 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: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
Through Jesus Christ our Savior.
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.

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:

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.

Hosanna
IN THE
Highest

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 for the 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 of my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith;
Christ has died,
Christ has 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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

The Holy Communion

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)

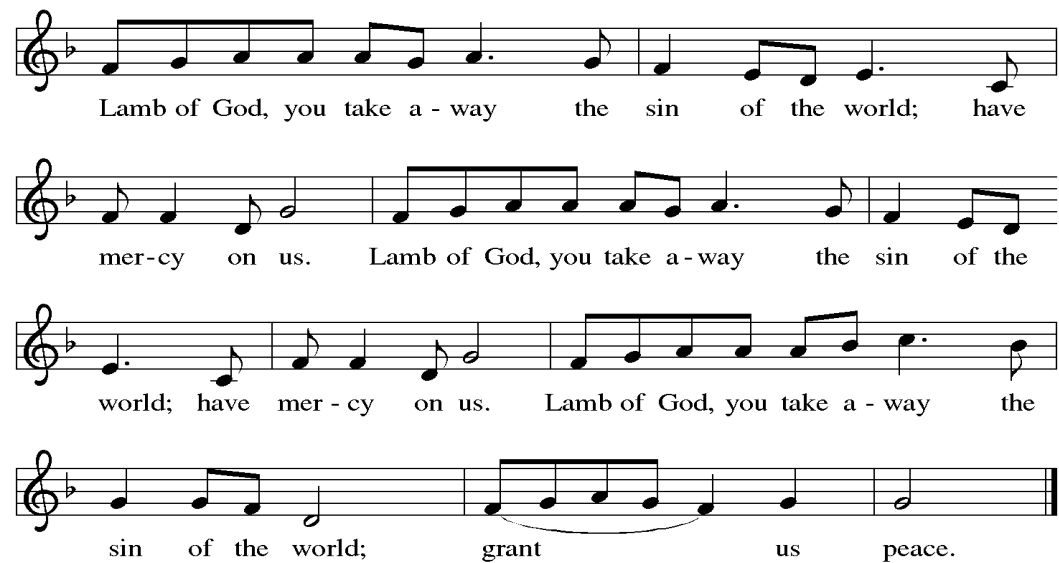
Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

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

Baba Yetu

**Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako
litukuzwe;
ufalme wako ufike,
utakalo lifanyike
duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
utusamehe makosa yetu,
kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
lakini utuopoe maovuni.
Amina.**





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.

Generous God,
**In bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**



Sending

Benediction

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you
now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *“Oh Come, Oh Come Emanuel”*

#257, Page 23, Verses 1, 4, 6, 7

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



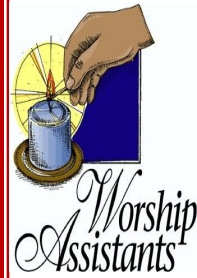
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Altar Flowers:

Gail Johnson

Altar Guild:

Cathy Firkin

Jane Stein

Assisting Minister:

Ron Almarode

Communion Assistants:

Donna Gum

Carolyn Hite

Council Person of the Week:

Donna Yobs

Offering Stewards:

Pat Brady

David Proctor

Ushers:

Jack Eckstrom

Esme Hilker

Jim Nelson



Altar Flowers

*Chancel flowers are given this morning
to the glory of our Lord and in memory
of Jack E. Johnson by his children*



*Praise him,
all his angels;
praise him,
all his
heavenly hosts.*

PSALM 148:2, NIV

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Traditional Family Service

Holy Communion

5:00 p.m.

December 31 Schedule and Lessons

First Sunday of Christmas

Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:2-40



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 four (4) weeks)

**Berenice Archambeault
Ron Knicely
Vivian Proctor**

**Chuck Goodrich
Gloria Nelson
Sharon Vorel**

Rew Walck

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

Linda and Roger Eckenrode, Friend of the Trauschts
Philip and Charlotte Lucas, Brother and Sister-In-Law of Bill Lucas
Jill Toop, Friend of the Schwiesows
Kate White, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Anne Young, Friend of Donna Gum

Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Tenth Wedding Anniversary of Chuck and Judi Goodrich

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Remain on List for three (3) months)

**Emily Almarode
Sandy Johnson**

**Genevieve Arneson
Phyllis Kite
Tom and Carol Varner**

**Marge Cloutier
Glenn Myers**

Continued

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Sherry Aldinger, Friend of Tami Radecke
Nina Crow, Mother of Cathy Crowder
Neil Harris, Friend of the Trauschts
Marcy Haywood, Friend of the Trauschts
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Joe Keesee, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Ruth Phelke, Mother of Lisa Edens and Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson

Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for four (4) weeks*)

Family of Stephen Cohen, Friend of the Schwiesows
Family of Ruth Dickie, Friend of the Schwiesows
Family of Pastor Lane Doerring, Father of Beth Ann Doerring
Family of Betty Jo East, Former Member of Grace
Family of Dorothy Getler, Mother of Bill Meicke
Family of Imogene Hull, Member of Grace
Family of Ann Hyden, Grandmother of Kirk Hyden
Family of Ethan Peltola, Friend of Tom and Holly Carper
Family of Michael Sathe, Friend of the Almarodes
Family of Don Stumpf, Uncle of Susan Myers
Charlie Wood, Friend of the Almarodes



Prayers for the World

The Israeli and Palestine conflict - that ancient hatreds might be overcome by God's Grace, even and especially among those who invoke God's name in the conflict.

Safety in travel over the holidays for many:
for transportation workers, postal
and delivery company workers,
those who work for airlines, airports

Peace in the World—Those whose lives are shattered by war; those victimized by human trafficking

For those with mental health problems,
especially during the holiday season

Our elected officials, we pray for leadership to serve the common good

The Church

Indigenous Peoples and the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement

For all our neighbors in Waynesboro Congregations as they prepare to celebrate Christ's birth

Our Neighbors

For our neighbors who do not believe that God's promise of "peace on earth" may be known to them

For our neighbors for whom the holidays are a reminder of grief and loss that they may find comfort and hope, even through us



We Have Good News to Share! - Christmas is a great time to invite friends, family, and neighbors, to experience the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Offer your invitation to our Traditional Christmas Eve worship service this evening at 5:00 p.m.! Or on any Sunday, because we have Good News to Share!



All God's Children meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Grace conference room. Our January agenda includes the following:

- January 8th – We will conclude our discussion of *US: The Resurrection of American Terror* by Kenneth W Wheeler, covering Chapters 9-10 and the Afterword . The author is a Black ELCA pastor who takes us through his seven-decade-long journey that lays bare the terror of being Black in America. The book offers a deeply vulnerable and piercing portrait of the human toll of white supremacy and points to the Cross as a place of hope and reconciliation.
- January 22nd – Start discussion of *A Fever in the Heartland – The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan. The next book is a historical thriller by a Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Ku Klux Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them. *A Fever in the Heartland* is compelling, powerful, and profoundly resonant today. The book marries a propulsive drama to a powerful reckoning with one of the darkest threads in American history.



Get Ready for Bible Study—In the New Year, you are invited to join Pastor Paul in looking at the readings for the following Sunday on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Come in person or by Zoom as we ask what God's Word has to say to us in our daily lives each week!



Be a "HERO" this Holiday season! HERO of Waynesboro is a coalition of churches, including Grace, who have formed a non-profit organization to pool our resources to help families facing eviction or cut-off utilities. Your donation at www.herowaynesboro.org can help a family keep a roof over their heads, or a warm place to stay as cold weather approaches.



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 pantries. We have made ***thirty-eight*** deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-two to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 4,005 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Altar Flowers—The 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave. Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



Use of Grace Facilities—If you are planning a fellowship event, a meeting, a gathering, etc. at Grace for any time or purpose, please contact the church office to ensure that the space you would like to use is available and that it gets put on the Church calendar. As we again become social, the church facilities are being used much more frequently. All current and future Yoga Classes will be held in the Seminar Room as usage of the Fellowship Hall has increased tremendously. Thank you!



Columbarium—As you make your final plans, remember that Grace has a Columbarium on the North side of the building. Each niche will hold two (2) of our brass urns, which are included in the cost of \$2,250 per niche. There are also Memorial Bricks available for the patio, which can be engraved with the name of a loved one who may be buried elsewhere. For more information, contact Bradley Keefer at 540-942-4290 or the Church Office.



Sanitary Kits for Africa - We continue to make these kits from 9x9 flannel squares at Grace! Please continue donating 9x9 Prewashed Flannel (no fleece, felt or plush) squares at the back of the Nave. Contact Gloria Nelson if you have questions.



Words You Don't Want to Say, but We Must! Those words are **COVID**, *flu*, *RSV* and *Winter Viruses*. We've had a number of members who have been sick in recent days and weeks. We are coming into a time when Health experts tell us to expect more cases. With this in mind please note the following:

1. If you have any symptoms, or have tested positive, please stay at home. YouTube worship services are available Live every Sunday for those who are sick.
2. If you have COVID, flu, fever or aches, please wait until you test negative - usually 5-10 days or until symptoms end - until you return to worship.
3. Please note that FREE test kits are available from **covid.gov**. Or you can find test kits at local pharmacies or grocery stores for about \$8 - \$10.



Monday

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Titus 1:1-16
Luke 1:1-25
Morning Psalm 145, Evening 67

Tuesday

1 Samuel 2:1b-10
Titus 2:1-10
Luke 1:26-38
Morning Psalm 146, Evening 94

Wednesday

2 Samuel 7:1-17
Titus 2:11-3:8a
Luke 1:39-48a
Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 17

Thursday

2 Samuel 7:18-29
Galatians 3:1-14
Luke 1:57-66
Morning Psalm 147:13-21,
Evening 62

Friday

Jeremiah 31:10-14
Galatians 3:15-22
Luke 1:67-80
Morning Psalm 148, Evening 16

Saturday

Isaiah 60:1-6
Galatians 3:23—4:7
Matthew 1:18-25
Morning Psalm 149, Evening 72



DECEMBER

2023

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	12/24	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	 Adult Sunday School Fourth Sunday in Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube  Christmas Eve Family Traditional Service Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube
Monday	12/25		 Christmas Day
Tuesday	12/26		 Christmas Holiday
Wednesday	12/27	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	 Prayer Group (Chapel) Yoga (Seminar Room) Community Potluck Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday	12/28	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m..	 Grace Walkers Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday	12/30	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	12/31	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School First Sunday of Christmas Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Welcome 2024! Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom) New Years Eve

CHURCH  COUNCIL

Grace Church Council 2023-24

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)
Allison Fink, Vice-President (540-448-0985)
Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176)
Jerry Kite (540-910-3372)
Linda Meyer (540-256-2277)
Jean Morgan (540-649-4422)
Susan Myers (434-760-1660)
Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772)
Karen Walck (765-480-9920)
Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)
Cabell Caister, Youth Member
Ron Almarode, 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—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday **Closed Friday**

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