



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 17, 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.



Welcome to
Our Church

Gathering

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.



People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
 Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
 Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Sunday of Advent

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on the wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Candle Lighting

Three candles are lit as we sing:

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

#240, Page 7, Verse 3



Third 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.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from Isaiah:

- ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 126

We read responsively

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

²**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

⁵May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**



Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from Thessalonians :

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

Continued

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

We sit.

Gospel

READING

Children's Message

Pastor Paul Pingel

Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "As the Darkness Awaits the Dawn"

#261, Page 12

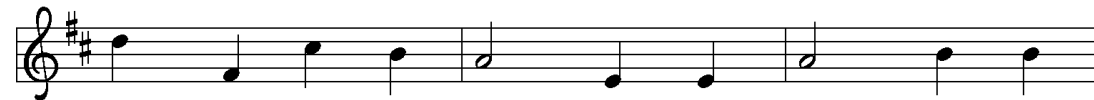
As the Dark Awaits the Dawn



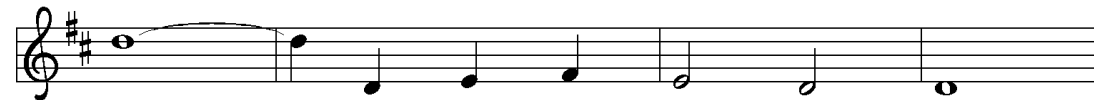
1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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, anakaa 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
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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: *“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”*

#244, Page 22

The Dismissal

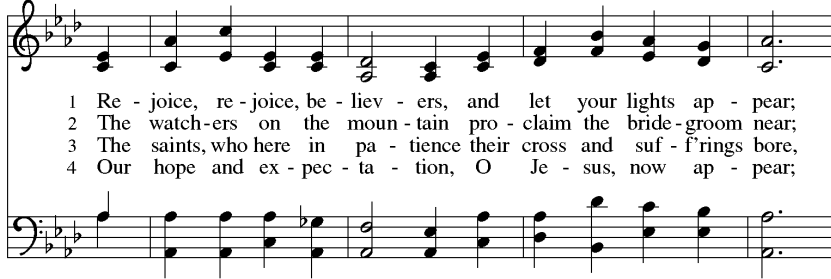
Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

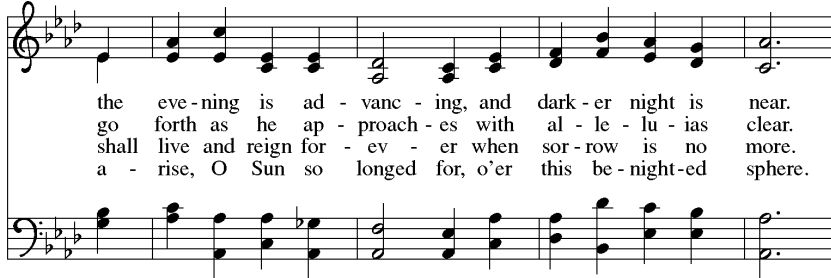


Portions of this liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons. com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20403. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

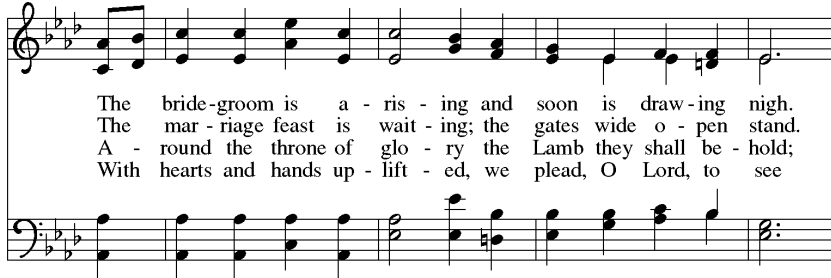
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Worship Assistants

<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>David & Nancy Schwiesow</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Kathy Meicke</i>
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Kathy Bump</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Linda Meyer</i>
	<i>Donna Gum</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week:</i>	<i>Karen Walck</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>
	<i>Robin Crowder</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Fred Biggers</i>
	<i>David Proctor</i>



Altar Flowers

*Chancel flowers are given this morning
to the glory of God
by Nancy and David Schwiesow
and in memory of Nancy's mother,
Sara Lambert Nalley*



December 24 Schedule and Lessons

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve
Traditional Family Service

Holy Communion
5:00 p.m.



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
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
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**

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
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Ruth Phelke, Mother of Lisa Edens and Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson

Continued

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 **Michael Sathe**, Friend of the Almarodes
Family of **Don Stumpf**, Uncle of Susan Myers
Charlie Wood, Friend of the Almarodes

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Richard Quickel (12/17)
LizAnn Binns (12/17)
Chuck Goodrich (12/21)

Katherine Meicke (12/17)
Dwight Moomaw (12/20)
Pat Brady (12/23)



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 worship service on Christmas Eve! Or on any Sunday, because we have Good News to Share!

Advent/Christmas at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Season of Advent - The Season of Advent is upon us! We celebrate the Season once again with a series of Wednesday Advent Services with a focus on the prophecies of Isaiah as they point us toward our salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Plan to join in worship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Christ this Advent!

Christmas Decorating at Grace—we will decorate the worship space after worship and the Congregational Meeting **today**. Many hands make light work and joy comes in the fellowship we share in our work!

Wednesdays in Advent - *Evening Prayer and reflection on the theme: Our Salvation Through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We share these worship services with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the Waynesboro area:*

- **Wednesday, December 20th** – at St. James Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 21** - at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Blue Christmas emphasis at 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve - **December 24th, 10:00 a.m.**

Christmas Eve - **December 24th, 5:00 p.m.** - *Our children and adult choir will present a wonderful program of music and assist in the telling of the Good News of Jesus' birth, as families "build" the crèche scene. We will celebrate Holy Communion and sing Silent Night by candlelight.*





Budget Meeting

Called Congregation Meeting - Today, there will be a called Congregation meeting at Grace for the purpose of voting on the proposed Spending Plan for Grace in 2024. Please DO pray for this specific and tangible part of God's Mission for us in our community and world, to share the gospel, and be a blessing in the midst of our many blessings.



It's A Wrap! In December, our Youth will be wrapping Christmas Presents for you! Please bring your presents to the youth room at Grace and youth will wrap them in exchange for a donation to the mission trip. Presents can be dropped off December 17th after worship. You can wait for your freshly wrapped package, or drop it off and pick it up December 22nd.



Altar Flowers—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. The 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave.



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!



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.



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.



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.



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.



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

Zechariah 1:7-17
Revelation 3:7-13
Matthew 24:15-31
Morning Psalm 122, Evening 40

Tuesday

Zechariah 2:1-13
Revelation 3:14-22
Matthew 24:32-44
Morning Psalm 33, Evening 85

Wednesday

Zechariah 3:1-10
Revelation 4:1-8
Matthew 24:45-51
Morning Psalm 50, Evening 53

Thursday

Zechariah 4:1-14
Revelation 4:9—5:5
Matthew 25:1-13
Morning Psalm 80:1-20, Evening 126

Friday

Zechariah 7:8—8:8
Revelation 5:6-14
Matthew 25:14-30
Morning Psalm 102, Evening 130

Saturday

Zechariah 8:9-17
Revelation 6:1-17
Matthew 25:31-46
Morning Psalm 90, Evening 80



December

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	12/17	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	 <p>Adult Sunday School Third Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Congregational Meeting Church Decorating Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)</p>
Monday	12/18	9:00 a.m.	Encircle (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday	12/19	7:00 p.m.	Congregational Council (Conference Room)
Wednesday	12/20	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Encircle (Fellowship Hall) Prayer Group (Chapel) Women's Book Group (Bella, Stella & Lucy's) Yoga (Seminar Room) Community Potluck Dinner (Fellowship Hall) Advent Worship—St. James Lutheran Church Choir Practice</p>
Thursday	12/21	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall) Grace Walkers Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) CCE&J Meeting (Grace Conference Room) Blue Christmas Service—Bethlehem Lutheran</p>
Saturday	12/23	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	12/24	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	 <p>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</p> 

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**

facebook.com/gelc.elca
youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro
Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org
Telephone: 540.949.6171