

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
&  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**“Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel”**

**“Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes  
On Sinai’s height, In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud  
And majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come  
to you, O Israel”**

**“Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s  
tyranny; From depths of hell your people save And give them  
vict’ry o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to  
you, O Israel”**

Prayer of the Day See Insert

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 See Insert

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 See Insert

Opening Hymn      “Joy to the World”      LBW Hymn # 39

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**See insert**

Hymn of the Day “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” LBW Hymn # 37

Apostle’s Creed Page 65

Offering

Offertory/Offertory Prayer Page 75

Prayers of the Church Page 76

The Lord’s Prayer Page 76

Benediction

Closing Hymn      “The Advent of Our God”      LBW Hymn # 22

Dismissal

# **Sunday School Program 2021 -adapted from “A Christmas Nativity Play for Children”**

**by Annette McDermott**

## **Cast of Characters**

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Mary.....</b>     | <b>Sam Effken</b>           |
| <b>Joseph.....</b>   | <b>Kael Fricke</b>          |
| <b>Shepherd.....</b> | <b>Sharley Thompson</b>     |
| <b>Shepherd.....</b> | <b>Hayden Wellensiek</b>    |
| <b>Shepherd.....</b> | <b>Jude Fricke</b>          |
| <b>Wise Man.....</b> | <b>Charlotte Wellensiek</b> |
| <b>Wise Man.....</b> | <b>Owen Weber</b>           |
| <b>Wise Man.....</b> | <b>Dean Wellensiek</b>      |
| <b>Angel.....</b>    | <b>Sheridan Thompson</b>    |
| <b>Angel.....</b>    | <b>Brylee Cropp</b>         |
| <b>Angel.....</b>    | <b>Lily Bilsleand</b>       |
| <b>Sheep.....</b>    | <b>Violet Wellensiek</b>    |
| <b>Donkey.....</b>   | <b>Henry Rolf</b>           |

## **Musical Selections**

on Bells – “Hark the Herald Angel Sings”

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

“Away in a Manger”

“Silent Night”

on Bells - “Silent Night”

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

“The First Noel”

on Bells – Oh Come All Ye Faithful

*Everyone is invited downstairs to help celebrate a  
**Birthday Party for Jesus after worship.***

We would like to thank the parents and volunteers,  
who have made this Christmas pageant possible.

Lisa & Nick Weber

Melissa Wellensiek



# Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

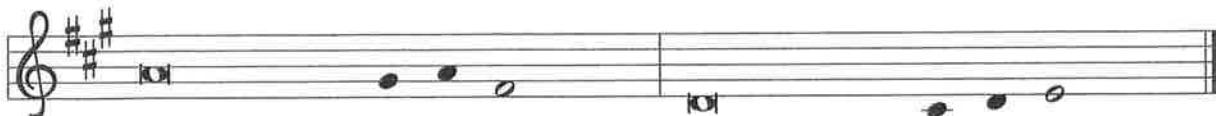
## First Reading

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the  
judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in  
your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to  
Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your  
midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

## Zephaniah 3:14-20

he will exult over you with loud  
singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach  
for it.  
<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into  
praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and  
praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

## Psalmody



Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD God is my strength  
and my might,  
and has become my salvation.  
<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

## Isaiah 12:2-6; tone 3

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the  
LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name  
is exalted.

*continued*

**5Sing praises to the LORD,  
who has done <sup>1</sup> gloriously;  
let this be known in  
<sup>1</sup> all the earth.**

**6Shout aloud and sing for joy,  
O <sup>1</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel.**

## Second Reading

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers

## Luke 3:7-18

also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**We pray always for . . .**

*Robert Armknecht, Bill Bohling, Jodell Bridgmon, Luetta Bruns,  
Linda Daniels, Eric Fass, Mary Goudie, Jan Rader, Joan Staack*

**We also remember in our prayers . . .**

*Erick, Diana & Meshack, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania.*

**You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)  
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)**

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box  
in the south office. You may email the church office  
[grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

**Today 12/8/19**

*Sunday School Christmas Program – 8:30 a.m.  
Birthday Party for Jesus to follow the program*

**Monday 12/13/21**

*Bible Study – 1:30 p.m.*

**Tuesday 12/14/21**

*Church Council – 7:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday 12/15/21**

*Confirmation – 4:00 p.m.*

**NEXT SUNDAY 12/19/21**

*Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.*

*No Sunday School*

***Community Cantata Presentation – 7:00 p.m.***

***Fellowship to follow in the basement***

*We are again hosting Tanzanian orphan Scholarships. The cost for each child this year will be \$450 and includes tuition and board. The last few years we raised \$1,350.00 - enough to host 3 children.*

*Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln.*

*These donations must be in NO LATER than December 28<sup>th</sup>.*

**The Community Cantata**

**"The Road to Bethlehem"** *A Journey to the Newborn King*  
Will be presented at Grace Lutheran the evening of  
December 19th at 7:00 p.m.  
With fellowship in the basement to follow

**The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at**  
Grace Lutheran will be December 24th at 7:00 p.m.  
The Christmas Eve Offering has been designated for Lutheran  
Family Services.

The 2022 Grace Lutheran Annual Meeting is scheduled for  
January 16th. Please have all of the reports turned into the  
church secretary **by December 27th**

If you would like to bring a **Poinsettia** to share with the church, you  
can bring them at any time. If the poinsettia is in memory or honor of  
someone, please add that information to the sheet at the back of the  
church. Be sure to label your poinsettia with your name for when you  
come to pick it up.

The following poinsettias have been donated

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Bill & Alta Bohling     | <i>In Memory of Our Parents &amp; Brother David</i>         |
| Gene & Diane Ekhoff     | <i>In Memory of Parents, Sister Barb &amp; Brother Herb</i> |
| Gayleen Eden            | <i>In Memory of Mike &amp; Our Parents</i>                  |
| Russ & Kate Dietz       | <i>In Memory of our Grandparents &amp; Russ's dad</i>       |
| Larry & Cheryl Grundman | <i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>                              |
| Carl & Sarah Purcell    | <i>In Memory of our Parents &amp; Grandparents</i>          |
| Dean & Jody Wellensiek  | <i>In Memory of our Parents</i>                             |
| Karen Cerny             | <i>In Memory of Family</i>                                  |
| Arlene Panko            | <i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>                              |
| Eleta Eisenhauer        | <i>In Memory of David &amp; Jill</i>                        |