

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!
The Great Thanksgiving
Everyone is Welcome!*



*By Grace you have been saved!
"We have decided to follow Jesus and
There's no turning back!"*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2022

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle/Christmas Proclamation

Hymn *"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"* LBW # 45

Invocation/Confession

P: God of life,

C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Words of Absolution

Hymn *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* LBW #41

P: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

P: God has not forgotten to love us all!

C: Even the ends of the earth have heard!

P: Make a joyful noise!

C: Break forth in song!

P: With strings and horns,

C: sing praise to the Holy One!

P: With the roaring sea and everything in it!

C: With all the land and everything in it!

P: The floods clap their hands.

C: The hills sing for joy.

P: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

C: Justice for everyone, everything fair.

P: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God,

**C: You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and
in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading		Isaiah 9:2-7
Second Reading		Titus 2:11-14
Holy Gospel		Luke 2:1-20
Sermon		
Hymn of the Day	<i>"What Child Is This"</i>	LBW # 40
Responsive Prayer		

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with
truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us the Word
made flesh.

**C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may
bear your light to all the world.**

Offering	<i>"Away in a Manger"</i>	LBW # 67
Offertory	<i>"Angels We Have Heard on High"</i>	LBW # 71
Offering Prayer		

P: God of abundance,

**C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with
song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your
grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving		Page 88
The Lord's Prayer		Page 91
Communion Hymns		LBW # 69, #56, # 60
Post Communion Prayer		
Lighting of the Candles		
Candlelight Hymn	<i>"Silent Night, Holy Night"</i>	LBW # 65
Benediction & Dismissal		
Closing Hymn	<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	LBW # 39

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep
darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and
forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!”

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

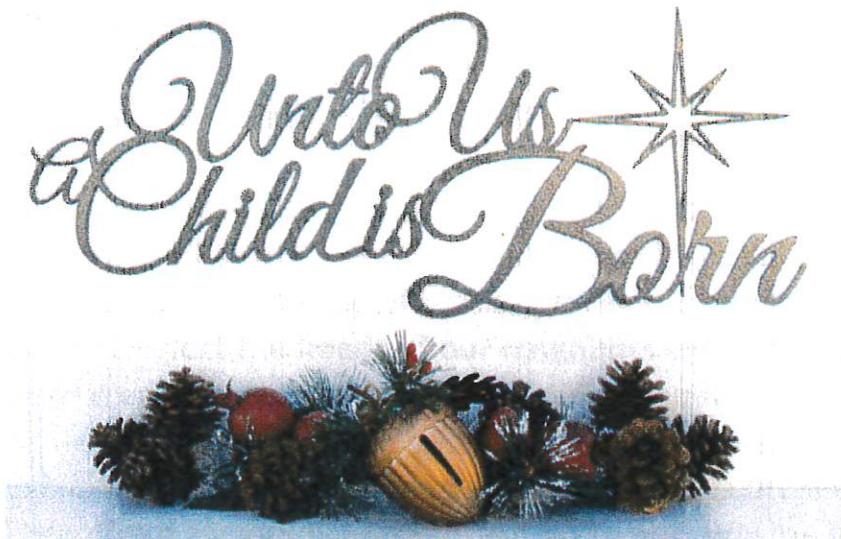
Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]; John 1:1-14.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-V

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.



The lights will be completely turned off during the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night". When lighting the individual candles, the lit candle should always stay in the upright position. The unlit candle is tilted to the lit candle. Once lit, always keep the lighted candle upright.



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



The following poinsettias
have been donated by

Jim Armknecht family
Bruce, Jim, Diane, Janice & family
Gene & Diane Ekhoff
Carl & Sarah Purcell
Eleta Eisenhauer
Dean & Jody Wellensiek
Russell & Kate Dietz
Bill & Alta Bohling
Kurt & Julie Effken
Gayleen Eden
Bill & Carolyn Cropp, Bryce & Lisa Cropp

In Memory of

Sandy Armknecht
Bob & Ruth Armknecht
Our Parents & Barb & Herb
Our Parents & Grandparents
Jill & David
Our Parents
Our Grandparents & Russell's dad
Our Parents and loved Ones
Loved Ones
Mike & Our Parents
Loved Ones

For unto us
a Child
is born,
- Unto us -
a SON
is given:
— and the —
Government
Shall be upon
His Shoulder:
— ^{and} — His name
Shall be called
Wonderful,
COUNSELLOR,
— ^{THE} —
Mighty GOD,
— ^{THE} —
Everlasting,
Father, — ^{THE} —
Prince
of
Peace.

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