

*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, 2023

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 68
The Lord's Prayer		Page 71
Communion Hymns		LBW # 69, #56, # 60, #50
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

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)*



***Poinsettias have been
donated by***

Dean & Jody Wellensiek

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In Memory of

Our Parents

Our Grandparents & Russell's dad

Our Parents & Grandparents

Larry Naber

Bill Bohling and Loved Ones

Mike and our Parents

Chuck Ebeler and Grandparents

Parents/Grandparents

Parents, Barb & Herb

David & Jill

Sandy, Bob & Ruth Armknecht

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.

ISAIAH 9:6

