

3rd Sunday of Advent

Youth Christmas Program



**December 17, 2023
11:00 am**

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to Grace to worship in God's house.

To our guests — We invite you to worship with us often and consider our family of faith yours.

Everything you need for worship is printed in this bulletin. Large Print Bulletins and Quiet Books (for our very young worshipers) are available from the ushers.

Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician for a receiver.

Please turn off or silence your personal communication device.

We also ask that you not bring food or drink into our worship space.

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC embraces four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe. We invite you to learn more about our congregation and the NALC.

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Linda Hoch

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" - *arr. Helmut Walcha*

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" - *arr. Paul Manz*

Selections by the Sunday School pre-school class.

Parish Concerns

Please stand and face the baptismal font.

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful Father,
C **we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.
C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

The Gathering

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **And also with you!**

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

11:00 am Eric, Cheryl, Andrea and Heather Bush

Leader The third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been known as “Joy Sunday” and so the candle today calls us to joy! Joy in the dark days of Advent; joy as we move toward the winter solstice—the shortest day of the year; joy as we look for the return of the Lord in power and glory, even as we prepare to celebrate His birth in Bethlehem.

We read in Philippians 4:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
Let all people know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety
about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of
God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in
Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 4:4-7)

*The third, rose candle is lighted as we sing three verses of “**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.**”*

Verse 1: Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Verse 2: Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

Verse 3: Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

A PROPHET FORETOLD THE MESSIAH

Sunday School Christmas Program

PRAYER

P Heavenly Father, open our ears and our hearts to hear anew the story of our Savior's birth. By your Holy Spirit, let their voices in Word and song bring you glory and praise, that we may experience the promise of Christ as foretold by the prophets who came before him. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' birth was foretold by prophets and angels. He was the prophet of all prophets. Not only this, as the author of the book of Hebrews said, "he is the radiance of the glory of god and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Kids only O Little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.

All **For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above**
While mortals sleep the angels keep, Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together, Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!

SCENE 1 **Isaiah's Prophecy (based on Isaiah 11:1-9)**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Kids only O come, O 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.

All **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.

SCENE 2 The Annunciation (based on Luke 1: 26-38)

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ”

All **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.**

SCENE 3 Joseph's Dream (based on Matthew 1:18-25)

“Mary Did You Know?”

soloist-Addie Gurgiolo

SCENE 4 Mary and Joseph (based on Luke 2: 1-7)

“Silent Night”

Maddie Nickoli, Stella Blankenship, Miguel Arreguin

SCENE 5 Shepherds (based on Luke 2: 8-20)

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Kids only *Chorus:* Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. *Chorus*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Chorus*

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Chorus*

SCENE 6 Wise Men (based on Matthew 2: 1-12)

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Kids only We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,

Field and fountain, moor, and mountain, Following yonder star.
Oh, Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

All **Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.
Oh, Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

SCENE 7 A Prophet Foretold the Messiah

"Joy to the World"

Kids only Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
Youth process out.

All **3. No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.**

APOSTLES' CREED

A We confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Let us pray for the Church, the world, and one another.
A brief silence

After each petition:

A Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

*You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC Nick Cosgrove - Tenor, Grace Singers Chancel Choir
"O Holy Night" - Adolphe Adam/ arr. Dudley Buck

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Merciful Father,
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our
selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen**


PREFACE



¶ The Lord be with you. ¶ And also with you.



¶ Lift up your hearts. ¶ We lift them to the Lord.



¶ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.





C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high-est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER

P Together we pray.
C **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.

Please be seated.

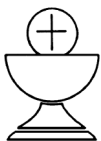
LAMB OF GOD



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
 2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
 3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: have mer - cy now, we pray.



All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Children who do not commune are invited forward to receive a blessing.

You may receive the Communion Wine by taking a communion glass from the tray as it is offered to you.

As always, the common cup is offered for those who desire to use it, everyone is also welcome to use the individual cups. If you desire the common cup, please point to it as the individual cups pass by you.

Grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray.
After you have received, please place the empty communion glass in the basket provided

(Gluten-free hosts are available by telling the person giving the host.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jeff Daubenmire - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" - *arr. Lani Smith*

"Creator of the Stars of Night" - *arr. Lani Smith*

After communion is finished, please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

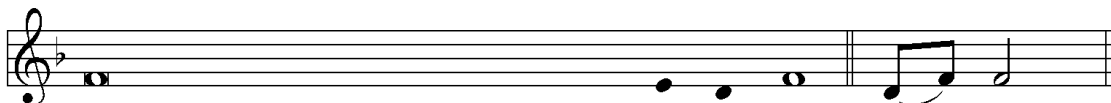
POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

The Sending

BLESSING



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you
And be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ... give you peace.

In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit †

C A - men

SENDING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, 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 - ti - ence their cross and suf - f'ring 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!

DISMISSAL

Children Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" - *arr. David Lasky*

Linda Hoch

Offering: A basket will be placed by the baptismal font for offering. Offerings can be placed in the basket before or after the service.

Flowers are given by...

Fred Pfanz in celebration of daughter Sarah’s birthday.

Lisa Kuhar in celebration of the birthdays of son Chris and daughter-in-law Jennifer.

Janet Breen in celebration of Merl’s birthday.

Remember in our prayers... *Karen Vann, Diane Boone, Betty Lou Miliner, Janis Boughton, Grace Sima, Rod Rice, Don Slemmer, Jan Perry, John Moffett, Rick Arreguin, Bob Bower, Clarence Clapham, Janice Hardick, Joan Hassler, the family of Rodney Smith*

Notes & News

WELCOME, GUESTS! *We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the*
WELCOME *Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and sign the Pew Pad to let us know you were worshipping with us today.*

Service Recording: The recorded 8:30am service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.



Please keep Carole Smith and family in your prayers, as Carole’s husband Rod Smith passed away Sunday, December 10.

Romans 14: *Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.*

Upcoming Events

Dec. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11am Youth Christmas Program during the service, cookie and hot chocolate reception after to celebrate the youth
Dec. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6pm: Supper • 7pm: Advent Service
Dec. 20-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Fair items arrive for pick-up in the Church Office
Dec. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am: 4th Sunday of Advent service (no nursery) • 5:00pm: Christmas Eve Service (no nursery) • 8:00pm: Christmas Eve Service (no nursery)
Dec. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am: Christmas Day Service (no nursery) • Poinsettia pick up after the 10am service • Office Closed
Dec. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Closed
Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 and 11am Worship Services (no nursery)
Jan. 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Closed

A Note of Thanks: Debbie and I would like to thank the church council, staff, the Kitchen Krew and the congregation for the reception following each service on December 3rd. We were overwhelmed with the many cards,



wonderful words and gifts of remembrance. You showered us with your love and thanks. We are grateful to our Lord for the gift he gave us in being among you for this past year and a half. It has truly been an honor. May the Lord continue to bless, keep, and empower you as you open a new chapter of ministry and mission with Pastor David.
Matt & Debbie

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE UPDATE: Thank you to all who took toy tags and red box tags! With your help we gathered 163 plus toys to donate this year!

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAYS *Let all that you do be done in love". (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

December Shopping List:

- Alfredo Pasta Sauce
- Deodorant
- Dish Soap
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Feminine Products
- Hand/Soft Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Shampoo
- Sugar (Granulated, Brown, & Powdered)
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Applesauce
- Asparagus
- Beef Broth
- Beets
- Coffee and Tea
- Cream of Wheat, Grits, Oatmeal
- Juices (Apple, Cranberry, Grape, Orange, Pineapple, & Tomato)
- Mixes (Brownie, Cake, Cookie)
- Mushrooms
- Olives
- Paper Towels/Toilet Paper
- Pizza Sauce
- Raisins
- Razors
- Rice

and **Plastic shopping bags are needed.**

We cannot accept food that has reached its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to WARM. Make Checks Payable to: Grace Lutheran Church, memo notation for WARM. Blessings to all who are making this a part of your regular tithes and offerings.

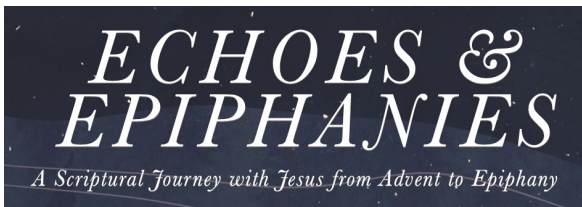


MONTHLY FOOD/HYGIENE=285 lbs.; YEAR TO DATE FOOD/HYGIENE=3,630 lbs.
MONTHLY MONETARY= \$870.00; YEAR TO DATE MONETARY= \$13,106.00
CROP WALK: \$2,740 (includes a matching \$1,000 contribution from the Mission Reserve Fund)
THANKSGIVING BAGS=30 BAGS (560lbs); THANKSGIVING MONETARY=\$ 1,410 (includes a matching \$705 contribution from the Mission Reserve Fund, which was matched by \$1,410 from CODREA Financial Services.)

CHRISTIAN GROWTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vision Statement: To nurture Youth and Family in Christ through Bible based teaching, music, activities and community outreach.

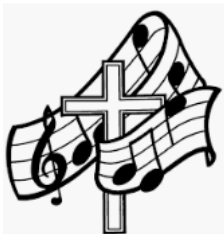
2023 Advent & Christmas Devotional: In the sacred tapestry of the Christian liturgical calendar, this year marks a significant expansion in our journey of faith as we extend our devotional reflections to encompass not only the season of Advent but also the joyous celebration of Christmas—as well as the illuminating days of Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord.



Echoes and Epiphanies is an invitation to embark on a scriptural pilgrimage, to discover the nuanced resonances and radiant epiphanies of Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to appreciate the intricacy of God's redemptive story and to inspire a life attuned not just to Christ's gentle reverberations but to His moments of illuminating truth.

We encourage you to download the devotional (<https://thenalc.org/advent-christmas-devotional-2023/>)

and share it widely. We pray it guides you in your reflections, and deepens your faith during this extended season of grace and revelation. **Daily Devotional Text Message** Receive a text message each day with that day's devotion. Text "ReadingTheWord" to 24251. When they confirm your signup, you have to additionally let them know you'd like to be added to the email list by signing up via the link they provide. Then, if you wish, you can unsubscribe from the texts.



Grace Chancel Choir rehearsals are 7:00-8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jeff Daubenmire with questions or interest in singing.

Grace Youth Choir rehearsals are Sundays 9:30-9:45 AM. Contact Jeff Daubenmire, Director of Music Ministries.

Grace Ringers Bell Choir rehearsals will resume in the new year on Wednesdays, 6:15-7PM. Contact Maria Laderman with questions or interest in ringing.

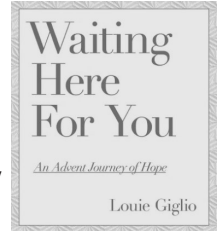
"That the World May Know" – Adult learning class: In volume 14, "The Mission of Jesus", Discover how Jesus triumphantly made God's presence known on earth, and how he asks you to do the same – bringing God's Peace to the chaos of others.



Renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan guides you through the lands of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East, the "That the World May Know" film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

This session started November 5th and is facilitated by Bill Kulju. This class meets in fellowship hall between services beginning at 9:45.

The Women's Bible Study started a new study Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 10:30am, "Waiting Here For You, An Advent Journey of Hope." By Louie Giglio. Louie Giglio reminds us that it's in the richness of Advent- a season of expectant waiting and preparation that we find our answer. It's throughout this waiting season that we prepare our hearts to greet December 25th with joy, peace, hope, and refreshed promise in our newborn King. Contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org, if interested.



HOSPITALITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY is open! The Nursery is open Sunday mornings during both services and the Sunday School hour. Trained, professional sitters are present every week to care for your children, ages 6 and younger. **The nursery will be closed Dec. 24, 25, and 31.** Questions? Molly King, 614-882-3026 or m.king@grace43081.org.



Loaves and Fishes café is OPEN! Please stop in between services for a drink and a snack! There is a sign-up sheet in the café if you are interested in helping. Please call Vanessa Stewart, 614-588-2712 with any questions or concerns.



Dartball's 2023-2024 season is here! Contact Robert Bassett at 419.236.4293 or rgbassettiii@gmail.com with any questions. Upcoming matches:
12/21 vs. Grace of God 12/28 No Match 1/4 vs. Epiphany



Saturday, January 6 the puck drops at 7pm. Join Grace for an evening of fun and fellowship as we watch the Columbus Blue Jackets take on the Minnesota Wild. Tickets are \$39 and will be in the Mezzanine level. **Sign-up at the welcome desk by Dec. 28.** Questions? Contact Molly King.

Grace Supper Club enjoyed its dinner outing at The Whitney House last month. Supper Club is taking a hiatus for the month of December, but look for information in the January newsletter or Sunday bulletins for next month's restaurant location. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, so be sure to mark your calendar. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Any questions, please see either Bev Grubb or Tami Stone.





Scan to *Simply Give*

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace's online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.

Financial Update: If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer's report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Melissa Hodek, at melissa.hodek@gmail.com and it will be emailed to you.

1st Wednesday Advent Service: 7pm: 62

2nd Sunday of Advent/ Installation of Pr. Wendel: 10:00am: 191

MUSIC NOTES

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" – arr. Helmut Walcha

This hymn by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) was first published in ten German stanzas in 1653 in Christoph Runge's *D.M. Luthers und anderer vornehmen geistreichen und gelehrtern Männer geistliche Lieder und Psalmen*. The text of this hymn is about welcoming the incarnate God who sets us free from our gloom, rejoicing. Paul Gerhardt ranks with Martin Luther as a writer of German hymns. While Luther's hymns are objective, and sometimes militant in their tone, Gerhardt's are more subjective, reflecting the quiet strength of the unwavering faith and trust in God's love.

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" – arr. Paul Manz

Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722) wrote this hymn of rejoicing at the bridegroom's coming to go with Matthew 25:1-13, the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, which was the gospel for the 27th Sunday after Trinity, though it is usually included in the Advent season. The tune HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG is a Swedish folk melody that was paired with Sarah Borthwick Findlander's translation of the hymn in the Augustina Synod's *Hymnal and Order of Service for Churches and Sunday Schools* (1901).

"O Holy Night" – Adolphe Adam/arr. Dudley Buck

It is difficult to realize now that when "O Holy Night" was written by Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-1856), the 19th century French composer who is best known for his ballet *Giselle*, it was frowned on by church authorities. One French bishop even went so far as to denounce it for its "lack of musical taste and total absence of the spirit of religion." Despite this, it has become the most popular of all Christmas solos. Adam's friend and collaborator, the poet Cappeau de Roquemaure, was the first to supply a text for the melody, titling it "Cantique de Noël." The English words we use today, which made the tune "O Holy Night," were written by an American clergyman and musical authority named John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893).

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" – arr. Lani Smith

Although this hymn usually appears in the Advent section of hymnals, Charles Wesley (1707-

1788) wrote it for Christmas. The hymn's ultimate emphasis is on the kingship of Jesus, closing with a prayer that Christ will rule in our hearts alone.

“Creator of the Stars of Night” – arr. Lani Smith

Though it may be earlier, this anonymous Latin Advent hymn can be traced to a manuscript at Berne, Switzerland, in the 9th century, and to a hymnal at Canterbury in the 10th century. Its first known printed version is in the *Breviarum Romanum* (1632). One may see in it the influence of John 1:2-3 and Philippians 2:5-11, where the Creator of all things and Christ the redeemer of them all are one and the same. By the end of the hymn's doxology we know them as one and the same with the Spirit.

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” – arr. David Lasky

Marty Haugen (b. 1950) the author of this hymn and composer of its tune, explains how they were written. “In 1982”, he says, “my family decided to exchange ‘non-material’ gifts for Christmas. I drew the name of my aunt, Marie Smedsrud (whose husband, Gordon, was at that time campus pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa). ‘Awake, Awake’ was written as my gift to her that Christmas.” Haugen originally wrote it “as a Christmas hymn...but, as there is more room in our repertoire for Advent carols than Christmas carols, it soon was changed.” In 1983 it was published as a Christmas anthem entitled “Rejoice, Rejoice.” In *Worship - Third Edition* (1986) it became an Advent hymn, a call to wake up and greet the dawning of a new day. The opening words were changed to “Awake! Awake,” and the third line of the first stanza was changed from “now he is born” to “soon he is born.”



2023

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Youth Christmas Program, Sunday, December 17, during the 11am service:

“A Prophet Foretold the Messiah” is a Christmas Pageant that focuses on the biblical story of the nativity, told in poetic verse form. Join as the youth of Grace bring the story of Jesus’ birth, foretold by prophets and angels, to life with songs and verse. We will celebrate with cookies and hot chocolate after the service in loaves and fishes cafe.



Wednesday Advent Services will follow *Holden Evening Prayer* by

Marty Haugen and include a meditation each week. Services begins at 7pm on Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

A light dinner will be served beginning at 6pm before service.

Advent IV, December 24, 10am: With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday, we will observe the Fourth Sunday in Advent with a special Advent Service of the Word with Lessons and Advent Carols! We will complete our lighting of the Advent wreath with the fourth candle and join together in a series of scriptural prophecies, related Advent hymn verses, sermon and Advent Litany of Preparation. Although we will celebrate the birth of our Savior at our evening services on Christmas Eve, we will bring Advent to a close with this meaningful service of hope and expectation!



Christmas Eve, December 24, 5 pm: The Nativity of our Lord Children’s/Family Christmas Service will be a somewhat simplified Holy Communion liturgy with candle-light and carols! We will light candles singing Silent Night, as the Christmas Gospel is read, proclaiming the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world!

Children will be led to another room to hear and see a wonderful age-appropriate Christmas book proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth, 'Twas the Night, by William Dean, illustrated by Sarah Lowe. At the same time, Pastor Wendel will preach the Christmas sermon in the sanctuary. After sermon and story, children will return as the service continues with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper. Our worship will be heightened by special music and singing!

Christmas Eve, December 24, 8pm: The Nativity of our Lord will be celebrated with a festive service of Word and Sacrament with music, singing, carols and Holy Communion. The service will begin with a chanted Proclamation of the Birth of Christ, from an ancient martyrology and we will worship using Setting 1 of the Lutheran Book of Worship. We will light candles during the singing of Silent Night, as the Christmas Gospel is read, proclaiming the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world! Pastor Wendel will preach the Christmas sermon titled, Dark Christmas and the Light of Christ! As always, we will be blessed by special music and singing!

Christmas Day, December 25, 10am: We will gather on Christmas Day to celebrate the Word made flesh to dwell among us! As Christmas Eve finds us gathered around the stable and manger, witnessing the baby born in Bethlehem, Christmas morning focuses our attention on the meaning of the Incarnation—that God became human in Jesus Christ, for us and for our salvation! Again, we will worship using LBW Setting 1, with lots of carols and Holy Communion!

Please invite friends, family, neighbors to join us
at Grace as we
gather to celebrate Emmanuel,
God-with-us!



Serving Today

OFFICIATING/ PREACHER	Pastor David Wendel
ASSISTING MINISTER	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Jeff Daubenmire
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Nelson Grover
ACOLYTE	Charlie Nickoli
USHERS	Tom Moser, Andy Laderman, Michael King
GREETER	Phyllis Drakulich, Verna Kreachbaum
ALTAR GUILD <i>Team 4</i>	Vanessa Stewart, Marge Cepek, Kristi George, Nancy Kleberg, Barb and Tom Moser, JoAnn Slemmer
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush
NUSERY ATTENDANTS	Kailey Freeman, Alma Lovins

The Actors

Narrators: Charlie Nickoli, Emily Odum, Claire Cain, Charlotte Holmes

Prophet Isaiah: Philip Young

Angel Gabriel: Molly Young

Mary: Maddie Nickoli

Joseph: Miguel Arreguin

Angel: Alison Miliner, Macy Braatz, Anna Young, Maggie Hoch

Shepherds: Sam Nickoli, Camden Strete, Benny Hoch, Evan Crain

Wisemen: Nate Holmes, Camden Kaczorowski, Hannah Laderman

Barn Animals: Caroline Young, Alaina Arreguin, Stella Blankenship, Owen Laderman,

Stagehands: Jack Young, Steve Young

Special Thanks to Co-directors Jennifer Blankenship and Steve Young; Molly King, Director of Youth & Family Ministries and Jeff Daubenmire, Director of Music Ministries; Linda Hoch, Organist; Lois Rumph, costumes; Sue Mahrt, set design; and to ALL of our Volunteers



This Week at Grace: December 17-25, 2023

Dec. 17 **3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

PR. DAVID WENDEL

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

9:45 am Adult Learning

11:00 am Worship Service and Youth Christmas Program

12:00 pm Cookie and Hot Chocolate reception for Youth

2-4 pm Assemblée Chretienne La Parole
(Christian Assembly of the Word) (Sanctuary)
6:00 pm Council Meeting @ Young's Home

MON 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group (Fellowship Hall)
12:00 pm Staff Meeting

TUES 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group (Fellowship Hall)
8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

WED. 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm **Advent Supper (Fellowship Hall)**
7:00 pm **Mid-week Advent Service (Sanctuary)**
7:30 pm Grace Singers (Sanctuary)

THURS 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 pm Dartball @ Grace

FRI. 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT 9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 24 **4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**
PR. DAVID WENDEL
10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent Service
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

MON **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**
PR. DAVID WENDEL
10:00 am Christmas Day Service
Poinsettias can be picked up after the 10am service
—Office Closed—

Acknowledgements

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“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” – arr. David Lasky, from The King of Glory: Advent Organ Settings by David Lasky, ©2013 GIA Publications



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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 108 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for four AA groups.

Vision Statement: We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.