

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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**“Reflecting and Sharing Jesus Christ”**



**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!**

If you would like a visit from Pastor Fred, to share a prayer concern, or have any questions about today's service please contact the church office.

Ministers:	Members & Friends of Grace
Pastor:	Fred Schneider Home: 780-312-1776
Office Administrator:	Dorothy Schmidt Home: 780-352-0302
Caretaker:	Kirby Spurrell Home: 780-352-1468
Treasurer	Kathy Coroluick Home: 780-352-6990
Council Chairperson	Vivian Holtby Home: 780-352-1246

**Christmas Day Holy Communion Worship**  
December 25th, 2023  
10:30 a.m.



### **Guiding Principles**

**Jesus is Lord**  
**We Welcome Everyone**  
**We Value God's Creation**  
**We Are Open to the Power of God**  
**We share God's love**  
**Through Worship and Service**  
**We Offer Forgiveness for All**

## Christmas Day Communion Service



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! Whether you are a long time member or a first time visitor, you are welcome at Grace. We celebrate Holy Communion this day. God is present to us in the simple forms of bread and wine offered to comfort and strengthen

us. ALL are invited to commune and to celebrate the goodness of God – it is the Lord’s invitation! Children are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available – please indicate to the server that you prefer these.

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### GATHERING HYMN: ELW 283 – O Come All Ye Faithful

**1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:**

#### Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: Refrain**

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: Refrain**

### CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ’s glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

#### ISAIAH 9:2-7 - God promises a king

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. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. His 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.

**HYMN: Chorus Book: Jesus, Name above All Names (2X)**

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior,  
Glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

**MICAH 5:2-5a – The King will come from Bethlehem**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**HYMN: ELW 279 - O Little Town of Bethlehem**

- 1 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.**
- 2 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!**
- 3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!**

**LUKE 1:26-38 – The Annunciation to Mary**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**HYMN: ELW 258 UNEXPECTED AND MYSTERIOUS (Tune ELW 561)**

- 1 Unexpected and mysterious  
is the gentle word of grace.  
Everloving and sustaining  
is the peace of God's embrace.  
If we falter in our courage  
and we doubt what we have known,  
God is faithful to console us  
as a mother tends her own.**

**2 In a momentary meeting  
of eternity and time,  
Mary learned that she would carry  
both the mortal and divine.  
Then she learned of God's compassion,  
of Elizabeth's great joy,  
and she ran to greet the woman  
who would recognize her boy.**

**3 We are called to ponder myst'ry  
and await the coming Christ,  
to embody God's compassion  
for each fragile human life.  
God is with us in our longing  
to bring healing to the earth,  
while we watch with joy and wonder  
for the promised Savior's birth.**

**LUKE 2:1-7 – The Birth of Jesus**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

**HYMN: WOV 642 - I Wonder as I Wander**

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor ord'nary people like you and like I...  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.**

**When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,  
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall,  
the promise of ages it then did recall.**

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.**

**For poor ord'nary people like you and like I...  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.**

**LUKE 2:8-16 – The Shepherds go to see the Savior**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**HYMN: ELW 275 - ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY VS. 1,2,4**

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**LUKE 2:21-35 – Jesus receives his name**

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was

called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

#### **HYMN ELW 293 - That Boy-Child of Mary**

##### **Refrain**

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,  
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.**

**1 What shall we call him, child of the manger?  
What name is given in Bethlehem? Refrain**

**2 His name is Jesus, God ever with us,  
God given for us in Bethlehem. Refrain**

**3 How can he save us, how can he help us,  
born here among us in Bethlehem? Refrain**

**4 Gift of the Father, to human mother,  
makes him our brother in Bethlehem. Refrain**

**5 One with the Father, he is our Savior,  
heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem. Refrain**

**6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,  
give ourselves to him in Bethlehem. Refrain**

#### **MATTHEW 2:1-11 – The Magi Follow the Star**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chest they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

#### **HYMN: ELW 300 - The First Noel (Vs. 3, 4 & 5)**

**1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

##### **Refrain**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. Refrain**

**3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain**

**4 This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;**

**and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain**

**5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain**

**Matthew 2:13-18 – The slaughter of the holy innocents**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

**SILENCE**

**John 1:1-14 – The Mystery of the Incarnation**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**HYMN: ELW 253 - He Came Down**

- 1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**BRIEF MEDITATION**

**APOSTLES CREED ELW Pg. 105**

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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Glory to God in the highest,

**And peace to God's people on earth**

Blessed are you, the Prince of Peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,**

**and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament**

**that we may bear your light to all the world.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN: ELW 294 - In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

2 Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

3 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can give him--  
give my heart.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever

**Amen**

## SENDING HYMN: ELW 270 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God**

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Today's Worship Participants:

Pastor:	Pastor Fred Schneider
Accompanist	Colleen McGinnis
Lector:	Rob Sperber
Usher:	Vivian Holtby
Sound Booth:	Carrie Schmidt
Projector:	Susan Woitt
Communion Set Up:	Lorrilyn Forth/Bernice Scholze
Communion Servers:	Larry Coroluick/Rene Faille

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THIS WEEK AT GRACE: December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Today: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Christmas Service  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – Service of the Word

The Church office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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Note: 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE IN YOUR MAILBOXES



## Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

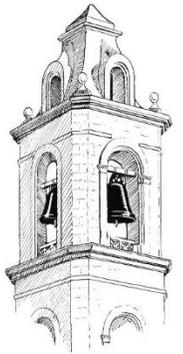
I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And mild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on Earth goodwill to men

I thought how as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

Till, ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolves from night to day  
A voice a chime a chant sublime  
Of peace on Earth goodwill to men

And in despair I bowed my head  
"There is no peace on Earth," I said  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on Earth goodwill to men."  
Of peace on Earth goodwill

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep  
God is not dead nor does he sleep  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With peace on Earth goodwill to men  
With peace on Earth goodwill to men



Words by Henry W. Longfellow (1864) are in the public domain.