



## Grace Lutheran Church

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**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**December 10, 2023**

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**Welcome:** We are glad that you are here or are watching our worship service online. May you be blessed through this time of worship. We pray you find today's service a source of encouragement and strength. *Offerings are received at the door as you enter or leave. Please take a moment to complete an attendance registration slip found in the pew rack and return it to the offering plates also.*

**The Lord's Supper:** As we come to the Lord's Supper we both receive and proclaim. We receive into our mouths not only bread and wine but the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Through our participation in this Holy Meal we proclaim his death until He comes. By our participation in the sacrament at this congregation which is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, we are indicating our agreement with the confession of the LCMS. We request that only those who share this confession and are instructed in the sacrament take part today.

*For those desiring to receive the sacrament using the common cup (large chalice), it is offered at the 8:00 a.m. service in addition to the individual cups. Those with special dietary needs such as gluten free or alcohol free are encouraged to speak with the pastor.*

**Lectionary Summary:** “The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, “the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd “will gather the lambs in his arms” (Is. 40:11). He speaks “tenderly to Jerusalem,” and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He “is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

**Order of Service**  
**Divine Service Setting Four    LSB 203**

**Preservice Music**

**Welcome and Greeting Time**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**♪ Opening Hymn: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

*LSB 344*

- 1    On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2    Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3    We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow’rs that wither and decay.**
- 4    Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.**

*Stand*

- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Text: Public domain

**Ⓟ** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Ⓒ** Amen.

**Ⓟ** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Ⓒ** who made heaven and earth.

**Ⓟ** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**Ⓒ** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**Ⓟ** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy

of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:  
God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

♪Advent Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357

**6** O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

♪Kyrie

LSB 204

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” <sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!” And I said,

“What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*2 Peter 3:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 205*

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 1:1–8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the

prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children's Message**

♪Sermon Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day, Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

Sermon “Prepare the Way”

Pastor Buchhorn

*Stand*

Prayer of the Church

Preface

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for

Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### ♪ Sanctus

*LSB 208*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

**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.

### The Words of Our Lord

#### Pax Domini

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

♪ **Agnus Dei**

LSB 210

**1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Those with mobility issues who would prefer to receive the sacrament at the pew are encouraged to remain standing at the conclusion of the Agnus Dei.*

*Those coming to the altar will be welcomed and dismissed half table by half table.*

*It is helpful to fill the table from the wall toward the middle on both sides.*

*Used individual cups can be left in the holes in the altar rail.*

*Sit*

**Distribution Hymns**

♪ **“Hark the Glad Sound”**

LSB 349

**1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.**

**2 He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

**3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**

**4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51  
Text: Public domain

♪ **“Just as I Am, without One Plea”**

LSB 570

**1 Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**



- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**♪Post-Communion Canticle: “Nunc Dimittis”**

*LSB 211*

**☐ 1 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**☐ Let us pray.**

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☐ Amen.**

**Benedicamus & Benediction**

*LSB 212*

**☐ Let us bless the Lord.**

**☐ Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

♪ **Hymn to Depart: “Prepare the Royal Highway”**

*LSB 343*

**1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!**  
**Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!**  
**Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain***

*ref* **Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!**

**2 God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!**  
**Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!**  
**God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!**  
**Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too should bring.**  
**All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.**  
**His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.**  
**So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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## NEWS AND NOTES

**WE REJOICE** with the following members of Grace who are celebrating this week.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Janet Fuoss, Daci Slama, Deb Starzl, John Heithold, Julie Munson, Parker Janke, Kent Wilke, Skylar Jones, John Rebensdorf, Jeff Mrsny, Hunter Schultz, Chloe Klug, Coleman Broders & Kaleena Heithold

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Michael & Teresa Wurdeman

**NURSERY:** A nursery room has been created to help parents with young children. The nursery is located in the first room west of the upstairs fellowship hall. Please feel welcome to use the room to quiet your child.

**PARENTS OF LITTLE CHILDREN:** Books which your children may enjoy are available in book bags located near the doors at the east end of the sanctuary. Please return the books after the worship service. Thank you.

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS WERE** \$5,635.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Bible class today is taking up the question of suffering. The piercing question is, how can an all-powerful and loving God, permit suffering. Human suffering is given as one of the top reasons for people rejecting Christianity. Pastor Lilienkamp is currently teaching the class.

**SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY** will meet, December 16 at 7:30 AM at Cup of Grace. The question for discussion will revolve around the Bible account in II Kings 2:23-25 where we learn that a group of 42 boys mocked Elisha, and, as a result, two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled the boys! Why is this passage in the Scriptures and what does it mean?

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** Today we continue our short Advent series on Joseph the foster-father of Jesus. Everything did not work out according to Joseph's plans nor does everything work out according to our plans. Our study will examine how God guided Joseph through such a time. We pray God will similarly let us see His plan for us at work even in challenging circumstances.

The class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the church basement.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Join us for our continuing study of the Gospel of Luke as we join Jesus on his final journey to Jerusalem. The class meets at 9:00 a.m. in the large meeting room upstairs.

**SUNDAY SUPPER AT CUP OF GRACE:** The final Sunday Supper of the semester will be held at Cup of Grace this evening at 7:30 p.m. Don't go into finals week hungry! May God bless our students as they wrap things up and take their final examinations. Thank you to all who have supplied meals during the semester. If you would like to support campus ministry by preparing a meal, a sign-up list for the spring semester is posted on the bulletin board in the library area.

**LUTHERAN HOUR: "Life After Landing"** -- Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler -- What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. Hear the "Lutheran Hour" message on KTCH AM next Sunday at 7:30 am.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The lesson this week is "The Idle Idol." Atop Mount Sinai, Moses receives the Law from God. Meanwhile, the Israelites grow impatient and convince Aaron to create a golden idol. When God sends Moses down from the mountain, Moses sees the people's wanton worship and smashes the stone tablets. The people are punished for their idolatry. Moses returns to Sinai to plead God's mercy for the people.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE,** Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM. Every element of the service is designed to encourage people who might be BLUE with grief or other loss at this Christmas time. The service will offer a quiet message of the Savior's birth, Scripture reading, hymns, choir, lighting a "remembrance candle," receive the gift of a prayer shawl, and a fellowship time. Please attend with any family who might also appreciate the service. In addition, please invite and bring others you know who might be blessed by a Blue Christmas Service. "Comfort, comfort my people says your God," Isaiah 40:1

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Our annual Sunday School Children's Christmas Eve program will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 24. Practices are following the late worship service. We begin in the basement with a snack

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS** are available. These Lutheran Hour devotionals are at each exit.

**SCRIPTURE CHRISTMAS CARDS** are for sale in the church basement. Stop down and check out all the greeting cards the Ladies Aid has for sale. All monies go toward missions.

**LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED:** It's not too early to reserve your special date to sponsor the Lutheran Hour in 2024. The cost is \$20.

**GRACE LUTHERAN BLOOD DRIVE** will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2023, from 1:00 pm. to 6:00 pm. One pint of whole blood can save up to three lives! Call 800.287.4903 to make an appointment. Appointments are required.

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT:** Advent is a season of preparation before the celebration of Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming." During the season we remember that Jesus came from heaven to be our Savior, that He still comes to us through His Word and Sacraments, and that He will come again in glory as judge of the living and the dead. The color for Advent is blue which reminds us of the color of the sky and that we are to be looking to heaven for Jesus' coming. Join us Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, for our midweek Advent services. The theme for our Advent midweek worship will be a sermon series by Pastor Lilienkamp entitled "The Clothes of Conviction".

**AN ADVENT FELLOWSHIP MEAL** is being planned for Wednesdays prior to our midweek services. Join us at 5:15 p.m. in the basement for this time of refreshment.

**MIDWEEK REMINDER:** A reminder during Advent Midweek classes will begin immediately after the evening worship service, approximately 7:00 p.m. and should conclude by 8:00 p.m.

**CHECK IT OUT:** A new series of books, "Secrets From Grandma's Attic", has been added to the Church Library. Each book in this series centers around a treasure found in the attic of Grandma Pearl's Victorian home, nestled near the banks of the Mississippi River in Canton, Missouri. Not only do Pearl's descendants uncover a long-buried mystery at every attic exploration, they also discover their grandmother's legacy of deep, abiding faith, which has shaped and guided their family through the years. Fictional characters appear in each book, but these books can be read in any order. Books in this series are "History Lost and Found", "Testament To A Patriot", "The Art Of Deception", and "Buttoned Up". More will be coming. FIC/SEC

**GRACE LADIES AID** will have their annual Christmas Tea on Wed, Dec. 13 at 2 P.M. in the church basement. All women of the congregation are invited to bring their favorite coffee mug and join us for an afternoon of Christian fellowship.

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON TODAY** will focus on the importance of worship aids such as altar, crosses, candles, paraments, pulpit/lectern, Christmas tree, Chrismons, Advent wreath, stained glass windows and numerous other items. What is the function of the many objects that occupy our church? Listen to the children's sermon to find out! Our use of many worship objects needs to always be held in harmony with the Old Testament passage: "*You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth*" (Exodus 20:4). **WORSHIP NOTE FOR ADULTS:** Growth in worship for a Lutheran congregation must begin with the fact that Scripture teaches, and we believe, that Jesus Christ is present in the worship service. The same Jesus Christ, who was born of the virgin Mary, kept the Law, suffered, died on the cross and rose on the third day is present with us in worship. Everything that is done in the worship service, must convey Jesus' living presence among us. Recognizing the presence of Jesus is what gives people excitement to be in worship, whether our worship is liturgical or contemporary. We are here to meet with Christ!

### **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**PASTORS:** Pastor Michael Buchhorn, Senior Pastor

Pastor's phone: 402.385.4148 Email: pastorbuchhorn@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Carl Lilienkamp

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Jared Heithold (8:00) Mike Heithold (10:30)

**ACOLYTES:** Trecyn Ocampo & Lucille Ocampo (8:00)

Grant Reeg & Chase Rethwisch (10:30)

**READERS:** Jeanette Swanson (8:00) Brian Kesting (10:30)

**GREETERS:** LeRoy & Carol Robbert (8:00) Jerry & Loree Echtenkamp (10:30)

**FISHERS OF KIDS PRESCHOOL:** Teacher – Keila Olson – 402.584.2257

Director – Rhonda Sebade – 402.369.2170

**LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSOR:** Ray, Theresa & Megan Jensen in memory of Melissa Rogers

## **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

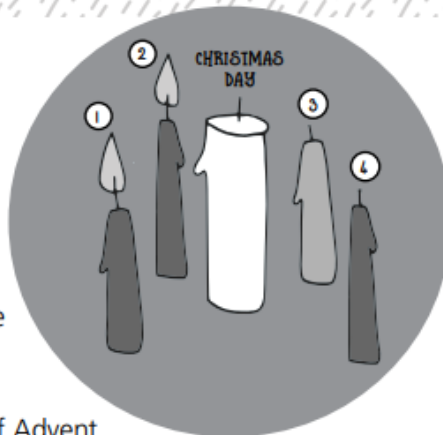
<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 am.	Worship/Communion
	9:15 am.	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship/Communion
	11:30 am.	Sunday School Program Practice
	7:30 pm.	Sunday Supper
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 pm.	Mission Council
<b>TUESDAY</b>	1:00 pm.	Blood Bank
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 am.	Bible Study
	10:00 am.	Preschool Chapel
	2:00 pm.	Ladies Aid Christmas Tea
	4:30 pm.	Bell Choir
	5:15 pm.	Advent Supper
	6:15 pm.	Advent Worship
	7:00 pm.	Midweek
<b>THURSDAY</b>	10:00 am.	Preschool Chapel
	7:00 pm.	Choir
<b>SATURDAY</b>	7:30 am.	Men's Bible Study
	4:00 pm.	Family Communion
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship
	11:30 am.	Sunday School Program Practice
	6:00 pm.	Blue Christmas

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is the Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles (and/or evergreen branches) that you see in the sanctuary during the season of Advent.

Some Advent wreaths hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary while others are placed on a floor stand. Either way, the Advent wreath is one of the many beautiful things you'll see around the church during Advent.



## How do we use the advent wreath?

It used to be that the Advent wreath was used in the home to help count the four weeks of Advent. Now you can find them in homes as well as in the church sanctuary. Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. For example, during the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!



**Parents:** Before or after the Divine Service, allow your children to walk up to get a better look at the Advent wreath. Remind them to be reverent in God's holy places. During this Advent season, try utilizing an Advent wreath at home with family devotions. If you are unsure how to get started, ask your pastor for help.



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