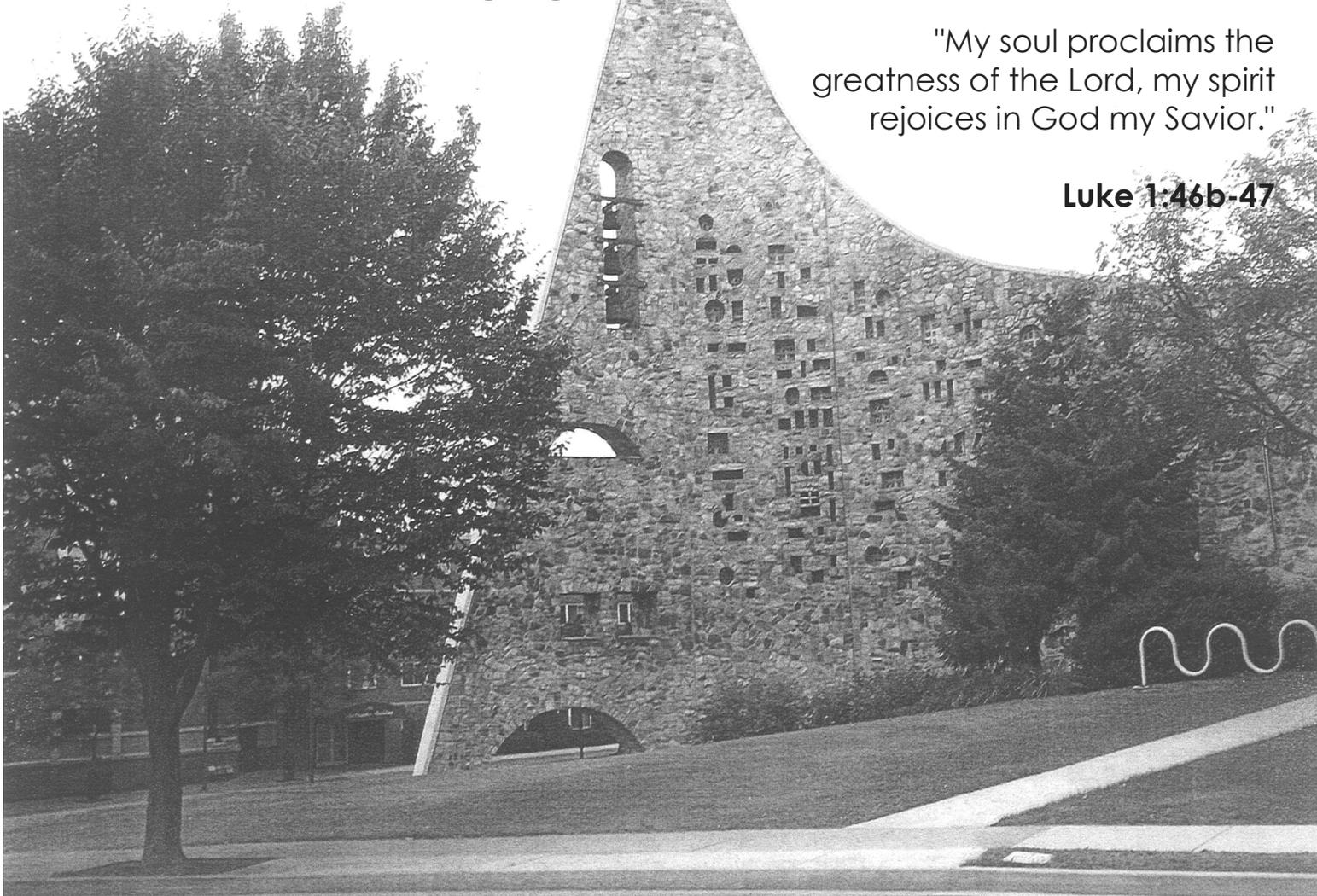


# Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

"My soul proclaims the  
greatness of the Lord, my spirit  
rejoices in God my Savior."

**Luke 1:46b-47**



**SUNDAY, Dec. 13, 2020**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**Lessons and Carols**

**10:30 a.m. radio worship service**  
**WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM**

**A Video Edition will also be available by**  
**7 am each Sunday at Grace's website,**  
**Facebook page and YouTube channel.**

205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801

**phone:** 814-238-2478

**email:** churchoffice@glcpa.org

**web address:** www.glcpa.org



**Our Mission Statement:** *"Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to **gather, feed, and send** people in the name of Jesus Christ."*

## Nine Lessons and Carols in Worship Today

Today we are offering Nine Lessons and Carols as part of our 10:30 radio worship service for the eleventh consecutive year. This music will also be featured in video worship this week. The carols-based service, which dates back to 19th century England and has been part of American culture more than a century, tells of Christ's coming with readings and complementary carols that differ each year. Thanks to many staff and volunteer musicians at Grace for making this possible, including adult and teen soloists and ensembles as well as 18 members of our youth choir, who sang two of the carols and provided all of the readings.

The carols this year include *Of the Father's Love Begotten; Prepare Thyself, Zion; Advent Longings* (includes *Lost in the Night* and *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*); *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; The Angel Gabriel; Away in a Manger; Come, All You Shepherds; Angels We Have Heard on High*; and *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*. Many are original arrangements. We are grateful to Graham Sanders for mixing the audio and video, which is available on Grace's YouTube channel (visit [www.glcpc.org](http://www.glcpc.org) and click on the YouTube icon).

The most famous Lessons and Carols broadcast hails from Kings College, Cambridge, in England. WPSU typically broadcasts their service - including traditional carols and an annual commission - on Christmas Eve morning and again on Christmas Day.

We look forward to taking a musical journey with you as we hear the Good News in song and collectively prepare our hearts for Christ's coming!

Forgot your checks? Not carrying cash? No worries! You can still make an offering. Go to [www.glcpc.org](http://www.glcpc.org) and click the word "**GIVE**" on the far right to make an online credit card donation. Thank you!

### MILESTONE MINISTRY AT GRACE

At Grace we celebrate milestones. They connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone brings family, friends, and congregation together to mark a special time and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It connects home and church in the child and family's faith life. In addition to naming (the occasion), blessing (the person) and gifting (the gift), we send along an "At Home" sheet to reinforce the milestone with caring conversation. **Learn more** by visiting [www.glcfaithformation.org](http://www.glcfaithformation.org)

## Follow Grace on Social Media

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege](http://www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege)

### Twitter:

@GraceLCPA

### YouTube:

[tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube](http://tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube)

**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church  
State College, Pennsylvania**

PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (Tune: Llangloffan).....Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath Strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

ADVENT PRAISE.....*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**Oh, come, oh Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh;  
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide  
our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Loving and forgiving God,

**C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free - free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHER**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

GATHERING HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You.....ELW # 241*

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite  
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

**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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray

**C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FEED

*God speaks to us in scripture reading,  
and feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

**First lesson:** 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. (*John 1: 1-5*)

♪ **Carol 1: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, v. 1** (plainsong; ELW #295)  
Sung by Sammy Hallacher; hand bells

**Second lesson:** The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice." (*Genesis 22: 15–18*)

♪♪ **Carol 2: *Prepare Thyself, Zion*** (J.S. Bach / arr. Michael Burkhardt)  
Sung by Nathan Glocke; Laurel Sanders, flute

**Third lesson:** 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. 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. (*Isaiah 9: 2,6*)

♪♪ **Carol 3: *Advent Longings*** (featuring *Lost in the Night* (Finnish folk tune) and *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (W.Walker, Southern Harmony) arr. Laurel Sanders)  
Spencer Hardyk, euphonium; Tony Buda, cajón; piano

**Fourth lesson:** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (*Isaiah 11: 1-2, 6*)

♪♪ **Carol 4: *Lo, How a Rose*** (traditional German / arr. Laurel Sanders)  
Sung by Ethan Hardyk, tenor; Spencer Hardyk, baritone; Drew Hardyk, bass

**Fifth lesson:** 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. (*Luke 1: 26-32*)

♪♪ **Carol 5: *The Angel Gabriel*** (traditional Basque / arr. Laurel Sanders)  
Laurel Sanders, voice and flutes; percussion

**Sixth lesson:** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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. (**Luke 2: 2-7**)

♪♪ **Carol 6: *Away in a Manger*** (trad. American, ELW #277)  
Sung by Maeve Flanagan and Mara Anderson-Skelley; piano

**Seventh lesson:** 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.” (**Luke 2: 8-12**)

♪♪ **Carol 7: *Come, All You Shepherds*** (traditional German/Bohemian carol / arr. Laurel Sanders)  
Sung by Laurel and Graham Sanders; hand bells and percussion

**Eighth lesson:** 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.” (**Matthew 2: 1-2**) 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. **(Matthew 2: 9-11)**

♪♪ **Carol 8: Angels We Have Heard on High** (traditional French; arr. L. Sanders)

Sung by Crossfire Youth Choir; piano

**Ninth lesson:** 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. **(John 1: 14)**

♪♪ **Carol 9: Go, Tell It on the Mountain** (traditional African-American; arr. L. Sanders)

Sung by Crossfire Youth Choir; piano

HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 1:46b-47

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Mary said,] <sup>46b</sup> "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON.....Pastor Hetrick

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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 CHURCH

Response after each petition:

**P:** Lord, in your mercy

**C:** **Hear our prayer.**

## WE SHARE THE LORD'S PEACE

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Melodia Da Chiesa*.....George F. Handel

During the offertory, take a moment to thank God for all that God has provided to you. Ask God to reveal how God is Calling you to share your time, treasures, and talents.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C: Amen.

**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.**

**SEND**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Hark the Glad Sound!*.....ELW # 239

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Recessional*.....Rex Koury



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Jim & Ellen Campbell  
Dedicated in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored  
by Jim, Ellen & Matthew Campbell  
Dedicated in honor of Disciples Together

The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org  
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Associate Pastor....pastorhetrick@glcpa.org  
Cindy Fritz, Peter Horn, Faith Formation.....faithformation@glcpa.org  
Laurel Sanders, Music & Arts Ministry Coordinator....lsanders@glcpa.org  
Nathan Glocke.....Adult Choir Director  
Ryan Ditmer, Pat Lloyd, June Miller,  
Adam Smith & Chris Wilhelm.....Pianists/Organists  
Joan Kovalchik.....Flute  
Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director  
  
The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

## Readers for Nine Lessons and Carols

1st Lesson: Lincoln Hockenberry

5th Lesson: Emma Proctor

2nd Lesson: Mara Anderson-Skelley

6th Lesson: Annika Bechtel

3rd Lesson: Logan Proctor

7th Lesson: Mirabella Bills

4th Lesson: Sophia Bills  
Stoltzfus

8th Lesson: Emma Proctor; Jillian

9th Lesson: Lincoln Hockenberry

## Participating Choristers from Crossfire Youth Choir

Mara Anderson-Skelley

Ella McDyre

Mirabella Bills

Ireland McDyre

Sophia Bills

Allie Peters

Maeve Flanagan

Joe Peters

Sammy Hallacher

Bella Poehner

Ethan Hardyk

Emma Proctor

Spencer Hardyk

Logan Proctor

Lincoln Hockenberry

Emily Whitney

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20807.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved

ELW 257 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Text (stanzas 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress). Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700989. All rights reserved.

Prepare Thyself, Zion (J.S. Bach / arr. Michael Burkhardt) - Prepare thyself, Zion. Copyright (C) 1992 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700989.

No copyright needed:

ELW 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW 295 Of the Father's Love Begotten (v.1)

Advent Longings (Laurel Sanders)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (trad. German/arr. Sanders)

The Angel Gabriel (trad./arr. Sanders)

ELW 277 Away in a Manger

Come, All You Shepherds (trad. Bohemian/arr. Sanders)

Angels We Have Heard on High (trad./arr. Sanders)

Go, Tell It On the Mountain (trad./arr. Sanders)

## PRAYER CONCERNS for Dec. 13, 2020

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries  
 Alicia Anderson and family upon the death of her mother, Dorothy  
 Madalyn Anderson, godmother of Pastor Schul  
 Theresa Alves, friend of Brenda Kim  
 Deb Baysinger's cousin  
 Sylvia Belanger, mother of Joe Belanger  
 Debbie Bolthouse  
 Mary & Phil Bucher  
 Sandy Cassady  
 Denise Centini  
 Nancy Chapa  
 Scott Cocolin  
 Carol Confer  
 Cathy Cutter  
 William Davies  
 Marie Dallery mother of Sharon Shurgalla  
 Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of Rachel Wolkenhauer  
 Patrick Dugan, grandson of Paul & Kathryn Mackes  
 Laurel Sanders and family, upon the death of Laurel's cousin John Elliott  
 Steve Ellis  
 Craig Evanego  
 Jane Gamble, sister-in-law of Holly Stoltzfus  
 Darrell Engelhardt, father of Lisa Wiedemer

Vicki Garvin  
 Alice Griffin  
 Mary Ann Hanelly and family, friends of Betsy Will  
 Irene Harpster  
 Shawn Hintosh  
 Dick Houtz  
 Bob Igoe  
 Cindy Keith  
 Kate Kempf, daughter of Pete And Angie Kempf & granddaughter of Merle & Kathy McCalips  
 June Krumrine  
 Paul & Sandy Larson  
 Linda Leslie mother of Brianne Slane  
 Paul Lloyd, son of Pat Lloyd  
 Shirley Lucas  
 Tom Lucas  
 Paul Mackes  
 Carol Major, friend of Brenda Palmgren  
 Danielle McHenry  
 Kim Marsh  
 The family of Gertrude Mentzer, upon her death  
 Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller  
 Amy Nevling  
 Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob Igoe

Allison Peretin, friend of Elaine Ebeling  
 Zach Pfeil, brother of Megan Widener  
 Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins  
 Sophia Reutzel  
 Dottie Roberts  
 Becky Rogers  
 Bruce, Lynn & Becky Rogers upon the death of Bruce's father Bill  
 Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer  
 Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert  
 Ken Shultz  
 William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite  
 Emily & Charlotte Spearly  
 Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin  
 Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen and Dick Brenneman  
 Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite  
 Brenda & Ken Walsh  
 The family of Thomas Watschke upon his death  
 Greg Weimer  
 Janet Zerbe

**Members in the hospital**  
 Dottie Roberts



Prayer is a powerful gift and tool God gives to us. *Please pray for the request each day of the week during your daily prayer time. Just think how powerful it would be if all our members prayed for the same thing each day.*

Prayer concern- This Lessons and Carols Sunday, we give thanks for all who share their gifts of music and the arts to the glory of God. In the pandemic, many artists have struggled with lack of income and avenues for performance. Please pray for and support them in this time.

## Worship Opportunities at Grace

In December, Grace Lutheran will offer our regular live radio broadcast each Sunday morning at 10:30 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM and on smart devices, as well as our prerecorded video worship services, which are available by 7:00 am every Sunday morning on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In “Pocketful Of Grace” podcast each Wednesday Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick discuss the upcoming Sunday lessons. It is available on our website or through Spotify, Tune In/Alexa, and iTunes. Wherever you go, take along a Pocketful of Grace.



We will offer “**Hopeful Disruptions**”: **Midweek Advent Prayer** live at 5:30 on Wednesday Dec. 16. Join Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick for a brief time of prayer and contemplation, streaming live on Grace’s YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube>. Use this time to consider all of the ways Jesus is coming to us in life’s “hopeful disruptions”.

If you are feeling lost in the night, may God’s peace be yours with our “**Virtual Blue Christmas**” Tune in Saturday night, December 19th at 5:30 pm on Grace’s YouTube channel.



Christmas Eve we will offer an “Old Bethlehem Christmas,” which is a 30 minute Drive In Service with Live Nativity and communion. The “Old Bethlehem Christmas” services will take place at 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm, 8:30 pm, 9:30 pm, and 10:30 pm. The 2 pm & 3 pm services are geared towards children. If you plan to attend a later service please bring a flashlight, a battery operated candle or use your cellphone for the candlelight portion of our service. You will enter from Garner Street, park for the service and leave by driving around the circle to observe the live nativity before leaving by way of Garner Street. Grace will also broadcast a live one hour Christmas Eve service on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM at 7 pm. It will be a traditional service featuring music from Grace’s “virtual choirs.”



Christmas day we will have a Live Radio Broadcast at 10 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM



## Sign up to help with Christmas Eve Living Nativity on Dec. 24 in Grace parking lot

Help us tell the Good News of Jesus' birth in a new way as a living nativity scene along with live animals this Christmas Eve in front of the building at Grace. We have costumes or can give you DIY options and more information as you sign up. Please go to our Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cod48aeaf2ea4f5c52-christmas> Review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. While most participants can distance, Joseph and Mary do need to come from the same house. Thank you! Contact [pastorhetrick@glcpa.org](mailto:pastorhetrick@glcpa.org) or [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org) with any questions.

**CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS** People are needed to help with one-hour-slots--directing traffic into the parking lot, parking cars in the designated areas, and handing out bulletins to people in their cars (a fun thing to do with your children). We encourage couples and families to participate. After the cars are parked, you may enjoy the service in your car. If interested, please contact Sally Keiser-Bankert 814-571-3672 or [sallykb@verizon.net](mailto:sallykb@verizon.net)

**Garden of Readin' Dec. 15** - The December meeting of Garden of Readin' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, December 15 at 9:30 am remotely via Zoom. (Please note time change.) The next book is *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. The discussion will be facilitated by Susan Hirth. Contact Laura Pauley ([llp1@psu.edu](mailto:llp1@psu.edu)) or Lois Lynn ([loissteve@comcast.net](mailto:loissteve@comcast.net)) for more info.



**2021 sponsorships needed for bulletins and radio broadcasts** – Help Grace bring live radio worship (Sundays at 10:30 am on WRSC) by sponsoring a radio broadcast in honor of memory of someone special or to the Glory of God. Starting in January 2021 the cost of a weekly broadcast will be \$200 per week, reflecting a modest increase in the station's prices. Bulletins can also be sponsored for a cost of \$25 per week. Currently we have Jan. 31, Feb. 7 & 28 and March 7, 21 & 28 available for the start of 2021 radio sponsorships, and many dates for bulletin sponsorships are also available. For details, or to sign up, contact Sheri Rider, our Office Manager, at [srider@glcpa.org](mailto:srider@glcpa.org) or call the church office at 238-2478.

Adult Forum Sundays 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom

*Any adult is welcome to join us anytime—no preparation needed. Contact Dotty Delafield ([readoooodles@me.com](mailto:readoooodles@me.com)) for a zoom link to the class.*

Join Us  
as your schedule allows and  
topics are of interest!



**Masks Needed**-Centre Volunteers in Medicine is in need of homemade masks. Solid and/or masculine are especially needed. If you can help, please contact Cheryl White at [cwhite@cvim.net](mailto:cwhite@cvim.net) or 814-231-4043.

**Word in Season devotional booklets available** – If you would like to receive a copy of the Word in Season devotional booklets for October, November and December, you can pick up a copy in a basket on the waiting area bench inside the main entrance at Grace. Alternatively, Sally Keiser-Bankert will be happy to mail you a copy upon request. Please contact her via email at [sallykb@verizon.net](mailto:sallykb@verizon.net).



## Substitute Teacher Positions for 2020-2021

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten (GLPK) is searching for substitute teacher's aides and teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. No experience is necessary for the substitute teacher's aides positions. Substitute teachers with a bachelor's degree in elementary education or early childhood education is beneficial, but not required. Send cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLPK Director, at [csmarkusky@glcpa.org](mailto:csmarkusky@glcpa.org) or call her at 238-8110 for more information.



# Faith 5™



## SHARE

a "high" and a "low" – what's been the best part of your day, and what's been the hardest part of your day.



## READ

from God's Word. A Scripture verse or story will be provided and read by the glow of the fire.



## TALK

about the meaning of God's living Word and how it speaks to your life – maybe even your highs and lows – at this time.



## PRAY

with and for one another and the world, lifting one another in prayer and praising the God of life and love.



## BLESS

with simple words and a cross traced upon each others' foreheads, we remind one another that we belong to the living God.

DECEMBER 6, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God has good news for all people.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort my people
Tuesday	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Promise of the Lord's coming
Wednesday	Malachi 4:1-6	The great day of the Lord
Thursday	Matthew 3:1-10	The preaching of John the Baptist
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for God's mercy
Saturday	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	A prayer for God's peace
Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[T]he voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Mark 1:3 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you that through your Son, Jesus Christ, love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Amen. (Psalm 85:10)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, may this gift of food strengthen us to walk in your way of comfort, hope, and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God feed you like a shepherd and keep you safe. (Isaiah 40:11)



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

DECEMBER 6, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- What events in the news do people consider to be positive news or good news?
- The word *gospel* means good news. How is the coming of Christ into our world good news for you?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:1-8.

The beginning of a book helps set up what the book is about and where the story is going. This is true of the Gospel of Mark as well. Mark 1:1-8 is part of Mark's prologue (vv. 1-13) and was used in ancient writings with this very purpose in mind: to give information that helps people follow the story as it unfolds. Mark's point is that good news ("good tidings" in Isaiah 40:9), the gospel, is beginning to happen through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This good news is linked to John the baptizer who is himself reminiscent of Elijah. When Elijah comes again, God's people will encounter God's promised deliverance (Malachi 4:5). That future time is now present through John and through Jesus. John's message of repentance (v. 4) will be continued by Jesus when he says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14). Where do you see the good news of Jesus happening today?

Pray: Merciful God, we thank you for fulfilling your promise of hope and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### SERVICE

Good news has a positive effect on people. Isaiah 40 gives prophetic comfort to God's people. What word of comfort or encouragement can you give to someone this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set up a Christmas nativity set in your home. Place the wise men further away from the set for now. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope and the second one of peace. Pause for a moment to sit in silence and look upon the nativity set and think about the coming of Jesus.

Say this Bible verse: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people. (Psalm 85:8a)

Pray: Lord, help us to prepare the way of the Lord. Give us peace and hope. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)