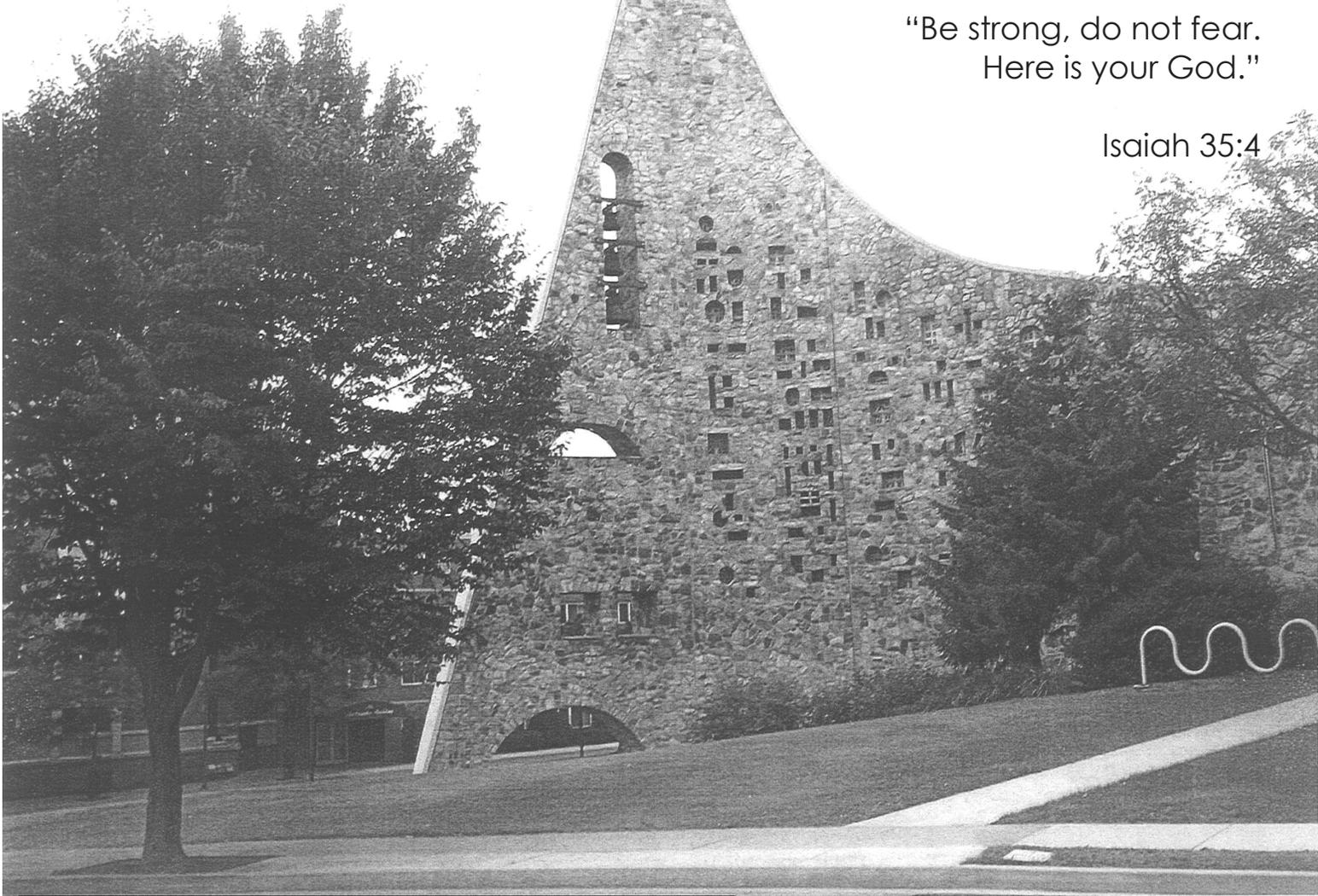


# Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

"Be strong, do not fear.  
Here is your God."

Isaiah 35:4



**SUNDAY, December 15, 2019**  
Third Sunday of Advent

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

**phone:** 814-238-2478

**email:** [churchoffice@glcpa.org](mailto:churchoffice@glcpa.org)

**web address:** [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org)

**9:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship service**

**Today's Hymns**

**#ELW 248**

**#ELW 255**

**#ELW 311**

**Distribution**

**#ELW 242**

**#ELW 266**



**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."*

**ABOUT TODAY'S THEME...**A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

**ABOUT THE LESSONS....** **The First Lesson:** The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save. **The Second Lesson:** In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent. **The Gospel Lesson:** John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

#### WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE

1. Offering plate at worship
2. "Direct Debit" transfers from your bank account to Grace (see Laurel Sanders for sign-up information)
3. Make an online gift at our website, [www.glcpc.org](http://www.glcpc.org)

Thank you for supporting the ministries of  
Grace Lutheran!

↑ = Please stand as you  
are able

↓ = Please be seated

#### Follow Grace on Social Media

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

Twitter: @GraceLCPA

All are welcome to our weekly  
"coffee hour" in Harkins Hall  
following the 9 AM service!

#### MILESTONE MINISTRY AT GRACE

At Grace we celebrate milestones. Milestones are designed to connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone Moment brings family, friends, and congregations together to mark a special time in their lives and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It is a tool to connect 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. Today we celebrate the start of a new school year and the love and acceptance we find in God and in this community. We also celebrate new drivers. God is a constant presence whether the journey is short or long.

# Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church - State College, Pennsylvania

PRELUDE Episode on *Veni, Emmanuel*.....arr. Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

↑ Pastor: Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light three candles on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

**Congregation: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The Son of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing.  
Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins. Forgive us for those sins known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: In the advent of Christ, the light from on high breaks in upon us with direction and healing. Through the life of the one born of Mary, God looks with favor upon us and calls us to discipleship. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**



(9:00) INTROIT *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*.....Laurel Sanders  
Kimi Waite & Laurel Sanders, sopranos

**GATHER**

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



GATHERING HYMN *People, Look East*.....ELW # 248

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.**

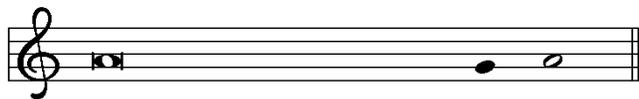
ADVENT PRAISE.....*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**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.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



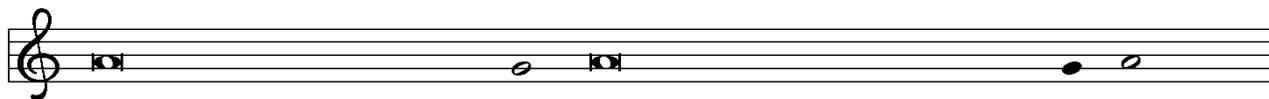
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



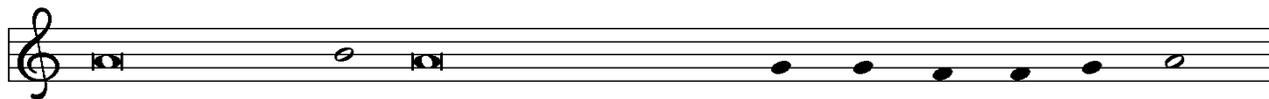
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



**(10:30 AM only) Light of All Nations: Come!: Nine Lessons and Carols** Led and sung by Crossfire Youth Choir; see green insert

***FEED***

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

(9:00)FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 35:1-10 (pew Bible p. 578)

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

(9:00)PSALM 148 - *Please sing responsively from the selected verses.*



P: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

**C: mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars.**

P: Wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;

**C: sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples;  
princes and all rulers | of the world;**

P: young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together:

**C: let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and  
heaven.**

(9:00)SECOND LESSON.....James 5:7-10 (pew Bible p. 982)

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

(9:00) HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 11:2-11 (pew Bible p. 792)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.** (*spoken*)

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*spoken*)

- ↓ (9:00)SERMON.....Pastor Hetrick
- ↑ (9:00)HYMN OF THE DAY *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*.....ELW # 255
- (10:30) HOLY BAPTISM.....ELW p. 227

## 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.**

## PRAYER 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 *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*.....J. S. Bach

↑ OFFERTORY SONG.....(ELW #182)

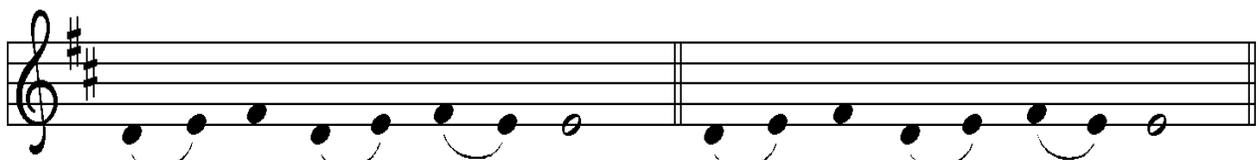
**C:** Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing, Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**P:** Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

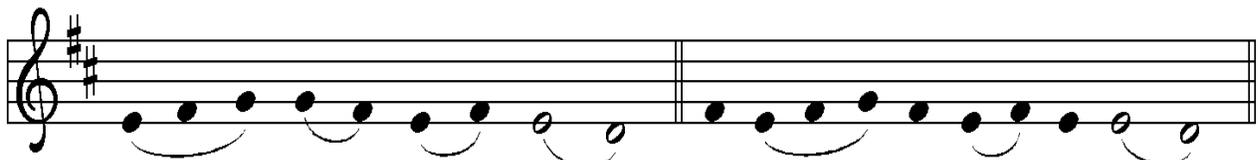
**C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 107)



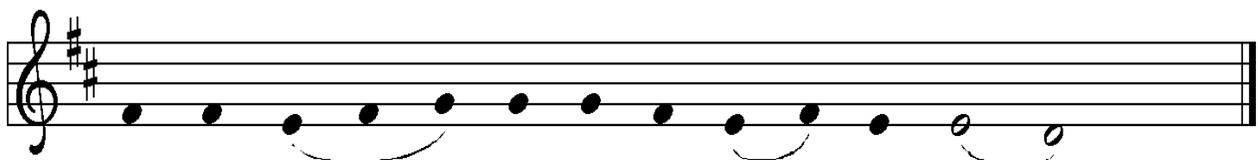
**P:** The Lord be with you. **C:** And al - so with you.



**P:** Lift up your hearts. **C:** We lift them to the Lord.



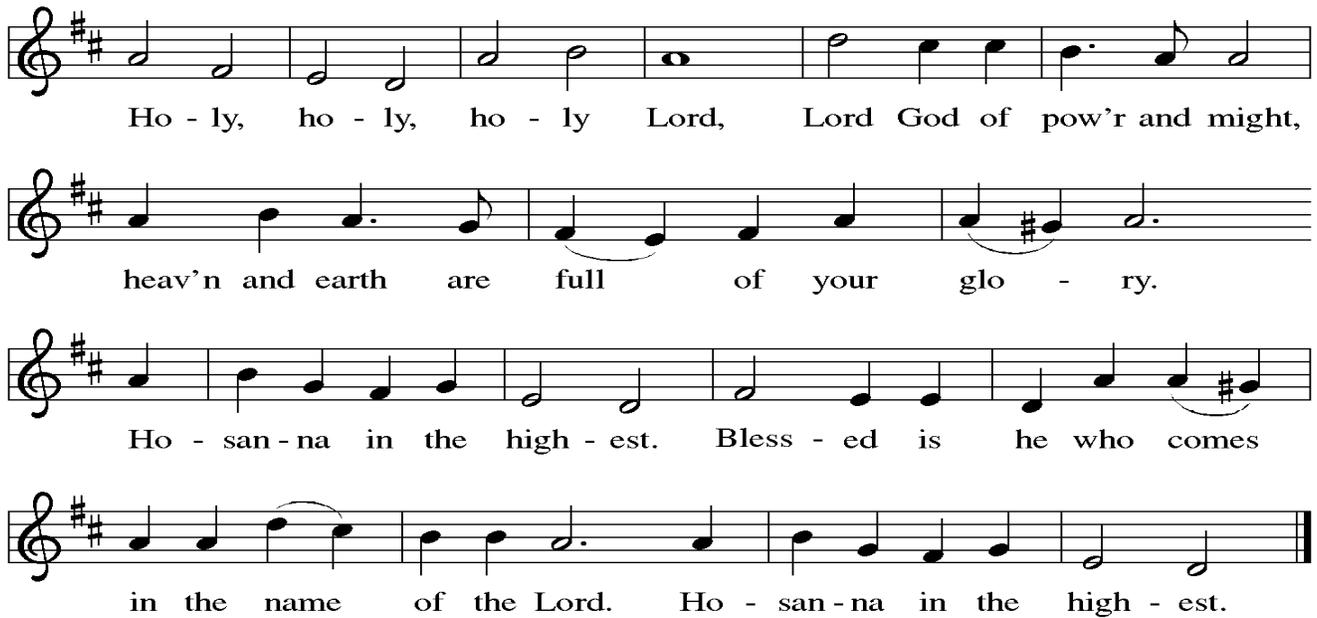
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: (ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and the suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: God of salvation and resurrection, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and grace. And to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be praise and honor, now and forever.

**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.

**P:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, the meal is ready.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

↓ *All who are baptized are invited to join the congregation in receiving the Savior's Body and Blood. Children not yet receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. Rice wafers and grape juice are available for those who have sensitivities to wheat or alcohol. An acolyte has a special tray with these alternative communion elements.*

**C:** (ELW p.154)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW # 242-- *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW # 266-- *All Earth Is Hopeful*

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

**C:** **Amen.**

C:

ELW # 207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
 ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

P: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

**SEND**

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

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 give + you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*.....ELW # 311

A: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*.....Johann Gottfried Walther



- The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor..... [pastorschul@glcpa.org](mailto:pastorschul@glcpa.org)
- The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Associate Pastor..... [pastorhetrick@glcpa.org](mailto:pastorhetrick@glcpa.org)
- Cindy Fritz, Peter Horn, Faith Formation..... [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org)
- Laurel Sanders, Music & Arts Ministry Coordinator..... [lsanders@glcpa.org](mailto: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

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# Grace Lutheran

## Announcements for the Week of Sunday, December 15, 2019

**BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT...** In Baptism we are adopted by God and gifted with both His promise and His Spirit. Just such a moment comes today at our 10:30 A.M. service, when Jameson Michael Follett, born June 22, 2019, son of Emerson and Lisa Follett, receives this holy sacrament. We welcome Jameson into the Lord's family, a fellow member with us of the body of Christ, and a worker with us in the Kingdom of God.

**USHERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE...**We are in need of ushers for our 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM & 11:00 PM services. If interested please contact Sally Keiser-Bankert at [sallyb@verizon.net](mailto:sallyb@verizon.net) or 814-571-3672.

**LECTORS...**The January sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thanks to those who have served as lectors in the past. Veterans and new readers of all ages are also encouraged to sign up!

**SOUND SYSTEM ASSISTANT...**Grace is looking to add additional people to our team of sound technicians. Running the sound board during worship is an important and interesting way to use your gifts to support Grace's ministries. No experience needed; training available. If Interested, contact Pastor Schul or Pastor Hetrick.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....**to help with "coffee hour" at 10:00am in Harkins Hall. If you would like to learn more about this or to sign up please contact Joyce Arbutina at [joycearb@comcast.net](mailto:joycearb@comcast.net).

**WANTED – PART-TIME SEXTON –** Grace Lutheran Church is seeking a sexton/cleaning specialist for up to 20 hours per week (afternoons; flexible schedule) to help clean our church and pre-school, with options to work on some Sunday mornings. Send cover letter and resume to Laurel Sanders, Business Manager, at [lsanders@glcpa.org](mailto:lsanders@glcpa.org) or call Roy Evert, head sexton, at 238-2478 to discuss the position.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER POSITIONS FOR 2019-2020...**Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten (GLPK) is searching for substitute teacher's aides and teachers for the 2019-2020 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.

**USHERS NEEDED...**for the 9 and 10:30 services. If you can help with either service please contact Sally Keiser-Bankert at [sallyb@verizon.net](mailto:sallyb@verizon.net)

**VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE...**We are looking for help with the Sexton duties for our 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM services. If interested please call the church office and ask for Roy.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....**DeeAnn Wylie & Roy Evert for the Advent Wreath; Dennis Snider for delivering the Christmas trees and helping to set them up with Roy Evert, John Palmgren, & Bob Byers; Carl Bankert, Brian Bills, Mirabella Bills & Sally Keiser-Bankert for putting the lights on the trees; Deb Stewart for decorating the railings and hanging wreaths, & Sally Keiser-Bankert for placing the beautiful Chrismons on the Christmas tree that Elana Blezina made

## Worship Assistants for Sunday, December 15, 2019

	8:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
<b>Lectors</b>	Dotty Delafield	Anne Rohrbach	Lessons And Carols
<b>Greeters</b>	Martha Musser	Chuck, Lori Anna & Thomas Coup	Bob & Alice Griffin
<b>Acolytes</b>	Ryan Pencek Nathan Pencek	Carter Fozard Spencer Hardyk	Sophia Bills Mirabella Bills
<b>Deacons</b>	Nancy Reinert	John Diercks Rachel Wolkenhauer	John & Brenda Palmgren
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	Carla Rossi		
<b>Cantor</b>		Angie Hardyk	Ethan Hardyk
<b>Ushers</b>		David Lee Bob Byers John Miller III Lisa & Marty Wiedemer	Al Fiscus Deb Lux Ellen Campbell Anne Rohrbach
<b>Radio Ministry; Sound</b>			Richard Brenneman
<b>Coffee Hour Hosts 10:00-10:30 a.m.</b>			Marilyn Peterson Deb Lux
<b>Welcoming Center Hosts</b>		Linda Domin	Barbara Fiscus



The *altar flowers* are sponsored by the Carol & Gorman Findley  
dedicated in memory of Michael Swartzlander

This morning's *bulletin* is sponsored by Laurel Sanders  
dedicated in honor of Grace's Children & Youth Musicians

Today's *radio broadcast* on WRSC - 1390 AM & WRSC - 93.3 FM  
is sponsored Geraldine Slear  
dedicated in memory of Leon Slear

## PRAYER CONCERNS for December 15, 2019

<p>All Military &amp; Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries</p> <p>Susan Antle</p> <p>Juliet Arnold and family upon Dean's death</p> <p>Kip Barnett, friend of Ted &amp; Jennifer Oyler</p> <p>Barbara Braun</p> <p>Debbie Bolthouse</p> <p>Don Burris</p> <p>Nancy Chapa</p> <p>Scott Cocolin</p> <p>Catherine Cutter</p> <p>William Davies</p> <p>Damaris Dougherty, daughter of Bob Hampton</p> <p>Mark Doyle, friend of Paul &amp; Sandy Larson</p> <p>Patrick Dugan, grandson of Paul &amp; Kathryn Mackes</p> <p>Steve Ellis</p> <p>Craig Evanego</p> <p>The family of Norm Fisher upon his death</p> <p>Norma Flanagan, mother of Jim Flanagan</p> <p>Vicki Garvin</p> <p>The Graves family upon Herb's death</p>	<p>Bob Harris, cousin of Leslie Wagner</p> <p>Tom Horn</p> <p>Dick Houtz</p> <p>Chris Kohlhepp, friend of Sally &amp; Carl</p> <p>Donna Kondash, friend of Deana &amp; Don Coine</p> <p>The family of Larry Kuhns upon his death</p> <p>Paul Larson</p> <p>Phil Lucas</p> <p>Aaron Lyon, nephew of Sue &amp; Pete Forster</p> <p>Mardi McDonough</p> <p>Danielle McHenry</p> <p>Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller</p> <p>Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins</p> <p>Chris &amp; Dottie Roberts</p> <p>Dennis Robertson, cousin of Karen Mrsa</p> <p>Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer</p> <p>Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert</p> <p>Annika Schul</p> <p>Ken Shultz</p>	<p>William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite</p> <p>Emily &amp; Charlotte Spearly</p> <p>Paul Spearly, uncle of Sheri Rider</p> <p>Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin</p> <p>Marcile Tressler</p> <p>Tom &amp; Claudette, friends of Helen and Dick Brenneman</p> <p>Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite</p> <p>Fonda, mother of Phyllis Verderame</p> <p>Leslie Wagner</p> <p>Brenda Walsh</p> <p>Ken Walsh</p> <p>The family of Billie Willits upon her death</p> <p>Marie &amp; Ross Weimer, parents of Greg Weimer</p> <p>Ash Woskob</p>
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### Members in the hospital

Dennis Ebeling  
Mel Rockey



### Weekly Prayer Letter of Encouragement

*Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A person is powerful on their knees." ~ Corrie ten Boom*

We at Grace strive to be a people of prayer. Each week in our bulletin we list Grace members or people connected to our Grace family who are in need of our prayers. Each week, one person is selected to receive a special letter of encouragement. Please sign the letter in the Upper Commons or Narthex and pray for that person this week: Mel Rockey.



*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-Jesus invited John the Baptist to notice God at work.

**“Lord, this Advent open our eyes and our ears that we might be especially attentive to your healing and transformation coming into our midst. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. “**

**CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CAROLS  
DECEMBER 18TH 5:30 PM IN THE  
MILLER CENTER.**



*Christmas Dinner*

**MENU:**

**CHRISTMAS PORK ROAST W/STUFFING, BAKED  
HAM, CANDIED SWEET POTATOES, MASHED  
POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT SALAD, ROLL  
& CHRISTMAS COOKIES.**

**ALL ARE INVITED TO BRING CHRISTMAS COOKIES (MAXIMUM 2  
DOZEN PER PERSON ) TO SHARE FOR OUR DESSERT.**

**Sunday School from 9-10 am**

**Classroom Assignments**



-Ages 3 & 4 and Kindergarten—Room 200

-Grades 1 & 2 —Room 103

-Grades 3, 4 & 5 —Room 105

-Middle School Youth will meet in the Miller Center Youth Room

-High School Youth will meet in the Narthex and then will walk to Starbucks for java, juice and Jesus discussions.

**Teachers are needed for every age group.** There are always two adults per classroom, one lead teacher and one helper. For more information please contact Cindy Fritz or Peter Horn at [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org).



**Christmas Caroling to Homebound Members  
Today December 15th**

Please join us in Harkins Hall for a light lunch at 11:45 am today and then at 12:30 pm we will board a bus and go caroling to some of our homebound members.



## Blue Christmas Service, Thursday December 19 at 6:30 pm.

For many, holidays like Christmas are times of joy and family togetherness. But for those who have experienced loss through death, divorce, depression and other life challenges, these times often bring deep pain and sadness. If this describes your feelings, we invite you to our Service of Hope: Blue Christmas worship here at Grace. Before worship, there will be a grief support session on "Surviving the Holidays" with Brenda Oyler Kim, MSW, LCSW and co-facilitator Jackie Naginey Hook, MA in the Fireside room beginning at 5:00 pm. A small meal will be provided. Having support helps you on your healing journey to realize you are not alone and to learn how others make it through the Holidays. After the Worship, at an informal gathering, Pastors and Stephen Ministers will be available to talk. All are welcome.

### Adult Forum

Adult Forum meets in Fireside Room each Sunday at 9 AM

Adult Forum returns to Behind the Lectionary. Each Sunday we hear a set of texts read from the lectern, but what is in those texts that we may not hear in a sermon? How might those texts guide us on our walk each week?

December 22, 29 and Jan 5 -- Adult Forum will not be meeting

Please join us for learning, reflection and conversation.

### We are Extending our ELCA Good Gifts donations till TODAY.

Please find additional donation forms on the Welcome Center as well as a catalog or two with ideas of how the moneys will be used.

### HOLIDAY COLLECTION FOR CENTRE SAFE

Through December, we will collect donations for Centre Safe (formerly Centre County Women's Resource Center), which provides counseling, advocacy, and shelter for adults and children who have experienced dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Much-needed items include gas and gift cards (\$10-\$50 value); adult PJs and slippers; diapers (any size); baby bottles, bibs, onesies; baby monitors; coffee canisters; floor or desk lamps; pots and pans; towels (bath and hand). [For a list of other items, visit: http://ccwrc.org/getinvolved/needed-items/](http://ccwrc.org/getinvolved/needed-items/)



## In Preschool and Kindergarten news:

### Toys for Tots

Grace Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten is a collection site for the Toys for Tots program again this year. This impressive program provides toys for needy children in our area. If you would like to donate a toy, please place your unwrapped gift in its original packaging in one of the collection boxes located at the entrance to the school and in the Narthex now through December 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to make a cash donation, or would like to volunteer, go to <http://marines.centreconnect.org> for details. Thanks for your support!



### Offering Envelopes Now Available in the Narthex

If you don't see your envelopes or have questions about your envelopes please contact Sheri in the church office. Thank you.

### IHS Wishing Well Campaign

*Interfaith Human Services has lost major funding for the Fuel Bank Program and is in desperate need to fill that gap. If you are not able to make it out to donate at one of the IHS Wishing Well locations this holiday season, there is a Wishing-Well located on the table at the Welcome Center for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Lybarger at [jlpayne19@comcast.net](mailto:jlpayne19@comcast.net) or Roxane Vermillion at [roxverm1@gmail.com](mailto:roxverm1@gmail.com)*



### Christmas Eve Services December 24th

- 4:30 pm- This service is designed particularly as a children's service. The Christmas story will be told with a nativity of live animals and a visit from Santa as he comes to worship the Christ child.
- 7:00 pm- Candlelight worship is organ-led with Holy Communion, carols, and adult choir; piano prelude music.
- 9:00 pm- Candlelight worship is piano-led with Holy Communion, brass, and choral/instrumental carols and prelude music.
- 11:00pm- Candlelight worship is organ-led with Holy Communion, carols, adult choir ; piano prelude music.



### Christmas Day Service December 25th

- 10:00am- Christmas Day Worship is organ-led with Holy Communion and carols.



*This Week  
At Grace*

**Sunday, Dec. 15  
Out of the Cold**

8:00 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary  
 9:00 a.m..... Sunday School All Ages, Various rooms  
 9:00 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary  
 10:00 a.m.....Crossfire Youth Choir Rehearsal, Rm 203  
 10:00 a.m.....Munchkin Brunchkin, Miller Center  
 10:30 a.m.....Worship with Lessons & Carols, Holy Communion & Baptism, Sanctuary  
 11:45 a.m.....Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
 11:45 a.m.....College Student Lunch, Fireside  
 12:00 p.m.....Christmas Caroling Luncheon, Harkins Hall  
 1:00 p.m.....Christmas Caroling to Homebounders  
 4:00 p.m.....Psalm 151 Setup & rehearsal, Sanctuary  
 6:00 p.m.....Casual Worship w/Holy Communion, Sanctuary  
 7:00 p.m.....Lutheran Campus Ministry Christmas Hoopla, Fireside

**Monday, Dec. 16  
Toy for Tots ends**

5:30 p.m.....Out of the Cold Meeting, Fireside

**Tuesday, Dec. 17**

9:30 a.m.....Staff Meeting, Fireside

**Wednesday, Dec. 18  
Bulletin Announcements due 3:00 p.m.**

11:00 a.m.....Super Wednesday Bible Study, Fireside  
 5:00 p.m.....Kids Choirs, choir room or room 203  
 5:30 p.m.....Christmas Meal & Carol sing, Miller Center  
 7:30 p.m.....Adult Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**Thursday, Dec. 19**

7:00 a.m.....Women's Breakfast Prayer Group, Waffle Shop North  
 5:00 p.m.....Surviving the Holidays, Fireside  
 6:30 p.m.....Blue Christmas Service, Sanctuary

**Friday, Dec. 20**

12:30 p.m.....Graves Funeral Luncheon, Miller Center  
 2:00 p.m.....Graves Funeral, Sanctuary

**Saturday, Dec. 21**

10:00 a.m.....Arnold Visitation, Sanctuary  
 11:00 a.m.....Arnold Funeral, Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m.....Arnold Funeral Luncheon, Miller Center