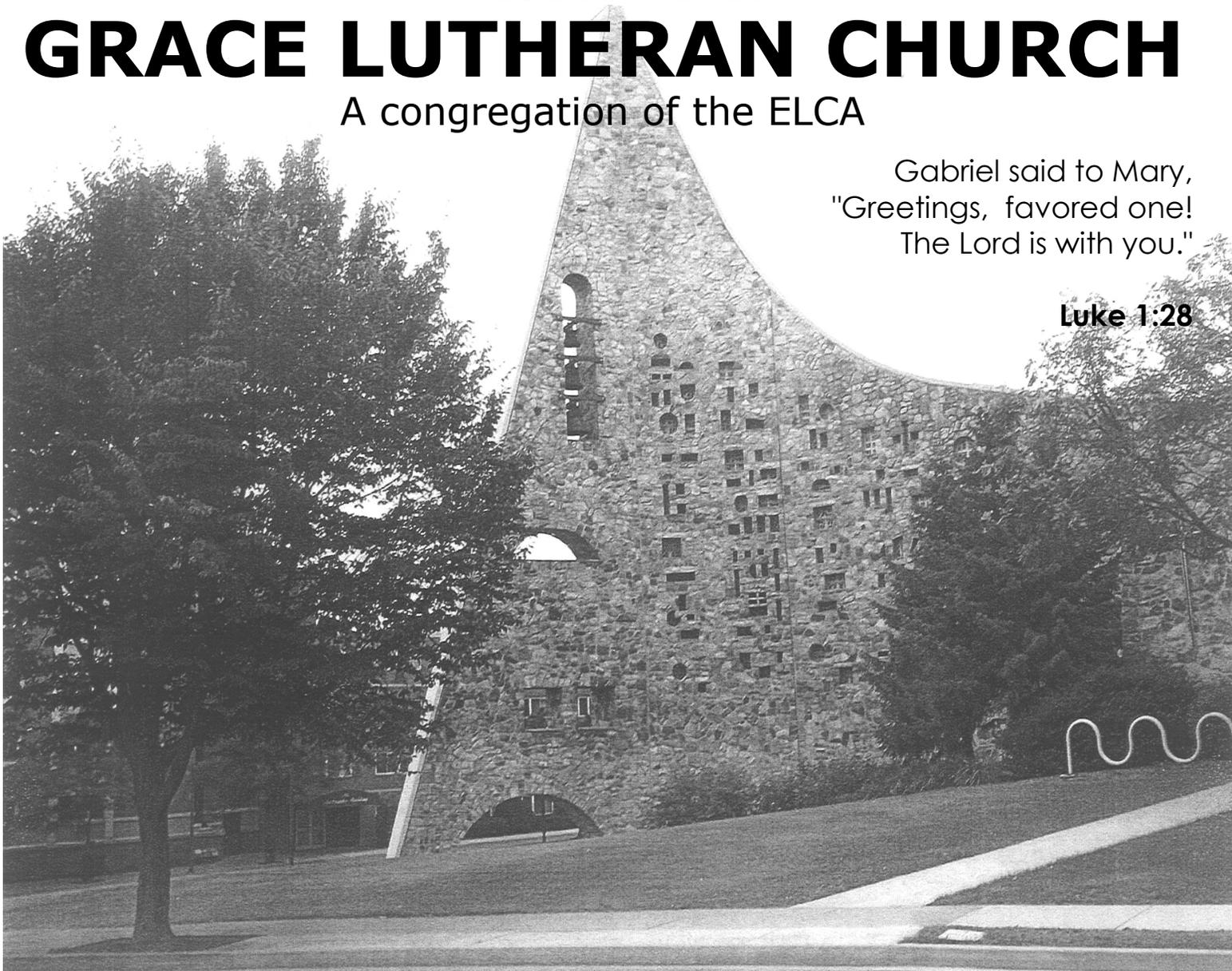


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

Gabriel said to Mary,
"Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:28



SUNDAY, Dec. 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

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

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org

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.



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... God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

ABOUT THE LESSONS.... **The First Lesson:** Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed. **The Second Lesson:** Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations. **The Gospel Lesson:** You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Forgot your checks? Not carrying cash? No worries! You can still make an offering. Go to www.glcpa.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

Follow Grace on Social Media

Facebook:

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@GraceLCPA

YouTube:

tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube

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

PRELUDE

An Advent Christmas Suite.....Fedak

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. 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.**

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er
the grave.**

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

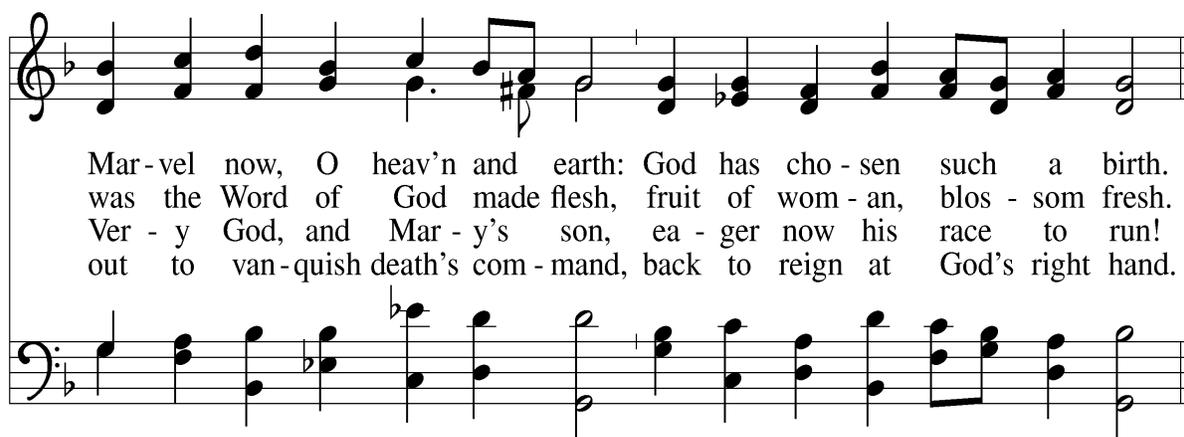
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING HYMN *Savior of the Nations Come*.....ELW # 263

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

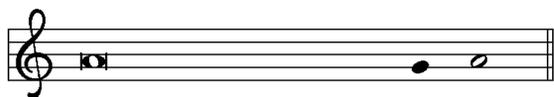
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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

(ELW p. 147)



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.



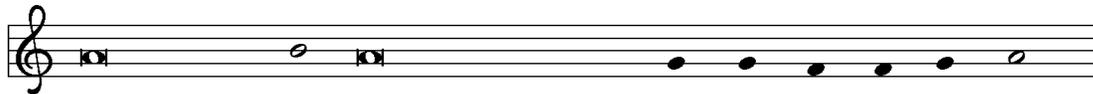
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father 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.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON.....2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evil-doers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Luke 1:26-38 Please sing responsively by selected verses



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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P: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in
Gali- / lee called Nazareth,
To a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of
the house of David. The virgin's / name was Mary.

C: **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.**

P: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have
found fa- / vor with God.
And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will / name him Jesus.

C: **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
an- / cestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of
his kingdom there will / be no end."**

P: Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I / am a virgin?"
The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be
called / Son of God.

C: **Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it
be with me according / to your word."
Then the angel depar- / ted from her.**

SECOND LESSON.....Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 1:46b-55

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name. ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, ⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON.....Pastor Schul

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*ELW # 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

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.

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

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came.....Manz

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 *Joy to the World*.....ELW # 267

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World.....DeBruyn



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Joyce Sipple
Dedicated to the memory of Bill & Scott Sipple

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by Jeya & Emeline Chandra
Dedicated to the Glory of God

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

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ELW 265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came - Arr. © 1955, 1983 E.H. Freeman, Ltd., admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

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ELW 267 Joy to the World

PRAYER CONCERNS for Dec. 20, 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
 Don Burris and family upon the death of Don's mother, Grace
 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
 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
 Dennis McClure
 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



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.*

Lord, Christmas is so close and it feels like there's still so much to get done. Help me to slow down. Bring peace and contentment to my heart. Remind me that what really matters this season is Jesus. Don't let me get caught up in worries, anxieties, or other busy work that might distract me from the joyful celebration of Jesus's birth. Amen

Worship Opportunities at Grace

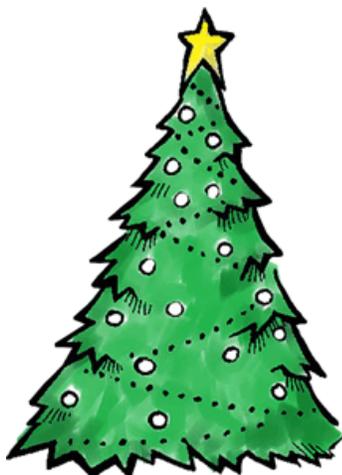
In December, Grace Lutheran will offer our regular live radio broadcast each Sunday morning at 10:30 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM and on smart devices, as well as our prerecorded video worship services, which are available by 7:00 am every Sunday morning on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

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.



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



We would like to thank Ellena Blazina for the Chrismon’s, Deb Stewart for the greens on the railings, Roy Evert, John Palmgren, Cindy Fritz and Peter Horn for setting up the Chrismon tree, John Horn for the use of his truck for the tree, Sally Keiser-Bankert for decorating the Chrismon tree, Deb Stewart and Sally Keiser-Bankert for making the Advent Wreath and Anna Burke for adding the poisettias to our main entrance.



2021 Offering Envelopes are here

The 2021 offering envelopes are located in the Narthex in the coat rack area at the top of the stairs from the main entrance. They are available for pick up week days from 8 am till 2 pm. They will **NOT** be available Christmas Eve. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please check that the envelope number on the top of the box matches the number located in the little window on the front of the box. If they do not match please contact the church office immediately. If you have signed up for ACH or are using Tithley and on longer using offering envelopes please let the church office know so we can re-assign the envelope number as needed.

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

Garden of Readin' January 19 - The January meeting of Garden of Readin' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, January 19 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman. The discussion will be facilitated by Susan DeMetrick. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more info.

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

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

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

Support Grace's Ministry: Grace's church building may be closed, but Christ's Church remains vibrantly open! Grace needs your continued financial support in order to fund all of our ministries. You may continue to mail your offerings to Grace. Tithe.ly also provides a secure way to provide your offering via any major credit card. Visit www.glcpa.org and click on the GIVE button at the top of the page. If you set up an account with **Tithe.ly** using your Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club card, you can support our ministries even when you cannot be present. Finally, a form for Direct Debit giving (via your bank) is available on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/yx8andkj>; just mail it to **Grace Lutheran Church at 205 South Garner Street, State College, 16801**. That is the absolute best way to provide for the regular funding of all that we do here at Grace to the glory of God and the service of our neighbors. Thank you for your commitment to our ministries during this challenging time.



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. 17 & 31, Feb. 7 & 28 and March 7, 21 & 28 available for 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 or call the church office at 238-2478.



So many of you have contributed to the State College Food Bank via Grace during the ongoing pandemic. It's our response to Jesus' love, isn't it? For now, we'll continue with monetary donations only. Please donate via Tithe.ly at glcpa.org. Click on the 'give' button at the top of the page OR send a check to church with 'food bank' written in the memo line and mail it to 205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801.

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.



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 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 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



God favors the peasant girl Mary.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	The Lord's message to David
Tuesday	Romans 16:25-27	Paul's closing prayer
Wednesday	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Friday	John 3:11-16	For God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	God's promise to David
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, just as you favored your servant Mary, grant all of us faith and trust in your power to bring salvation to all through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this food we receive your steadfast love, O Lord; with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness to all generations through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God bless you with the good news of Jesus' birth.



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DECEMBER 20, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Wait for the Lord



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:

- When have you received special attention from friends or family?
- Think of someone you have valued as a friend. In what ways do you value them?
- The angel Gabriel describes Mary as favored. What does it mean to you that God has given the world our Savior and Lord Jesus through Mary, a young peasant girl?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:26-38.

In verses 28 and 30 the angel Gabriel says that Mary is favored, that is, Mary experiences the undeserved kindness of God. In Luke 2:40 and 52 the child Jesus is also described as favored. Divine attention comes to a young virgin to deliver Jesus, the Son of the Most High. The beginning of the Gospel of Luke tells of Elizabeth, a barren woman who gives birth, Mary, a peasant girl who gives birth to the future king in the lineage of David, and of shepherds in the field who will be the first evangelists of the good news of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:18). The message is clear: with God all things are possible, and as with Mary, our faithful response is, "let it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the model of the life of faith that acknowledges that God has done great things for her. As we prepare to enter the season of Jesus' birth, we are met with God's favor and blessings for us as well. How has God come to you with divine favor?

Pray: God of undeserved kindness, give us faith to trust that with you all things are possible through Christ Jesus our Lord, Son of the Most High God. Amen.

SERVICE

During this Advent season think of those who are not favored in our society. For example, the homeless are poor, hungry, and in need. In what ways can you show God's love to them through an act of kindness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

From your nativity set, hold each piece in silence for a moment. Then place the pieces back in the scene. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and then the wise men. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, the third one of joy, and the fourth one of love. Say this Bible verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Pray: Lord God, thank you for showing us love even when we are afraid like Mary, the mother of Jesus. Give us hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.



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