

**Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

205 S. Garner St.
State College, PA 6801

**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."*

**10:00 a.m.
worship service**

Today's Hymns
#ELW 288
#ELW 276
#ELW 290

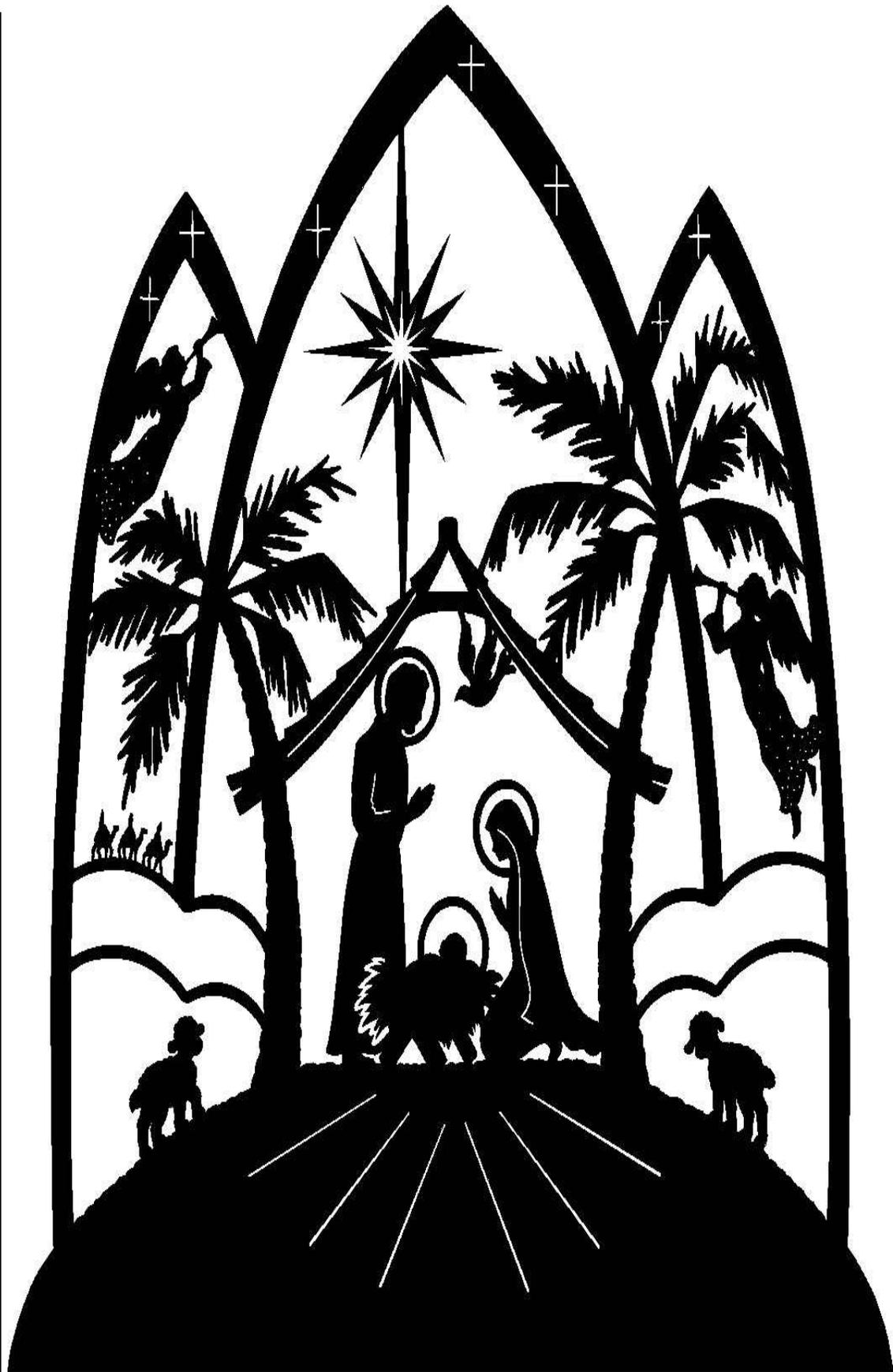
Distribution
#ELW 278
#ELW 296



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DECEMBER 25, 2019
Christmas Day

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST...

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed humans in his own image, and everything else in creation.

Unknown years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME...As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

A WORD ON THE READINGS...**The First Lesson:** The prophet preaches hope that in the future God will bring the people back to their beloved Jerusalem, where God will once again reign. **The Second Lesson:** The author of Hebrews describes the Son's relationship to God and his priestly role on earth. **The Gospel Lesson:** John teaches us that the Word of God is the very God whose arrival, as at creation, brings light into the world. In the incarnation the world has been created anew.

↑ = Please stand as you
are able

↓ = Please be seated

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church - State College, Pennsylvania
Christmas Day -- December 25, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.

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.

Gather - Feed - Send

PRELUDE *O Hail This Brightest Day of Days*.....J. S. Bach
 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.....arr. W. Held
 On This Day Earth Shall Ring.....arr. R. Hobby

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS GREETING



P: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and you came into the world to save us. Blessed are you, Son of righteousness, you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe. Blessed are you, Son of Mary, born a child, you shared our humanity.

Congregation: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

P: Blessed are you, Son of David, born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men. Blessed are you, Son of all humanity, baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves. Blessed are you, heavenly king, teaching and preaching, healing and comforting, you proclaimed the kingdom.

C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

P: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

P: With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at his birth.

C: Praise and honor and glory to you, O Lord most high.

P: To us is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Grace, mercy, and the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you.

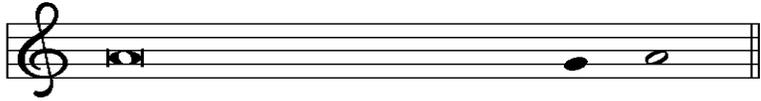
GATHER

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

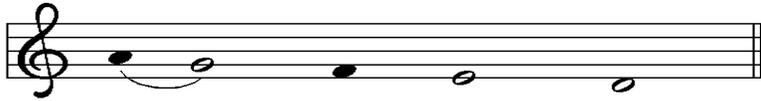
GATHERING HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.....ELW #288

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.



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.



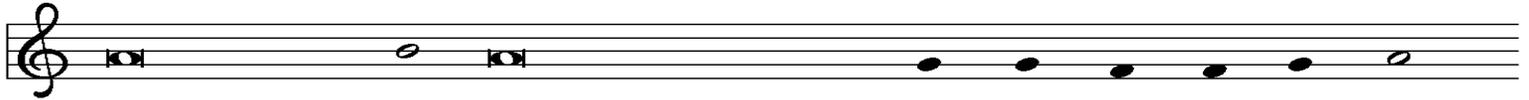
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: Let us pray.

C: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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 through scripture,
and feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

↓ FIRST LESSON..... Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

PSALM 98—*Please sing responsively from the selected verses.*



L: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done [|] marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have [|] won the victory.

C: O LORD, you have made [|] known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight [|] of the nations.

L: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the [|] house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory [|] of our God.

C: Shout with joy to the LORD, [|] all you lands; lift up your voice, re- [|] joice, and sing.

L: Sing to the LORD [|] with the harp, with the harp and the [|] voice of song.

C: With trumpets and the sound [|] of the horn shout with joy before the [|] king, the LORD.

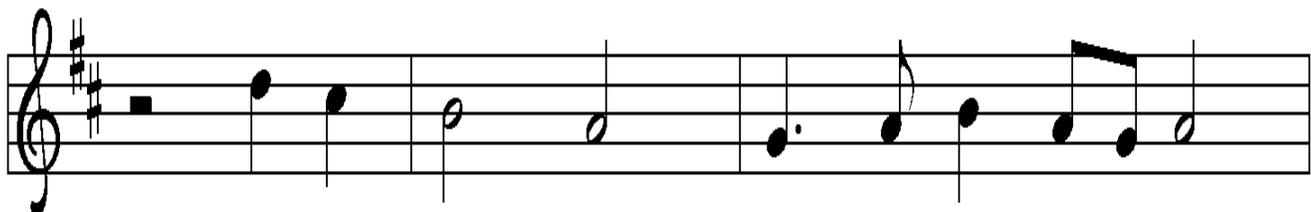
L: Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

**C: Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to ¹ judge the earth.**

SECOND LESSON.....HEBREWS 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION(ELW p. 151a)



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



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

HOLY GOSPEL.....John 1:1-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the

life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*spoken*)



SERMON.....Pastor Hetrick



HYMN OF THE DAY *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*.....ELW #276

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

↓ WE SHARE THE LORD'S PEACE
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

↑ OFFERTORY *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....arr. W. Held

OFFERTORY SONG Sung to: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (stanza 4)

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

ELW p. 107

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you. P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord. P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give 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:

Joy to the World (ELW 267, stanzas 2 & 4)

- 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

P: Holy God, the beginning and the end, You are the giver of life and hope. We bless you for the birth of creation, for all your promises to your people, and for Mary's openness to your will. We give you thanks for your Son, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Come among us, Holy Spirit, and bless this food with your presence. Bring us the gift of peace on earth, as we look in hope for our Savior's coming again. All praise and glory are yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

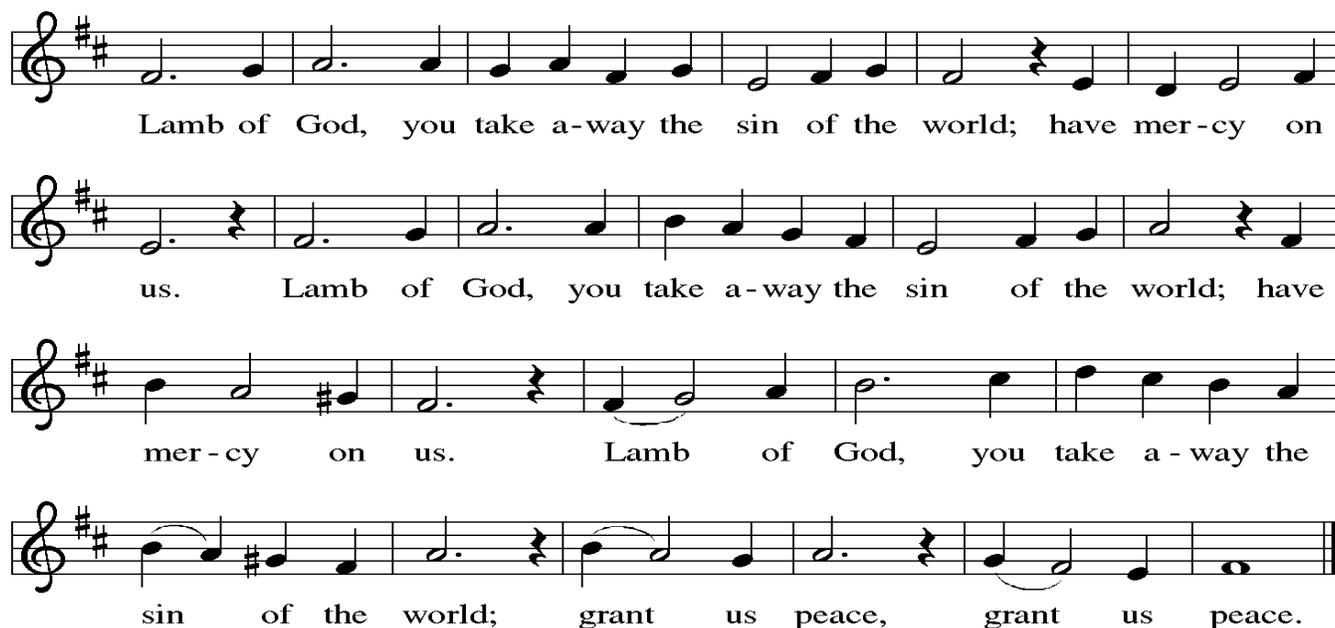
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

↓
All 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.

Instructions: Upon receiving the bread, move to the chalice and dip the bread in the consecrated wine.

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 HYMNS:

ELW #278 *Away in a Manger*

ELW #296 *What Child is This*

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

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Angels, from the Realms of Glory....*ELW #275

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

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Great and gracious God, we thank you that in this holy meal the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return into the world you love, may we take to all people the good news of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

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 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.....ELW #290

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World*.....arr. M. Burkhardt



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, 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/Organist
Joan Kovalchik.....Flute
Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director

The Rev P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

Lector: Peter Horn

Cantor: Laurel Sanders

Altar Flowers: Sponsored by Greg & Kathy Weimer
dedicated in honor of our parents.

Bulletin: Sponsored in Greg & Kathy Weimer
dedicated to the Glory of God.

Radio: Today's *radio broadcast* on WRSC - 1390 AM & 93.3 FM
is sponsored by Helen & Dick Brenneman
dedicated to the Glory of God.



Grace Lutheran

Announcements for the Week of Sunday, December 25, 2019

A FRIENDLY GREETING TO ALL...who have joined us today to worship and praise our Lord & Savior. May this time of worship bless us to be a blessing to others. If you are a guest this morning please complete the beige contact card in the pew pocket where you are seated and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

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.

WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS FOR 55+ERS... The 55+ers are looking for volunteers to serve on their steering committee, which plans group events. Board meetings are the second Monday of each month at 9:15 in the Stinson Library at Grace. Board members do not need to be members of Grace Lutheran Church. Interested? Contact Paul or Kathryn Mackes at 238-0440 or call George or Kay Weigand at 237-0099.

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.

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 or call her at 238-8110 for more information.

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/)

PRAYER CONCERNS for December 25, 2019

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving
in war-torn countries
Susan Antle
Juliet Arnold and family upon
Dean's death
Kip Barnett, friend of
Ted & Jennifer Oyler
Barbara Braun
Sylvia Belanger, mother of
Joe Belanger
Debbie Bolthouse
Nancy Chapa
Scott Cocolin
Catherine Cutter
William Davies
Damaris Dougherty, daughter of
Bob Hampton
Mark Doyle, friend of
Paul & Sandy Larson
Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of
Rachel Wolkenhauer
Patrick Dugan, grandson of
Paul & Kathryn Mackes
Steve Ellis
Craig Evanego
The family of Norm Fisher
upon his death
Norma Flanagan, mother of
Jim Flanagan
Vicki Garvin

Bob Harris, cousin of
Leslie Wagner
Tom Horn
Dick Houtz
Chris Kohlhepp, friend of
Sally & Carl
Donna Kondash, friend of
Deana & Don Coine
Paul Larson
Phil Lucas
Aaron Lyon, nephew of
Sue & Pete Forster
Mardi McDonough
Danielle McHenry
Bob Miller, father of
Julie Miller
Margie Prothro, sister of
Ed Jenkins
Chris & Dottie Roberts
Dennis Robertson, cousin of
Karen Mrsa
Margaret Schrock, mother of
Kathy Weimer
Nancy Schuchert, mother of
Joe Schuchert
Annika Schul
Ken Shultz
William D. Snape Sr., brother
of Phyllis Favorite

Emily & Charlotte Spearly
Paul Spearly, uncle of
Sheri Rider
Jack Sylves and family and
grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
Marcile Tressler
Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen
and Dick Brenneman
Karen Tupman, cousin of
Phyllis Favorite
Fonda, mother of Phyllis
Verderame
Leslie Wagner
Brenda Walsh
Ken Walsh
Marie & Ross Weimer, parents of
Greg Weimer
Ash Woskob

Members in the hospital



Prayer is a powerful gift and tool God gives to us. 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.

No Super Wednesday activities till January 8th. Please have a joyous Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



W I S H I N G Y O U A
Merry
C H R I S T M A S

Maximize Your Giving to Grace with Employer Matching Gifts

In December, Grace Lutheran Church became an approved charity for matching gifts through Guidestar*, enabling members and donors who work for companies with a matching gifts program to choose Grace Lutheran Church (or, separately, Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten) as a recipient of potential matching funds. Matching dollars can significantly increase the value of each dollar donated to Grace, without costing the donor an extra cent. Depending on your employer's matching gift program, each \$100 donation might yield an additional \$15-\$50 dollars to help us feed the hungry, clothe the poor, educate our youth and adults, and minister to people within and outside our church.

Please inquire whether your employer has a matching gift program. If there is one in place, prayerfully consider choosing Grace Lutheran Church (or our preschool) as a recipient. If your employer requires additional information or paperwork, contact Laurel Sanders, business manager, and we will supply the information that is needed. Thank you for supporting meaningful ministry!

**According to Wikipedia, GuideStar is the world's largest source of information about nonprofit organizations. Guidestar merged with Foundation Center in 2019 and is now known as Candid. As part of its reporting on nonprofit organizations, GuideStar verifies that a recipient organization is established and that donated funds are used as intended.*



This week at Grace

This Week at Grace

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day—*Merry Christmas!*

10:00 a.m.....Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

GLPK—No School

Friday, December 27

GLPK—No School

No scheduled church activities

Saturday, December 28

No scheduled church activities