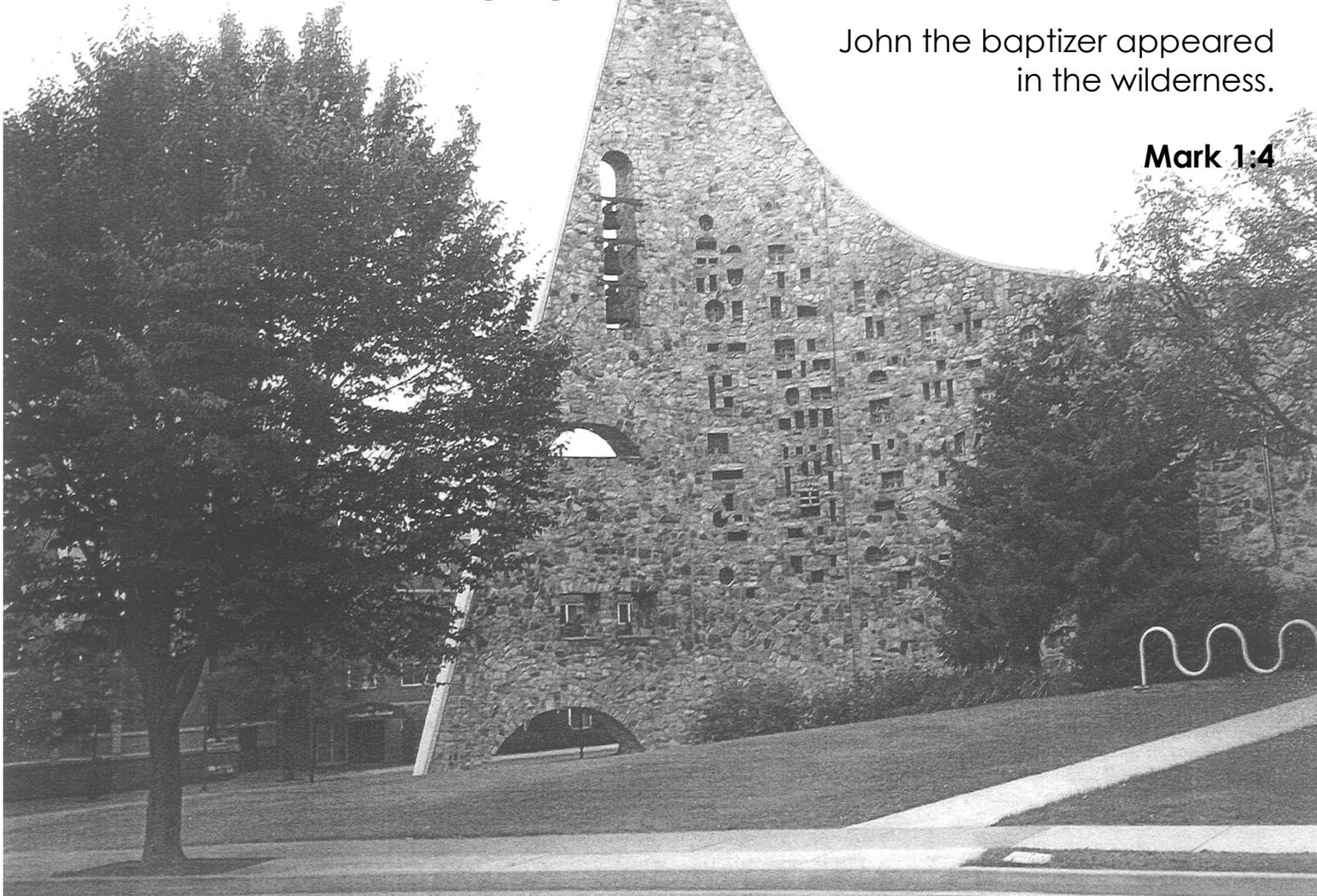


# Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

John the baptizer appeared  
in the wilderness.

**Mark 1:4**



**SUNDAY, Dec. 6, 2020**  
**2nd 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...**John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

**ABOUT THE LESSONS....** **The First Lesson:** In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God. **The Second Lesson:** This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God. **The Gospel Lesson:** The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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

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

## Follow Grace on Social Media

**Facebook:**

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

**Twitter:**

@GraceLCPA

**YouTube:**

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

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

PRELUDE

*Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen*.....arr. Richard Lloyd

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. 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.**

## 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 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*.....ELW # 254

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

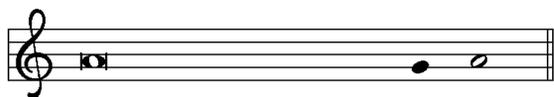
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**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.



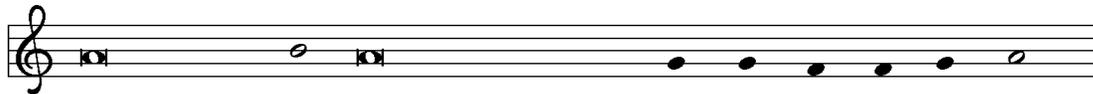
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FEED**

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

PSALM 85 Please sing responsively by selected verses



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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**P:** You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

**C:** **You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

**P:** Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**C:** **Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

**P:** The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

**C:** **Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

SECOND LESSON.....2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 1:1-8

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

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON.....Pastor Schul

HYMN OF THE DAY *There's A Voice in the Wilderness* .....ELW # 255

## There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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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

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....arr Ludwig Lenel

*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 *Prepare the Royal Highway*.....ELW # 264

## Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild*.....Georg Freidrich Kauffman



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Susan Bardo & Curtis Johnson  
Dedicated to the memory of Frank Bardo Jr.

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored  
by the Nieweg family  
Dedicated to the memory of Bill Featherman

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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## PRAYER CONCERNS for Dec. 6, 2020

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

Vicki Garvin  
Alice Griffin  
Mary Ann Hanelly and family,  
friends of Betsy Will  
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  
Brienne 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 draw us to the edges and margins of life, so that none of your beloved people are overlooked or forgotten. Use us to bring comfort, hope, and peace to your people as we, like John, prepare your way. 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.



We will offer “**Hopeful Disruptions**”: **Midweek Advent Prayer** live at 5:30 on Wednesday’ Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Join Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick for a brief time of prayer and contemplation, streaming live on Grace’s YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube>. Use this time to consider all of the ways Jesus is coming to us in life’s “hopeful disruptions”.

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



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



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



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

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

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

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



**2021 sponsorships needed for bulletins and radio broadcasts** – Help Grace bring live radio worship (Sundays at 10:30 am on WRSC) by sponsoring a radio broadcast in honor of memory of someone special or to the Glory of God. Starting in January 2021 the cost of a weekly broadcast will be \$200 per week, reflecting a modest increase in the station's prices. Bulletins can also be sponsored for a cost of \$25 per week. Currently we have Jan. 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](mailto:srider@glcpa.org) or call the church office at 238-2478.

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

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

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

**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](http://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.

## Christmas Car-oling

Join us Sunday Dec. 13th at 1:00 pm in the Grace parking lot. Itinerary will be handed out and we will begin our Car-oling Caravan to drive by the homes of homebound members. If you are interested in going please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AEF2EA4F5C52christmas1>

Any questions contact  
Pastor Hetrick.



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](http://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.

## Bell Ringing for IHS!



**Interfaith**  
Human Services

The Interfaith Human Services Wishing Well Campaign is running through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Grace Lutheran has always been a part of this event by ringing bells at Meyer Dairy. Our date is **Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Bell ringing is fun, will be outside, bundled up, masked, and no singing.

Sign-up for hours between 9am to 8pm. Children may help, but must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact Sue Forster at [fsue58521@gmail.com](mailto:fsue58521@gmail.com) to sign up for an hour of this enjoyable activity while helping to support the programs at IHS.

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

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



## Substitute Teacher Positions for 2020-2021

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



# Faith 5™



## SHARE

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



## READ

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



## TALK

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



## PRAY

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



## BLESS

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

DECEMBER 6, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God has good news for all people.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

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

#### Mealtime Prayer:

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

#### A Blessing to Give:

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



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DECEMBER 6, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

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

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:1-8.

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

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

### SERVICE

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

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

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

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

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



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