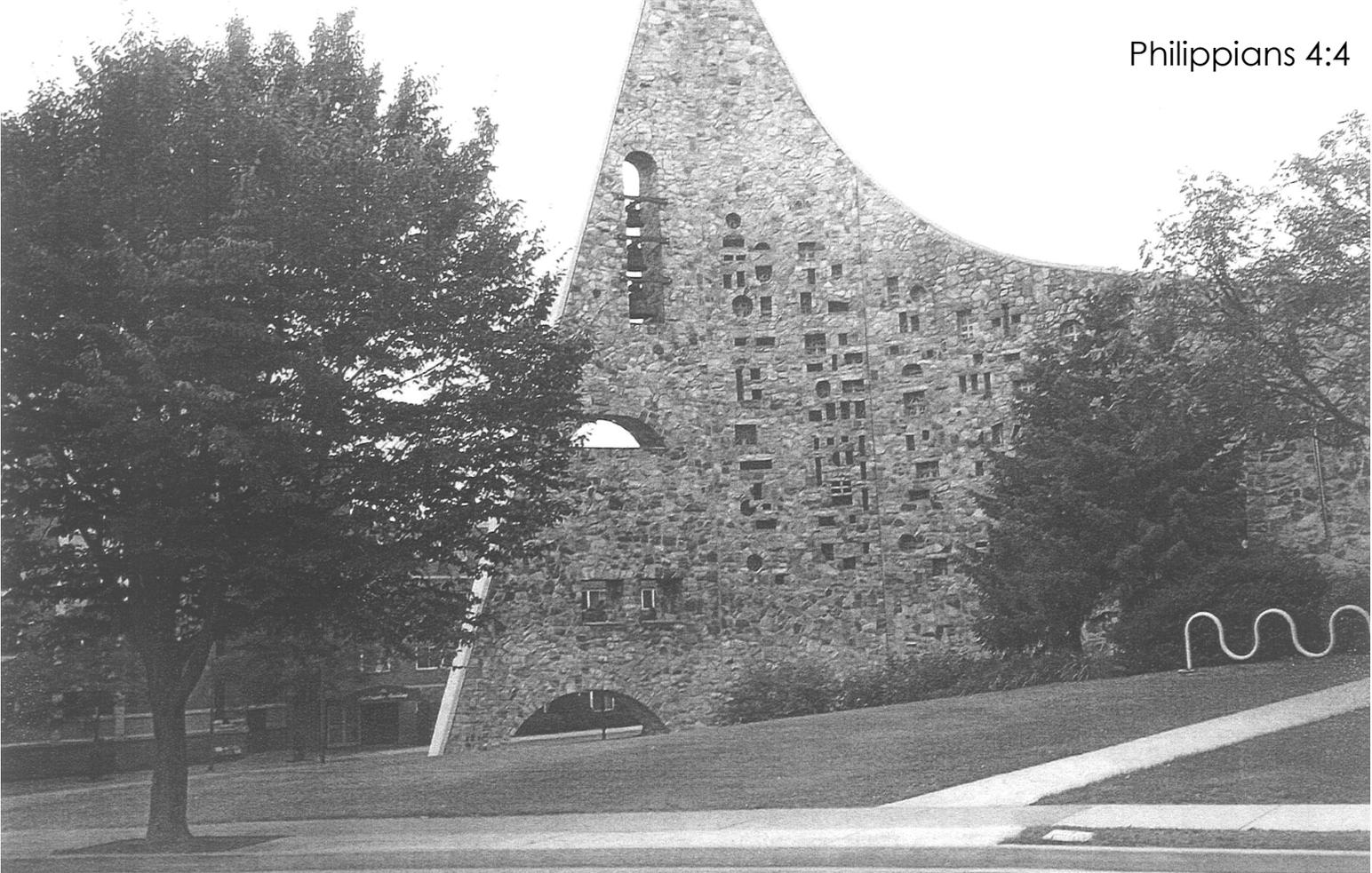


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

"Rejoice in the Lord always."

Philippians 4:4



SUNDAY, December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

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

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship service

Today's Hymns

#ELW 244

#ELW 249

#ELW 717

Distribution

#ELW 490

#ELW 247



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...The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

ABOUT THE LESSONS...**The First Lesson:** The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand. **The Second Lesson:** Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God’s joy and peace. **The Gospel Lesson:** John the Baptist heralds the mighty one “who is coming.” John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

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

↑ = Please stand as you are able
↓ = Please be seated

Follow Grace on Social Media

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege

Twitter:
[@GraceLCPA](https://twitter.com/GraceLCPA)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church - State College, Pennsylvania

PRELUDE *The King Shall Come*.....arr. C. Ore
Lo, How a Rose/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....arr. M. Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light three candles of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Congregation: Amen.

P: The Spirit and the church pray:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All who yearn for his appearance call:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All of creation cries:

C: Come Lord Jesus.

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.

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 therefore 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.

INTROIT *Creator of the Stars of Night*

(9:00) Sung by Laurel Sanders

(10:30) Sung by Sammy Hallacher

GATHER

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.....*ELW # 244

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. 138)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 worship and praise,

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

ADVENT PRAISE.....Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

**Oh, come, oh, 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to your holy word, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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) **All Earth is Hopeful: Nine Lessons and Carols**
Led and sung by Crossfire Youth Choir (see blue insert)



FEED

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

(9:00)FIRST LESSON.....Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pew Bible p. 767)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

(9:00) Psalm is from Isaiah 12 —*Please sing responsively from the selected verses.*



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

L: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

C: **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation.**

L: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
proclaim that this name | is exalted.

C: **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;
let this be known in | all the earth.**

(9:00) SECOND LESSON.....Philippians 4:4-7 (pew Bible p. 955)

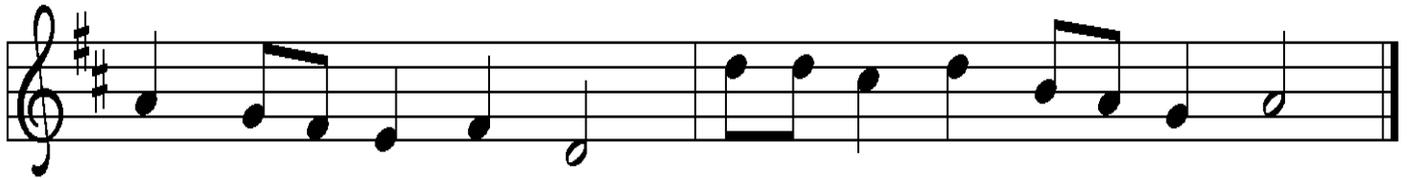
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

↑ (9:00) GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 142a)



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



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

(9:00) HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 3:7-18 (pew Bible p. 834)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter.

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

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ (spoken)



(9:00) SERMON.....Pastor Schul



(9:00) HYMN OF THE DAY *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist Cry*.....ELW # 249

APOSTLES' CREED

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:

L: 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

Aria with "Light One Candle and Watch for Messiah".....arr. Burkhardt

↑ OFFERTORY SONG.....(ELW #182)

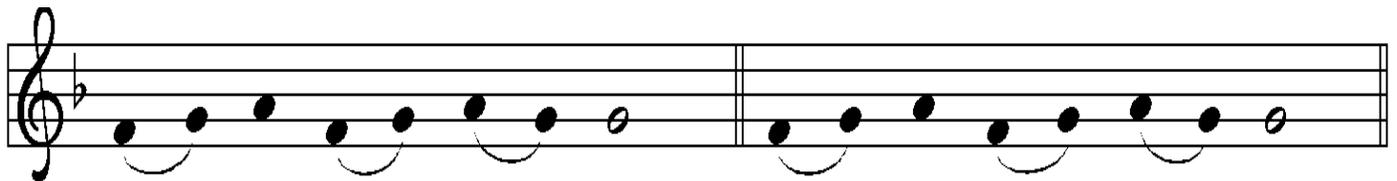
C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing, Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a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

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 144a)



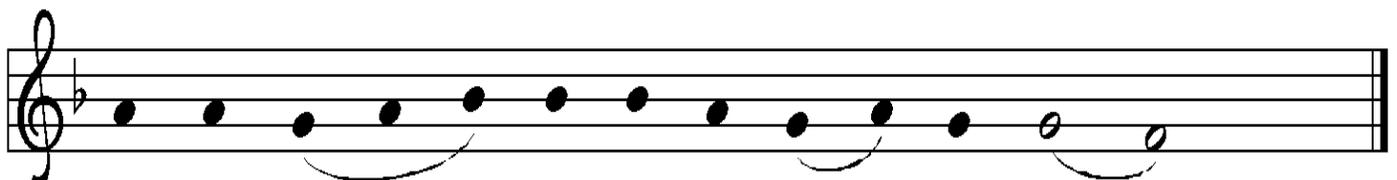
P: The Lord be with you. c: And al - so with you.



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



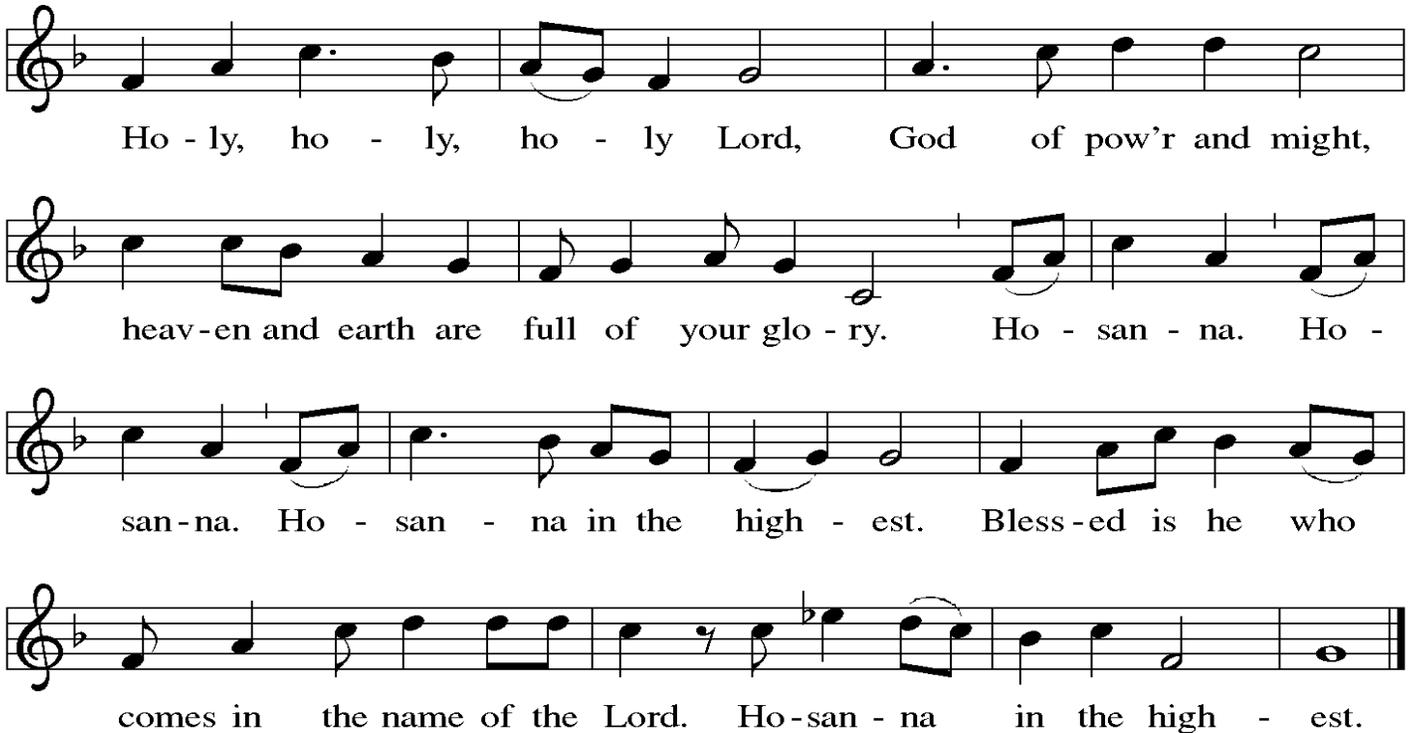
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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. 144b)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, 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.

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.

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

C: (ELW p.146)

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW #490-- *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

ELW #247 -- *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

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

↑
C: Amen.

C:

(ELW # 135)

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
 pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
 na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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 *Let Justice Flow like Streams*.....ELW # 717

A: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Lift Up Your Heads*.....arr. J. Behnke



- The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
- Cindy Fritz, & Peter Horn, Faith Formation.....faithformation@glcpa.org
- Laurel Sanders, Music & Arts Ministry Coordinator.....lsanders@glcpa.org
- Jayne Glocke.....Adult Choir Director
- Erik ClaytonOrganist
- Pat Lloyd & June Miller.....Pianists
- 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 16, 2018

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.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION FOR CENTRE SAFE....Now through December, Grace will collect donations for adults and children who receive services through Centre Safe (formerly Centre County Women's Resource Center). Centre Safe provides free professional counseling, advocacy, shelter and more for single adults and families who have experienced domestic violence, assault, etc. Needed items include regular size bed pillows, dish sets for 2-4 persons, sweats and tees in all sizes, cans of soup and pasta sauce, umbrellas, and \$10-\$25 gift cards to Weis, Giant, Wal-mart, Sheetz, or Target. Checks payable to Centre Safe are also accepted. Leave donations on the Commons area collection table. Contact Jennifer Pencek at 867-2174 or e-mail j06374@yahoo.com with questions and information about other needed items.

ACOLYTES NEEDED...We are looking to expand our roster of acolytes for all services. The commitment is typically one service per month and we work around your family schedule. It is also a great way to involve kids in the worship service. Please contact Stephanie Fozard at steph@fozards.com if interested.

LECTORS...The January sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thanks to those who have served as lectors in the past.

USHERS NEEDED... We are looking for ushers for the 3rd Sunday of each the month at the 10:30 am service. If you are interested please let Sheri in the church office know by calling 814-238-2478.

The next book for the **Garden of Readin'** is *My Jesus Year: A Rabbi's Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith* by *Benyamin Cohen*. This is the selection of Cindy Keith and she will be facilitating the discussions on Tuesday January 15 at 10:30 am in the Stinson Library and 6:00 pm in Fireside. There is no December meeting

USHERS NEEDED CHRISTMAS EVE.....Sign up sheets are at the Welcome Center if you can help usher.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....DeeAnn Wylie & Roy Evert for the Advent Wreath, Evan Sterns for getting the Christmas tree, Roy Evert, John Palmgren, Dennis Snider, Don Coine, & Bob Byers for setting up the Christmas trees, Sally Keiser-Bankert, Carl Bankert, Brian Bills, & Mirabella Bills for decoration the Christmas trees, Deb Stewart for decoration the railings and hanging wreaths.

HELP WANTED.....Meals on Wheels is looking for a Meal Coordinator. Responsible for activities that support the successful preparation, packaging, and delivery of daily meals. Work activities include: the organization and cleanliness of kitchen and other work areas, daily meal counts, Cold Meals preparation, meal supplies inventory, operation of Meal Lines, dishwashing, and assistance to the Cook. Although the position is part-time, it has the potential to become full-time. We operate Monday through Friday. Please email resume to scmealsonwheels@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Rev. Carolyn Hetrick, who Grace called on 12/2/18 to be our Associate Pastor! She expects to begin her service to Grace in mid-January.

Worship Assistants for Sunday, December 16, 2018

	8:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
Lectors	Julie Miller	Nick Downs	Nine Lessons and Carols
Greeters	Kay Weigand	Kelly Conron Louise Tarman	John & Brenda Palmgren Ellen Campbell Matthew Campbell
Acolytes		Ella McDyre Ireland McDyre	Abby Fozard Carter Fozard
Deacons	Don Widener	John Diercks Rachel Wolkenhauer	John & Brenda Palmgren
Worship Assistant	George Weigand	Rachel Wolkenhauer	
Cantor		Terry Roof	Betsy Hunter
Ushers		Carl Bankert Sally Keiser-Bankert Ken Fogleman Don Coine Greg Kewitt	Karl Hosterman David Heatwole Troy Heatwole Bill Ammerman
Radio Ministry; Sound			Richard Brenneman
Coffee Hour Hosts 10:00-10:30 a.m.			Julia Nelson
Welcoming Center Hosts		Joann McCormick	Barbara Fiscus



The *altar flowers* are sponsored by Ruth Kistler
Dedicated to the Glory of God

This morning's *bulletin* is sponsored by Susan Bardo
Dedicated in Memory of Frank L. Bardo Jr.

Today's *radio broadcast* on WRSC - 1390 AM is sponsored by Ruth Kistler
Dedicated in Honor of her grandchildren

PRAYER CONCERNS for December 16, 2018

All Military & Nat'l Guard and those serving in war-torn Countries	Dick Houtz Darlene Jenkins Ruth Kistler	Kyle Steffens college roommate of Laurel Sanders Ken Schmell
Susan Antle	Larry Kuhns	Ken Shultz
Celeste Barnes & family of Ed Jenkins	Ryan Louder Tuckey Louder	William D. Snape Sr. brother of Phyllis Favorite
Scott Cocolin	Phil Lucas	Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
Marion & Winnie Deppen	Danielle McHenry	Lisa Thomas, Sally & Carl's friend
Sherri Ebeling & family daughter of Elaine Ebeling	Jo Anne Miller Maryann Newcomb	Karen Tupman, Cousin of Phyllis Favorite
Vicki Garvin	Chuck Noel	
Cay Griel	Robert Schlegel	
Donna Pedersen Hershey niece of Gina Leon	Craig Peery Margie Prothro sister of	Members in the hospital
Sharron & Carl Hintosh	Ed Jenkins	



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.

This week the Prayer Letter will be sent to Dean Arnold.



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.*

Please pray this week for all of our homebound members, that they will know and feel the love of God and the love of their Grace family during Advent and Christmas.

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE NOW VIA OUR WEBSITE – In response to member requests and societal preferences, we now have online giving options on our website. This is envisioned as a place for members, guests and visitors to make donations for bucket collections (such as for Out of the Cold, which you can do now) or extra donations to our General Fund (for programs and outreach) or our Building Fund to pay off the wonderful additions to our property and facilities. Visit www.glcpa.org and look for the GIVE button on the upper right-hand side at the top. Set up an account with Tithe.ly (our provider, serving more than 6,000 churches worldwide with secure online gift processing), enter your credit card information (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club), and you're ready to go!

SUNDAY SCHOOL, FOR ALL AGES,



If you are new to Sunday School and would like more information, please contact Cindy Fritz or Peter Horn for more information

faithformation@glcpa.org).

Room assignments are as follows:

Ages 3 & 4: Room #201

Kindergarten: Room #200

Grades 1 & 2: Room #103

Grades 3, 4, & 5: Room #105

Middle School: Youth Room in the Miller Center

High School: Meet in the Narthex and walk to Starbucks

We are still looking for teachers to help with Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 3, 4, & 5. Please contact Cindy or Peter if you are available to help.

All are welcome to our weekly “Coffee Hour” in Harkins Hall following the 9 AM Service!

Adult Forum

Sundays 9-10 AM in Fireside Room

“Dialogues On: “The Refugee Crisis”

Text, scripture, video and discussion are central to this study.

Dec. 16: Life as a Refugee with Guest Speaker, Christy Delafield. Through her work with Mercy Corps Christy has seen first hand the living conditions experienced by refugees and will share information about refugee life and programs in place to aid displaced persons.

Please ring bells to raise money for our neighbors who need a hand up.

-Thursday, December 20th at Meyer's Dairy

Sign up in the Upper Commons on the bulletin board to the left of the men's room.



**Super Wednesday,
December 19, 2018**

**Join us for our annual Christmas
Dinner of Pork Roast with Stuffing &
Gravy, Baked Ham,
Caramelized Sweet Potatoes,
Mashed Potatoes, Deluxe
Green Beans, Fresh Fruit
Salad, Roll & Christmas
Cookies and Carols**



Christmas Dinner

7:30-9:00 pm —**Adult Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

Sunday morning sponsorships

Thank you to all who have signed up to sponsor the altar flowers, bulletins or radio broadcast. To help you and the church office keep track of your payment for the sponsorships, please take an envelope located in the niche at the sign up sheets to remind you of the date you selected and the amount due Grace Lutheran by your sponsorship date. A new procedure was implemented effective July 1, 2018 that if payment has not been received by the church office by the sponsorship date, a friendly reminder will be sent the following week to the person(s) who signed up to be a sponsor. If you feel you have received the friendly reminder in error, please by all means contact the church office (238-2478; churchoffice@glcpa.org) so we can straighten out the matter. *Thank you*

Christmas Caroling



Please join your fellow Grace members as we share the joy of Christmas by caroling at the homes of homebound members of our congregation. We will go caroling **TODAY following the 10:30 a.m. worship service**. A light lunch in Harkins Hall will be provided before the caroling begins. Then, at 12:30, a bus will take us as a group to Grace's homebound members. The sign-up sheet for this event is on the upper commons bulletin board. If you have questions about this event, please contact Lois Lynn (234-1078) or loissteve@comcast.net.



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
1 Peter 2:9

Dear Friends,

May God be with you and may you know the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in this season of Advent and as we walk toward the celebration of the Christmas season.

This is the time of year when we remember and thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ. The great and eternal Word of God became flesh save us from sin, death, and the devil. We thank God for Jesus who saves us and brings us into the eternal life of God.

At this time of year generosity, charity, and love are on our hearts. Many of you will support the ministries and organizations that help care for people in our communities and in our world. Ministries such as our partners ALSM, Camp Sequanota, and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State as we move toward the end of the year.

I write to ask you to remember a place that continually reaches out to your community, that shares the love and mercy of Jesus, and works to bring hope and comfort to this world: your congregation. Your congregation is a place where Christ Jesus has called you into community, and week after week Jesus is with you as you gather to worship and celebrate the meal that our Lord gave us.

As you enter into this time of year when you are supporting organizations and ministries that do good and worthwhile work, please remember your congregational home. Consider making an additional Advent or Christmas gift to the mission of your congregation. You could decide to increase your weekly offering \$10, \$25, or \$50 a week during Advent. Or, you could make a special Christmas gift to the congregation of \$100, \$250, or \$500. Any gift will go toward continuing the ministry and outreach of your congregation. These gifts are all about helping us to reach out together to share the love of Christ with the world around us.

May God continue to bless you in the seasons of Advent and Christmas. May you have safe travels. May you be comforted by the presence of our Lord Jesus and by those you love.

Happy Advent and may Christ’s blessings be with you,

+Bishop Michael Rhyne
Allegheny Synod, ELCA



This week at Grace

Sunday, Dec.16

- 8:00 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m.....Sunday School
- 9:00 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m.....Crossfire Rehearsal, 203
- 10:00 a.m.....Munchin Brunchkin, Miller Center
- 10:30 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- 11:45 a.m.....Christmas Caroling & Luncheon, Harkins Hall
- 4:00 p.m.....Psalm 151 Setup & Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m.....Casual Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Monday, Dec. 17

No scheduled church activities

Tuesday, Dec. 18

- 10:30 a.m.....Garden of Readin', Library
- 6:00 p.m.....Garden of Readin', Fireside

Wednesday, Dec. 19

- 5:30 p.m.....Christmas Meal & Caroling, Miller Center
- 7:30 p.m.....Adult Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, Dec. 20

Bulletin Announcements Due

- 7:00 a.m.....Women's Breakfast Prayer Group, Waffle Shop North
- 6:00 p.m.....Christmas Eve rehearsal, piano & flute, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m.....Christmas Eve rehearsal piano & choral ensemble, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m.....Christmas Eve rehearsal, choral ensemble, Sanctuary

Friday, Dec. 21

- 7:00 p.m.....Blue Christmas Service, State College Presbyterian Church

Saturday, Dec. 22

No scheduled church activities