

Welcome to  
**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A congregation of the ELCA



**December 24, 2020-2:00 pm and 3:00 pm**

**Children's Christmas Eve  
Drive-In Service**

205 S. Garner St.,  
State College, PA 16801  
**phone:** 814-238-2478  
**email:** churchoffice@glcpa.org

**Tune to 102.3 FM**



**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."

# Children's Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2020 2 & 3 pm

## MUSIC FOR CARS TO GATHER BY

*Away in a Manger*.....Maeve Flanagan and Mara Anderson-Skelly

*Lo, How a Rose*.....The Hardyk Trio

*Bell Carol*.....Anne Sullivan

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....Sammy Hallacher

*O Holy Night* .....Ethan Hardyk

## WELCOME and INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Word of God made flesh and born of Mary, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Merry Christmas! Welcome to worship!

**C: Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

P: Come! Let us adore him!

**C: Come! Let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

## PRAYER on CHRISTMAS EVE

P: We praise and thank you, God, for the gift of your Son.

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!**

P: Let your light shine in our hearts and brighten our homes.

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!**

P: Keep our eyes on you, that we may never lose sight of you.

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!**

P: Strengthen us and make our lives sparkle for you.

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!**

P: Help us to hear your Word and to trust in your promises.

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!**

P: There is room in our hearts for you, Jesus!

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus! Amen!**

HYMN *O, Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW # 283

Led by Adult Choir

1. ***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:***

Refrain: ***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE -

*A Reading from God's Word based on Luke 2:1-20...*

Pastor Schul & Pastor Hetrick

HYMN *Silent Night*

ELW # 281

Led by Adult Choir

1. ***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***
2. ***Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!***
3. ***Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.***

1. ***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"***

***Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

***Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!***

1. ***While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. Refrain***
2. ***The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain***
3. ***Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain***

## CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

P: We thank you, God, for Jesus your Son.

**C: Christ the Lord is born for us!**

P: Through baptism, we are made God's children.

**C: Christ the Lord is born for us!**

P: Let us be God's blessing to the world

**C: Christ the Lord is born for us!**

P: God has given the world His salvation

**C: Christ the Lord is born for us!**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## BLESSING

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN**    *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....ELW #279  
Led by the Choral ensemble

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!**  
**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;**  
**yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.**  
**The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
  
2. ***For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above***  
***while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring***  
***love.***  
***O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,***  
***and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!***
  
3. ***How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!***  
***So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.***  
***No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,***  
***where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters***  
***in.***
  
4. ***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!***

**P:** Come to the manger!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

*As you depart worship... So many generations have learned and loved this wonderful story. Today, in this place, we've all had the joy of reliving this most blessed event and remembering that Christ is with us. As we carry in our hearts this good news, may we be given the strength and courage for our daily living and share it with others not just today but every day!*

*Our ushers will direct you to drive by our pastors and the living nativity at the Portico.*

MUSIC FOR CARS TO DEPART

HYMN *Joy to the World*

ELW #267

Sung by an Ensemble

1. ***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing ...***
2. ***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sound-  
ing joy repeat the sounding joy ...***
3. ***No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found ...***
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 ...***

*Angels We Have Heard on High* (arr. L. Sanders)..sung by Crossfire

*Go Tell It On the Mountain* (arr. L. Sanders).....sung by Crossfire

*In dulci jubilo* (arr. Anne Sullivan).....Anne Sullivan, harp



*Bulletin Covers:* Sponsored by Sally Keiser-Bankert and Polly McWilliams  
in memory of Pete and Lois Keiser.

*Radio:* Sponsored by Greg & Kathy Weimer and dedicated in honor of  
their grandchildren Drew, Dana, Jaxson, and Emmy.

Bulletin Cover by Hadleigh Desmarais.

Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to all who contributed to this Christmas celebration: Sharon Jodon for the animals; all the musicians, all Live Nativity participants; all ushers/parking attendants; Karl Hosterman and John Palmgren, sound; Alyson Hoegg for building the manger and stable; David Wills, lighting; Sally Keiser-Bankert, Carl Bankert, Deb Stewart and Ann Burke for decorating the main entrance; Laurel Sanders Music Coordinator; Graham Sanders, audio-visual production; Grace's choirs and ensembles and Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick for their creative ways to keep bringing God's word to us.

### **Adult Choir**

Kathleen Arrington  
Susan Buda  
Ann Burke  
Deana Coine  
Rod Egan

Josh Evert  
Ethan Fasnacht  
Kevin Honz  
Matthew Kidd  
Emily Kiver

Natalie Ondrey  
Marissa Perri  
Phyllis Verderame  
Thomas Verderame  
Barb Vogler

### **Choral Ensembles**

Susan Buda  
Ryan Ditmer  
Nathan Glocke  
Angie Hardyk  
Drew Hardyk  
Ethan Hardyk

Spencer Hardyk  
Kevin Honz  
Jennifer Royse  
Graham Sanders  
Laurel Sanders  
Barb Schroeder

Ken Shafranko  
Charlie Vasey  
Phyllis Verderame  
Megan Widener  
Chris Wilhelm

### **Crossfire Youth Choir**

Mara Anderson-Skelly  
Mirabella Bills  
Sophia Bills  
Maeve Flanagan  
Sammy Hallacher  
Ethan Hardyk

Spencer Hardyk  
Lincoln Hockenberry  
Ella McDyre  
Ireland McDyre  
Allie Peters  
Joe Peters

Bella Poehner  
Emma Proctor  
Logan Proctor  
Emily Whitney

## **Instrumentalists**

Tony Buda, percussion  
Ryan Ditmer, organ  
Adam Hallacher, trumpet  
Spencer Hardy, euphonium

June Miller, organ  
Graham Sanders, synthesized bells  
Laurel Sanders, flutes  
Anne Sullivan, harp

## **Soloists**

Mara Anderson-Skelly  
Maeve Flanagan  
Nate Glocke  
Sammy Hallacher  
Ethan Hardyk

## **Other Musicians**

Jon Brockopp  
Susan Buda (cello)  
Paula Droege  
Ken Shafranko (dobro)

## **- - - ANNOUNCEMENTS - - -**

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you from Pastor Schul,  
Pastor Hetrick and all of our church staff!

**Please tune in to worship with us tomorrow, December 25<sup>th</sup> at  
10:00 a.m. and Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am on WSRC 1390  
AM and 93.3 FM**

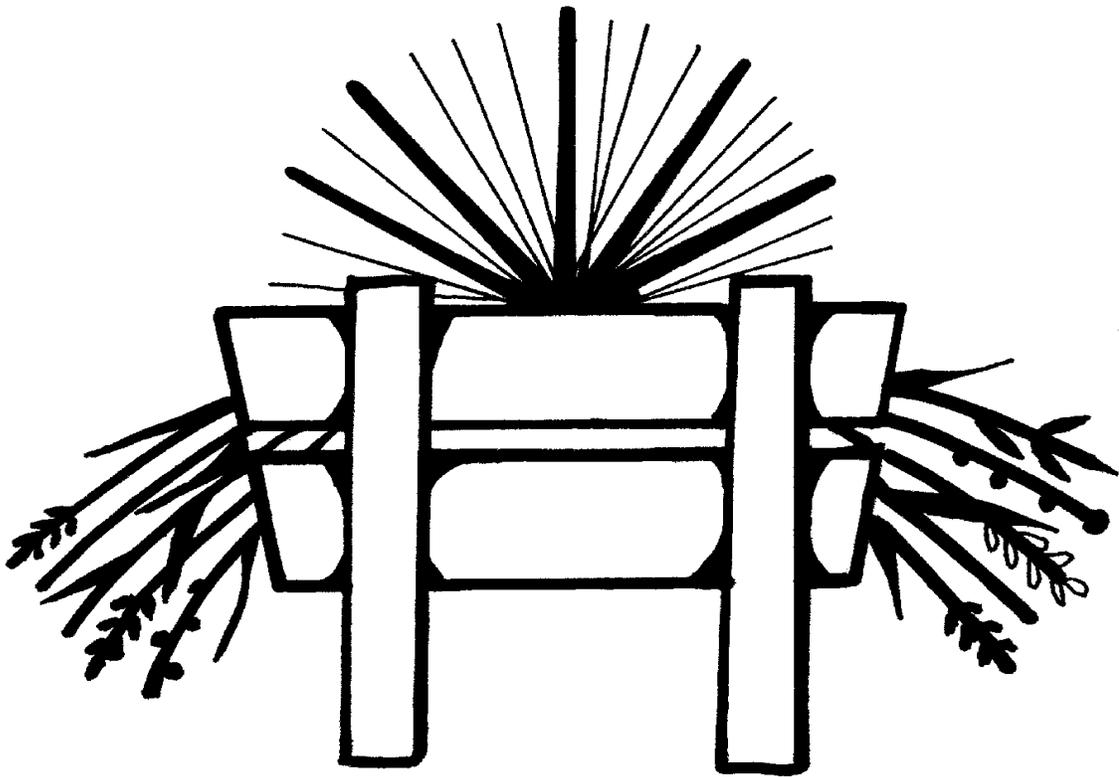
The church office will re-open on Tuesday, December 29th

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## **Additional Christmas Eve Worship Services Tonight**

**4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.** - Drive-In Old Bethlehem Christmas service with live nativity and Holy Communion.

**7:00 p.m.** - Radio service listen on WRSC 1390 AM or 93.3 FM.

**8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.**— Drive-In Old Bethlehem Christmas service with live nativity and Holy Communion

DECEMBER 24-25, 2020  
CHRISTMAS EVE,  
CHRISTMAS DAY



*Jesus is born for those in need.*

### CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
	Isaiah 9:2-7	The reign of the coming king
Friday	Psalms 96	Sing a new song
	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

*But the angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."*

Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for Christmas:**

Amazing God, for good news given to peasants, to shepherds, and to us, we give you thanks and praise through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

With this gift of food we remember you are to be praised for all you do for us through Jesus Christ, born in a manger in Bethlehem. Amen. (Psalm 96:4)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who comes to save you, bless you with joy. (Titus 2:11)



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DECEMBER 24-25, 2020  
HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS  
*Silent Night*

### CHRISTMAS 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:

- Tell or think about a time when you surprised someone.
- Tell or think about a time when someone surprised you.
- How does Jesus' birth in Bethlehem amaze you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 2:1-20.

The shepherds in the fields have a startling encounter with God, bringing them good news of Jesus' birth. In that time and place, shepherds were described as "sinners." Their work in the fields kept them from observing the Sabbath. They were unclean and seen as liars, thieves, and generally unsavory. With this social stigma, they are likely people who had themselves given up on God. More than outcasts, they had simply walked away from hope in the mercy of God. In Luke 2, God does not give up on the shepherds—or us—as God reaches out to them in the fields. God didn't wait for them to show up at the temple or the synagogue. God doesn't have to wait for us to show up at "church," either. The startling news of Jesus' birth is that it is for those who need God most. When have you felt like giving up on God? How does this birth story help you hear good news?

*Pray:* Loving God, help us to hear the good news of Jesus' birth for all the world, especially when we feel far from you; in the name of Jesus, the Savior, Messiah, and Lord, amen.

### SERVICE

There are those around us in need of seeing God's love in action. Is there a local soup kitchen or shelter where you can volunteer time or donate items this week for those in need of seeing the good news of Jesus birth in action?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make your Christmas Day into a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Use some Christmas pastries or a cake to help celebrate. Place a white candle in its center and on Christmas Day, light the candle, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, and then take time to complete this sentence:

*Say:* The birth of Jesus is special to me because \_\_\_\_\_.

Then sing some Christmas carols.



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)

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## TITUS 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered.

<sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.