



Welcome to

## Grace Lutheran Church and School

Bring in, build up, and send  
out disciples for Jesus Christ.



## Visitors

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

Read more about worship on the  
inside cover of this worship folder.

Fill out the form on the back cover  
to tell us more about you.

## Worship at Grace

The service is printed in this worship folder.

Hymns are ordinarily in the  
green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW)  
and blue *With One Voice* (WOV) hymnals.

Information is printed on the next page  
about additional resources for worship.

## Learn More

Today's insert contains announcements  
about ministries of Grace Church and School.

Learn more about Grace by visiting us  
online at [www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org).

## The Holy Communion

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

## **Welcome to Grace**

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ—to love, to grow, and to serve. Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Grace. We encourage you to fill out the perforated page on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

## **Children's Resources**

Activity bags, worship bulletins, and booster seats are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

## **Nursery Care**

The nursery is open and staffed at most worship services for children ages 4 and under. The nursery is located across from Fellowship Hall. From the atrium, go through the Lamb Door by the elevator, up half a flight of stairs and turn right. From the sanctuary, go through the door by the stone baptismal font, up the stairs and turn left. A silent paging system allows the nursery staff to contact parents when needed.

## **Holy Communion**

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the bread and wine of Communion, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to one of the pastors.

## **Assistance in Worship**

For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated. Contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you. Sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers in the back of the church and at the Division Street door.

## **Electronic Devices**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices during worship. Thank you.

## **Grace Council Statement on Racism**

Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

## **Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers are sponsored today by Joe and Julie Modrich in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary and by the Nolan family in memory of Evelyn and Pete Haase and Carol and Russ Lewis.

## **As We Gather**

We find ourselves again today with John in the wilderness, filled with crooked people walking along crooked paths. John's ministry of baptism for repentance reminds us that we are lost in so many ways. Yet today we also hear Paul, in his earliest epistle, enjoin us to rejoice always. Always? Always! We rejoice at all times not because all is well in the world, or because easy optimism will make our troubles go away. The blue of this season is both real and deep. We rejoice because we have come to know the One to whom John points, Jesus Christ. And Jesus, as Paul reminds us, is faithful. He will do what he has promised.



# ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE:** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Mark Sedio

*We stand.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**

**P** God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**G Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P** Gracious God,

**G have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**G Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

(blue) **WOV #633**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**G** And also with you.

## KYRIE



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



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



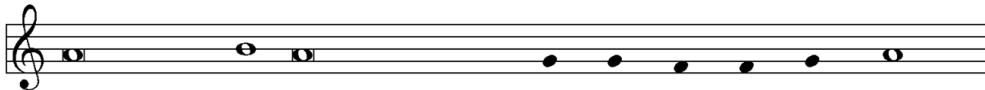
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. Ⓒ A - men

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ⓐ The Lord be with you.

Ⓒ **And also with you.**

Ⓐ Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,  
and open our ears to the words of your prophets,  
that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

Ⓒ **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## ✝ WORD ✝

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 126

ANTIPHON: The Lord has done great things for us.

Michael D. Costello

- ℣ When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,\*  
then were we like | those who dream.
- ☩ **Then was our mouth | filled with laughter,\*  
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**
- ℣ Then they said a- | mong the nations,\*  
"The Lord has done great | things for them."
- ☩ **The Lord has done great | things for us,\*  
and we are | glad indeed.**
- ℣ Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,\*  
like the watercourses | of the Negev.
- ☩ **Those who | sowed with tears\*  
will reap with | songs of joy.**
- ℣ Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,\*  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

- ℣ The Word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL VERSE:** Luke 3:4, 6

John Ferguson

*We join in singing:*

*(organ)* **G** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Choir** I am sending my messenger before you,  
who will prepare your way before you.

**G REFRAIN**

**HOLY GOSPEL:** John 1:6–8, 19–28

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**G Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water.

Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON:** Rejoice Always?

Pastor David R. Lyle

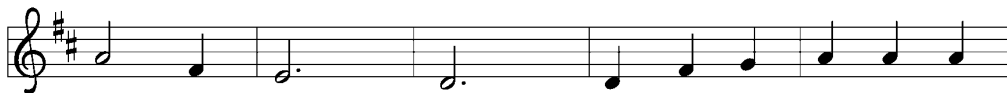
John 1:6–8, 19–28

HYMN OF THE DAY: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

(blue) **WOV #649**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

## **NICENE CREED**

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C** **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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition concludes:*

- A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**G** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**G** **Amen.**

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### PEACE OF CHRIST

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**G** **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*We sit.*

**OFFERING/VOLUNTARY:** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Michael Burkhardt

*We stand as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY VERSE:** Luke 13:29, 14:15

Richard Hillert

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
I will make a covenant of peace with them;  
it shall be an everlasting covenant with them.  
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God,  
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**G** **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—  
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.  
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

**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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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.

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Come, for all is now ready.

*We sit.*

### **AGNUS DEI**



**C** 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**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized.  
The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper,  
giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.*

*We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated bread  
and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the bread into the wine (intinction).*

*Those choosing individual cups will find non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray.  
Those with a gluten allergy may ask the pastor for a gluten-free host.*

## **MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION**

**ANTHEM:** Light Everlasting

Olaf C. Christiansen

O Light everlasting, O Love never failing,  
Illumine our darkness, and draw us to thee;  
May we from thy spirit receive inspiration  
That brethren together thy wisdom may see.  
Make known to all nations thy peace and salvation  
And help us O Father, thy temple to be.

HYMN: All Earth is Hopeful

(blue) WOV #629



*To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor*  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



*y\_el sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el*  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



*mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -*  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



*cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.*  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946  
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé  
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

*We stand.*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

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

**G Amen.**

**A** Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

**BENEDICTION**

**P** Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**G Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***(green)* **LBW #25**

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

**DISMISSAL**

- A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

Michael D. Costello

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Irmgard Swanson, assisting minister

Al Swanson, deacon

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Parish Choir, choir

Gwen Gotsch, David Simpson, lectors

Ellen Claud, Jackson Brayton, crucifer/Bible bearer

Stan Reddel, Julia Lehmann, gift bearers

Eliza Grahnke, Scott Schwar, Susan Weber,

Lance and Stephanie Wilkening, ushers

Roberta Gillespie, Marilyn Moehlenkamp, altar guild

Bill Koehne, Julia Lehmann, greeter

Eunice Eifert, Anne Claud, livestream audio/video

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## LET US PRAY...

Cathy Barker	Louis Elia	<b>Kathy Hale</b>	Dave Moeller
Miriam Bretscher	<b>Tom Ewert</b>	<b>Marlene Hallman</b>	Rob Ransom
MaryBeth Buschmann	Carol Forrest	Patricia Herendeen	Ron Rott
Larry Caponigri	David Franzone	Genevieve Jones	Marge Sanger
Dan Cattau	Susan Franzone	Phyllis Kersten	Pat Scala
Stewart Clarke	Hena Gantepalli	Joan Koerber	Jim Scherer
Yvonne Daniels	Galen Gockel	Tom Maxwell	<b>Gick Schmidt</b>
Hans Dumpys	Susan Hammon	Karen McMahan	Linda Webb

Joe Anderson ( <i>nephew of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i> )	Arnold Krubsack ( <i>brother of Irmgard Swanson</i> )
Marcia Anderson ( <i>sister-in-law of David and Gay Anderson</i> )	Kathryn Krubsack ( <i>niece of Irmgard Swanson</i> )
Mike Arvis ( <i>uncle of Grace student Luke Murphy</i> )	Marcia Kruse ( <i>mother-in-law of Carl Wahlstrom</i> )
Pat B. ( <i>friend of Pat Anderson</i> )	Alice Lindberg ( <i>sister of Carol Prinz</i> )
Fran Benson ( <i>sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat</i> )	Kozene Lofton ( <i>friend of Pat Anderson</i> )
Karen Berglund ( <i>friend of Carol Stanger</i> )	John Lunde ( <i>friend of Susan Messerli</i> )
Khadija Boudim ( <i>friend of Pat Anderson</i> )	Anita Lyle ( <i>mother of Dave Lyle</i> )
Irene Buchbinder ( <i>mother of Paul Buchbinder</i> )	Esther Martz ( <i>friend of Susie Calhoun</i> )
Jess Cosby ( <i>nephew of Marilyn and Ken Heppner</i> )	Pam Mattox ( <i>former member of Grace</i> )
Adeline Coyle ( <i>cousin of Brooke Schedler</i> )	Betty McClerren ( <i>aunt of Stephanie Wilkening</i> )
Shawn Dahlstrand ( <i>friend of many at Grace</i> )	Charles Miller ( <i>friend of Ruth Reko</i> )
Sharese Damiri ( <i>sister of Lori Martin</i> )	Sharon Mitchell ( <i>friend of Jennifer Staples</i> )
Nancy Demas ( <i>sister of Thomas Demas and Mary Demas</i> )	Dwight and Betty Nelson ( <i>parents of Annalise Nelson Balock</i> )
Charles Dietz ( <i>friend of Carol and Bill Ewald</i> )	<b>John Noris</b> ( <i>friend of Al Swanson</i> )
Stella Dillberg ( <i>mother of Gretchen Weaver</i> )	Louis Nuechterlein ( <i>nephew of Eunice Spurgat</i> )
David Eastman ( <i>brother of Pat Anderson</i> )	Louis and Gloria Nuechterlein ( <i>relatives of Eunice Spurgat</i> )
Patti and Neal Enslin ( <i>friends of Marilyn Heppner</i> )	Paul Nuechterlein ( <i>nephew of Eunice Spurgat</i> )
Nancy Epp ( <i>sister of Pat Anderson</i> )	Ryan O'Neil ( <i>friend of the Johnson family</i> )
Randy Ernst ( <i>friend of Valerie Spiller</i> )	Sharon Peridis ( <i>friend of Marilyn Heppner</i> )
Dianne Fink ( <i>sister-in-law of Olinda Fink</i> )	Elaine Pierce ( <i>friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i> )
Benjamin Galiher ( <i>nephew of Paul May</i> )	James Powers ( <i>friend of Al Swanson</i> )
Chandramma Gantepalli ( <i>mother of Hena Gantepalli</i> )	Susan Prather ( <i>cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott</i> )
Rose Geiseman ( <i>wife of Jack Geiseman, daughter-in-law of Otto Geiseman</i> )	Judy Redheffer ( <i>daughter of Virginia Walker</i> )
Jerry Haase ( <i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley and Stewart Clarke</i> )	John Riley ( <i>father of Karin Danganan</i> )
Harry Heppner ( <i>brother of Ken Heppner</i> )	Janet Rouseff ( <i>sister-in-law of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska</i> )
Cheryl Hintze ( <i>aunt of Dave Lyle</i> )	Joel Somers ( <i>friend of Susan Scherer</i> )
Herbert Hofmaier ( <i>father of Barbara Hofmaier</i> )	Leah Stanger ( <i>daughter-in-law of Carol and John Stanger</i> )
Ruth M. Hughes ( <i>mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey</i> )	Nancy Stelling ( <i>friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten</i> )
Rina Jacobius ( <i>friend of Al Swanson</i> )	Jill Sunderman ( <i>mother of Elyssa Salinas Lazarski</i> )
Judy Johnson ( <i>Grace School alum</i> )	Russ Tellio ( <i>friend of Susan and David Franzone</i> )
Maureen Jordan ( <i>friend of Al Swanson</i> )	Mary Lou Wagoner ( <i>sister-in-law of Stan Reddel</i> )
Scott Kibler ( <i>relative of April Kibler, father of John, Dan, and Olivia Kibler</i> )	Bob Weaver ( <i>husband of Gretchen</i> )
Gayle Killey ( <i>uncle of Julie Modrich</i> )	Amy Wischhusen ( <i>relative of Ann Mason</i> )
Fred Klawiter ( <i>friend of Carolyn and Larry Garber</i> )	Randi Woodworth ( <i>sister of Tammy Bretscher</i> )
	Don and Arleeta Yeske ( <i>friends of Eunice Spurgat</i> )

## Benevolence ministries

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

## In thanksgiving for

The 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of **Joe and Julie Modrich**

The 91<sup>st</sup> birthday of **Ron Rott** (12/21)

## For those who mourn

**Harvey Jacobson** (*friend of Bill and Barbara Urbrock*)

## Those serving in the armed services

Jacob Benson (*great-nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

Zachery Grosz (*great-nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

John Kibler (*son of April Kibler*)

Joshua Nelson (*son-in-law of Ted and Maja Anton*)

Miles Powell (*grandson of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

Sonny Putman (*nephew of Susan Franzone*)

Rusty Robb (*grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie*)

Matthew Shinkwin (*friend of Eunice Spurgat*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

## Those studying abroad

Lila Shea (*England*)

## Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Tim Sandvoss

Christopher Davis

Kathleen Wrobel

Joan Koerber

## Those who need encouragement

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

*Prayer requests can be made through the church office. Contact Esther Armstrong (earmstrong@graceriverforest.org) to be included in the weekly prayers. For more private prayer concerns, please contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) to be added to the confidential prayer chain.*

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## Electronic giving

*Your financial gifts support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School.*

**On Venmo** Search for Grace Lutheran Church/School or @graceriverforest.

**By text** Text a dollar amount to 833-471-1346. If you're a first-time text giver, you'll receive a link with instructions about how to complete your donation.

**Online donation** Go to GraceRiverForest.org and look for Donate on the home page menu. Or use the QR code.



# THIS WEEK AT GRACE

## TODAY, DECEMBER 17

Library Open (self service) .....	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Grace Gathers</b> (Fellowship Hall) .....	8:45 a.m.
Bible Study (Conference Room) .....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School PK-SK (Nursery) .....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School Gr 1-4 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons).....	9:00 a.m.
Faith Formation, Grades 5&6 (3/4 Shared Classroom) .....	9:00 a.m.
Confirmation (School Library) .....	9:00 a.m.
<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b> .....	10:00 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship (Atrium).....	11:15 a.m.
Teen Talk (Youth Center) .....	11:15 a.m.
Christmas Eve Rehearsal for Public School Students Grades 1-4 (Seminar Room) .....	11:15 a.m.
Christmas Eve Rehearsal for Public School Students Grades 5-8 (Seminar Room) .....	12:00 p.m.
Christmas Caroling at Sheridan (Offsite) .....	1:00 p.m.
Chicago Choral Artists Concert (Sanctuary).....	3:00 p.m.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Evangelism Committee (Offsite).....	7:00 p.m.
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## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Knitting Group (Church Library) .....	1:00 p.m.
Church Council (Conference Room).....	7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

<b>School Chapel – Morning Prayer</b> .....	8:25 a.m.
Cornerstones (Church Library) .....	10:00 a.m.
<b>Advent Morning Prayer</b> .....	11:30 a.m.
Advent Supper (Fellowship Hall) .....	6:00 p.m.
<b>Advent Evening Prayer</b> .....	7:00 p.m.
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room).....	7:45 p.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

GriefShare (Church Library).....	9:00 a.m.
<b>Longest Night Worship Service</b> .....	7:00 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Building closes at noon

# Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- I am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail,  
*Sunday Is Coming.*
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me  
via (check one)  Phone or  E-mail.

**David R. Lyle**, Senior Pastor  
**Troy E. Medlin**, Associate Pastor  
**F. Dean Lueking**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Michael D. Costello**, Cantor  
**William Koehne**, Principal  
**Joanna Schubkegel**, Parish Nurse  
**Brendha Adams**, Communications Coordinator  
**Julie Modrich**, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
**Julie Hinz**, Discipleship and Fellowship Coordinator  
**Jim McClanahan**, Director of Administration & Finance  
**David Pfeiffer**, Facilities Manager  
**José Meza**, Technology Manager

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL**

7300 Division Street  
River Forest, Illinois 60305  
Phone: (708) 366-6900  
Fax: (708) 366-0966  
[www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org)  
[gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org)

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ.