



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 LBW and  
blue 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 [graceriverforest.org](http://graceriverforest.org).

### The Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025

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**

Today's flowers are sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and School in loving memory of Peter Armstrong.

## **As We Gather**

Tonight is the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Perhaps tonight's long darkness underscores fears and anxieties, memories of being children who were afraid of the dark. Darkness, however, is also where we encounter the surprising mystery of God's grace. Darkness is the time for dreams. Joseph is visited four times by an angel in the first two chapters of Matthew. These dreams open up Joseph to the surprising new thing that God is doing. Left to his own devices, Joseph would have followed this world's ways. Angelic dreams in the darkness open him up to new possibilities; to Emmanuel, born in the darkness. God continues to move in the darkness, calling all people to dream God's dream. Jesus comes to save us from our sin. May we, like Joseph, welcome the dream and follow where God call us.



## ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE:** Savior of the Nations, Come

Kathleen Wissinger

*We stand.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C 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.

**C Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P** Gracious God,

**C 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.

**C Amen.**

*We face the cross in procession.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel

*(green)* **LBW #34**



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **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-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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



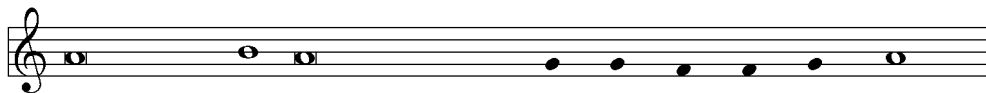
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.



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

**G** A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might,

free us from the sin that hinders our faith,

that eagerly we may receive your promises,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10–16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**



ANTIPHON: Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.

- ℣ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;\*

shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- ☩ **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,\***

**stir up your strength and | come to help us.**
- ℣ Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
- ☩ **O Lord | God of hosts,\***

**how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?**
- ℣ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;\*

you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- ☩ **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,\***

**and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
- ℣ Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
- ☩ **Let your hand be upon the man of | your right hand,\***

**the son of man you have made so strong | for yourself.**
- ℣ And so will we never turn a- | way from you;\*

give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- ☩ **Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;\***

**show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 1:1–7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*



Alleluia. A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
And his name shall be called Emmanuel. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 1:18–25

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON:** Dreams in the Darkness

Pastor David R. Lyle  
Matthew 1:18–25

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Savior of the Nations, Come

*(green)* **LBW #28**

*Stanzas three and six are sung by the choir.*



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show the glo - ry of the Son!  
2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, but from God's own mys - tic breath,  
**Choir** 3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!  
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; praise the per - fect Son of God.  
fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun when God breathed the Word, his Son.  
Might-y God and man in one, ca - ger now his race to run!  
down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;  
trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;  
riding out, returning home  
as the Savior who has come.

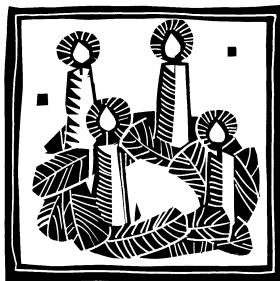
**Choir** 6 God the Father's precious Son  
girds himself in flesh to run  
for the trophies of our souls,  
longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,  
breathing vict'ry with your light;  
darkness cannot hide your flame,  
shining bright as Jesus' name.

Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340–397; tr. composite

Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

Text sts. 3–4 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House



## 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.**

*We stand.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition concludes:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **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.

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### PEACE OF CHRIST

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

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

### OFFERING/ANTHEM: Gabriel's Message

Arranged by K. Lee Scott

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel,  
by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world  
will ever say—  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Basque carol, para. S. Baring-Gould 1834–1924

*We stand as the gifts are presented.*

### OFFERTORY VERSE: Zephaniah 3:14, 17

Richard Hillert

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst; he will renew you with his love;  
He will exult over you with loud singing, as on a festival day.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

☞ Let us pray. Merciful Father,

☞ **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/VOLUNTARY:** Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel      arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

**HYMN:** Creator of the Stars of Night

**ELW #245**



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.  
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV  
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





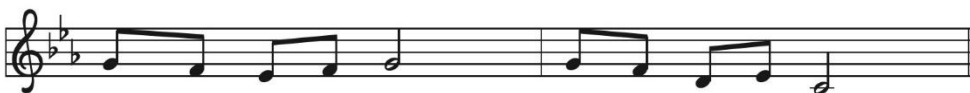
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.  
 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.  
 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.  
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.  
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.  
 Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.  
 Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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*We stand.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

**C 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.

**C Amen.**

# ✠ SENDING ✠

## BENEDICTION

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

☒ Amen.

## SENDING HYMN: Joy to the World

(green) LBW #39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Irmgard Swanson, assisting minister

Lori Martin, deacon

Grace Parish Choir, choir

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Bell Choir

Lisa Wolfanger, conductor

Kathryn Jandeska, Julie Modrich, lectors

Anders Lyle, Avery Tan, crucifer/Book bearer

Al Swanson, Tom Thomas, gift bearers

Martin Becker, Dan Lehmann, Julie Lehmann, Mary Rasmusson, Alex Tan, ushers

Kristen Frisz, Linda Street, altar guild

James Claud, Scott Street, greeters

George Hogenson, Michael Starrick, livestream audio/video

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## LET US PRAY...

Jill Baumgaertner  
Ann Bresnen  
Miriam Bretscher  
MaryBeth Buschmann  
Larry Caponigri  
Dan Cattau  
Yvonne Daniels  
Louis Elia

Susan Franzone  
Susan Hammon  
Bob Hale  
Phyllis Kersten  
Karen Kress  
Mary Beth Logas  
Mark Lucht  
Joe Modrich

Katarina Modrich  
Mike Rollheiser  
Steve Roskam  
Ron Rott  
Marge Sanger  
Harrison Schedler  
Gick Schmidt  
Linda Schwab

Bonnie Shaner  
Rhea Sprecher  
Madison Staples  
Virginia Walker  
Linda Webb

Coletta and Ty Ali (*friends of Pat Anderson*)  
Mary Baker (*friend of Karen Eckstein*)  
Bill Batte (*friends of Deb and Tom Maxwell*)  
Fran Benson (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)  
Jack Berg (*friend of Art Gustafson*)  
Karen Berglund (*friend of Carol Stanger*)  
Stan Birnbaum (*friend of Sandy and David Lentz*)  
Khadija Boudim (*friend of Pat Anderson*)  
Russ Bradley (*son-in-law of Robert and Bonnie Shaner*)  
Lois Cornils (*friend of many at Grace*)  
James Crawford (*nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)  
Laurel Marie D. (*neighbor of Pat Anderson*)  
David De Jong (*brother-in-law of Mary Beth Logas*)  
Patti Enslin (*friend of Marilyn Heppner*)  
Randy Ernst (*friend of Valerie Spiller*)  
Carolyn Eysol (*mother of Jade Augustine*)  
Julia Friend (*friend of Susan Franzone*)  
Dan Gaspar (*brother of Susan Hickey*)  
Tammi Gaspar (*sister of Susan Hickey*)  
**Barbara Gehring** (*mother of Stephanie Wilkening*)  
Linda Allen Gotsch (*friend of Roberta Gillespie*)  
Peter H. (*friend of Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim*)  
Erma Jean Haas (*grandmother of Hannah Langhoff*)  
Elizabeth Hammon (*daughter-in-law of Susan Hammon*)  
Joe Hammon (*husband of Susan Hammon*)  
Tim Haylett (*relative of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)  
Sara Heiserman (*relative of Carol Prinz*)  
Charlene Helmer (*sister of Carol Stanger*)  
Harry Heppner (*brother-in-law of Marilyn Heppner*)  
Jose Hernandez (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)  
Ruth M. Hughes (*mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey*)  
Maureen Jordan (*friend of Al Swanson*)  
Paula Kersten (*niece of Phyllis Kersten*)  
**Carole Kinsland** (*friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)  
Garrett Klein (*friend of Janet Sylvester*)  
Elizabeth Kottle (*friend of Bonnie and Bob Shaner*)

Arnold Krubsack (*brother of Irmgard Swanson*)  
Kathryn Krubsack (*niece of Irmgard Swanson*)  
Diane Larsen (*friend of Al Swanson*)  
Bill Lowry (*friend of Bonnie and Bob Shaner*)  
Sarah Marohl (*friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner and Art Gustafson*)  
Lauren Marshall (*friend of Carol Ewald*)  
Drake Martinez (*student of Deb Maxwell*)  
John McGinness (*cousin of Cathy Schnittker*)  
Connie Melvin (*cousin of Stephanie Wilkening*)  
Linda Muraski (*relative of John and Carol Stanger*)  
Monika Nash (*daughter of Verna Offermann*)  
Dwight and Betty Nelson (*parents of Annalise Nelson Balock*)  
Karen Nelson (*niece of Eunice Spurgat*)  
Carolyn Newberg (*sister of Kathryn Jandeska*)  
Gloria Nuechterlein (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)  
Martin Ottomanelli (*friend of Deb and Tom Maxwell*)  
James Powers (*friend of Al Swanson*)  
Susan Prather (*cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott*)  
Diane Raschal (*cousin of Jennifer Staples*)  
Leona Riley (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)  
Sue Sommerfeld (*relative of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)  
Stacy and Mark (*friends of Case and Pat Hoogendoorn*)  
Nancy Stelling (*friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten*)  
Randy Stueve (*friend of Lance Wilkening*)  
Jennifer Sylvester (*daughter of Janet Sylvester*)  
Eleanor Teglia (*granddaughter Art Gustafson*)  
Chris Thannum (*cousin of Chrissy Nelson*)  
Gaylord Thomas (*friend of Ruth and Karl Reko*)  
Al Toepfer (*friend of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)  
Mary Lou Wagoner (*sister-in-law of Stan Reddel*)  
Bob Weaver (*husband of Gretchen Weaver*)  
Linda West (*relative of John and Carol Stanger*)  
Dave Wick (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)  
Michael Wilson (*friend of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)  
Tara Zinger (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)

## Benevolence ministries

Serving People with a Mission

### For those who mourn

**Chuck Cozette** (*friend of many at Grace*)

**Bill Nicholas** (*friend of many at Grace*)

### Those serving in the armed services

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Josh Espinosa (*cousin of Jenny Luebbe*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

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

Zachary Larsen (*grandson of Karen and Richard McMahon*)

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*)

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

### Those studying abroad

Hannah Schubkegel (*Sweden*)

Isabella Staples (*The Netherlands*)

### Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Bruce Cordes

Christopher Davis

David Franzone

Patricia Herendeen

Joan Koerber

Karen McMahon

Susan Messerli

Dave Moeller

Carol Prinz

Tim Sandvoss

Kathleen Wrobel

### 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 21

Library Open (self-service) ..... **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
Sunday School, PK-SK (Nursery) ..... **9:00 a.m.**  
Sunday School, Grades 1-6 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons) ..... **9:00 a.m.**  
Confirmation, Grades 7-8 (Youth Center) ..... **9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship – Holy Communion** ..... **10:00 a.m.**  
Consonance Concert (Sanctuary) ..... **3:00 p.m.**  
**Longest Night Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ..... **7:00 p.m.**

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Board of Spiritual Life (Conference Room)..... **7:00 p.m.**

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Building closed until 3:00 p.m.  
**Children’s Christmas Eve Service** ..... **4:15 and 6:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Worship – Holy Communion** ..... **8:00 p.m.**  
Pre-service music ..... **10:30 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Worship – Holy Communion** ..... **10:45 p.m.**

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

**Worship – Holy Communion** ..... **10:00 a.m.**  
Building closed following worship

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Building closed



# 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. If you prefer a digital form, you can scan the QR code instead.



**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.
- ☐ I would like one of the pastors to contact me  
via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail

**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.

**David R. Lyle**, Senior Pastor  
**Troy E. Medlin**, Associate Pastor  
**F. Dean Lueking**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Michael D. Costello**, Cantor  
**Taylor-Imani Gates**, Principal  
**Julie Modrich**, Ministry Engagement Manager  
**Amanda Smith**, Communications Manager  
**Jim McClanahan**, Director of Administration & Finance  
**David Pfeiffer**, Facilities Manager  
**José Meza**, Technology Manager