



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.

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.



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.

The Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

11:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.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 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.

† GATHERING †

PSALM 51

Antiphon by John Folkening

We join in singing the following Antiphon before and after the Psalm.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

The Psalm, printed on the next page, is chanted responsively.

¶ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;*
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

¶ **Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,*
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

¶ For I know | my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

¶ **Against you only | have I sinned***
and done what is evil | in your sight.

¶ And so you are justified | when you speak*
and upright | in your judgment.

¶ **Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,*
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

¶ For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,*
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

¶ **Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;***
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.

¶ Make me hear of | joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

¶ **Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

¶ Create in me a clean | heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¶ **Cast me not away | from your presence,*
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.**

¶ Give me the joy of your saving | help again*
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

¶ **I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,*
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

¶ Deliver me from | death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

¶ **Open my | lips, O Lord,*
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

¶ Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,*
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

The Antiphon, printed on the previous page, is repeated.

We stand.

EXHORTATION AND CONFESSION

The minister exhorts the congregation, then silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most holy and merciful Father:

C **We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those
more fortunate than ourselves,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.
For our blindness to human need and suffering,

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

- ¶ For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
- ¶ **accept our repentance, Lord.**
- ¶ For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
- ¶ **accept our repentance, Lord.**
- ¶ Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
- ¶ **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**
- ¶ Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

¶ **Amen.**

We sit.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All who wish to receive the imposition of ashes are invited to come forward. The following words are spoken during the imposition: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

At the evening service the Litany is sung.

(7:00 p.m.) LITANY: page 168 in the front of the green Lutheran Book of Worship.

After all who desire ashes have received them, we stand for the conclusion of the confession.

- ¶ Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- ¶ **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**
- ¶ By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,
- ¶ **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**
- ¶ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

¶ **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God,
you hate nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and honest hearts,
so that, truly repenting of our sins,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,

and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,

'Where is their God?'

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

□ The Word of the Lord.

□ **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Joel 2:13

Setting by Michael D. Costello

Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor David R. Lyle

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Out of the Depths I Cry to You

(green) **LBW #295**

Stanza two is sung by higher (treble) voices.

Stanza three is sung by lower (baritone) voices.



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Father,
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our
3 It is in God that we shall hope, and not in
4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord as one who



hear me call - ing. In - cline your ear to my dis - tress
lives with fa - vor. All our good works are done in vain
our own mer - it. We rest our fears in his good Word
longs for morn - ing; no watch - er waits with great - er hope



in spite of my re - bel - ling. Do not re - gard
with - out our Lord and Sav - ior. We praise the God
and trust his Ho - ly Spir - it. His prom - ise keeps
than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as Is -



my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace my spir -
who gives us faith and saves us from the grip
us strong and sure; we trust the ho - ly sig -
rael in the Lord; he sends the re - demp - tion through



it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
of death; our lives are in his keep - ing.
na - ture in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

APOSTLES' CREED

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

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

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.

We sit.

(7:00 p.m.) **OFFERING/ANTHEM:** Treasures in Heaven

Joseph W. Clokey

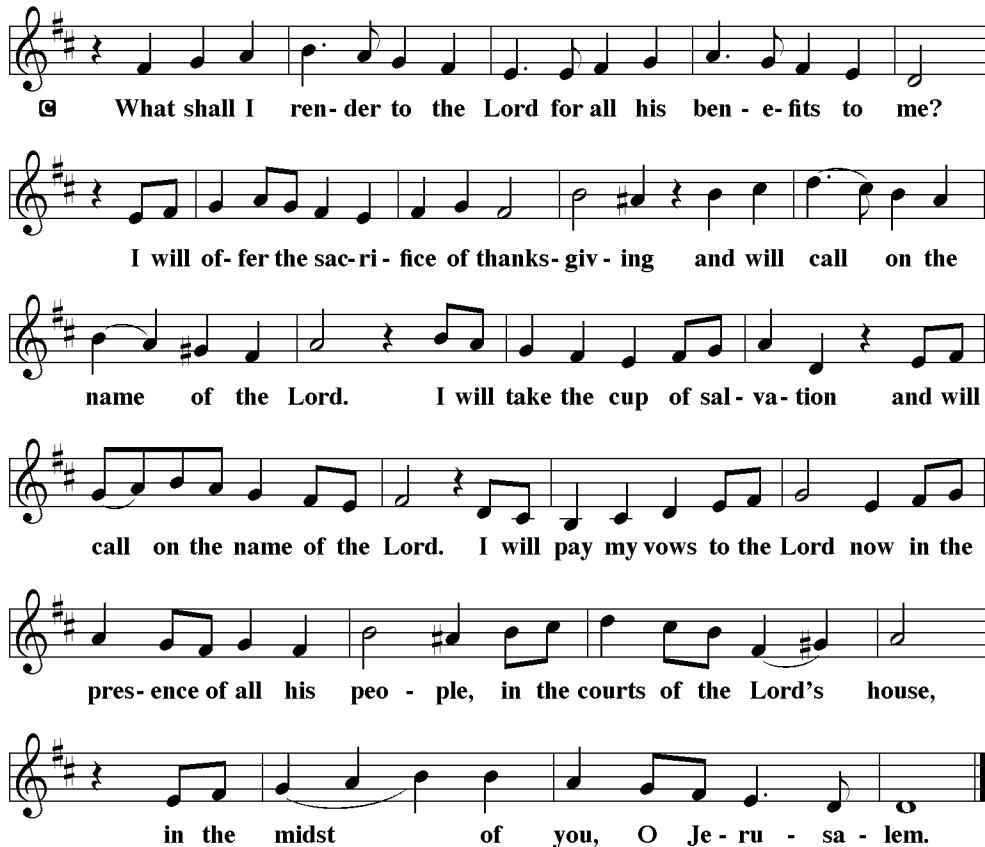
Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through and steal,
but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you,
for everyone that asketh receiveth,
and they that seeketh findeth,
and to those that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 6:19–21; 7:7–8

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY CANTICLE: What Shall I Render to the Lord



What shall I ren- der to the Lord for all his ben - e-fits to me?

I will of- fer the sac-ri- fice of thanks- giv - ing and will call on the

name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

pres- ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C 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, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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:

C Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

C Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

C in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth,
for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us
through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary
and rose again to make us living branches,
drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the 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.

Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power,
to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord
who comes to us in his body and blood.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.

C **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.

¶ The gifts of God for the people of God.

¶ **Thanks be to God.**

¶ Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -
est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us!
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace! A - men

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 communing by intinction should indicate to the pastor that they prefer a wafer.*

*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

(7:00 p.m.) **ANTHEM:** Just as I Am, without One Plea

William B. Bradbury
arr. Paul D. Weber

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

HYMN: Savior, When in Dust to You

(green) **LBW #91**

HYMN: Be Thou My Vision

(blue) **WOW #776**

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.

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with the bread of heaven,
the body and blood of your Son.

In your mercy, sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage,
that faith in you might be revealed in acts of fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

† SENDING †

BENEDICTION

¶ Almighty God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
¶ **Amen.**

Following the dismissal we depart in silence.

DISMISSAL

¶ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
¶ **Thanks be to God.**

LEADING WORSHIP

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Parish Choir (7:00)

The Rev. Karl Reko, assisting minister (7:00)

Jo-Ellyn Dorsey Swanson, deacon (7:00)

Mary Margaret Bartley and Ruth Nelson, lectors (7:00)

Beth Reynolds and Susan Scherer, gift bearers (7:00)

Roberta Gillespie, preparing the altar

Mike Gillespie and Paul Koester, ushers (7:00)

Tom Swanson and Eunice Eifert, audio/video (7:00)

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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.**

GRACE
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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, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Amanda Smith, Communications Coordinator

Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance

David Pfeiffer, Facilities Manager

José Meza, Technology Manager