



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
303 N. Green Bay Rd    Thiensville, WI 53092  
Phone: 262-242-1174    [www.grace53092.org](http://www.grace53092.org)

**Worship services:** *Sundays at 9am,  
Tuesdays at 12:10pm*



## CHURCH STAFF

Bill Beyer – Pastor (C: 262-674-4714)	Brian Dearing - Organist/Music Director	Online Giving
Sandy Luetngen - Administrative Asst.	Shonda Schaff - Nursery Attendant	
Fred Lynk - Custodian	Sunday School Coordinator - Kathryn Koppa	

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**Our Mission:** "Reaching out to all people as Disciples of Christ, we serve God, proclaim our faith, and care for all creation."

**Vision Statement:** At Grace, we strive to Guide and nurture all individuals to be Resilient, Accepting Children of God rooted in the Enrichment of God's word.

**Welcome to Worship:** We encourage visitors to talk with our pastor following worship! Know that you are always welcome to join us for worship! If you are interested in becoming a member at any time, please contact the pastor.

**Communion Instruction:** Jesus Christ, present in this Meal of bread and wine, invites every person to share in Holy Communion, especially children. Ushers will direct you to the front, where you will come forward in an orderly fashion, receive a piece of bread, and then select either the red wine or the white grape juice and return to your seat. ***Gluten-free wafers are also available; talk to the pastor if you require gluten-free.*** If you would prefer not to commune today, you are welcome to come forward with your hands crossed to receive a blessing instead. If you would like your children to receive communion instruction prior to sharing in this Meal, please talk with the pastor before or after worship.

**Offering:** Offerings are not taken during worship. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary and one near the front for you to drop an offering when you come up for communion. You may also scan the QR code on this page to give online.

**Hearing Assistance Available:** This facility is equipped with a hearing-assistance system. Please see an usher for assistance.

**Nursery Available:** We love to have children in worship with us. For those that play quietly there is a space for them to play with quiet toys in worship (the Pray-ground). A separate staffed nursery is provided for healthy children that are more active and like to be a bit louder.

♦ = The congregation is invited to stand)

**PRELUDE** (Piano) from Carolyn M. Taylor (arr.), *Classical Carols* (1992)

1. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (in the setting of J. S. Bach's *Two-part Invention No. 14, in B flat*)
2. O Little Town of Bethlehem (in the setting of M. Clementi's *Sonatina, op. 36, no. 1*)
3. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (in the setting of G. F. Handel's *Largo*)
4. O Come, All Ye Faithful (in the setting of Ludwig van Beethoven's "*Pathétique*" *Sonata*)

## WELCOME

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP** (Chancel Choir) Lani Smith (1934-2015), "Christ the Lord Is Born" (1975)

Vs. 1 Over Bethlehem's plains angels wing their flight,  
Bringing joyful tidings to earth tonight;  
Now with radiant hope all the world is bright,  
Christ the Lord is born, Christ the Lord is born!

Chorus Christ the Lord is born, Hear the angels sing!  
Christ the Lord is born, How the echoes ring!  
Open up your heart to the news they bring,  
Christ the Lord is born, Christ the Lord is born,  
Christ the Lord is born!

Bridge He has come as a babe in our human dress,  
Come to share our woes and our wrongs redress;  
He has come to cleanse all our sinfulness,  
Christ the Lord is born, Christ the Lord is born,  
Christ the Lord is born, Christ the Lord is born.

Vs. 2 He has come from the throne in the glory land,  
Laid aside his crown as the Father planned;  
Now he dwells on earth as the Son of Man,  
Christ the Lord is born, Christ the Lord is born!

## ♦ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Please stand*)

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

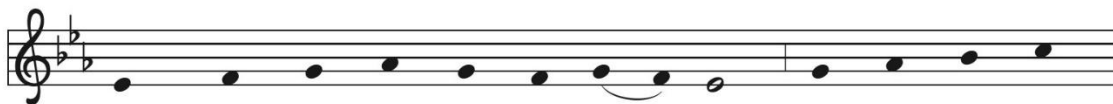
P: Let us confess our sin....Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God...and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG *In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness*

(ACS 1093)



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the  
2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,  
3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your  
4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it  
firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.  
match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,  
A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,  
Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,  
Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,  
Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,



in your mer - cy, you em - braced us  
sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and  
Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we  
lead us home - ward, to the love - feast



as your own,  
breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
glimpse your face,  
of the Lamb,

## ◆ GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord... be with you all. C: And also with you.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE VS. 1-2 *Jesus, the Light of the World*

(ACS 914)



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

## ◆ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*Silence is kept for reflection*) Almighty God....one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” <sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

L: Word of God. Word of Life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM Psalm 147:12-20



Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem;    praise your God, O    Zi-on.

L: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

**C: who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

L: God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**C: God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly. R**

L: God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

**C: God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

L: The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**C: God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

L: The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments.

# Hallelujah! R

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**L:** Word of God. Word of Life. **C:** Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

♦ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Go Tell It on the Mountain (Vs. 3 only)*

(ELW 290)

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

♦ **GOSPEL** **John 1:1-18**

P: The holy gospel, according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*The gospel is announced*)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> 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>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses;

grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

## SERMON

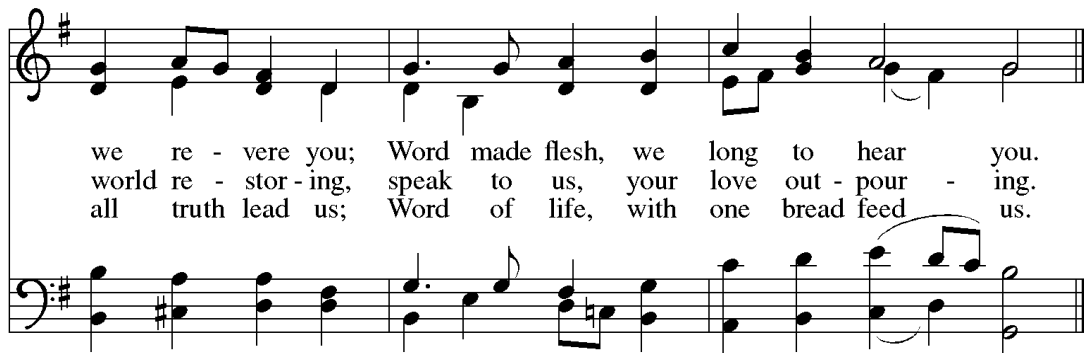
### ♦ HYMN OF THE DAY *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

(ELW 510)

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: .... God of mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts....through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

## ♦ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (*Please stand*)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty...join their unending hymn:

***O Come, All Ye Faithful (Vs.1-2 only)***

**(ELW 283)**

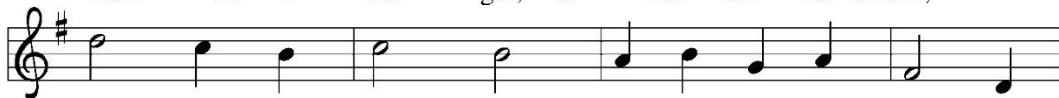


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O

2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;

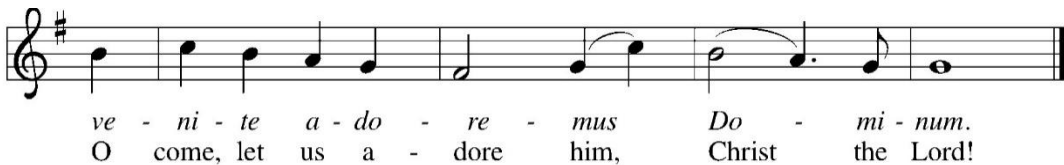


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



P: Holy one.... mystery of faith: **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread...for his coming. **C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God,...peace on earth. **C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

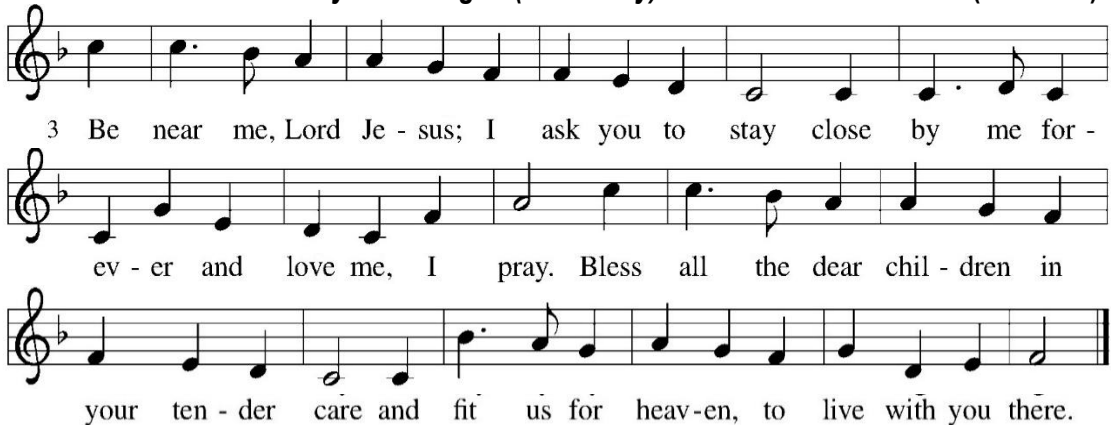
P: All praise and glory...now and forever. **C: Amen.**

# ◆ THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Please stand*)

**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.**

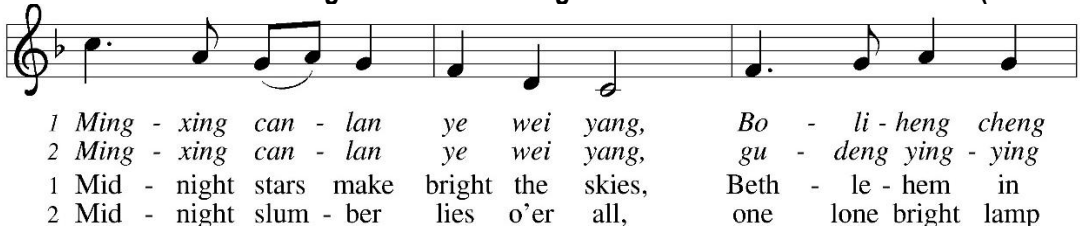
## COMMUNION SONG *Away in a Manger (Vs. 3 Only)*

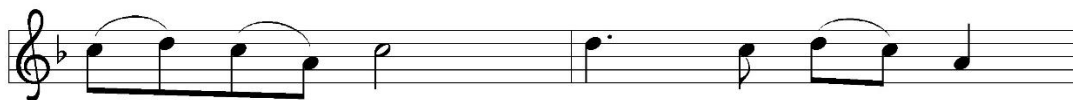
(ELW 277)



## COMMUNION SONG *Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies*

(ELW 280)





zai shui - xiang; ye - wai mu - ren  
zhao ke - chuang; qu lai jiu - bu  
slum - ber lies: glis - t'ning heav'n sends  
lights the stall. Choose old cloth - ing,



jian yi - xiang, tian - shang jiao - ran fa da - guang;  
zuo qiang-pao, ma - cao quan dang yu - er - chuang;  
forth a great light, shep - herds see a won - drous sight!  
wrap him warm - ly, man - ger shall his cra - dle be.



tian - shi lie - dui tong ge - chang, mu - ren jian zhi xian jing - huang;  
wei yu jiu - shi zheng xian - ni, dao cheng ren - shen zhen - li zhang;  
An - gel ranks in cho - rus sing. Silk - en sounds from heav - en ring.  
Born to save us from our sin, Word made flesh, our lives to win,



hu - wen lun - yin ban jiu - xiao, xuan - yan Sheng - zi jiang xia - fang;  
cai li di - zuo lin xia - jie, ren - shih jian - xin yi bei - chang.  
Fright - ened shep - herds hear them say: "Christ is born on earth to - day!"  
came to earth from heav - en's throne, mor - tals' sin to bear a - lone.

*Refrain*



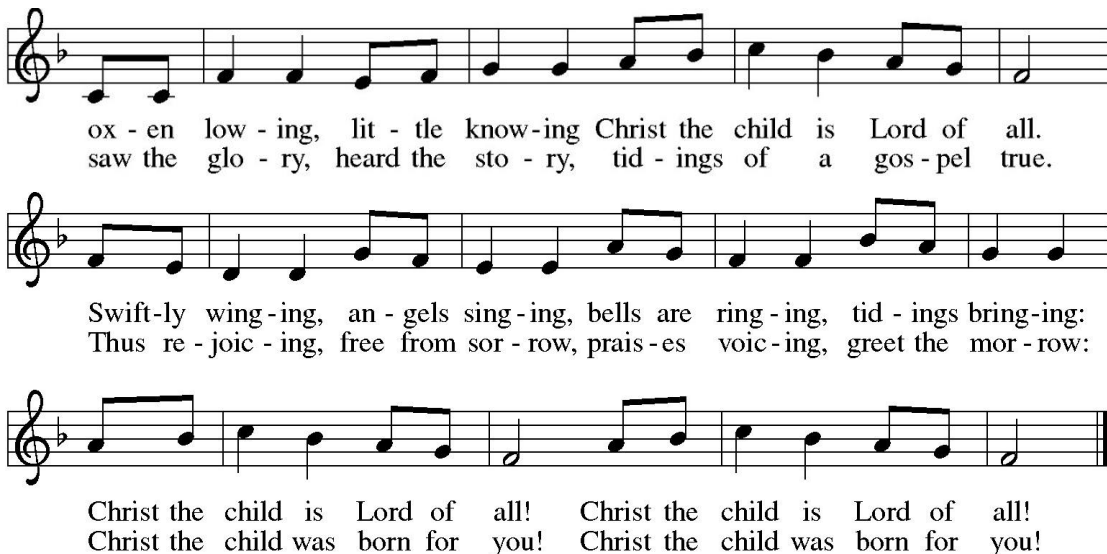
Zhi - gao rong - yao gui Shang - zhu, quan - di ren - min fu wu - jiang.  
Glo - ry be to God on high, blest are all be - neath the sky.

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Vs. 2 Only)*

(ELW 276)



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: We give you thanks, almighty God ... for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

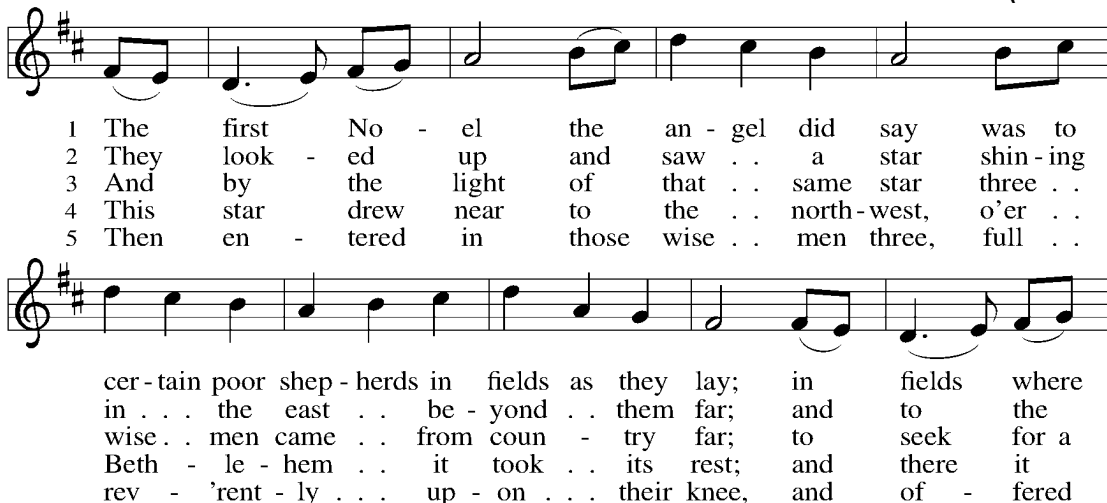
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ♦ BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

### ♦ SENDING SONG *The First Noel*

(ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

♦ **DISMISSAL** (*Please stand*)

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** (Piano) Carolyne M. Taylor (arr.), "Away in a Manger (in the setting of Camille Saint-Saens' *Le Cygne*)" from *Classical Carols* (1992)

**See blue sheet for music notes.**

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*O Come, All Ye Faithful*, Text and Music: John Francis Wade, Text tr. Frederick Oakeley; *Away in a Manger*, Text: North American, 19th cent., Music: James R. Murray; *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Text and Music: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr; *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, Text: Polish carol, tr. Edith M.G. Reed, Music: Polish carol; *Jesus, the Light of the World*, Text: Charls Wesley, George D. Elderkin, Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional arr. George D. Elderkin; *The First Noel*, Text and Music: English traditional, Music: arr. John Stainer. PUBLIC DOMAIN.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b><u>Today's Worship Leaders</u></b>	<b><u>Next Sunday Worship Leaders</u></b>
<b>Greeter:</b> TBD	<b>Greeter:</b> TBD
<b>Readers:</b> Dawn Omernik	<b>Readers:</b> Pam Johnson
<b>Wine:</b> Nancy Perez, Pam Johnson	<b>Wine:</b> Nancy Perez, TBD
<b>Usher:</b> TBD	<b>Usher:</b> TBD
<b>Comm. Set Up:</b> Anna Martin	<b>Comm. Set Up:</b> TBD
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> TBD	<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> TBD

### **This week at Grace**

Sun 1/4 8:15am Chancel Choir Warmup  
9:00am Worship ~ Chancel Choir sings  
10:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
No Children's Education

Tue 1/6 12:10pm Devotional Service  
3:30pm Violin Lessons  
5:30pm Scouts  
6:30pm Women's Choir Rehearsal  
7:30pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal

Wed 1/7 9am Guest House Sandwiches  
3:30pm Violin Lessons  
6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thu 1/8 12pm Bible Study

Sat 1/10 9am SBG Band Rehearsal

Sun 1/11 Epiphany  
8am Bell Choir Warmup  
9:00am Worship ~ Bell Choir rings  
10:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:15am Community Life Team Meeting  
10:15am Children's Education

**Grace's Welcome Statement:** Grace Lutheran Church is a religious community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, which means we welcome the participation of people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, education backgrounds, and economic conditions – all who want to join us in serving God, proclaiming our faith, and caring for all creation.

**Notice of Annual Meeting:** All are welcome, especially voting members, to join us on **Sunday, January 25 at 10:15am.** We will receive the 2025 Annual Report, elect new leaders for 2026, and vote on the 2026 Budget.

**January Newsletter:** If you do not receive the Good News by email, please stop by and pick up your hard copy from the communication desk.



**Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge:** If you have any new or gently used coats, boots, or other cold weather clothing you would like to donate, please consider dropping it off at the church to be donated to Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge. There is a box near the Luther room for these items.

**Growing in Grace:** Families involved in our children's education ministry, don't forget to check our ministry website for updates on events, Education classes, and volunteer opportunities! You can also email Katy Koppa for updates at

[kathrynkoppa@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynkoppa@gmail.com).

Call 877-232-2376 or use the QR code here.



**Guest House Sandwiches:** We assemble sandwiches for the guests at the Guest House *twice* each month – on the first and third Wednesdays at 9am. Join us for this opportunity to serve and to enjoy fellowship with one another on **January 7 and 14.**

**Isaiah 55 Food Pantry (All Peoples Church):** Donations to the food pantry are appreciated more than ever as the need continues to increase. You may drop food and hygiene items off in the bins just outside the Luther room.



**Sunday Coffee Fellowship Information:** We're looking for friendly faces to help with coffee fellowship on Sunday mornings. It's an easy but important ministry towards hospitality. There is a great guideline to follow and support is provided!! Just set up coffee, bring a few treats, one always gluten free, and help create a warm, welcoming space for connection after worship.

If interested, please sign up using one of the following options:

- Communication desk signup sheet
- Online with SignupGenius using the link in the Grace Notes or the QR code here
- Call the office and let Sandy know
- Theresa and Jen will also be reaching out by phone as well
- You can also reach out to: Jen Bartz ~ 414-550-5231, Theresa Umhoefer ~ 262-227-8840



SignupGenius

**Worship Volunteers:** Calling all readers, wine servers, ushers, greeters, communion setup folks and coffee fellowship helpers! There is a hard copy of the SignupGenius form on the communication desk for those that find it easier to sign up on their way in or out of church. The link sent out in the Grace Notes is still active and available, and this QR code can also be used to connect to the Signup Genius. Emails and phone calls are always welcome as well. Thank you for all your help!



**Celebrations this week:**

**Birthdays:** Ava Kihslinger 1/4, Ruth McDuffie-Marks -1/4, Anushka Dighe – 5, Erik Hollander -1/7, Levi Ortell -1/9, Aliisa Sampe -1/9, Fintan Shannon – 1/10

**Anniversaries:** Dieter & Elsbeth Bruhnke – 1/4, Dennis & Pat Ellner – 1/6

**Special Anniversary:** On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1963 Neal and Rita Karthaus were married and will celebrate their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary next week. The 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary is often associated with water, symbolizing flowing, constant love, with sapphire as a gemstone, representing wisdom. Happy 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary to Neal and Rita!

**Members in the Military:** Please keep members of Grace who are serving in the armed forces in your prayers: Bryce Umhoefer  
(If you or an immediate family member is serving in the military, please let us know.)

**Prayers:** **Chevelle** Lutze (Veronica Junker's great-niece), **Lana** (Janie Robbins's cousin), **Andy** Roehrborn (cousin of Matt Junker), **Debbie** (friend of Dawn Omernik), **Rick** Chu (Veronica Junker's uncle), **Jerry** Karthaus, **Judy** Schwartz (friend of Delaine Jacobs), **David** Rauth, **Hayley** Kucharski, **Tucker** Kucharski, **Anna Marie** Johnson (friend of Pastor Bill), **Judy** Hogan (Ken Hogan's mother), **Anita** (friend of Geri Schesel), **Maygie** May.

### **Music Notes:**

As the **Last Prelude**, the Chancel offers a setting of a Cordelia Spitzer text by Lani ("Kamiki") Smith, a prolific and versatile composer and organist who published under many pen names, leaving behind more than 4,000 published works – making him one of the most prolific composers of classical music in history. Ms. Spitzer (1910-1999) was a composer and lyricist with hundreds of prize-winning poems to her credit and used widely by choirs, television and radio programs.

The **Hymn of the Day** was written by James Quinn, SJ (1919-2010) was a Scottish Jesuit priest, theologian and hymnodist. The hymn was inspired by John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The tune, "Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier," was written by Johann R. Ahle (1625-1673), a musician and mayor, who was two organists before J.S. Bach at Mühlhausen.

The **Prelude and Postlude** comprise lovely carol setting embedded in a famous piece of classical music from the pen of Carolyn McGougan Taylor, who dedicated them to the memory of her very first piano teacher – her mother, Mrs. Una Helen McGougan. She is a graduate of the Florida State University School of Nursing. She pursued her interest in music during her husband's Bible college and seminary days. She currently lives in Winchester, Virginia, with her husband, Darrel Taylor, who pastors the Blue Ridge Grace Brethren Church. She is actively involved in piano instruction and serves as a church pianist and choir director for the adult and children's choirs.

Next week: We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord, marking the end of the Christmas season. The Bell Choir warms up at 8am and rings for worship at 9am. The Chancel Choir rehearses after worship at 10:15am.

