



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

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



CHURCH STAFF

Bill Beyer – Pastor (C: 262-674-4714)
Sandy Luetngen - Administrative Asst.
Fred Lynk - Custodian

Brian Dearing - Organist/Music Director
Shonda Schaff - Nursery Attendant
Sunday School Coordinator - Kathryn Koppa

Online Giving

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 (Saved by Grace Band) Jason Ingram and Matt Maher, "Hope for Everyone" (2018)

- Vs. 1 Hear the angels sing, "There's hope for ev'ry one."
 To announce our King, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 What good news they bring, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 Angels sing, "There's hope for ev'ry one."
- Vs. 2 They came from afar, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 Wise men sought a star, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 Shepherds heard the choir, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 From afar, there's hope for ev'ry one.
- Chorus We are waiting on the promise.
 For the One who lights the darkness.
 Bending low to be among us.
 Bring Your glory in the highest, Jesus.
- Vs. 3 Come let us adore, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 On the manger floor, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 What are you waiting for, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 Come adore, there's hope for ev'ry one.
- Vs. 4 Coming on the clouds, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 Hear the trumpet sound, there's hope for ev'ry one.
 All of heaven shouts, "There's hope for ev'ry one."
 On the clouds, there's hope for ev'ry one.
- Tag All of heaven shouts, "There's hope for ev'ry one."
 Heaven shouts, "There's hope for ev'ry one." (3x)

WELCOME

WELCOME TO WORSHIP (Saved by Grace Band) Audrey Assad, "Winter Snow"
(2009; arr. Dan Galbraith)

- Vs. 1 You could have come like a mighty storm,
 With all the strength of a hurricane.
 You could have come like a forest fire,
 With the power of heaven in Your flame.
- Chorus But You came like a winter snow
 Quiet, and soft, and slow;
 Falling from the sky in the night
 To the earth below.
- Vs. 2 You could have swept in like a tidal wave,
 Or in an ocean to ravish our hearts.
 You could have come through like a roaring flood
 To wipe away the things we've scarred.

Bridge Your voice wasn't in a bush burning;
Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind.
It was still, it was small, it was hidden.

◆ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity ...and our salvation. C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ...now and forever.C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *We Are Waiting for Jesus*

(ACS 905)



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

◆ GREETING (*Please stand*)

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

KYRIE


Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.

O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All All




Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

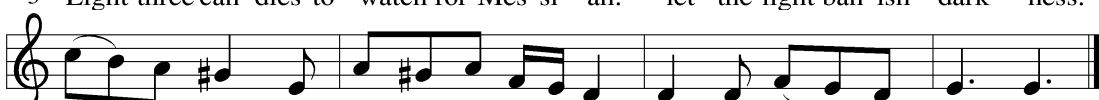
◆ BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Blessed are you....Blessed Be God forever. **C: Amen.**

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Vs.3 Only) (ELW 240)



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.

◆ PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Please stand)*

P: Let us pray. *(Silence is kept for reflection)* Stir up the wills who look at you, Lord God....the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be

there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

PSALM Psalm 146:5-10

Refrain:



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

L: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

C: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

L: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

C: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. R

L: The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

C: The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

◆ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Please stand*)

(ACS Setting 11)

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

◆ **GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11**

P: The holy gospel, according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

SERMON

Refrain

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.
O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

1 Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?
2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
3 Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;
4 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion;
5 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Refrain

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of ag - es.
he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
in all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.
he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

P: Draw near to us.....through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.. **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: ***Holy, Holy, Holy* (ACS Setting 11)**

San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria, y po - der,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,
cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.
heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

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

(ACS Setting 11)



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no -
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -

so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - stros.
on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.

Da - nos tu paz. A - mén.
Grant us your peace. A - mén.

COMMUNION SONG (Saved by Grace Band): Hank Bentley, Bryan Fowler, Stephen McWhirter and Tara McWhirter, “Come Jesus Come” (2024; arr. by Grant Wall; orchestrated by Dan Galbraith)

Vs. 1 Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray,
“Come, Jesus, come. Let today be the day.”
Sometimes I feel like I’m gonna break,
But I’m holding on to a hope that won’t fade.

Chorus Come, Jesus, come. We've been waiting so long
 For the day You return to heal ev'ry hurt and right ev'ry wrong.
 We need You right now. Come and turn this around.
 Deep down I know this world isn't home. Come, Jesus, come.

Vs. 2 There'll be no war and there'll be no chains
 When Jesus comes. Let today be the day.
 He'll come for the weak and the strong just the same,
 And all will believe in the power of His name.

Vs. 3 One day He'll come, and we'll stand face to face.
 Come and lay it all down, 'cause it might be today.
 The time is right now, there's no need to wait.
 Your past will be washed by the rivers of grace.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

(ACS Setting 11)

A - ho - ra, Se - ñor, se - gún tu pro - me - sa, pue - des de -
 At last, Lord, your word of prom - ise ful - fill - ing, you let your
 jar - a tu sier - vo ir - se en paz. Por - que mis
 ser - vant go forth in free - dom and peace. With my own
 o - jos han vis - to a tu Sal - va - dor, a quien has
 eyes I have seen the sal - va - tion you have pre -
 pre - sen - ta - do an - te to - dos los pue - blos: . . .
 pared . . in the sight of all of the peo - ples: a
 luz pa - ra a - lum - brar a las na - cio - nes, y
 light that will re - veal you to the na - tions, and the



glo - ria de tu pue - blo Is - ra - el.
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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 *He Came Down*

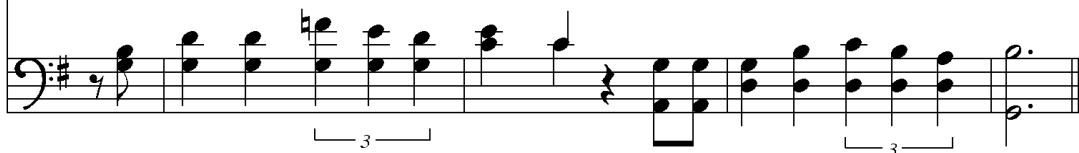
(ELW 253)



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



◆ DISMISSAL (*Please stand*)

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

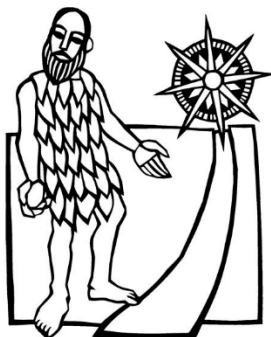
POSTLUDE (Save by Grace Band) Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates and Jason Ingram, “Come Lord Jesus (Even So Come)” (2015)

Vs. 1 All of creation, all of the earth, make straight a highway, a path for the Lord.
 Jesus is coming soon.
 Call back the sinner, wake up the saint, let ev’ry nation shout of Your fame.
 Jesus is coming soon.

Chorus Like a bride waiting for her groom, we’ll be a church ready for You.
 Ev’ry heart longing for our King, we sing “Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.
 Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.”

Vs. 2 There will be justice, all will be new. Your name forever, faithful and true.
 Jesus is coming soon.

Bridge So we wait, we wait for You.
 God, we wait; You’re coming soon.



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Kyrie, Gospel Acclamation, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lamb of God, At Last, Lord from ACS Setting 11. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020514.

See blue sheet for Music Notes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>This Sunday Worship Leaders</u>	<u>Next Sunday Worship Leaders</u>
Greeter: TBD	Greeter: Christmas Program Kids
Reader: Michelle Hogan	Wine: TBD, TBD
Wine: Nancy Perez, Michelle Hogan	Usher: Christmas Program Kids
Usher: TBD	Comm. Set Up: TBD
Comm. Set Up: JoAnn Holdmann	Coffee Fellowship: Christmas Program Families
Coffee Fellowship: Endowment Team	

This week at Grace

- Sun 12/14 8:15am SBG Band Warmup
9:00am Worship ~ SBG Band Leads Worship Music
10:10am Christmas Play Practice
10:15am Faith Formation #2 with Mr. Dearing in the Sanctuary:
*Unusual Advent and Christmas Music: Apple Trees, Dancing, David Bowie,
Holy Innocents, and Seeing Three Ships*
11am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
3:30pm Jingle Bell Jubilee
- Mon 12/15 2pm Violin Lessons
- Tue 12/16 12:10pm Devotional Worship
3:30pm Violin Lessons
5:30pm Scouts
- Wed 12/17 9am Guest House Sandwiches
3:30pm Violin Lessons
6:30pm SBG Singers Rehearsal
- Thu 12/18 12pm Bible Study
- Sat 12/20 9am Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- Sun 12/21 9:00am: Children's Christmas Program
10:15am Grateful Giving Team Meeting

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.

Christmas Program: Next Sunday, **December 21**, we will gather for worship with holy communion and the children's Christmas program at 9am. You don't want to miss it!



Christmas Worship Schedule:

December 24, 4pm & 6pm – Christmas Eve Worship

December 25, 10am – Christmas Day Worship



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.

Opportunities to serve: Do you want to get to know other Grace members better? Do you want to help Grace grow and thrive? We have open positions to fill for next year on the Congregation Council, the Endowment Board, the Synod Assembly, the Audit Team, and the Nominating Team. If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Pam Johnson, Jen Bartz, Mary Karthausen or Sandy Smith this week.

2025 Council: Below are the 2025 Council members in the event you would like to contact one of these leaders.

Ryan Bernard (President): 920-418-5235 Janie Robbins (VP): 262-646-4628 Kevin Sibley (Treasurer): 262-302-8182 JoAnn Holdmann (Secretary): 262-290-1609	Diana Koppa: 414-254-9983 David Rockwood: 262-389-4045 Geri Schesel: 262-227-9251
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We Need Ideas: The Community Life Team is looking for ideas of community outreach for 2026. We would like to get our church family involved more. There are no bad ideas and the Thiensville community is waiting for us. There is a white board in the Narthex, so please jot your ideas down over coffee. You can always give your thoughts to one of the team as well! Please help us do things you would like to see happen.

Team members include: Janie Robbins, Jen Bartz, Morgan Bernard, Katy Koppa, Diana Koppa, Jim Martin, Anna Martin, Nancy Perez, Stacy Rauen, and Geri Schesel.

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.

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 **December 17.**

Isaiah 55 Food Pantry (All Peoples Church): Donations to the food pantry are appreciated more than ever as the need continues to increase. You can 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
- Jen and Theresa will be reaching out by phone as well
- You can also reach out to: Jen Bartz ~ 414-550-5231, Theresa Umhoefer ~ 262-227-8840

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!



Cancellations Due to Weather: With the cold weather here already, we want to remind you that when the M-T Schools cancel classes due to weather conditions, Tuesday worship, Bible Study, and Meals on Wheels will also be cancelled.

Celebrations this week:

Birthdays: Steve Smiley – 12/16, Alex Bernard – 12/17, John Junker – 12/17,
Karen Larsen – 12/20

Anniversaries: Tom & Bev Leidel – 12/17

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).

Music Notes: Today's worship music is led by the Saved by Grace Band. The **Prelude** is a song recorded on Matt Maher's album "The Advent of Christmas." Matt is a contemporary Christian music artist, songwriter, and worship leader originally from Newfoundland, Canada, who later relocated to Tempe, Arizona. He has written and produced seven solo albums to date. Three of his albums have reached the Top 25 Christian Albums Billboard chart and four of his singles have reached the Top 25 Christian Songs chart. The **Last Prelude** was written by Audrey Assad and recorded with Chris Tomlin. This song captures the quiet entrance of the Messiah using images from nature. It is gentle and quiet in character, befitting its lyrics. During **Distribution**, the Band presents a new song for us this year, as done by CeCe Winans on her album, "Believe For It". Priscilla Marie Winans, known professionally by her stage name as CeCe Winans, is an American gospel singer. She has received 17 Grammy awards (the most for any female Gospel singer), 33 GMA Dove Awards, 28 Stellar Awards, 7 NAACP Image Awards, 4 Billboard Music Awards, and many other honors and awards. She is one of the best-selling Gospel music artist of all time with more than 19 million record sales. She came from a musical family and sang her first solo at the age of eight. The **Postlude** is from the Passion album, "Even So Come." The Advent text reminds us of the "reason for the season": Jesus is coming soon... make straight a highway for the Lord... call back the sinner.

The **Hymn of the Day** is by Willard F. Jabusch (1930-2018), who was a parish priest at St. James Roman Catholic Church in Chicago with a doctorate from Northwestern University. He wrote theological publications, hymn tunes and hymn texts. The tune, "King of Glory (Israeli)" is an Israeli folk tune called "Promised One," which Jabusch adapted for his text. It is probably of Hasidic origin, brought by Zionist settlers after World War I.

Next week: Children's Christmas Pageant during worship. No rehearsals after worship.