

# Second Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 9, 2012





Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-University! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises and as you offer him your thanks and praise.

## Worship Notes

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

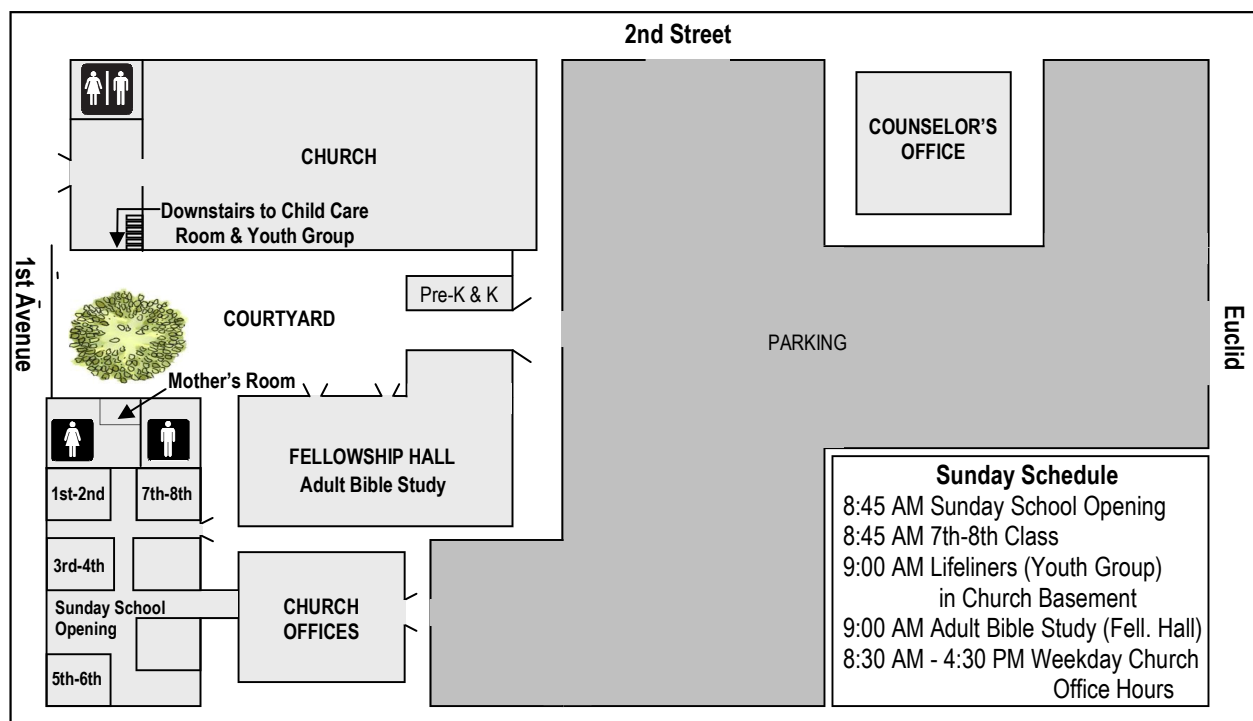
**Hymns** are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

**Large print** worship folders are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will still be able to hear the service
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryway along with CDs of the entire worship service for those who would like to review or take to a friend or family member. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: [www.GraceTucsonWELS.com](http://www.GraceTucsonWELS.com)



## Lighting of Advent Candles

The lighting of candles in anticipation of Christ's coming (Latin, *advenio*) has a long tradition in the Christian Church. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a new candle is lit, dispelling the darkness, as the church moves forward to welcoming him who is the true Light of the world. The evergreen wreath represents eternal life—evergreens do not drop their foliage—and the circle of the wreath is unending. The blue color of the candles symbolizes hope—the hope we have as we anticipate Christ's coming. The white Christ Candle in the center will be lit on Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Each year the privilege of lighting the Advent candles is given to the youth confirmation students at Grace.

## MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

This order of service is based on the historic order for morning praise known as Matins. This contemporary setting is from *Christian Worship: New Service Settings*.

### CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS CHOIR (10:00 AM)

### He Is Born, the Child Divine

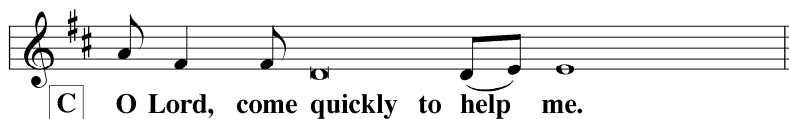
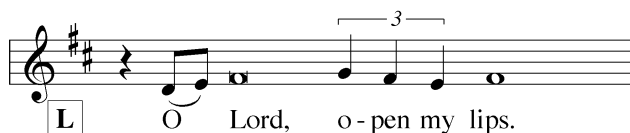
#### HYMN

#### Comfort, Comfort All My People *Christian Worship #11*

#### STAND

#### RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



#### PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—  
Prepare the Royal  
Highway  
CWS #702

10:00 AM—  
Hark! A Thrilling  
Voice is Sounding  
Arr. by Dale  
Elmshaeuser

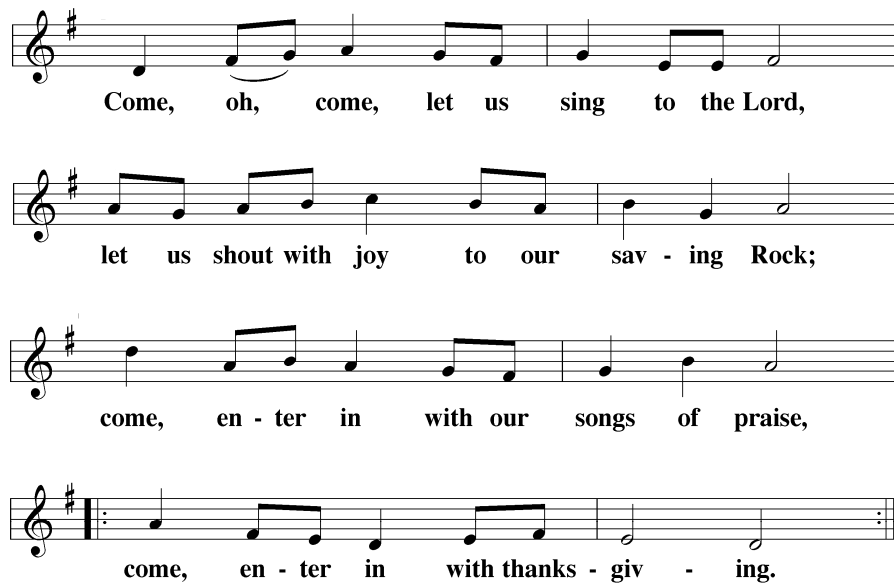
Played by the Brass  
Trio

Setting by Walter  
Ehret

## COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

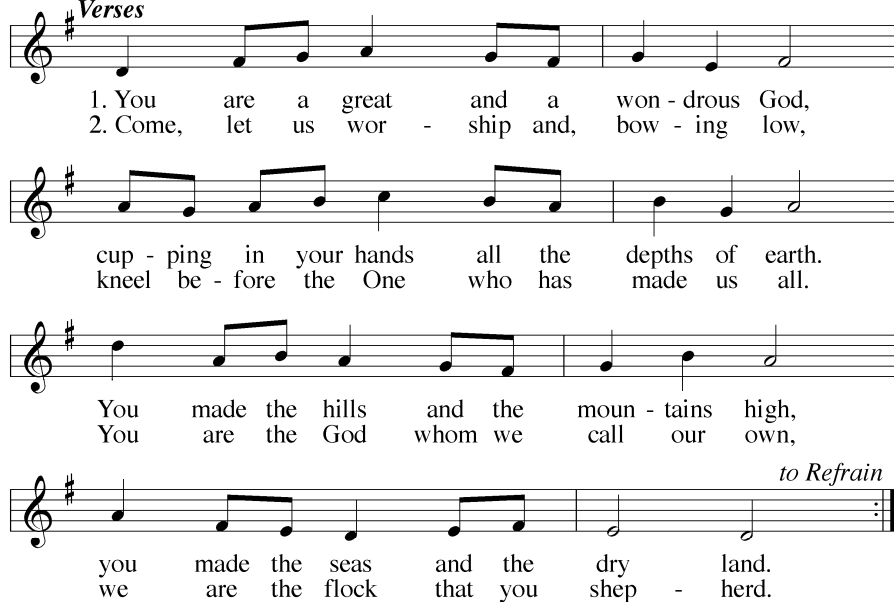
*Congregation sings the refrain and verses.*

### Refrain



Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,  
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;  
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,  
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

### Verses



1. You are a great and a won - drous God,  
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,  
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.  
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,  
*to Refrain*  
you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- L:** We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.
- C:** We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.
- L:** We hear his call to repent.
- C:** We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.
- L:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C:** Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

## FIRST LESSON

## Malachi 3:1-4

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a

launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. (NIV)

*The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.*

## PSALM 63

*Please join in singing the refrain. Repeat the refrain after the vocalists sing each verse.*

### Refrain



1. O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. **Refrain**
2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **Refrain**
3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **Refrain**

## SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 4:1-5

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not

make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. (NIV)

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4,6 (cf. NIV)

L: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

Words and  
Arrangement by  
Patrick M.  
Liebergen

## VOICES OF GRACE (10:00 AM)

Advent Noel

*Prepare! He is coming, Now sing we all noel!  
Lift high joyful praises for He will come to dwell.  
We sing in one voice, O let all rejoice!  
Come celebrate, prepare for the Lord, Emmanuel!*

*The Son of God will come that night,  
Prepare to see the wondrous sight!  
We await the mighty King,  
Now hear the joyous carols ring.  
Sing we noel forever! Sing we all noel!  
Now sing we together for He will come to dwell.*

*The Lord will come down, Sing a merry song of cheer!  
The angels will gather, His holy birth is near!  
Rise up on that night, O sing with delight!  
Come celebrate, prepare for the Child will soon appear.  
The Lord will come down! Sing we all noel!*

## STAND

## GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for

the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" (NIV)

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The congregation  
stands out of  
respect for the  
words of Christ our  
King.

BE SEATED

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
*Christian Worship #16*

SERMON

Malachi 3:1-4  
The Lord Will Come

STAND

### SONG OF ZECHARIAH



1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and  
2. Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from  
3. In ten - der mer-cy God will send The Day-spring from on



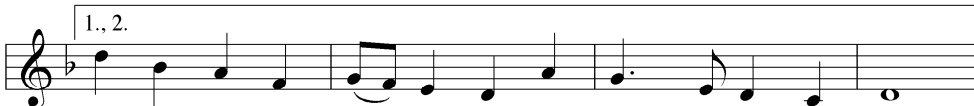
pow'r, Who rais - es from the roy - al house De -  
fear, That we might serve in ho - li - ness And  
high, Our ris - ing sun, the light of life For



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets  
peace from year to year; And you, my child, shall  
those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn To free us from a - larm, To  
go be - fore To preach, to proph - e - sy, That  
way to peace That death shall reign no more, Sing



save us from the heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.  
all may know the ten - der love, The grace of God most high.



prais-es to the Ho-ly One! O wor-ship and a-dore!

BE SEATED



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

**7:45 AM—**  
Freu dich sehr  
Arr. by Mark Sedio

**10:00 AM—**  
Oh, Come, Oh,  
Come, Emmanuel  
Setting by Paul Manz

Christians stand for congregational prayer showing the freedom of God's children to come boldly into his presence. The Christian theologian Augustine (400 AD) adds, "We pray standing...as a sign of the Resurrection."

## OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!

## STAND

### LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

**L** In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;  
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.  
**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## PRAYERS

**L:** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**L:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy. Fill us instead with the joy and peace of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ your Son. Direct our eyes both to the manger and to the skies, where we will see Jesus coming again in glory.

**C:** Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Special prayers may be included here.



**L:** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.*



**L** Let us praise the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

### BLESSING



**L** The Lord bless and keep you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



**C** A - men.





**Grace is one congregation  
at TWO places!**

**Enjoy worship, Bible study  
and activities at both  
Grace-University and Grace-Vail.**



## This Week at Grace • Dec 9-Dec 16

\*Unless otherwise noted, calendar events take place at Grace-University. Grace-Vail events are shown in red.

### TODAY

Worship Services.....7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....  
Children's Sunday School.....8:45a  
Youth Confirmation Class.....8:45a  
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*.....9:00a  
Adult Bible Study:  
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Miracles* (Fellowship Hall).....9:00a  
**Grace-Vail Bible Study at Cottonwood Elementary** .....9:00a  
**Grace-Vail Sunday School at Cottonwood Elem.** .....9:00a  
**Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary** ..... 10:00a  
WELS TCM Bible Study: *The Trinity* ..... 7:00p

### Monday

**Bible Study at Vail Golf Club: *Book of Acts*** .....9:30a  
English as a Second Language Classes ..... 6:30p

### Tuesday

Handbell Practice..... 5:30p  
English as a Second Language Classes ..... 6:30p

### Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship..... 10:00a  
Wind Ensemble..... 11:00a  
Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall..... 6:00p  
Midweek Advent Worship..... 7:00p

### Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *Philippians* ..... 9:00a  
Worship Choir .....6:30p  
**Financial Peace University in Vail** .....7:00p

### Friday

Zanotti Christmas Party .....5:30p  
ALA Christmas Concert .....7:00p

### Saturday

Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal.....9:00a-12:00p  
Worship Choir Practice at Grace .....1:30p

### Sunday

Worship Services/Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a  
Youth Confirmation Class ..... 8:45a  
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a  
Adult Bible Study:  
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Miracles* (Fellowship Hall)..... 9:00a  
**Grace-Vail Bible Study at Cottonwood Elementary** ..... 9:00a  
**Grace-Vail Sunday School at Cottonwood Elem.** ..... 9:00a  
**Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary** ..... 10:00a  
Lasagna Dinner in the Fellowship Hall.....5:00p  
Worship Choir Cantata in the Sanctuary .....7:00p

Check out the NEW GRACE WEBSITE at **[www.GraceTucsonWELS.com](http://www.GraceTucsonWELS.com)**!

#### Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Grace Website  
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#### Pastors

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**Nathan P. Kassulke  
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**Samuel M. Clemons  
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**Colin M. Rieke  
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#### Bible-Based Counselor

**Cinda Drescher  
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Phone 882-3773**

#### Music Coordinator

**Beth Kassulke  
[music@gracetucsonwels.com](mailto:music@gracetucsonwels.com)  
Phone 293-2935**

## For Our Guests

If you are visiting Grace today, we are happy that you joined us for Worship. Please help yourself to a Guest Packet as you leave this morning. You'll find them in the church entryway.

## Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by the Morris and Sloyan families in honor of Vera Hess and Amy Morris' birthdays and in memory of Verna Retberg.



During this time of year, the sun shines through the stained glass windows and directs its light on the church pews. Feel free to move during the service if the sun is bothering you. For more information about what the symbols and pictures in the windows represent, please take a pamphlet from the main entryway.

## You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship after 10:00 AM worship is hosted by the Morris & Sloyan families. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

### NEXT SUNDAY

#### *Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week*

Nehemiah 8:9-18  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

#### *Sermon Text & Theme*

Luke 3:7-18  
*There Are Four R's in Repentance*



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GraceTucsonWELS](http://www.facebook.com/GraceTucsonWELS)

## Support the Lifeliners

The Lifeliners, members of our high school youth group, are selling Entertainment Coupon Books (\$30) and Bible Verse Calendars (\$8 or 2 for \$15). Entertainment Book sales will conclude today, so be sure to stop by the table in the Courtyard to make your purchase. Calendars will be sold while supplies last. All proceeds support Lifeliner activities.

## Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next voters' meeting is Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 PM. Pastor and Council reports can be found at both exits and in the Fellowship Hall. The report keeps members informed and helps voters prepare for the meeting. Included in the reports are a proposed 2013 Ministry & Spending Plan and the candidates nominated for Church Council positions.



## Advent Services and Suppers

Midweek Advent Services will be held on December 12 and 19 at Grace-University at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. *Advent Through the Fathers' Eyes* is our theme as we consider the Savior's coming into the world through the eyes of God the Father and Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. These services are designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth on Christmas.

You are invited to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for supper at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall prior to each of these services.

## Worship CD Copies

Worship CDs will no longer be made automatically, but by request. If you would like a copy of this morning's worship service, please ask the sound technician for one following the 10:00 AM service. It only takes a few minutes to copy and you're welcome to wait for it.

## WELS TCM Bible Study Tonight

WELS Tucson Campus Ministry will be meeting tonight at 7:00 PM in the Student Center located in the Grace-University basement. The topic will be *The Trinity*. We invite all college students and others of approximately college age to join us.

## Zanotti Christmas Party

Members of Grace are invited to the home of Shirley & Tony Zanotti (7847 E. Jack Oak Road) this Friday, December 14 at 5:30 PM for a Christmas party. Food and drinks will be provided. **Please RSVP by this Tuesday, December 11 to the Zanottis (722-7036).**

### HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 12, 19  
at 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM  
with a supper at 6:00 PM.

#### Christmas Day Festival Worship

Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 AM at  
both Grace-University and Grace-Vail.

#### Christmas Eve Children's Service

Monday, December 24 at 7:00 PM at  
Grace-University. No service at Grace-Vail.

#### New Year's Eve Worship

Monday, December 31 at 7:00 PM at  
Grace-University. No service at Grace-Vail.

## Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

**Grace Lutheran Church** wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular and special offerings. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. When holidays, travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

**Credit & Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

**Online Giving** lets you go to [www.gracetucsonwels.com](http://www.gracetucsonwels.com) at any time to set up an automatic offering plan, change your offering plan, make a one-time offering or view your online offering history. You can also access the online giving page by using your smart phone to scan the image you see to the right:



If you prefer, you may also enroll in online giving by completing an authorization form available in the church narthex, office and fellowship hall.

## Grace Students in ALA Concert

Arizona Lutheran Academy will present their annual Christmas Concert this Friday at 7:00 PM. Five Grace students at ALA will be part of that concert: Nathanael Dyjak, Tyler Koehler, Sarah Oberhofer, James Pauley, and Ariana Weinstein. ALA is located at 6036 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix.

The concert will also be streamed live online at [www.alacotyotes.org](http://www.alacotyotes.org).

## Christmas Cantata

Next Sunday, December 16 at 7:00 PM the Grace Worship Choir will present "Shout the Good News!" This work shares the Christmas message in Scripture and song. Join us in the Grace Fellowship Hall for a lasagna dinner at 5:00 PM before the concert. Dinner is served until about 6:30 PM. The concert will begin at 7:00 in the Church. You are invited to contribute to a freewill offering. The offering will be used to offset the cost of the dinner and of this and future musical performances. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall and on the Grace-Vail welcome table for anyone who would like to help with various aspects of the dinner.

## Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab

The Grace Extension Group is going caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab on Sunday, December 23 at 1:00 PM and invites everyone to join them! Sabino Canyon Rehab is located at 5830 East Pima Street. Plan to arrive a few minutes early. We hope you will join us!

## Winter Visitors

If you are staying in Tucson for the Winter, please include your local address and phone number in the Friendship Register (located in the red folder at the end of the pew). We are glad to have you with us, and we invite and encourage you to participate in the congregational activities here at Grace while you are in town. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church please contact Pastor Clemons in the church office, 623-6633.

## Tuition Tax Credit

Students from Grace at Redeemer Lutheran School and Arizona Lutheran Academy have received over \$24,000 this year in tuition tax credit awards. You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$503 per person and up to your income tax liability). Donations made to the HELP Scholarship Foundation before the end of the year will be awarded to students in early spring. Please make use of this program if you are able to do so. If you have any questions, please speak to Stephanie Weinstein (623-3759) or one of the pastors. **Pick up a flyer and a donation form brochure in the Fellowship Hall.** New this year, if you have further tax liability, you may be able to donate an additional \$500 per person to the "Plus" scholarship program and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Donations to HELP may be recommended for one of the students from Grace.

Grace currently supports 11 of our active members who are students enrolled at Redeemer and 6 at ALA.

# **“Chrismons”**

## **Christ-Monograms**

*Chrismons are symbols that proclaim Jesus’ name and his works of salvation for us. Here are explanations for the Chrismons you see on our Christmas trees.*



THE ANCHOR CROSS represents our certain hope of salvation anchored in Christ.



THE BUDDED CROSS with its trefoil ends emphasizes the Trinity.



THE CELTIC CROSS has a circle in the middle symbolizing eternity. Because it has ancient ties to Christians in Ireland, Iona and Scotland, it is also called the Irish or Iona Cross.



THE CROSS WITH ORB symbolizes the world united under Christ, as the Lord cares for heaven and earth.



THE GREEK CROSS has four arms of equal length. Early Greek artists used this cross.



IHS is the acrostic of the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek (**Ιησους**). Various meanings have been attached to each letter. The horizontal line that forms the cross is the sign for an abbreviation.



THE IOTA CROSS is the first letter of “Jesus” in Greek (**Ι**=IOTA) combined with the first letter of “Christ” in Greek (**Χ**=CHI).



THE JERUSALEM CROSS (also known as the CRUSADER’S CROSS) represents the city of peace. The 5 crosses represent the 5 wounds of our Lord. The 4 smaller crosses are also said to represent the spread of the gospel to the 4 corners of the earth.



THE MALTESE CROSS is comprised of 4 arms shaped like spear-heads. Each points to the center, with the broad end having 2 points. The 8 points in all represent the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This is the emblem of John the Baptist. The cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, who were driven from Rhodes to the island of Malta by the Turks. Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked.



THE ROMAN CROSS consists of the Latin Cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**Α**) and omega (**Ω**) symbolizing Jesus as the Eternal One: the ‘First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.’ Though he died on the cross, he reigns in glory forever.



THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.

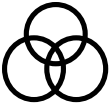


THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **Τ** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the cross of penitence and prophecy.





CHALICE AND WAFER represent the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THREE INTERLACING CIRCLES represent the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity, yet just one God.



THE DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit, remembering the baptism of Jesus when he descended in the form of a dove.



THE TABLET OF STONE is a symbol of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.



THE BUTTERFLY brings to mind our Lord's resurrection from the dead and reminds us that all believers in Christ will also rise to eternal life. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (Α) and omega (Ω) are sometimes added to signify the eternal life enjoyed by those who die in the Lord.



THE CROSS CROWN is a symbol of the Kingship of our Lord, reminding us that he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It also reminds us of the crown of life given to believers for their lives of faith.



THE CHI-RHO is a monogram consisting of the first two Greek letters of 'Christ', Χ and Ρ.



THE FISH is the most ancient symbol of Christ. Christians drew the image of the fish to identify each other in times of persecution. The Greek word for fish is **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **Ι=Jesus Χ=Christ Θ=God's Υ=Son Σ=Savior**.



THE 5-POINTED STAR/EPIPHANY STAR represents the star of Bethlehem and is shaped roughly like a human being representing Christ's incarnation.



THE 6-POINTED STAR/CREATOR'S STAR/STAR OF DAVID symbolizes creation. Each point refers to a day of God's creating work.



THE TREFOIL AND TRIANGLE is a symbol of the Holy Trinity showing both the unity of the Godhead as well as the diversity of the Persons.

*May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!*