

# Third Sunday in Advent



John the Baptist Preaching - Giovanni Battista Tiepolo - 1733

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 16, 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.

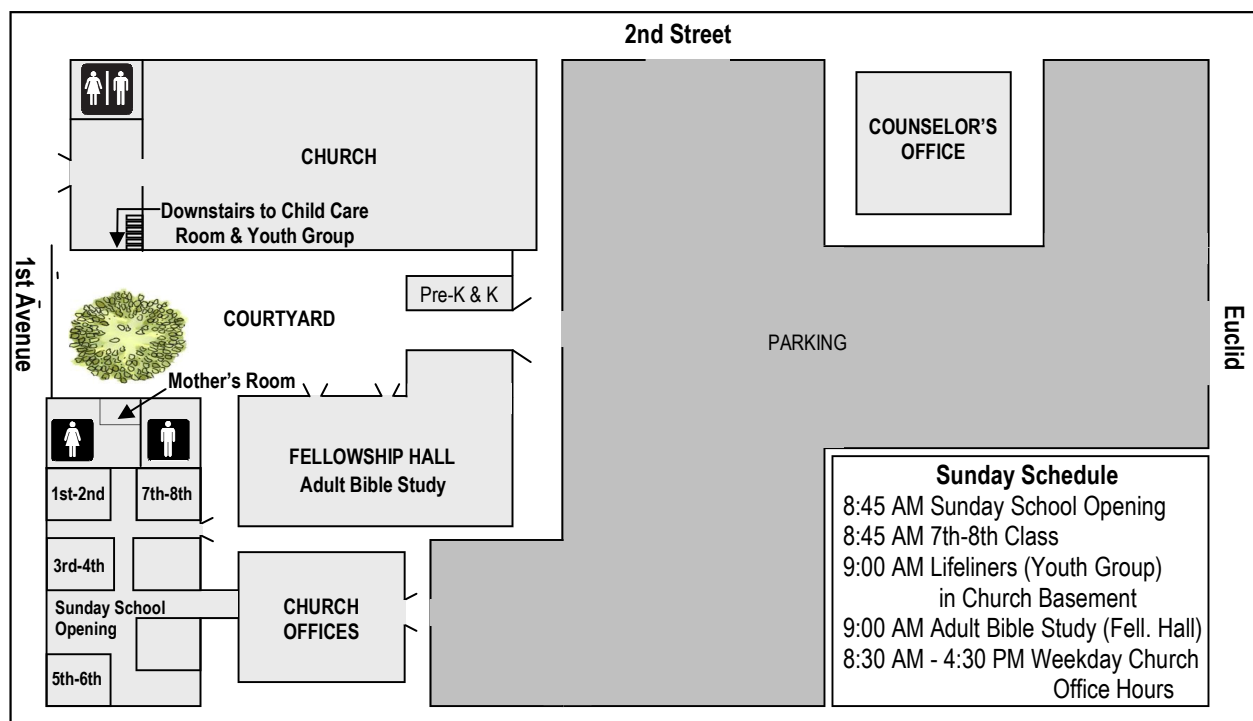
**Hymns** are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

**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*.

### WELCOME

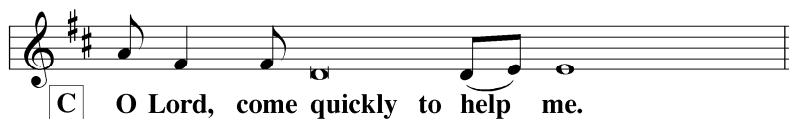
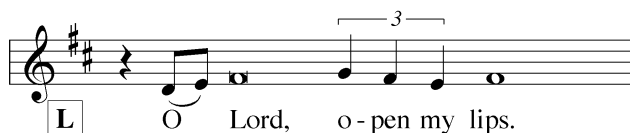
### HYMN

Arise, O Christian People  
*Christian Worship #14*

### STAND

### RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



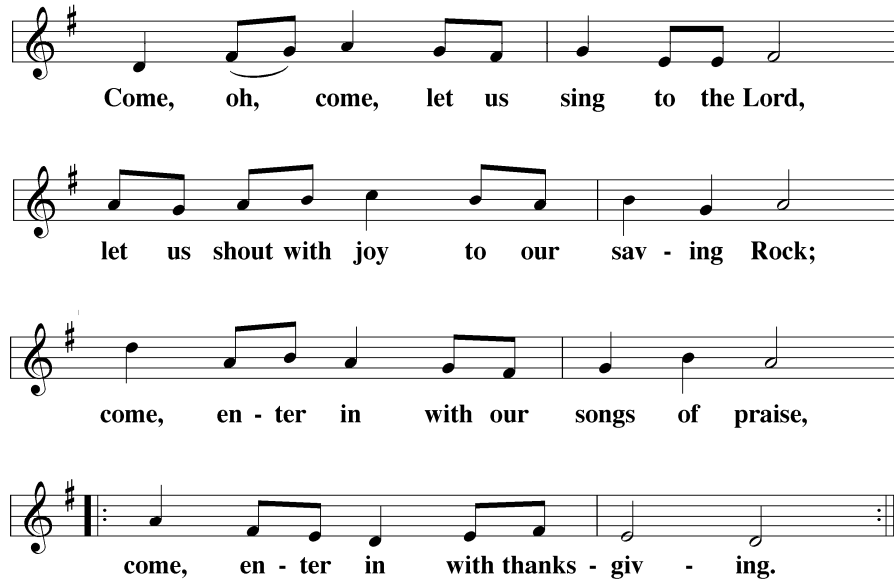
### PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—  
*The Night Will Soon  
Be Ending*  
Arr. by Valerie  
Floeter

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

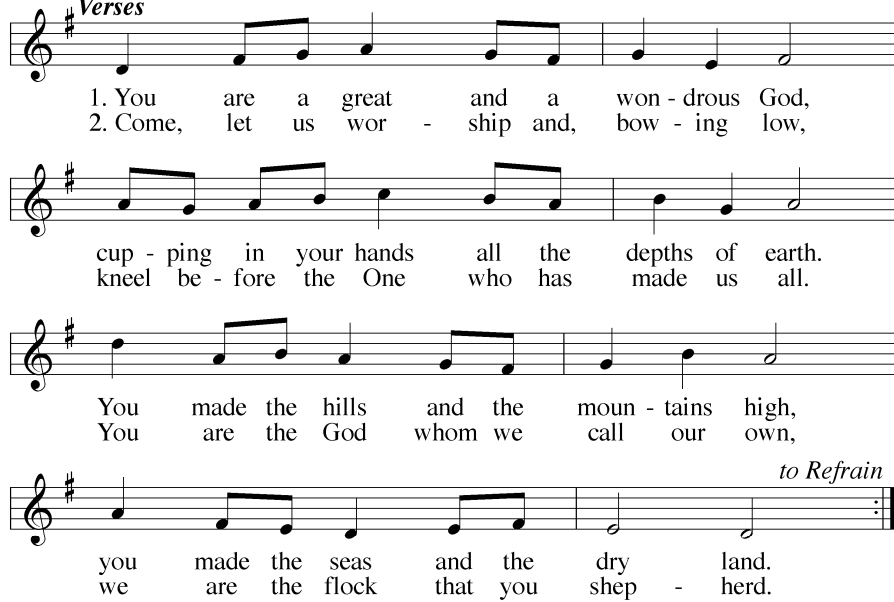
*Congregation sings the refrain and verses.*

### *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,  
you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

*to Refrain*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- L: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.
- C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- L: We hear his call to see the light.
- C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.
- L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

## BE SEATED

### FIRST LESSON

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law. They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live

### Nehemiah 8:9-18

in booths during the feast of the seventh month and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: "Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths"—as it is written. So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly. (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

### Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,

with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

## VERSE OF THE DAY

### Matthew 11:10

L: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

## VOICES OF GRACE (10:00 AM)

## E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,  
For Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!*

*Words based on  
Revelation 22,  
Adapted by Ruth  
Manz*

*Music by Paul Manz*

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### STAND

### GOSPEL

### Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. (NIV)

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

### BE SEATED

### HYMN

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**  
*Christian Worship #19*

### SERMON

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

R\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_

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



1., 2.  
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!



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

**7:45 AM—**  
On Jordan's Bank  
the Baptist's Cry  
CW #16

**10:00 AM—**  
O Come O Come  
Emmanuel  
By Neil & Tracy  
Hankwitz

BE SEATED

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:** Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father 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.

*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."*

*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.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**L:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

*If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with one of our pastors after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.*

## STAND



**L** Let us praise the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## BLESSING



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



**C** A - men.

We provide **gluten-free communion wafers** for those with wheat allergy, gluten-sensitivity or celiac disease. These wafers are stored and handled separately to avoid cross-contamination. They are "bread" as Scripture requires and are consecrated along with the rest of the bread. For those requiring gluten-free wafers, please take one from the container on the stand located at the front rail as you approach for communion. Simply hold it so that the pastor can see it at the time of distribution.

**Grape juice** is available for those who for health or medical reason require it instead of wine. Please speak with a pastor about providing grape juice for you on future Sundays.



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



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



**C** A - men.

**BE SEATED**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

**When All the World Was Cursed**  
*Christian Worship #20*

## THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Preacher** ..... Pastor Sam Clemons  
**Worship Leader** ..... Pastor Ron Koehler (10:00 AM)  
**Communion Assistants**..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)  
   Elder Spiritual Needs Mark Christianson (10:00 AM)  
**Accompanists**..... Stephanie Kania (7:45 AM)  
   Sarah Oberhofer & Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)  
**Acolytes** ..... Olivia Holz (7:45 AM)  
   Dustin Pauley (10:00 AM)  
**Vocalists**..... Teresa Travis & Greg Grorud (7:45 AM)  
   Nathan & Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)  
**Voices of Grace Director** ..... Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)  
**Offertory Music** ..... Dylan & Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)  
**Distribution Music** ..... Sarah Oberhofer (10:00 AM)  
**Sound & Recording Tech** ..... Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)

### POSTLUDE:

**7:45 AM—**  
*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*  
*Crying*  
*CW #13*

*Morning Praise:*  
*Words and Music by*  
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**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 16-Dec 23

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

### TODAY

Worship Services/Communion..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....  
Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal in Church ..... 8:45a  
Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) ..... 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

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

Handbell Practice ..... 5:30p  
Voters' Meeting ..... 7:00p

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *Philippians* ..... 9:00a

### Friday

Wind Ensemble Practice ..... 10:30a  
Pioneer Outing to Winterhaven ..... 6:00p

### Saturday

Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal ..... 9:00a-12:00p

### Sunday

Worship Services ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal in Church ..... 8:45a  
Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) ..... 8:45a  
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**Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary** ..... 10:00a  
Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab ..... 1:00p

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

#### Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

**830 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719**

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**Grace Website  
GraceTucsonWELS.com**

**Administrative Assistant  
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#### Pastors

##### At Grace-University

Ronald G. Koehler, III  
revrgk3@gracetucsonwels.com

Nathan P. Kassulke  
revnpk@gracetucsonwels.com

Samuel M. Clemons  
revsmc@gracetucsonwels.com

##### At Grace-Vail

Colin M. Rieke  
revcmr@gracetucsonwels.com

#### Bible-Based Counselor

Cinda Drescher  
cinda@gracetucsonwels.com  
Phone 882-3773

#### Music Coordinator

Beth Kassulke  
music@gracetucsonwels.com  
Phone 293-2935

## For Our Guests

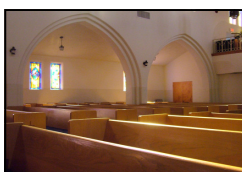
If you are visiting Grace today, we are happy that you joined us for Worship. Please help yourself to a Guest Packet as you leave this morning. You'll find them in the church entryway.

## Holy Communion

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 9 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

## 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 Winifred & Marco Tsosie. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.



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.

## Christmas Cantata Tonight!

Tonight 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.

## NEXT SUNDAY

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

Genesis 4:1,2,6-8,25-5:5  
Revelation 12:1-6  
Luke 1:39-55

### *Sermon Text & Theme*

Luke 1:39-55  
*Excited for the Birth?*

## Arizona Tuition Tax Credit and Branches Band

See the announcements in the courtyard display case.

## Voters' Meeting this Tuesday

The next voters' meeting is this 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.



## Final Advent Service and Supper

The final Midweek Advent Service will be held this Wednesday, December 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.

## Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab

This is a *special appeal* to help convey the real meaning and joy of Christmas to some special people. Come and sing this message to the residents at Sabino Canyon Rehab (5830 E. Pima) next Sunday, December 23. We're expected to begin at 1:00 PM so please arrive a bit early. Caroling will be held in the large meeting room, which you will be directed to when you arrive. Music and piano accompaniment is provided. All you need to bring is yourself and a smile! Thanks in advance from the Grace Extension Group.



### ***Filling Gaps & Raising Reserves***

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit. -John 15:8

***"Filling Gaps & Raising Reserves"*** is the special, year-end initiative to raise funds to: (1) honor our remaining 2012 congregation mission offering ("CMO") commitment to the Synod of approximately \$25,000, (2) close any spending gap for 2012, and (3) establish a Reserve Fund to be used to pay for future items not budgeted for in the Ministry & Spending Plan (e.g., new air conditioning unit, major repairs, and seasonal fluctuations in offerings).

***"Filling Gaps & Raising Reserves"*** has ***two challenge grants***. Through December 31, 2012, a group of anonymous members of our congregation will ***match*** gifts ***dollar for dollar***, up to \$25,000 -- \$12,500 match for the CMO offerings and \$12,500 match for the Reserve Fund offerings.

To date, the offerings (including the matching funds) total **\$12,225** for the CMO support and **\$6,730** for the Reserve Fund. Thank you for your generous offerings. We pray that our congregation will fully take advantage of the two challenge grants.

If you would like to make a special, year-end offering, please use the yellow envelope enclosed with today's bulletin and place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doug Lemke: [financialsec@gracetucsonwels.com](mailto:financialsec@gracetucsonwels.com) or 520.275.1685.

### **HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **Midweek Advent Service**

Wednesday, December 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.

# **"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 (**I=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of "Christ" in Greek (**X=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.

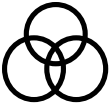


THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **Τ** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the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