

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 23, 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.

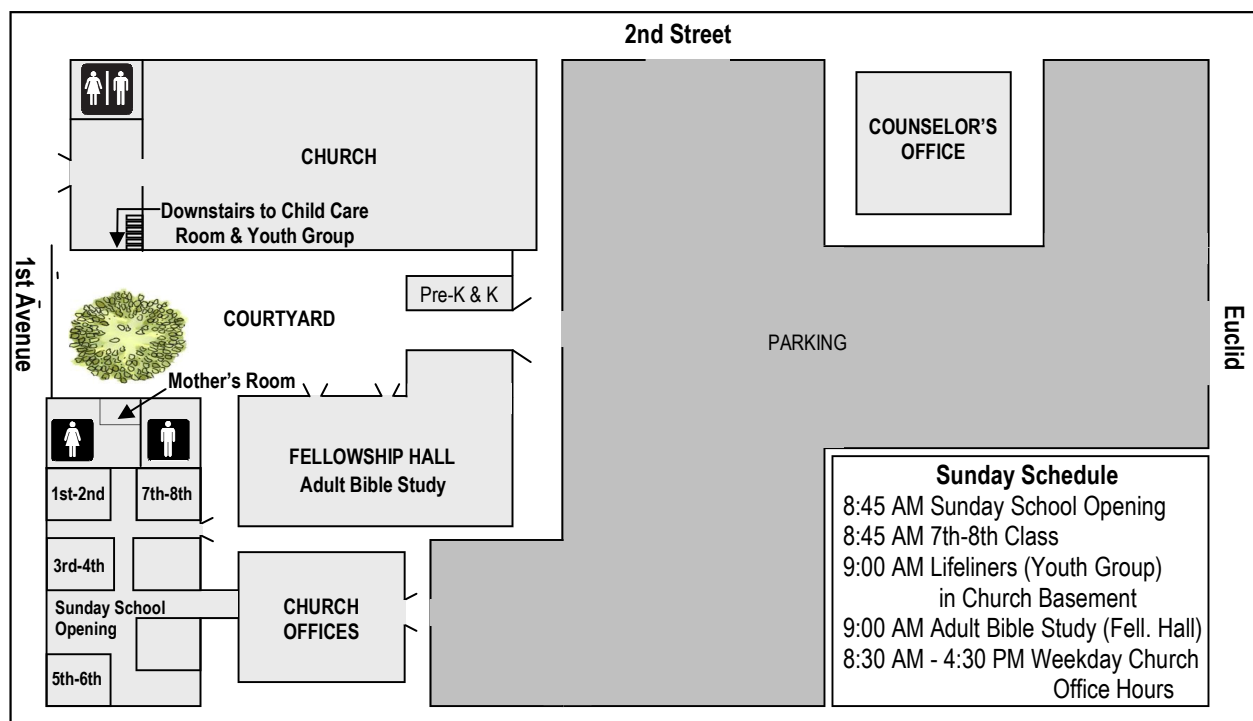
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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



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

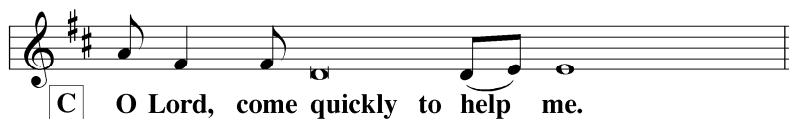
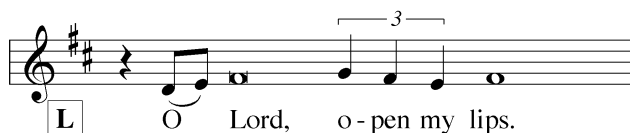
HYMN

Hosanna to the Coming Lord
Christian Worship #21

STAND

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



PRESERVICE MUSIC:

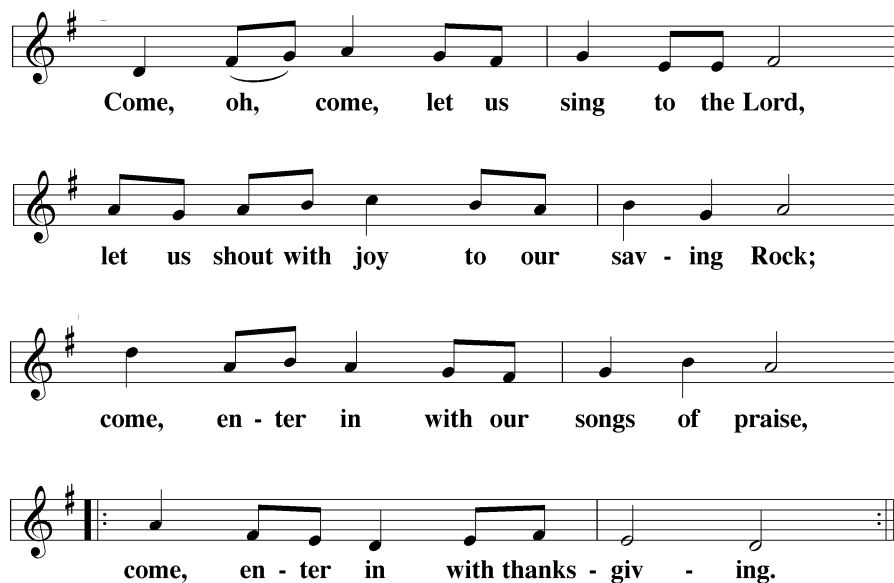
7:45 AM—
Savior of the Nations, Come
Arr. by Valerie Floeter

10:00 AM—
Basque Carol / Hark the Glad Sound!
Setting by Paul Manz

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

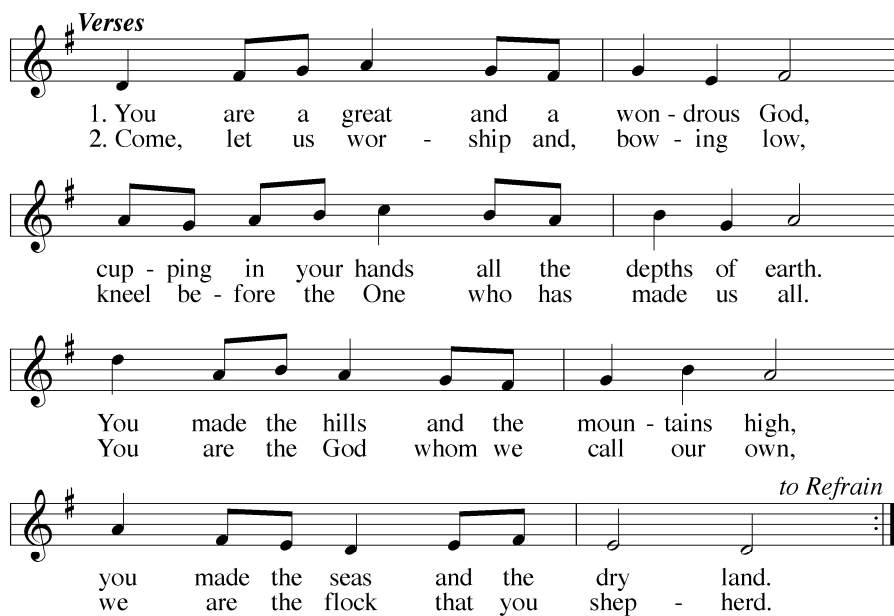
Congregation sings the refrain and verses.

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 four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

L: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles are lit.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Adam lay with his wife again, and she

Genesis 4:1,2,6-8,25-5:5 (NIV)

gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD. This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man." When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

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

Revelation 12:1-6 (NIV)

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to

the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

L: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

Words by Lloyd
Larson and Phillips
Brooks
Based on Isaiah
7:14, 9:6 and Micah
5:2
Music by Lloyd
Larson

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

Unto Us a Child Shall Come

*For unto us a Child shall come; born unto us God's Holy Son;
Sent from the throne of grace above, a gift of God's own heart of love.
For unto us a Child shall come; a virgin shall conceive God's Son.
This Child shall come and with us dwell: "God with us," Emmanuel.*

*The government shall be upon His shoulders. He shall be called the Wonderful Counselor,
The Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, eternal Prince of Peace.*

*For unto us a Child shall come; born in the town of Bethlehem:
A humble place for heaven's King. Let earth and heaven's praises ring!
Prepare your heart for heaven's King!*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the prophets of heaven, their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Unto us a Child shall come.

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STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55 (NIV)

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But

why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state

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

of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has

brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

BE SEATED

HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

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

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

Luke 1 Marty Haugen

My_ soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my

spir - it re-joic - es in you.

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1. My being proclaims the greatness of God, my spirit finds joy in my Savior. For you regard me in my lowliness, and ev'ry age shall call me blest. **Refrain**
2. Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore. How you favor the meek and lowly ones, humbling the proud of heart. **Refrain**
3. You have cast down the mighty from their thrones, raising up those of low degree, you filled the hungry with wondrous things, and sent the rich empty away. **Refrain**
4. Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love. As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore. **Refrain**

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SERMON

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

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.



3.
 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—
 The Advent of Our
 King
 Arr. by Valerie
 Floeter

10:00 AM—
 Once He Came In
 Blessing
 Setting by Michael
 Burkhardt

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:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; 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.



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.



L The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



C A - men.

BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
Christian Worship #12

POSTLUDE

(7:45 AM)For Unto Us a Child Is Born
By G. F. Handel, Arr. by John Schaum

(10:00 AM)Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending
By Thomas Oliver

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Ron Koehler

Worship Leader Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)

Accompanists..... Stephanie Kania (7:45 AM)
Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)

Acolyte Dustin Pauley (10:00 AM)

Vocalists..... Ariana & Jeff Weinstein (7:45 AM)
Teri & Dylan Guenther (10:00 AM)

Worship Choir Director.....Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)

Sound & Recording TechJeff Weinstein (10:00 AM)

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HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Children’s Service

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

Christmas Day Festival Worship

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

New Year’s Eve Worship

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



**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 23-Dec 30

*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 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 Elementary9:00a
Grace-Vail Sunday School at Cottonwood Elem.9:00a
Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary 10:00a
Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab 1:00p

Monday

Children's Christmas Eve Service..... 7:00p

Tuesday

Christmas Day Worship at Grace-University 10:00a
Christmas Day Worship at Grace-Vail 10:00a

Wednesday

NO Midweek Bible Studies.....

Thursday

NO Women's Bible Study.....

Sunday

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 Elementary10:00a

Check out the NEW GRACE WEBSITE at www.GraceTucsonWELS.com!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.



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 Kosanke & Wiechmann families. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab TODAY!

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) this afternoon. 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.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26
Hebrews 2:10-18
Luke 2:41-52

Sermon Text & Theme

Hebrews 2:10-18
*Jesus is not Ashamed
to Call Us Brothers*



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

Called Home to Heaven

Bill O'Donald was called to his heavenly home last Tuesday, December 18. His memorial service was held at Grace yesterday, December 22.

Oh No! I Forgot!

Did you forget to purchase a Christmas gift for someone? No problem!! Get them a **Scrip** gift card to one or more retailers on our list! Stop by the **Scrip** table in the courtyard after early service, Bible Class, or late service to make your purchase or ask any questions you may have.

Branches Band—January 6

In our Epiphany worship services on Sunday, January 6, we will be joined by the WELS musical group Branches Band. They will lead us in singing hymns and will provide additional music for the services. A separate freewill offering will be received on their behalf to help offset their costs in joining us. Branches Band will also have CD's available for purchase.

December Voters' Meeting Actions

1. The 2013 Grace Church Council members were elected in our Voters' Meeting on Tuesday, December 18. *President:* Bryan Guenther, *Vice President:* Robert Parra, *Member Ministry Elder:* Jason Watson, *Outreach Elder:* Jeff Weinstein, *Education Elder:* DJ Miller, *Recording Secretary:* Dallas Johnson, *Trustee:* Dave Breitzkreitz, *Financial Secretary:* Doug Lemke, *Treasurer:* Chris Stuhr. We did not have a candidate for Spiritual Needs Elder. In keeping with our constitution, the President will appoint someone to fill that council position.
2. The Ministry Spending Plan that was available to all members prior to the meeting was approved with one change. It was voted to not include the Music Coordinator position in our spending plan for 2013 and to instead add that amount (\$7,917) to our Congregational Mission Offering to the synod, bringing that total to \$19,917. The approved MSP for 2013 totals \$514,119.97. All members will receive a copy of the approved MSP in their 2013 Stewardship Packets.

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.



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 **\$12,624** for the CMO support and **\$7,030** 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 which can be found at both exits and in the Fellowship Hall and place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doug Lemke: financialsec@gracetucsonwels.com or 520.275.1685.

“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.



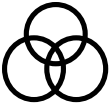
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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!