

First Sunday in Advent



At that time they will see the Son of Man
coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

-Luke 21:27

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 30, 2014





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-Tucson! 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.

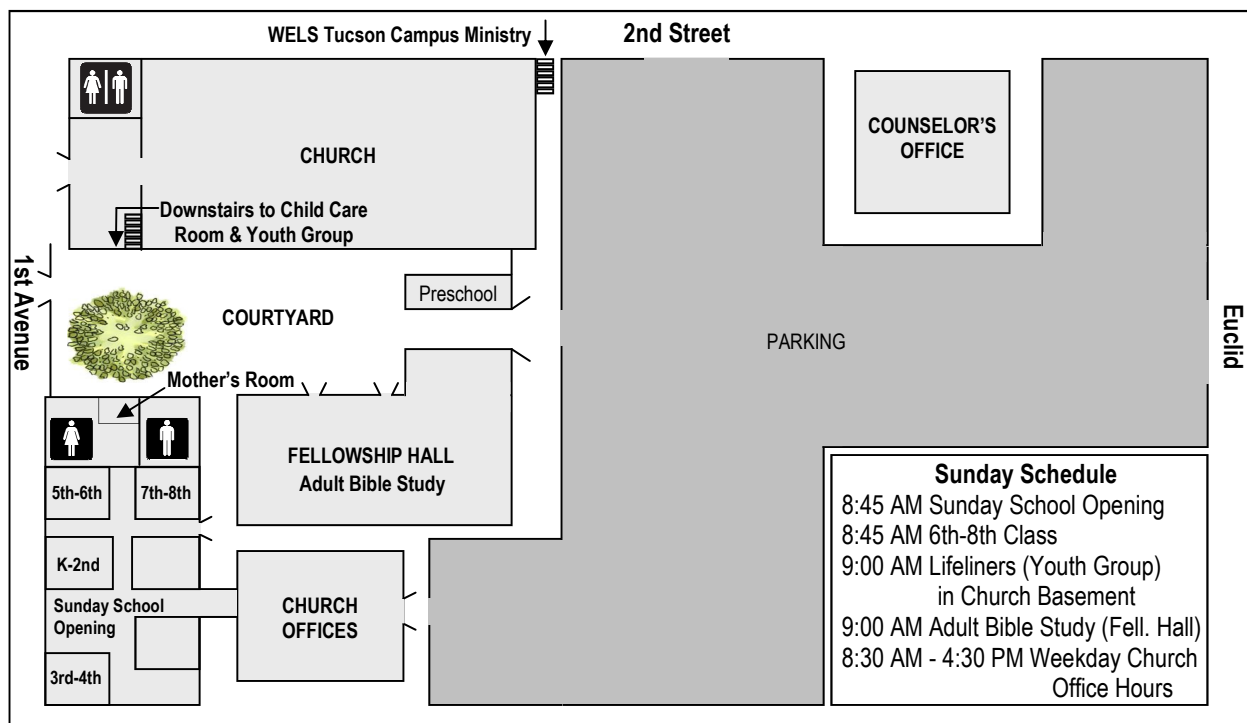
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets 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. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Please stand

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

The congregation sings the following line continually while the vocalist sings the verses.



1. *See the glory of God and come.*
2. *Oh be strong, fear not and come.*
3. *For our God comes to save us, so come.*
4. *Oh be patient, the Lord will come.*

Congregation sings refrain once more.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Faith
Arr. by Jim
Brickman

10:00 AM—
*The Night Will Soon
be Ending*
By Rebecca Kramer

We come before the true God only because of his mercy and not because we deserve to come. We confess our unworthiness and rejoice to hear the assurance of forgiveness.

The singing of the Gathering Song resumes following the Confession of Sins.



1. Lord, have mercy upon us and come.
2. Christ, have mercy upon us and come.
3. Lord, have mercy upon us and come.

Congregation sings refrain once more.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.
- C: **We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**
- M: We hear his call to watch.
- C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**
- M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

One Advent candle is lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M: Let us pray.
- Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.” When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29 (NIV)

By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of

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.

the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered

Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

VOICES OF GRACE (10:00 AM)

Behold, a Branch is Growing

*Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing; it springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little flow'r in midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.*

*Isaiah hath foretold it in words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will this child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.*

*This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.*

*O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.*

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NIV)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to

come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

HYMN (7:45 AM)

The Advent of Our King CW 1 st. 1,4



*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and save us.
Bring Your light into our world of darkness.
Come Lord Jesus. Come and save us. Amen, amen.*

Please stand

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

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36 (NIV)

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when

you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

*The Apostles' Creed
developed in the
Early Christian
Church as a
personal confession
of faith. It is so
named because it
confesses the faith
taught by the
Apostles of Jesus.*

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes
Christian Worship #9

1. Deepen Our Faith 2. Increase Our Love 3. Strengthen Our Hearts

Please stand

SONG OF ZECHARIAH



Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and
Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
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 the 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. 3.
prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Please 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!

This song of praise is based on the words of Zechariah in Luke 1:68-79. Zechariah was praising God on the occasion of the birth of his son, John (often called John the Baptist), whom God called to be the forerunner of the Savior.



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

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

7:45 AM—

The Gift of Love
Arr. by Lloyd Larson

10:00 AM—

O Savior, Rend the
Heavens Wide

Arr. by J.
Wayne Kerr

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—ADVENT

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed 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.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: 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.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! 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.

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.**

Please be seated

HYMN

Hosanna to the Coming Lord
Christian Worship #21

Please stand

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

May God the Father of Our Lord
Christian Worship #597

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Worship Leader Pastor Sam Clemons
Accompanists Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
 Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Acolyte John Pikyavit (10:00 AM)
Vocalist & Voices of Grace Director Beth Kassulke
Ushers Vic Thornton, Vernon Neal (7:45 AM)
 Mark Christianson, Jon Dongoske, Jonathan Ganster (10:00 AM)
 Danny Koehler, Jonathan Miller, Dustin Pauley, Rick Street (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)
Cover Photo Laura Lipke

POSTLUDE:

7:45 AM—
*Spirit of God,
Descend Upon My
Heart*
Arr. by Cindy Berry

10:00 AM—
*Lo! He Comes With
Clouds Descending*
By J. Wayne Kerr

Divine Call Extended

Our congregation has extended a Divine Call to Pastor Jesse Stern to serve as our mission pastor at Grace-Sahuarita. Pastor Stern currently serves as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Boulder, CO. Please keep him and his wife, Erica, and their 3 month old daughter, Summer Joy, in your prayers as he considers where best to use his gifts in ministry. Pastor Stern invites calls, texts or emails. We encourage you to please keep these brief, as he will have many people to talk to both here and in Colorado. You can reach him at 720-315-0910 or pastor@peacelutheranboulder.org.

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

**Enjoy worship, Bible study and activities
at Grace locations in
Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson and Vail.**

This Week at Grace • Nov 30-Dec 7

TUCSON

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 (Fellowship Hall):
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Last Days*9:00a
NO WELS Tucson Campus Ministry

Monday

Handbell Practice4:30p
English as a Second Language Classes6:30p

Tuesday

English as a Second Language Classes6:30p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship.....10:00a
Midweek Advent Worship.....6:30p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *The Narrow Lutheran Middle*9:00a
Worship Choir Practice6:30p

Friday

Precious Lambs at the Wiechmanns9:30a-11:30a

Saturday

Christmas for Kids.....9:30a-1:00p

Sunday

Worship Services.....7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....
Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal in Church.....8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class.....8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*.....9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Don Krueger: LACE Presentation*.....9:00a
Weinstein/Grahn Wedding2:00p
WELS Tucson Campus Ministry: *The Apocrypha*.....7:00p

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service.....9:45a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Bible Study & Discussion.....11:00a

Wednesday

Bible Study: *Church-Mission-Ministry*.....10:00a

VAIL

Today

Bible Study: *Book of Numbers*9:00a
Children's Sunday School.....9:00a
Worship Service.....10:00a

Monday

Bible Study at Rancho del Lago Golf Club9:00a

Saturday

Canvassing in Vail.....9:30a-11:30a

BENSON

Today

Worship Service.....7:30a

Check out the GRACE WEBSITE at www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org!

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Beth Kassulke
music@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 293-2935

Welcome Grace Guests!

If you are a guest at Grace today, we are very happy to have you worship with us! If you would like more information about Grace or have questions about becoming a member of our congregation, please visit the Welcome Table in the courtyard. If this is your first time at Grace, please stop there to pick up a gift just for being our guest this morning.

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 Miller family. 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

Malachi 3:1-4
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Luke 3:1-6

Guest Preacher

Pastor Rich Kogler, one of our two regional WELS Christian Giving Counselors, will be preaching and leading worship next Sunday, December 7 at Grace-Sahuarita. Worship is at 9:45 AM with a presentation by Pastor Kogler following worship.

Christmas for Kids

We invite 2-12 year old children to attend Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson this Saturday, December 6 from 9:30-1:00 PM. The children will learn what the Bible tells us about Christmas, sing songs, and do some Christmas crafts. The event is free and lunch is included. Please register early, and invite unchurched friends to join the fun. Registration forms are available at all the Grace locations and online at the Grace website, www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org.



Advent Services

The word "Advent" means "coming." It is the name of the season prior to Christmas where Christians take extra time during the week to prepare their hearts to properly celebrate our Savior's coming into this world to bring salvation.

Our worship theme for Wednesday's in Advent this year is *Advent Announcements*. Leading up to the first Christmas, God had news to share with people. He sent his angel to make the announcements. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we focus on these announcements and how they were received. You are invited to prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas by attending Wednesday Advent Services at Grace-Tucson. Worship will be held at 10 AM and at 6:30 PM.

Advent Announcements:

December 3 The Announcement to Zechariah
December 10 The Announcement to Mary
December 17 The Announcement to Joseph

LACE Presentation Next Sunday

Don Krueger, President and CEO of Lutheran Association for Church Extension (LACE) will be here at Grace-Tucson to talk about the LACE program and answer any questions or concerns next Sunday, December 7 during the 9:00 AM Bible Study.

Grace-Vail Canvassing

Canvassing of the Vail and Rita Ranch neighborhoods will take place on three Saturdays, December 6, 13, 20 from 9:30-11:30 AM. Even if you have never canvassed before, you are encouraged to come out to see how easy it can be. Following canvassing, Grace will provide lunch for those in attendance. Meet at Esmond Station School (9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way, 85747).

Christian Fellowship Group Potluck

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13 at noon for the annual Christian Fellowship Group Christmas potluck! Jo Davis and Dottie Kaiser are co-sponsoring this event on behalf of the Christian Fellowship Group. It will be at the home of Jo Davis, located at 1899 W. Camelot Road (near I-10 and Ajo Way). Come, eat, and enjoy the festivities!

—*Russ Weir, Christian Fellowship President*

In-Betweeners' White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party on Friday, December 12 at 5:00 PM at the clubhouse of Cinda Drescher & Geri DeRosa (the clubhouse is at the end of the street just south of their home, 5716 N. Camino De Las Estrellas, Tucson). There is also parking at the end of the next street, Camino Noche. The meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a wrapped White Elephant gift. If you have questions call Cinda or Geri at 615-6059. *This is a once a year social activity that is open to all adults.*

Tuition Tax Credit

2014 is quickly drawing to a close! With that in mind, don't forget about the Arizona Tuition Tax Credit. You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$1053 per person and \$2106 per married couple filing jointly). Donations made to the HELP Scholarship Foundation (www.helpscholarships.org) 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 (909-8022) or one of the pastors. **Pick up a flyer and a donation form brochure at any of the Grace locations.**

Grace currently has 8 students enrolled at Redeemer Lutheran School (Colby Heinz, Samuel and Naomi Kassulke, Tristan and AJ McDunn, Emma and Jacob Miller, and Colton Watson) and 5 students at Arizona Lutheran Academy (Elizabeth Colton, Daniel Koehler, Dustin and James Pauley, and Josiah Weinstein). We are very thankful that through the tuition tax credits, Sam and Naomi Kassulke and Danny Koehler's tuition costs have been covered for the current school year. Your help in this way is extremely valuable to families, and you are even allowed to recommend a specific student to receive the benefits of your donation.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services at Grace-Tucson

Wednesday, December 3, 10, 17
at 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24 at
4:00 PM at Grace-Vail
6:30 PM at Grace-Benson
6:30 PM at Grace-Sahuarita

Children's Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30 PM
at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Day Festival Worship

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 AM
at Grace-Tucson

New Year's Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 31 at 6:30 PM at Grace-Tucson.