

First Sunday after Christmas



"Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Luke 2:49 (NIV)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 28, 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.

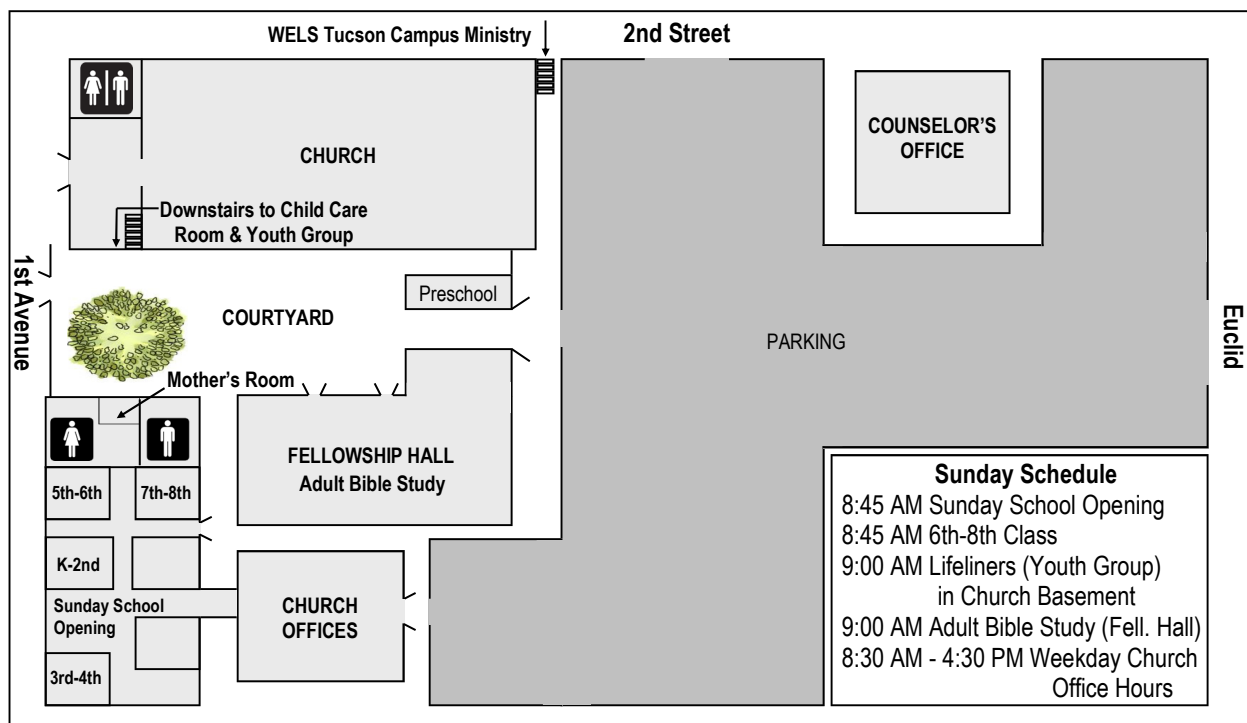
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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



DIVINE SERVICE I

Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

HYMN

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising
Christian Worship #42

Please stand

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

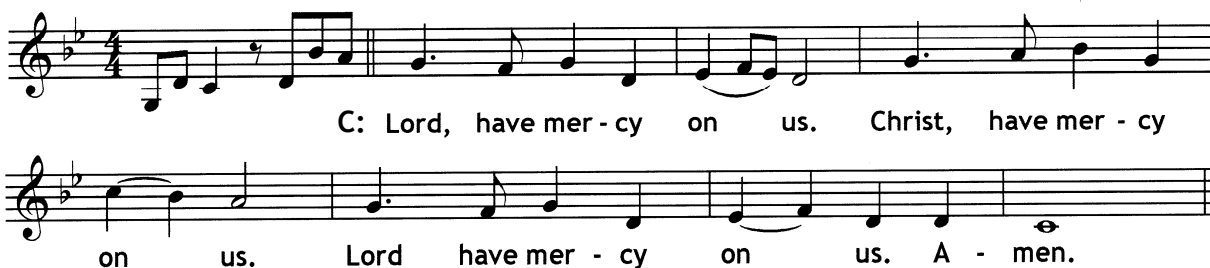
M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



Kyrie—We sing our penitential confession to our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, asking for his mercy. The name Kyrie is shortened from the Greek Kyrie Eleison, which means “Lord have mercy.”

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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

(Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction)

The text of Gloria in Excelsis (Latin for "Glory in the highest") is an ancient song that echoes the song of the angels in Luke 2:14. It offers praise and thanks to our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God_ and_ Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you_ thanks we praise you for_ your_ glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son_ of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;_ have mer-cy on us. You are_ seat - ed at the right hand of_ the_ Father; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive_ our prayer. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly_ One, you a - lone_ are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most_ High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God_ the_ Fa-ther. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (NIV)

Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord." Then they would go ho home. And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men.

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 OF THE DAY

PSALM 111

Refrain



Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done mar-vel-ous things.

Psalm Tone



1. Great are the works / of the LORD;* they are pondered by all who de- / light in them.
2. Glorious and majestic / are his deeds,* and his righteousness endures for- / ever.
3. He has caused his wonders to be re- / membered;* the LORD is gracious and com- / passionate.

Refrain

4. The works of his hands are faith- / ful and just;* all his precepts are trust- / worthy.
5. He provided redemption for his / people;* he ordained his covenant for- / ever.
6. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of / wisdom;* all who follow his precepts have
good under- / standing.
7. **Glory be to the Father and / to the Son***
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their

Hebrews 2:10-18 (NIV)

humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Colossians 3:15a

M: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.

Please stand

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

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52 (NIV)

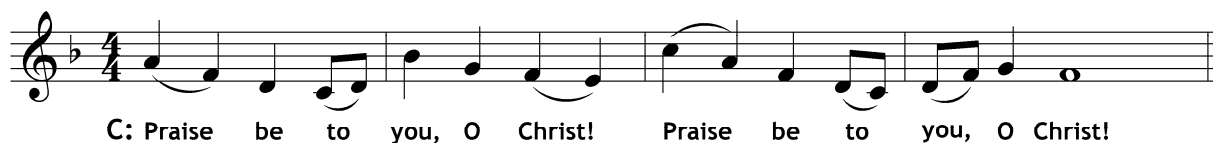
After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking

them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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.

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.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Together Praise Our God
Christian Worship #41

SERMON

Luke 2:41-52
Where is Jesus?

Please stand

After the sermon, please join in singing the response below:





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

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!

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servantlike heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior, You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.

God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.

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.

Please be seated

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.

HYMN

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild
Christian Worship #366

Please stand

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.

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

C: Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice
Christian Worship #64

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Sam Clemons
Worship Leader Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Accompanist..... Stephanie Kania
Ushers Vic Thornton (7:45 AM)
Mark Christianson, Jon Dongoske, Jonathan Ganster (10:00 AM)
Jonathan Miller, Dustin Pauley, Rick Street (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)

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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 • Dec 28-Jan 4

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):
• *Noah* 9:00a

Monday

NO Handbell Practice.....

Wednesday

NO Bible Studies
New Year's Eve Worship (with communion) 6:30p

Thursday NEW YEAR'S DAY (Church Office Closed)

NO Women's Bible Study.....

Friday

Precious Lambs at the Wiechmann's 9:30-11:30a

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 (Fellowship Hall):
• *Noah* 9:00a
Women of Grace Meeting following 10 AM Worship..

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service 9:45a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

Wednesday

New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson 6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service 9:45a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

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 Club 9:00a

Wednesday

New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson 6:30p

Sunday

Bible Study: *Book of Numbers*..... 9:00a
Children's Sunday School..... 9:00a
Worship Service..... 10:00a
Women of Grace Meeting following 10 AM Worship..

BENSON

Today

Worship Service 7:30a

Wednesday

New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson 6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service 7:30a

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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

**Phone 623-6633
Fax 623-1514**

Administrative Assistant

**Cora Stuhr
office@gracelutheransaz.org**

Pastors

At Grace-Tucson

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org
Nathan P. Kassulke revnpk@gracelutheransaz.org
Samuel M. Clemons revsmc@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Vail & Grace-Benson

Colin M. Rieke revcmr@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Sahuarita

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org

Bible-Based Counselor

Cinda Drescher
cinda@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 882-3773

Music Coordinator

Beth Kassulke
music@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 293-2935

Office Assistant

Deb Koehler
assistant@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 623-6633

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.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Rick & Kristy Schmidt in thanks to God!

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 Marie Lingham and Aimee Wilson. 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

1 Kings 10:1-9
Ephesians 3:2-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Text & Theme

Ephesians 3:2-12
The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson

Please join us this Wednesday, December 31 at 6:30 PM for our New Year's Eve Worship Service at Grace-Tucson. This service will include the celebration of Holy Communion. It will also include a remembrance of those whom God called to heavenly glory during the past year.

Thanks

Jeffrey Witter gives thanks to the Grace congregation for the cards and prayers received this past year. Your outpouring of kind sentiments is greatly appreciated!

Divine Call Extended

At Grace's Voters' Meeting on Sunday, December 21, a Divine Call was extended to Pastor Paul Seager (pronounced SAY-ger). Pastor Seager currently serves at Christ Alone Lutheran Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Please keep Pastor Seager, his wife Lara Beth, and daughter Eliana in your prayers as he considers this Call. Also, please keep in your prayers the ongoing gospel ministry in Fort Worth and at Grace!

Women of Grace Meeting

There will be a Women of Grace meeting at both the Grace-Tucson and Grace-Vail sites next Sunday, January 4 after the 10:00 AM service (meet in the sanctuary at Grace-Tucson and the worship area at Grace-Vail). These meetings will kick off the planning of our February Valentine's Tea. If you will not be able to make either meeting, feel free to contact Diane Kramm (440-8564) with any input you may have regarding the upcoming tea. Also, consider whether you would like to serve as a leader in the Women of Grace. If you have questions about serving as a leader please contact Diane Kramm or Sue Sargent (647-3049). Remember, Women of Grace is for all confirmed women who are members of our congregation.

Women's Bible Study

How does a book of Scripture go from being the first one read by the young children of God's people at one time to perhaps the *least* read book of the Bible by Christians today? Women of all ages are invited to come see what treasures are hidden in the book of Leviticus and find faith-applications for us today. Thursday morning classes with Pastor Koehler begin on January 15.

Christian Fellowship Group White Elephant Bingo Party

Christian Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday, January 10, at noon in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship hall for a Pot Luck White Elephant Bingo party. Dottie Kaiser and Lauri Colton will host this event. Bring a dish to pass and a cleverly wrapped or disguised "White Elephant." We hope to see you there! Please contact Dottie Kaiser (622-3159) or Lauri Colton (743-9246) if you have any questions.

Church Council Election

The 2015 Grace Church Council was elected at the December Voters' Meeting. Many thanks to all of the men who were willing to be nominated and to stand for election to Church Council positions. The following will serve as Church Council members in 2015, and will be installed in their positions on Sunday, January 11:

Bryan Guenther, President; Craig Lipke, Vice President; Dallas Johnson, Recording Secretary; Doug Lemke, Financial Secretary; Chris Stuhr, Treasurer; Dave Breitzkreitz, Trustee; Jacob Kassulke, Spiritual Needs Elder; Jason Watson, Member Ministry Elder; Jay Pauley, Education Elder; Jeff Weinstein, Outreach Elder.

David Farley has agreed to continue serving as Church Council Site Representative from Sahuarita in 2015.

Thank you also to those who served on the Church Council in 2014 but will not be serving in 2015: Mike Festerling, Eric Hanson, and Robert Parra.

More from the Voters' Meeting

In addition to extending a Call and electing a Church Council, the voters at the December meeting approved an expenditure from the Perpetual Memorial Fund in order to send Pastor and Beth Kassulke to the "Renewed in Grace" retreat hosted by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in April 2015. They also approved a Ministry Spending Plan (MSP) for the New Year. This MSP estimates that regular offerings for all Grace sites will be approximately \$639,000 and lays out a plan to support Grace's ministries with this level of contributions.

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 for the 2014 tax year). 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.