



Second Sunday in Advent

'The Prophet Malachi'

*Tempera on wood panel by
Duccio di Buoninsegna
1308-1311
Italy*

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 7, 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.

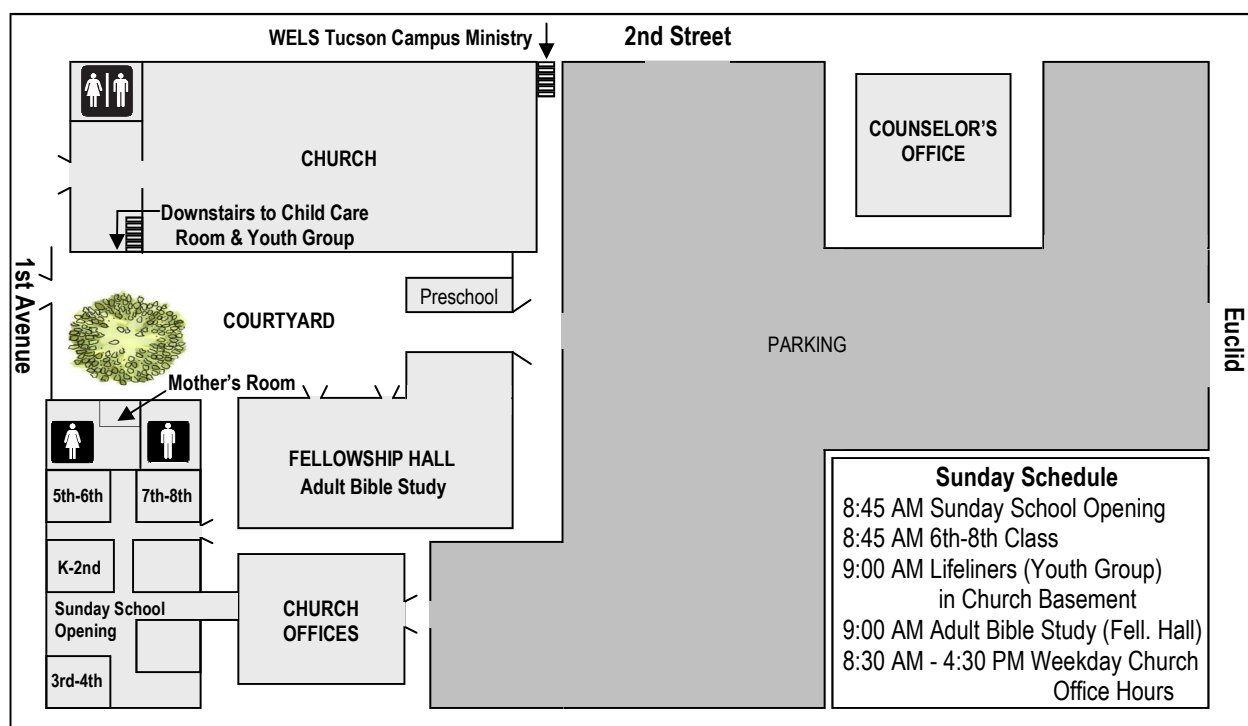
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS CHOIR (10:00 AM)

Mary Had a Baby

*Mary had a baby, yes, Lord. Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.
Laid him in a manger, yes, Lord. Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.
Shepherds came to see him, yes, Lord. Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.
Wisemen brought him presents, yes, Lord. Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.*

WELCOME

Please stand

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

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



1. *Oh give comfort, my people, and come.*
2. *Oh prepare the way, and come.*
3. *For the day of the Lord will come.*
4. *Oh make ready his way, and 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—

Prepare the Royal Highway
Arr. by Phil Magness

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story: Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills His Word!

10:00 AM—

Savior of the Nations Come—Variations
By Johann Walther and Charles Ore

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

Two Advent candles are lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Please be seated

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.

FIRST LESSON

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will

Malachi 3:1-5 (ESV)

bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

SECOND LESSON

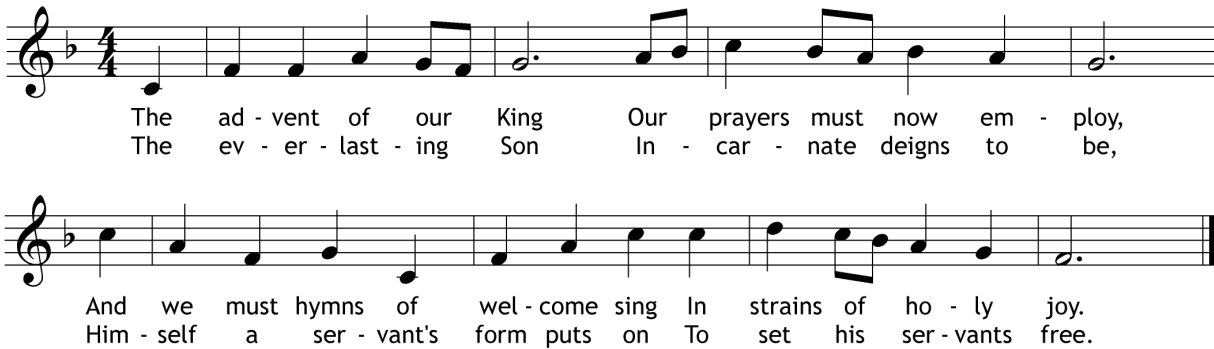
So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience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

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (NIV)

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

HYMN (7:45 AM)

The Advent of Our King CW 1 st. 1 & 2



The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set his ser - vants free.

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

*Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight the highway of our God! Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight the highway of our God!*

*Based on the Verse
of the Day: Luke 3:4
Prepare the way for
the Lord, make
straight paths for
him.*

Please stand

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)

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

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

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

The Nicene Creed was first developed in 325 at the First Council of Nicea. It was written to reaffirm the Biblical teaching of the divinity of Jesus, God's Son. Like the Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds, the Nicene Creed is a confession of what the Bible teaches.

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying
Christian Worship #13

SERMON

Malachi 3:1-4
Behold, the Messenger of God's Covenant is Coming!

1. Preparation

2. Purification

3. Promise

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!

Please stand

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—

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
 Arr. by William Beckstrand

10:00 AM—

Prepare the Way
 Music by Lloyd Larson

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.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

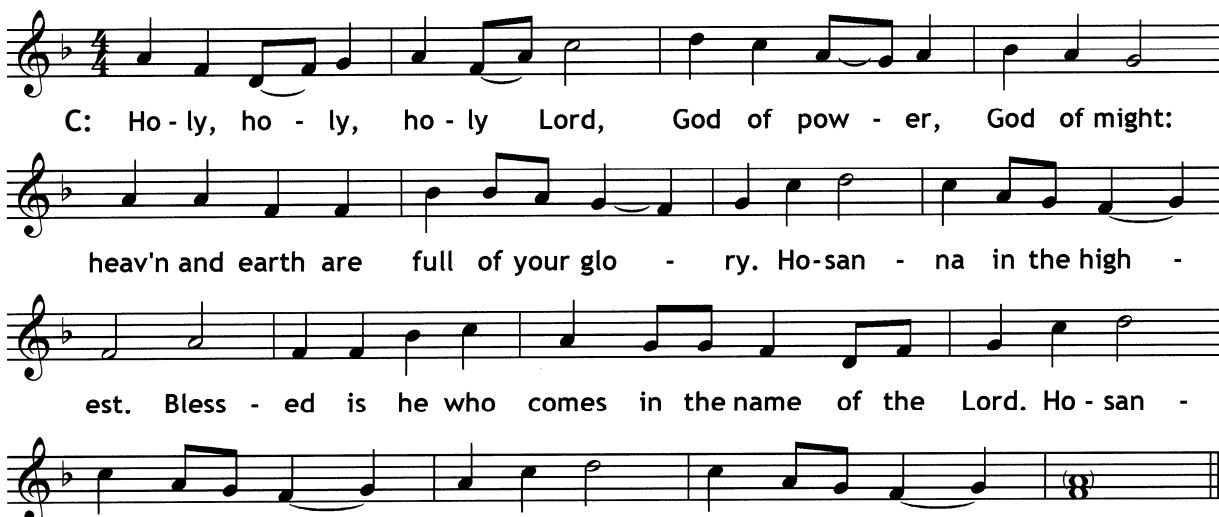
C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high -
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

This ancient worship song is based on songs of praise recorded in Isaiah 6 and Psalm 118.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all. The words of this song are based on John 1:29, where John the Baptist refers to Jesus this way.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men. A - - - men.

Please be seated

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (10:00 AM)

Lord, to You I Make Confession
Christian Worship #302

Please stand

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The Nunc Dimittis ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

PRAYER

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

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

POSTLUDE:

7:45 AM—
Prepare the Royal Highway
Arr. by Anne Krentz
Organ

God's people, see Him coming: your own eternal King!
Palm branches lay before Him! Spread garments, shout and sing! His promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills His Word!

10:00 AM—
Prepare...
By John A. Behnke



**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 7-Dec 14

TUCSON

Today

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 Wedding 2:00p
WELS Tucson Campus Ministry: *The Apocrypha* 7:00p

Monday

Handbell Practice 4:30p
English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

Tuesday

English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *The Narrow Lutheran Middle* 9:00a
Worship Choir Practice 6:30p

Friday

Precious Lambs at the Yngves 9:30a-11:30a
In-Betweeners' Christmas Party 5:00p

Saturday

Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal 9:00a-12:00p
Christian Fellowship Christmas Party 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 8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Last Days* 9:00a
WELS Tucson Campus Ministry: *Christmas Miracles* 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 Club 9:00a

Saturday

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

BENSON

Today

Worship Service 7:30a

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

**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

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher	Pastor Ron Koehler
Worship Leader	Pastor Sam Clemons (10:00 AM)
Communion Assistants.....	Pastor Nathan Kassulke, Outreach Elder Jeff Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Accompanists.....	Kathy Parra (7:45 AM), Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Acolyte	Jay Wiechmann (7:45 AM), Jeffrey Hock (10:00 AM)
Vocalists.....	Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM), Dylan Guenther (10:00 AM)
Vocal Quartet	Dylan Guenther, Teri Guenther, Beth Kassulke, Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)
Handbells	Tina Christianson, Donna Malchow, Missy Wiechmann (10:00 AM)
Christmas for Kids Choir Director	Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Worship Choir Director.....	Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Ushers	Tony Zanotti, Vernon Neal (7:45 AM)
	Dave Breitzkreitz, Ed Ethington, Dylan Guenther, Lucas Guenther (10:00 AM)
	Ferdie Kramm, James Pauley, Josiah Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech	Jay Pauley (10:00 AM)
Altar Prep Team	Navonne Baxter, Sally Littau, Nancy Miles

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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 Pat Messer in thanksgiving for God's many blessings and in memory of loved ones.

Thank You

Thank you to Don Krueger, President and CEO of Lutheran Association for Church Extension (LACE) for presenting during the Bible Study hour 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 Morris and Sloyan families. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY

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

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

Sermon Text & Theme

Philippians 4:4-7
The Lord is Near

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsals

The Sunday School and Confirmation students (preschool through eighth grade) will have two Saturday rehearsals to prepare for the Christmas Eve service. These are December 13 and 20, 9:00 AM until noon at Grace-Tucson. Pre-K and Kindergarten will be finished by 10:30 AM but are welcome to stay until noon. There will be activities for them. If you have any questions or know your child will miss either of these dates, please call Beth Kassulke at 293-2935 or email her at music@gracelutheransaz.org.

Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. Pastor and Council reports can be found in the church entryways and in the Fellowship Hall. The report keeps members informed and helps voters prepare for the meeting. **There are two major items to be voted on at the meeting: the proposed Ministry Spending Plan for 2015 and voting for your 2015 Church Council.**

In-Betweeners' White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party this 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.*

Grace-Vail Canvassing

Canvassing of the Vail and Rita Ranch neighborhoods will take place the next two Saturdays, December 13 and 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).

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 10 The Announcement to Mary
December 17 The Announcement to Joseph

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services at Grace-Tucson

Wednesday, December 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

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

New Year's Eve Worship

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

Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab

Want to go Christmas Caroling? Well, here's an opportunity to do that! Next Sunday, December 14, at 1:00 PM at Sabino Canyon Rehabilitation (5830 E Pima St, between Craycroft and Wilmot, across from Dodge Middle School). Please come a tad bit early so we can start promptly at 1:00 PM. We'll be finished by 2:00 PM. We'll sing familiar Advent and Christmas hymns and have piano accompaniment. Please come. The staff and residents love us for doing this!

—Russ Weir, Christian Fellowship President

Christian Fellowship Group Potluck

A final reminder about the Christian Fellowship Group Potluck this Saturday, December 13 at noon! Jo Davis and Dottie Kaiser are co-sponsoring this event at 1899 W. Camelot Road (near I-10 and Ajo Way). Great Christmas fanfare is in store for all who attend, and an explanation of this group's will be presented. Come and wish each other a blessed Christmas!

—Russ Weir, Christian Fellowship President

Christian Leadership Experience

Please see the insert located in the Fellowship Hall publicizing the Christian Leadership Experience, co-sponsored by the Kingdom Workers and five other entities, to be held January 9-11, 2015, at the Chaparral Suites in Scottsdale. World-class speakers and presenters will facilitate a wide variety of learning opportunities. As a result of this event, an annual Kingdom Workers' Spiritual Renewal Event will not be held.

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.

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.

Calendars and Coupon Books Available

The Lifeliners (our high school youth group) are conducting their annual sale of Bible Verse Calendars (\$8 each or 2 for \$15 while supplies last) and Entertainment Coupon Books (\$30). The Lifeliners will be available in the Courtyard at Grace-Tucson on Sunday mornings for you to make your purchases. Those attending Grace-Vail, Benson, and Sahuarita may call the church office to place an order (623-6633). Proceeds help fund Lifeliner activities. Entertainment Book sales will conclude next Sunday, December 14.

Evangelism Survey

A new online survey has been created to receive feedback regarding friendship evangelism at Grace. The survey was set up by Pastor Rieke's brother-in-law as a requirement of a class that he is taking. Please take a minute or two to complete the very brief survey (only 10 questions) to help him meet his requirements, and to provide valuable feedback to the pastors and other leaders at Grace. The deadline for taking the survey is next Friday, December 12. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5GDQMRG> to take the survey.

Christmas Candy for Mission to the Children

Mission to the Children is in need of candy to take to the children in Mexico for the upcoming Christmas parties. Individually wrapped small candies are preferred. **The deadline to bring candy to the Grace-Tucson office is this Wednesday, December 10.** If you are able to help, please contact Cora at 623-6633.