

Fourth Sunday in Advent



John's Heavenly Vision of Christmas from Revelation 12

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 21, 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.

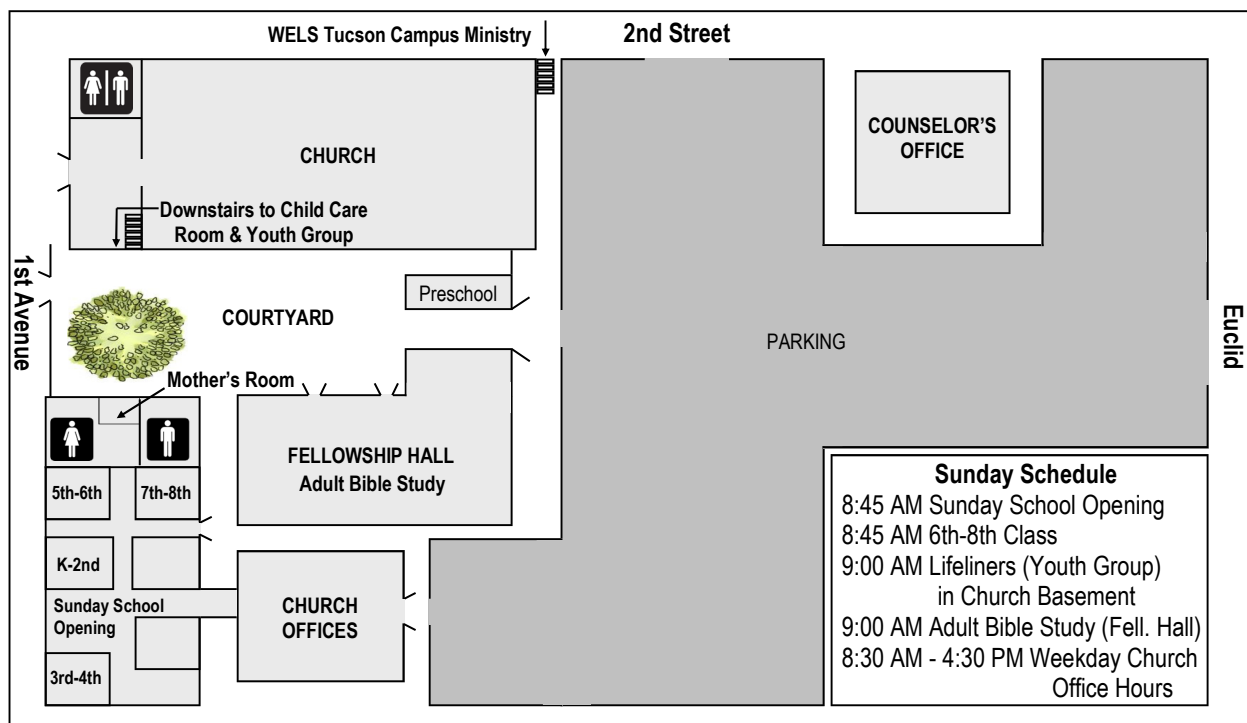
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

*Oh, Come, Oh,
Come, Emmanuel
Setting by Michael
Burkhardt*

Please stand

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

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



1. *For a child from the virgin will come.*
2. *And his name will be Jesus, so come.*
3. *Oh the King of glory shall come.*
4. *He will save us from sin, so 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.

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 CANDLES

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

Four Advent candles are lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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.

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

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

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

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 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.

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.

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.

HYMN (7:45 AM)

The Advent of Our King CW 1 st. 1 & 3

The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The peace he comes to bring.

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

REFRAIN: *My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.*

*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*

*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*

*You have cast down the mighty from their thrones, raising up those of low degree,
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and sent the rich empty away. REFRAIN*

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

Based on the Song of Mary found in Luke 1.

Please stand

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

GOSPEL

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

Luke 1:39-55 (NIV)

he has been mindful of the humble state 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."

*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

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord
Christian Worship #274

The Heavenly Vision of Christmas

Scene 1: A Pregnant Woman

Scene 2: A Red Dragon

Scene 3: A Son

Scene 4: A Desert Flight

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 and 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!

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.

Please be seated



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

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

Once He Came in
Blessing
Setting by Michael
Burkhardt

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—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.**

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.**

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.

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.

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for this special use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

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.

*We provide **gluten-free communion wafers** for those with wheat allergy, gluten-sensitivity or celiac disease.*

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

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

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)

O Lord, We Praise You
Christian Worship #317

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

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Christian Worship #23

POSTLUDE:

*The Night Will Soon
Be Ending
Setting by Ralph V.
Williams*



**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 21-Dec 28

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....
Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal in Church8:45a
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
Voters' Meeting.....2:00p

Monday

Handbell Practice4:30p

Wednesday

Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson ...6:30p

Thursday

Christmas Day Worship at Grace-Tucson 10:00a

Friday

NO Precious Lambs.....

Sunday

Worship Services7:45 & 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

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service/Coffee Fellowship after worship ...9:45a
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson2:00p

Wednesday

Christmas Eve Service at Grace-Sahuarita.....6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service/Coffee Fellowship after worship ...9:45a

BENSON

Today

Worship Service7:30a
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson2:00p

Wednesday

Christmas Eve Carol Service at Grace-Benson..6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service7:30a

VAIL

Today

Bible Study: *Book of Numbers*..... 9:00a
Children's Sunday School..... 9:00a
Worship Service..... 10:00a
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson..... 2:00p

Monday

Bible Study at Rancho del Lago Golf Club 9:00a

Wednesday

Christmas Eve Carol Service at Grace-Vail..... 4:00p

Sunday

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

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THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher	Pastor Ron Koehler
Worship Leader	Pastor Sam Clemons (10:00 AM)
Communion Assistants	Pastor Nathan Kassulke, Spiritual Needs Elder Eric Hanson (10:00 AM)
Accompanist	Tina Christianson
Piano	Melissa Newbrey (10:00 AM)
Distribution Music	Amanda Schulz (10:00 AM)
Acolyte	Grace Hansen (10:00 AM)
Vocalists	Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM), Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Violin	Maya Parra (10:00 AM)
Flute	Lakeisha Johnson (10:00 AM)
Worship Choir Director	Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Ushers	Vic Thornton, 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	Jeff Weinstein (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 the Bill O'Donald family in loving memory of Bill O'Donald, husband and father.

Voters' Meeting Today!

The December Voters' Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for this afternoon 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. **In addition to extending a call for a pastor to serve in Sahuarita, voters will be asked to approve a 2015 Ministry Spending Plan and to elect the members of Grace's 2015 Church Council. Details about these actions are available in the packet of reports.**

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

Confirmations

Max & Betsy Guthrie and Laura Hodgson were confirmed at Grace-Vail last Sunday during 10:00 AM worship. We welcome them to Grace and ask God's blessings on them!

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

Luke 2:41-52
Where is Jesus?

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 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.

Women of Grace Meeting

There will be a Women of Grace meeting at both the Grace-Tucson and Grace-Vail sites on 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.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

“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 (**A**) and omega (**W**) 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', **C** and **R**.



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 **ICQUS** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **I**=Jesus **C**=Christ **Q**=God's **U**=Son **S**=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.