The Epiphany of Our Lord



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church January 4, 2015





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.

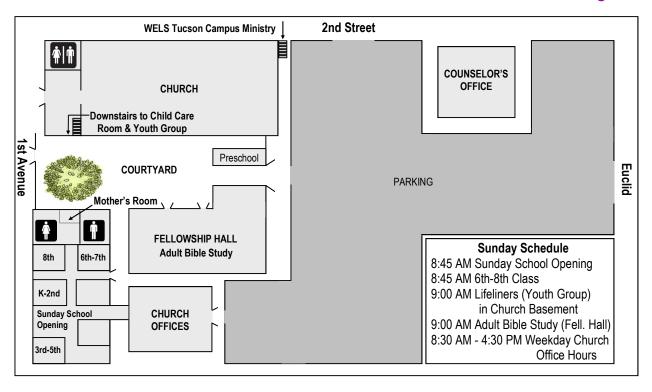
Hymns are found in our hymnal, Christian Worship, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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

Angels from the Realms of Glory Christian Worship #80

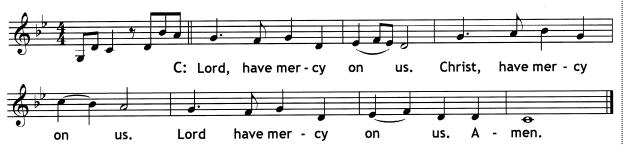
Please stand

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie



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.

Today we celebrate the Epiphany or "appearing" of Jesus as the Savior of all nations. Tuesday, January 6, is actually Epiphany, the Twelfth Day of the Christmas season. The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord (also known as the Gentile Christmas) has been celebrated by the Church since the second century.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

Jesus Has Come By John A. Behnke

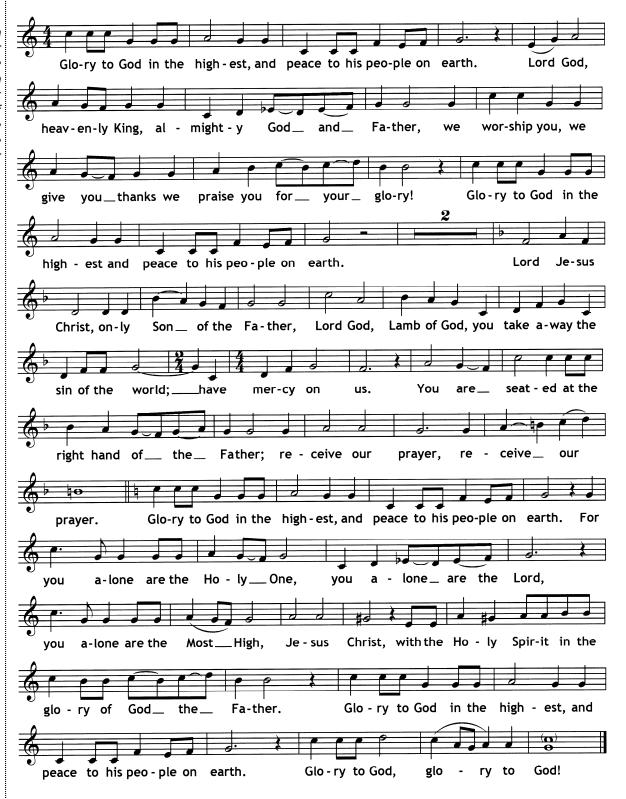
We come before the true God only because of his mercy and not because we deserve to come. We confess our unworthiness and rejoice to hear the assurance of forgiveness.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

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

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly 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

When the gueen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones-she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the gueen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built. the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple 1 Kings 10:1-9 (NIV)

of the LORD, she was overwhelmed. She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."

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.

SECOND LESSON

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace

Ephesians 3:2-12 (NIV)

given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

VERSE OF THE DAY Matthew 2:2b

M: Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Please stand

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



words of Christ our King.

> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact

time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

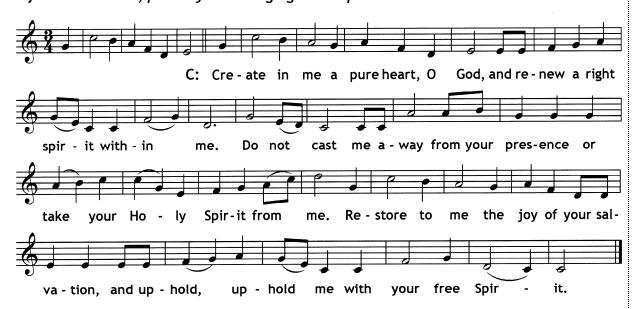
Hail, O Source of Every Blessing Christian Worship #87

SERMON

Ephesians 3:2-12 The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

Please stand

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



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.



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

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

We Three Kings of Orient Are Arr. by John H. Hopkins

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-EPIPHANY

- M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.
- C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.
- M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.
- C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.
- M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of your salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.
- C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.
- M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.
- C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here.

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

Silent prayer.

- M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.
- 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.

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.

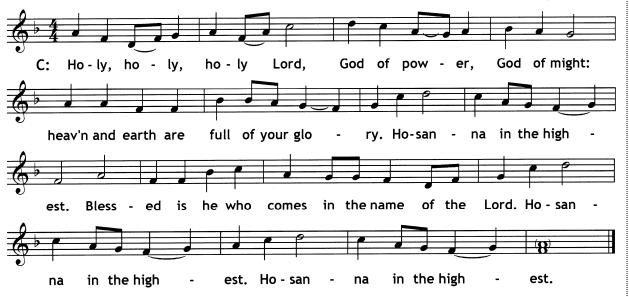
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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:



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."

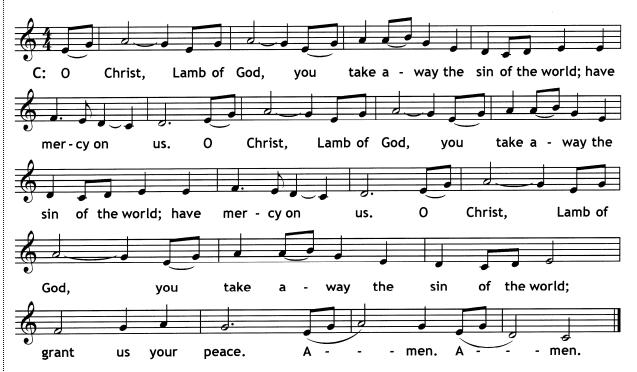
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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:



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 Word of God Incarnate Christian Worship #279

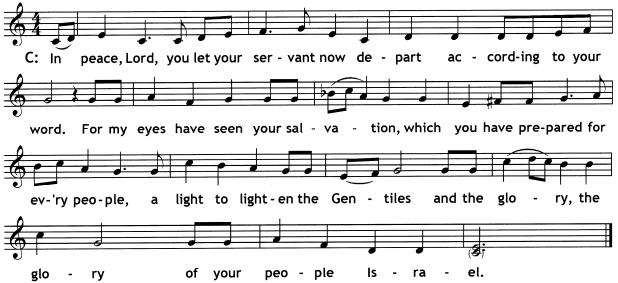
Please stand

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

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



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

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

We provide glutenfree 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.

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

As with Gladness Men of Old Christian Worship #83

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

POSTLUDE: Hail to the Lord's Annointed Arr. by Henry V. Gerike

Kings shall bow down before him and gold and incense bring; All nations shall adore him His praise all people sing! (CW #93 st. 3) Copyright Info:

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Christian Leadership Experience

Please see the flyer 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, the annual Kingdom Workers' Spiritual Renewal Event will not be held.

Help with Christmas Tree Take-Down

Eric Hanson will be taking the Christmas trees down this Saturday, January 10 beginning at 10:30 AM. The process should take about 2 hours and any and all assistance would be greatly appreciated. Lunch will be provided for those who volunteer to help. Please contact Eric Hanson at 664-6626 if you have any questions.



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 • Jan 4-Jan 11

TUCSON Today Worship Services	Friday Precious Lambs
SAHUARITA Today Worship Service/Coffee Fellowship	VAIL Today Bible Study: Book of Numbers
BENSON Today Worship Service	Bible Study at the Prigge's: What Child is This? 7:00p Sunday Bible Study: Book of Numbers

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Phone 623-6633 Fax 623-1514

Administrative Assistant

Cora Stuhr office@gracelutheransaz.org

VAIL Foday	
Bible Study: Book of Numbers	9·00a
Children's Sunday School	
Worship Service	
Women of Grace Meeting following 10 AM Wo	rship
Monday Bible Study at Rancho del Lago Golf Club	9:00a
Wednesday Bible Study at the Prigge's: <i>What Child is This?</i>	7:00p

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

TODAY

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 Sally Littau, Nancy Miles, Pat Rader and Lois Thornton. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Women of Grace Meeting Today

There will be a Women of Grace meeting following the 10:00 AM service today (meet in the sanctuary). This meeting will kick off the planning of our February Valentine's Tea. Women of Grace is for all confirmed women who are members of our congregation.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

> 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21, 22

Sermon Text & Theme Luke 3:15-17, 21, 22 The Baptism of Jesus

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 Seagar currently serves at 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!

Christian Fellowship Group White Elephant Bingo Party

Christian Fellowship Group will meet this 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 and <u>dessert will be provided</u>. 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.

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 at Grace-Tucson.

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 next Sunday, January 11:

Bryan Guenther, President; Craig Lipke, Vice President; Dallas Johnson, Recording Secretary; Doug Lemke, Financial Secretary; Chris Stuhr, Treasurer; Dave Breitkreitz, 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.

Altar Prep Team Needs Volunteers

The Altar Prep Team is looking for a few more volunteers to help with communion set-up at Grace -Tucson. Please call Lauri Colton (743-9246) or Spiritual Needs Elder Jacob Kassulke (449-7122) if you have questions or are interested in helping.

Tuition Tax Credit

Even in the New Year, it is not too late to make a donation to the HELP Scholarship Foundation which may also be claimed as a tax credit on your 2014 Arizona State Tax Return. In fact, up until April 15, you may make a donation and credit it to your 2014 tax year. Tuition Tax Credits can reduce (dollar-for-dollar) the amount that you owe in state income taxes up to \$2106 for a married couple (filing jointly) or \$1053 for an individual. These credits are also limited by your total tax liability. Visit www.helpscholarships.org for more information or to make a donation. Flyers with donation brochures are also available at any of Grace's locations. If you have any questions about the Tuition Tax Credit program, please speak to Stephanie Weinstein (520-909-8022) or one of the pastors.

For the 2015 tax year, donation limits increase to \$2134 per married couple and \$1067 for individuals.

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.