

First Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 29, 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.

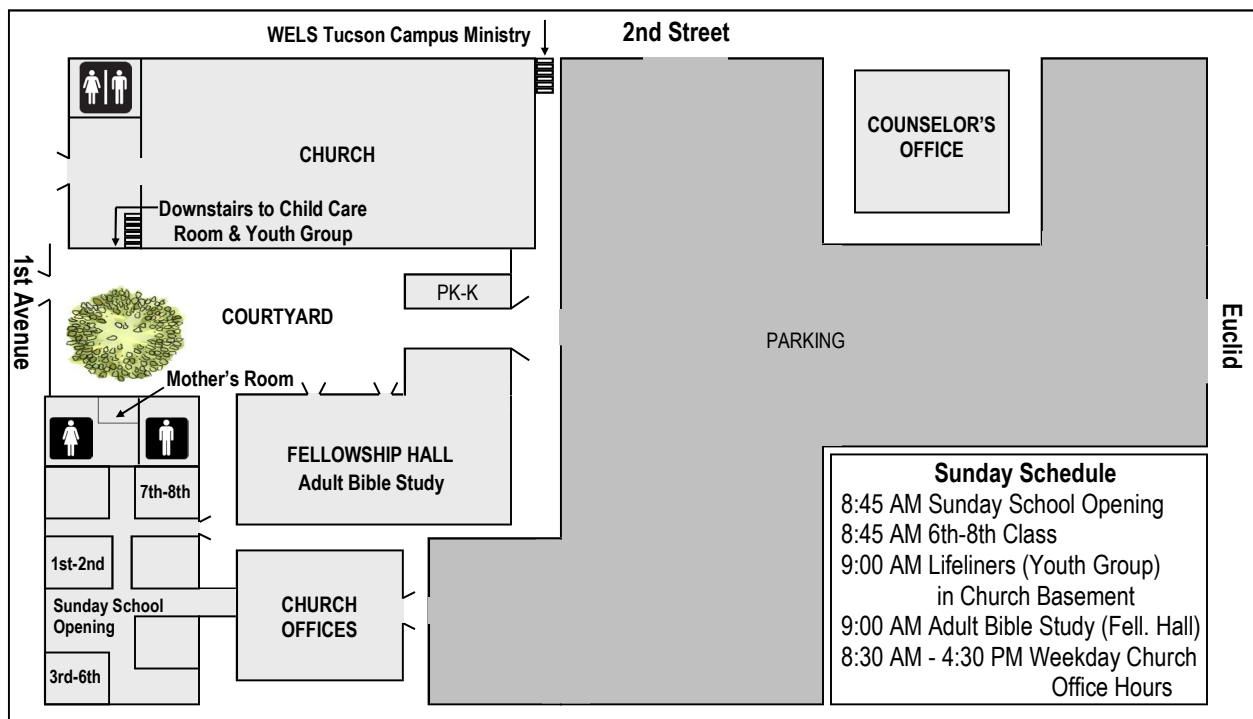
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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



The weeks before Christmas comprise the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin and means “coming.” In this season we look forward to the celebration of Christ’s coming in the flesh at Christmas, his coming to us regularly in his Word and Sacrament, and his coming at the end of time. Blue is the color of the season, representing hope and heaven.

Lighting of Advent Candles

The lighting of candles in anticipation of Christ’s coming (Latin, *advenio*) has a long tradition in the Christian Church. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a new candle is lit, dispelling the darkness, as the church moves forward to welcoming him who is the true Light of the world. The evergreen wreath represents eternal life—evergreens do not drop their foliage—and the circle of the wreath is unending. The blue color of the candles symbolizes hope—the hope we have as we anticipate Christ’s coming. The white Christ Candle in the center will be lit on Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Each year the privilege of lighting the Advent candles is given to the youth confirmation students at Grace.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Prepare the Royal
Highway
CWS #702

MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

This order of service is based on the historic order for morning praise known as Matins. This contemporary setting is from *Christian Worship: New Service Settings*.

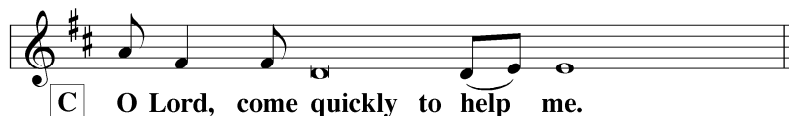
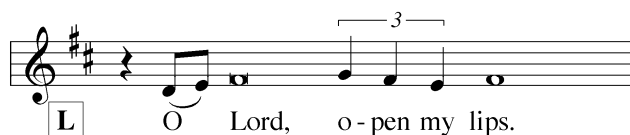
OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Christian Worship #4

Please stand

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

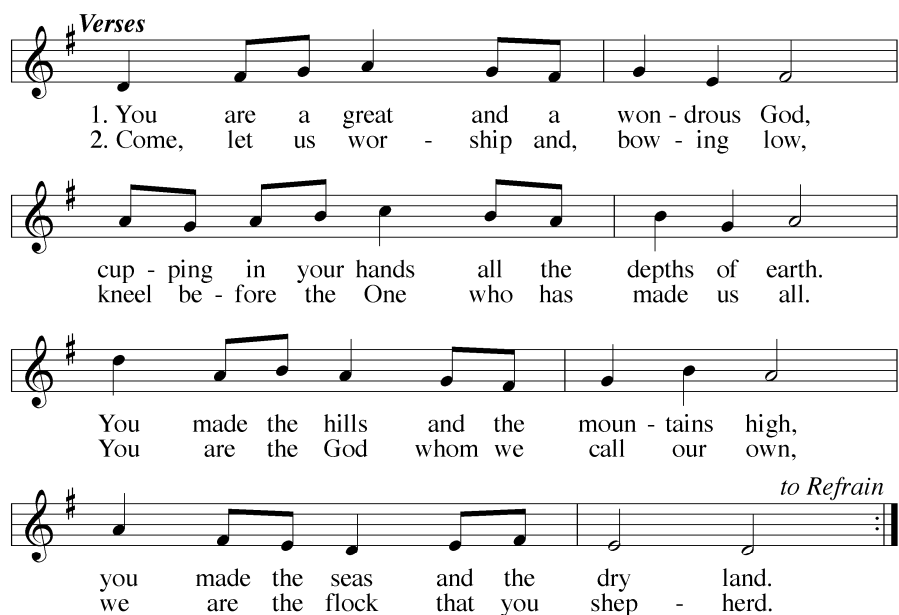
Congregation sings the refrain and verses.

Refrain



Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses



1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,
to Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

L: We hear his call to watch.

C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

One Advent candle is lit.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.

Genesis 6:1-3,5-14,17-22 (NIV)

God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

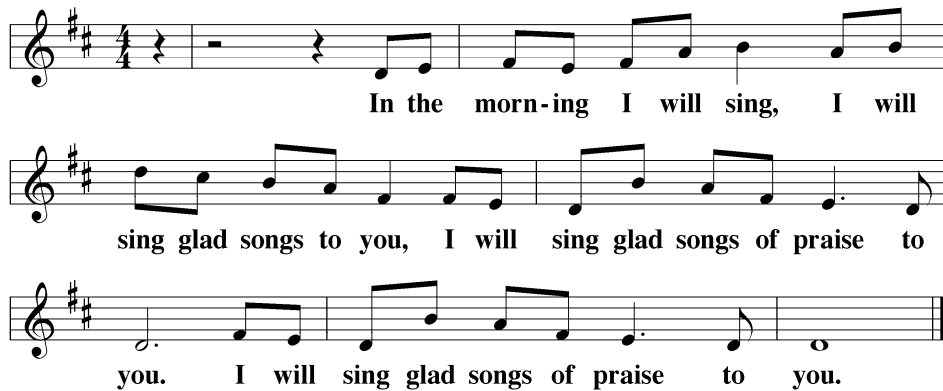
I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

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 63

Please join in singing the refrain. Repeat the refrain after the vocalist sings each verse.

Refrain



1. O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. **Refrain**
2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **Refrain**
3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

I Peter 3:18-22 (NIV)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved

through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 22:20 (NIV)

L: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

Please stand

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37 (NIV)

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep

watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

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

Please be seated

HYMN

O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking
Christian Worship #220

SERMON

Mark 13:32-37

The Promise of Christ's Return

1. A Mystery for Your Soul's Protection
2. A Revelation for Your Soul's Salvation

Please stand

SONG OF ZECHARIAH



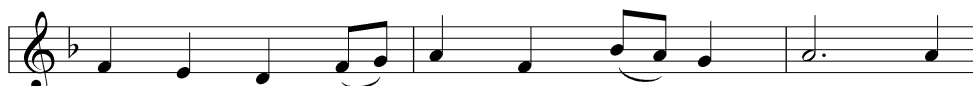
1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and
 2. Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
 3. In ten - der mer-cy God will send The Day-spring from on



pow'r, Who rais - es from the roy - al house De -
 fear, That we might serve in 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.
 prais-es to the Ho-ly One! O wor-ship and a-dore!

Please be seated



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

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

7:45 AM—
 Wake, Awake, For
 Night Is Flying
 CW #206

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and melodic. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words in all caps and some in title case. The lyrics are: "In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font. The musical notation is in a simple, clean style with no ornaments or flourishes.

L In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.
C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYERS

L: 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.

L: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed 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. 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. Fill us instead with the joy and peace of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ your Son. Direct our eyes both to the manger and to the skies, where we will see Jesus coming again in glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Special prayers may be included here.

L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

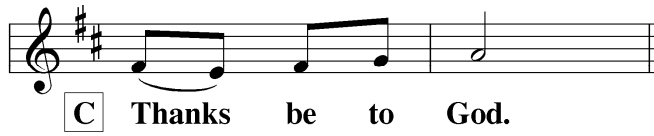
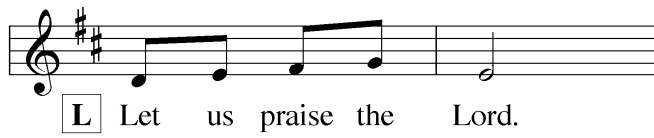
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

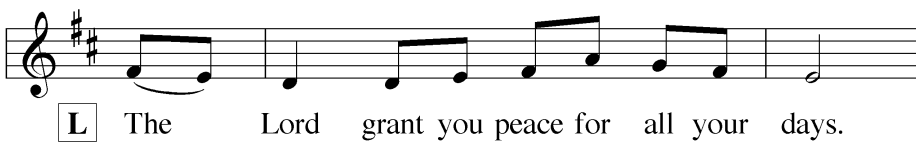
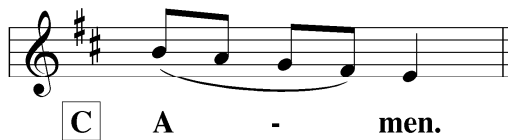
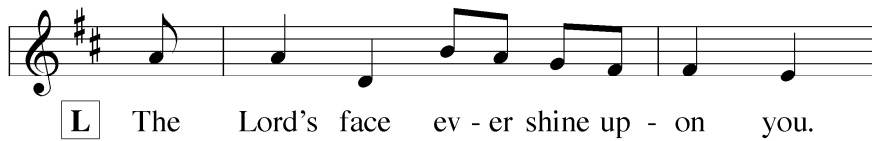
C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Christians stand for congregational prayer showing the freedom of God's children to come boldly into his presence. The Christian theologian Augustine (400 AD) adds, "We pray standing...as a sign of the Resurrection."

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.



BLESSING



Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
Christian Worship #6

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Ron Koehler Worship Leader Pastor Sam Clemons
Accompanists Kathy Parra (7:45 AM), Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Acolyte Ronda McNamara (10:00 AM)
Vocalists Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM), Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snavely (10:00 AM)
Greeters Alan & Gloria Gerdt (10:00 AM)

POSTLUDE:
7:45 AM—
*Lo, He Comes With
Clouds Descending*
CWS #704

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16
10:00 AM at Grace-Sahuarita

10:00 AM & 7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson
(soup supper at 6:00 PM)

7:00 PM at Grace-Benson
(soup supper at 6:00 PM)

Children’s Christmas Service

Sunday, December 13
4:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24
4:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
4:00 PM & 7:00 PM at Grace-Vail
7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Day Services

Friday, December 25
10:00 AM at Grace-Benson
10:00 AM at Grace-Tucson

New Year’s Eve Worship

Thursday, December 31
7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Divine Call Declined

After much prayer and careful deliberation, Pastor Joel Russow has announced his decision to decline the Call extended to him to serve as Grace’s Mission Pastor to Sahuarita. We wish him God’s blessings as he continues his service in Tallahassee, Florida. We also trust that God will bless our congregation as we continue the calling process and await the man the Lord of the Church has in mind to serve us. **The next Call Meeting is Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM at Grace-Tucson.**

Mission to the Children Candy Donations Needed

Mission to the Children is in need of candy to take to the children in Mexico for their upcoming Christmas parties. There are eleven venues to deliver to this year! Individually wrapped small candies are preferred. **The deadline to bring candy to the Grace-Tucson office is this Tuesday, December 1.**

Midweek Advent Services

Our Wednesday Advent service theme this year is *The Advent of Our King*. It is inspired by the hymn with that name. Through Old Testament prophecies we will see Jesus as the Incarnate King, the Lowly King, and the Returning King. Please join us at any of the Grace sites as we prepare for Christmas with these special services.

Copyright Info:
Morning Praise: Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Words and Music by Marty Haugen © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. and Kermit Moldenhauer © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. *Song of Zechariah* words by Ruth Duck. © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Copyrighted material reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710199.

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 Gisela Kittel. 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

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Sermon Text & Theme

Isaiah 40:1-11

God Comforts His People

Women's Fellowship

A monthly women's fellowship is beginning with a kick-off get together at the home of Cora Stuhr (1001 W. Las Palmas Dr, 85704) this Friday, December 4 at 6:30 PM. There will be appetizers and a discussion on what events the group would like to do in the new year. Call or text Missy Wiechmann at 403-1177 if you have any questions. All women 18 and older are welcome to attend.

Worship Choir Practice

Worship Choir will be singing in worship at Grace-Tucson December 24 & 25. To prepare for those dates, rehearsals will be held on Mondays, December 7, 14 & 21 at 6:30 PM in the church basement. All members are invited to join us! If you have any questions, please contact Director Teri Guenther (235-1177) or Music Coordinator Beth Kassulke (260-3649).

In-Betweeners' White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party on Friday, December 11 at 4:00 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). There is also parking at the end of the next street, Camino Noche. The meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a wrapped White Elephant gift. If you have questions call Cinda or Geri at 615-6059. *This is a once a year social activity that is open to all adults.*

Tuition Tax Credit

2015 is quickly drawing to a close! With that in mind, don't forget about the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO). You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$1067 per person and \$2134 per married couple filing jointly). Donations may be made online at www.acsto.org or by using the form in the ACSTO brochure. Please make use of this program if you are able to do so. If you have any questions, please speak to Jeff Weinstein (909-7649) or one of the pastors. **Pick up a flyer and a donation form brochure at any of the Grace locations.**



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

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

This Week at Grace • Nov 29-Dec 6

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School.....8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Last Days*9:00a
NO WELS TCM—Thanksgiving Weekend

Monday

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

Tuesday

English as a Second Language Classes6:30p

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service/Coffee Fellowship9:45a

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship 10:00a

Friday

Women's Fellowship at the Stuhrs6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service/Communion/Coffee Fellowship9:45a
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson (Fellowship Hall)2:00p

BENSON

Today

Worship Service.....7:30a

Wednesday

Advent Soup Supper.....6:00p Advent Worship.....7:00p

Friday

Women's Fellowship at the Stuhrs6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service.....7:30a
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson (Fellowship Hall)2:00p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship..... 10:00a
Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall6:00p
Midweek Advent Worship.....7:00p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *Joel*9:00a

Friday

Women's Fellowship at the Stuhrs6:30p

Saturday

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal 9:00-11:00a

Sunday

Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal)8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Last Days*9:00a
Call Meeting in the Fellowship Hall2:00p
WELS TCM Bible Study: *What is Advent?*7:00p

VAIL

Today

Adult Bible Study: *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

Friday

Women's Fellowship at the Stuhrs 6:30p

Sunday

Adult Bible Study: *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson (Fellowship Hall) 2:00p

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Fax 623-1514**

**Administrative Assistant
Cora Stuhrt
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Nathan P. Kassulke revnkp@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

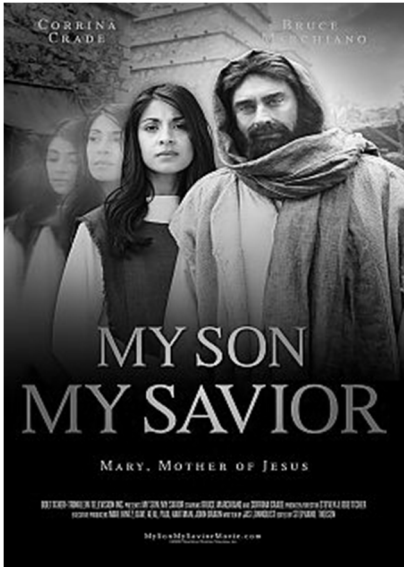
**Cinda Drescher
cinda@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 882-3773**

Music Coordinator

**Beth Kassulke
music@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 293-2935**

Office Assistant

**Debbie Koehler
assistant@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 623-6633**



Christmas Outreach 2015

We look forward to sharing the joyous news of our Savior's birth with the communities around each of Grace's sites. After all, the angel announced that this good news is for all people!

Our Christmas Outreach Plan includes using the latest Bible movie produced by the WELS. It is entitled *My Son, My Savior* and it tells the story of Jesus through Mary's eyes. It appears to be an excellent piece of work, like the two before it, *Road to Emmaus* and *Come Follow Me*. Go to <http://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/evangelism/my-son-my-savior/> for information about the movie, to view the trailer, or make personal orders.

We ordered cases of the DVDs and had members at each site wrap them as gifts, and they are now available at each site for members to give to unchurched friends as invitations to Christmas services at Grace. Our Christmas service information is included with each DVD.

Outreach to the unchurched is the primary purpose of these DVDs. However, members who would like to have their own copy or give one to family members or church friends may make a \$5 donation to Grace's Outreach Fund for each one.

How can you be part of this Christmas Outreach?

1. Find an unchurched Neighbor, Acquaintance, Friend, or Relative (or 5 or 10!) and give them one of these as a gift and invitation to worship our newborn Savior with us. **You'll find wrapped DVD's in the Fellowship Hall and at both entryways to church.**

2. Make a donation to the Grace Outreach Fund. Include in your regular envelope and note the special donation or use a separate envelope indicating your gift that will help us in sharing our Savior with others.

Many thanks to all who have already helped by donating wrapping paper and ribbons and by wrapping these gifts!



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net

“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.



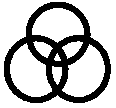
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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



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.