

Third Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 13, 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.

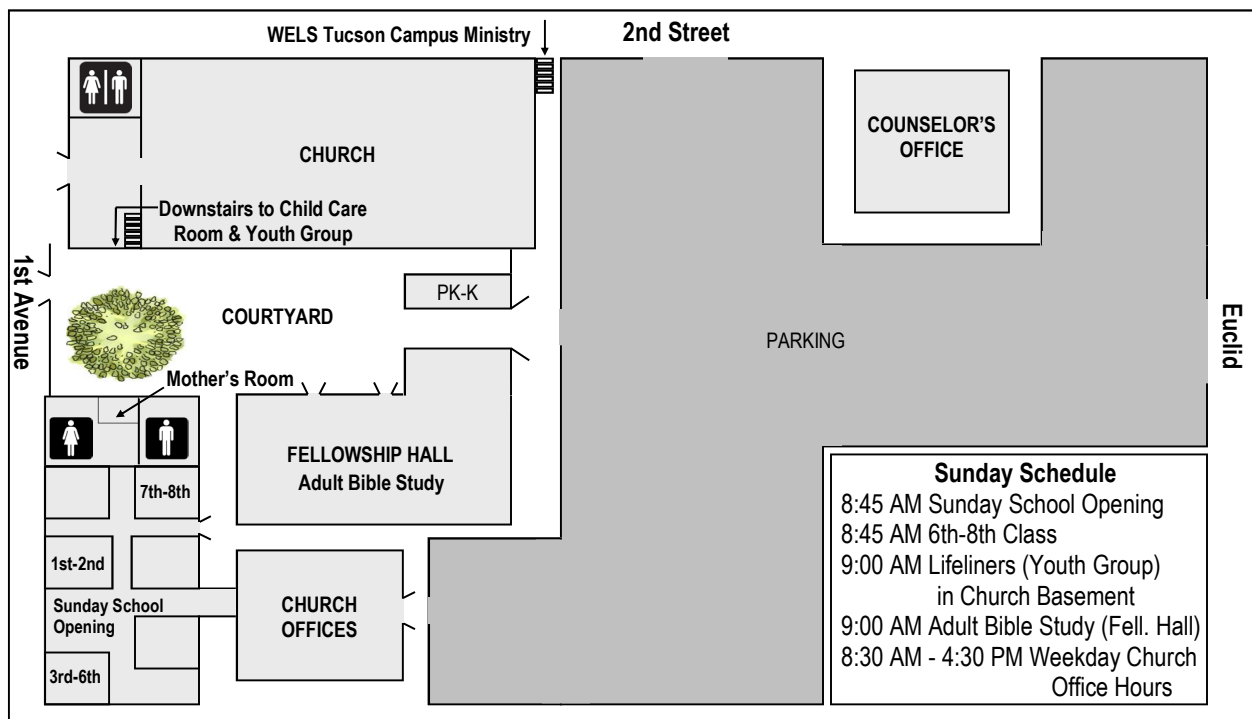
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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.

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*.

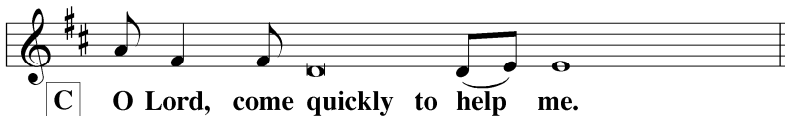
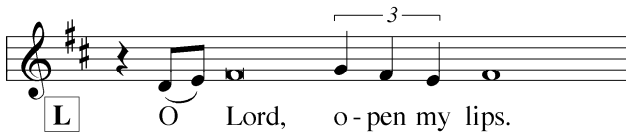
OPENING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
Christian Worship #12

Please stand

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



*This song of praise
paraphrases the
words of Psalm 95.
We come together
to worship God
because of the
wonderful things he
has done for us,
chiefly for making
us his own people.*

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,
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

to Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- L:** We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.
- C:** We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- L:** We hear his call to see the light.
- C:** We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.
- L:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C:** Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 4:1-6 (NIV)

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under

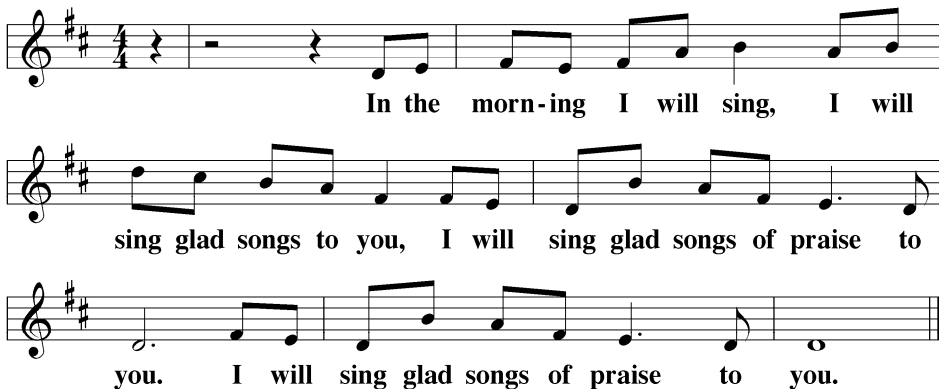
the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says the LORD Almighty. “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

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

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself,

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NIV)

the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV

L: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

Please stand

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

GOSPEL

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)

us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Please be seated

HYMN

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

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Your Pre-Christmas Checklist

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

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

Luke 1:67-79 records how Zechariah burst forth in a Spirit-inspired song at the birth of his son, John (later known as John the Baptist). We use his words as we praise God for keeping his promises to send both John the forerunner and the Savior, Jesus!



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

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: **L** In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. The fourth staff continues the melody.

PRAYERS

L: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father 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.

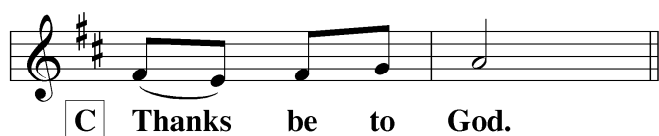
L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ,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

C: Amen.

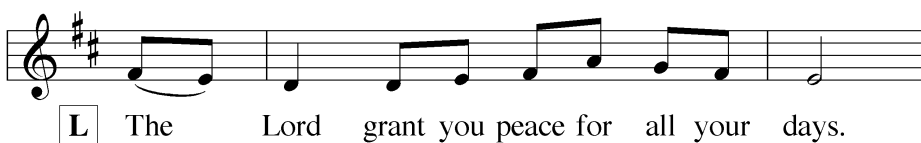
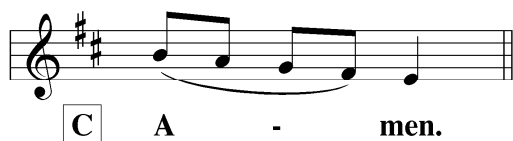
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
Christian Worship #15

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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
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710199.

Worship Leader Pastor Ron Koehler
Accompanists Stephanie Kania (7:45 AM)
Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Acolyte Brandon Walshaw (7:45 AM)
AJ McDunn (10:00 AM)
Vocalists Nicole Peterson & Craig Lipke (7:45 AM)
Pastor Nathan Kassulke & Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Clarinet Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snavely (10:00 AM)
Greeters Jim & Elaine Goldie (10:00 AM)

Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for next Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. A booklet with Pastor and Council reports can be found in the church entryways and in the Fellowship Hall. This keeps members up to date on Grace's ministry activities and helps voters prepare for the meeting.

Divine Call Extended

At Grace's Call Meeting on Sunday, December 6, a Divine Call was extended to Pastor Timothy Bourman to serve as Grace's mission pastor to Sahuarita. Pastor Bourman currently serves at Sure Foundation Lutheran Church in Woodside, NY. Please keep Pastor Bourman, his wife Amanda and their 2 children in your prayers as he considers this Call. Also, please keep in your prayers the ongoing gospel ministry in Woodside and here at Grace!

Sylvia Czayo Funeral

On Saturday, December 5, our Lord in his infinite wisdom called to rest the soul of Sylvia Czayo. Our prayers, Christian sympathies and support extend to all who mourn. **Visitation and viewing will be held at Redeemer (8845 N. Silverbell Rd) tomorrow, December 14 from 10:00-11:00 AM.** The funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM followed by a luncheon in the Ministry Center. Sylvia was formerly a member at both Peace and Grace.

Christmas for Kids

We invite 2-12 year old children to attend Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson this Saturday, December 19 from 9:30-1:00 PM. The children will learn what the Bible tells us about Christmas, sing songs, and do some Christmas crafts. The event is free and lunch is included. Please register early, and invite unchurched friends to join the fun. Registration forms are available at all the Grace locations and online at the Grace website, www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org.

Final Midweek Advent Service

This Wednesday is our final midweek Advent service. The theme 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 Returning King. Please join us at any of the Grace sites as we prepare for Christmas with this special service.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 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

Wedding Invitation

The Grace congregation is invited to the wedding ceremony of Boz Lomasney and Kerrie Ann Galbraith on Monday, December 21 at 2:30 PM in the Grace-Tucson sanctuary.



Arizona Lutheran Academy 5K

ALA will host their first 5K race Saturday, January 2 at 8:00 AM at Cesar Chavez Lake and Park (7858 S. 35th Ave, Laveen Village, AZ 85339). The cost is \$25 per person and all ages are welcome. Proceeds from the race will provide free Christian counseling for Arizona Lutheran Academy students and will benefit the ALA Track and Field Program. **If you pre-register by December 15 you'll be guaranteed your free t-shirt. Registration is open until December 31.** Contact Scott Loberger at Loberger@ALAcoyotes.org if you have any questions.

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 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).

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.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Greg & Karen Grorud to the glory of God and in loving memory of August & Dorothy Lehet.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. 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

2 Samuel 7:8-16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Text & Theme

2 Samuel 7:8-16
Find Hope in the House of David

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.**

Ariana Grahn (Weinstein) Military Address

Grace member, Ariana Grahn, has just enlisted in the Air Force and is now in basic training. There have been requests for her address, which you will find below. No post cards please, but letters are great!

AB Grahn, Ariana E
322 TRS/FLT 098 (Dorm B-10)
1320 Truemper St Unit 369541
JBSA-Lackland, TX 78236-6407

Parents' Retreat in Mesa, AZ

The Kingdom Workers' Regional Mission Team will hold their annual Spiritual Renewal Event from 8:00 AM until lunch on January 30, 2016, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ (3257 E University Dr, Mesa, AZ 85213).

The featured speaker is Pastor Tony Schultz from Watertown, WI. He's a husband, dad, pastor, and has become famous in our WELS schools with his upbeat devotions on *The Kids Connection*. Known for his humor and wit, you'll hear stories, laugh at his antics, realize that you're not screwing up *that* badly, and go home with solid parenting advice based on God's unchanging word. Children are included. Pastor Schultz will present a short children's message and then childcare will be provided. Registration forms can be found on the back counter and at the other Grace locations.

Deadline to register is January 20, 2016.



**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 13-Dec 20

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal 8:45a
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

Sunday School Christmas Service 4:00p

WELS TCM Bible Study: *God's Gift to the World* 7:00p

Monday

Handbell Practice 4:30p
English as a Second Language Christmas Party 6:30p
Worship Choir Practice 6:30p

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service/Coffee Fellowship 9:45a
Sunday School Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson ... 4:00p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship 10:00a

Saturday

Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson 9:30a-1:00p

Sunday

Worship Service/Coffee Fellowship 9:45a
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson 2:00p

BENSON

Today

Worship Service/Communion 7:30a
Sunday School Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson ... 4:00p

Wednesday

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

Sunday

Worship Service 7:30a
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson 2:00p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship 10:00a
Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 6:00p
Midweek Advent Worship 7:00p

Friday

Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas Concert 7:00p

Saturday

Christmas for Kids 9:30a-1:00p

Sunday

Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School 8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Last Days* 9:00a
Voters' Meeting 2:00p

VAIL

Today

Adult Bible Study: *My Son, My Savior* 9:00a
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Worship Service/Communion 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Sunday School Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson .. 4:00p

Saturday

Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson 9:30a-1:00p

Sunday

Adult Bible Study: *My Son, My Savior* 9:00a
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson 2:00p

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Tucson, Arizona 85719**

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

**Administrative Assistant
Cora Stuhr
office@gracelutheransaz.org**

Pastors

At Grace-Tucson

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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

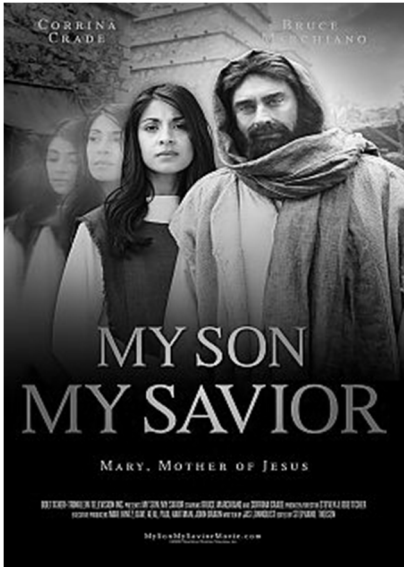
**Cinda Drescher
cinda@gracelutheransaz.org
Phone 882-3773**

Music Coordinator

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

Office Assistant

**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 (**Ihsou~**). 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 (**I=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of “Christ” in Greek (**C=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 (**A**) and omega (**W**) 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 **T** (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.

May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!