

# First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2015



*Presentation of Christ in the Temple* — Rembrandt van Rijn - 1631

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tucson, AZ



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.

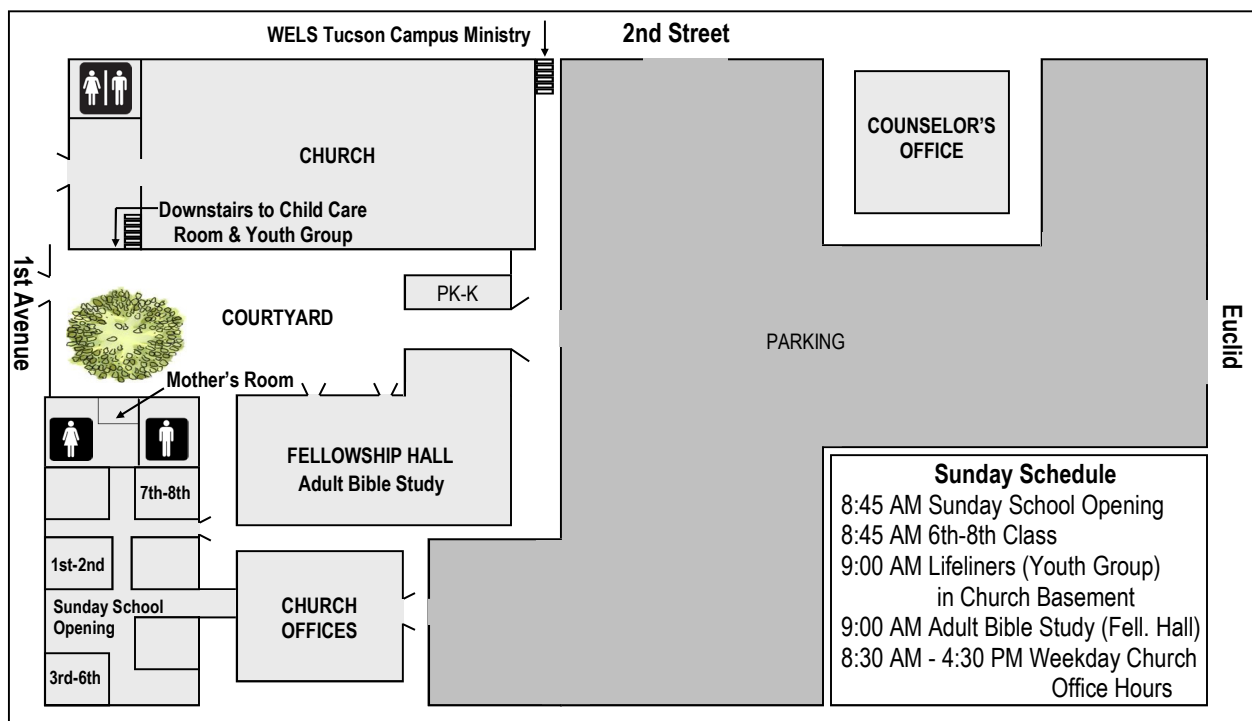
**Hymns** are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

**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](http://www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org)



# DIVINE SERVICE I

## Christian Worship Supplement

### PRESERVICE MUSIC:

10:00 AM—  
O, How Joyfully!  
with Joy to the  
World and O Come,  
All Ye Faithful  
Arr. by Cindy Berry

## WELCOME

## HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice  
Christian Worship #34

*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.

*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.*

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*



*Kyrie—We sing our penitential confession to our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, asking for his mercy. The name **Kyrie** is shortened from the Greek **Kyrie Eleison**, which means “Lord have mercy.”*

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.

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.

## GLORY TO GOD *(Please join in singing the response below following a brief intro)* Gloria in Excelsis

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,  
 heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God\_ and\_ Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we  
 give you\_ thanks we praise you for\_ your\_ glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the  
 high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord Je-sus  
 Christ, on-ly Son\_ of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world;\_ have mer-cy on us. You are\_ seat - ed at the  
 right hand of\_ the\_ Father; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive\_ our  
 prayer. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For  
 you a-lone are the Ho - ly\_ One, you a - lone\_ are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most\_ High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the  
 glo - ry of God\_ the\_ Fa-ther. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.  
 C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his 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*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:20-25 (NIV)

"Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. Declare what is to be, present it—let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends

of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.' All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel will be found righteous and will exult."

*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 OF THE DAY

PSALM 111

*Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done mar-vel-ous things.

*Psalm Tone*



1. Great are the works / of the LORD;\*  
they are pondered by all who de- / light in them.
2. Glorious and majestic / are his deeds,\* and his righteousness endures for- / ever.
3. He has caused his wonders to be re- / membered;\*  
the LORD is gracious and com- / passionate.

*Refrain*

4. The works of his hands are faith- / ful and just;\*
- all his precepts are trust- / worthy.
5. He provided redemption for his / people;\* he ordained his covenant for- / ever.
6. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of / wisdom;\*
- all who follow his precepts have good under- / standing.
7. **Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\* and to the Holy / Spirit.**  
as it was in the be- / ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you

**Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)**

were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**Colossians 3:15a**

M: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.

*Please stand*

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

## GOSPEL

**Luke 2:25-40 (NIV)**

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



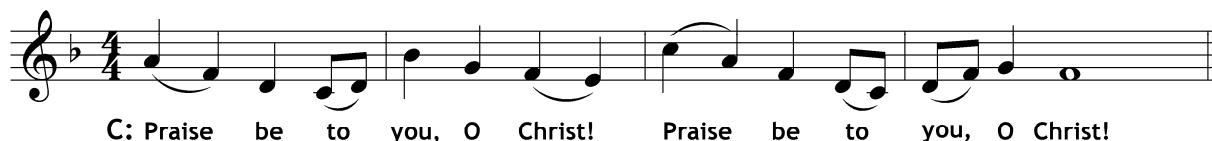
Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The

child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were

looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee

to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## APOSTLES' CREED

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Apostles' Creed developed in the Early Christian Church as a personal confession of faith. It is so named because it confesses the faith taught by the Apostles of Jesus.*

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

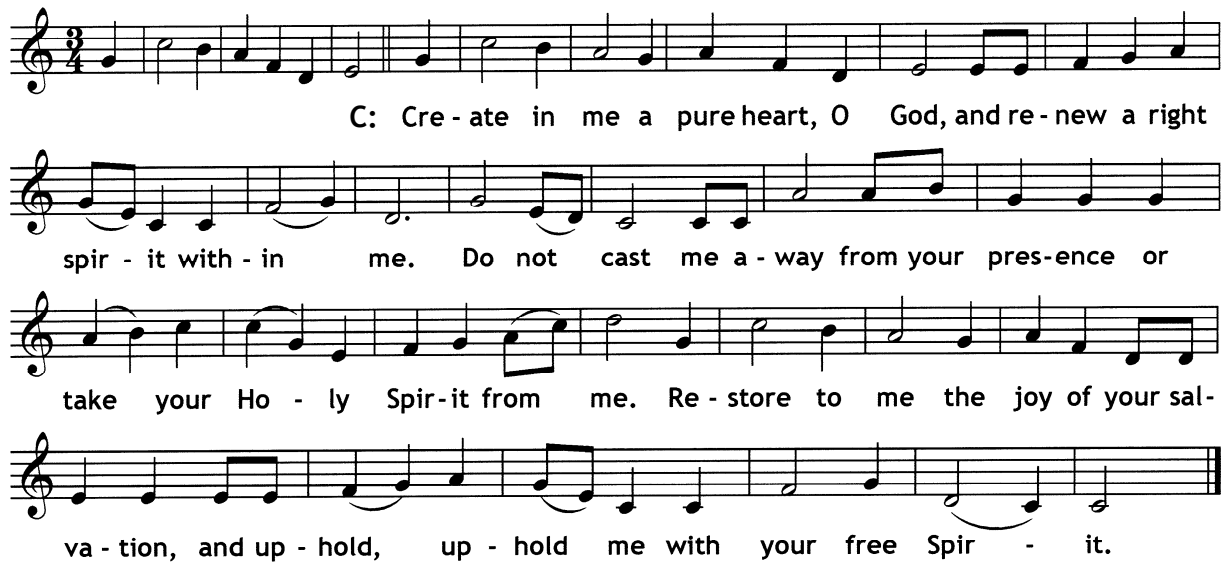
In His Temple Now Behold Him  
*Christian Worship #77*

## SERMON

Luke 2:25-40  
Continuous Christmas

*Please stand*

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



C: Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or  
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -  
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*Please be seated*



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

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:**

**10:00 AM—**  
*In the Bleak  
Midwinter (O Sing a  
Joyous Carol) / O  
Sanctissima (O Most  
Holy One)  
Arr. by Liz Story*

**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**

**M:** Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servantlike heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior, You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.



M: God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.

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.*

*Please be seated*

## HYMN

O Light of Gentile Nations  
Christian Worship #78

*Please stand*

## PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*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*

## 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

**Let Us All with Gladsome Voice**  
*Christian Worship #64*

## THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**POSTLUDE:**  
**10:00 AM—**  
*Hark! the Herald  
Angels Sing*  
*Arr. by Cindy Berry*

**Preacher** ..... Pastor Sam Clemons  
**Worship Leader** ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)  
**Accompanists** ..... Elaine Goldie (7:45 AM)  
Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)  
**Ushers** ..... Vic Thornton (7:45 AM)  
Jon Dongoske, Danny Koehler, Jon Miller, Rick Street (10:00 AM)  
**Sound & Recording Tech** ..... Jeremy Snively (10:00 AM)  
**Greeters** ..... Bill & Lisa Toben (10:00 AM)

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## Called Home To Heaven

Bill Rauh was called home to heaven Wednesday, December 16. There will be a Memorial Service for him here tomorrow, December 28 at 11:00 AM with a luncheon to follow. If the Grace parking lot becomes full, you may park along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street since restrictions have been removed for the service.

In connection with the Memorial Service for Bill Rauh, the Del Angel Funeral Home has provided small "memory" cards that you'll find at the main church entryway. You are asked to fill in your favorite memory of Bill and then leave the card in the glass jar near the front door.

## Thank You

The Women of Grace express their gratitude to the anonymous donor who recently made a contribution to the group. Thank you. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated.

## **All-Site New Year's Eve Service**

Please join us this Thursday, December 31 at 7:00 PM for our New Year's Eve Worship Service at Grace-Tucson. This service will include the celebration of Holy Communion. It will also include a remembrance of those whom God called to heavenly glory during the past year.

## **Arizona Lutheran Academy 5K**

ALA will host their first 5K race this 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. **Registration is open until this Thursday, December 31.** Contact Scott Loberger at [Loberger@ALAcoyotes.org](mailto:Loberger@ALAcoyotes.org) if you have any questions.

## **Truth in Love Ministry Seminar at Grace-Tucson**

On Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 AM-2:30 PM, Grace-Tucson will host a seminar on *Building Gospel Bridges with Mormons*, sponsored by Truth in Love Ministries. Pastor Mark Cares will be the presenter. Lunch will be included, so please RSVP to the church office at 623-6633 if you plan to attend. Registration starts at 9:30 AM and the seminar begins at 10:00 AM.

## **Installation of Pastor David Parsons**

Pastor David Parsons will be installed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (241 N. Harrison Rd, Tucson) on Sunday, January 10 at 4:00 PM with a dinner to follow. **Please RSVP by email to [hclctuaz@aol.com](mailto:hclctuaz@aol.com) or phone at 520-296-5129 no later than January 3 if you plan to attend.**

## **Bible Studies Resume**

The Grace-Tucson Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening Bible Study will resume on January 13. **Please note that the evening class will now meet at 7:00 PM.** The Grace-Tucson Thursday morning Bible Study will resume on January 14 at its usual time of 9:00 AM.

The Wednesday Grace-Sahuarita Bible Study will begin again on January 13 at 10:00 AM.

## **Member Feedback Meeting**

The pastors and Church Council members are seeking feedback concerning staffing for ministry at Grace. A Member Feedback Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 17 at 1:00 PM. The meeting will take place at Grace-Tucson, and the Lifeliners will be serving their Chupala Lunch that day. Page 30 of the packet of reports from December's Voters' Meeting lists some of the options that have been identified that could be under consideration. If you can't make the meeting on January 17, please share your thoughts with one of the pastors or Church Council members.

## 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 the Morris and Sloyan families. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by the Morris & Sloyan families in memory of Vera Hess & Verna Retberg and in honor of Amy Morris' birthday.

## NEXT SUNDAY

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

Micah 5:2-5a  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
John 7:40-43

### 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!

### 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 messing things 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 in the Fellowship Hall and at all 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 27-Jan 3**

**TUCSON**

**Today**

Worship Services ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....  
Children's Sunday School .....8:45a  
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* .....9:00a  
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):  
• *A Matter of Interpretation?* .....9:00a

**Monday**

**Bill Rauh Memorial Service at Grace-Tucson**... 11:00a  
**NO** Handbell Practice again until January 25 .....

**SAHUARITA**

**Today**

Worship Service .....9:45a  
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....

**Wednesday**

**NO** Bible Study .....

**Thursday**

**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** .....7:00p

**Sunday**

Worship Service/Communion.....9:45a  
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....

**BENSON**

**Today**

Worship Service/Communion.....7:30a

**Thursday**

**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** .....7:00p

**Sunday**

Worship Service .....7:30a

**Thursday**

**NO** Women's Bible Study.....  
**New Year's Eve Worship** (with communion)..... 7:00p

**Friday**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** — Church Office Closed .....

**Saturday**

Arizona Lutheran Academy 5K Run in Phoenix..... 8:00a

**Sunday**

Worship Services/Communion .....7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
Children's Sunday School..... 8:45a  
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* ..... 9:00a  
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):  
• *A Matter of Interpretation?* ..... 9:00a

**VAIL**

**Today**

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

**Thursday**

**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** .....7:00p

**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 .....

**Grace Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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Samuel M. Clemons revsmc@gracelutheransaz.org

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Phone 293-2935**

**Office Assistant**

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

## Church Council Election

The 2016 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 2016, and will be installed in their positions on Sunday, January 10:

Bryan Guenther, President; Craig Lipke, Vice President; Jeremy Snavelly, Recording Secretary; Doug Lemke, Financial Secretary; Chris Stuhr, Treasurer; Dave Breitreitz, Trustee; Jacob Kassulke, Spiritual Needs Elder; Jason Watson, Education Elder; Boz Lomasney, Member Ministry Elder; Jeff Weinstein, Outreach Elder.

Thank you also to Dallas Johnson who served on the Church Council for 12 years but will not be serving in 2016.

## Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG)

The LMSG is a new support group in our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Grace member Reagan Lane is our congregational liaison and has some information to share if you are active duty, reserve, National Guard or retired/separated veterans in our congregation. Please email her at [azreagan@yahoo.com](mailto:azreagan@yahoo.com) so she can get in touch with you.

## 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](http://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 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](http://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!*