

Second Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 6, 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.

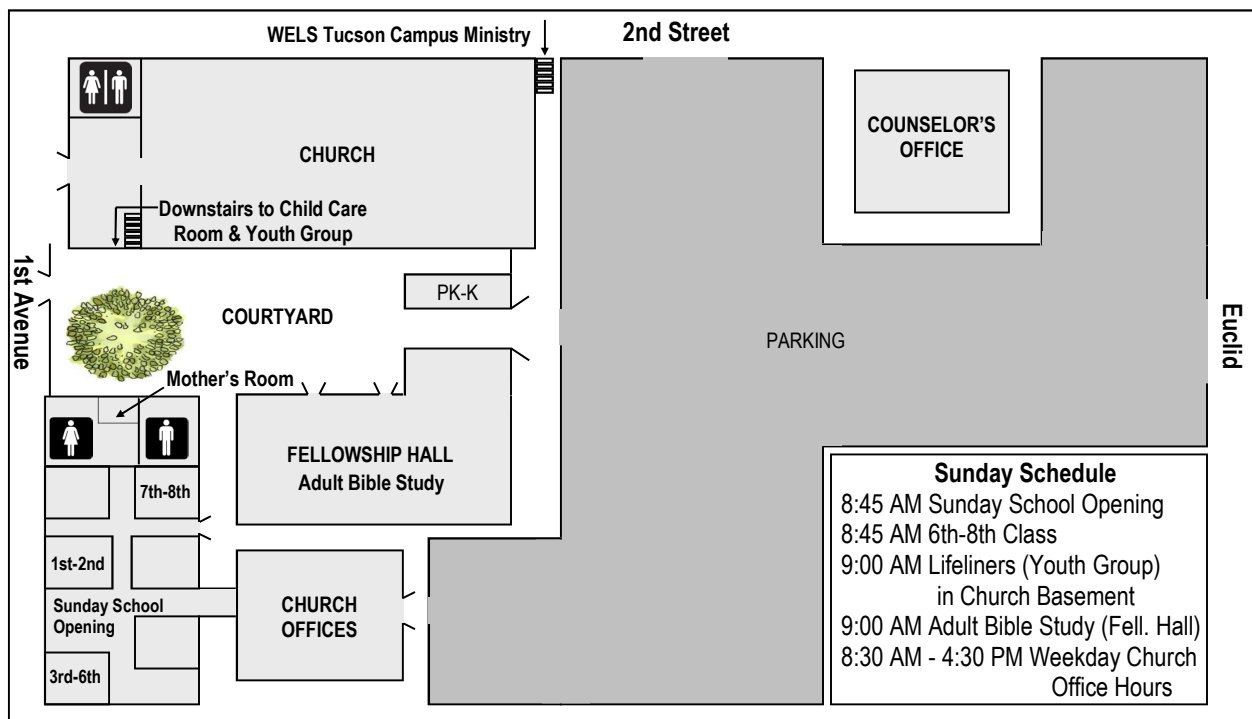
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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—
Heaven
By Jim Brickman

10:00 AM—
O Come O Come
Emmanuel / Of the
Father’s Love
Begotten

Played by the
Handbell Choir

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*.

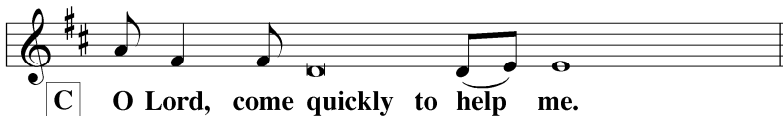
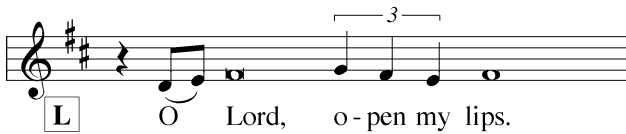
OPENING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People
Christian Worship #14

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,
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 two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

L: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

Two Advent candles are lit.

FIRST LESSON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NIV)

withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

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

2 Peter 3:8-14 (NIV)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be

destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV

L: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

VOICES OF GRACE (10:00 AM)

Hush! Hear the Word of the Lord

REFRAIN: Hush! Hear the voice of God's prophet: "Prepare in the desert for the Lord." Hush! Hear the word from the prophet: "Make straight now a highway for our God. With ev'ry valley raised up, ev'ry mountain and hill made low, let God's glory be revealed."

*"Comfort my people, tell of peace," thus says our God!
"Comfort my people walking in darkness; soon the Child will come." REFRAIN*

*Listen, my people, hear the news: soon He will come!
Light of salvation, Prince of Peace; soon the Child will come. REFRAIN*

*Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
Let all mortal flesh keep silence. Hush! Hear the word of the Lord.*

Please stand

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the

way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of

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

Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was

his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Please be seated

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort All My People Christian Worship #11

SERMON

Isaiah 40:1-11 God Comforts His People

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.



prais-es to the Ho-ly One! O wor-ship and a-dore!

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.

7:45 AM—
There Is a Higher
Throne
CWS #727

10:00 AM—
Prepare the Royal
Highway
CWS #702
Setting by Kermit
Moldenhauer

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

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with one of our pastors after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.

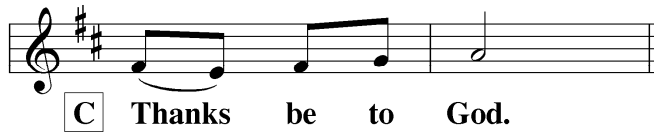
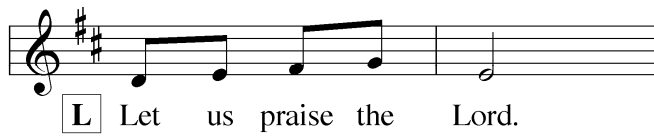
DISTRIBUTION HYMN (10:00 AM)

**There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying
Christian Worship #13**

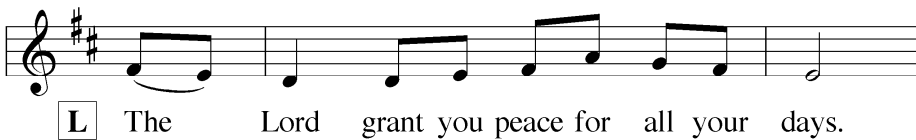
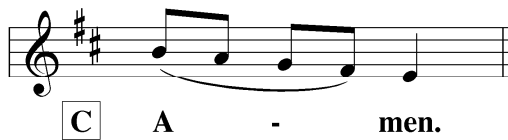
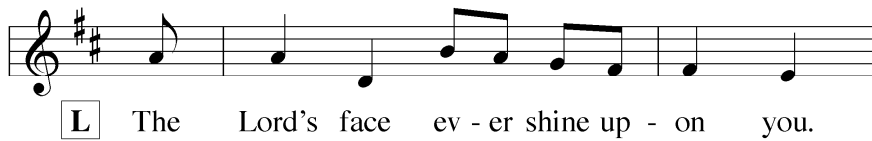
Please stand

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

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



BLESSING



Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Communion Assistants ...Pastor Sam Clemons, Pastor Mark Hallemeyer (10:00 AM)
Elder Spiritual Needs Jake Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Accompanists Kathy Parra (7:45 AM), Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)
Acolytes..... Grace Hansen (7:45 AM), Jacob Miller (10:00 AM)
Vocalists Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM), Teri & Dylan Guenther (10:00 AM)
Distribution Music.....Melissa Newbrey (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)
GreetersAdrienne & Joyce Long (10:00 AM)
Altar Prep Team..... Cindi Breitreitz, Sally Littau

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

10:00 AM—
Comfort, Comfort These My People
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Thank You

The family of Ellie Dongoske would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and well-wishes as Ellie’s health declined and the Lord called her home.

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Hush! Hear the Word of the Lord: By Lloyd Larson. © 2000 Alfred Publishing, Co.
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HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
Midweek Advent Services	Christmas Eve Services
Wednesdays, December 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)	Thursday, December 24 4:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM at Grace-Vail 7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson
Children’s Christmas Service	Christmas Day Services
Sunday, December 13 4:00 PM at Grace-Tucson	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

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.

In-Betweeners’ White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party this 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.*

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.

Confirmation

Ray & Vickie Bondy will be confirmed during 9:45 AM worship this morning at Grace-Sahuarita. We welcome them to Grace and ask God's blessings on them!

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Pat Messer with thanksgiving to God and in memory of her mother, Lois Gault Allen.

Call Meeting Today

A Call Meeting will be held this afternoon at 2:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall to extend a Divine Call for a Pastor to serve at Grace-Sahuarita. All members are welcome to join us for this meeting and to offer appropriate input to the voters.

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 Jody Kosanke, Cora Stuhr and Missy Wiechmann. 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

Malachi 4:1-6
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon Text & Theme

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

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.



Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for 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.

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).

Christmas for Kids

We invite 2-12 year old children to attend Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson on 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.



**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 6-Dec 13

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services/Communion 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 Ten Commandments* 9:00a
Call Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 2:00p
WELS TCM Bible Study: *What is Advent?* 7:00p

Monday

Handbell Practice..... 4:30p
English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p
Worship Choir 6:30p

Tuesday

English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service/Communion/Coffee Fellowship 9:45a
Bible Study: *My Son My Savior Video* 11:00a
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson (Fellowship Hall) 2:00p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship 10:00a

Sunday

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

BENSON

Today

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

Wednesday

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

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

In-Betweeners' Christmas Party (All Sites Welcome) .. 4:00p

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

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
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson (Fellowship Hall) 2:00p

Saturday

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

Sunday

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
Sunday School Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson .. 4:00p

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Samuel M. Clemons revsmc@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Vail & Grace-Benson

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At Grace-Sahuarita

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org

Bible-Based Counselor

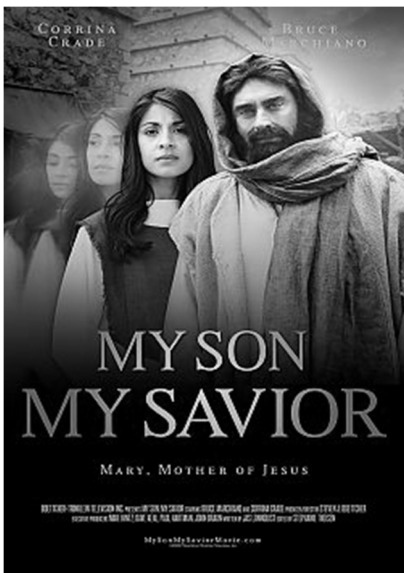
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Phone 293-2935**

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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!

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 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.

“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.



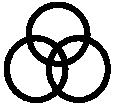
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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



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.