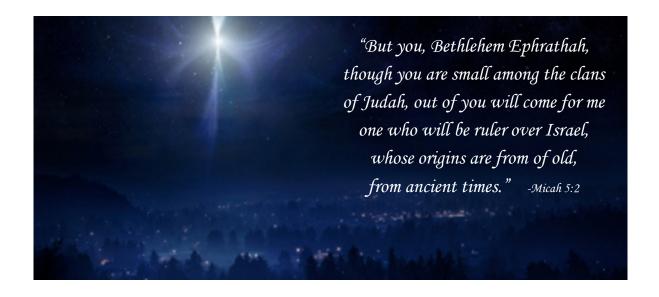
# Second Sunday after Christmas



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church January 3, 2016



Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-Tucson! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises and as you offer him your thanks and praise.

### **Worship Notes**

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

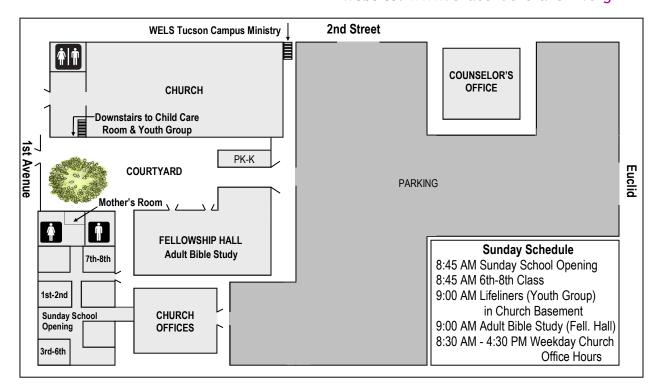
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed;
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will still be able to hear the service;
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also.

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryway. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org



### **DIVINE SERVICE I**

Christian Worship Supplement

### **WELCOME**

**HYMN** 

Once Again My Heart Rejoices Christian Worship #37

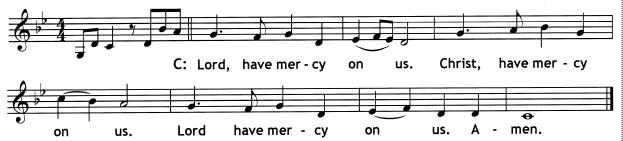
Please stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen.

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

- M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie



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.

### **GLORY TO GOD**

Gloria in Excelsis

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

The text of Gloria in Excelsis (Latin for "Glory in the highest") is an ancient song that echoes the song of the angels in Luke 2:14. It offers praise and thanks to our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

### THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2-5a (NIV)

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest

of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.

#### SECOND LESSON

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their Hebrews 2:10-18 (NIV)

humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

VERSE OF THE DAY Psalm 98:3b

M: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.

The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ our King. GOSPEL John 7:40-43 (NIV)

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not

the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



The Nicene Creed was first developed in 325 at the First Council of Nicea. It was written to reaffirm the Biblical teaching of the divinity of Jesus, God's Son. Like the Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds, the Nicene Creed is a confession of what the Bible teaches.

### **NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

**SERMON** 

John 7:40-43 How to Keep the Right Kind of Christmas

Please stand

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



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!



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

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.

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.

7:45 AM — Please continue on page 9 with the Words of Institution.

#### THE SACRAMENT

- M: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- M: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY-Sanctus

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



This ancient worship song is based on songs of praise recorded in Isaiah 6 and Psalm 118.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

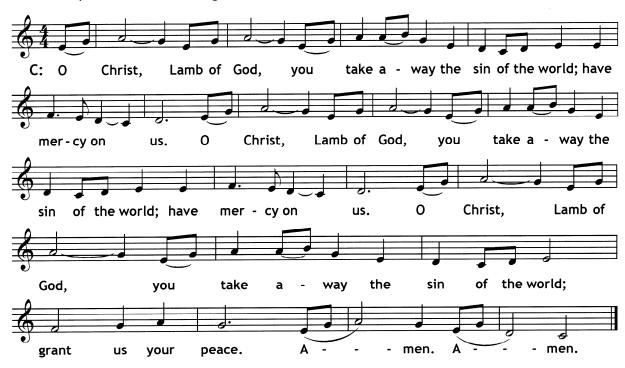
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD—Agnus Dei



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

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

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)** 

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table Christian Worship #310

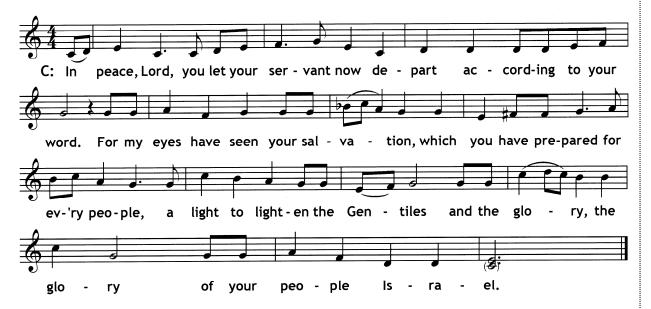
Please stand

### **THANKSGIVING**

### SONG OF SIMEON

**Nunc Dimittis** 

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



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

C: And his mercy endures forever.

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

C: Amen.

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** 

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child Christian Worship #56 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."

### THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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Moldenhauer. © 2002
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Preacher	Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Worship Leader	Pastor Sam Clemons (10:00 AM)
Communion Assistants	Pastor Mark Hallemeyer (10:00 AM)
	Outreach Elder Jeff Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Accompanist	Stephanie Kania
Ushers	Vic Thornton (7:45 AM)
Dave Breitkreitz	z, Ed Ethington, Dylan Guenther (10:00 AM)
Lucas Guenther, F	Ferdie Kramm, Josiah Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech	Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)
Greeters	Jean & Ron Husemann

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

This 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 by January 6** 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) next Sunday, January 10 at 4:00 PM with a dinner to follow. Please RSVP by email to <a href="mailto:hclctucaz@aol.com">hclctucaz@aol.com</a> or phone at 520-296-5129 <a href="mailto:TODAY">TODAY</a> if you plan to attend.

### **Bible Studies Resume**

The Grace-Tucson Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening Church History 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 Women's Bible Study will resume on January 21 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 listed 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.

### **New! Women's Fellowship Group**

Saturday, January 23 at 9:00 AM, the Women's Fellowship Group will go on a moderate hike near Sombrero Peak. The trailhead is just past Sanctuary Cove and the Stardance Event Center at the end of Scenic Drive. Since the parking lot is small, the group will meet at the Safeway on Silverbell/Twin Peaks Rd (9100 N. Silverbell Rd) at 9:00 AM and carpool over. Please call Missy Wiechmann if you have any questions at 403-1177.

### Benson Chili Potluck

Grace-Benson will hold a Chili Potluck on Saturday, January 23 at 12:00 PM. All Grace members are welcome to attend. No official judging will take place, but the most popular chili will have bragging rights. Please bring chili, corn bread, a side salad, or dessert. Drinks will be provided. Please call Sue Ann Arnold at 520-221-3209 or email her at <a href="mailto:cpasaa@aol.com">cpasaa@aol.com</a> if you have any questions.

### **Tuition Tax Credit**

Even in the New Year, it is not too late to make a donation to the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO) which may also be claimed as a tax credit on your 2015 Arizona State Tax Return. In fact, up until April 15, you may make a donation and credit it to your 2015 tax year. 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 <a href="https://www.acsto.org">www.acsto.org</a> 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.

### **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 Snavely, Recording Secretary; Doug Lemke, Financial Secretary; Chris Stuhr, Treasurer; Dave Breitkreitz, 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.

### **Suhwan Breiler's Military Address**

If you are able, letters of encouragement are asked of you for Suhwan Breiler (Grace member and son of Bob & Chun Breiler) who is at Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego. Please don't send any care packages as this is not allowed, only letters. Thank you. His mailing address is:

Recruit Breiler, Suhwan Y. 3rd RTBN India CO PLT 3215 36001 Midway Ave. San Diego, CA 92140-3201

### **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.

### **Holy Communion**

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 9 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Helen & Ron Kwart in memory of their mothers and in thanks to God for 61 years of marriage.

### **Communion Register Sign-In**

If you are a Grace member, we ask on communion Sundays that you please write your name on one of the communion register sheets located at the entrances to church if you plan on receiving the Lord's Supper. This helps us maintain a record for the spiritual care of our members. Thank you.

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

> Ruth 4:13-17 Ephesians 3:2-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Text & Theme
Matthew 2:1-12

The Epiphany Story

### **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 • Jan 3-Jan 10

inis week at Grace • Jan 3-Jan 10	
TUCSON Today  Worship Services/Communion	Saturday Truth in Love Seminar
SAHUARITA Today Worship Service/Communion	VAIL Today Adult Bible Study: Church-Mission-Ministry
Saturday Truth in Love Seminar at Grace-Tucson 10:00a-2:30p  Sunday Worship Service	Saturday Truth in Love Seminar at Grace-Tucson 10:00a-2:30p  Sunday Adult Bible Study: Church-Mission-Ministry
BENSON Today	Church Council Installation

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday

Sunday

830 N. First Avenue Tucson, Arizona 85719

Phone 623-6633 Fax 623-1514

#### **Administrative Assistant**

**Cora Stuhr** 

office@gracelutheransaz.org

### **Pastors**

Worship Service.......7:30a

Truth in Love Seminar at Grace-Tucson... 10:00a-2:30p

### **At Grace-Tucson**

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org
Nathan P. Kassulke revnpk@gracelutheransaz.org
Samuel M. Clemons revsmc@gracelutheransaz.org

### At Grace-Vail & Grace-Benson

Colin M. Rieke revcmr@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Sahuarita

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org

#### Bible-Based Counselor

Cinda Drescher cinda@gracelutheransaz.org Phone 882-3773

### **Music Coordinator**

Beth Kassulke music@gracelutheransaz.org Phone 293-2935

### Office Assistant

Debbie Koehler assistant@gracelutheransaz.org Phone 623-6633



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