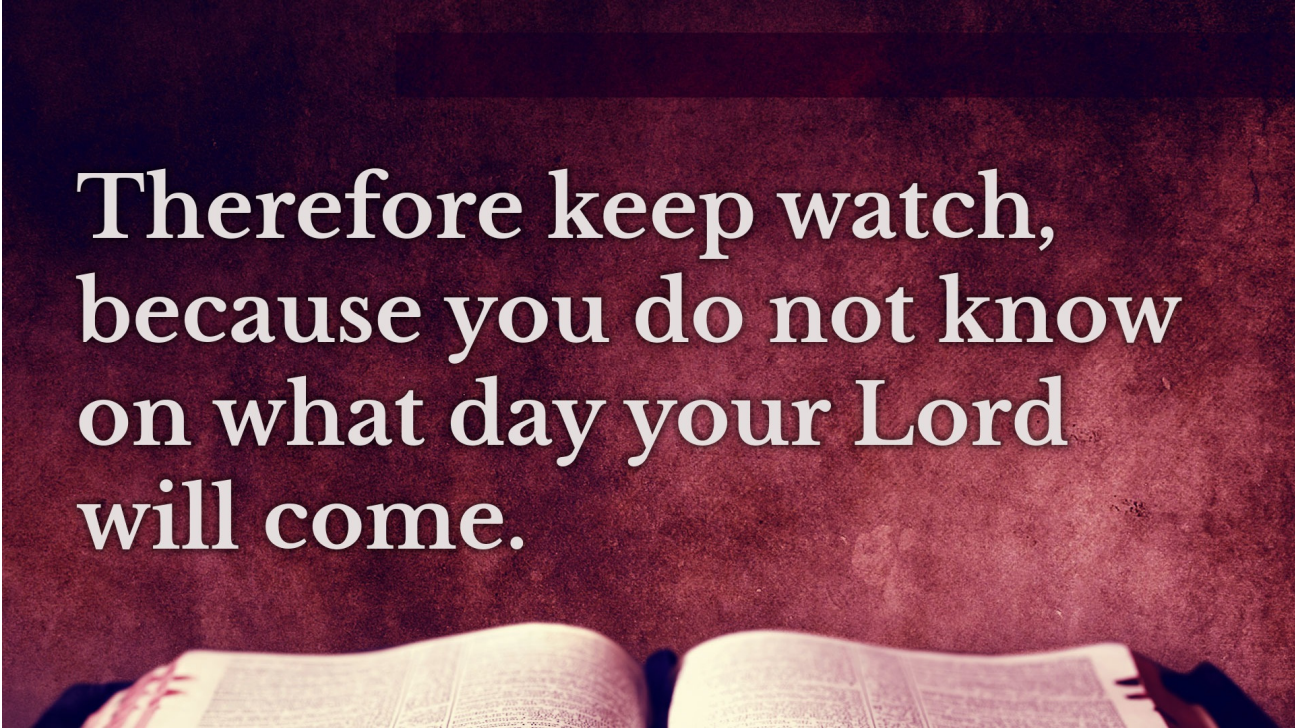


First Sunday in Advent

A dark red, textured background, possibly a book cover or parchment, with a Bible visible at the bottom. The text is written in a white, serif font.

Therefore keep watch,
because you do not know
on what day your Lord
will come.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 27, 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.

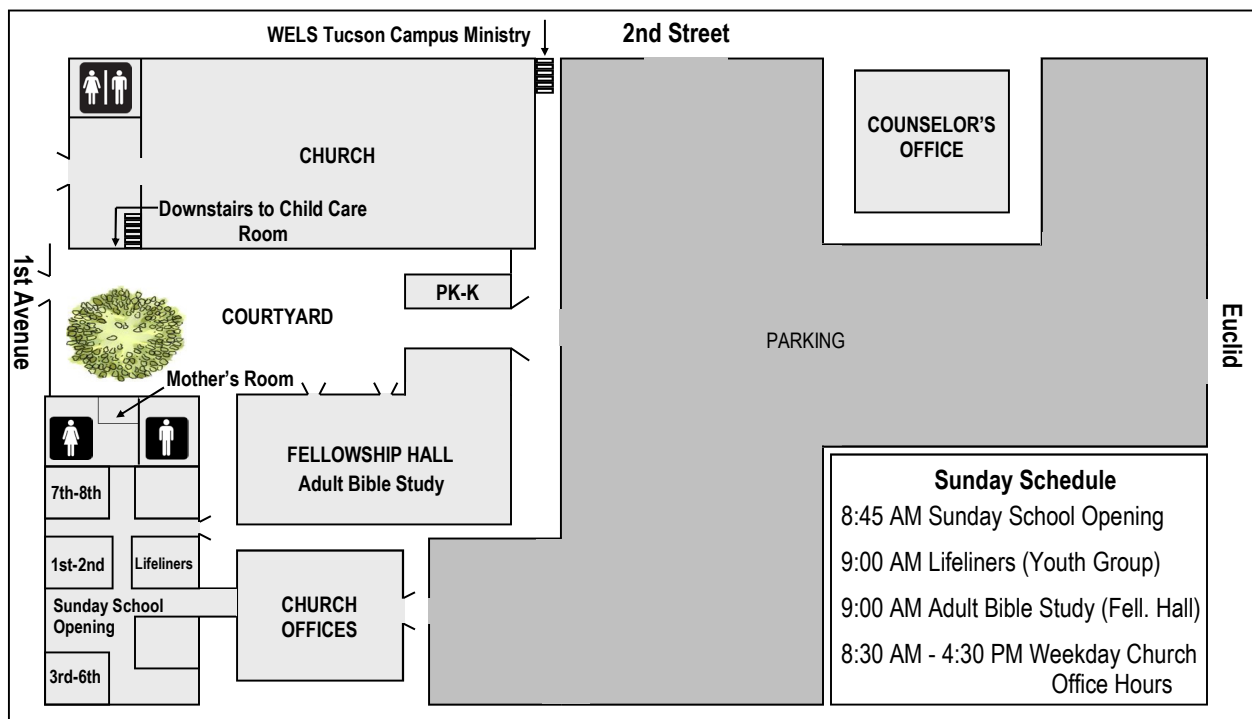
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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



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 of our congregation.

MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

This order of service is based on the historic order for morning praise known as Matins.

OPENING HYMN

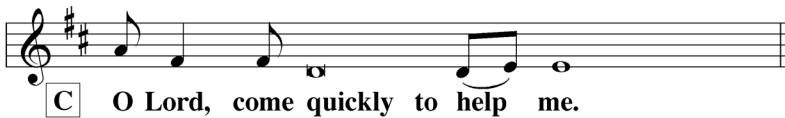
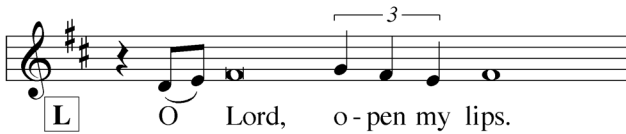
Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring Christian Worship #26

Please stand

Our opening hymn was written in 1862. It highlights the three fold emphasis of the Advent season: Christ came as a baby in Bethlehem, he will come again in glory, and he comes into our hearts now through his Word and the Sacraments.

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



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

Congregation sings the refrain and verses.

Refrain

*Come, Oh, Come,
Let Us Sing to the
Lord is a paraphrase
of Psalm 95. In it
we join to praise
God who created
and redeemed us.*

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

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

L: We hear his call to watch.

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

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

One Advent candle is lit.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the

Genesis 6:9-22, 7:11-23 (NIV)

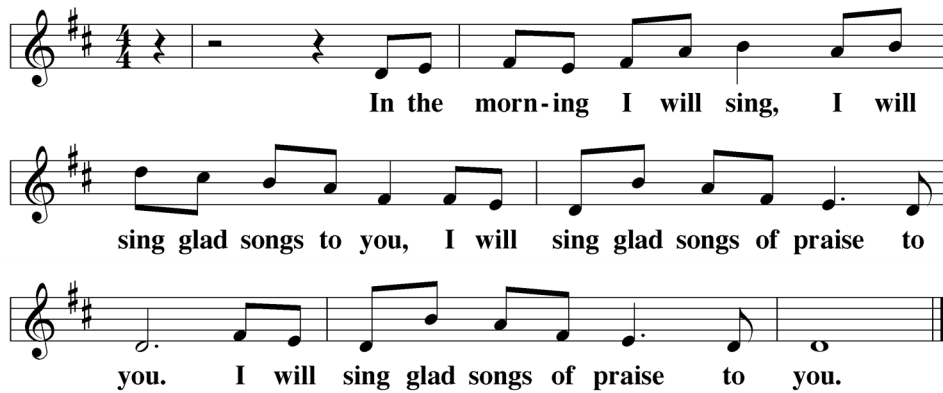
second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in. For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

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

Romans 13:11-14 (NIV)

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us

behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 22:20 (NIV)

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

Please stand

GOSPEL

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken

Matthew 24:36-44 (NIV)

and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

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

Please be seated

HYMN

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
Christian Worship #472

SERMON

Matthew 24:36-44
Keep Watch

Please stand

SONG OF ZECHARIAH



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



pow'r, Who rais - es from the roy - al house De -
 fear, That we might serve in ho - li - ness And
 high, Our ris - ing sun, the light of life For



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
 peace from year to year; And you, my child, shall
 those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn To free us from a - larm, To
 go be - fore To preach, to proph - e - sy, That
 way to peace That death shall reign no more, Sing



1., 2.
 save us from the heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.
 all may know the ten - der love, The grace of God most high.



3.
 prais-es to the Ho-ly One! O wor-ship and a-dore!

Please be seated



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

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!

Please stand

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 your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; 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.

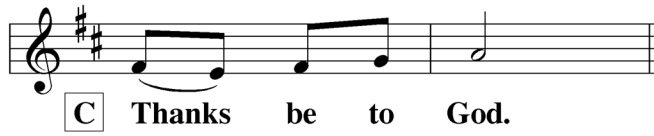
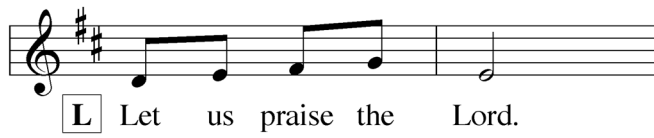
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

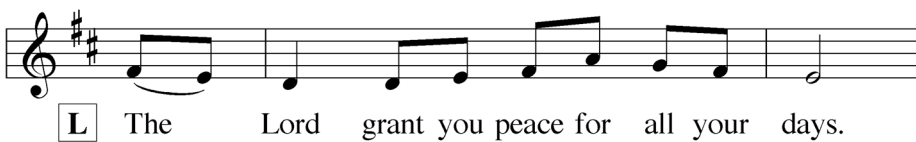
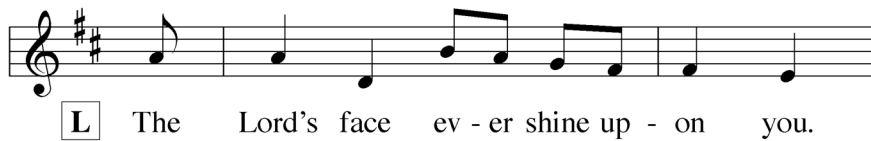
C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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

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

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.



BLESSING



Please be seated

TODAY

Welcome Grace Guests!

If you are a guest at Grace today, we are very happy to have you worship with us! If you would like more information about Grace or have questions about becoming a member of our congregation, please visit the Welcome Table in the courtyard. If this is your first time at Grace, please stop there to pick up a gift just for being our guest this morning.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship after 10:00 AM worship is hosted by Gisela Kittel, Sally Littau, Nancy Miles and Lois Thornton. 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 Greg & Karen Grorud to the glory of God and in living memory of their Christian parents.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Daniel 4:19-37

Acts 3:19-26

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 3:1-12

Pay Attention to the Prophet!

Birthday Invitation

The congregation is invited to Pat Messer's 80th birthday celebration on Saturday, December 3 from 12:30-2:30 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. **It will be catered, so please RSVP to Tom Bossert at 360-6900 by TOMORROW if you plan to attend. No gifts please.**

Worship Choir for Christmas Services

Worship Choir will sing for Christmas services at Grace-Tucson (Christmas Eve--Sat. Dec. 24 at 7:00 PM and Christmas Day--Sun. Dec. 25 at 10:00 AM).

Brief rehearsals will be held both before and after each evening midweek Advent service with a final rehearsal on Tues. Dec. 21. If you are interested in participating, please speak to Director Teri Guenther or Music Coordinator Beth Kassulke for more details.

Advent By Candlelight at Holy Cross

The women of Holy Cross Lutheran Church invite their fellow sisters in Christ to join them in preparing their hearts for Christmas this Saturday, December 3 from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Education Building at Holy Cross (241 N. Harrison Road, Tucson). There is no cost. Treats and beverages will be provided. **There is a sign-up sheet on the back counter or you may register online at www.holycrosstucson.org/advent-by-candlelight/.** If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 296-5129.



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

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

This Week at Grace • Nov 27-Dec 4

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services.....7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal in Sanctuary..... 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
NO WELS TCM Bible Study.....

Monday

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

SAHUARITA

Today

Children's Sunday School..... 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Digging into the Book of James* 9:00a
Worship Service..... 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship.....

Wednesday

Bible Study: *Why All the Different Churches?*..... 10:00a
Midweek Advent Supper 6:00p
Midweek Advent Worship 7:00p

Saturday

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal at Grace-Tucson..... 9:00a

Sunday

Children's Sunday School..... 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Digging into the Book of James* 9:00a
Worship Services..... **7:45a & 10:00a**
Coffee Fellowship following worship.....

BENSON

Today

Worship Service/Communion 7:30a
Financial Peace University..... 6:00p

Wednesday

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

Sunday

Worship Service..... 7:30a
Financial Peace University..... 6:00p

Tuesday

English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship 10:00a
Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 6:00p
Worship Choir Practice (brief practice before service)..... 6:30p
Midweek Advent Worship 7:00p
Worship Choir Practice (brief practice after service)..... 7:45p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study..... 9:00a

Saturday

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal 9:00-11:30a
Pat Messer 80th birthday celebration..... 12:30-2:30p
Women's Advent By Candlelight Event at Holy Cross 2:00p

Sunday

Worship Services/Communion.....7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal in Sanctuary..... 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
WELS TCM Bible Study: *Who's that Coming?*..... 7:00p

VAIL

Today

Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class..... 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Of Kings & Prophets*..... 9:15a
Worship Service/Communion 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship.....

Monday

Bible Study at the Ministry Center: *Sermon Review* 9:00a

Saturday

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal at Grace-Tucson 9:00a

Sunday

Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class..... 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Of Kings & Prophets*..... 9:15a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship.....

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

**830 N. 1st Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85719**

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

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

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Timothy L. Patoka revtlp@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Vail & Grace-Benson

Colin M. Rieke revcmr@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Sahuarita

Ryan A. Heiman revrah@gracelutheransaz.org

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Phone 882-3773**

Music Coordinator

**Beth Kassulke
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Phone 293-2935**

Office Assistant

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

In-Betweeners' White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party on Friday, December 9 at 3:00 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, 85718). There is also parking at the end of the next street, Camino Noche. The meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a wrapped White Elephant gift. If you have questions call Cinda or Geri at 615-6059. *This is a once a year social activity that is open to all adults.*

Tuition Tax Credit

2016 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 \$1087 per person and \$2173 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.**

Two Services Beginning next Sunday at Grace-Sahuarita!

Beginning next Sunday, December 4, Grace-Sahuarita will switch to two services. The first at 7:45 AM and the second at 10:00 AM with Sunday School and Adult Bible Study in between at 9:00 AM.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services **Wednesdays, Nov 30, Dec 7 & 14**

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

7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
(supper at 6:00 PM)

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

Children's Christmas Service **Sunday, December 11**

4:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Eve Services **Saturday, December 24**

4:00 PM at Grace-Vail
7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Day Services **Sunday, December 25**

8:00 AM at Grace-Benson
10:00 AM at Grace-Sahuarita
10:00 AM at Grace-Tucson
10:00 AM at Grace-Vail

New Year's Eve Worship — All Site Service **Saturday, December 31**

7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Midweek Advent Suppers

Prior to the 7 PM services each week you are welcome to join us for supper at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. **We need volunteers to host the meal on December 7** (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). There are information sheets in the Fellowship Hall which explain how to host one of these meals. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office if you would like to serve in this way.

“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.



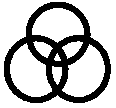
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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!