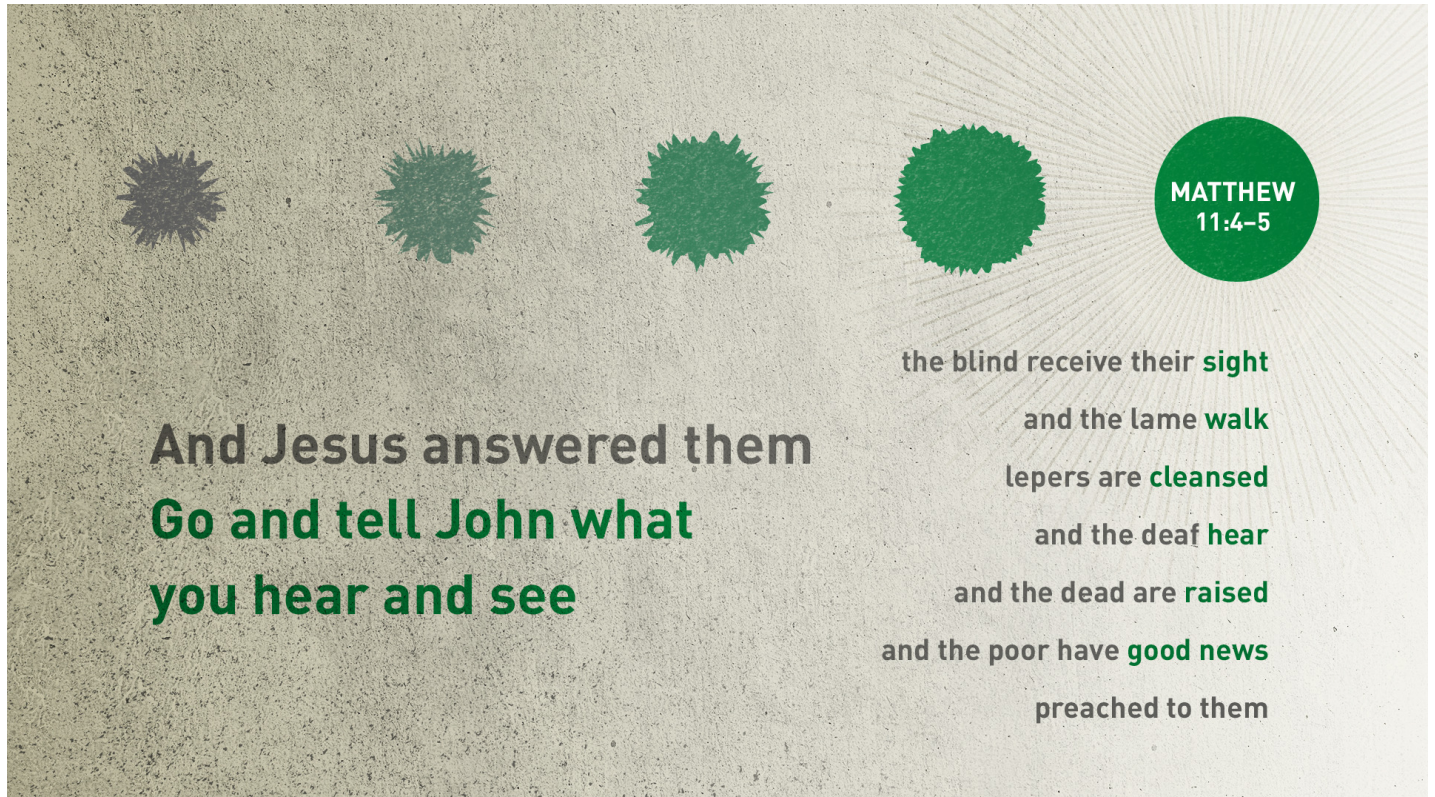


# Third Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 11, 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.

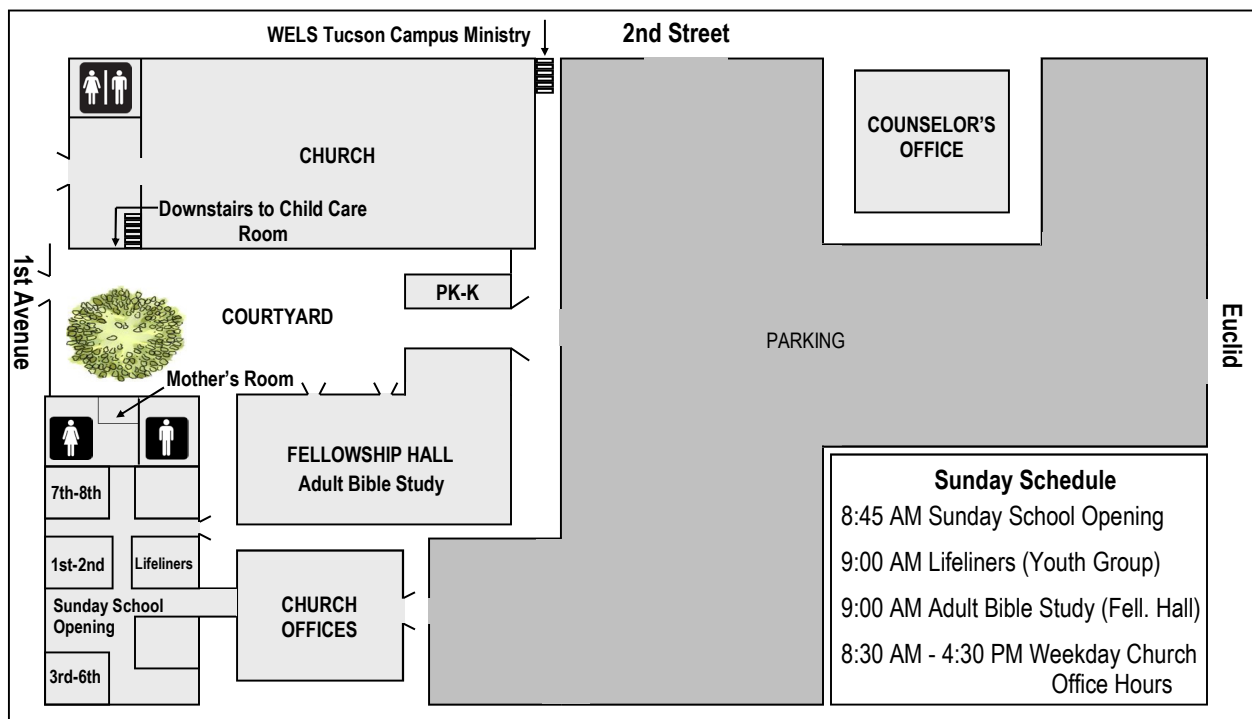
**Hymns** are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

**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](http://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.

## MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

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

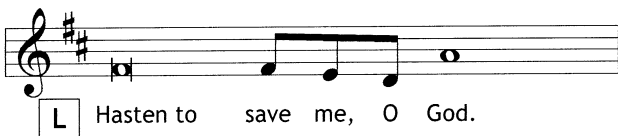
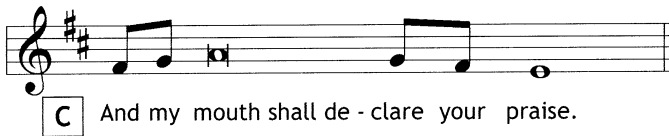
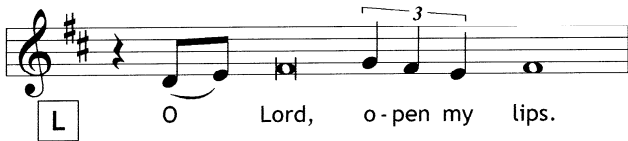
### OPENING HYMN

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come  
*Christian Worship #8*

*Please stand*

### RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



### PRESERVICE MUSIC:

*A Quiet Reflection*  
By R. Kevin Boesiger

*Quiet Devotion with*  
*Of the Father's*  
*Love Begotten*  
By R. Kevin Boesiger  
and Mark Hayes

*The opening sentences of this service are based on words from the Psalms. We begin our worship service together by calling on the Lord for help and praising his holy name.*

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.

### 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.

## 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



You are a great and a won - drous God,  
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 CANDLES

- L: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.
- C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

L: We hear his call to see the light.  
C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.  
L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.  
C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

*Please be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the

## Job 1:6-22 (NIV)

servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

*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

James 5:7-11 (NIV)

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing

at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV

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

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV)

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A

reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**Vocalists: Stanza 1**  
**Cong: Stanzas 2-4**

## Be Patient, Christians



1. Be pa - tient, Chris - tians, wait - ing for your Lord to come.
2. Be pa - tient, Chris - tians, suf - f'ring you a - wait the Lord.
3. Be pa - tient, Chris - tians, per - se - ver - ing while you wait.
4. Be pa - tient, Chris - tians, look - ing for your Lord to come.



Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as when the farm - er waits for rain. \_\_\_\_  
 Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as suff - ring proph - ets preached the Word. \_\_\_\_  
 Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as faith - ful Job en - dured, pre - vailed. \_\_\_\_  
 Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as you a - wait your soul's sal - va - tion.



Stand firm and wait; it won't be long!  
 Stand firm and wait; for your re - ward!  
 Stand firm and wait; Mer - cy will come!  
 Stand firm and wait; it will be soon!



Stand firm and wait; it won't be long.  
 Stand firm and wait; for your re - ward.  
 Stand firm and wait; Mer - cy will come!  
 Stand firm and wait; it will be soon!

*This hymn is based on James 5:7-11 (see today's Second Lesson)*

*Text: Ronald G. Koehler, III, b. 1965  
 © 2010 Ronald G. Koehler, III. All rights reserved.  
 Tune, Setting: Kathy Parra, b. 1969 © 2010 Kathy Parra. All rights reserved.*

*The words of this Advent hymn stress the importance of Christian patience in waiting for the Savior, as it is emphasized in James chapter 5. The music reflects the mood of longing and hope that the season of Advent brings.*



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 the ho - li - ness And  
high, Our ris - ing sun, the light of life For

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

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

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

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

Please be seated

OFFERING

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

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

Please stand



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

OFFERTORY

MUSIC:

Prepare the Way,  
O Zion

By Richard Blake



## 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:** Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**L:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy. Fill us instead with the joy and peace of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ your Son. Direct our eyes both to the manger and to the skies, where we will see Jesus coming again in glory.

**C:** Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

*Special prayers may be included here.*

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

**C:** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

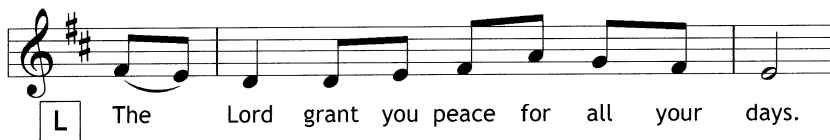
*Christians stand for congregational prayer showing the freedom of God's children to come boldly into his presence. The Christian theologian Augustine (400 AD) adds, "We pray standing...as a sign of the Resurrection."*

*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.*



*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



*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 Linda Morris and Deb Sloyan. 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 and Sloyan families in memory of Vera Hess and Verna Retberg, and in honor of Amy Morris' birthday.

### Children's Christmas Service Today

The Children's Christmas Service, in which Sunday School and Confirmation students from all of Grace's sites will be sharing the good news of Christmas in word and song, will take place this afternoon at 4:00 PM here at Grace-Tucson. Please join us for this special service.

## NEXT SUNDAY

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

Isaiah 7:1-7  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### ***Sermon Text & Theme***

Romans 1:1-7  
*Jesus Christ Is Our Lord*

### Mission to the Children Request for Yarn

The church congregations in Altar, Sonora, and Iglesia Cordero de Dios are being offered knitting lessons by Pastor Alejandro Sanchez-Amaya. But they are in need of yarn (any color). If you would like to donate yarn, please bring it to the Grace-Tucson church office.

### ESL Food Buyer

English as a Second Language is in need of someone to buy snacks for ESL beginning January 2017. This entails shopping just once a month. There are people who already prepare the snacks, so you would just need to buy the food. If you are interested or have questions about this, please call Joyce Long (795-6456) or Helen Potucek (886-8009).

### Thank You

Pat Messer would like to thank all who helped make her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday a delightful day!

Sandy Weir would also like to say a big thank you for the prayers, cards, calls, texts, visits, love and aid of all kinds to her and to Russ during her hospitalization and rehab. God-willing they'll see you at worship soon!



**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 11-Dec 18**

**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): <i>Bible Study</i> .....	9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall): • <i>The Life of Christ: Jesus' Resurrection</i> .....	9:00a
<b>Children's Christmas Service</b> .....	4:00p
WELS TCM: <i>For Such a Time as This Party</i> .....	7:00p

**SAHUARITA**

**Today**

Children's Sunday School .....	9:00a
Adult Bible Study: <i>Digging into the Book of James</i> .....	9:00a
Worship Services.....	7:45a & 10:00a
<b>Christmas Ornament Project</b> .....	11:00a
<b>Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	4:00p

**Wednesday**

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

**Saturday**

<b>Neighborhood Christmas Canvass</b> .....	9:00a
<b>Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	9:30-1:00p

**Sunday**

Children's Sunday School .....	9:00a
Adult Bible Study: <i>Digging into the Book of James</i> .....	9:00a
Worship Services/Communion .....	7:45a & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....	
<b>Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	2:00p

**BENSON**

**Today**

Worship Service/Communion .....	7:30a
<b>Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	4:00p
Financial Peace University .....	6:00p

**Wednesday**

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

**Saturday**

<b>Christmas for Kids at GT</b> .....	9:30a
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**Sunday**

Worship Service .....	7:30a
<b>Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	2:00p

**Monday**

Handbell Practice.....	4:30p
English as a Second Language Christmas Party .....	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: <i>Key Bible Words</i> .....	9:00a
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**Friday**

Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas Concert .....	7:00p
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**Saturday**

<b>Christmas for Kids</b> .....	9:30-1:00p
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**Sunday**

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

**VAIL**

**Today**

Children's Sunday School .....	9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class.....	9:00a
Adult Bible Study: <i>Of Kings &amp; Prophets</i> .....	9:15a
Worship Service/Communion .....	10:00a
<b>Potluck Following Worship</b> .....	
<b>Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	4:00p

**Monday**

Bible Study at the Ministry Center: <i>Sermon Review</i> .....	9:00a
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**Saturday**

<b>Christmas for Kids at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	9:30-1:00p
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**Sunday**

Children's Sunday School .....	9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class.....	9:00a
Adult Bible Study: <i>Of Kings &amp; Prophets</i> .....	9:15a
Worship Service .....	10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship.....	
<b>Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson</b> .....	2:00p

**Grace Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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

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

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

**Pastors**

**At Grace-Tucson**

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org  
Nathan P. Kassulke revnpk@gracelutheransaz.org  
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

**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**

## Colton Reception Open House

Friends of the family are invited to meet Rob & Natasha Colton (Rob is the son of Grace members, John & Lauri Colton) on December 30, from 4:00-7:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

## Thrivent News

Funding from your local chapter through the Care Abounds in Communities program will no longer be available. Instead, consider leading a Thrivent Action Team. With this volunteer program, it is now much easier for you to take action on a cause you are passionate about. Bringing a team together is the key! It's about helping more people to live generously; it's not about purchasing an item and giving a gift. Here are some ideas to consider for a Thrivent Action Team project:

Prepare and serve a dinner for individuals in need.

Hold a fundraiser for a local cause you care about.

Hold a drive to collect items to distribute to a nonprofit or person in need.

Host an educational event.

Visit [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam) to learn the program guidelines and apply.

Grace has made use of these Action Team Grants and would like to do so in the coming year. If you are a Thrivent Member and would be willing to use one of your two allowed grants in 2017, please let one of the pastors know.

## 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](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.**

### HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Children's Christmas Service TODAY!**

4:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

#### **Midweek Advent Services Wednesday, December 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)

#### **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

# “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!*