

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 18, 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.

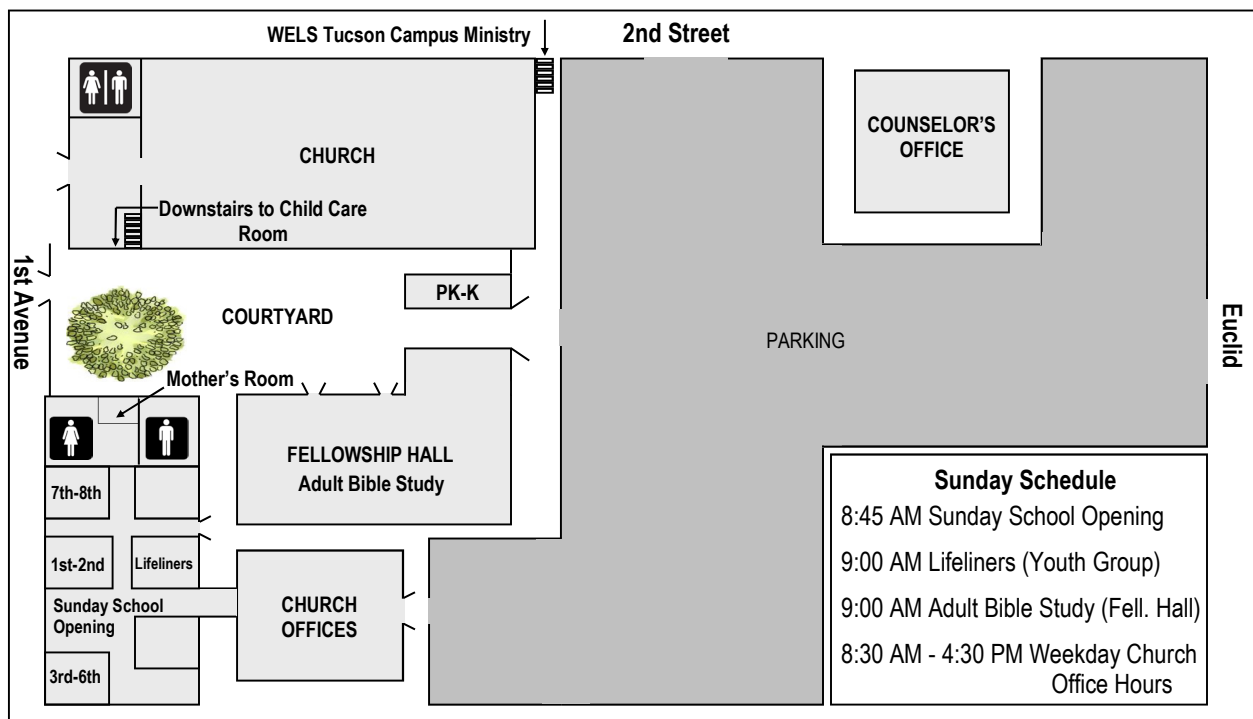
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel
Arr. by Cindy Berry

MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

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

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS CHOIR (10:00 AM)

Happy Hallelujah Christmas Song

*Sing a happy hallelujah Christmas song,
Clap your hands, come on and sing along!
Ha-ha-hallelujah, sing for joy,
Sing a happy song to the Baby Boy.*

*Jesus! Jesus! Little, bitty Baby lying on the hay;
Jesus! Jesus! I want to praise You ev'ry day.*

WELCOME

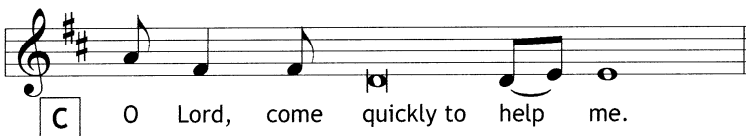
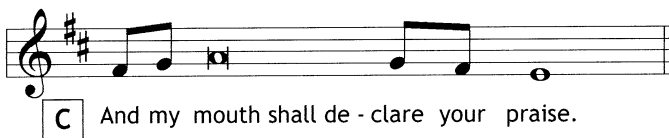
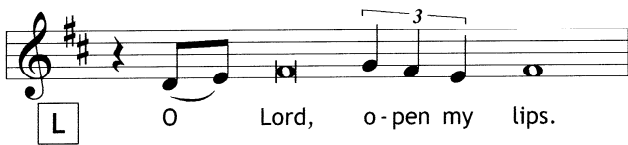
OPENING HYMN

The Only Son from Heaven
Christian Worship #86

Please stand

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader **C:** Congregation



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.



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

*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

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



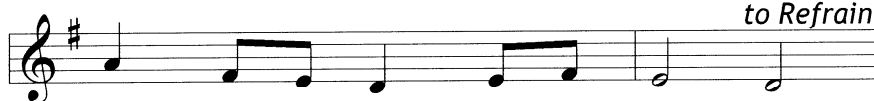
You are a great and a won - drous God,
Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



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 four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
- C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**
- L: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
- C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**
- L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Four Advent candles are lit.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.'" Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "It will not take place, it will not happen, for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years

Isaiah 7:1-17 (NIV)

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.'" Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."

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.

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 1:1-7 (NIV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for

his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23

L: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

Please stand

GOSPEL

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Christian Worship #23

SERMON

Romans 1:1-7
Jesus Christ Is Our Lord

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

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:

*In Christ Alone
 Arr. by James
 Koerts*

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. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; 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.

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.

Please stand



BLESSING



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.

The first staff of music is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains the melody for the first line of the song. The notes are: C4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). A slur covers the notes from A4 to D4. Below the staff, the lyrics 'C A - men.' are written, with 'C' and 'A' aligned under the first two notes, and 'men.' under the final note.

TODAY

Welcome Grace Guests!

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

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship after 10:00 AM worship is hosted by the Kosanke, Stuhr, and Wiechmann families. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Jeanette O'Donald to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Bill O'Donald.

Adult Confirmation

Cynthia Meyers will be confirmed during 10:00 AM worship this morning at Grace-Vail. We welcome her to Grace and ask God's blessings on her!

Voters' Meeting Today

The Voters' Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for this afternoon at 2:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. A booklet with Pastor and Council reports can be found at both exits and in the Fellowship Hall. This keeps members up to date on Grace's ministry activities and helps voters prepare for the meeting.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



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 18-Dec 25

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class.....8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*.....9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Resurrection*9:00a
Voters' Meeting2:00p

Monday

Handbell Practice 4:30p

Wednesday

Worship Choir Practice 6:30p

Saturday

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00p

Sunday

Christmas Day Worship 10:00a

SAHUARITA

Today

Children's Sunday School9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Digging into the Book of James*....9:00a
Worship Services/Communion 7:45a & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson2:00p

Wednesday

Bible Study: *Why All the Different Churches?*.....10:00a

Saturday

Christmas Eve Worship7:00p

Sunday

Christmas Day Worship10:00a

VAIL

Today

Children's Sunday School9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class.....9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Of Kings & Prophets*9:15a
Worship Service.....10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson2:00p

Monday

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

Wednesday

Caroling at the Vail Ministry Center.....6:00p

Saturday

Christmas Eve Carols Service4:00p

Sunday

Christmas Day Worship10:00a

BENSON

Today

Worship Service7:30a
Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson2:00p

Sunday

Christmas Day Worship8:00a

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

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).

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!

Pastor Grube Service

Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 3:00 PM at Holy Cross (241 N. Harrison Road, Tucson, 85748), there will be a special worship service to thank God for the ministry of Pastor Grube, who is retiring at the end of this month. Dinner will follow the service in the Education Building. No need to RSVP.

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 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 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.**

“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 (**Ω**) 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!