

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 8, 2016



Jesus' Ascension to Heaven - John Singleton Copley, 1775

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, AZ



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.

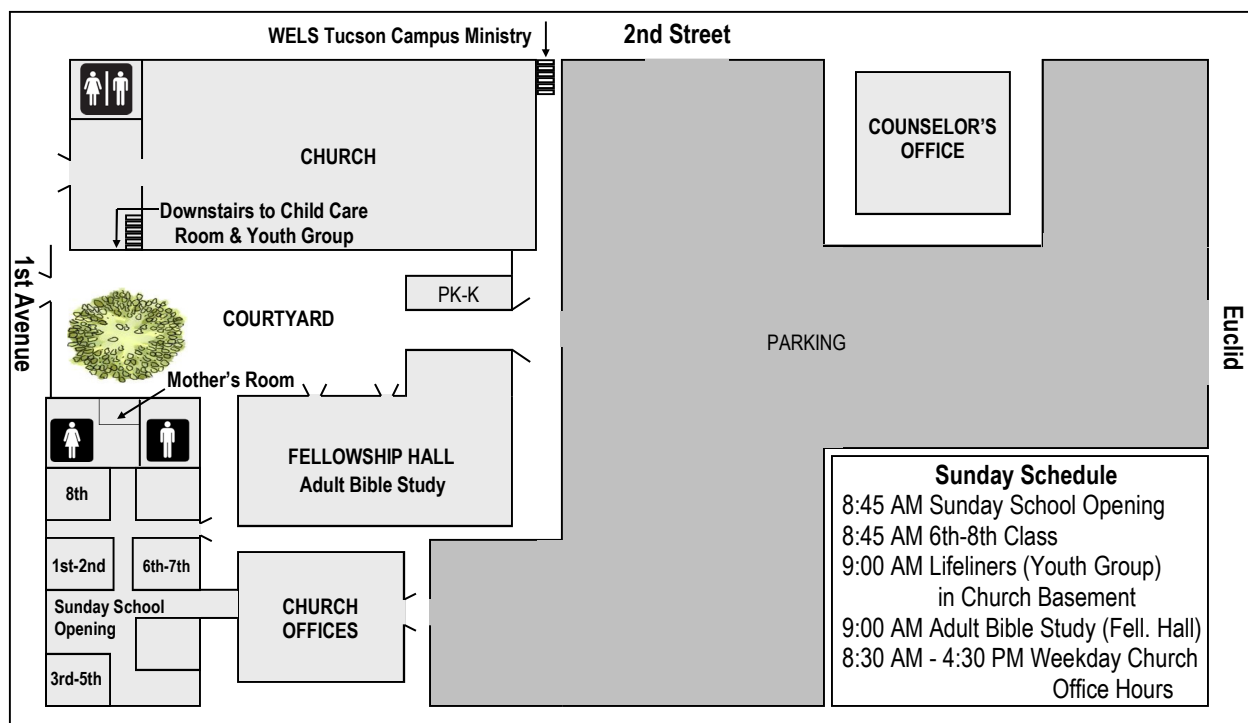
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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 II

Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

HYMN

Stanza 1-2: All
Stanza 3: Men
Stanza 4: Women
Stanza 5-6: All

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Christian Worship #171

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.
C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:
I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY—*Kyrie*

Mark 10:47

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Sing to God
By George Frideric Handel
Arr. by Jan Sanborn

10:00 AM—
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
By Ludwig Van Beethoven

Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian Church.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

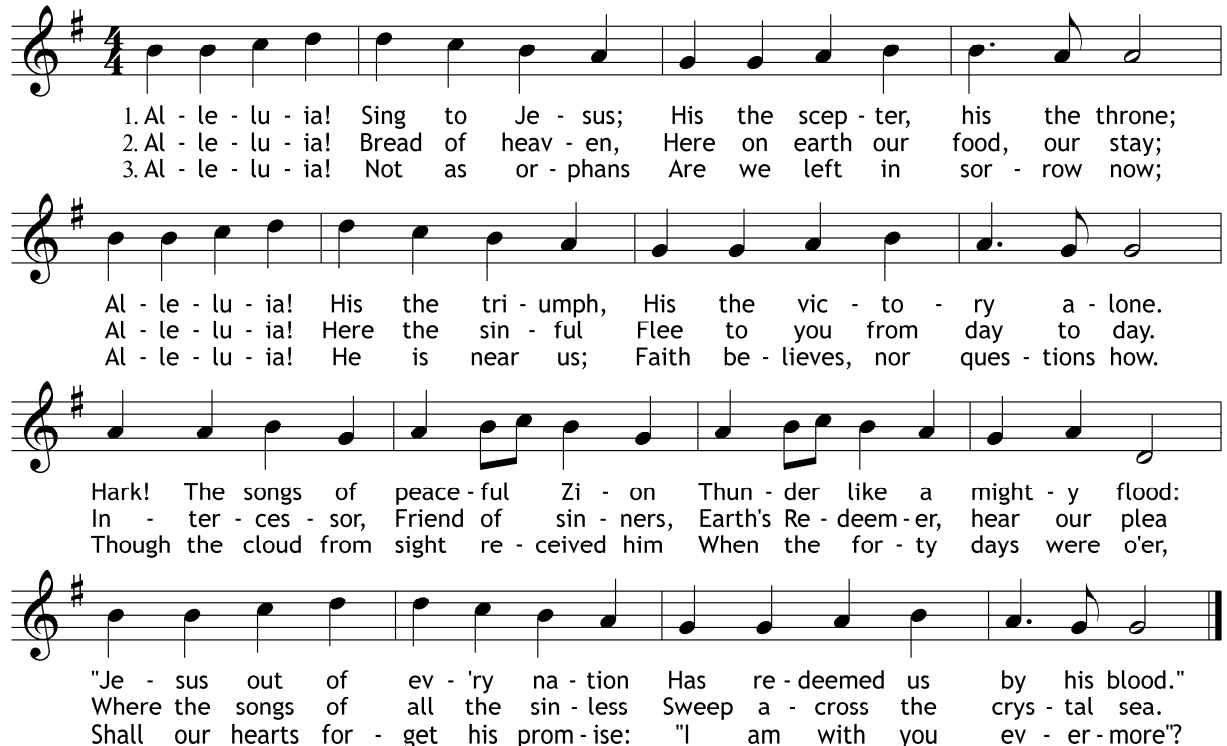
C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus Christian Worship #169



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter, his the throne;
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our food, our stay;
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in sor - row now;

Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful Flee to you from day to day.
Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood:
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er,

"Je - sus out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."
Where the songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
Shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"

THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

“There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, ‘Destroy him!’ So Israel will live in safety alone; Jacob’s spring is secure in a land of

Deuteronomy 33:26-29 (NIV)

grain and new wine, where the heavens drop dew. Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places.”

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 OF THE DAY

PSALM 110

The vocalist(s) will sing the verses. The congregation may join in the refrains and verse 4.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”
The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;
you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:
“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”
The LORD is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

Refrain

He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.
He will drink from a brook beside the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NIV)

knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 10:17



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the mes - sage is heard through the

Word of Christ. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44-53 (NIV)

M: The Gospel according to Luke chapter twenty-four.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The

Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you

The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.

have been clothed with power from on high.” When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was

taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph
Christian Worship #174

SERMON

Luke 24:44-53
The Importance of the Ascension

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 QR code.

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Andante
By V. Engel

10:00 AM—
A Mother's Love
By Jackie Perks

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church.

Bless these women that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. In Jesus name we pray....AMEN

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—ASCENSION

M: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.

M: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

C: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

M: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.

M: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

C: You are our Lord, Master, and King.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Please be seated

HYMN

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise
Christian Worship #175

Please stand

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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 Crown Him with Many Crowns
Christian Worship #341

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

PreacherPastor Sam Clemons
Worship Leader Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Accompanists..... Elaine Goldie (7:45 AM)
Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Vocalists.....Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM)
Dylan & Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Trumpet..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)
UshersVic Thornton, Rusty King (7:45 AM)
Dave Breitzkreitz, Ed Ethington, Dylan Guenther (10:00 AM)
Lucas Guenther, Ferdie Kramm, Josiah Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)
Greeters..... Jean & Ron Husemann (10:00 AM)

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

POSTLUDE:
7:45 AM—
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Arr. by James Koerts
10:00 AM—
On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build
Setting by Nancy Raabe

Upcoming Voters’ Meeting & Breakfast

The next Voters’ Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for this Saturday, May 14 at 8:30 AM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. Because of this early start time breakfast will be provided beginning at 8:00 AM. A booklet with Pastor and Council reports can be found at both entrances of church and in the Fellowship Hall. This keeps members up to date on Grace’s ministry activities and helps voters prepare for the meeting.

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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.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Cora & Chris Stuhr in celebration of their 3rd wedding anniversary on May 11 and in honor of their mothers, Jody Kosanke and Barb Stuhr.

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 Eric & Erika Hanson. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Acts 2:1-21
John 14:25-27

Sermon Text

Psalm 51:10-15
A Prayer for Pentecost

Women's Fellowship Group: *Movie*

Next Sunday, May 15, the Women's Fellowship Group will go see the 1:35 PM showing of *Mother's Day* at the Century 20 El Con Mall Theater (3601 E. Broadway Blvd, 85716) and grab a treat following the movie. We will meet outside the theater at 1:00 PM. Please contact Missy Wiechmann at 403-1177 if you have any questions. We hope you can make it!

New Altar Candles

The altar candles at Grace-Sahuarita are in need of replacement. Church furnishings important to our worship are often items that God's people have an interest in giving toward. The chosen replacement set is very similar to the existing candles and the price should be about \$525. If you would like to give an offering for a portion of those or for the whole amount, simply designate your gift for "Sahuarita Altar Candles" by **TODAY** and include it in the morning offering. Any amount left over after they are purchased will be set aside for other worship-related items.

Seminary Call Day

Call Day at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is Thursday, May 19. In a special worship service at 10:00 AM (8:00 Tucson time), the graduates of WLS will be presented with their assignments to their first Calls. We expect the Call Service to be available for streaming online as well. This Call Day Service is especially exciting for Grace as we have requested two graduates; one to serve in our youth and family ministry and campus ministry at Grace-Tucson and the other to serve at our Sahuarita site. **The link for the online streaming is <http://livestream.com/WLSLive>.**



**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 • May 8-May 15

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School..... 8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Do We Really Know What the Bible Says?* 9:00a
WELS TCM Finals Stress-Relief Cookout 6:00p

Monday

English as a Second Language End of Year Potluck6:30p

Wednesday

Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* 10:00a
Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* 7:00p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *Digging for Insights*.....9:00a

Saturday

Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson (breakfast at 8:00)8:30a

Sunday

Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School.....8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Do We Really Know What the Bible Says?*9:00a
Women's Fellowship: *Movie*..... 1:00p

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service9:45a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

Wednesday

Bible Study: *Parables of Jesus* 10:00a

Saturday

Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson (breakfast at 8:00).....8:30a

Sunday

Worship Service9:45a
Coffee Fellowship after Worship
Women's Fellowship: *Movie* 1:00p

BENSON

Today

Worship Service/Communion 7:30a

Saturday

Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson (breakfast at 8:00).....8:30a

Sunday

Worship Service 7:30a
Women's Fellowship: *Movie* 1:00p

VAIL

Today

Adult Bible Study: *Book of Judges* 9:00a
Children's Sunday School..... 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Worship Service/Communion 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

Saturday

Voters' Meeting at Grace-Tucson (breakfast at 8:00)..... 8:30a

Sunday

Adult Bible Study: *Core Christianity* 9:00a
Children's Sunday School..... 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Women's Fellowship: *Movie* 1:00p

**Grace Evangelical
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Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship Group will have breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, May 21 in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall starting at 9:00 AM. Please bring a breakfast dish to share. Please contact Boz Lomasney at (440) 251-4704 if you have any questions.

Confirmation Sunday at Grace-Vail

Grace-Vail's Youth Confirmation will be Sunday, June 5. Colton Watson and Spencer Hildreth will be confirmed in the 10:00 AM service that day. All are invited to attend and congratulate the confirmands.

Donations for St. Marcus Students

Once again this year Grace is hosting a group of WELS 7th grade students from St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee. They are arriving in Tucson on May 19 through the program "Discover America" which rewards students based on their academic performance and behavior. Each student raised a portion of the expenses to come on the trip.

We are accepting donations to pay for the food that will be served to the students and teachers while they are here. You can make a cash donation or use a check made payable to *Grace Lutheran Church* (note St. Marcus on the bottom of the check). **Donations will be collected through May 15.** The donation box can be found near the main entrance of church.

Divine Call

On Sunday, April 24, Pastor Kassulke was informed that Peace Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin had voted to extend to him a Divine Call to serve as their associate pastor. This means that he now holds two calls, one to Grace and one to Peace. In the next few weeks, he will be working to make a decision whether to accept the new Call and to move his ministry to Wisconsin or to decline the Call and to continue serving in Tucson. He will strive to make that decision with prayer and careful consideration on the basis of where his particular gifts for ministry best fit the opportunities before him.

Pastor Kassulke welcomes any input that the friends and members of Grace might wish to share with him. You can reach him by phone either at the Church Office (520-623-6633) or on his personal phone (520-260-4453). He also appreciates prayers offered on behalf of him and his family during this deliberation as well as for both congregations as they consider the ministry before them.



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