

# First Sunday after Christmas

...for my eyes  
have seen your  
salvation

that you have prepared in  
the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the  
Gentiles, and for glory to  
your people Israel.

Luke 2:30-32



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 31, 2017



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.

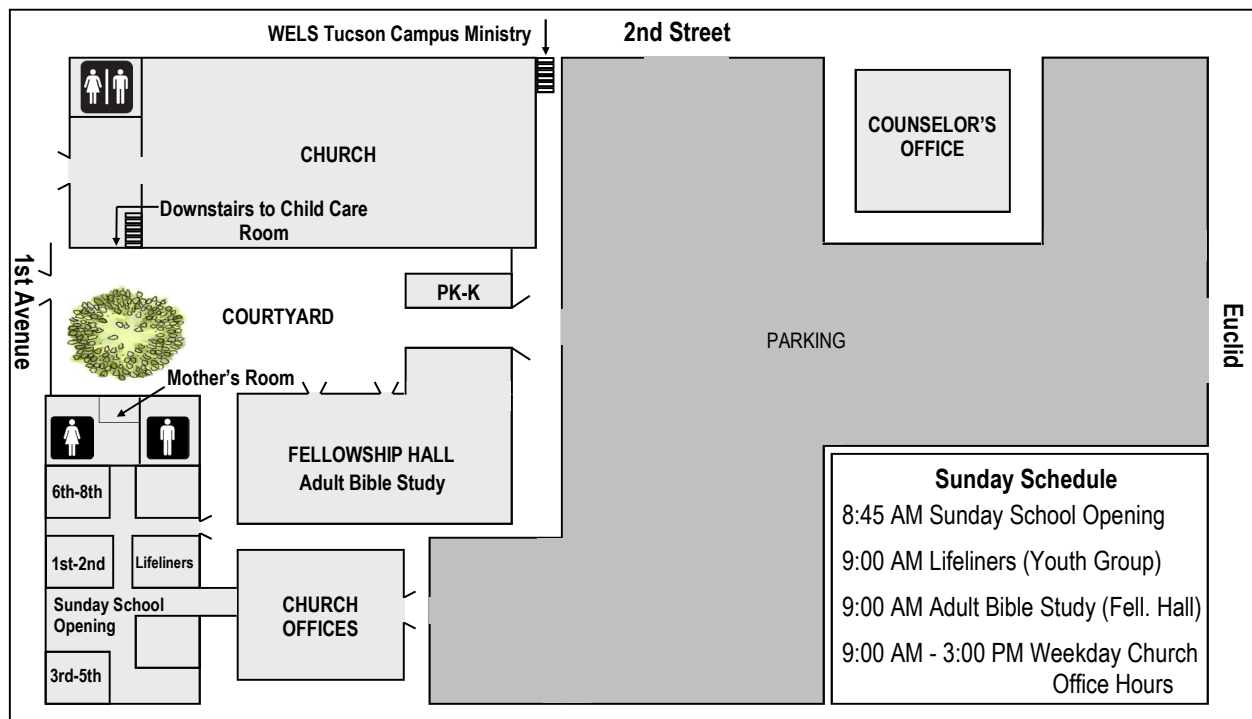
**Hymns** are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

**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)



# DIVINE SERVICE I

## Christian Worship Supplement

### WELCOME

### HYMN

### O Light of Gentile Nations Christian Worship #78

*Please stand*

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

### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*



### PRESERVICE MUSIC:

**7:45AM**

*O Come, All Ye  
Faithful  
Arr. by Cindy Berry*

**10:00AM**

*Let Us Together  
Praise Our God  
Arr. by Paul Manz*

*Angels from the  
Realms of Glory  
Arr. by Michael  
Burkhardt*

*Kyrie—We sing our penitential confession to our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, asking for his mercy. The name Kyrie is shortened from the Greek Kyrie Eleison, which means “Lord have mercy.”*

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

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

## GLORY TO GOD

### Gloria in Excelsis

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

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,  
 heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we  
 give you thanks we praise you for your glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the  
 high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord Je-sus  
 Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the  
 right hand of the Father; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our  
 prayer. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For  
 you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:20-25 (NIV 2011)

“Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. Declare what is to be, present it – let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the

earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are deliverance and strength.’” All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. But all the descendants of Israel will find deliverance in the LORD and will make their boast in him.

*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 111

#### Refrain



#### Psalm tone



Great are the works of the LORD; \*they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, \*and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

\*the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

#### Refrain

The works of his hands are faithful and just; \*all his precepts are trustworthy. He provided redemption for his people; \*he ordained his covenant forever. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

\*all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

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

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you

**Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV 2011)**

were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*The Verse of the Day  
is a familiar or  
significant  
Scripture text  
framed with  
alleluias.*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**Colossians 3:15a**

M: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL

**Luke 2:25-40 (NIV 2011)**

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

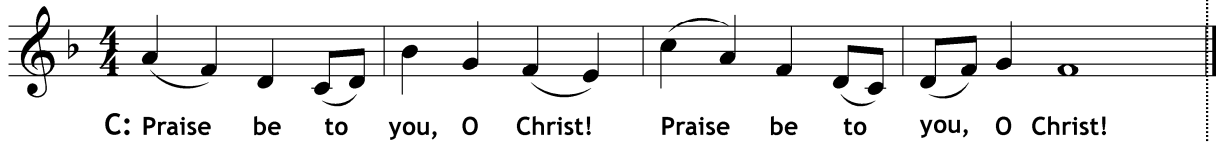
*The congregation  
stands out of  
respect for the  
words of Christ our  
King.*



Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising

of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## 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.

*The Apostles' Creed developed in the Early Christian Church as a personal confession of faith. It is so named because it confesses the faith taught by the Apostles of Jesus.*

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

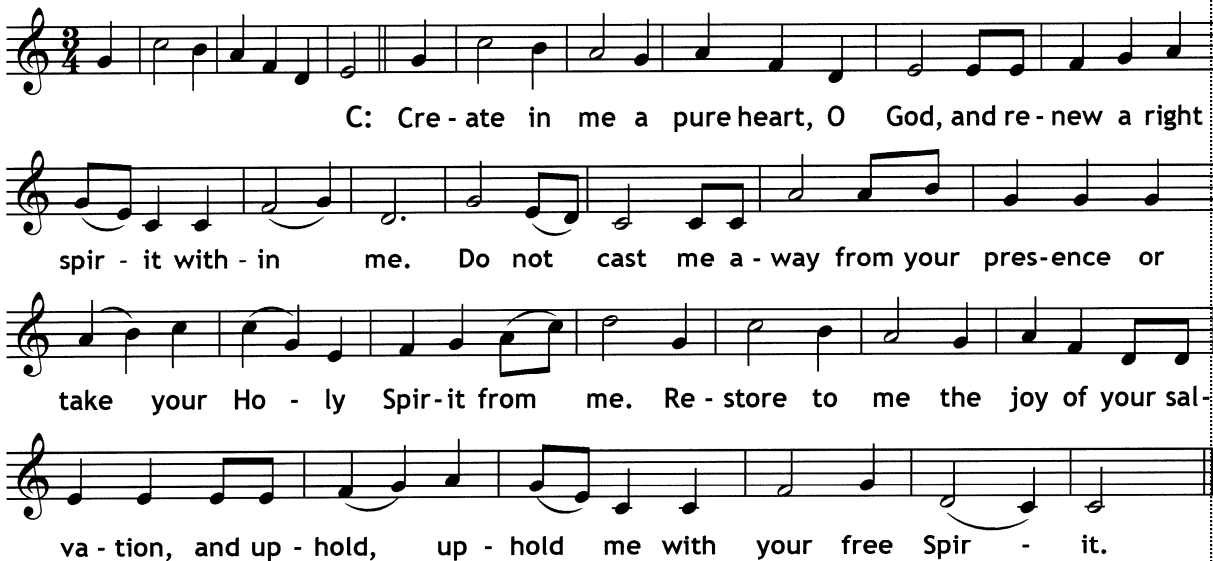
O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is  
*Christian Worship #40*

## SERMON

Luke 2:25-40  
Keep Celebrating Christmas

*Please stand*

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



*Please be seated*



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

#### **OFFERTORY MUSIC:**

**7:45AM**

*Once Again My Heart  
Rejoices  
CW 37*

**10:00AM**

*Go Tell It on the  
Mountain  
Arr. by Paul Manz*

## **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!*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servantlike heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.

God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.

**C: Amen.**



## LORD'S PRAYER

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

*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.*

## HYMN

**In His Temple Now Behold Him**  
*Christian Worship #77*

*Please stand*

## PRAYER

**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.

*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*

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CLOSING HYMN

**Let All Together Praise Our God**  
*Christian Worship #41*

## POSTLUDE:

**7:45AM**  
*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*  
Arr. by Victor Labenske

**10:00AM**  
*Break Forth Into Joy*  
J.S.Bach  
Arr. by Van Denman Thompson from "The Christmas Oratorio"

## THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Worship Leader** ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke

**Accompanist** ..... Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)

Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)

**Ushers** ..... Vic Thornton, Rusty King, Rick Street (7:45 AM)

Ed Ethington, Jonathan Miller, Jacob Miller (10:00 AM)

Jon Dongoske, Dustin Pauley, James Pauley (10:00 AM)

**Sound & Recording Tech** ..... Jeremy Snaveley (10:00 AM)

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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 John & Lauri Colton in memory of loved ones gone to heaven.

### 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 Kassulke Family. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

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### New Year's Eve All-Site Worship

Every New Year's Eve we gather one last time as a church family to reflect on the Lord's faithfulness and many blessings to us over the last year. An important part of that service is remembering those Grace members who were called home to heaven during the year. We hope that you will join us tonight for this special communion service at 7:00 PM here at Grace-Tucson.

### Birth Announcement

We rejoice with Cora and Chris Stuhr at the birth of their daughter, Tessa Noelle Stuhr on December 28, 2017. We thank God for being with mother and baby during delivery and look forward to welcoming Tessa into the family of believers through Holy Baptism.

### Divine Call Extended

On December 4, our congregation extended a Divine Call for Pastor Matt Westra from Morristown, TN to serve as our pastor at Grace-Benson and Grace-Vail. Over the past few weeks, he has spent time in prayer and discussions with leaders at Grace and with his members in Morristown as he considers whether to accept the Call to Grace or to remain in Tennessee. Please keep Pastor Westra in your prayers along with his wife Rachel, their two children, and his congregation, Living Promise Lutheran Church.

## NEXT SUNDAY

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

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

### *Sermon Text & Theme*

Matthew 2:1-12  
*What Will I Give to Jesus?*

### Luther Movie to stream on Netflix

The film *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World* will begin streaming on Netflix on Jan. 1, 2018. This is the PBS version of the film *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy*, the Martin Luther film produced by Boettcher+Trinklein Television, Inc., for the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. This version focuses more on the political impact of the Lutheran Reformation rather than its impact on the church. It will be available to stream through Netflix for two years. DVDs of *A Return to Grace* are available for purchase from the church office for \$10.



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 31-Jan 7**

**TUCSON**

**Today**

Worship Services ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a  
Lifeliners Bible Study: *The Best Christmas Ever* ..... 9:00a  
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):  
• Church-Mission-Ministry ..... 9:00a  
**New Year's Eve Worship** ..... 7:00p

**SAHUARITA**

**Today**

Worship Service ..... 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....  
**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** ..... 7:00p

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: *The Lord's Prayer* ..... 10:00a

**Sunday**

Children's Sunday School ..... 9:00a  
Adult Bible Study: *Means of Grace* ..... 9:00a  
Worship Services with Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....

**BENSON**

**Today**

Worship Service ..... 7:30a  
**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** ..... 7:00p

**Thursday**

Bible Study: *Witnessing to Mormons* ..... 6:30p

**Sunday**

Worship Service with Communion ..... 7:30a

**Wednesday**

NO Midweek Bible Studies .....

**Thursday**

NO Women's Bible Study .....

**Sunday**

Worship Services with Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a  
NO Youth Confirmation Class .....  
NO Lifeliners .....  
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):  
• *My Son, My Savior* Movie ..... 9:00a  
NO WELS TCM .....

**VAIL**

**Today**

Children's Sunday School ..... 9:00a  
Adult Bible Study: *Jesus in the Old Testament* ..... 9:00a  
Worship Service ..... 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....  
**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** ..... 7:00p

**Wednesday**

NO Bible Study at the Ministry Center .....

**Sunday**

Children's Sunday School ..... 9:00a  
Youth Confirmation Class ..... 9:00a  
Adult Bible Study: *Jesus in the Old Testament* ..... 9:00a  
Worship Service with Communion ..... 10:00a  
Coffee Fellowship following worship .....

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## Divine Call Received

Pastor Kassulke has received a Divine Call to Grace Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Michigan to serve as their second (associate) pastor. This means that he now holds two calls, one to Grace, Tucson and one to Grace, St. Joseph. In the coming weeks, under prayerful consideration, he will make a decision about where the Lord would have him serve at this time. He welcomes any input that the friends and members of Grace might wish to share with him. You can reach him by email at [RevNPK@GraceLutheranSAZ.org](mailto:RevNPK@GraceLutheranSAZ.org) or 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.

## Bible Studies

The Grace-Tucson Wednesday morning (10:00AM) and Wednesday evening (7:00PM) *Church History Bible Study* will resume on January 10.

The Grace-Tucson Thursday morning (9:00AM) Women's Bible Study on *Key Bible Words* will resume on January 18.

The Grace-Vail Wednesday evening (6:30PM) Bible Study on *Key Bible Words* will resume on January 10, but will not meet on January 24.

## Lifeliners Chupala Lunch—January 28

Grace's high school youth group, the Lifeliners, invite you to join them following the 10:00 worship service on Sunday, January 28 here at Grace-Tucson for their annual Chupala Lunch. Chupala is a delicious chicken and bean dish with southwestern spices that is served with tortillas or corn chips and toppings (lettuce, tomatoes, olives, cheese, etc.). The lunch after church is a great time to enjoy some fellowship.

The Chupala Lunch is also one of the ways that the Lifeliners raise funds for their activities. Donations are appreciated (checks may be made out to Grace), but you are welcome to eat even if you are unable to contribute.

## Thank You!

The Grace pastors and their families would like to express their thankfulness for the many gifts, cards, prayers, and good wishes received during the Christmas season. We are extremely grateful for your kindness and generosity. We thank God for his love that we see reflected in your lives. We pray that he would continue to bless us all richly in the New Year.

-Koehlers, Kassulkes, Heimans, and Patokas



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](http://www.wels.net)