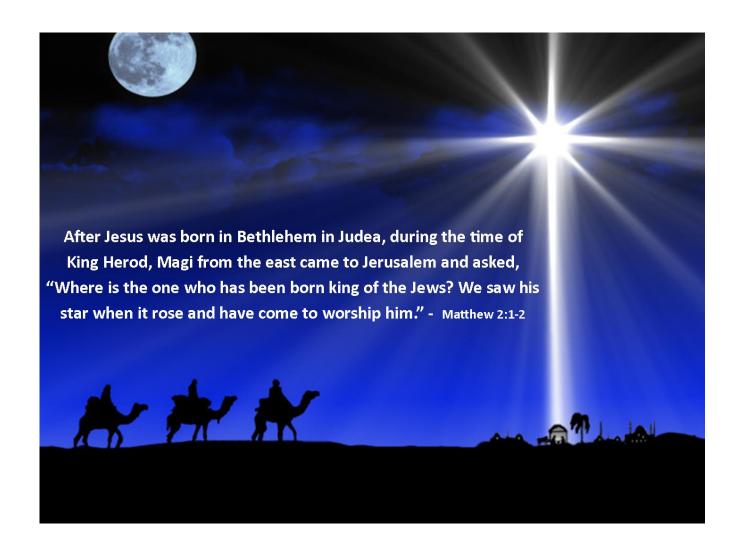
The Epiphany of Our Lord



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Tucson, Arizona January 7, 2018



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 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.

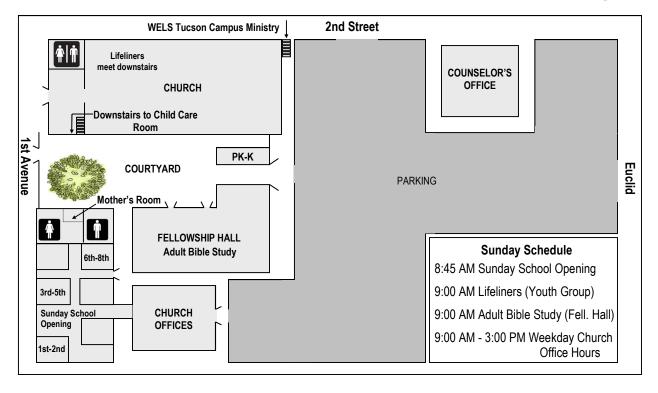
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

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 be able to see and 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 entryways. 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



Today we celebrate the Epiphany or "appearing" of Jesus as the Savior of all nations. Saturday, January 6, was actually Epiphany, the Twelfth Day of the Christmas season. The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord (also known as the Gentile Christmas) has been celebrated by the Church since the second century.

DIVINE SERVICE I

Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory Christian Worship #80

Please stand

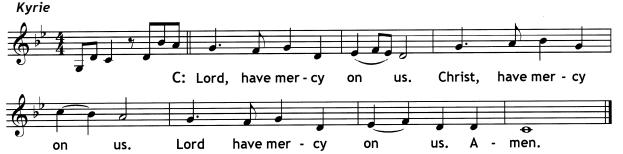
Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen.

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.

We come before the true God only because of his mercy and not because we deserve to come. We confess our unworthiness and rejoice to hear the assurance of forgiveness.

LORD, HAVE MERCY



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.

GLORY TO GOD Gloria in Excelsis

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

Christians praise
God by proclaiming
the great things he
has done to
accomplish our
rescue from sin.
"Glory to God in the
Highest" has been a
Christian song of
worship since the
fourth century.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly 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

FIRST LESSON Ruth 4:13-17

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in

your old age. For your daughter-inlaw, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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.

SECOND LESSON

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace Ephesians 3:2-12

given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

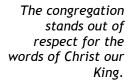
Matthew 2:2b

M: Alleluia. We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Please stand

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:





After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact

time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said. "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed was first developed in 325 at the First Council of Nicea. It was written to reaffirm the Biblical teaching of the divinity of Jesus, God's Son. Like the Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds, the Nicene Creed is a confession of what the Bible teaches.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness Men of Old Christian Worship #83

SERMON

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

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



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



OFFERING

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

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.
- C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.
- M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.
- C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.
- M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.
- C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.
- M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.
- C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

- M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.
- 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

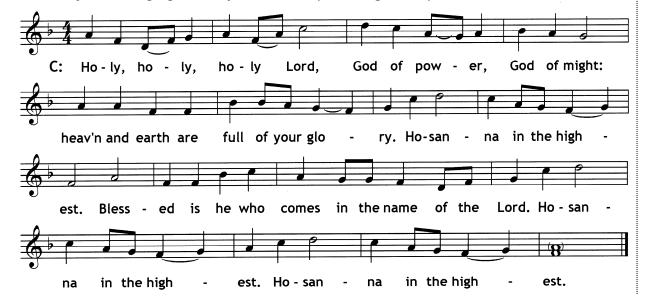
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Sanctus

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

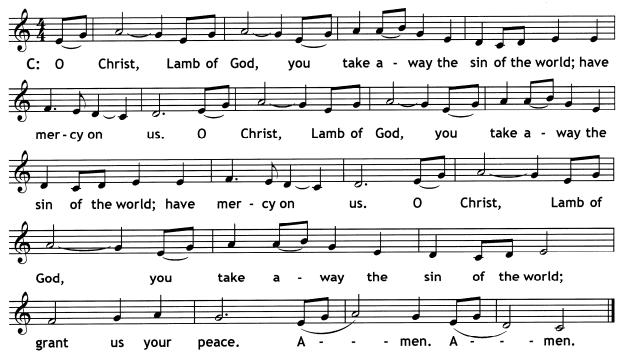
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD Agnus Dei

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



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 the pastor 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.

We provide glutenfree 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.

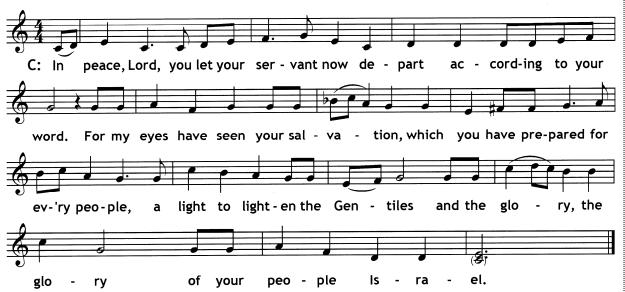
Grape juice is available for those who for health or medical reason require it instead of wine. Please speak with a pastor about providing grape juice for you on future Sundays.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



The Nunc Dimittis ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

- M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- C: And his mercy endures forever.
- M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

The People that in Darkness Sat Christian Worship #90

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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Lutheran Hymnal, 1941.
Music by Kermit
Moldenhauer. © 2002
Northwestern Publishing
House.
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Worship Leader	Pastor Mark Hallemeyer
Communion Assistants	Member Ministry Elder Boz Lomasney (10:00 AM)
Accompanists	Stephanie Kania (7:45 AM), Elaine Goldie (10:00 AM)
Jshers	Rusty King, Rick Street, Vic Thornton (7:45 AM)
Jon Dongoske, C	olton Watson, Dustin Pauley, James Pauley (10:00 AM)
Sound, Recording & Video	Tech Jeremy Snavely
Altar Prep Team	Elaine Goldie, Karen Grorud
Greeters	Jeanette O'Donald, Nadine Rentschler
Banner Committee	Jeanette O'Donald, Nadine Rentschler, Sandy Weir

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.

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 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.

Baby Shower for Laura Heiman

There will be a baby shower for Laura Heiman at Grace-Sahuarita on Sunday, January 21 at 1:30 PM. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided. **Please RSVP to Pat Dent at 245-9056 if you plan to attend.**

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.

Holy Communion

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 11 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

Ordering Altar Flowers

If you would like to help beautify the Sunday worship services by signing up to order flowers, the flower binder is in the front entryway under the glass sign board. Information about ordering is located on the front cover. You may call the church office if you have questions at 623-6633.

You Are Invited

You are invited to coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank Pastor Mark Hallemeyer for preaching and leading our worship this morning. Pastor Hallemeyer is a retired WELS pastor who served at Grace for 36 years before retiring in 2008. Pastor Koehler and Pastor Kassulke are attending a wedding in Michigan this weekend. Pastor Patoka is preaching at Grace-Benson and Grace-Vail this morning.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

> Isaiah 49:1-6 Acts 16:25-34 Mark 1:4-11

Congratulations

Congratulations to Tyler Koehler (son of Pastor and Debbie Koehler) and Abigail Himm as they were united in marriage yesterday, January 6, in Grand Blanc, MI. We wish God's blessings on them as they begin their lives together. If you would like to extend well wishes to them, please contact the church office for their address.

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.

Bible Studies

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

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

12

Church Council Election

The 2018 Grace Church Council was elected at the December Voters' Meeting. Many thanks to all of the men who were willing to be nominated and to stand for election to Church Council positions. The following will serve as Church Council members in 2018, and will be installed in their positions on Sunday, January 14:

Eric Hanson—President
Craig Lipke—Vice President
Jeremy Snavely—Recording Secretary
Daniel Kapellusch—Financial Secretary
Mark Colton—Treasurer

Jeff Weinstein—Trustee
Jacob Kassulke—Spiritual Needs Elder
David Farley—Education Elder
Boz Lomasney—Member Ministry Elder
Ron Silver—Outreach Elder

Grace's president will appoint a man to serve as site elder at Benson.

Thank you also to Bryan Guenther, Mark Christianson, Dave Breitkreitz, Jon Dins, and Chris Stuhr who served on the Church Council this past year but will not be serving in 2018.

Luther Movie to stream on Netflix

The film *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World* began 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 steam through Netflix for two years. DVDs of *A Return to Grace* are available for purchase from the church office for \$10.

Guest Musicians Coming to Grace

WELS singer/song-writer Chris Driesbach will lead a special song service during worship at Grace-Vail on Sunday, February 4. He will also share is personal story and additional music during Bible Class on that day.

Branches Band will join us for worship on Wednesday, February 28 at Grace-Tucson for both the 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM midweek Lenten services. They will also lead worship music on Sunday, March 4 at Grace-Sahuarita for both the 7:45 AM and 10:00 AM worship services.

Interactive FAITH Online Bible Study Series

Beginning on January 10, Rev. Daniel Habben of St John's Lutheran Church in Saint John, Antigua, will lead this online Bible study *Isaiah: God confronts and comforts his people*. Seven hundred years before the arrival of God's Son, the Holy Spirit worked especially hard through the prophet Isaiah to get the people of his day to turn from their sin and embrace their Savior. Pastor Habben will examine how through the words of Isaiah, God still confronts and comforts his people today. This five-week study on the first 12 chapters of Isaiah will be streamed live at 5:00 PM and again at 7:00PM every Wednesday night between January 10 and February 7 at wels.net/interactivefaith.



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 • Jan 7- Jan 14

Today Worship Services with Communion
SAHUARITA
Today
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: <i>Means of Grace</i>
Worship Services with Communion7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Wednesday
Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer 10:00a
·
Sunday
Children's Sunday School
Adult Bible Study: <i>Means of Grace</i>
Coffee Fellowship following worship
, , ,
BENSON
Today
Worship Service with Communion
Sunday

Worship Service/Church Council Installation 7:30a

Tuesday WELS TCM Welcome Back Party7:00ր)
Wednesday Midweek Bible Study: <i>Church History</i> 10:00a & 7:00p)
Thursday <u>NO</u> Women's Bible Study5:30p	
Sunday Worship Services/Church Council Installation7:45 & 10:00a Coffee Fellowship following both services	a a a
Church-Mission-Ministry	

VAIL Today
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: Jesus in the Old Testament
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Wednesday Ministry Center Office Hours 3:00p-6:00p
Bible Study at Ministry Center: Key Bible Words 6:30p
Sunday
Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: Heroes of Faith 9:00a
Worship Service/Church Council Installation
Coffee Fellowship following worship

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

TUCSON

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At Grace-Vail & Grace-Benson

Ronald G. Koehler, III revrgk3@gracelutheransaz.org

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Ryan A. Heiman

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Bible-Based Counselor

Cinda Drescher cinda@gracelutheransaz.org Phone 882-3773

Music Coordinator

Beth Kassulke music@gracelutheransaz.org Phone 623-6633

Office Assistant

Debbie Koehler assistant@gracelutheransaz.org Phone 623-6633



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