

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The First Weekend
of Advent**

**The Star of Creation
November 29 & 30, 2025**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*There Shall a Star
Felix Mendellsohn ~ arranged for the organ by Nate Leonard*

Please stand as you are able.

THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you!

A LITANY FOR ADVENT

A: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of creation,

C: Shine now and enlighten the whole world!

A: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of hope,

C: Shine now and heal hopeless hearts!

A: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of unity,

C: Shine now and gather us all as one!

A: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of joy,

C: Shine now and bring your gladness!

P: Shine now, Bright Star of Bethlehem,
and bring your light and your life to us!

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

ELW # 879

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Today we light the first candle of our Advent Wreath. We begin this season of anticipation and expectation as we remember God's creative power and light.

A: At the dawn of creation, God said, "Let there be light!"

C: Advent Lord, shine your light on us!

WREATH LIGHTING HYMN

"WHAT STAR IS THIS"

1 What star is this with beams so bright,
2 God spoke and said, "Let there be light."
3 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing day

More love - ly than the noon - day light?
And broke the dark - ness of the night.
Your guid - ing light shows us the way.

It shines to her - ald forth the King,
And all cre - a - tion came to be,
Through gloom and dark - ness, you are there,

Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
By his own pow'r and maj - es - ty.
Your ra - diance beam - ing ev' - ry - where!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, as we gather in worship this day, give us joy in knowing that you created all that exists and by the light of your grace, you have recreated us and made us your own. Lead us to rejoin in your creative work all our days.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

PSALM 16:1-6

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

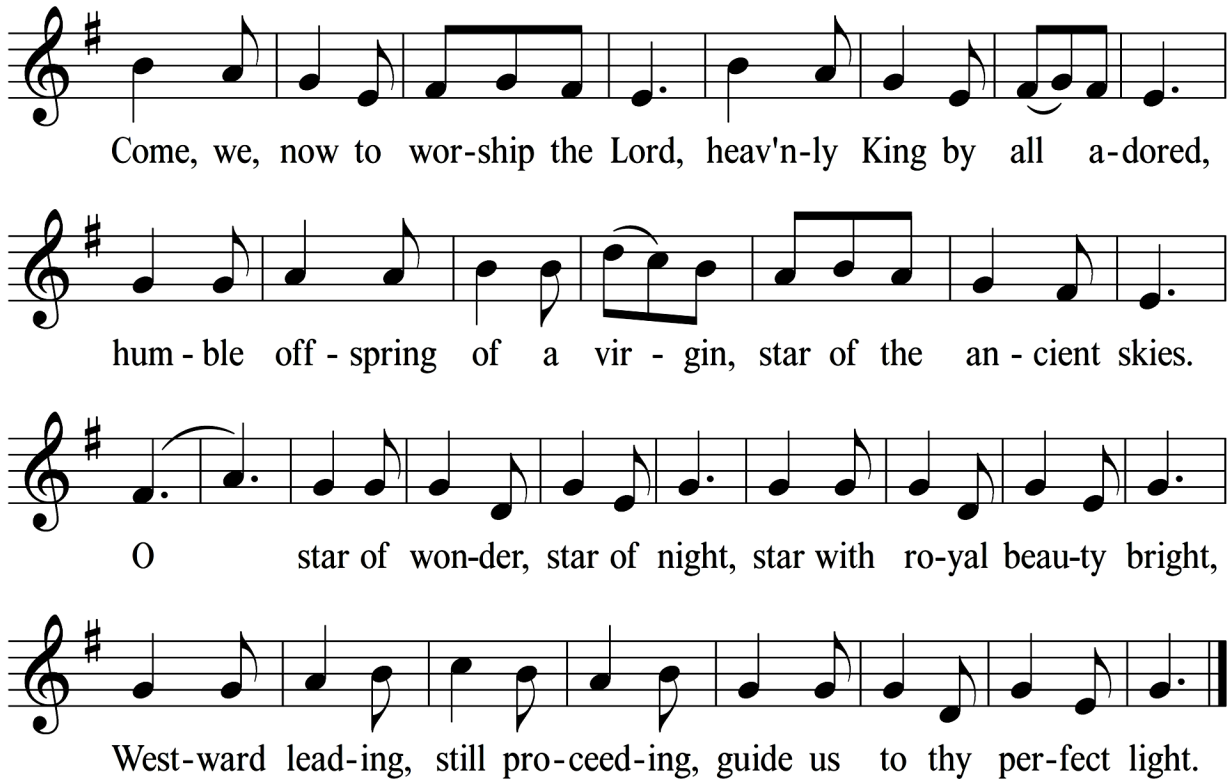
On Sunday.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's moment, children in pre-k through 5th grade are invited to gather in the Sunday School rooms for an activity. They will return to worship before communion.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Come, we, now to wor-ship the Lord, heav'n-ly King by all a-dored,
hum-ble off-spring of a vir-gin, star of the an-cient skies.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with ro-yal beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

READING OF THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-14

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of

God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Praise we now our glo-ri-ous King. All - le - lu - ias let us sing.



To our Sav - ior, reign - ing ev - er, Born for us all to save.



O star of won-der, star of night, star with ro-yal beau-ty bright,



West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

Please be seated.

TODAY'S REFLECTION

REV. CLAYTON J. BAILEY

The Star of Creation

On Sunday.

THE AFTERWORD

Middle & High School Youth are invited following the reflection to meet in the Dining Room. They will connect with the message for the day and spend time in prayer. The youth will return following the offering hymn.

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 253

HE CAME DOWN

THE PRAYERS

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Each response will end:

A: O Star of Creation

C: Bring your design to light!

P: Draw near to us, O God. Let your light shine among us as we commend these our prayers to you, trusting in your mercy revealed to us through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

Saturday

Organ

Nun Ruhlen Alle Walder

J. S. Bach

Sunday

Choir

How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

John Stainer

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 244

REJOICE, REJOICE BELIEVERS (VERSES 1 & 4)

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.*

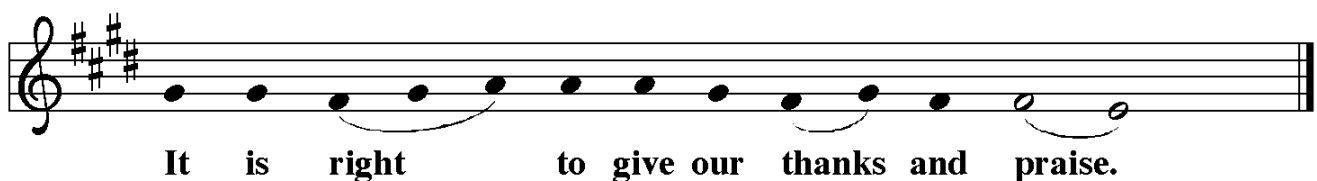
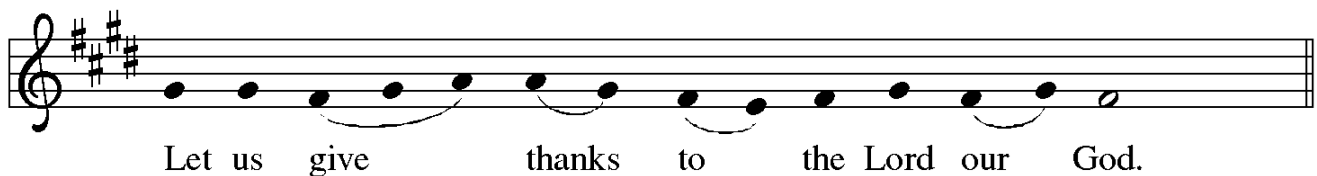
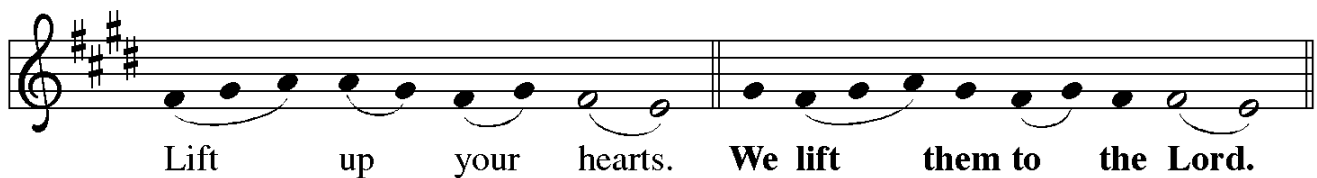
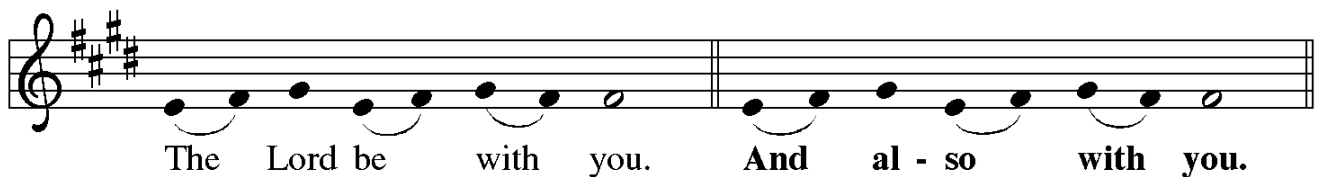
*Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

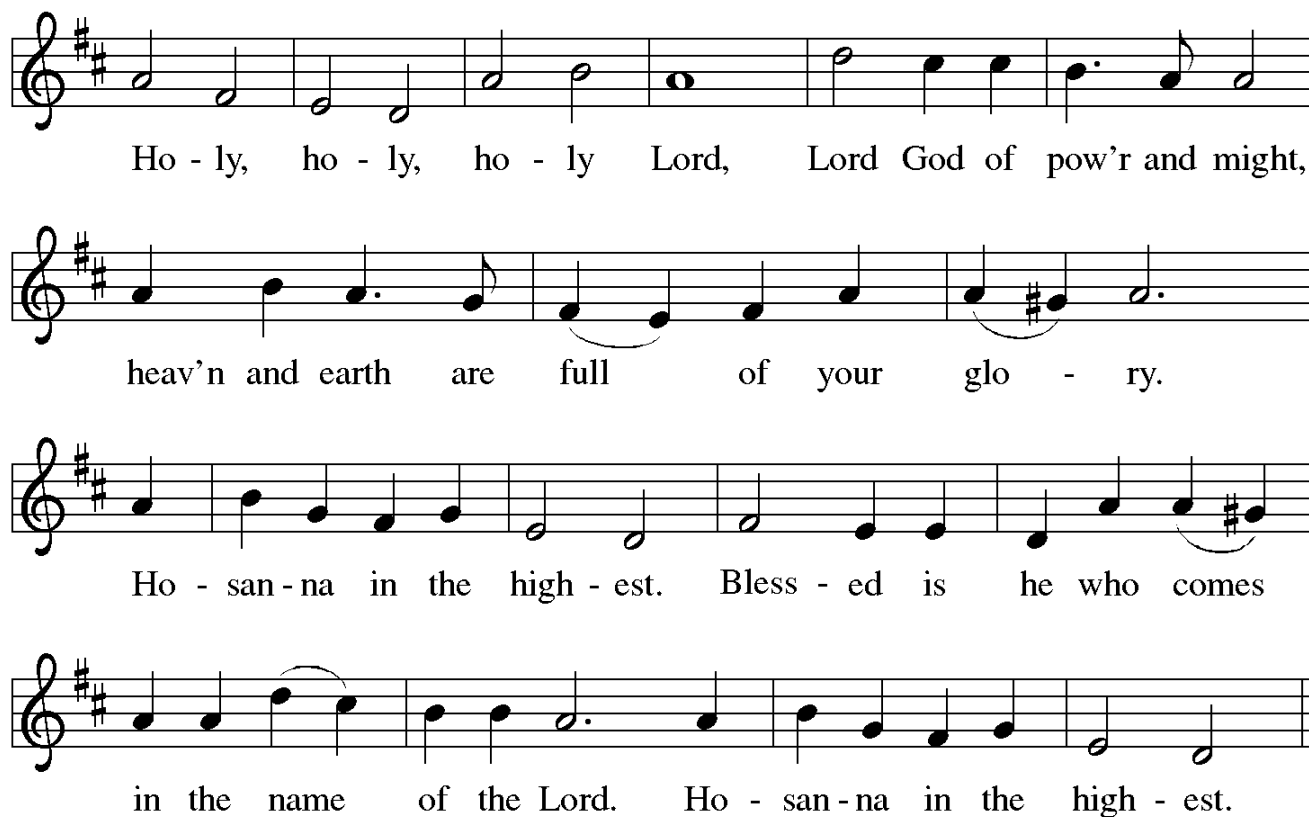
THE DIALOGUE



THE PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 245

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

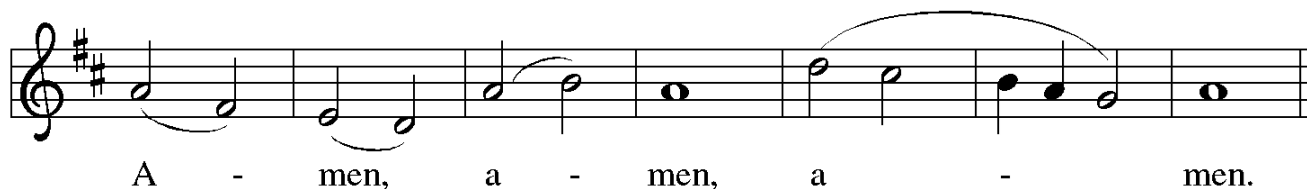
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: Go now to shine like stars in the sky, bringing the light of Christ to the world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all.



SENDING SONG

ELW # 771

GOD, WHO STRETCHED THE SPANGLED HEAVENS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace!

A: Let your light shine forever!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! You are God's gift to us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and come worship with us again.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH - If you are joining us on Sunday in the parking lot please tune your radio to 90.3 FM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 71st wedding anniversary of Robert & Lilian Zilles, by their family.

RADIO BROADCAST is given loving memory of Howard King, by his family. (Radio Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday morning at 9:30 am on Eagle 99.1. Anyone wishing to sponsor a radio broadcast should contact the church office [cost is \$72.50].)

THIS WEEK AS YOU PRAY please remember: Diane Berryman, Donna Garner, Duane Pump, Roger Otermat, Tim Rutherford, Julie Stawowy, Connie Wasserman.

HOSPITAL VISITS! If you, or a member of your family, are in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know.

HEARING DEVICES are available at the Usher's station in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return after worship so that they can be charged and ready for the next service.

PRAYER LIST REQUESTS - If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please write their name on the back of our *Welcome Cards*. You are welcome to indicate what prayers are needed, i.e. "has an upcoming surgery" etc. Names submitted for our prayer list will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. Our goal is to keep the prayer list ever flowing and as up to date as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm and Friday from 9 am - 1 pm.

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSLETTER should be sent to Tricia in the office at dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

GIVING UPDATE FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Offerings Budgeted for NOVEMBER -	\$36,500
Offerings received through November 17-23:	\$3,989

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE NOISY OFFERING will be collected next weekend at both services. Your gifts will be given to Pontifex. Thank you for helping us make a joyful noise each month.

BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION will take place next weekend at both services. They are in need of the following items: cereal, canned meats, rice, dried pinto beans, cans of tomato sauce, pasta, paper towels, cleaning supplies and diapers. These items may be placed in the shopping carts located in the Narthex and at the Baker Street entrances. You may also take your gifts directly to the Bridge of Hope Food Pantry at Hayes Memorial UMC, 1441 Fangboner Rd., Fremont. Thank you for your help!

END-OF-YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS - Thank you for your faithful support of Grace throughout 2025! Please note that giving statements will be available ***By Request Only*** this year. If you would like a copy of your 2025 giving statement please reach out to the church office and we will gladly prepare one for you. You may request your statement after January 19, 2026. Thank you for your understanding as we try to be good stewards of our resources.

BOOKWORMS will meet on January 26 at 2 pm in the lounge to discuss the book *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn.

WE'RE HIRING

OUR CUSTODIAL TEAM is looking for an extra set of hands to assist with mopping, vacuuming and other custodial needs. The position offers 6 - 8 hours per week. If you are interested please call the church office.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS - This year we will be sponsoring five families for Community Christmas. A trees have ben set up next to the baptismal font and at the back of the sanctuary with tags that include items from each person's Christmas wish list. All gifts and tags are due back to the church by December 10. *Please Do Not wrap your gifts.*

THE SOUP KITCHEN TEAM needs extra hands on the first and fifth Thursdays of every month to help serve and clean up after meal for our neighbors. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 11 am and typically leave about 1 pm. If you have questions please call the church office and we will get your contact information to the Soup Kitchen staff.

THE LIFT LESSONS AND CAROLS WORSHIP will be held at 10 am on December 28 a St. Mark. We are looking for two people from Grace to read during this worship. If you are interested in participating please contact Maureen.

FOR OUR YOUTH

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS we will not meet on the following dates: November 30, December 21 & 28 or on January 4, 2026. We will see you again for confirmation on January 11, 2026.

LIFT NEWS

A WORSHIP OF LESSONS AND CAROLS has been planned for 10 am on December 28 at St. Mark, 902 E. State St. Please note Grace will not hold any services this weekend. Let's join with all the LIFT Congregations and worship together to celebrate the birth of our savior.

BACKPACK BUDDIES NEEDS OUR HELP! We are currently in need of the following items: oatmeal packets, Nutri-Grain bars, cold cereal, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, individual mac-n-cheese cups, pasta cups, cans of soup, individual heat and eat soups, individual serving cups of peanut butter, cups of applesauce, fruit cups, sandwich crackers, pudding cups, cookies, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, chips, pretzels, granola bars, Teddy Grahams, microwave popcorn, Ritz crackers, Rice Krispie Treats, milk, yogurt, beef sticks, Oatmeal Cream Pies and peanuts. We are also accepting monetary donations. These gifts help us to fill in any gaps in donations. Your check should be made payable to LIFT and please write Backpack Buddies on the memo line.

<i>SERVING IN WORSHIP</i>	<i>SATURDAY - 4 PM</i>	<i>SUNDAY - 9 AM</i>
<i>ACOLYTE</i>		Kamydy Rollins
<i>GREETERS: NARTHEX</i>	Thomas O'Brien	Pam Pelphrey, John Avers
<i>GREETER: BAKER STREET</i>		Dick Zilles
<i>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</i>		Mary Nossaman
<i>READERS</i>	Carole Miller	Mary Nossaman
<i>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</i>	Wendy Bailey	Tanya Schling
<i>DEACONS/CLOSERS</i>		John Burmeister, Tracy Michles

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

November 30 - December 7, 2025

Today 9:00 - Worship/Communion
Monday 1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen
6:00 - Pack 302 Parent Meeting
7:00 - Dartball, away

Tuesday - - - - -

Wednesday **MID-WEEK ADVENT**

11:00 - Stewardship Meeting, Lounge
2:30 - Worship Committee Meeting, Lounge
5:15 - Doors Open
5:30 - Gathering Prayer, Reflection & Conversation
5:45 - Dinner
6:15 - Small Groups
6:45 - Closing, Blessing & Sending
7:00 - Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday 11:30 - Soup Kitchen

Friday **POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE BY NOON TO THE CHURCH OFFICE**

Saturday 4:00 - Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection

Sunday **NOISY OFFERING/BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone/AfterWord
10:15 - Confirmation
10:15 - Choir

WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 163

Saturday: 31; Sunday: 132

Grace Lutheran Church



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Lay Associate Minister:

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maureenpump2022@gmail.com

Minister of Music:

Nate Leonard
nateykeys@gmail.com

Minister of Youth & Family:

Heather Hawn
heatherrhawn@gmail.com

Called to Present the Light of Christ!