



Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Second Weekend of Advent

The Star of Hope

December 6 & 7, 2025

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted ~ G. F. Handel

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 # 597

My HOPE Is BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Today we light the second candle of our Advent Wreath. We remember that Jesus brought hope into our world, even when things seemed hopeless.

A: At the dawn of creation, God said, “Let there be light!”
C: Advent Lord, shine your light on us!

A: When Jesus came, hope was born!
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 O star of hope, re-store our sight;
3 O Lord, with each re-turn - ing day

More love - ly than the noon - day light?
Il - lu - mi - nate our dark - est night.
Your guid - ing light shows us the way.

It shines to her - ald forth the King,
Let not our wear - y hearts re - fuse
Through gloom and dark - ness, you are there,

Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
The guid - ance of your light to use.
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 hope that is not just a dream or a desire. Give to us the kind of hope that sees beyond the present into the future. Bring us true and lasting hope now and always.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:1-2, 6-7

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his authority and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 15:8-13

⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

MATTHEW 12:15-21

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 12th chapter.

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

¹⁵ When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many followed him, and he cured all of them, ¹⁶ and he ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸ “Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. ²¹ And in his name the gentiles will hope.”

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 Hope

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 # 266

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

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 Hope

C: Bring your future 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

And the Glory of the Lord ~ G. F. Handel, arr. for organ

Sunday

CHOIR

And the Glory of the Lord ~ George Frederick Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

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 Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 # 793

BE THOU MY VISION

TABLE BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

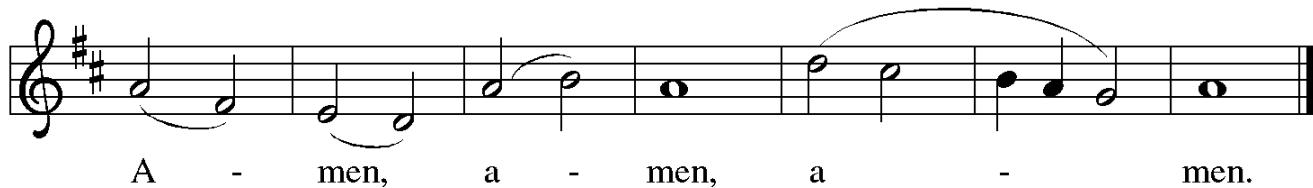
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 # 239

HARK THE GLAD SOUND

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace!

A: Let your light shine forever!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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My Hope is Built on Nothing Less/Rejoice, Rejoice Believers/Be Thou My Vision/Hark the Glad Sound Public Domain

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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 loving memory of Staci Billings, by Stephanie and Lisa Billings.

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

THIS WEEK AS YOU PRAY please remember: Diane Berryman, Donna Garner, Brenda Gerdin, Duane Pump, Roger Otermat, Tim Rutherford, Julie Stawowy, and 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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

GIVING UPDATE FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Offerings Budgeted for NOVEMBER -	\$36,500
Offerings received during November:	\$25,798

CHRISTMAS DECORATING - Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Your hard work, creativity, and joyful spirit have helped create a beautiful space for worship this season. We are grateful for each of you and the care you put into making our church feel warm and welcoming.

THE NOISY OFFERING will be collected this 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!

LISTENING WITH A SECOND EAR WITH PR. BAILEY will meet following worship on ***December 14***. Everyone is welcome to gather in the front pews for conversation, dreaming, and growing together as people of God.

SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT will meet on ***December 15 at 6 pm*** in the lounge. If you are grieving the loss of your spouse and could use the support of others experiencing the same loss, then please consider joining this group.

GRACE GATHERS will meet on ***December 18 at 6 pm***. We will head to The Chateau Vineyard and Winery in Helena. Please all and place a reservation by noon the day before. This way we have room for everyone.

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.

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

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

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS - Thank you to all who have taken tags and bought gifts for the families that we are sponsoring. Can't buy a gift, but still want to help? We need donations of a few rolls of wrapping paper and some small and large boxes (We are hoping for small boxes to wrap clothing and a large box to help us deliver all the gifts.). If you would like to help wrap the gifts we will meet on the evening of December 10 following the Advent meal. Wrapping will be just one of the several stations you can participate in that night in the dining room. Additional questions may be directed to Heather Hawn call/text 419-307-1808.

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.

FOR OUR YOUTH

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

YOUTH ARE INVITED to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Wal-Mart on ***December 14 from noon - 2 pm***. We have 30 or 60 minutes time slots available. Please contact Heather if you plan to help.

LET'S HEAD TO THE TOLEDO ZOO to see the Lights Before Christmas! We are planning this trip for ***December 14 at 4:30 pm***. Contact Heather at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com if you are interested in going to the zoo.

ATTENTION PARENTS - Do you want to keep your children busy during worship, but you don't want take them out of the sanctuary? Please check out our new play area in front of the chapel. There are activities, toys to play with, and books to read while you join us for worship. If you feel that you need to take your children out of the sanctuary there is a nursery with live audio of the service so you don't miss out on worship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP	SATURDAY - 4 PM	SUNDAY - 9 AM
ACOLYTE	_____	Brenden Fisher
GREETERS: NARTHEX	Thomas O'Brien	Kathy Burmeister, Roger Haynes
GREETER: BAKER STREET	_____	Judy Gangwer
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	_____	Kristin Lindsay
READERS	Wendy Bailey	Henry Seibert
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Wendy Bailey	Bev Bradford
DEACONS/CLOSERS	_____	Gegg Jess, Cecelia Boucher

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

December 7 - 14, 2025

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

9:00 - Worship/Communion
10:15 - Confirmation
10:15 - Choir

Monday 11:30 - PB & J² with Pr. Bailey, Dining Room

1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen
6:00 - Pack 302 at the Downtown Fremont Holiday Parade
6:00 - Executive Committee
7:00 - Church Council
7:00 - Dartball, Home

Tuesday 11:30 - Staff Development - Office Closed

Wednesday **G & T DEADLINE/MID-WEEK ADVENT**

5:15 - Doors Open
5:30 - Gathering Prayer, Reflection & Conversation
5:45 - Dinner
6:15 - Small Groups
6:45 - Closing, Blessing & Sending
7:00 - Choir

Thursday 11:30 - Soup Kitchen

6:00 - Noah's Ark Christmas Program

Friday **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 1 PM**

Saturday 4:00 - Worship/Communion

Sunday 9:00 - Worship/Communion
10:15 - Confirmation
10:15 - Listening with a 2nd Ear with Pr. Bailey
Noon - 2:00 - Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart
4:30 - Youth Lights Before Christmas at Toledo Zoo

WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 107

Saturday: 23; Sunday: 84



Senior Pastor:

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Called to Present the Light of Christ!