



# Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **The Third Weekend of Advent**

### **The Star of Unity**

**December 13 & 14, 2025**

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

*Little Drummer Boy ~ arr. N. 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 # 656

*BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Today we light the third candle of our Advent Wreath. As we light this candle we pray for peace and unity in our deeply divided world.

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!**

A: The Light of Christ brings unity to our world!  
**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 splen - dor of God's - glo - ry bright  
3 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing day

More love - ly than the noon - day light?  
Re - lease - us - from the dark - of night.  
Your guid - ing light shows us the way.

It shines to her - ald forth the King,  
O light of all, - bring u - ni - ty.  
Through gloom and dark - ness, you are there,

Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.  
That we - are one the world may see.  
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, we pray for the deeply divided world in which we live. Shine your light on us and lead us to actively work for the unity you came to bring,

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING

## PSALM 133:1-3

<sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.  
<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

**R:** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

## EPHESIANS 4:1-6

<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: <sup>4</sup> there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

**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 17:20-26**

**P:** This is the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 17th chapter.

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

<sup>20</sup> “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

**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 Unity*

*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 # 643**

***WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST***  
*(we will sing this three times through)*

## 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 Unity

**C: Bring your harmony 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**

*O Come, All Ye Faithfull ~ ARR. N. LEONARD*

*Sunday*

**CHOIR**

*O Come, Emmanuel ~ Joseph Martin  
Kristen Lindsay ~ soloist*

*O Come, Emmanuel, come God of Israel. We lift our longing hearts to Thee. O God of Abraham, restore Jerusalem, Come rule in peace eternally. Come, David Son and teach our silent lips to sing. Teach us the music of the King. O come, Emmanuel. O Come Emmanuel, and ransom Israel. Make now in us your dwelling place. Make now all war to cease, rebuild our land with peace. Awake in us your gift of grace. Create in us a heart that yearns for things above. Teach us your perfect way of love. Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel- shall come to thee O Israel. O Come Emmanuel, restore all Israel. We lift our voices now as one! Disperse the clouds of night. Death shadow's put to flight. You are the morning Star on High Shine upon our weary lives. Burn in us a holy Light. O Come Emmanuel*

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 also 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.

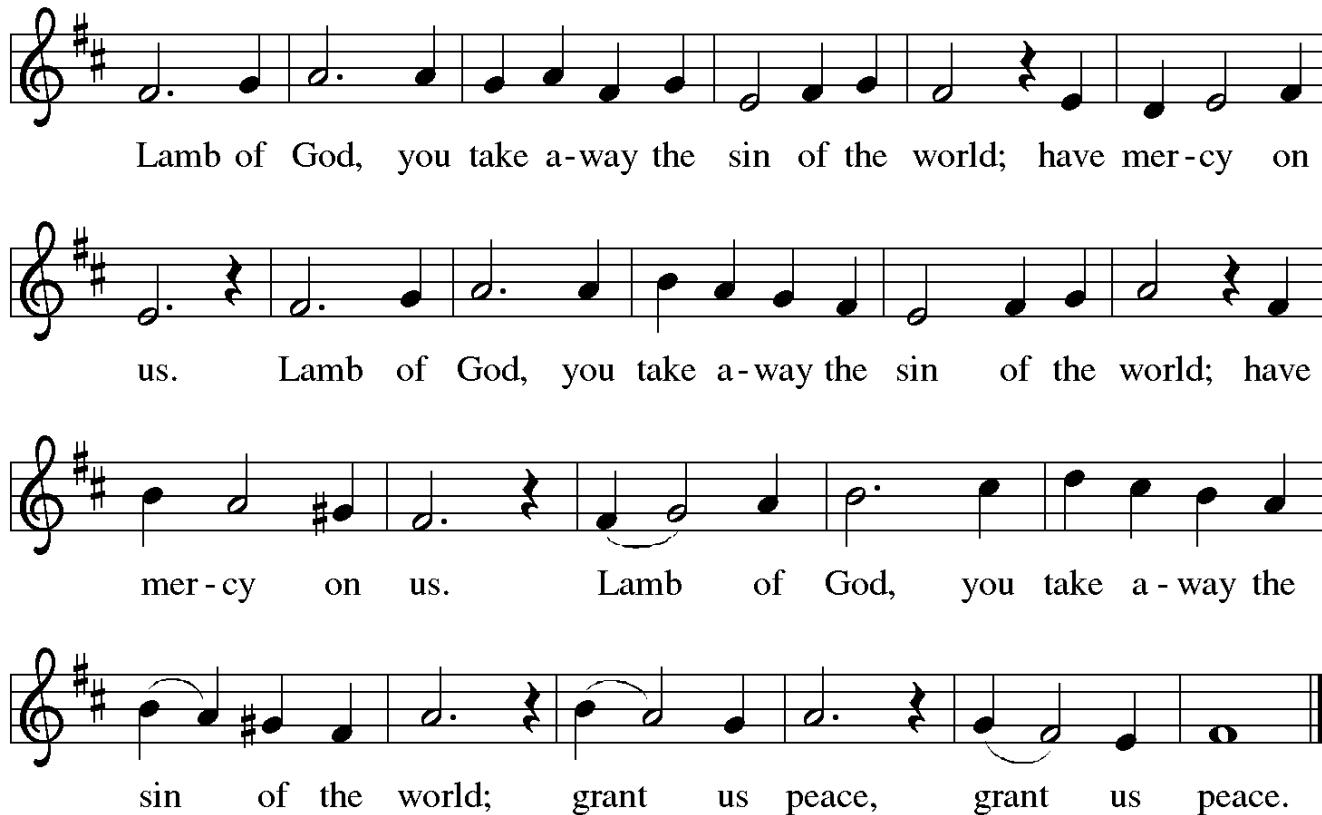
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine 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 # 481

**COME TO THE TABLE**  
(we will sing this three times through)

## TABLE BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

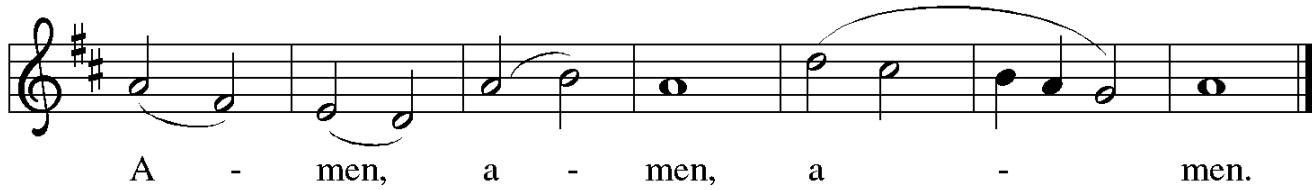
## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 # 264

### ***PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY***

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace!

A: Let your light shine forever!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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*Blest Be the Tie that Binds/What Star is This/ Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* Public Domain

*We All Are One In Christ* tr. 1998 Augsburg Fortress

*Come to the Table* text & music 1991 Integrity's Hosanna!, music/ASCAP, c/o Integrity Media, Inc.

*Prepare the Royal Highway* text 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The Advent Series *Bright Star of Bethlehem* was written by Tim Runtzsch. ©2013 by Creative Communications for the Parish

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**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 by the Altar Guild in memory of their deceased members.

**RADIO BROADCAST** is given as a gift to the congregation. (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: Mike Bailey, Diane Berryman, Donna Garner, Brenda Gerding, Kelley O'Brien, Roger Otermat, Duane Pump, Tim Rutherford, Julie Stawowy, Connie Wasserman, and Bob Wickert.

**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](mailto:dabrunztricia@yahoo.com)

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**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.

**GOOD-BYE NATE** - Next Sunday, December 21 will be Nate's last Sunday worship with us. (Don't worry he will be here for Christmas Eve.) Following worship all are welcome for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving. Cookies will be provided. Cards for Nate would be welcome as we take time to thank him for sharing his musical abilities during his time at Grace.

**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, than 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.

**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.

## 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.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

**DO YOU HAVE A SMARTPHONE? Can you navigate a tablet?** Chances are we all can, which means you are qualified to be our next "organist". As we continue the search for our next organist we will be relying on the digital organ which is operated with our iPad. We could use your help! Please let the office know if you would like to know more about how to help during this time of transition.

**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.

**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.

<i>SERVING IN WORSHIP</i>	<i>SATURDAY - 4 PM</i>	<i>SUNDAY - 9 AM</i>
<i>ACOLYTE</i>		Kamydn Rollins
<i>GREETERS: NARTHEX</i>	Thomas O'Brien	Tanya Schling, Kent Watkins
<i>GREETER: BAKER STREET</i>		Sharon Watkins
<i>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</i>		Madison Hawn
<i>READERS</i>	Tanya Schardt	Peggy Rutherford
<i>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</i>	Wendy Bailey	Sue Brickner
<i>DEACONS/CLOSERS</i>		John Burmeister, Walker Cooper

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

December 14 - 21, 2025

Today	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
Monday	11:30 - PB & J <sup>2</sup> with Pr. Bailey, Dining Room 1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 - Pack 302 Holiday Extravaganza 6:00 - Spousal Grief Support 7:00 - Dartball, Home
Tuesday	-----
Wednesday	<b>MID-WEEK ADVENT</b> 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	<b>G &amp; T ASSEMBLED/TOLEDO SYMPHONY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b> 11:30 - Soup Kitchen 6:00 - Grace Gathers at The Chateau Vineyard & Winery, Helena 7:00 - Community Christmas Concert
Friday	-----
Saturday	4:00 - Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge
Sunday	<b>FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE</b> (mashed potato flakes & noodles) 9:00 - Worship/Communion

### WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 130

Saturday: 23; Sunday: 107



#### **Senior Pastor:**

**Rev. Clayton J. Bailey**  
pastorcbbailey@gmail.com  
561-670-3684

#### **Minister of Music:**

**Nate Leonard**  
nateykeys@gmail.com

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gracefremont@yahoo.com  
www.gracefremont.org**

#### **Lay Associate Minister:**

**Maureen Pump**  
maureenpump2022@gmail.com

#### **Minister of Youth & Family:**

**Heather Hawn**  
heatherrhawn@gmail.com

*Called to Present the Light of Christ!*