



# Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **The Fourth Weekend of Advent**

### **The Star of Joy**

**December 20 & 21, 2025**

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

*Prelude in C Major ~ J. S. Bach*

*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 # 254

***COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS***

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Today we light the fourth candle of our Advent Wreath. We give thanks for the joy that comes with the light of Christ.

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!**

A: The Star of Bethlehem brings joy to all!  
**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 Be joy - ful in each fleet - ing hour  
3 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing day

More love - ly than the noon - day light?  
With con - fi - dence in God's great pow'r.  
Your guid - ing light shows us the way.

It shines to her - ald forth the King,  
With faith that's stead - fast, tried and true,  
Through gloom and dark - ness, you are there,

Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.  
We find our ut - most joy in You.  
Your ra - diance beam - ing ev' - ry - where!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, just as you were born in Bethlehem so long ago, we pray that you would be born again in us today. Bring your true and lasting joy to our world, to us, and to all, for you are joy in the flesh.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING

## ISAIAH 61:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

**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**

**LUKE 1:39-56**

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

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

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; <sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the

imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

**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 # 265

### ***THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME***

## **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 Joy

**C: Bring your gladness 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**

*Still, Still, Still ~ Norman Luboff*

*Sunday*

**CHOIR**

*Light of the Stable ~ Elizabeth Rhymer*

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.

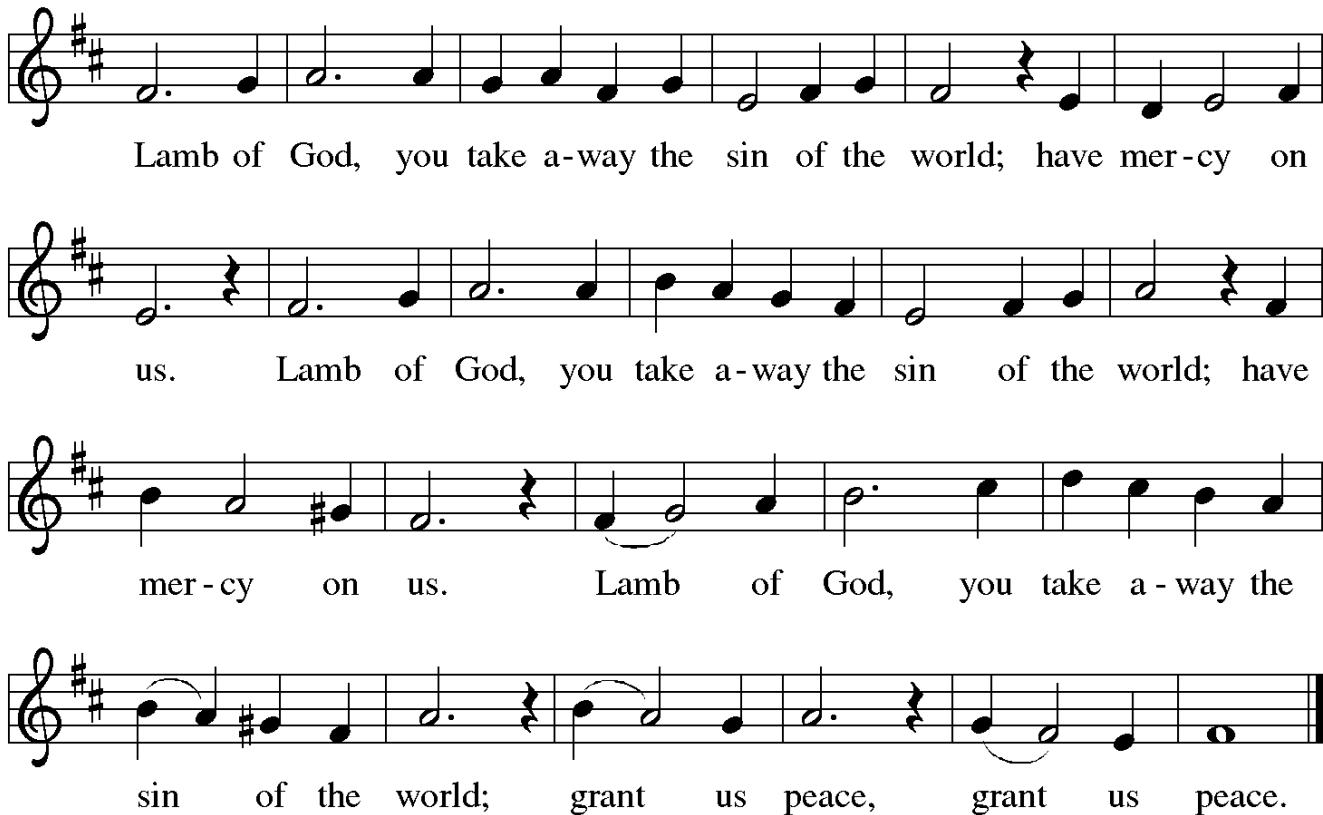
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine 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 # 242

***AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN***

## TABLE BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

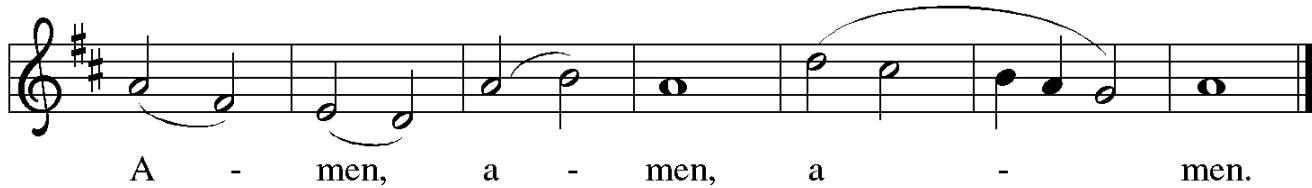
## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 # 267

### ***JOY TO THE WORLD***

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace!

A: Let your light shine forever!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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*What Star is This/ Rejoice, Rejoice Believers/Joy to the World* Public Domain

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* arr. 2006 Augsburg Fortress

*The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came* arr. 1955, 1983 E. H. Freeman, Ltd., admin. Glenwood Music Group  
*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* text & music 1983 GIA Publications

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The Advent Series *Bright Star of Bethlehem* was written by Tim Runtsch. ©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**

### **GIVING UPDATE FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>Offerings received through December 8 - 14:</b>	<b>\$5,776</b>
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**HELP US SAY GOOD-BYE NATE** - Today (12/21) 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.

**END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** must be received in the church office by 4 pm on December 31, 2025, to be credited to your 2025 giving.

**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.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY!**  
Please wait to use your new offering envelopes until after January 1, 2026.

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

**THE PROJECT DAY GROUP** will once again make quilts for the Let's Build Beds Project in September 2026 and Lutheran World Relief. They are in need of FLAT bed sheets to use as the back of the quilts. These may be new or gently used (no holes or stains. Please drop off the sheets to the church office or place them in the shopping carts. Thank you for supporting the our local and Lutheran World Relief projects.

### **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. *Please note that parking around St. Mark is limited.*

### **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.

**ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP WITH SOME ODDS AND ENDS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE?** An extra set of hands would be helpful (on an as needed basis) to help prepare the welcome cards for the church pews or add inserts to the bulletins. If you are interested please call Tricia in the church office.

**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>		Bailey Rollins
<i>GREETERS: NARTHEX</i>	Thomas O'Brien	Connie Amor, John Avers
<i>GREETER: BAKER STREET</i>		Dick Zilles
<i>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</i>		Peggy Rutherford
<i>READERS</i>	Tanya Schardt	Helen Biddinger
<i>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</i>	Wendy Bailey	Cecilia Boucher
<i>DEACONS/CLOSERS</i>		Cecilia Boucher, Cornelia Star

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE****December 21 - 28, 2025**

Today **FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE** (mashed potato flakes & noodles)

9:00 - Worship/Communion

Monday -----

Tuesday -----

Wednesday **CHRISTMAS EVE - THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT NOON**

5:00 - Youth & Family Worship

9:00 - Celebration Worship

Thursday **MERRY CHRISTMAS - Office Closed**

Friday **Office Closed**

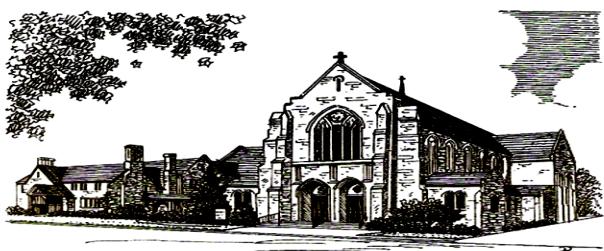
Saturday No Worship at Grace

Sunday 10:00 - LIFT Lessons & Carols at St. Mark

**WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 119**

Saturday: 18; Sunday: 101

# Grace Lutheran Church



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**Lay Associate Minister:**

*Maureen Pump*

[maureenpump2022@gmail.com](mailto:maureenpump2022@gmail.com)

**Minister of Music:**

*Nate Leonard*

[nateykeys@gmail.com](mailto:nateykeys@gmail.com)

**Minister of Youth & Family:**

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*Called to Present the Light of Christ!*