



Welcome to GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Epiphany of Our Lord January 4 & 5, 2026

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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 GATHERING LITANY

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 # 302

As With Gladness Men of Old

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: God of starlight,

C: **We long to follow you!**

P: Like the Magi,

C: **We want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction.**

P: Like the Magi,

C: **We want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your star.**

P: Reveal what you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you.

C: **With creation, hope, unity and joy in our hearts.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, 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 READING**ISAIAH 60:1-6**

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING**EPHESIANS 3:1-12**

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 2:1-12**

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter.

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

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

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

WE THREE KINGS



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bearing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

THE PRAYERS

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Each response will end:

A: Hear us O God
C: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 815

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

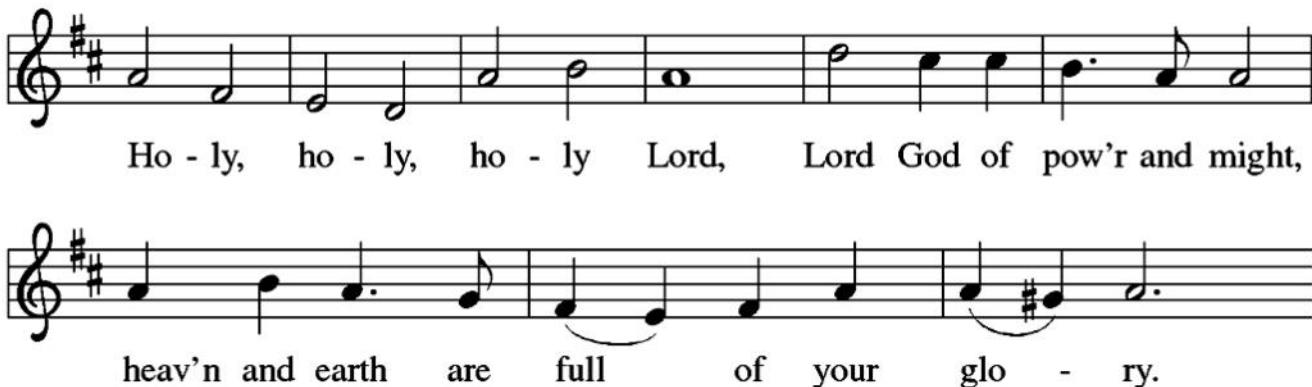
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give God 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (indicated by a 'G' with a sharp sign) and common time (indicated by a 'C'). The first staff begins with a half note, followed by a quarter note, a eighth note, another eighth note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a eighth note, another eighth note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics for this staff are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,". The second staff begins with a quarter note, followed by a eighth note, another eighth note, a quarter note, a eighth note, another eighth note, a quarter note, a eighth note, another eighth note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics for this staff are: "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: Bright shining God, inner light of all the faithful!
 We celebrate your gifts of light, love, and all of creation.
 We rejoice that you have made us in your image.
 We rejoice that you have called us to live in your limitless love.
 We rejoice in the gift of your only child, Jesus, our bright morning star,
 who shines forever bright to light the way through our darkness and
 into the ways of justice and peace.
 Your Holy Spirit shines your Good News into our lives.
 With each new day, you call us to feed the hungry, bring recovery of
 sight to the blind, liberate the oppressed, heal the broken hearted and
 bind up their wounds, and keep watch for the dawn of your reign on
 this earth.
 For all of this, we give you thanks and we praise you, joining our
 voices with all life on earth and the company of heaven, who forever
 sing their hymns of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

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

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.

By your Spirit bless this bread and this wine that they may become for us the presence of Christ among us. Shine your light and your love on the offering of our lives. Enlighten us that we may be your people, the body of the risen Christ, the light of the world, set apart to serve the world that you have made.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we praise you 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: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

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 HYMNS

ELW # 308

O MORNING STAR How FAIR AND BRIGHT

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: Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW # 303

BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace!

A: Let your light shine forever!

C: Thanks be to God!

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As With Gladness Men of Old We Three Kings of Orient Are/Brightest and Bes of the Stars Public Domain

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Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful - Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

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

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 Samual David stover, Dana, David, Virgil and Audre Howey, by their family.

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 Gerdig, 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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE NOISY OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED THIS WEEKEND AT BOTH SERVICES. During the first quarter of 2026 your change will be given to the Bridge of Hope Food Pantry, which is housed at Hayes Memorial UMC on Fangboner Road.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY!

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPIRIT ACTIVITIES WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 7! S.L.A.M. with Marueen will meet at 5 pm and there will be a Youth Committee Meeting at 7 pm in the auditorium.

LISTENING WITH A SECOND EAR WITH PR. BAILEY - In the new year we will continue our opportunity to listen to one another. All are invited to a time of sharing, dreaming, and conversation on ***January 11*** following worship. We will gather in the pews at the front of the sanctuary.

GRACE GATHERS is a fellowship group that meets monthly. The next get together will be on ***January 15 at 6 pm*** at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery in Helena. Please RSVP by calling the church office by noon on Wednesday, January 14.

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.

FOR OUR YOUTH

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING will take place on ***January 7 at 7 pm*** in the auditorium.

KIDS ZONE - Toddlers - 5th graders are invited to join Penny Russell and Cornelia Star following the Children's Message for a short lesson and activity. They will return to worship before communion. If your child does not wish to participate they return to their seat following the Children's Message.

AFTERWORD for our Middle & High School youth it's not the last word, just the next step. Students are invited following the sermon to connect with message of the day and pray. They will return to worship during the offering hymn.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS class will resume 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.

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

PR. BAILEY IS IN NEED OF EXTRA HANDS ON JANUARY 7 - The plan is to take down our Christmas decorations and ready the worship space for the winter season. If you are able to help we will meet in the sanctuary at 6 pm.

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.

<i>SERVING IN WORSHIP</i>	<i>SATURDAY - 4 PM</i>	<i>SUNDAY - 9 AM</i>
<i>ACOLYTE</i>		Kayden Michles
<i>GREETERS: NARTHEX</i>	Thomas O'Brien	Dave & Rae Ann Cooper
<i>GREETER: BAKER STREET</i>		Judy Gangwer
<i>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</i>		Mary Nossaman
<i>READERS</i>	Tanya Schardt	Janet Dorr
<i>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</i>	Wendy Bailey	Judy Overmyer
<i>DEACONS/CLOSERS</i>		John Burmeister Mindy Gedeon

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

January 4 - 11, 2026

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

9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

Monday 9:00 - Project Day

1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen

6:00 - Pack 302 Den Meeting

7:00 - Dartball, Away

Tuesday -----

Wednesday **SPIRIT RETURNS**

5:00 - S.L.A.M. with Maureen

6:00 - Missions/Outreach Committee Meeting

7:00 - Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday 11:30 - Soup Kitchen

Friday -----

Saturday 4:00 - Worship/Communion

Sunday 9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Listening with a Second Ear with Pr. Bailey

10:15 - Confirmation

Grace Lutheran Church

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Rev. Clayton J. Bailey

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561-670-3684

Lay Associate Minister:

Maureen Pump

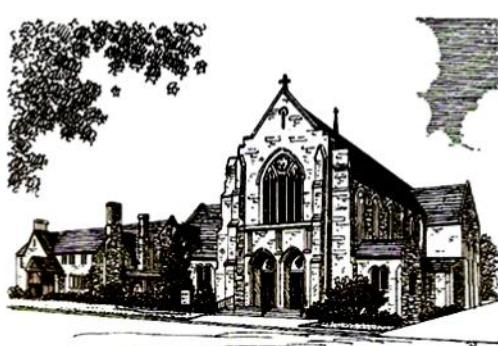
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Called to Present the Light of Christ!