



ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN BY:

Walt Baumann,
in honor and in memory
of his wife, Diane



December 8, 2024

9:30 AM Worship Service

"Preppers" – Pastor Doug Widger

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Song: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB #341
vs. 1-4

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Share Grace

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

- 1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.
- 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.
- 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
- 5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.
- 6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.
- 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message - Dr. Serena Pace

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-14

- 1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
- 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
- 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,
- 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "
- 7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.
- 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
- 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"
- 11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."
- 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"
- 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do."
- 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Message Song: Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB #343
vs. 1-4

Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

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Message: "Preppers" - Pastor Doug Widger

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Connection Points

Offering

Special Music: "O Holy Night", sung by Payton Fortner

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Ways to Follow Jesus

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord make his countenance to shine upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sending Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB #357
vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

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PLEASE CHECK IN!

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Scan the QR code or type the
link above to check in, submit
prayer requests, and more!



**Sign up on the narthex
bulletin board to honor
or remember a loved
one. Each plant is \$10.**

Order Your
Poinsettias





ESL Christmas Stockings

This year the Grace ESL Ministry is providing a Christmas stocking filled with apples, oranges, candy and a Nativity ornament for the children of the students in our ESL classes. A \$5.00 donation will provide a stocking and the items for each child. We have 42 stockings to fill. If you would like to join in filling a stocking for a child we will be accepting donations on Sundays through December 15th. The ESL Christmas party is Wednesday, December 18th and all are invited to join with us in celebrating the season. Donations can also be given in the church office marked:

"ESL Christmas stockings" (make checks payable to: "Grace Lutheran Church"). Thank you for your continued support of this ministry here at Grace. - Merry Christmas from the ESL Ministry



Advent Services on Wednesdays

- December 11 & 18 @ 6:30 pm

Family Ministry Christmas Program

- Sunday, December 22 @ 9:30 am

Christmas Eve Service

- Tuesday, December 24 @ 6:30 pm

Christmas Day

- Wednesday, December 25 @ 10:00 am — *"Lessons and Carols"*

ROAD TO NEW ORLEANS
ENDURE
 HEBREWS 12:1-3

NOVEMBER 9

Let's move the bus towards New Orleans! **ROUND-TUIT FUNDRAISER** for those chores you haven't gotten around to!

\$1,000

FEBRUARY 9

Super Bowl Sunday is here! The **YOUTH BAKE SALE** is perfect for finding sweet treats!

\$2,000



MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday **LENTEN MEAL FUNDRAISER**

\$3,000

APRIL 20

Easter is here! Join us for an **EGG-CELENT BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT!** Free-Will Donations

\$4,000

MAY 4 & 8

It's the **YOUTH CAR WASH** on May 4

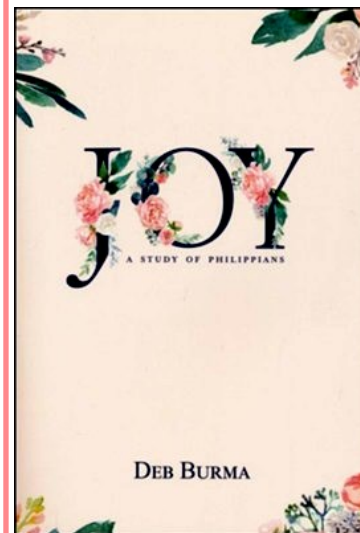
\$5,000

JUNE 1

Form a team and test your skills at the **BIBLE BOWL** fundraiser and potluck, including dessert auction!

\$6,000

JULY 18-24, 2025

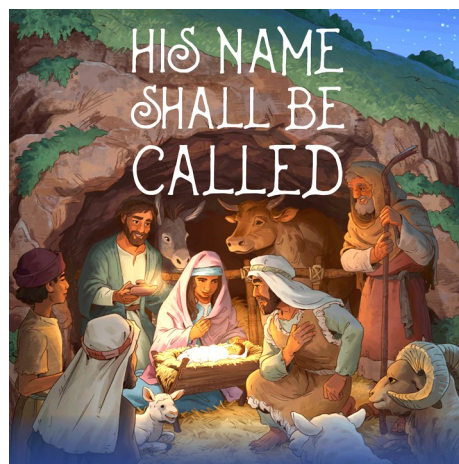


BOOK STUDY ON JOY BY DEB BURMA

COMING IN JANUARY 2025!

Sign up in the Narthex/Lobby to participate in an in-person small group or in a small group online.

Please let Serena Pace know if you're interested in leading a small group.



On Wednesdays, December 11th and 18th, we will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a series of Advent worship experiences entitled, *"His Name Shall Be Called"*.

Devotional guides by the same name are available for you in the Narthex.

May the Lord bless your time of expectancy.

~ Sundays @ 10:45 a.m. ~

- ♦ Jim Runzheimer's Bible Class - Fireside Room
- ♦ Pastor Doug Widger's Class - Meeting Room 2
- ♦ Biblical Parenting - Library
- ♦ Grace Youth (Grades 9-12) - Youth Shed
- ♦ Grace Youth (Grades 7-8) - Meeting Room 4
- ♦ Grace Kids (Preschool 4's/Kinder, Grades 1-5) - Preschool Wing Classrooms
- ♦ Babies/Toddlers - Nursery

ELDERS AND THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

Joe Masterson	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
David Swille	F-H
Mike Kennedy	I-L
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Brian Bassett	S
Jim Schmidt	T-Z
Head Elder: Joe Masterson	



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Pastor Doug Widger, Lead Shepherd
Pastor Steve Roth, Community Care
Dr. Serena Pace, DCE, Director of Ministries
Mrs. Laura Scott, Director of Early Education

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 8, 2024

- 8:45 AM Joybells Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Bible Classes
- 10:45 AM Family Ministry Christmas Program Practice - Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Spanish Worship Service - Fireside Room

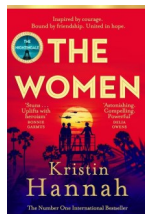
Tuesday, December 10, 2024

- 7:30 PM Community Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

- 6:30 PM **Advent Service** - Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM ESL Classes
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Music Room

Thursday, December 12, 2024



Book Club

The next meeting for our monthly book club will be **Wed., Dec. 18, at 4:00 pm** in the church library. We'll be reading the book *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. This is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. We changed the time so that we can discuss the book, eat a bite and then attend Advent Service. All are welcome to join us!



Saturday, December 14, 2024

- 9:00 AM Altar Guild
- 9:30 AM Women's Advent Bible Journaling Event: Christmas Crafts & Continental Breakfast - Fireside Room
- 6:00 PM Las Posadas - This commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. The evening will include a walking service around our church, ending in the sanctuary. Afterward, we'll enjoy a traditional Mexican meal, desserts, and piñatas for the children. The entire event will be held bilingually. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Sunday, December 15, 2024

- 8:45 AM Joybells Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Bible Classes
- 10:45 AM Family Ministry Christmas Program Practice
- 12:00 PM Spanish Worship Service - Fireside Room

Sisters In Christ
SPONSORED BY BIBLE JOURNALING
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
9:30AM TO 12:00PM
FIRESIDE ROOM
LADIES, COME SIT BY THE FIRE WITH YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST, AND ENJOY A MORNING OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP, INCLUDING CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND A DEVOTION!
CONTACT SERENA (SPACE@GRACE.LC) AND ALISON FOR MORE INFORMATION.
★FREE-WILL DONATION★

LAS POSADAS
DECEMBER 14TH
AT 6:00PM