

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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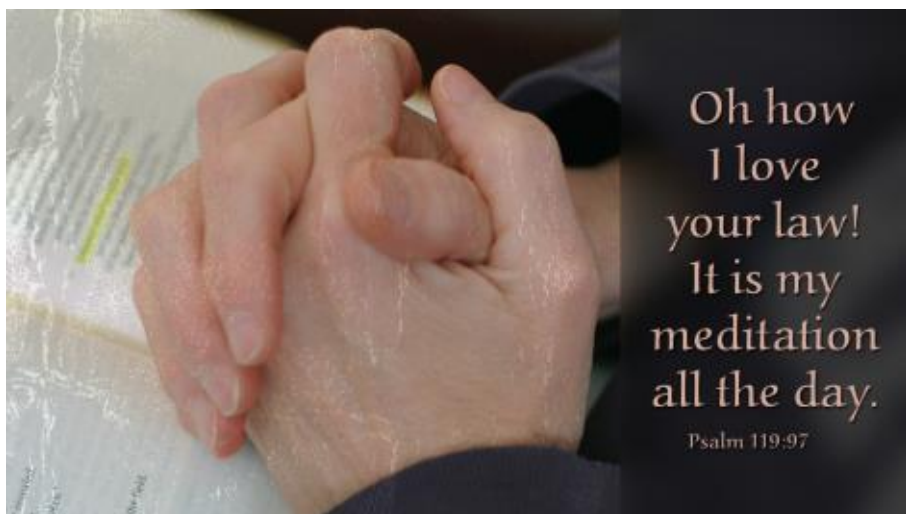
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Oh how
I love
your law!
It is my
meditation
all the day.

Psalm 119:97

*Second Sunday of Christmas
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
January 5, 2025
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Happy New Year! And a blessed Epiphany Sunday and season! We have come to worship the King, just as the wise men did do long ago. Welcome. We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

Focus for Today

Wisdom is a gift of the Spirit of God. It is not something we learn in a classroom or technically even in the school of hard knocks, rather it is a quality bestowed upon the faithful by a loving Lord who desires his people would know his will and his holy Word. Jesus, at the young age of 12, exhibited this gift of wisdom as he discussed the Scriptures with the teachers in the Temple.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

“Revelation Song”

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Gathering Song

“I Will Follow”

*The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, †Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Hear the word of the Lord from 1 John 1:8-10...

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

(Silence for personal confession)

P: Most merciful Father,

C: Although in Christ our light has come, too much we prefer the darkness of sin. We do not let your holy light shine in our lives so others may see our good works and glorify you. We are deeply sorry and humbly repent. Forgive us and fill us with your Spirit. Give us once again the joy of your salvation; and send us out to proclaim your strong saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Arise, shine, for your Light has come; and the glorious mercy of the Lord shines round about you. In the name of and by the authority of our Savior Jesus Christ, I announce the forgiveness of your sin. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith, heal your spirit, and equip you to proclaim the greatness of the Lord until he comes in glory. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

All: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:4-15

ESV pg. 282

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 119:97-104 (read responsively)

⁹⁷ Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸ **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

102 I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

ESV pg. 976

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

ESV pg. 858

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Bert

Sermon Prayer

P: May the Spirit of the Lord be in my heart and on my lips so that I may sincerely and humbly, courageously and effectively proclaim the Good News.

C: And may the Spirit of the Lord touch our ears that we may listen carefully. Touch our minds that we may understand correctly and touch our hearts that we may respond to that message courageously.

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sermon

Pastor Bert

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

* Prayers of the Church and The Lord’s Prayer

Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Blessing

Ministry and Mission Moments

*Closing Songs *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*
 “Shine Jesus Shine”

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve
Ministry and Mission Moments

Your offering to the Lord’s work through Grace. There is a **box for offering** located on a table nearby, for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings and to do the Lord’s work.

Catechism Connection

The Lord God makes us members of His Church through the **power of Baptism**. He washes us clean from sin, forgives sins and gives eternal life. Continuing on Wednesdays in January, our catechism youth will be studying God’s gift of Baptism into the life of Jesus Christ. We meet 6:15 – 7:45 pm each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Sundays’ studies this school year focus on “apologetics.” Which means why do we believe what we believe as Christians. Thanks to Lori Wiswell, Greg Woolley, Bonnie Kaufman, and Pastor Shelly for their connections with our 7th and 8th grade youth. THANK YOU to all the catechism families who will **undecorate** the church and put away all the Christmas and Advent decorations on **Today, Sunday, January 5 at 2:00 pm.**

The Backpack program is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups. There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

Joining Jesus on His Mission – An Adventure for Your Life

“Will alter the way you see your life as a follower of Jesus and take you beyond living your life *for* Jesus to living life *with* Jesus. Simple, powerful, and applicable insights show you how to be on mission and recognize where Jesus is already at work.”
Greg Finke This once-a-month group will meet again on Sunday, January 12th at 3:30 pm at Grace Lutheran. Take the next step in your spiritual journey with Jesus.

Calling All Young Adults Ages 18-30 You and your friends are gathering **Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 am** in the Fellowship Hall (north end). Purpose: young adults doing life together as followers of Jesus. Our focus topic will be **Relationships – Yours with God and Your Friends**.

We are in need of Deacons for our Grace worship

So, what is a Deacon, you ask? A deacon is a server during worship. Here at Grace Lutheran, a Deacon assists with serving Holy Communion, receiving the offering, counting the offering after worship, assisting the worshipers when needed, assisting with Baptism.
Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am and other special worship times throughout the year
Contact Chris Stengel 8:00 am or Greg Woolley 10:30 am if you will serve as a deacon as needed. Training is available.

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15

Did you know that Christmas and Epiphany were foretold in the Old Testament? Christmas in Isaiah. The advent of Christ was prophesied in the Old Testament beginning with the words to Adam in Genesis 3:15. The blessed promise is repeated throughout the Old Testament, and one of these choice prophets is Isaiah. We begin a series based on four texts from Isaiah entitled “Christmas in Isaiah.” The four texts are Isaiah 7:14, the prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ, Isaiah 9:1-7, the promise of the great light for a dark world, Isaiah 11:1-10, the promise of peace on earth, and Isaiah 53:1-6, the picture of the Messiah from the manger to the cross. All these texts are of the promised Savior quoted in the New Testament as the fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming Savior.

Thank you very much for all of the Christmas cards and gifts. I greatly appreciate them. Thank you for your generous Christmas gift of money. I am blessed and thankful to have all of you as my Church family. Blessings to all of you!
Nikki Tontrup

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers given to us at this difficult time. A special thank you to Pastor Shelly for the beautiful service for Phyllis and the women of the church for the delicious meal. We feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful church. The Zorn Family

We **give thanks** for you remembering you in our prayers. Many, many thanks for your kindness to us with your Christmas greetings and the gift from Grace. The Lord has truly showered blessings upon blessings to us here in our ministry with you.
Pastors Bert and Shelly