

## 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.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth.

**Thank you** so very much for the very generous Christmas gift. Thank you to everyone for all the thoughts and prayers we have received over the past year and a half. Chris and I have been truly blessed to have such a wonderful Church family. God bless everyone. Again thanks for everything.

Chris & Rhonda Burch

**Grace Church:** Office: 937-596-6516 ~ Fax: 937-596-0516

Office hours: 8 am to 1 pm.

E-mail: [jcgracelutheran@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracelutheran@outlook.com)~

WEB Address: [www.jcgracelutheran.org](http://www.jcgracelutheran.org)

Pastor Bert Schultz ~ Cell phone: 715-418-1037

Pastor Shelly Schultz ~ Cell phone: 715-418-1761

~ Email: [jcgracepastor@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracepastor@outlook.com)

Facebook: JC Grace Lutheran

John Pence, Church President:

Nikki Tontrup, Secretary Rhonda Burch, Janitor:

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**You are my  
beloved Son;  
with you I am  
well pleased.**



**Luke 3:22**

*Baptism of Our Lord  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
January 12, 2025  
8:00 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Jackson Center, Ohio**

*Baptism of Our Lord*  
January 12, 2025 ~ 8:00 AM

**Welcome to All**

Beloved children of God: Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church as we worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. 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.

**The Common Thread in Today's Readings**

The ancients often thought of water as dangerous and troubling: the deep, an abyss, a stormy sea, a flood. Nevertheless, the Lord is with us as we pass through the waters. His voice—in command and promise—is above those waters, those dangers and troubles. God turns these waters upside-down. He uses what would cause death to bring life. Those who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism are killed and made alive. How does that work? God's word, rising authoritatively over the chaos of watery death, promises life. And it is so. His Spirit, who gives life (John 6:63), comes to us in baptism.

**Gathering**

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome

\*Opening Song

**"As with Gladness Men of Old"**

LBW # 82

The Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

*(Silence for personal confession)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**C: Amen.**

Baptism of Our Lord Litany

P: We gather as God's community around the waters of new life. The word of God comes to us through the prophet Ezekiel: "I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean." "I will give you a new heart. I will put my spirit within you. You shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

**C: In the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we are set free from the power of sin and death and are joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

P: Just as God's faithful people have always gathered in the name of God, we gather at the waters of life and remember the strong name of our Father God who creates life, Jesus who gives to us new life, and the Holy Spirit who sustains life!

**C: Here we are reborn children of God and welcomed into the family of believers, the Body of Christ, the Church.**

P: Through baptism, we are ushered into the family of God where we find forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

**All: Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

**“Wise Men Still Seek Him”**

Adult Choir

Wise Men Still Seek Him by John W. Peterson

[1] Wise men still seek Him – to Him they bear  
Gifts like those who came of old – bringing from their wealth untold  
Myrrh and frankincense and gold so rare.  
Wise men still seek Him – Savior of men  
Hail Him as their Lord and King – lives for service to Him bring  
And His praises join to sing again.

Chorus:

Glory to God sang the angels – shepherds worshipped at His feet  
Wise men came to pay Him homage – and we today His praises still repeat.

[2] Wise men still seek Him – seek His control  
Happiness in Him they find – light for every darkened mind  
Freedom from the fears that bind the soul.  
Wise men still seek Him – seek not in vain  
He makes faith and hope increase – He will make all war to cease  
He, the promised Prince of Peace, shall reign.

Chorus:

Glory to God sang the angels – shepherds worshipped at His feet  
Wise men came to pay Him homage – and we today His praises still repeat.  
Wise men still seek Him – wise men still seek Him – wise men still seek Him!

## **Word**

God speaks to us in scripture – read, preached and sung

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

ESV # 603

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29:1-11 (read responsively)

**29** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

**3** The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

**4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

**5** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**6 He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

**7** The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**9** The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

**10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

**11** May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

**Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1-11

ESV # 942

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

ESV # 858

**Glory to you, O' Lord (sung)**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

Children's Message

Pastor Shelly

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.** 4

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
 Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

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

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Thanksgiving</h2>
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<p style="margin: 0;">We give thanks for the saving Word and all God’s gifts.</p>
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Gathering of the Gifts

- |                    |                                       |           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| *The Offering Hymn | <b>“Shall We Gather at the River”</b> | WOV # 690 |
| *The Offertory     | <b><i>“Doxology”</i></b>              | LBW # 565 |
| *Offertory Prayer  |                                       | Page 67   |

Pastor: Merciful Father,

**All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Sending</h2>
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<p style="margin: 0;">God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.</p>
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Benediction

Mission and Ministry Moments

\*Song

**“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”**

LBW # 345

(Verses 1-5)

\*Sending

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Organ Postlude

## ***Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve***

**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.

**Jingle Offering** – Today there will be a “special” offering for our area “We Care Fund”. Any loose change that you have, please place in the labeled jar at the back of the church. Remember that this loose change offering will be used to continue to provide assistance for area families who are in need.

**Next Week Year-end giving statements** will be available for pick up at the back of the church. Each envelope is marked for the designated family. These are only for people using the numbered offering envelope system.

### **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 **Today, Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **WOC January Collection**

Please remember to save your greeting cards for the WOC January collection. Linda Jenkins is the chairperson for this project. Please put in the Church vestibule baskets, collection will take place the whole month of January.