

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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*First Sunday of Christmas
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
December 29, 2024
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Father, make me as eager as young Jesus to be in your house and to learn your teachings. 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

It was the strong hand of God that brought us out of slavery to sin and death. He sent redemption through his Christ because we could never deliver ourselves. It is finished, so the peace of Christ may now rule our hearts. As the word of Christ inhabits the Church, we mature spiritually and learn to be thankful to God. For, like Simeon, we have seen his salvation.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles, Advent wreath, and Christ candle

Gathering

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

Welcome & Prayer

*Gathering Song

“Light the Fire”

*The Confession and Forgiveness

L: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Jesus Christ, the Savior of the Nations, took on our human form in order to save humanity from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Let us take a few moments to examine our consciences, offering to our Lord a sincere confession of all our sins - known and unknown.

(Silence is kept for reflection and meditation.)

L: Most merciful God,

C: We come before you this day with contrite hearts. Forgive us, we pray, for all the ways in which we have neglected our neighbors, turned from those in need, and trusted in our own will rather than listening and obeying yours. Restore us to a right relationship with you, and give us a willingness to hear and follow your mandate to share the Good News of great joy with all the world.

L: For the grace of God has appeared in Jesus Christ, bringing salvation to all. Our great Savior and Lord gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous to do good deeds. In Jesus Christ you put your trust as we receive his promise of forgiveness. (Titus 2:11-14) which is for you this day.

C: Amen.

L: 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.

L: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

L: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

L: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

L: Let us pray,

All: Steadfast God, grant patience and faithfulness to your servants as we bear witness to the incarnation of your Son. Teach us to clothe ourselves with love so that our lives will bear witness to your divine love for all creation; through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Word

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

First Lesson: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

ESV # 55

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 (read responsively)

111 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

ESV # 984

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

ESV # 857

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Prayer

L: 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.

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

Sermon

Fritz Serr

*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

Mission and Ministry Moments

*Closing Songs *“Joy to the World”*
 “Awesome God”

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.

Thank you to Fritz Serr for leading worship this morning. It is very much appreciated!

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 **Sunday, January 5 at 2:00 pm.**

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.

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.