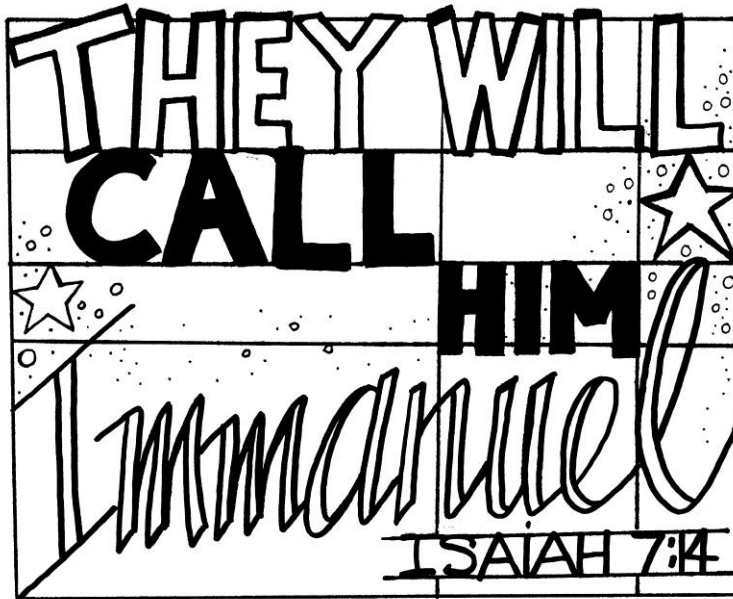


*December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022*  
*Fourth Sunday in Advent*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD  
308 Byrne Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
512-237-2108  
Divine Service 10 AM

**Guest Pastor Richard Mittwede**



**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!** We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

**In our readings today:**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus “descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

**Holy Communion** is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus’ own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

**A Prayer Before Worship**

*O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake.  
Amen*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's  
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law  
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,  
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of all mankind;  
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
 Refrain

Stand

**Invocation** (God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Confession:** *(We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.)*

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**Absolution:** *(God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)*

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

**Introit:** *(Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)*

*Ps. 130:5–8; antiphon: Is. 64:1*

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;**


my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.


**Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence.**

## Gloria Patri



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

**Kyrie:** (Shortened form of the Greek “Kyrie eleison,” meaning “Lord, have mercy.” In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.) LSB 186




**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**Salutation:** (The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord’s presence.)



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.

**Collect:** (Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They “collect” the Gospel theme for the day.)



**P** Let us pray.  
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** A - men.





and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.  
 And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:** *(This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)*

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

*LSB 338*



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
 Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
 By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

**Sermon** "The Name of Jesus"

*Matthew 1:18-25*

*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)*

**Votum**

- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Amen.



Stand

**Offertory:** *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.)* LSB 192

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**Prayer of the Church:** *(The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

*Close of the Prayers*

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

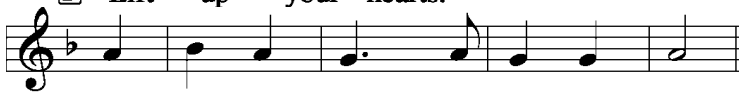
**Preface:** *(The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)*

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus:** (Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Is. 6:3; Mt. 21:9).) LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer:** (*We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray.*)

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

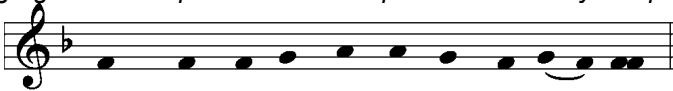
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Words of Our Lord:** (*We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.*) LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini:** (*Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.*) LSB 197



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - - - men.

**Agnus Dei:** (*Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.*) LSB 198



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.  
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
 My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 O enter with Thy grace divine;  
 Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
 Until our glorious goal is won.  
 Eternal praise and fame  
 We offer to Thy name.

**What Hope! An Eden Prophesied**

LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,  
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

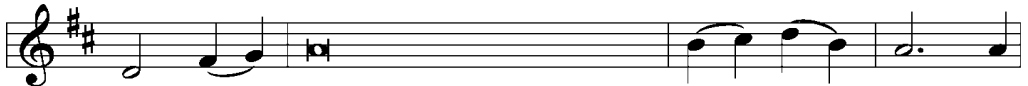
**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

**Post-Communion Canticle:** (*Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.*)

**Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 199



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



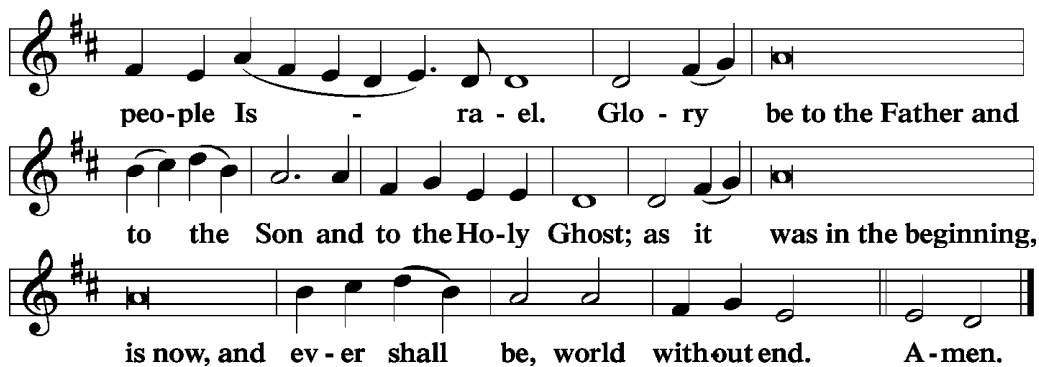
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



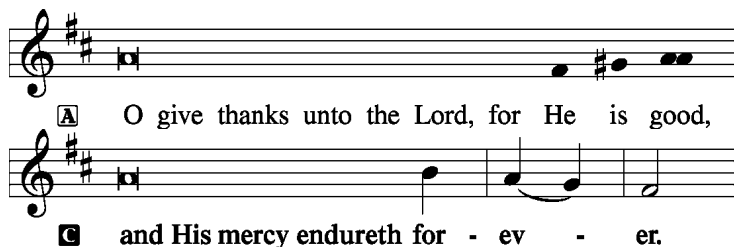
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

### Thanksgiving

LSB 200



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**G** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**Post-Communion Collect:** *(We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)*

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.



**G** A - men.

### Benedicamus

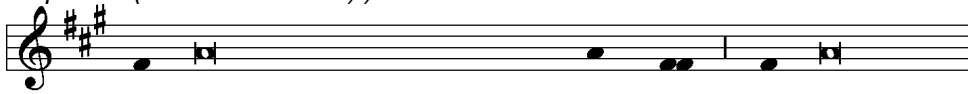


**P** The Lord be with you.  
**G** And with thy spir - it.  
**A** Bless we the Lord.

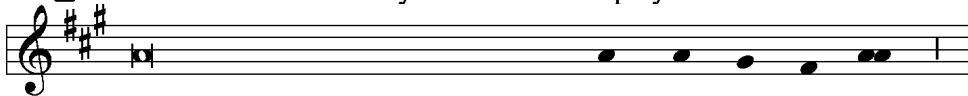


**C** Thanks be to God.

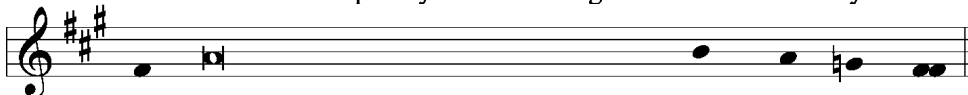
**Benediction:** *(Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)* LSB 202



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Sit*

### Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price-less worth To the fall - en of the earth  
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Kneel-ing in her low-ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."  
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

**Silent Prayer After Worship**

*Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****DISMISSAL****POSTLUDE**

Altar flowers today were given to the Glory of God by the family of Stephanie Schwall in celebration of her birthday.



December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically Model and share the gospel with the lost.

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Email: [gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com)

**Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service**

**Elders:** Colby Zimmerhanzel Organist(s): June Parker  
Brad Zimmerhanzel Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel  
**Altar** Wendy Rohde Ruth Eaton  
**Guild:** Nelda Rohde

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

| <u>Sun. Dec. 18</u>   | <u>Mon Dec. 19</u>             | <u>Tue. Dec. 20</u>              | <u>Wed. Dec. 21</u>       |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8:45am-Adult Bible Study and Sunday School<br>10am- Worship/Communion | 6pm-GLLC Mtg<br>7pm-Evangelism |                                  |                           |
| <u>Thurs. Dec 22</u>  | <u>Fri. Dec. 23</u>            | <u>Sat. Dec. 24</u>              | <u>Sun. Dec. 25</u>       |
|   |                                | 7pm-<br>Christmas<br>Eve Worship | 9am-Christmas Day Worship |

Attendance  
Sunday Worship (12/11) 79

**Adult Bible Study**

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by the guest pastor for that week. Join us to spend time together in God's Word.

**Online Resources**

Each week, our congregation live streams the 10:00 AM Sunday morning on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/](http://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/)). If you are unable to be in worship on a particular week, this is a great way that you can still hear the Word of God. It's also a great way to introduce someone to our congregation and the good news about Jesus. You can also go back and listen to sermons from previous weeks. Bulletins and newsletters are also available online at our website, [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org).

**KFUO Bible Study Resources**

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Enjoy music for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, hear history and theology of Hymns for Advent on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and study Exodus 28-32 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). The Twelve Days of Christmas begins December 24 through January 8! Hear special Christmas programming during this time. Regular programming resumes January 9!



### **Bingo for Seniors Beginning Wednesday, December 7**

Immanuel, Giddings is excited to partner with A Perfect Way Home Health Care to offer an opportunity for all seniors in our community to get together for bingo and fellowship. Mark your calendar for the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at Immanuel's fellowship hall. Everything is provided at no cost, including bingo supplies, prizes, and food. If you need assistance with transportation, please contact the Immanuel church office (979) 542-2918. For all other information you may contact Mrs. Brittany Behrens 979-540-0181.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight**  
**Guest Pastor: Pastor Mittweide**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Guest Pastor: Pastor Austin**  
Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)  
Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14 (15-18)





### **Shadow Days**

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

### **End of Year Giving**

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. Matching funds are currently available to us from some gracious private donors, so please help us take full advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

### **Thank you!**

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!

### **"Faith at Christmas" Program**

The students gave a marvelous performance at Faith at Christmas this past week as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. We were incredibly blessed to give this performance to those in attendance and those viewing from home. The video of the program can still be found on our Facebook page if you were unable to watch it on Tuesday.

