

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**
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Welcome to Grace!

December 9, 2018

What We Believe:

✝ As Lutheran Christians we stand with the church of the ages and confess the faith of the **Holy Bible**, which is **God's Word**.

✝ We believe that our **Triune God** created man and woman holy; however, since we sinned and still sin we cannot free ourselves from **sin and death**. Therefore God sent His Son **Jesus Christ**, who is our **only way to salvation**. By His death and resurrection and through no work or decision of our own, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

✝ We joyfully receive these gifts in His Word, and in the holy sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

✝ In all our teaching and preaching we seek to be faithful to God's holy **Law** which shows our sin, and to proclaim His precious **Gospel**, which is the good news of our **salvation in Christ!**

✝ We subscribe also to **Luther's Small Catechism** and the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580 because they faithfully confess these biblical truths.

Guests and Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life and salvation.

Holy Communion is also a statement of our unity in Christ (*community*). Those who receive the Lord's Supper at Grace Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

For this reason, *only members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* are ordinarily communed at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine of Close Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the service.

Nursery: If your child becomes restless during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Nursery downstairs.

Friendship Pad: Please sign the friendship pad as it is passed during the offering.

Fellowship Time: Immediately following the 9:00 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Large Print Hymnals: Are available from the ushers!

Electronic Devices: PLEASE silence all devices during worship. Thanks!

May the Lord bless your worship today!

Old Testament Reading – Malachi 3:1–7b*Pew Bible, p. 802*

“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. 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. 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

“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.

“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 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.”

Epistle – Philippians 1:2–11*Pew Bible, p. 980*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

♪Alleluia*LSB 190***Holy Gospel – Luke 3:1–20***Pew Bible, p. 858*

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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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.

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,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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? 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. 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.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” 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.”

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Nicene Creed

LSB 191 or inside back cover of hymnal

Catechism Time – The Creed

Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 322

The Second Article

Redemption

And [I believe] 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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. This is most certainly true.

♪ **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

LSB 344

Sermon

Offertory

LSB 192

Offering – *Guests/members please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at the end of the pew, check appropriate columns, and print clearly including children's names.*

Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

♪ **Preface**

LSB 194

♪ **Sanctus**

LSB 195

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

♪ **Pax Domini**

LSB 197

♪ **Agnus Dei**

LSB 198

Distribution – *If you are visiting with us, please read "Guests and Holy Communion," printed inside the cover of the Friendship Pad.*

Distribution Hymns:

♪ **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

LSB 359

♪ **Sing Praise to the God of Israel**

LSB 936

♪ **When All the World Was Cursed**

LSB 346

♪ **When Morning Gilds the Skies**

LSB 807

♪ **Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 199

♪ **Thanksgiving**

LSB 200

♪Salutation and Benedicamus

LSB 201

♪Benediction

LSB 202

♪The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348

+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +

Acknowledgments

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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 9th THROUGH December 16th

<u>TODAY</u>	9:00 AM	DIVINE SERVICE III WITH HOLY COMMUNION
	10:30 AM	Sunday School & Bible Studies
	11:30 AM	Christmas Caroling to the Shut-Ins
<u>TUESDAY</u>	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	5:15 PM	Advent Dinner
	6:30 PM	MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP
	7:15 PM	Grace Choir Practice
	7:25 PM	Confirmation Class
<u>FRIDAY</u>		Office Closed
<u>SATURDAY</u>	9:00 AM	Children's Christmas Service Practice
<u>SUNDAY</u>	9:00 AM	DIVINE SERVICE III WITH HOLY COMMUNION
	10:30 AM	Voters' Meeting
	10:30 AM	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
	4:00 PM	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE



About the Bulletin Cover: John is a trailblazer with his cry to “prepare the way of the Lord.” But Jesus alone is the one who can walk that path. This is not the path less traveled; it’s the path never before traveled. This is the perfect path of righteousness that leads to the cross on Calvary and that the Lord of all has walked for us.

Our Partnership in the Gospel

Grace's Mission: We are friends in God's family through Jesus, strengthened by His Spirit to represent Christ in our daily lives, our community and the world.

Grace's Vision: To be an active, growing Christ-centered congregation offering youth and adults traditional Lutheran worship, Bible study and fellowship while reaching out especially to our neighbors, families and friends with the Gospel invitation.

2018 Theme: *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42*

Our Worship Attendance:

December 2, 2018: 99