

**GRACE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**  
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**Pastor:** Rev. Brian T. Crane  
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**Organist, Choir & Music Director:** Mrs. Elyse Adams

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## **Welcome to Grace!**

**December 16, 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!**

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 16, 2018 – Divine Service, Setting Three**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SHARING OF THE PEACE**

♪ **Arise, O Christian People** **LSB 354**

**The Rite of Holy Baptism** **LSB 268**

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

♪ **Introit**

*Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*



- P** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.
- C** **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\***  
**whose hope is in the | LORD his God,**
- P** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,\*  
who keeps faith for- | ever;
- C** **who executes justice for | the oppressed,\***  
**who gives food to the | hungry.**
- P** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\*  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

♪ **Gloria Patri** **LSB 186**

♪ **Kyrie** **LSB 186**

*The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent.*

♪ **Salutation and Collect of the Day** **LSB 189**

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness  
of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading – Zephaniah 3:14–20**

*Pew Bible, p. 790*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.  
The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.  
Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**Grace Choir Anthem – *Make Straight in the Desert a Highway***

**Epistle – *Philippians 4:4–7***

*Pew Bible, p. 982*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**♪ Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**Holy Gospel – *Luke 7:18–35***

*Pew Bible, p. 863*

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or

shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

**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?*

[Jesus] has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. This is most certainly true.

**♪Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**LSB 345**

**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:**

**♪Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

**LSB 849**

**♪Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing**

**LSB 737**

**♪Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray**

**LSB 623**

**♪Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

**LSB 803**

**♪Nunc Dimittis**

**LSB 199**

**♪Thanksgiving**

**LSB 200**

**♪Salutation and Benedicamus**

**LSB 201**

**♪Benediction**

**LSB 202**

**♪Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**LSB 338**

**+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +**

## Acknowledgments

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## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 16th THROUGH December 23rd

<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	9:00 AM	<b>DIVINE SERVICE III WITH HOLY COMMUNION</b>
	10:30 AM	Voters' Meeting
	10:30 AM	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
	4:00 PM	<b>CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE</b>
<b><u>MONDAY</u></b>	9:00 AM	Circuit Pastors' Meeting, Prince of Peace, Racine
	6:30 PM	RLHS Board of Directors Meeting, Pastor Crane
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	5:15 PM	Advent Dinner
	6:30 PM	<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP</b>
	7:15 PM	Grace Choir Practice
	7:25 PM	Confirmation Class
<b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>		Office Closed
<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b>	9:00 AM	<b>DIVINE SERVICE III WITH HOLY COMMUNION</b>
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Sunday School Christmas Party

**Lectionary Summary: *The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice:*** The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning "Rejoice!" (Today's theme of joy is symbolized by the rose (pink) candle of the Advent wreath, which is lit this Sunday.) For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; "*he has cleared away your enemies,*" "*taken away the judgments against you*" and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to "*rejoice in the Lord always,*" knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even "*the dead are raised up*" (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).

## **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 5, 2018:** 43      **December 9, 2018:** 98