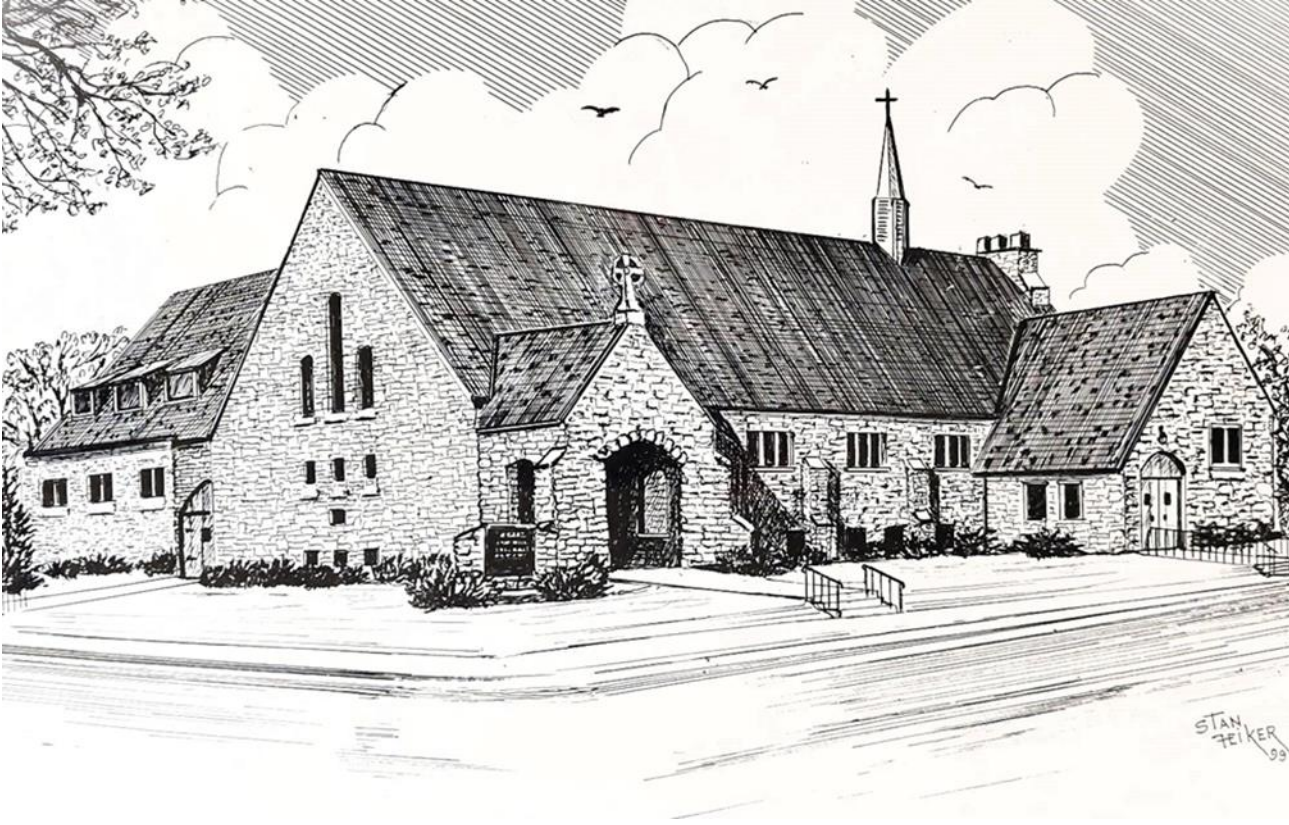


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Racine, Wisconsin

Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2023

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**
3700 Washington Ave., Racine, WI 53405
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262-633-4831

Vacancy Pastor: **Rev. David W. Hintz**
(920) 227-7915 (mobile)
revdwhintz@hotmail.com

Welcome to Grace!

December 17, 2023

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 when it is passed during the service.

Offering: The offering plates are not passed. Rather, they are located at the back of the nave. Please place your offering in one of the plates as you enter or leave the church. You may also hand it to one of the ushers.

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

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
Divine Service, Setting Three**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

♪ When All the World Was Cursed	LSB 346
Invocation	LSB 184
Confession of Sins and Absolution	LSB 184

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

- P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- C Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
- P Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

♪ **Kyrie** **LSB 186**

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

- P 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 Amen.**

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .
⁸For I the Lord love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Pew Bible, p. 988

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

♪ **Alleluia**

LSB 190

Holy Gospel – John 1:6–8, 19–28

Pew Bible, p. 886

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Apostles’ Creed

LSB 192 or inside back cover of hymnal

Catechism Time – The Lord’s Prayer

Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 322

The Fifth Petition

P And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

P What does this mean?

C We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

♪ Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Sermon

“The Agnus Dei”

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prayer of the Church

♪ Offertory

LSB 192

The offering plates are not passed. Please see note on the first page of the bulletin.

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 on the inside cover of the Friendship Pad. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your pew, please notify the pastor or an usher. If possible, please sit near the center aisle, and it will be brought to you at the conclusion of the distribution. Wine greatly diluted with water is available in purple-tinted cups in the center of each Communion tray for those with alcohol sensitivities.

Distribution Hymns:

♪ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621

♪ Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563

♪ Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

LSB 648

♪ The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

LSB 634

♪ Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

♪ Thanksgiving

LSB 200

♪ Salutation and Benedicamus

LSB 201

♪ Benediction

LSB 202

♪ Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 17th through December 24th

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 5:15 PM ADVENT MEAL (SOUP AND SANDWICHES)
 6:30 PM MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

FRIDAY

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM BIBLE STUDY

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God “would rend the heavens and come down” (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves “have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment” (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for “a long time, and shall we be saved?” (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are “enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge,” and so He will “sustain you to the end” (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although “heaven and earth will pass away,” His words “will not pass away” (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He “send out the angels” to gather us and all of His elect “from the ends of the earth” to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).