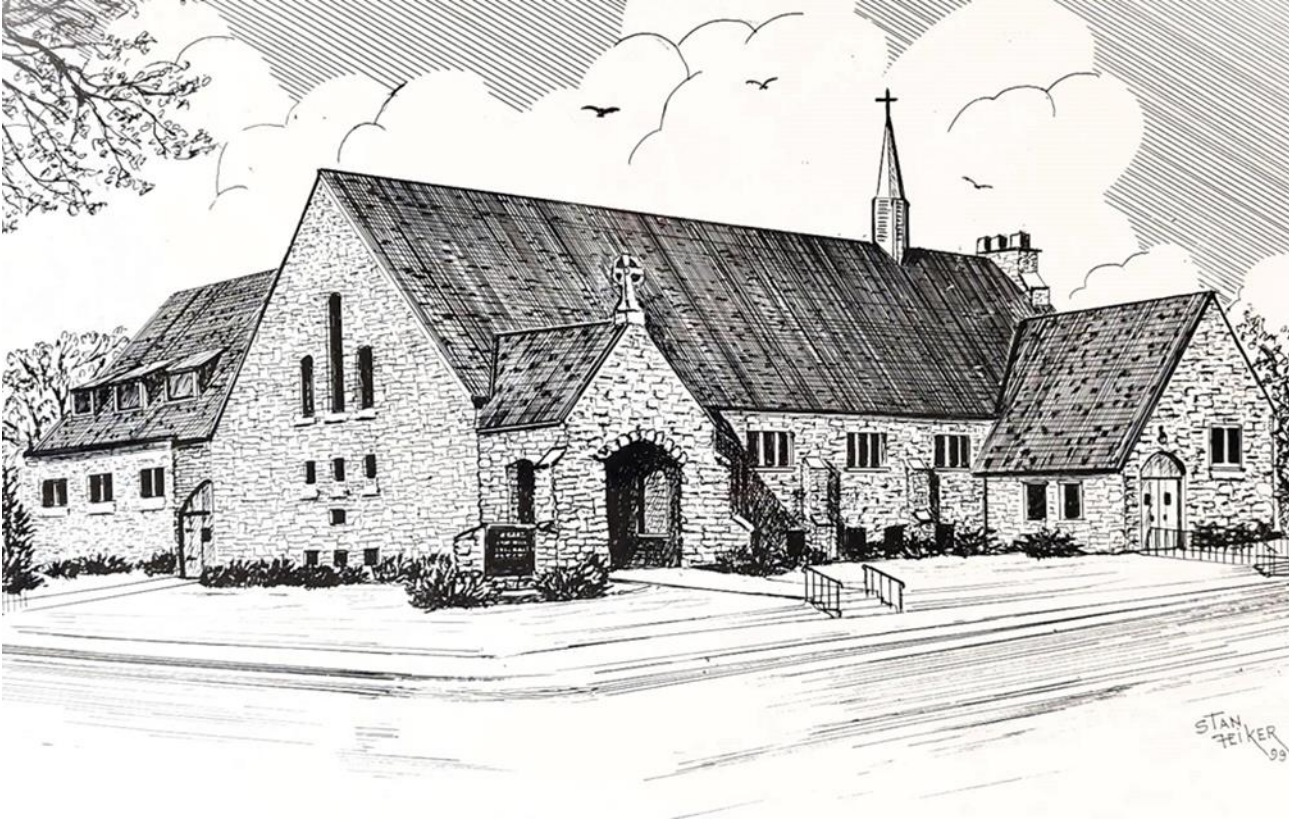


# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Racine, Wisconsin

**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
December 25, 2023

**GRACE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**  
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262-633-4831

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. David W. Hintz  
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## Welcome to Grace!

December 25, 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!**

**The Nativity of Our Lord  
Divine Service, Setting Three**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

♪ All My Heart Again Rejoices	LSB 360
Invocation	LSB 184
Confession of Sins and Absolution	LSB 184

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Introit** Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
**C** and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- C** **The Lord has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- P** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- 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** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
**P** and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

♪ **Kyrie** LSB 186

♪ **Gloria in Excelsis** LSB 187

☐ Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

**Old Testament – Isaiah 52:7–10**

*Pew Bible, p 6133*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God

**Epistle – Hebrews 1:1–12**

*Pew Bible, p. 1001*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,  
“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”  
7Of the angels he says,  
“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”  
8But of the Son he says,  
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
9You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”  
10And,  
“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
11they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,  
12like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

♪ Alleluia

LSB 190

**Holy Gospel – John 1:1–14**

*Pew Bible, p. 886*

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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.

9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Nicene**

**LSB 192 or inside back cover of hymnal**

♪ **Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

**LSB 375**

**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 Our Gladness Have No End****LSB 381****♪ Gently Mary Laid Her Child****LSB 374****♪ God Loves Me Dearly****LSB 392****♪ Away in a Manger****LSB 364****♪ Nunc Dimittis****LSB 199****♪ Thanksgiving****LSB 200****♪ Salutation and Benedicamus****LSB 201****♪ Benediction****LSB 202****♪ Joy to the World****LSB 387**

**+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +**

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**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 24<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>**

SUNDAY            9:00 AM    DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
                         10:30 AM    NO BIBLE STUDY/NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP  
                         4:30 PM    CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

TUESDAY            10:00 AM    CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY            6:30 PM    DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FRIDAY

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

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**The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh**

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples “of all the nations,” so that “all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” For the Lord has “bared His holy arm” in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The Child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only-begotten Son of the Father, “whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom He also created the world” (Heb. 1:2). As “all things were made through Him” (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold “the radiance of the glory of God” (Heb. 1:3), “glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal Life.